

EDITORIAL



This issue presents a collection of papers chosen from the ICCPP conference held in 2018. In so doing, it builds upon the already established tradition of the journal to facilitate outstanding scholars who presented papers at the conference to develop their research to a higher standard, and to make them available to a wider audience. In 2018, the conference requested the participants to examine the issues related to 'Socializing cities: Creating people-centred streets and places'.

The first paper, *The Charing Cross: Unfolding a Genius Loci in Lahore, Pakistan*, is an apt introduction to the theoretical postulates that are essential in understanding the issues related to socialising cities. As Hafsa Imtiaz, and Mehreen Mustafa point out, a city and its multiple places acquire what Norberg Schultz called the 'Genius Loci'; a qualitatively rich abode of social experiences anchored in place. The authors demonstrate how that has been the case in 'The Charing Cross, in Lahore, Pakistan, a place the British created but was later localized and acquired meaning and value in the everyday lives of people. The paper presents how the juxtaposition of time and space boundaries have contributed in making a *genius Loci* at The Charing Cross in Lahore.

Arthy Yogalingam and Janaka Wijesundara takes the issues head-on. Their paper, *sense of community and social life in the fishing neighbourhood of Gurunagar, Jaffna, Sri Lanka*, examine the role of space and neighbourhood layout in the formation of social life in cities. Taking the case of a fishing community in Sri Lanka, they demonstrate how the mix land use, the streets, compact urban forms and density, as well as integrated parks and community spaces contribute to the production of safe places that express the identity of people. These aspects, they argue, are essential in socialising cities.

P. Greeshma, & K. Manoj Kumar looks at an entirely different aspect; that of resilience of cities. With the issues of sustainability and impending climate change, the scholars have pointed out that the cities will need to be able to withstand slow changes, sudden and abrupt change as well as unexpected disasters that might befall the inhabitants of cities. This paper proposes the production of an emergency response model and elaborates the making of such a practice through a case study of Chennai. Numerous aspects have to be dealt with; land use, connectivity, ecology, infrastructure and built-up, They argue that emergency responses have to be devised at both city level as well as at neighbourhood level, without which cities may not be able to sustain social life in the contexts of unforeseen emergencies.

Some of the vertically developing cities in Asia today are witnessing a surge of residential high-rises popularly known as the condominiums. Apartments in the air lack relationship to ground and thus opportunities for social life. Nadeeka Jayaweera, et al., ask the question if green spaces in condominiums is a luxury or a necessity. Examining the urban development regulations and statistics of a number of Condos in Colombo, they point out the dearth of green spaces. Undeniably, they impinge upon the quality of life of the city.

Finally, we come to the streets and the roads, where the citizens live and move across from place to place. Landscaping such spaces are of paramount importance argue Shameen Dharmasena and Suresh Edirisooriya. Although directly not related to social life, they point out that the possibilities for accidents in highways connecting cities can be linked to the absence or presence of good landscaping along the roads. By examining the accident statistics of the Southern Highway of Sri Lanka, they map out the places where the accidents happen more often and how the landscapes there contribute to the happenings. In this issue, we discover the numerous facets of urban life and how much the architects and planners can contribute to the well-being of the citizens through space; architecture and Planning.

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