

## Editorial

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The first half of 2018 is now behind us and we arrived in July. While the members of ITU continue their academic studies in all campuses, they also enjoy summer outdoor activities. As it is known, universities are institutions that raise individuals who are creative, have problem-solving and scientific thinking skills and who also know how to access knowledge, in accordance with the requirements of the information age. This process involves the development of individuals not only in the professional sense, but also intellectually and aesthetically. With this awareness, Istanbul Technical University aims to be one of the pioneering institutions in total quality point by increasing the spatial life quality while continuously renewing its academic and administrative operation.

Spatial life quality is related to both natural and built environment features. This concept is related to comfort based measurable concepts such as conservation of natural resources and ecosystem, climatic comfort and air quality, spatial aesthetics, security, equipment and comfort as well as non easily measurable concepts such as sense of belonging and place, readability, collective memory. In this frame, places to increase the life quality are where people can relate to each other, to discuss and develop ideas, to cooperate together, to connect, to feel belonging, to identify with themselves, to remember and to miss. This kind of places are located in wide variety of ways such as in university campuses, in classrooms to multi-purpose hall, in corridor to canteen, in a small courtyard or a square, in a walking line or street. These places, the quality of life is improved, are directly related to the efforts to improve the quality in academic and administrative operation and have an important value in terms of subjective and objective criterion that it has in sense of total quality.

In this framework, studies aimed at increasing the spatial life quality are being persistently planned and devel-

oped in accordance with the nature of being a pioneer university.

The first thing coming to mind of these and as of December 2017, carried the ITU to the 77th place among the world's universities is ITU Green Campus Project. ITU became the only Turkish University which is in first hundred with 77th place among the 600 universities in Greenmetric University Ranking. With the project, it is aimed that the evaluation of existing land use and planning in framework of principles that green certification systems identified, determination of necessary strategies and carried into effect in framework of economic sustainability principles.

- Some of the targeted benefits of the project can be listed as follows:
- To popularize the designs that protect the ecosystems in the campuses and conserve the continuity of the services they offer to people,
- To create a green system that approaches all the elements of campuses as a whole,
- To realize designs that reduce water consumption, control and filter surface flow, create habitat for wildlife, offer low energy consumption, high air quality, outdoor recreation opportunity, support human health and active life,
- To ensure that campuses are certified on a world scale, in a measurable manner,
- Carry out pilot study to set an example for other university campuses.

In line with these aims, many projects have been carried into effect and continue to be realized. To briefly stated, all the urban spaces in the ITU Ayazağa Campus are being reconsidered from the doors; the characterized entrance gates continue to be designed with the strongest feeling of users who are invited in that they came to place where the life quality is high. Pavement heights, pedestrian road widths, floor covering preferences, arrangements for plant material and irrigation systems, lighting elements and urban furniture selections are all determined with the aim of a green campus with a high level of spatial life quality.

The pedestrian and cyclic priority approach comes to the forefront as the

main determining factor in the formation of the campuses. With this aim, a 6 km bicycle road was opened for use; the planning and design phases of the 2 km bicycle road have been completed and the construction process has been started. Within this approach, child, disabled and elderly access is another subject that is carefully evaluated. With this aim, pedestrian roads, footbridges, stops, parking lots and all closed areas are organized in accordance with the rules set forth in the Accessibility Monitoring and Supervision Regulation of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Directorate General of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly and new developments in the world concerning the subject are also being followed carefully and trying to carry into effect.

The necessity of pedestrian priority approach, parking lots are designed at various points along the belt highway of Ayazağa Campus and aimed to users park their vehicles at these points and visit the campus as pedestrian, by shared bicycle or shuttle buses as well as possible. Studies are continued to reduce the vehicle density in the campus with new parking lots to be installed in proportion to the campus demands. These studies are positively influencing many values from energy consumption to air quality and carbon footprint.

Another important factor of accessing a green, high life quality campus is the selection and use of plant material, with priority preservation of the existing qualified plant inventory. For this purpose, while species with endemic and low water consumption are preferred in the first place, adaptation processes of new plant species are carefully followed and species changes are made if required.

Maintenance schedules of all used types are carefully followed; seasonal pruning of all species takes place in the direction of the annual pruning calendar. All of the water used in the irriga-

tion of green areas is supplied from the ITU Pond, which is fed with natural spring water and rain water.

With this feature, ITU Pond, a very important water reserve, will be an important landscape and recreation area with the completion of afforestation works and the opening of environmental walking/cycle roads. Studies that directed to prepare plant name tags of plant species, used in areas of pond and all landscape, to on-site introduce and notify with the collaboration of user-friendly appearance and technology are continued. When this is also completed, green areas of the campus will offer more contribution to intellectual and aesthetic development of individuals.

While I was ending my words, I had a precursory phone call and got a happy breaking news for you. Turkish Chamber of Landscape Architects (TCLA) has just announced the winners of the 2018 National Design Awards, recognizing design excellence in 5 categories, and ITU Green Campus Project has awarded as Best Implemented Project of 2018. As far as I know, winners were selected based on the level of excellence, innovation, and public impact of their body of work. So, I would say that this award could be accepted as an additional encouragement to all our efforts that I was trying to tell above. Thank you TCLA, Thank you my colleagues, Thank you my students...

As it always has been, my last thanks go to all our readers for the support they provide to the Journal. We really look forward your comments, contributions, suggestions and criticisms. Please do not hesitate to share with us your feelings and especially, let us know if you have ideas or topics that we could be focusing on.

A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture is nothing without you. Enjoy your reading and meet with us again in next issue on November 2018.