

# EDITORIAL



This issue presents a collection of papers chosen from the ICCPP conference held in 2019. 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 2019, the conference requested the participants to examine the issues related to 'Caring and Managing Cities': Transforming futures'.

The first paper, "To See Without Being Seen: Landscape perception and human behaviour in urban parks", deal with the ambiguous relationship between people and built-environments and is a novel attempt to understand the underlying perceptual principles of landscape experience. Kawshalya and Dharmasena argue that the concept of 'to see without being seen' that had arisen in the primitive hunters mind is still the basis of our relations with the urban landscapes. They point out that as Appleton has shown, genes of our ancestors who preferred such environments are still with us and we prefer environments with our biological instinct. In order to ascertain the validity of this assumption, the paper examines four different urban restorative environments in Colombo, and then conclude that the people preferred this situation of ,seeing things without being seen, and therefore such a perception could be employed in designing urban landscapes.

Ratnasiri and Sridharan takes us to an entirely different situation which in fact resonates with the current predicament of the world. Cleaning and disinfection has taken an unimagined position in the society port Covid-19, but even prior to that, the issue of the effectiveness of conventional cleaning in creating safe and healthy environments had drawn the attention of the academic as well as practitioners. With huge quantities of cleaning chemicals now being used everywhere from homes to cities, the need for green cleaning; methods of doing so without harming the environment has become crucial. The paper examines the critical support factors and barriers to promote green cleaning in Sri Lanka in the light of the greater moves across the world to shift to such a practice. Undeniably, this is an issue that needs urgent attention of the Sri Lankan cleaning industry as well as the government.

Ayesha Agha Shah looks at a different aspect; that of the revival of heritage in cities. She argues that authenticity; the characteristic of artefacts that endow the values and meanings of belonging to a specific culture is an essential aspect of heritage revival. Taking the case of recent heritage conservation activities of Bahrain, an island nation in the Arabian Gulf, Ayesha demonstrates the relevance to the people's engagement with their cultural and built heritage in Bahrain. She also evaluates the ways in which the cultural revival has helped to create a sense of belonging among the people.

Abbas Al warafi pursues a similar issue; that of revitalization of historic city centers in the Arab world. He takes the position that an integrated approach to heritage conservation must precede the piecemeal approaches of freezing structures or pandering to the whims and fancies of tourists who visit such cities. By closely examining the case of Sana'a in Yemen, Abbas Al Warafi proposes an integrated approach which he claims can help revive the deteriorating Arabian cities and help sustain their populations and re-utilizing an enormous wealth of buildings, spaces, and systems that would otherwise perish under the pressure of urbanization.

This is issue once again provides us with great insight about the cities in different parts of the world. They show that the researchers care about numerous issues on cities.

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