

Editorial

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In the March issue, we were hopeful to share some good news. Unfortunately, soon after, we learnt the passing of Professor Ömer Akın, our Advisory Board Member. Ömer Akın, since 1977 to his death served as a Faculty member in Carnegie Mellon University. Although he did not serve in ITU, he was always an inspiring role model for several members of the ITU Faculty of Architecture. His dedication to design studies had a lasting impact on attitudes of several architects. We mourn his passing and give our sincere gratitude.

We are passing through hard times. The pandemic created a new normal. Even though we spend most of our times at home, our daily pace has not slowed down. On the contrary, the new normal offers a faster life with a mix of different roles run all from one place.

We start to add functions and layers to our places due to our changing needs and behaviours. Being multi-layered for a place is not a new phenomenon. During history and even today, due to cultural and daily needs, the functions of buildings are modified and adapted to current situations.

A current example of such changes is discussed in the article “Tourism Development and Promotion Project of El Mechouar Citadel: Issues And Limitations” by El-Hadj Mimoune and colleagues. They examine the conservation of the monuments of the Median of Tlemcen with the integration into daily life as a part of tourism development strategies.

Çınarıılmaz and Ar, with their article entitled “San Michele Church of Genoese Galata (Pera): Historic records and material evidence on its chronology” expose how the ownership and culture hand in hand with the timely needs can transform the functions of a place via architecture. In order to do the analysis, they benefit from the historical documentation and current situation of the building. This proved the importance of documentation and inventory one more time, specially to understand the chronological layers and experiences of places. Emre

and Erbaş, in their article “GIS-based approach to urban planning, archaeological inventory and geology structure in multi-layered cities: The case of Tahtakale in Istanbul” generate a new approach to ease the understanding of the historical experience of places which can be used for regeneration and renovation projects.

Not only in history but due to the pandemic, the need to transform the indoors into multi-purpose, multi-layered places became a need in days. Our homes became our offices, production areas, entertainment zones and education places. The luckiest people were the ones who already combined different activities in their daily life within one place so-called homes.

One of the luckiest groups is the makers in design. Dilek and Kaya Pazarbaşı in their article “Multiple roles and enhancements of makers in the post-industrial design practices: An inquiry for non-expertise in design” explain how makers can play different roles as producers, users and designers. Makers enrich their personal life by their enhancements on designed things most of the time at their homes.

Also, the pandemic increased our awareness about the need to create indoor comfort zones. In the new normal, everybody understood the importance of their places they spent most of their times. The atmosphere offered by the design of indoors have a direct relation with our emotions and may affect our daily routine. Arslan Dinçay, in her article “Cultural color codes in interior” offer how colour codes can create and change the space in user’s mind. Not only the color, but the indoor air quality and air comfort play also an important role for all kinds of buildings. Umaroğulları and Aydın with their article entitled “The investigation of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and particulate matter (PM) quantities in higher education”, investigate the air comfort and quality of educational buildings which is home for their students.

Soon, the 2020-2021 academic year will start. Administrations are trying hard to adapt their academic program and education methods into the new normal. Different levels of education face different problems. Among them,

higher education is facing the problem of temporary educational migration. The accommodation and travel of such regional and even international migration may lead to the inequality of socio-economic distribution in cities and even in countries.

Kundak and Dökmeçi with their article, “The application of the regional rank-size rule in Turkey (2000-2012)” offer how the migration affect the urban system with a wide range of living conditions and economies. Migration and even travel depend on the accessibility levels between the origin and destination point. The article “Impact of high-speed railway systems on inter-regional trips and accessibility in Turkey” by Baş and Yüzer, prove that the High-Speed Railway system is a great beneficiary mode of transportation.

Nevertheless in our minds, we are calculating all possible impacts when we go outside. We have started being selective depending on the environmental quality of the places we will visit and where we live.

Yardımlı, Özer and Shahriary, with their article, “Sustainable Street Architecture and Its Effects on Human Comfort Conditions: Yazd, Iran” offered us how important the street architecture on our comfort conditions. Additionally, İlcalı and Giritli, in their paper “Measuring the environmental performance of urban regeneration projects using AHP methodology” offer key factors determining the environmental performance of a place.

How to reach these places in the pandemic is still a big question. In the cities, comfortable and environmentally high performing places are not equally distributed. No matter what the new normal did not allow for a wide range of movements, accessibility and social interactions, we still need healthy and comfortable urban spaces. In the design of urban spaces, occupants and users play a great role. Başarır and İlal, in their paper, “Occupant Trajectory Analysis for Evaluating Spatial Layouts” evaluate the spatial layouts by the help of occupants’ movements. While Bingöl, in her article “Karşıyaka Coastal Renovation Project: A process-based approach to urban design” give clues

about how to design an urban space by the interaction of individuals with each other and also with nature.

Although the social and cultural life continues, it starts to find different ways during the Corona days. Digital platforms are used to diffuse culture and culture related activities. Museums opened their doors in digital platforms. The narration behind these exhibitions became more important. In this line, Gülmen and Turan in their article “Script analysis: An approach to object-based exhibition” reflects how the narrative interpretation of museum collections can be a research topic via script analysis.

During the lock down, designers were obliged to conduct design activities digitally more than with drawing-based techniques. Thus, digital and computational design became a desired reality for more designers.

In this issue, Uzun and his colleagues offer a generative architectural plan layout tool that they applied by Palladian Plans. In their article “GAN as a generative architectural plan layout tool: A case study for training DCGAN with Palladian Plans, and evaluation of DCGAN outputs”, Uzun and his colleagues provide insights on using Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN) to statistically and geometrically produce architectural plans through datasets and drawings. Drawings still have a great importance for designers for abstracting and developing ideas. Öksüz and Çağdaş in their article “An assessment method for a designerly way of computational thinking” discuss the possibilities to combine design thinking and computational thinking through abstraction for design.

Things caused by COVID-19 actually reminded us things that we forgot. What pressures us during the Corona days seem to be a part of the new normal and of future habits in a post-COVID period.

From now on, we must ensure ways to benefit from these circumstances. It is not easy but it is not impossible either.

Fit it in the new world, adapt yourself and enjoy the rest.

Enjoy reading our new issue!

Stay healthy, stay calm!