

Editorial

Mehmet Topçu (Editor in Chief)

With this issue, we collectively have the honor of presenting Journal of Design for Resilience in Architecture & Planning (DRArch), Volume 6, Number 3 (2025), bringing together scholarly contributions that critically engage with contemporary architectural, urban, and spatial challenges.

The issue opens with Mehmet Ali Altın and Özlem Gök Tokgöz, who examine urban resilience through lived experiences of overlapping disasters in “Living through dual crises: Rethinking urban resilience from lived experiences.” Focusing on the simultaneous impacts of earthquakes and pandemics in Türkiye, the study foregrounds phenomenological insights into how urban spaces, regulations, and daily practices transform under compounded crises, emphasizing the necessity of integrated and adaptive planning approaches.

Following this, Ayşenur Albayrak critically addresses the evolution of industrial policies in Türkiye in “The transformation of industrial policies in Turkey within the framework of industrial ecology and circular economy.” The article interrogates the shift from industrial ecology to circular economy discourse, questioning market-driven sustainability narratives and highlighting the spatial, social, and governance dimensions often overlooked in policy frameworks.

Issues of memory, displacement, and place-making are explored by Elif Vurucular Kesimci in “A comparison of elements establishing the relationship between social memory and space in the cinema of the Turkish Greek population exchange.” Through cinematic analysis, the study reveals how forced migration and collective memory are spatially represented, shedding light on the enduring impact of displacement on identity and belonging. This study examines the Greek film Rembetiko, the Turkish film My Grandfather’s People (Dedemin İnsanları), and the Turkish-Greek co-production Roza of Smyrna (İsmail ve Roza), all of which address the population exchange.

The experiential dimension of architecture is examined by Sena Işıklar Bengi in “Designing for experience: Exploring user-centered strategies in Selgascano’s architecture.” By analyzing selected projects of SelgasCano, the article demonstrates how biophilia, materiality, color, and context are systematically employed to enhance user experience and human–space interaction. The study concludes that user-centered and biophilic design strategies significantly contribute to enhancing spatial quality and human–space interaction. In this regard, examining and further developing design approaches that prioritize user experience is of critical importance for generating innovative and human-centered solutions in architectural practice.

Educational practices and design pedagogy form another important layer of this issue. Erdem Köymen and Mhd Feda Boudani compare physical and virtual learning environments in “Analytical comparison of physical and virtual LEGO modules in architectural design education.” Their findings highlight the complementary pedagogical value of tactile and digital tools in fostering spatial literacy, creativity, and adaptability in architectural education. This study examines the role of both physical and virtual LEGO modules in architectural and interior design education through a comparative analysis. Student groups from different levels were tasked with reconstructing a pre-designed architectural plan using both formats. Ultimately, the results highlight the potential of LEGO to serve as a versatile pedagogical medium that cultivates both foundational design skills and adaptability to future technological contexts.

The theme of displacement and resilience continues with Fatma Kürüm Varol Güneş, who proposes a network-based planning model in “Designing sustainable refugee settlements in Türkiye: A prioritized indicator framework and network-based scenario for Kilis.” By integrating analytic hierarchy processes with spatial network analysis, the study offers a replicable framework for sustainable and culturally responsive refugee settlement design. Through a comparative evaluation of six international refugee camps and the application of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to thirteen key design categories, the research identifies the most critical factors for developing inclusive, adaptive, and environmentally sustainable settlements. This integrative approach offers a replicable model for future refugee settlement planning, aligning humanitarian needs with long-term urban sustainability goals.

Urban cultural dynamics are addressed by Elif Kısar Koramaz, Vedia Dökmeci, and Numan Kılınç in “Growth and spatial distribution of art galleries in Istanbul between 2000 and 2022.” The article maps the evolving relationship between cultural infrastructure and urban macroform, revealing patterns of centralization, clustering, and cultural-led urban transformation. This study contributes to the literature on Istanbul’s urban growth and cultural

studies by presenting a spatial assessment of the art galleries, which is a relatively underexplored component of cultural infrastructure. Additionally, by analyzing the relationships between the galleries and the urban macroform, specific revitalization and redevelopment projects, and cultural policies, the study highlights the role of art galleries within urban growth processes and the cultural infrastructure.

Adaptive reuse and cultural sustainability are examined by Neslihan Yıldız and Mert Kılıçarslan in “Transformation of historical and spatial identity in the process of repurposing: The case of Cendere Art Museum.” Through a SWOT-based analysis, the study demonstrates how re-functionalized industrial heritage can generate new spatial identities while maintaining continuity with historical and environmental contexts. This study analyses the transformation process of industrial buildings from the perspective of architecture and interior architecture and examines the effects of this transformation on spatial identity through the example of Cendere Art Museum. In the research, the historical and contemporary functions of the space are analysed together with its structural, environmental and architectural dimensions; the results are evaluated in order to provide a methodological contribution to the literature.

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The intersection of nature, history, and climate adaptation is explored by Aslı Taş and Mazlum Kalak in “The intersection of history and nature: The transformation of Cebeci Asri Cemetery as urban open space.” The article proposes a landscape-oriented and digitally supported model that repositions cemeteries as cultural routes and active urban open spaces. The purpose of this article is to develop a landscape-focused integration model that addresses spatial re-functionalization and digitally supported cultural route design at Cebeci Asri Cemetery. As a result, this study presents an alternative approach for the urbanization of an old cemetery isolated from the city. Although they are early structures, solutions have been developed to preserve the namazgah and ossuary structures and transfer them to the future. It is envisaged that this study will create an idea/guide for urban administrations.

Historic resilience in the face of climate change is further addressed by Murat Kitir in “Adapting historic sites: Konya-Sille's approach to climate resilience.” Focusing on traditional materials and settlement patterns, the study highlights the challenges and opportunities of balancing heritage conservation with climate adaptation strategies. This is especially pertinent considering their distinctive construction materials and settlement layouts. In this regard, the Sille Neighborhood in Konya, boasting a 5000-year-old history and abundant cultural heritage, emerges as an essential example.

The issue concludes with Helin Bağcıvan and Yenal Akgün, who offer an architectural critique in “Tectonic Character in Tadao Ando's Church of the Light: Structure, Space, and Form.” Through a tectonic framework, the article examines how structure, materiality, and light converge to produce an experiential and spiritual architectural space. This paper mainly investigates the relationship between structural form, architectural space, tectonic character, materiality, and detailing in the Church of the Light. Particularly, the paper analyzes the use of materials and the interplay between structure and architectural space in Ando's design.

Collectively, the contributions in this issue reaffirm DRArch's commitment to resilience as a multidimensional concept—one that encompasses crisis response, memory, cultural continuity, pedagogical innovation, and architectural experience. By engaging with diverse contexts and methodologies, this issue not only documents contemporary challenges but also expands the theoretical and spatial horizons of resilience-oriented architectural research. We invite readers to engage with these studies, reflect upon their implications, and contribute to the ongoing dialogue shaping the future of resilient design and planning. We extend our sincere thanks to all contributors for their outstanding work and dedication, and we hope this volume inspires further research, collaboration, and action across our shared fields.

As this volume marks the conclusion of 2025, it also opens a reflective threshold toward the year ahead. In a time when resilience is continually tested, these contributions remind us that architectural knowledge, critical inquiry, and collective imagination remain vital sources of renewal. Looking forward to the coming year, we embrace the potential for new dialogues, solidarities, and design perspectives that can support more just, adaptive, and hopeful spatial futures.

We thank all contributors for their dedication and hope that this issue inspires new research, collaboration, and creative initiatives. By engaging with these studies, readers are invited to enrich the debate on resilience and design and to help shape a more sustainable future for architecture and planning.

Best regards...

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*sorted by last name



Cover photo: Image copyright ©Sena Özfiliz, (2025). The image on the left is detail " A century old Greek house at Northern Aegean island of Cunda, Ayvalık, September 2025"

DRArch's objectives are:

- to question how future building technologies are revolutionizing architectural design, city planning, urban design, landscape design, industrial design, interior design and education,

- to catalyze the processes that lean on interdisciplinary and collaborative design thinking, creating a resilient thinking culture,

- to improve the quality of built environment through encouraging greater sharing of academicians, analysts and specialists to share their experience and answer for issues in various areas, which distributes top-level work,

- to discover role of the designers and design disciplines -architecture, city planning, urban design, landscape design, industrial design, interior design, education and art in creating building and urban resilience,

- to retrofit the existing urban fabric to produce resilience appears and to support making and using technology within the building arts,

- to discuss academic issue about the digital life and its built-up environments, internet of space, digital in architecture, digital data in design, digital fabrication, software development in architecture, photogrammetry software, information technology in architecture, Archi-Walks, virtual design, cyber space, experiences through simulations, 3D technology in design, robotic construction, digital fabrication, parametric design and architecture, Building Information Management (BIM), extraterrestrial architecture, , artificial intelligence (AI) systems, Energy efficiency in buildings, digitization of human, the digitization of the construction, manufacturing, collaborative design, design integration, the accessibility of mobile devices and sensors, augmented reality apps, and GPS, emerging materials, new constructions techniques,

-to express new technology in architecture and planning for parametric urban design, real estate development and design, parametric smart planning (PSP), more human-centered products, sustainable development, sustainable cities, smart cities, vertical cities, urban morphology, urban aesthetics and townscape, urban structure and form, urban transformation, local and regional identity, design control and guidance, property development, practice and implementation.

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