

Editorial:

Stimulating Research in the Built Environment

For years, a wide chasm has been evident in research pertaining to the sphere of built environment and spatial sciences. In the not-too-distant past, architectural research in fact, was considered an oxymoron! (Emmanuel, 2007). In this light, it could be argued that things have not been any better for subject areas of quantity surveying and surveying sciences that go hand-in-hand with architecture. Although things have gradually taken a turn for the better, there is still plenty of room for improvement.

The architects, quantity surveyors and land surveyors as practitioners all engage in some form of inquiry in the course of their professional work. However, what is lacking in the *modus operandi* of each professional is a systematic search that yields generalizable results. In other words, they are short of a research initiative underpinned by systematic inquiry (Emmanuel, 2007). Such inquiry is instrumental to create knowledge. When Sir Francis Bacon published *Meditationes Sacrae* in 1597, through the saying "*knowledge itself is power*", he surely desired to convey the notion that having/sharing knowledge is the foundation of reputation and influence, and henceforth 'power' (Azamfirei, 2016). In this light, research is key for built environment/spatial sciences professionals to assert power. Since the Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences (FBESS) of KDU is in service of grooming professionals/academics in the aforementioned fields for the benefit of the nation, it is high time that a serious research culture is instilled and sustained within it.

In this light, we are delighted to publish and present to you this inaugural Vol. 01 (Issue 01) of the KDU Journal of Built-Environment (KDU-JBE), which is the answer – and yet, not a panacea – to a chronic problem the FBESS has faced since its establishment. All this time, the faculty did not possess a platform to showcase the research of its academics/students, analogous to certain other faculties within KDU that already boast of such. Therefore, the intention of KDU-JBE is not only to create opportunities to publish built environment-related research, but also to enrich the research culture within the FBESS. The KDU-JBE has been blessed with a formidable ensemble of local/international reviewers who are qualified and competent to cover the scope laid down by the journal. The foremost underlying intention on our part is to attain fleeting success locally as well as internationally.

The composition of papers presented in this inaugural journal issue is indeed remarkable, and the areas tackled are vibrant. The paper that leads a very unique study into the contribution of multiple intelligences for making successful architectural professionals in a global context is groundbreaking, and has not hitherto been attempted. The implications of multiple intelligences on pedagogy and churning out professionals has over the years become a popular area of research (Lei et al., 2021; Shearer, 2018). The Study that scrutinizes a master plan intended for regenerating two historic quarters within the walled city of Nicosia in Cyprus not only adds some international flavor to the research article ensemble, but also brings in perspectives of historical preservation as well as an urban perspective to the discourse. The third paper assessing applicability of New Urbanism Principles into urban planning, fosters a fusion of sustainability principles into the subject area. It attempts to establish guidelines for improvement of urban-related building regulations in Sri Lanka. The piece further becomes an extension to its counterpart from distant Cyprus that also tackles urbanism. The final paper that assesses the integration of health and urban security, Justifies a military-led urban management approach adopted by the Sri Lankan state to successfully contain wave-1 of COVID-19. This is a very timely research indeed, in a post-pandemic world staggering in a slow process of recuperation. The latter three pieces gain more currency in the face of unprecedented urban growth – the global population by 2030 hitting a

figure comparable to the accumulated urban growth in the entire civilizational history – and the dilemmas the phenomenon brings about (UN, 2010). Rethinking strategies for resilient urban design, perception and planning has been popular global talking points lately (Afrin et al., 2021). All four aforementioned pieces have yielded valuable findings/insights that would enrich future research in their respective areas, and indeed fulfill the broader aim of KDU-JBE as a starting point. On this note, KDU-JBE openly invites scholars the world over conducting research in the sphere of built environment, to share their research findings and insights with the wider academic community through our journal. By doing so, they can partake in its efforts to disseminate knowledge, push epistemology ahead, and in the process, gain power!

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