

E d i t o r i a l

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A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture is 8 years old by this issue. The journal is a refereed journal and is published biannually in English. A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture is open to the articles and book reviews about design, planning, research, education, technology, history and art and 89 articles had been published in this period.

The dossier subject of this issue of A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture is dedicated to “Urban Transformation: Controversies, Contrasts and Challenges”. The dossier edited by Prof. Dr. Nuran ZEREN GÜLERSOY who is well known researcher on the subject as guest editor of this issue.

Urban transformation which is defined as creating and implementing comprehensive revitalization programs in neighborhoods and urban centers throughout the settlements has been occurring and shaping cities throughout human history. During the last three decades, cities around the world have experienced tremendous transformations in their economy, environment and society due to rapid globalization and urbanization, particularly in the middle and high-income countries. These transformations have been challenging to governance in cities of both emerging and industrialized countries in terms of sustainable development of natural and built environment and human well-being. It is apparent that problems in the approaches of interpretations of sustainability in urban area and managing the urban transformation toward sustainability, as well as social-cultural, socio-economic, environmental and institutional transformations occurring now, are among cities as to their different sizes, structures, and functions differ.

Three articles in the theory section of this issue had been reviewed and published on different subjects. The first article in theory section is titled as “Urban Characteristics of Istanbul: Problem or Potential”. This article is focused on the analysis of the characteristics of Istanbul and then proposes a new perspective of understanding. The second article in the theory section is titled as “Damages and Failures Observed in Infill Walls of Reinforced Concrete Frame After 1999 Kocaeli Earthquake” deals with the infilled walls which are used to provide enclosure, sub-division of space and weather protection in reinforced concrete frames. In addition, the infill walls are subjected to the horizontal loads while restraining the movement of the frame systems. If the infill walls do not resist the horizontal loads, the wall is damaged and some cracks occur. The third article is titled as “Ecological Corridors And Clusters For Environmental Master Plan and Environmental Management Studies of Istanbul”. This study examines ways of looking at Istanbul, the biggest metropolis of Turkey, in terms of its ecological clusters and corridors and current environmental master plans and management plans.