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## **PREFACE**

*Assalamu'alaikum wrt. wbt.* and dear all,

It has been observed that in the specialized fields of architecture, planning, landscaping architecture, quantity surveying, building technology and engineering, applied arts and design, and other fields related to the built environment there is a general lack of scholarly articles and research reports, either collectively or individually, that are closest to Malaysia, Asian and the Islamic perspectives. Consequently, the Kulliyyah (Faculty) of Architecture and Environmental Design at the International Islamic University Malaysia (KAED, IIUM) considers it to be timely and appropriate for a journal i.e. Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management (JAPCM) to be established. The key aim of JAPCM is therefore to provide a platform for mitigating the 'gap' in the body of knowledge to be addressed.

JAPCM offers an opportunity for researchers, research students, practitioners and authors to share their views, theoretical and empirical research findings; and readers, especially academics and students to appreciate and benefit from its contents. Research reports and theoretical papers, short practice notes, book reviews and abstracts from Masters and PhD theses and dissertations are welcome on any aspects of architecture, urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, quantity surveying, building technology and engineering, applied arts and design, and other fields related to the built environment discipline.

*Happy reading.*

**Emeritus Prof. Ar. Dato' Dr. Elias Salleh**  
Editor-In-Chief

## EDITORIAL

*Assalamu-alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh*

Welcome to the belated seventh volume and first issue of the Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management or JAPCM. Due to some changes in the internal management of JAPCM since the last issue of Volume 6, Issue 2, there has been an unintended delay in the release of this volume. Nevertheless, here is JAPCM Volume 7, Issue 1 with six research papers pertaining to the built environment, in the Malaysian and international context.

This issue of JAPCM resumes with an article by I. Ibrahim et al on urban heat island concerns. The authors review the use of thermal remote sensing technology on the observation of urban heat island, with the aim of developing a framework of the observation of thermal remote sensing approach. The thermal remote sensing study of different spatial resolution of satellite images and approaches are discussed. Finally, the framework of the observation of thermal remote sensing was developed.

This is followed by A. A. Bakar who deliberates on the potential thermal effects of small gardens in double-storey linked houses in residential areas of Kuala Lumpur. This paper seeks to study the effects of front yard and backyard on the thermal performance of the outdoor and indoor spaces of linked-houses by comparing the air temperature readings of two units of double-storey linked-houses located in an urban area of Kuala Lumpur. The study indicates that heavily planted front yard and backyard gives positive effects on the outdoor and indoor thermal performance of the units, as well as healthy environment, physically and socially.

The reader is then presented to an exploration of the principle of individuality in architectural elements in Seljukid architecture by O. Simsek. The research question of the author is: Is the principle of individuality in architectural elements based on the *Weltanschauung* and the philosophy of Sufism? The author uses the method of comparing elements in different buildings, periods or regions. Four mosque examples namely the Masjid-I Juma in Isfahan/Iran, the Great Mosque in Divrigi/Turkey, the Aslanhane Mosque in Ankara/Turkey and the Sahipata Mosque in Konya/Turkey are presented in this paper. The research is carried out by own observation and opinions of scholars about the analysed buildings. Previous work by Dogan Kuban and Giovanni Curatola have been significantly referred to.

The spread of Islam in Bosnia in 1453 was followed by the construction of various mosques adapted to the local environment and materials, resulting in the unique Bosnian wooden minaret mosques. L. Kudumovic examines the values of these wooden minaret mosques, through historical architectural form, setting of the structure and its integration with natural surroundings. The author elaborates on one of the examples - the Brezovača mosque in the northern part of Bosnia, stressing the values inbuilt in the structure rather than as a piece of art, with the intention of preserving this type of structures as valuable assets in the future.

Next, Arabic calligraphy on Mughal monuments of North India is discussed by A. Ali and A. S. Hassan involving monuments from the three capital cities of Agra, Delhi and Fatehpur Sikri. The Arabic calligraphic art on Indian monuments are in the form of

Quranic verses, Hadith or inscriptions mentioning information regarding the monument and its builders. The early Muslim rulers in India, the Sultans developed this art and later Mughals enriched and flourished it to its peak. It is envisaged that the study would be able to assist designers, architects and calligraphers in their works to conserve and restore the calligraphic inscriptions in Mughal buildings.

In the last article of this issue, S. S. B. A. Sofi and A. A. K. Hamsa review the effects of road humps on traffic volume, speed and noise in residential areas based on the literature. Various literature had depicted that road humps increase the noise level due to the sudden braking of vehicles when approaching humps albeit the speed reduces. It concludes that road humps are effective in reducing speed in residential areas and, as expected, properly designed and installed road humps also reduce the noise level due to the speed reduction, but there is inconsistency in traffic volume reduction due to the existence or absence of alternative routes.

The articles included in this JAPCM Vol.7 No.1 issue cover four geographical locations namely Turkey, Bosnia, India and Malaysia, with topics ranging from urban heat island to small gardens, Seljukid architecture, Bosnian wooden minaret mosques, Arabic calligraphy and road humps. It is hoped that the articles in this issue will be of significant use to professionals, lecturers, researchers and postgraduate students of the built environment in their related research areas.

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