

E d i t o r i a l

Y. Çağatay SEÇKİN / Acting editor

As my first official duty as the interim editor of A|Z ITU *Journal of the Faculty of Architecture*, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Professor Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu, PhD., for his inspired leadership as Editor-in-Chief over the last ten years.

Hacıhasanoğlu's contributions to A|Z ITU *Journal of the Faculty of Architecture* are numerous. Under his leadership, the journal has gotten off to a terrific start. It has published high quality articles across the range of design disciplines. His vision and dedication have resulted in a scholarly outlet for high-quality design research that also focuses on presenting knowledge in a way that it can provide significant value for designers. In his usual modest and self-effacing style, Hacıhasanoğlu has been reluctant to take his due credit for these considerable accomplishments, but I am conscious of the fact that I have very large shoes to fill.

The dossier of this issue has been titled as "İstanbul as a palimpsest city and imperfection" which is edited by Hülya Turgut, PhD. The articles of this dossier were selected from the 3rd IAPS – CSBE (International Association for People Environment Studies - Culture & Space in the Built Environment Network) Culture and Space Symposium held on November 27-28, 2012. The dossier has the articles as follows: "Memory of metropolis / remembering and forgetting in metropolis" by Çalak, "The imperfection of the incomplete timeless urban space" by Karaali and Karagöl, "Limits of re-writing and legibility of transformations in İstanbul's Historic Peninsula: An interpretation inspired from the Wabi-Sabi philosophy" by Taraz, "An urban reading in-between past and future: Palimpsest identity", and finally, "Non-erasable human traces against urban transformation" written by Çanakçıoğlu. All selected papers were reviewed, as customary, by at least two reviewers.

In addition, this issue has seven articles in the theory section. Zehra Mahmoudi Manesh and Jafer Kerimpour wrote the first article. Their article entitled "Gentrification" as an effective force case study: Reconstruction plan of Hafsia Quarter (Medina of Tunisia). The article presents an accurate comprehension about the essence of gentrification through analysis and description method by clarifying its distinction from displacement. According to the findings of the paper, displacement is not a goal of gentrification, but just a consequence that could be created in result of inappropriate politics of development or any renovation methods in process of improving historic areas.

The second article, written by Suat Çabuk and Kemal Demir, analyzes the 1945 Oelsner - Aru City Plan experience for Kayseri. The aim of the paper is to evaluate the planning discourse of Gustav Oelsner and Kemal Ahmet Aru over the Kayseri plan, which is considered to be amongst their most important works. This paper entitled "Urban planning experience in Kayseri in the 1940s: 1945 Oelsner – Aru City Plan", and examines both the 1945 city plan and the "Report on Kayseri" which was written by Oelsner in 1944. The initial phase of the 1945 plan, the suggestions of the Oelsner Report, and its reflections on the city plan of Kayseri were studied. Hereby, I would

like to commemorate both Prof. Oelsner and Prof. Aru, with love, honor and gratitude, for their great contribution to Turkish Architecture and Urban Planning History. International Association for People Environment Studies

Vilmos Katona and Zorán Vukoszávlyev seek solutions for both physically and culturally sustainable design in the field of liturgical planning and find three eligible answers in their paper entitled “ECO-SPIRIT: Sustainable development and environmental awareness in contemporary liturgical planning.”

The article entitled “Urban metamorphosis and Islamic Architecture in the time of globalization: Utopian realities and challenges”, written by Majdi Faleh,. This article provides an interesting response to several questions related with the issue of urban fantasies and the utopian visions in Arab countries. The paper examines the urban and architectural fabric in the Islamic world, discussing whether or not colonization was replaced by globalization, and also analyzes how excessive consumption, in a broader sense, has changed spaces into empty and meaningless places.

İmre Özbek Eren aims to examine how and to what extent the built environment affects place-attachment by asking the question ‘Can place-attachment affect cultural sustainability in neighborhoods and how?’ Her paper focuses on the hypothesis through ‘mahalle’ which means neighborhood in Turkish, and suggests that the built environment has a determinant role in place-attachment, which also feeds cultural sustainability.

Water, an ever-present and enduring element in the landscape, offers unlimited opportunities to its designer with the numerous characteristics that it has. “The effects of water elements in urban space perception: A case study in Üsküdar Municipality Square” written by Eren Kürkçüoğlu and Oya Akin investigates this life-giving design element, by focusing on their importance in spatial perception, their place in spatial organization, their effects on increasing the quality of space and their psychological effects on users.

The last paper of this issue is “The new agenda-setter in design milieu: Landscape.” In that study, Ebru Erbaş Gürler and Ahmet Cengiz Yıldızcı try to clarify new contexts and expansions that have an effect on 21th century’s design matters and approaches, in order to how landscape has been changing and recovering the environment and become one of the main instruments for environmental design and planning.

Lastly, I would like to let the readers know about the next issue. The dossiers of the following issues of A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty Architecture will be related with “Sustainable Landscape Planning and Safe Environment”. Please let us know if you have ideas or topics that we could be focusing on.

Let me conclude the editorial with a warm appreciation to Prof. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu, PhD., one more time, for both his contributions to A|Z ITU *Journal of the Faculty of Architecture* and for his support and mentorship of so many designers, including myself, over the years.

Last but not the least let me thank three wonderful ladies, Dr. Ecem Edis, Ms. Buket Metin and Mrs. Gülcan Ege, whose competent, meticulous, and

tireless work is absolutely invaluable. They have most of the merit for the present quality of this journal, and I hope that they will continue cooperating with me in the same great way that they did with Prof. Hacıhasanoğlu, till the transition period of the Editorship ends.