

From Foundations to Frontiers: A/Z at 23

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A retrospective look at the 20+ year publishing history of A/Z – ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture reveals our steady progress. Since its launch in 2004, our journal has continued its publication uninterrupted, having published 22 volumes and 66 issues to date.

We honor our founding editor, Prof. Dr. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu, who passed away last year. The first issue, titled “Housing Policy,” appeared under his guidance. Issues from the early years—edited by him through Volume 9 in 2012—spanned diverse topics. These included sustainability across urban planning and cultural landscapes; technology, design, and vernacular architecture; quantitative models in planning; education; diversity, multiculturalism, and urban life quality. This broad sensitivity persists today.

From Volume 10, Issue 1 (2013) to Volume 16, Issue 3 (2019), under Chief Editor Prof. Dr. Yasin Çağatay Seçkin and acting editors Prof. Dr. Yurdanur Dülgeroğlu Yüksel, Prof. Dr. Tüzin Baycan, and Prof. Dr. Gül Koçlar Oral—supported by a robust team—the journal advanced in design, planning, technology, and education. Standout themed issues captured architecture’s dynamic discourse: Sustainable Landscape Planning and Safe Environment (2013), Cities at Risk (2014), Space Syntax and Architectural Design (2015), Energy Efficiency in Buildings (2016), Urban Transformation (2017), Sustainability vs. Resilience (2018), Future Trajectories of Computation in Design (2018), and Theory (2019). Covers sparked debate with provocative titles like “We Need Designers Not Scientists” and questions such as “Is Sustainability Out, Resilience In?”

Structural upgrades ensured world-class quality. Since 2015, we’ve published three times yearly to meet demand. We refreshed the logo, cover, and page design for better visibility and readability. An online manuscript

system and updated website boosted accessibility. Under Prof. Dr. Yasin Çağatay Seçkin’s seven-year tenure, A/Z earned SCOPUS indexing and improved its impact factor.

Since 2020, we have seen the addition of globally prioritized urgent topics such as disasters, technology, and urban adaptation to the core concepts covered by the journal. Relatively recent themes emphasize contemporary challenges: Earthquake Risk Reduction (2023), Resilience (2024), Materials (2024), and Extroversion (2025), alongside special issues such as New Horizons (2025). Since taking over as editor following the onset of the pandemic, Prof. Dr. Aliye Ahu Gülümser, along with the editorial board and secretariat, has dedicated significant effort to ensuring the journal serves as a scientific platform for sharing knowledge in the context of planning, design, technology, art and theory. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the journal up to this point.

As editor of our 2026 inaugural issue, supported by a new editorial board and dedicated secretariat team, I commit to elevating A/Z’s impact factor, visibility, and pioneering role in architecture, planning, design, technology, art, and theory. This issue’s 13 interdisciplinary articles underscore our inclusive ethos.

Climate change relentlessly impacts urban, rural, agricultural, and natural realms, fueling adaptation needs, social injustices, and economic imbalances. Effective solutions demand scientific research, interdisciplinary collaboration, solidarity, and collective action. Subsequently, this issue’s articles deliver key insights on climate adaptation: self-housing policy; urban design, walkability, and stress management; resilience in historic rural settlements; conservation; and history. One explores integrated project delivery in project management. A substantial number of articles in this issue examines design education and spatial perception from various scales and disciplines.

We eagerly await reconnecting in future 2026 issues with articles on local and global priorities.