

## Space of living and identification

We live in and identify with different spaces. In this issue of the journal *Urbani izziv*, the authors present housing, residential neighbourhoods, cities and regions.

In the first article, Huston John Gibson and Yanmei Li examine how foreclosed condominiums might help provide affordable housing in Tampa, Florida. Residential foreclosure has been a serious issue during the recent economic recession in the United States, with a profound impact on individuals, households and communities. The article contributes to the current discussion on foreclosures, vacancy and neighbourhood decline issues, and it especially seeks to offer policy implications in markets with a large stock of vacant housing but not enough affordable housing. The authors also acknowledge potential obstacles facing local communities when converting foreclosed condominiums into affordable housing. In the second article, Richard Sendi presents and argues the thesis that Slovenia has a low housing standard and that the majority of its people live in dwellings that may be described as overcrowded according to international standards. The author suggests alternative theoretical explanations for the continued maintenance of the low housing standard in Slovenia and seeks to stimulate concrete actions that will lead to implementation of appropriate measures and the eventual improvement of the housing standard. In the third article, Bijaya K. Shrestha discusses residential neighbourhoods developed using various techniques in Kathmandu by the public and private sectors. He establishes that these neighbourhoods have not only provided a poor urban setting, but also failed to address socio-cultural needs. He believes that the formulation of design guidelines, their strict implementation and enhancement of socio-cultural events including social networking are recommended for future residential neighbourhood development. In the fourth article, Marco Giliberti provides a new insight into the monuments of the Black Belt region in the U.S. Many sites of historical and cultural value to African-Americans are disappearing due to their abandonment, and the author examines a number of plans and strategies adopted to give shape to the memorial landscape in Alabama, thereby documenting and exploring some key relations between city planning and the commemoration of African-American history. In the fifth article, Nattapon Sang-arun studies the spatial economic structure and inequality in Thailand at the national and regional levels, with a particular focus on the Northeastern region. The author establishes that this region is definitely the lagging region in the nation, by both gross domestic product and gross regional product per capita. Therefore, he suggests that industrial links between regional growth centres and their satellite towns should be improved in order for regional growth centre development to have a consistently desirable effect on both economic growth and equality. Such a strong process means that the growth of regional growth centres will spread, leading to the development of their surrounding areas.

Dear readers, once again a new *challenge* lies before you. We hope you find your own living space to identify with in this new issue of *Urbani izziv*.

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