

Horizontal urban space

This issue of the *Urbani izziv* journal presents urban space through studies of various cities and urban landscapes: the Armenian capital Yerevan and the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, the Chinese cities of Dalian and Hong Kong, which have a population of several million, the Ghana oil metropolis of Sekondi-Takoradi, the Indian industrial city of Solapur and Israeli agglomerations.

In the first article, Lazaros E. Mavromatidis and Asimina Mavromatidi study the radical socio-cultural approaches to landscape creation in today's megacities within a strict capitalist context. They focus on Armenia and especially on the landscape transformation in the capital Yerevan during the transition from communism to capitalism. The authors suggest a new approach to the concept of doubt, which they treat as a positive element of "architectural practice" and recommend its constant presence in the conceptual dimension of architecture. Life in Dalian, the second most important city in the south of Liaoning Province in northeast China, is presented in the second article, written by Juyong Zhang, Nico Kotze and Minghui Yu. They state that the traditionally built environment in this city has almost completely disappeared; today this is a modern urban landscape where large-scale residential developments are being built. The study conducted in this city shows that its residents believe that satisfaction with ownership status and the housing environment is an important condition for achieving personal happiness, wellbeing and a general good quality of life. However, unacceptable behaviour by residents is one of the frequent problems that degrade the living conditions in residential neighbourhoods. Antisocial behaviour in private housing in Hong Kong is discussed in the third article, by Yung Yau. In the fourth article, Simon Kušar analyses the consequences of one of the worst financial and economic recessions in the history of (post)modern society. He focuses on one of the spatial effects of the crisis: that is, new housing and business structures that are either unfinished or finished but not fully occupied. He reports that, in addition to the crisis, the following specific features of Slovenian economic institutions also contributed to the spatial effect studied: management buyouts, underdevelopment of the banking market, unwillingness to accept foreign direct investments and failure to carry out structural reforms. In the fifth article, Franklin Obeng-Odoom uses the institutional analysis method of economic history to study the origin, growth and development of the city of Sekondi-Takoradi in West Africa. The recent development of the oil industry has introduced new challenges related to the development of land, labour and capital to this city. In the sixth article, Miki Malul, Mosi Rosenboim and Tal Shavit proceed from the model of the new economic geography, which they expand with the idea of misperceptions regarding the quality of production factors in favour of the core compared to the periphery. They suggest marketing and empowerment of the periphery as a policy tool to alter these misperceptions. In the seventh article, Rahul B. Hiremath, Ruth Kattumuri, Bimlesh Kumar, Vishwas N. Khatri and Sharmila S. Patil study the city of Solapur, which is one of the largest employment and export centres in India, and address the environmental aspects of an unorganised textile sector. Waste generated by the textile sector is causing serious problems such as changes to land and agricultural patterns, air quality, biodiversity and health issues. The authors suggest two solutions to this problem: the introduction of environmentally friendly and sustainable methods with the integration of information communication technology, and an integrated networking model that offers a possible solution at the district level, with potential future application at the national level.

Dear readers, once again a new *challenge* lies before you: the new issue of the *Urbani izziv*. We hope that it broadens the horizons of your urban reflections.

Boštjan Kerbler