

EDITORIAL: MULTIPLE VOICES IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

Ashraf M. Salama

In this fifth issue (Volume 2-Issue 2) Archnet-IJAR continues to raise issues of concern to the worldwide community of architects, designers, and urbanists. A considerable number of voices are accommodated. They offer diverse issues on a wide spectrum of issues that range from the interior spatial environment level to building and city levels. In fact, Archnet-IJAR maintains its presence as a platform for debating issues of interest to academics, professionals, and graduate students. And so, important pressing topical areas are presented in the refereed papers included in this issue. These include architectural education and design pedagogy, human-environment interactions, universal design, professional practice, sustainable cities, and identity.

The first three papers address issues that pertain to architectural education at different levels. At the global level, Ann Forsyth outlines the struggle of architectural programs and schools to position themselves on the map of distinction. Forsyth argues that since there are multiple ways in which architecture can be practiced, there have to be diverse paths to prominence. However, she emphasizes the fact that current

ranking schemes reflect only a narrow range of practice. Advocating the need for new measures, Forsyth states that alternative assessments need to be created such as in the multiple performance measure approach—an approach that allows comparisons among schools but based on multiple dimensions.

The papers of Hesham Eissa and Ji-Hyun Lee and Tasoulla Hadjiyanni introduce cases on how to approach design teaching. Eissa and Lee suggest an adaptive Web-based educational model and platform for the architectural design course that supports the main phases of the design process. In essence, they introduce an online version of an architectural design course. Hadjiyanni however argues for the need that university education should balance teaching students the skills and intricacies of their field while enabling them to discover their authenticity and place in the world. She adopts the view that conceptual design as one of the design phases can be the forum in which students explore who they are and what they aspire to be. Hadjiyanni presents three cases from her interior design studio, which articulates how this view can be accommodated through

different design activities undertaken by the students.

In another domain, three papers address issues that pertain to person-environment interactions. Those are of Ashraf Salama, Wolf Preiser, and Ahmad Hashim and Zaiton Rahim. The three papers offer insights on issues that continue to pose themselves on the map of contemporary interests. Ashraf Salama presents an assessment of the outdoor spaces in Qatar University Campus based on a multilayered methodology that involves direct observation, walking tour evaluation, survey questionnaire, and mapping use patterns and activities. He sheds light on the gap that prolongs in architectural practices; the design intentions the statements that architects make while their designs are still on paper and the actual use of the built environment when these designs are implemented.

In his article on Universal Design Wolf Preiser offers a research agenda for the development of universal design performance assessment. His review involves defining the term at the professional level while outlining a conceptual framework for universal design evaluations. Preiser offers Some cultural, legislative and professional issues, including relevant disciplines and subfields of universal design. As well, he capsulates select worldwide practices, publications and current events. Ahmad Hashim and Zaiton Rahim report on behavioral norms and territoriality as part of behavioral and environmental mechanisms used to regulate privacy. They build their case based on exploring privacy regulation in urban Malay families living in terrace housing. Based on in-depth interviews their findings indicate that while most of the behavioral norms employed to regulate privacy

are consistent with Malay cultural norms and religious belief, there are a few which are not consistent due to the constraints mandated by the terrace housing design.

On professional practice related issues, Richard Barrett presents the results of a survey carried out amongst a group of registered New Zealand architects in order to establish their knowledge and experience in using core-daylighting systems and methods. The survey was carried out using a questionnaire. His findings reveal a clear indication that the respondents were not especially experienced or knowledgeable, and a majority felt this to be an area of their skill base in need of development. Barrett draws on both quantitative and qualitative data as an insight into several areas, including the attitudes of respondents towards their clients when making decisions about designing buildings for natural daylighting.

Sustainability appears to be of major concern in three papers by Aydin Özdemir, Metin Başal, Ahmet Benliay; Khaled Al Hagla, and Mustapha Ben-Hamouche. It is addressed at different layers from the micro to meso to macro levels. The paper of Aydin Özdemir, Metin Başal, Ahmet Benliay addresses sustainability at the micro level. This is evident in their intervention strategies employed in the landscape design project of an office park in Amman, Jordan. Their paper defines the role of preliminary analysis and landscape design process with emphasis on site grading, planting design, and stormwater management, with a hope that future designs should be ecological and sustainable, assessing and using resources efficiently.

The work of Khaled Al Hagla takes sustainability

at a larger scale and introduces issues that pertain to roles open spaces can play in the neighbourhood planning and design. His work follows an approach based on both the social and ecological neighborhood's ability to tackle sustainability issues. Thus, the main focus is on the typical open space structure of the neighborhood as the media of different social and ecological interactions. The work establishes a sustainable design matrix to explore two different typologies of open spaces in Lebanon; Beirut Pine 'Horsh Beirut' as a greenspace, and the historical market, and pedestrian streets in Byblos as a greyspace. The application comes to show the validity of conceptual application of the established matrix. The macro level of sustainability is evident in the work of Ben-Hamouche. His study concerns itself with analyzing some old cities that are located in the hot and hot-arid regions, according to the available documents, and extracting urban indicators that help measuring and applying compactness in planning and design.

Alain Thierstein and Elisabeth Schein introduce the preliminary results of an ongoing investigation of urban space in the knowledge economy context. They argue that networks of the growing knowledge economy significantly influence spatial development on different scales. Their work proposes a framework for analyzing the impact of global knowledge economy networks on the rapidly developing urban space of emerging cities on the Arabian Peninsula, and vice versa. Second, the empirical methodology of the research project is a newly defined method triangulation, setting an example for systematic analysis of local urban development in a global context. Thierstein and Schein introduce a method triangulation which combines three different

research angles: a knowledge economy firm perspective, an on-site observation perspective and a planner perspective. Initial results from applying the research methodology in the city of Dubai give a first indication, that emerging cities on the Arabian Peninsula play a significant role in the global and regional knowledge economy networks. Locally developed urban spaces reflect and influence the significance of cities in the global knowledge economy context.

The work of Mashary Al-Naim analyzes the notion of identity within different transformations in Saudi contemporary architecture. Since the main aim of this work is to understand the general reactions of people towards change over time, the main emphasis is on the ways that people have used to adopt new forms in their home environment. Within this analysis, identity is defined as a social system as Al-Naim argues that unless we view it from this perspective we cannot understand how people realize it in their home environment.

In the reviews and trigger articles section, four interventions are included. The work of the late Muhammad al Najib Brimah addresses the future of African cities from an African perspective rather than a Western one. However, Kashef introduces futuristic discussions on two skyscraper visions: Tokyo's Sky City and the Shimizu Mega-City Pyramid. While the two articles may seem to introduce contradicting messages, their presence in one issue reflects the fact that Archnet-IJAR maintain its interest in accommodating multiple voices, thoughts, and ideas.

Reviews in this issue include reflections from Nicola Giacomo A.G. Linza, William Gay and

Anna Grasso-Gay on the important series of lectures of Nikos A. Salingaros entitled "Algorithmic Sustainable Design: the Future of Architectural Theory." This review demonstrates a dramatic departure from typical discussions on sustainability. In essence, issues, thoughts and ideas encompassed in these 12 lectures offer panacea for the ills of contemporary world architecture and urbanism. Another review is offered in the form of a call for translation, that is of "After Amnesia: Learning from the Islamic Mediterranean Urban Fabric, 2007" by Attilio Petruccioli. A manuscript that comes after years of efforts he has undertaken in articulating the need for understanding the city, its structure, fabric, and the essence behind the physical manifestation of the Islamic/Mediterranean Urbanism.

While both the refereed papers and the trigger and review articles presented in this issue address many issues, it is important to note that they also address many contexts from the United States to New Zealand and from the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula to Malaysia. This reflects the true essence of Archnet-IJAR of being an international forum for discoursing the design and the actual use of built environments and the context within which they are created.

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A Note on the Cover Image

The the rehabilitation of Shibam, Yemen, one of the projects that received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2007. After over twenty years of restoration work, the Yemeni city of Shibam gained a new face. The project involved restoration of approximately 200 vernacular high rise buildings with the aspiration of creating responsive viable socio-economic alternatives as well as the preservation of the architectural heritage and urban fabric of the city. In the words of the Master Jury, "the project has approached the city as a living community rather than a historical artifact frozen in time."

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