

E d i t o r i a l

Yurdanur DÜLGEROĞLU YÜKSEL / Acting editor

A/Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture is ten years old by now. The journal is refereed by national and international referees, and is published biannually in English. A/Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture welcomes articles and book reviews on design, planning, research, education, technology, history, and art.

The dossier subject of this issue of A/Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture is “Sustainable landscape planning and safe environment”. The dossier editor is Sadık C. Artunç from Mississippi State University, Department of Landscape Architecture, Mississippi, USA.

Sustainability is a contemporary topic, which concerns all nations in the globe, and has a wide variety of dimensions. These include spatial, socio-cultural, and economic dimensions. The relationship between Landscape planning and safety of the environment are closely related with each other. Some of the articles within the dossier are using case studies in Turkey and one from USA; while others are inquiring into land use, climate change, public open spaces, nature-based zoning. While some of these articles are highlighting policies of rural settlements, others are pointing out to the interface of the rural and the urban. Sustainable development and resilient cities are highly dependent upon productive landscape environments, as mud roofed earth-sheltered housing would prove.

There are three articles in the Theory section of this issue. The **first** one is titled as, “Faculty office buildings as work environments: Spatial configuration, social interaction, collaboration and sense of community”. This article talks about the role of spatial design in the social interaction, collaboration and sense of community at academia. The analytic tool used is Visual Graph (VGA), and correlation and regression on social and spatial data. Drawn from 3 schools with different plan typologies, the research finds out that collaboration is independent of the plan typology; however, spatial integration promotes interaction and sense of community. The **second** article in the theory section is titled as, “The performance comparison of fan-assisted Trombe wall system”. This article, inquires into energy conservation issues in buildings. The approach is a comparative one: fan-assisted single glass, double glass and a-Si semi-transparent PV module with respect to their energy performance, in producing heat and electrical energy are experimented in Izmir. Results indicate that 10% of solar radiation has been transmitted through the semi-transparent photovoltaic module; and, the electrical efficiency of PV cells is found to reach 4.5%. The **third** article is titled as “User accessibility optimization using genetic algorithm: aDA”. This article examines the problematique of optimization of user accessibility in architectural design using by genetic algorithm. The hypothesis is the route of user movements, can be optimized through genetic algorithm to define the distance between two related spaces. Methods used are space layout planning, space syntax and wayfinding. A different method is offered at the end, as a unique contribution, as optimization with genetic algorithms in architectural design.