

Urban challenges of North and South America, Asia and Europe

Dear readers, the previous issue took us on a journey to changing cities in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, whereas this time we are encountering the urban challenges of Chicago, Santiago, Hong Kong, Kathmandu and Barcelona, and the urban management of European cities.

In the first article, Marco Giliberti focuses on studying university campus plans in Chicago and the related planning strategies in the United States. These campuses have modified the way the university space is conceived: its form, its architectural language and particularly its relative interdependence within the space of the urban fabric. In the second article, Francisca Márquez discusses the origin and construction of urban identities in the Chilean capital of Santiago. She also presents the social processes through which segregation was historically consolidated in the city and the identity-building processes that contributed to reinforcing urban segregation, as well as the tensions created by these situations. In the third article, Yung Yau uses the example of Hong Kong to determine that urban decay is an inevitable outcome of the growth of most cities. Because redeveloping dilapidated buildings, which has long been regarded as an effective solution to this urban problem, may be responsible for gentrifying neighbourhoods, the author seeks to determine whether comprehensive redevelopment really affects housing value. The fourth article presents the rapidly transforming urban structures of the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu. The author Bijaya K. Shrestha believes that unmanaged urban growth, chaotic construction and a growing number of vehicles has destroyed the physical form, reduced social activities, increased accidents and decreased pedestrian comfort on all types of streets. To reverse this trend the author proposes a threefold urban design strategy and measures that should be supported by flexible design guidelines, incentives and consensus among various stakeholders. The fifth article, by Montserrat Pallares-Barbera, Anna Badia, and Jordi Duch, discusses the Plan for the Urban Expansion of Barcelona designed by Ildefons Cerdà. It focuses on how and why it was conceived in a unique way, in which the provision of services to the population was an important part. In the last article, Irena Bačlija presents the (re)conceptualization of urban management as a reform of city administration, or its task to bring about a much-needed balance between the social and economic development of the city.

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

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