Which New Horizons?
Guest Editorial

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During the last two decades, starting with the beginning of the second millennium, architectural studies have turned their faces to a new paradigm denouncing theory, announcing that we have entered an innovative and intelligent design era, which is the end of theory. "After theory" discussions dismantled the theory studies in architecture for a long time. Now, people are happily declaring that it is back. It is back, yet in a different mood: critical, intellectual challenges have created a transdisciplinary and pluralistic medium for alternative theories to flourish. Unlike previous attempts, theory is now more in connection with practice and the material world. With this in mind, as members of the Architectural Design unit of ITU, we feel the challenge to take the lead to commence a medium for deconstructing and reconstructing theory, with the theme "New Horizons" in architecture.

This issue aims to promote discussions, conjectures, and theories of cutting-edge research in architecture and architectural design. The open call of the special issue of A|Z has included areas of study on history, theory, and criticism of architecture; architectural design theories and methods; and environmental, social, and cultural studies in architectural design.

As we have promoted, papers received have gathered around themes that approached the field from various perspectives: involving new materialism, drawing from thermodynamic principles to view the world as an interconnected whole, taking the standpoint of after-theory to incorporate art and space and, in another article, its implications for landscape architecture in Türkiye, and post-criticality, which all consider the world in a flux of relations and take a critical stance. Ayşegül Çakan and Gökçeçiçek Savaşır in *A new materialist cartography for converging architectural theory to practice,* presented a cartographic strategy as a research methodology, with transdis-

ciplinary relations with new materialism. Eda Yeyman in *Architecture as an open field of interactions: Climatic singularities in the work of Philippe Rahm* reframes Rahm's spatial construction practices for exploring scalar jumps. Özlem Demirkan in *After-Theory Canvas: Unveiling the Representational Spaces Created by Artistic Production* discusses contemporary artworks that exemplify a significant relationship with space and incorporate spatial elements into the context of artistic production. Çisem Demirel Koyun and Ebru Erbaş Gürler look into the National Landscape Architecture Awards in Türkiye in *Between Lines and Land,* to dispute the discipline's alignment with post-theoretical thought and its departure from traditional high theory. Saadet Kök and İpek Akpınar in *21st century Urban Aesthetics in the post critical age: SANART publication* consider a movement oriented urban aesthetics.

Another group of articles took a critical stance against the control of human and nonhuman beings via space, by focusing on biopolitics and anthropocentric approaches. Emre Demirtaş and Mehtap Özbayraktar in *Laboratorization of time-space: An inquiry about the role of space in the control and reproduction of life* argue that spatial conditioning, primarily facilitated through specific architectural arrangements, is critical in colonizing living beings. Uğur Sarışen in *On the spatial Experience of Animal in Architecture: A speculative transdisciplinary inquiry* employs a speculative framework to examine how animals interact with their environment.

The following two articles have focused on the design process: the first looks into the knowledge domain of architectural design, and the second into representation as a transformative power. Nesip Ömer Erem and Alireza Kharazmi-Nezhad have searched the disciplinary evolution of architectural design by focusing on three trajectories; architecture culture, design thinking, and knowledge production in their article, *The Discipline Unfolding: A Thematic Lens on Disciplinary Evolution Architectural Design.* Pelin Dursun Çebi, Hande Asar, and Mustafa Mortaş

in *Transformation representations and creativity on the trail of invisible things* focused on alternative forms of representation that enable creative moments through event narratives.

Another group of studies searched for learning environments and challenged the conventional means of design education. In *Revisiting the role of listening in online architectural design studio pedagogy,* Sevgi Türkkan and İpek Avanoğlu discuss the role and potential of listening in the evolving practices of remote architectural education. Fatma İpek Ek, Deniz Engin, Gülçin Öçel, Aysu Püskülcü Aydın, and Zeynep Bavunoğlu considered the integration of metafunctions of language into basic design learning to facilitate the incorporation of physical and digital tools in *Search for a new meta-functional education pattern in basic design studios after Covid-19 pandemic.* Gülbin Lekesiz and Can Müezzinoğlu's *An approach to AI-Supported Learning in Architectural Education: Case of Speculative Space Design* attempts to integrate text-to-image artificial intelligence (AI) tools into the architectural design studio.

Only one article dealt with the social basis of design, whereas more would be expected: Ahmet Gün, Burak Pak, and Kübra Bakan in *Empowering communities through social design practices: Lessons learned from post-disaster practices in Türkiye* explored the strengths and weaknesses of existing social design practices in empowering disadvantaged communities.

The last two studies are concerned with the material production of architecture. In *Tracing Architectural Exhibitions in the Absence of Archives: The Case of Taşkışla*, Derya Yıldız and Funda Uz have explored the potential for architectural space to function as a memory-collecting "hive-mind". In *Designing Negotiation: Osep Saraf's Şişli Culture and Trade Center*, Esra Kahveci and Pelin Yoncacı Arslan examine Saraf's postmodern design approach as an act of "negotiation".

Academicians who showed interest in this call with the theme of "New Horizons" with the above-mentioned contents, took up the subject by overlapping the call emphases with the research contents they had and had the opportunity to reveal new trends in architectural theory and knowledge with their studies in the fields of space, landscape, city, art, design-representation, and architectural education. The referees who participated in the evaluation process upon our invitation, made a significant contribution to the creation of such a special issue with their evaluations that took into account the original content of the incoming papers, while also taking into account the emphases of the call text. We thank the authors and referees for their valuable contributions to this process.

The mentioned referees are: Ahmet Sezgin, Ahmet Tercan, Ali Cengizkan, Altuğ Kasalı, Antonella Contin, Aslıhan Şenel, Ayşe Yönder, Ayşe Zeynep Aydemir, Ayşegül Kuruç, Beyhan Karahan, Birge Yıldırım Okta, Burcu Kütükçüoğlu, Bülent Çınar, Catharina Gabrielsson, Celal Abdi Güzer, Cevdet Erek, Constantin-Victor Spiridonidis, Desantila Hysa, Dilek Yıldız Özkan, Duygu Tüntaş, Ekin Pınar, Elif Kendir Beraha, Emine Görgül, Erdem Ceylan, Erdem Erten, Eren Kürkçüoğlu, Esin Kömez Dağlıoğlu, F. Cana Bilsel, Fehmi Doğan, François Penz, Gül Kaçmaz, Gülnur Ballıca, Gülsüm Baydar, Güven Arif Sargın, Mustafa Haluk Zelef, Hümanur Bağlı, İmre Özbek Eren, Meltem Erdem Kaya, Mine Özkar, Nilay Özsavaş Uluçay, Nilgün Çolpan Erkan, Nizam Onur Sönmez, Oğuz Haşlakoğlu, Orkan Zeynel Güzelci, Özgür Bingöl, Özlem Olgaç Türker, Perry Kulper, Rıfat Gökhan Koçyiğit, Sait Ali Köknar, Semra Aydınlı, Senem Kaymaz, Seray Türkay Coşkun, Stavros Kousoulas, Zuhal Ulusoy.