

## Editorial

The first issue of Volume 10 of the FARU Journal is presented with great delight. Since its establishment in 2009 as part of the FARU Annual Conference, the FARU Journal has served as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. In 2020, a revamp was undertaken to publish only the highest-ranked papers selected from the esteemed FARU Conference. This strategic improvement has enabled the publication of research from emerging areas of study and advances the existing knowledge base. With the transition to a biannual publication from 2021, Volume 10 begins with an open call for submissions, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and ideas. Readers are invited to immerse themselves in this issue as it explores the various dimensions of community empowerment through the lens of research.

This volume consists of 13 carefully selected papers. Each of these papers has undergone a rigorous review process, where two reviewers have provided valuable feedback and suggestions for improvement. Through this meticulous review process, the aim was to ensure that the published papers adhere to the highest standards of quality and relevance. While certain papers did not pass this selection process, the ones included in this volume truly exemplify research excellence. The contributions of these papers to their respective fields, all originating from a local context, are proudly highlighted. By referencing the work published in the FARU Journal, the goal is to facilitate the recognition and global reach of local research beyond geographical boundaries. It is believed that these papers will significantly contribute to the scholarly community and inspire further research in their respective fields.

The papers in this volume explore various themes, including construction methods and cost, quality and process improvement, sustainable design and resilience, product design and user experience, occupational health and psychology, and sociocultural and urban studies. The papers included in this volume employ a variety of research methods to investigate their respective topics. These methods include case studies, field surveys, literature-based analysis, questionnaire surveys, hypothetico-deductive approaches, cognitive mapping, and qualitative surveys.

The first paper by Gunarathne et al. examines the economic feasibility of offsite construction (OSC) in Sri Lanka. It compares the costs of onsite and offsite residential projects and evaluates the potential cost-saving benefits of OSC. The findings indicate significant cost savings in various components such as beams, columns, walls, and finishes, supporting the adoption of OSC as a sustainable and cost-effective construction method in the Sri Lankan context. The second paper by Uhanovita et al. explores the implementation of Poka-Yoke, a mistake-proofing method, in Sri Lankan construction projects to minimize variations. Through qualitative data collection via interviews with experts, the study identifies nine barriers and fifteen benefits of implementing Poka-Yoke in the construction industry. The findings emphasise the importance of proper knowledge dissemination and involvement of professionals during the design stage to mitigate variations and enhance project outcomes. The third paper by Wickramasuriya and De Silva addresses the difficulty of implementing design for disassembly principles in Sri Lanka's construction industry. It highlights the significance of reducing resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through disassembly measures and material reuse. The findings reveal that the market demand for reused components and materials, as well as compatibility with commercial market standards, are the primary challenges for implementing design for disassembly in Sri Lanka, emphasising the importance of material selection and construction systems in enabling this approach.

The fourth paper by Sandamini et al. focuses on the cost benefits of using Relocatable Modular Buildings (RMBs) for temporary site offices in the construction industry in Sri Lanka. Through a case study approach and Life Cycle Cost Assessment (LCCA) methodology, the research finds that while the initial cost of an RMB site office is higher compared to a conventional office, the annual cost savings outweigh the initial investment. The study highlights the long lifespan and higher salvage value of RMBs, making them a cost-effective choice for contractors, and provides valuable insights for practitioners in the construction industry. The fifth paper by Thusharika et al. investigates the management of defect claims in infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka. The research adopts a mixed research approach, using semi-structured interviews and a questionnaire survey to identify and validate causes, consequences, and management strategies of defect claims. The findings highlight subcontractor failures as the most significant cause of defect claims, cost overrun as a critical consequence, and effective communication as the key strategy for managing such claims. The study contributes valuable insights for the industry in effectively managing defect claims and achieving project targets. The sixth paper by Weerasuriya and Rajapaksha explores the relationship between risk perception, vulnerability, and architectural adaptations in flood-resilient architecture. The research focuses on the Mudduwa area in Rathnapura, Sri Lanka, known for its high flood frequency and damage. Through data analysis and statistical tests, the study finds a positive correlation between risk perception and architectural adaptation, while vulnerability acts as a resistance to this correlation. The findings emphasise the significance of implementing a proper system of adaptation for vulnerable populations residing in flood-prone areas.

The seventh paper by Nethmika and Mahanama investigates the implementation of the China sponge city concept in flood-resilient towns in Sri Lanka. Through a review of the Weru Ganga Development Plan, key informant interviews,

and a field survey, the research identifies projects that have incorporated some of the concept's key processes. However, the study highlights that certain stages are missing, indicating a need for further application of the sponge city concept in flash flood control projects in Sri Lanka. The eighth paper by Waidyarathne and Dharmasena examines the perception of the neighborhood community regarding the impacts of international cricket stadiums (ICS) in the Sri Lankan context. The study focuses on Pallekele ICS as a case study and analyses the environmental and spatial perceived impacts through surveys and statistical analysis. The research highlights the importance of considering the community's perception to minimise the impact and enhance the neighborhood landscape when constructing future ICSs. The ninth paper by Piyaarathna and Coorey investigates the relationship between the built environment and memories of the urban neighborhood of Slave Island. Using cognitive mapping as a research tool, the study explores how features in the built environment contribute to the preservation and recreation of collective memories. The findings emphasise the significance of shared spaces, landmarks, and public spaces in shaping the residents' collective memories in the face of urban regeneration and gentrification. The tenth paper by Mathugama and Ranasinghe examines the influence of porcelain teacup handle design on consumer behavior and preferences. Through qualitative and quantitative analyses, the study explores aspects such as form, shape, size, proportions, and ergonomics to enhance the functionality and user experience of porcelain teacups, ultimately contributing to the innovation of high-quality teacup designs.

The eleventh paper by Gunasekara and Perera addresses the lack of a comprehensive definition for occupational stress. Through an in-depth literature review and analysis of 101 research publications, the study extracts 25 definitions of stress and occupational stress. By identifying three themes and key constructs within those themes, the researchers develop a new definition for occupational stress that highlights its connection to work, job, and occupation, providing a foundation for future research in this field. The twelfth paper by Perera and Semasinghe focuses on the importance of sonic branding strategies, specifically audio jingles, in creating brand recognition and emotional connections with consumers. It highlights the lack of academic resources on the subject in Sri Lanka and the positive impacts of incorporating audio jingles in branding schemes, such as increased online consumer engagement. Through the analysis of five top television commercial audio jingles based on Ghuneim's typology of engagement, the study confirms the effectiveness of audio jingles as a powerful branding tool with the ability to generate high levels of consumer engagement. The last paper by Rupasinghe and Botejue explores the sexual symbolism of architecture, specifically focusing on the phallic nature of skyscrapers. It examines the concept of the "phallus" as a symbolic object of desire and patriarchy, going beyond its literal representation. The study analyses the BOC Tower and Lotus Tower in Colombo, revealing how their construction and political contexts align with the phallic symbolism and power dynamics.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all the authors who have contributed to the diverse and interdisciplinary nature of the journal manuscripts in this Volume. I express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated reviewers for their invaluable support in upholding the quality standards required for publication. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the FARU team for their hard work in ensuring the professionalism of the journal. Special thanks go to Dr. Sumanthri Samarawickrama, Editor-in-Chief of FARU Journal, for giving me the opportunity to serve as a guest editor for Volume 10. Lastly, I acknowledge the Sri Lanka Journals Online for their collaboration in publishing the FARU journal in their database.

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Vol. 10 (Issue 01)