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While the efforts undertaken to invigorate the presence of Archnet-IJAR over the past two years have resulted in attracting a large body of readers, distinguished academics and scholars continue to show high interest in contributing their work to the journal.

In this 6th issue (volume 2 issue 3) Archnet-IJAR continues to raise imminent debate in architectural education and research. I am happy that there is a large demand on Archnet-IJAR. Currently, the journal has over forty papers in the review process. I am also delighted with the fruitful collaborative efforts not witnessed by any other leading journal in this field. Agreements are being developed between the journal and other scholars worldwide to guest edit special editions on pressing issues of interest to the global community. There is also another important collaborative initiative with IAPS (International Association for People–Environment Studies) to develop special editions based on its international biannual conferences.

In this issue a considerable effort has been put to present the readers—who have high expectation of Archnet-IJAR that is maintaining its presence as a distinguished platform for debating issues of interest to academics, professionals, and graduate students—a special issue on the Hammāms or traditional spas. Commonly known as "Turkish baths", hammāms, or public bathhouses, were focal facilities in Islamic cities around the Mediterranean. Thus, this edition sheds the light on a long abundant topic that pertains to the fundamental role played by the hammāms in Islamic societies, not only in providing a washing facility for the demeanour of major ablutions necessary before praying, but also a venue for social interaction and rituals, marking religious celebrations and major events in the life of women in that epoch. Accordingly, I am pleased that Dr. Magda Sibley of the University of Liverpool has kindly agreed to contribute her work and that of her colleagues to the journal and to be the Guest Editor of this special issue on the hammāms. The contributions in documenting, cataloguing, and analyzing the surviving hammāms throughout the Mediterranean and understanding the way in which they are still functioning, used and perceived today by contemporary society are highly regarded.

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The papers cover case studies that reflect the true essence of hammāms in the entire area of North Africa from Morocco to Egypt as well as others in Syria and Turkey. Concomitantly, I will leave the task of presenting the papers on the hammāms issue to Dr. Sibley. It is noted that due to limitation of time, several papers were not included in this issue. However, their authors were promised that the next issue of IJAR will include all accepted papers that have not had the chance of publication in this special issue.

In order not to exasperate the active scholars who have high interest and expectation of Archnet-IJAR journal and whose papers were accepted, a section that includes some of the accepted refereed papers is added in this special issue. This section starts with the paper of Amira Elnokaly, Ahmed B. Elseragy, and Sarah Alsaadani, followed by Irina Solovyova, and then Dicle Aydin and Ummugulsum Ter. Their contributions foster the journal scope based on the experiences offered from Egypt, United Kingdom, United States, and Turkey.

In their paper Creativity-Function Nexus, Elnokaly, Elseragy and Alsaadani raise the question of whether functional considerations in design hinder creativity within design outcomes. They map out creativity within design and whether it is always traced to a good idea or alternatively all good ideas results in creative design. They relate the continuous non linear process of review and modification, customary to traditional design-studio approaches, to the final products students submit as part of their design-studio applications. They question the role of juries or crits in the perception and understanding of architecture students and whether this traditional aspect of design-studio education justly provides architectural students with the constructive criticism they need amid feelings of tension and limited time constraints. They exploit a case study to explore their argument in a broader sense.

The paper of Irina Solovyova argues for bringing intuitive decision making back into interior design process as a legitimate design tactic. She argues that despite the fact that many decisions taken in space design are reached intuitively architecture educators still prohibit students from relying on their intuition and require solutions based on pure reasoning and rational thinking. She is questioning this duality in interior design education.

Dicle Aydin and Ummugulsum Ter studied the concept of campus plaza, centred on a case study of the outdoor space of the Selcuk University located in Konya, Turkey. They base their research on a case study approach that investigates the plaza as an outdoor space providing individual and social benefits to campus users and to determine the imperatives that pertain to the design of this important campus space. They developed a descriptive and empirical study and analysis to determine the plaza's spatial qualities.

This issue does not include reviews or trigger articles but I promise Archnet-IJAR readers that our forthcoming issue will witness new developments for the book review and trigger articles section. Dr. Amira ElNokaly from the University of Lincoln, United Kingdom had kindly agreed to act as book review editor starting our next issue. This section is expected to complement the refereed articles section and to expand the scope of issues presented to the

readers of Archnet-IJAR.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to Dr. Magda Sibley and to Dr. Fodil Fadli for their marvellous contribution to this special edition of Archnet-IJAR.

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