

EDITORIAL



This issue presents a collection of papers chosen from the ICCPP conference held in 2016. In so doing, it builds upon the already established tradition of the journal to facilitate outstanding scholars to develop their research to a higher standard, and to make them available to a wider audience.

Ganiesha ascertains the role of international and national standards in improving quality of life in urban environments in Sri Lanka. This is an important dimension often overlooked and reveals the agencies that are not present in the urban landscape itself, or in the control of the spaces, but contribute immensely to their make up. Quality of life is indeed invariably linked to the ways in which the urban spaces exist and that again is buttressed by the standards demanded by both national and international agencies. Ganiesha shows us that the Sri lankan policies are geared towards creating smart cities: a sure move to improve the quality of life of its citizens.

Narmada and Janaka focus more directly on the urban environments and examine how decisive planned interventions can contribute to the creation of places. Cities are indeed collections of places of which the more informal ones are created around streets on a daily basis. The character and quality of these places depend on how different interventions can yield different outcomes.

Similarly, the paper by Anuka and Janaka on Reclaiming traffic influenced urban residual spaces for the public in Colombo, Sri Lanka throws light on an often ignored aspect of urban environments. That is the left over spaces created by complex traffic arrangements. The paper shows how such spaces can be effectively reclaimed to be meaningful social spaces. In the context that cities are in dire need of social spaces, these revelations would help discover and put to good use a good area of the city that often is left behind.

Finally, Kelum brings out an innovative approach to understanding the city and devise planned interventions: that is the sensorial approach, which has received greater attention recently but remain relatively less well articulated. Together, these papers provide us new insights to the city that will undeniably help the planners to create more wholesome cities and places for people.

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