

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Starting from this issue, ALAM CIPTA will strive to be more focus on the articles related to design and sustainability which is the main scope of the journal. For this issue, five research articles are published and the topic range from architecture, landscape architecture and industrial design. The authors discuss the issues related to low carbon design, public participatory design, thermal comfort and the relationship of gender and park preferences. These articles are received, reviewed and process according to submission and production time frame rather than editorial preferences.

The understanding of building and landscape science is very important to broaden our understanding about achieving sustainable design and ALAM CIPTA always received articles related to building and landscape science. For this issue, Farah Diba, Mohd Fairuz and Mohd Fakry Zaky critically analyze the contribution of parks to carbon emission. The article touches on the needs to examine the parks even though the parks are perceived as green spaces that contribute the least amount of carbon. The results suggesting that the parks do emit carbon and mitigation measures need to be taken. Markus Bulus's analyze the microclimate effect of fully enclosed courtyard in the hot dry climate of Nigeria which related directly to thermal comfort. Two variables were tested; courtyard ratio and orientation and the findings suggest that similar with the semi-enclosed courtyards, the microclimate condition of the fully enclosed courtyards is also affected by courtyard ratio and orientation.

Mohd Sharizal, Chris Rust, Ahmad Rizal, Saiful Hasley and Yen-Fu Chen look into the product design process in which they argue often resulted to the design fail to meet users' need. They suggest the new participatory design approach by using mock-up model in product design process. Meanwhile, Hassan Alli, also discusses public participatory and design especially on the needs to engage users in design process for product design. By interviewing product management specialists, Hassan Alli suggests that participatory process must come in the very early stages of design development. Mohd Sharizal, Chris Rust, Ahmad Rizal, Saiful Hasley, Yen-Fu Chen and Hassan Alli works hit the core issue of design sustainability which is social and community participation. If public participatory design always been discussed in planning and architecture field, it is enlightening to see the discussion start to creep into product and industrial design field.

Mohd Kher looks into forest recreational issues and suggests that gender play the roles in preferences for recreational activities and setting. By Using Sungai Congkak in Hulu Langat, Malaysia as a study site, he surveyed 119 participants and found that females have more positive preferences in comparison to male participants. Mohd Kher works create awareness that more study need to be done when it comes to gender or minority groups because sustainability must take into account community or users view as whole without any discrimination especially in pluralistic society of Malaysia that not only different from the culturw but also religion point of views.

ALAM CIPTA accepts articles that concern with architecture, art and design related to the process, methods, techniques, practices and theories in expanding our understanding to ensure sustainability. All articles in this issue provide very relevant knowledge how can we plan and design our environment, built environment and products better. On behalf of the editors, I would like to thanks all the authors and reviewers who had work very hard. Your contribution is very valuable as it help the advancement and dissemination of knowledge to "cipta" [create] a better world. We encourage your feedbacks at alamciptaeditor@upm.edu.my and thank you for your continuous support of ALAM CIPTA.

EDITOR in CHIEF