

Facing the breadth of the field

Editorial by Vita Žlender

This issue marks a shift in leadership at *Urbani izziv*, and it is with respect and a sense of responsibility that I begin my role as editor-in-chief. Succeeding Damjana Gantar, whose editorial work over the past eight years has shaped the journal into a lively platform for spatial discourse, I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation for her thoughtful and dedicated guidance.

In preparing this issue, I have become acutely aware of the remarkable breadth of themes that those engaged in spatial sciences must consider. Whether working in architecture, landscape architecture, urban and landscape planning, sociology, geography, or environmental studies, the scope is wide and interconnected. Addressing space today means confronting a complex intersection of built form, open space, lived experience, memory, ecology, participation, and more. It means acknowledging that spatial issues are rarely singular or isolated – instead, they are layered, systemic, and fundamentally human.

The selection of contributions in this issue reflects this broad terrain. Although each article is grounded in a specific case or approach, together they offer insight into the diversity of issues that shape our field. The journal begins with a study of architecture's role in shaping city identity in Almaty, followed by research on how urban landmarks influence perceptions of safety in Istanbul. From there, it moves to inclusive design and pedestrian accessibility, then to the relationship between urban green spaces and wellbeing in Prishtina. The final article employs netnography to explore the intangible heritage of Tlemcen's historic medina. This rich collection is rounded out by a presentation of the ARCH-E project, which examines the evolving landscape of European architectural design competitions.

Rather than defining a new path, this first issue under new editorial leadership acknowledges and embraces the plurality of perspectives, challenges, and disciplines that converge in the study and shaping of space. It affirms the value of seeing the field in its full complexity, and of continuing to ask how varied efforts contribute to more thoughtful, responsive, and sustainable spatial planning practice.

In keeping with this commitment to openness and engagement, you also noticed a redesigned cover for the journal. The updated visual identity, developed by the designer Maja Licul, seeks to communicate a balanced relationship between expert content and approachability. The new design features bold typography made up of tiny dots; “a playful parallel”, as she puts it, “to urban planning itself, which attempts to organize a multitude of elements into a functioning whole”. For each issue, selected keywords are arranged into a composition that is both dynamic and visually ordered, and each annual volume is marked by a distinct colour. This thoughtful redesign signals not only a fresh appearance but also a renewed commitment to clarity, creativity, and the layered complexity of the field we explore.