

## EDITORIAL

Assalamu'alaikumwarahmatullahiwabarakatuh

As in the previous issue 2 of Volume 7, 2025, the publication presented twelve (12) papers addressing numerous subjects, challenges and solutions in the form of design concepts pertaining to the built environments. In this first issue of Volume 8, 2026, the publication presented eleven (11) papers dedicated to case studies comprising academician, final year studio projects and the design thesis of the students guided and supervised by the lecturers.

The first paper is Translating Tai Chi Movements into Conceptual Interior Elements: A Design Application in an All-Female Martial Arts Academy by Sarah Sophia Safaraz, Arita Hanim Awang, Norzalifa Zainal Abidin and Raja Intan Suhaylah Raja Abdul Rahman. This paper explores the translation of *Tai Chi* movements into conceptual interior design elements, positioning movement as a generator of spatial form and experience. The design application is demonstrated through an all-female martial arts academy in Kuala Lumpur, serving as a contextual framework for testing the proposed approach. The findings reveal that Tai Chi movement principles such as flow, continuity, balance, and rhythm can be translated into curvilinear forms, spatial zoning strategies, and interior elements that enhance user experiences both physically and psychologically. The study contributes a conceptual framework for integrating movement-based abstraction into interior design processes, offering an alternative approach to generating spatial narratives beyond conventional stylistic references.

The second paper entitled Understanding Toddler Play Behaviour and Developmental Gains in Montessori Toy Interaction by Aishah Maisarah Mohd Zazali, Arita Hanim Awang, Julaila Abdul Rahman, Fadzli Irwan Bahrudin and Raja Intan Suhaylah Raja Abdul Rahman. The project examines the developmental needs of toddlers aged 1 to 4 years, with a focus on fine motor skill development through Montessori-inspired toys. The aim is to design a multifunctional product that supports children's growth while aligning with the values of parents and caregivers who seek safe, educational, and screen-free play experiences. Ultimately, the project presents a multifunctional toy design that promotes creativity, motor skills, and ethical design practices, thereby supporting the development of early childhood.

As for the third paper by Muhammad Arsyad Irsyaduddin Sarbini, Mohd Fairullazi Ayob, Khairul Syifa' Ramlee, Fatin Hazirah Rezuwan, Nurul Ain Shariful Ruzi, 'Ainan Nur 'Iffah Abd Hamid, Saiful Imran Saiful Nizam, Sufian Hamat, Julaila Abdul Rahman, Asiah Abdul Rahim, Masidah Abdul Majid, Raja Intan Suhaylah Raja Abdul Rahman, Nur Ulfah Awatif Umairah Alias, Roziha Che Haron and Siti Noorfairus Che Abdullah entitled Salingkait: Enhancement Project of Courtyard in KAED, IIUM. The KAED Courtyards, located within the Faculty of Architecture and Environmental Design, serve as essential outdoor areas for academic, social, and recreational activities. However, the existing courtyards face issues of limited functionality, lack of comfort, and underutilisation, which this initiative seeks to reconfigure Courtyards A and B into inclusive, polyvalent environments. The project aims to upgrade Courtyard A and Courtyard B of KAED into inclusive, multifunctional environments that encourage interaction, relaxation, and creative engagement among students, staff, and visitors. The outcomes are design proposals that emphasise environmental comfort, multifunctional use, and opportunities for income generation. Ultimately, this initiative seeks to transform the KAED Courtyards into dynamic, sustainable, and engaging hubs that enrich both academic and social experiences within the KAED community.

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The fourth paper by Muhammad Qalis Naif Mohd Najib, Putri Haryati Ibrahim and Zainul Mukrim Baharuddin entitled Therapeutic Landscape Design for Social Repair: Revitalizing The Sungai Buloh Leprosarium. This study repositions the Sungai Buloh Leprosarium into an environment for potential social restoration through the lens of the therapeutic landscape theory, biophilic design principles, and human settlements development history. The research examines how spatial, environmental, and symbolic dimensions of the site may contribute to psychosocial healing and community reintegration. The first phase of the research presented in the paper will enable the subsequent phase to translate these strategies into a landscape master plan proposal. By framing landscape architecture as a form of social repair, this study contributes to design discourse on how historically stigmatised healthcare sites can be reimagined as resilient, healing environments grounded in human rights and collective memory.

The fifth paper entitled Sponge Park as Flood-Resilient Landscape at Bertam Lake, Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang by Lukman Hakim Mohd Rizal, Mazlina Mansor, Mohd Ramzi Mohd Hussain, Izawati Tukiman and Zainul Mukrim Baharuddin. The research explores flood-resilient landscapes and the sponge city concept to address Malaysia's increasing urban flood risks due to climate change and rapid urbanisation. Through the incorporation of blue-green infrastructure (BGI) and nature-based solutions (NBS) into urban design, this project investigates how sponge city concepts can alleviate these challenges. Results indicate that the sponge city concept provides strategies for a flood-resilient landscape thus promotes urban livability, sustain biodiversity and increase flood resistance to Bertam Lake park. The research emphasizes that it is important for adaptive flood management techniques to be practiced to promote resilient and sustainable communities in Malaysia's urban landscapes.

The sixth paper by Sumayyah Binti Norisham, Masidah Abdul Majid, Raja Intan Suhaylah, Roziha Che Haron, Siti Noorfairus Che Abdullah and Nur Ulfah Awatif Umairah Alias entitled Kampung Kita: Reinterpreting Kampung Spirit in Pocket Public Spaces for University Communities. The beautification of Laman KAED at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) aims to enhance the quality of the faculty's outdoor environment through the integration of landscape design, cultural identity, and sustainable design principles. Conceived as a multifunctional public space, the project supports learning activities, relaxation, social interaction, and community engagement. Through the incorporation of vernacular references, passive environmental strategies, and community-oriented spatial planning, the project aspires to enrich user experience while demonstrating IIUM's commitment to holistic and value-driven educational spaces.

The seventh paper entitled ILMSCAPE: Enhancement Project of Laman KAED in Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, IIUM as The "Garden of Knowledge and Virtue" by Farah Nadia Abd Jalil, Masidah Abdul Majid, Roziha Che Haron, Nur Ulfah Awatif Umairah Alias, Raja Intan Suhaylah Raja Abdul Rahman and Siti Noorfairus Che Abdullah. Laman KAED holds strong potential as a significant academic and social hub. However, the space is currently underutilised due to limited facilities and minimal multifunctional features, which reduces its impact on community engagement and faculty identity. The project therefore aims to enhance Laman KAED's visibility, accessibility, and usability, encouraging increased interaction among students, staff, and visitors. Central to this enhancement is the introduction of ilmu spaces, outdoor settings that embrace comfort, creativity, and continuous learning while reflecting KAED's academic culture. The enhancement focuses on aesthetic improvement, flexible event areas, shading and landscaping improvements, and sustainable design integration. Additionally, it supports KAED's long-term vision of self-sustainability by introducing opportunities for rental-based activities and events, thereby strengthening both the faculty's image and its role as a cultural and academic landmark.

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The eighth paper entitled Enhancement Project of Laman KAED Space Functionality Through The Concept of Tuma'ninah by Zahlia Maethilda Zulkarnain, Siti Noorfairus Che Abdullah, Masidah Abdul Majid, Raja Intan Suhaylah Raja Abdul Rahman, Roziha Che Haron and Nur Ulfah Awatif Umairah Alias. Laman KAED forms an integral part of the spatial identity and communal character of the Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED) at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Nevertheless, several areas within the courtyard remain underutilised and lack functional integration within students' daily academic and social activities. This study therefore explores strategies to enhance the functionality and usability of Laman KAED in order to transform it into a vibrant, inclusive, and purposeful environment. The findings are expected to inform design interventions that encourage a sense of tuma'ninah tranquility, serenity, and emotional balance while simultaneously strengthening the role of the courtyard as an active communal hub within the campus environment.

The ninth paper by Muhammad Alif Mohd Hisham, Raja Intan Suhaylah Raja Abdul Rahman, Roziha Che Haron, Nur Ulfah Awatif Umairah Alias, Masidah Abdul Majid and Siti Noorfairus Che Abdullah entitled Reviving Souls: Enhancing Laman KAED as Communal Public Spaces in University. The study aims to revive and revitalize Laman KAED at the Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), transforming it into a vibrant hub that promotes interaction, creativity, and spiritual grounding. Laman KAED serves as a reflection of KAED's identity, embodying the harmony between nature, humanity, and divine principles while supporting academic and social development. The design emphasizes inclusivity, sustainability, and Shariah compliance. The proposed interventions seek to create a multifunctional, aesthetically pleasing, and meaningful environment. Finally, this initiative aspires to establish Laman KAED as an iconic landmark that represents the Kulliyyah's architectural excellence while nurturing a sense of belonging and community.

The tenth paper by Hidayatul Husna Huzailing, Asiah Abdul Rahim, Mohd. Fairullazi Ayob, Sufian Hamat and Julaila Abdul Rahman entitled A Space of Engagement: Proposing Enhancement of Courtyards in Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, IIUM. The proposed enhancement of the KAED Courtyards at the Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (IIUM) focuses on transforming underutilized outdoor areas into meaningful and engaging spaces for the campus community. The objectives are to strengthen the identity of KAED, create inclusive gathering spaces, maximize the use of open areas, and promote environmentally responsive design. The proposal emphasizes multifunctionality, sustainability, and community engagement, envisioning the courtyards as vibrant and adaptable hubs that support academic, social, and cultural activities while contributing to the long-term sustainability of the faculty.

The eleventh paper entitled The Overflow: Revitalization of Courtyards in KAED, IIUM Through The Concept of Oasis by Trisyia Nadhirah Suhaimi, Masidah Abdul Majid, Julaila Abdul Rahman, Sufian Hamat, Asiah Abdul Rahim and Fairullazi Ayob. The courtyards within the Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED), IIUM, have strong potential to enhance campus life but remain underutilised due to thermal discomfort, limited shading, and poor functionality. The Overflow: Oasis project aims to transform these spaces into comfortable and vibrant environments that support wellness, social interaction, and the identity of KAED. The proposal introduces two courtyard concepts: the Tranquility Oasis, a pocket garden for rest and reflection, and the Wellness Oasis, an outdoor activity and community space. Overall, the project demonstrates how neglected courtyards can be revitalised into sustainable, inclusive, and meaningful environments that promote well-being within the academic setting.

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