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Associate Laboratory of Robotics and Engineering Systems / Interactive Technologies Institute (ITI/LARSyS/IST);

Interdisciplinary Centre for History, Culture and Societies (CIDEHUS/UE)

Contact and information

info@urbancreativity.org

Urbancreativity.org

A Research on Factors Affecting Visual Perception in Architecture

Pedro Soares Neves, Executive Director Urbancreativity

In this issue titled Ubiquity, we explore the omnipresence of concepts, patterns, and phenomena that permeate urban, architectural, and cultural spaces. The term "ubiquity" not only invites us to consider the visible and invisible forces shaping our environment but also challenges us to question how these forces manifest in art, architecture, and society at large. From historical reflections to contemporary debates, the contributions in this issue provide a kaleidoscopic view of the intersections between design, public space, and the socio-political landscapes that frame them.

The articles selected for this issue offer diverse yet interconnected perspectives. Mahdi Shadkar delves into the fascinating interplay between art and architecture in public spaces through the lens of Situationist theory, examining the socio-political implications of street art and its transformative potential. Elif Sena Şensoy addresses the profound impact of visual perception in architectural design, underscoring the shared language between creators and users that shapes our built environment. Meanwhile, Ufuk Fatih Kucukali's analysis of biophilic design offers a vision of green buildings as a means to reconnect humanity with nature, emphasizing the psychological and environmental benefits of such integration.

Historical explorations also take center stage. Umid Musazade revisits the Baroque period in European palace gardens, unveiling the intricate designs and cultural significance of these landscapes as spaces of power and aesthetic expression. Similarly, Muhsine Perihan Yılmaz and Feran Aşur examine the effects of historical urban landscapes on the identity of Van, Turkey, offering insights into how cultural heritage anchors and transforms urban identity amidst change.

The issue further ventures into the complex interplay between truth, media, and the city in Pedro de Andrade's article, which critically investigates the phenomenon of fake news within urban contexts. Employing innovative methodologies, Andrade reveals the layered impact of disinformation on our collective understanding of urban life and its cultural fabric.

In addition to these articles, João Quintela and Filipa Ramalhete's working paper examines pedagogical approaches to architecture, presenting a case study on teaching architecture through intervention in public spaces. Their analysis of the ALDO dog park in Lisbon demonstrates how practical, community-driven initiatives can foster meaningful learning experiences and enhance public engagement.

The underlying thread binding these contributions is a recognition of the pervasive and transformative forces that define our spaces, whether through art, design, heritage, or media. Ubiquity highlights not only the omnipresent patterns in our urban and cultural environments but also the need to approach them critically and creatively.

We hope this issue serves as a platform for dialogue and inspiration, encouraging readers to reflect on the intersections of art, architecture, and society in their most ubiquitous forms.

