

*Spoštovani bralci,*

pred vami je prenovljena številka Urbanega izziva, ki je nastala v sodelovanju z University of Central England (UCE), Faculty of Built Environment v Birminghamu.

S to številko uresničujemo dolgoletna prizadevanja Urbanističnega inštituta za razvijanje mednarodne razsežnosti revije ter za primerjalno predstavljane raziskovalnih smeri in sodobne strokovne prakse na področju prostorskega planiranja in urbanizma, doma in v tujini. Imenovali smo tudi mednarodni uredniški odbor, hkrati pa uvajamo načelo recenzije za znanstvene in strokovne prispevke. Vzporedni prevod tematskih člankov v angleškem jeziku omogoča distribucijo tudi v tujini, sprva predvsem v raziskovalnih inštitucijah in akademskih krogih, s katerimi Urbanistični inštitut že tradicionalno sodeluje, potem pa tudi širši strokovni javnosti. Tako bo revija *Urban Challenge* postopoma prispevala k emancipaciji slovenske publicistike in prodoru domačih raziskovalnih in strokovnih dognanj s področja urejanja prostora tudi v tujino.

Pričujoča številka je posvečena aktualni stanovanjski problematiki v obeh državah – Veliki Britaniji in Sloveniji. Z britanskega vidika so predstavljeni sodobne smeri v organizaciji socialne stanovanjske gradnje in gradnje za starejšo populacijo, zgodovinski razvoj stanovanjskih sosesk in novejši kompleksni pristopi pri njihovi regeneraciji. Problematika je zelo aktualna tudi za našo prakso stanovanjske gradnje, s katero se v prehodnem obdobju srečujemo, kar je razvidno iz slovenskih prispevkov, ki predstavljajo probleme organiziranosti, financiranja ter (ne)izgradnje, vzdrževanja in prenove.

Številka Urbanega izziva, ki je pred vami, je nastala v tesnem sodelovanju angleških in slovenskih kolegov. Prof. Alan Middleton, prodekan za raziskovalno dejavnost UCE, in prof. Jim Low, predstojnik Faculty of the Built Environment, sta zasluzna predvsem za finančno-organizacijski del; Richard M. Andrews in prof. Vladimir Mušič sta to številko uredila, Bogo Zupančič pa je pripravil zahtevno tehnično-uredniško delo. Njim, pa tudi vsem sodelujočim, se iskreno zahvaljujem.

dr. Kaliopa Dimitrovska-Andrews

*Dear Readers,*

This is the revised edition of *Urban Challenge* which has been put together in cooperation with the Faculty of the Built Environment of the University of Central England (UCE) in Birmingham.

This issue represents a major step forward after of long years of effort by the Urban Planning Institute to give the magazine an international dimension which allows the comparative presentation of research trends and contemporary practices in the field of physical and urban planning at home and abroad. We have nominated an international editorial board and at the same time we are introducing the concept of a review of scientific and professional contributions. The English translation provided means that the magazine can also be read abroad, first and foremost in those research institutes and academic circles with which the Urban Planning Institute has long been cooperating, but also among the more general professional public. In this way *Urban Challenge* will be helping to open the doors for Slovenian journalism and contributing to the promotion of increased awareness of domestic research and expert use in environmental planning, in the international arena.

The current issue is devoted to a review of the housing problems in both Great Britain and Slovenia. Features include the British perspective on contemporary trends in the building of social housing and housing for the elderly, the historical development of residential areas and the new and complex approaches to their regeneration. These subjects are extremely topical in Slovenia too, since our housing programmes are going to encounter the same difficulties in the future. This is clearly demonstrated by the Slovenian contributions, which highlight the problems of organisation, financing, building (or not building), maintenance and renovation.

This issue of *Urban Challenge* is the result of close cooperation between British and Slovene colleagues. We are greatly indebted to Prof. Alan Middleton, the Associate Dean of Research, and Prof. Jim Low, the Head of the Birmingham School of Architecture, both in Faculty of the Built Environment UCE, especially for their work on the financial and organisational aspects of the project. This issue was edited by Richard M. Andrews and Prof. Vladimir Mušič. Bogo Zupančič handled the demanding technical-editorial work. To them, and to everyone else who has cooperated with us to produce this issue, I am profoundly grateful.

Dr. Kaliopa Dimitrovska-Andrews