

## Editorial

### CyNUM 2nd Regional Conference: 'Transformation and Conservation of Urban Form in South-Eastern Mediterranean Cities'

We have reserved this issue of our journal for a specific conference on urban morphology.

The *Cyprus Network for Urban Morphology (CyNUM)* - one of the regional networks of the International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF) - hosted its second regional conference in Famagusta, in Northern Cyprus, on 7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022, as a virtual event, with the central theme of *'Transformation and Conservation of Urban Form in South-Eastern Mediterranean Cities'*.

The conference aimed to address current issues related to urban form from an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspective, focusing on "transformation" and "conservation" while engaging various actors and stakeholders.

As has been discussed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Conference of CyNUM, *"Over the past few decades, South-Eastern Mediterranean cities have become radically altered in the sense of scale, scope, and complexity because of globalization, increased mobility at all levels, massive internal movements of labor, climate change, technological developments, economic fluctuations, unemployment, and urban conflicts. Migration flows, internal displacements, and the movement of refugees, demographic, spatial, and socio-cultural changes have profound consequences on city life and have created an increasingly diverse and continuously transformed urban population. In these parts of the world, contemporary everyday life is characterized by diverse manifestations of instability which continuously challenge and redefine everyday living patterns and cities' infrastructures and urban form."*

With these discussions in mind, CyNUM's 2nd Regional Urban Morphology Conference aimed at establishing a common platform to discuss further **how cities transform over time by concentrating on their urban morphological characteristics in the context of the south-eastern Mediterranean**. The conference set up an academic and professional arena in which urban morphology was explored through heritage conservation-based urban transformation, regeneration-based urban transformation, and

(re)development-based urban transformation within the rich urban context of south-eastern Mediterranean cities.

Learning from cities in the South-Eastern Mediterranean region can provide significant input to urban planning, architecture, and design fields. To this end, the conference helped develop links with other organizations (universities, NGOs, research centers, and planning authorities) concerned with the built environment, other regional ISUF networks, and the central body of ISUF.

We invited to our conference submissions from academics, researchers, practicing professionals, and interested persons from any background. The organizing committee encouraged the submission of articles that address the general theme of the conference, *"Transformation and Conservation of Urban Form in South-Eastern Mediterranean Cities"* as well as relevant topics of interest such as:

- Transformation of Urban Form
- Sustainability of Urban Form
- Architecture, Heritage and Urban Form
- Conservation of Urban Landscape
- Morphology of Historic Urban Landscapes
- Current Tools and Methodologies in Urban Morphology
- Urban Morphology and Contested Spaces
- Public Space Network

Accordingly, we had thirteen presentations in four sessions, three keynote speeches and three special panel sessions on urban morphology. The conference was a success thanks to all presenters; to our distinguished scientific committee – Ali Alraouf, Cana Bilsel, Olgu Çalışkan, Naciye Doratlı, Sergio Garcia, Perez, Payam Mahasti, Marco Maretto, Ayşe Sema Kubat, Guiseppa Strappa, Tolga Ünlü and Malgorzata Hanzl; and to our distinguished keynote speakers - Professor Francisco Javier Monclús Fraga, Professor Robert Saliba (RIP) and Dr. Ceren Boğaç.

The organizing committee – Gizem Caner, Alessandro Camiz, Nevter Zafer Comert, Ilaria Geddes, Nezire Özgece, and Sebnem Onal Hoskara, have selected four papers among the congress presentations to be published in JURD. And one of our keynote speakers has kindly agreed to submit her speech as an article to be published in the JURD. Thus, after our regular peer-review process, we are proud to share five articles with five case studies from the south-eastern Mediterranean. Two articles, among five, present two major cities in Cyprus. On the one hand, the first article by Ceren Boğaç focuses on the Famagusta Ecocity Project, a historic case study for sustainable and inclusive urban development aiming to foster peace and harmony in a post-conflict setting. On the other hand, the last article by Corrado Scudellaro presents the Buffer Zone of

Nicosia, the last divided city in Europe, discussing its memorial, historical, and symbolical characteristics. Then we have three cases from Turkey. Two of the articles present the morphological transformation of public spaces throughout history. The article by Gürkan Okumuş shares a morphological analysis of the urban interface-sculpture relationship in the case of Eskişehir Governmental Square in Turkey, whereas the article by Beliz Büşra Şahin presents us a case from Adana and evaluates the effects of its transformation in the modernization of the city. Last but not least, the article by Hasan Sercan Sağlam focuses on the harbor town of Enez in Thrace and its castle/fortifications from a historical perspective.

We hope you enjoy the fourth issue of the Journal of Urban Research and Development and invite you to contribute to the following issues.

Editors

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