

Editorial

We are delighted to publish this Vol.7 (Issue 01) of FARU Journal after a gap of five years. The delay helped us to revamp the journal with a more academic standing by presenting to you only the highly commended papers submitted and selected for presentation at the 'Faculty of Architecture Research Unit (FARU) Annual Research Conference (2020)'. This volume consists of nine out of forty research papers that were accepted for the conference and its selection was based on the reviewer recommendation, its academic standing, contribution to the field of study and presentation. We are indeed pleased that the contribution of such knowledge was not limited to local context this time but to a wider international audience. The editorial board too, this time are contributing from an international setting and possess doctorates on a range of vibrant research areas within this domain.

The overall theme of the journal is oriented to 'Space', and we discuss this within the disciplines of Build Environment, Town and Country Planning, Building Economics and Design. Here, *Space* is interpreted as an element of design in architecture, design and the build environment, or as agglomeration of urban elements, open spaces in town and country planning. *Space* is also defined as the professional space within the construction industry and, its contribution towards building economics and quantity surveying. Within this overall theme, this issue is focused to 'Dimensions of Space and its Multi-disciplinary Approaches'.

The presented papers here highlight this theme through multiple approaches within disciplines by addressing their research through explanatory and exploratory research and, most adopting experimental methods. The contribution of six research papers out of nine discusses appropriate models, frameworks and tools that can be adopted in urban planning, construction industry and construction management. Work of Munasignhe *et al* emphasizes the application of 'Space syntax method' as a model to enable planners to make certain strategies in planning and urban design decisions within the context of Sri Lanka. Similarly, Somarathna *et al*, Wijayawardana *et al*, Sandagomika *et al*, Priyaruwan *et al* also discuss their work within the context of Sri Lanka and MD. Shariful *et al* within India. Somarathna *et al* uses the 'Corporate Social Responsibility Performance (CRP) Evaluation framework' to evaluate construction organizations and Priyaruwan *et al* uses 'Aggregate based course (ABC) wastage control' to manage wastage in road construction project. The research work by Wijayawardana *et al* attempts to simulate surface runoff level in urban block at different Low impact development (LID) scenarios to envisage the flood impact in built form using a 'GIS-based simulation application'. Kalpana *et al*, on the other hand proposes a model to assess resilience as pixel representation to capture population resilience (to urban flood).

Within the context of Bangladesh and from a descriptive design approach Vismaya *et al*, discusses the capacity of lime plaster with a coating of lime wash to make indoor spaces more comfortable against lime plaster with non-porous coating and explains it to be a sustainable building material for naturally ventilated spaces. This is discussed by looking at vernacular practices that is required for today's construction industry. In contrast, Sandagomika *et al* discusses the use of newer practices; Internet of Things (IoT) for successful lean implementation in the Sri Lankan construction industry and explains the reasons why it is lacking today and how it can be implemented. Another interesting paper on implementation and new practices is by MD. Shariful *et al* within the context of Indian urban plazas. The work explains the user opinion versus the degree of the openness of the plazas. To achieve this a machine learning approach was used to predict the openness of plazas in general.

The research work compiled here shows multi-disciplinary approaches when fulfilling research gaps and attaining valuable findings and insights that benefits this field of study. Moreover, I would like to congratulate all authors of this publication for your tireless contribution and specially for identifying research needs that are most needed to the society and country.

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