

E d i t o r i a l

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A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture has increasingly become an internationally recognized journal with contributions from different countries. This current issue of the journal has attracted articles from Canada as well as different European countries including Germany, Italy, Greece and the UK, besides articles received from Turkey. This issue consists of a Dossier titled “**Cities at Risk**” including seven articles and a Theory section including four articles on architectural design. Although the articles in the Theory section are individual contributions, they are complementary in investigating both conceptual and empirical aspects of architectural design from different perspectives.

The dossier subject of this issue of A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture is “**Cities at Risk**”. The dossier editor is Seda Kundak from Istanbul Technical University, Department of Urban and Regional Planning. The dossier investigates urban risks from various perspectives including risk characteristics, risk perception, risk assessment, risk mitigation, risk management, risk communication, risk governance as well as physical, socio-economic and institutional vulnerability and resilience response capacity of cities. The articles in the dossier highlight the importance of developing an adaptive and integrative model of risk governance, an interdisciplinary and integrated approach to urban resilience, an operational tool for the assessment of vulnerability and risks while drawing attention to spatial and temporal indicators, site conditions, economic prosperity, societal and cultural values of cities and countries and contribute to a better understanding of complex risks and multifaceted form of resilience. The articles in the dossier also highlight the challenges and opportunities for the cities at risk.

There are four articles in the Theory section of this issue. These articles address design, more specifically architectural design from different perspectives including both conceptual and empirical aspects. While the first two articles discuss dynamic evolutionary design and the role of interpretation in design, the third article focuses on design performance and the fourth article evaluates design education on the basis of curriculum development in interior architecture education. Altogether these articles offer new approaches and fresh perspectives from different angles for architectural design studies.

The **first** article titled “Design Games: A Conceptual Framework for Dynamic Evolutionary Design” by Sönmez and Erdem critically reviews evolutionary computation (EC) applications in design fields, highlights the need for contextual and dynamic problem definition and evaluation procedures and attempts at developing a new evolutionary design framework. Against the simplified, static, performance-oriented procedures for design or focus on well-defined sub-problems that current evolutionary computation applications assume, the article proposes a conceptual framework which has to be flexible, abstract and open-ended, but also compatible with potential dynamic evolutionary approaches.

The **second** article titled “The Role of Interpretation in Basic Design” by Gürer, Özkar and Çağdaş aims to shed light on the relation of designing and interpreting. What is the relation between what a designer does and what she/he thinks about? On the basis of a protocol analysis of ten novice architectural design students, the article discusses how novice designers interpret while and after designing and how a re-positioning of being by writing affects what they think and do. The article reconsiders interpretative aspects of design in both theoretical and the practical sense and highlights several observations about the nature of interpretation in design including the timing, the type, the coherence, the uncertainty and the effect of interpretation.

The **third** article titled “A Statistical Data Analysis for Increasing the Kitchen Design Performance” by Yazıcıoğlu addresses performance for interior design that has become one of the main issues discussed in recent years. While focusing on kitchen space being the most important working area compared to other spaces and being expected to show a superior performance, the article aims to describe the basic design rules for increasing the kitchen design performance. The article examines 1.309 kitchen projects, creates scientific data describing mathematically the correlation between kitchen layout and total floor area and highlights the factors which are effective in determination of kitchen layout which will help the designer in determination of kitchen layout and improving the kitchen design performance.

The **fourth** article titled “Curriculum Development in Interior Architecture Education: ITU Case” by Cordan, Görgül, Numan and Çiñçik discusses the revision processes of Istanbul Technical University - ITU Department of Interior Architecture undergraduate program curriculum from the initiation in 2001 until today. The article evaluates the rising influences of international developments such as Bologna Process, as well as the impact of progressive visions and missions of the university, school and the department that has given way to a curriculum revision. The article reveals the reasons, aims, developed strategies and implementation steps of the undergraduate program curriculum revision in order to create an integrated structure that enables studio-centered and student-centered approaches that intermingle novel, innovative, contemporary, inter-/trans-/cross-disciplinary alliances.