

Editorial

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One year has passed already. Time flies and never comes back. The new normal is not normal at all. We digitalized our lives but a day remained 24 hours and is still not enough. For many women, the work overload became the real deal. Happy International Women's Day!

Not only the COVID-19 pandemic but also the new normal and ongoing global challenges we are facing need creative problem-solving and actions. The economic crisis at the door step, the lack of production and need for self-production, we try to manage affordable and sustainable solutions. The new normal has brought back the importance of design in our daily routines.

Facing challenges orients us more on coming up with creative solutions. Gürcan and Leblebici Başar, in their paper entitled "Understanding design creativity through pretence ability" offer the insights of creative problem-solving process. Their results show that the pretend play is very important not only in childhood but also in adulthood. They conclude that in adulthood pretend play, affordance-based pretence brings up more creativity.

The relation between affordance and creativity actually starts at birth where our perceptual-cognitive and social emotional processes develop. Most of us spend most of our lives in the school environment. Garip and Seymen with their paper "Research for evaluating perception of concrete material by using visual research methods in learning environments" demonstrate how the (visual) design of the physical environment plays a crucial role in the perception development of children.

Our children, the next generations, are affected the most from the global events, and it is our duty to create living environments in our homes considering that the new normal is not as temporary as it was originally thought.

Another affected group from the new normal is certainly the elderly. Bayar and Türkoğlu in their paper entitled "The relationship between living environment and daily life routines of older adults" shows us the importance of neighbourhood design in the elderly's daily routines. They conclude that the active life of elderly is influenced by both the living environment and the income.

We usually believe that better life can be found in a safe environment where we can be satisfied and happy with our lives. Oladosu and colleagues with their study "Hierarchical multiple regression modelling on predictors of neighbourhood satisfaction in violence-induced segregated urban environments" show that even in violence induced neighbourhood, there exists a satisfaction. They summarize that, besides safety and stability, neighbourhood satisfaction depends on social relationships as well as facilities and services.

Social and spatial segregation in urban environments depends on urban planning decisions. Taibi and Madani, with their article "Housing and urban continuity: The 1930s urbanistic experiments in Oran" exploit the importance of urbanism instruments. The implementation that is unique to the place remains integrated with the city while, among three districts, Yaghmoracen, inspired by the French urbanism, is the one generating the social and cultural segregation in the urban tissue.

Authorities can turn urban sprawl to a path to sustainability. Yavuz with her article "Urban sprawl: an empirical analysis for Konya Province-Turkey" indicates that although urban sprawl is caused by economic growth, it can be controlled through the city plans. Local authorities with the precautions taken by plans can take control of urban sprawl and use it as an advantage as in Konya's example.

Both urban planning and design contribute on the public use of the city as a whole. Yaylalı-Yıldız and Çil with their study "Issues in the planning and design of university campuses in Turkey" prove that at least for the case of campuses in Turkey. As knowledge producer and transmitter, universities occupy a large spaces which in time extend more as the population of their students and academicians increases. Both governmental plans and architectural design principles depending on the period, campuses' spatial configuration and its place in city have specific tendencies.

Experiencing global challenges in depth in the last decades, the construction sector is looking for new sustainable solutions. Among them, green building systems appear to be the most preferred implementation.

Akşit and Baştanoglu in their study "A review of LEED green building certification systems in Europe and Turkey" con-

clude that in order to reach high standards especially for energy efficiency in the buildings, Turkey needs to be more cautious in terms of the used materials.

When it comes to the outdoor thermal comfort, Rad and Afzali, with their study entitled “Measuring effects of building orientation and vegetation on thermal comfort by ENVI-met in Maslak, Istanbul”, show how urban design and morphology are one of the most important factors affecting outdoor thermal comfort. They conclude that controlling building orientation and vegetation could end up affecting outdoor thermal comfort positively.

Süzer, in her paper entitled “LEED certified mixed-use residential buildings in Istanbul: A study on category-based performances” focuses on the assessment of LEED certification and green buildings to overcome the negative effect of building industry on climate change. She looks at Istanbul’s LEED certified mixed-use residential high-rise buildings as the new market of changing human behaviours and needs.

In cities, the actions taken to overcome the negative impact of global challenges do not exist only for the newly built environment. Sustainability’s well-known 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) are also applied for the existing built environment. Ramaj and Nagammal, in their paper “Exploring the ‘R’s and constructing the big picture of ‘recycling’ in architecture and construction industry” explain how 3 Rs turn into 14 Rs by defining and classifying each of them separately. They put forward the need for a pre-process phase specific to developing engineered building materials with recycled content especially with secondary resources from domains other than the construction domain.

Acun-Özgünler and her colleagues, in their article entitled “The experimental works conducted on modern heritage and mixed system buildings with the purpose of the conservation and restoration”, examine the use of reinforced concrete for the restoration of Istanbul University buildings. After the chemical, physical and mechanical analyses to determine the properties and deterioration of the materials, they recommend applications for similar buildings.

In the article titled “Şile and its castle: Historical topography and medieval archi-

tectural history” Sağlam presents, based on a fresh reading into primary and secondary sources, brand new information on the historic landmark which has been in the spotlight after a restoration in 2015.

Looking at another landmark, Özlü writes on the “Biography of a monument: Historical and morphological survey of the Tower of Justice (Adalet Kulesi)” in the Topkapı Palace. The article documents the evolving meanings of the tower throughout history based on archival research.

Ameur and Lakjaa, in their study titled “Qubba of the Ksour Mountains, between material and immaterial” articulate the physical and spiritual characteristics of the funerary monuments.

Lionar and Ediz, in their article titled “The influence of traditional Indian architecture in Balkrishna Doshi’s IIM Complex at Bangalore: A comparative analysis using fractal dimensions and lacunarity” analyze the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Complex in terms of its similarities with traditional Indian architecture. Their analysis focuses on the visual complexities of spatial orders in plan and show Doshi’s possible cultural inspirations.

Inspired from cultural, traditional and historical design leads to successful results in contemporary architecture. Lionar and Ediz in their paper “The influence of traditional Indian architecture in Balkrishna Doshi’s IIM Complex at Bangalore: A comparative analysis using fractal dimensions and lacunarity, offers the influence of traditional Hindu design on contemporary Indian architecture. Thus, their findings confirms that the designer unorthodox spatial fabric brought up the success.

The contemporary design not only in architecture but also in fine arts tries to find its path. Alsaggar and Alotoom, with their article “The dialectic of the instrumental and the aesthetic mind in the philosophy of Theodore Adorno and its representations in contemporary art, find that the emergence of hybrid artistic genres lead artists to use different technics rather than their original areas as the search for innovation and fame.

Design and space matters as well as the culture itself. But our focus is the new normal. But please try to clear your mind and enjoy our March 2021 issue!