

EDITORIAL PREFACE

It is our great pleasure to announce that starting from June 2018; ALAM CIPTA is indexed in the SCOPUS. It is an important milestone for us and we are committed to elevate the quality of ALAM CIPTA higher. The scope of ALAM CIPTA is about sustainability in the context of planning and design. For this issue, nine articles are published and the topics cover the relationship of sustainability with spiritual aspect, human health, food security, city evolution and design process. These articles are received, reviewed and process according to submission and production time frame rather than editorial preferences.

Spiritual aspect of sustainability is a narrative that rarely been discussed in sustainable design framework. By looking into Green Building Index (GBI) rating system, Hailane Salam and Nik Lukman Nik Ibrahim argue that GBI is secular in nature and it is problematic. By focusing on Malay architecture as model of a design with spiritual values but yet sustainable, the authors argue there is a need to embed spiritual values in future development. Meanwhile, Zulkifli Muslim reported that nature with its spiritual values can be transformed into a product design. For the author, nature (plants) should be a basis for design not only for the design form but also for design process itself. In this regards, the design will be more meaningful.

Low Bee Teng, Roslina Sharif, Wan Sofiah Wan Ishak, Marek Kozlowski and Sumarni Ismail discuss the effect of developments and mental health by using literature review method. They argues that the effect is real and in Malaysian context, if the development is not being design wisely, mental and stress issues will increase. Nursuriani Shaffee and Shureen Faris Abd Shukor acknowledge the problem of mental stress and development and therefore, they conducted systematic review about the relationship of nature and stress. They found out that exposure to nature over time will reduce stress greatly. These two articles emphasize how health issue [stress] is important in relation to development. It is an opinion of the editors that stress level should be an indicator how sustainable the development is.

It is interesting to note that Muhammad Shafiq Mokhtar Baharudin, Rahinah Ibrahim, Khalina Abdan and Ali Rashidi argues that the current urban farming system may be limited to several type of crops only and they argues that by introducing vertical system for climbing food plants, more types of crops can be planted. One aspect of sustainability is society well-being and the society needs food to survive and the article providing possibility for more crops to be planted in our cities. It is a hope that one day our city will be able produce totally their own foods thus making the city greener and sustainable.

Zhao Long, Zulkifli Hanafi and Wong Hong Wei described the evolution of Georgetown, Pulau Pinang from 1786, a year Sir Francis Light opened the city as a British trading port. They argue that the physical development of Georgetown not only base on the economic needs but also social factors. The social factors are very much shaping the physical forms or townscapes of Georgetown and they provide meaning to the heritage buildings or spaces that exist today. In order for Georgetown to further maintain it heritage values, these social factors need to be taken into consideration for heritage planning and design as well and the continuance of the sustainability of Georgetown.

Mohd Kher Bin Hussein and Mohd Nazri Bin Saidon analyze the young landscape architects perception for recreational forest and they found that these young professionals even though prefer the forest condition but they are critical towards inharmonious relationship between man-made structures and natural landscapes. Meanwhile, Hassan Alli, Saiful Hasley Ramli, Zulida Rejali, Raja Ahmad Azmeer Raja Ahmad Effendi and Mohd Shahrizal Dolah discuss the important of having users to participate directly to product design process. Hassan Ali is using “product definition method” to validate his arguments, meanwhile, Saiful Hasley Ramli, Zulida Rejali, Raja Ahmad Azmeer Raja Ahmad Effendi and Mohd Shahrizal Dolah test the use of video and mannequin to observe how doctors conducting surgery. The papers highlight that if the product to be sustainable it must be comfort and meeting the needs of the users.

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