The vertical urban space

This issue of the journal *Urbani izziv* presents urban space from the perspective of a crisis of "architectural culture," transition, openness, public participation, urban renewal and social segregation.

In the first article, Michael W. Mehaffy and Tigran Haas proceed from the finding that environmental design professionals face unenviable daunting challenges: fragmented development, wasted and depleting resources, damage to human health and wellbeing, damage to ecologies and, now, an economic crisis tied to failures in the built environment. The authors believe that professionals must learn to critique, and finally to dispense with, the misapplications of nonproductive forms of thinking. In the second article, Jasna Stefanovska and Janez Koželj discuss transitional development issues in the Macedonian capital, Skopje. They believe that the current crisis engulfing the city has led to deterioration in the quality of the built environment and has created fertile ground for speculative development. Because of this, urban planning is no longer able to operate as an instrument of control and development with the primary aim of protecting and promoting public interests. The author of the third article, Lilijana Jankovič Grobelšek, believes that private space open to the public could complement and enrich the city's public space network to a larger extent than it currently does, which would enable it to have a greater influence on ensuring people's quality of life and health. The first precondition for this is a wellorganised ownership and physical structure of the public space network that is linked to private spaces open to the public; the first step towards achieving this includes defining these spaces as a special spatial category that can be introduced into local urbanplanning practice. In the fourth article, Igor Bizjak studies the potential interaction between public participation, which is one of the forms of public cooperation or partaking in spatial planning processes, and IT. He ascertains that Web 2.0 tools are extremely useful in including the public in spatial planning processes, but they do demand a lot of preparatory work and a good technical platform. In the fifth article, Daniel Chi Wing Ho et al. proceed from the findings that the lack of proper buildingcare culture has led to serious problems of urban decay in most developed cities, threatening community health and safety. An urgent resort to address this issue is urban renewal. However, with a view towards a sustainable strategy for urban renewal, it is necessary to balance the interests of different stakeholders; in the majority of cases, this is extremely difficult to achieve. The last article focuses on ruralurban migration. Based on the example of the Mexican city of Monterrey, Arun Kumar Acharya and Manuel R. Barragán Codina establish that the migrants arriving in this metropolis face difficulties adjusting and adapting to the city environment and thus isolate themselves and segregate themselves socially due to fear of (cultural and racial) discrimination and violence.

Before you is the new issue of the journal *Urbani izziv*, which discusses interesting, engaging and current topics connected with the diversity of urban space. We hope that you find it challenging reading!

<div style="text-align:right">Boštjan Kerbler</div>