

Editorial

Mehmet Topçu (Editor in Chief)

The Journal of Design for Resilience in Architecture & Planning (DRArch) is pleased to present Volume 7, Issue 2. At a moment when resilience is increasingly invoked across architecture and planning, the contributions gathered here insist on a more exacting question: resilience of what, for whom, at which scale, and through which forms of evidence? Across metropolitan food systems, post-industrial landscapes, coastal settlements, conflict zones, temporary housing, green building certification, heritage sites, public housing, photographic counter-memory, coastal infrastructure, domestic workplaces, building form, and design education, this issue approaches resilience not as a fixed attribute or a simple return to equilibrium, but as the situated capacity to recognize vulnerability, coordinate action, preserve meaning, and revise spatial practices.

The issue opens with “Designing metropolitan food reserve portfolios for urban food resilience: A policy-design case from Surabaya, Indonesia” by Medea Ramadhani Utomo and Yayuk Yuliati. Moving beyond the conventional equation of food reserves with agricultural production or stockholding, the authors reconstruct urban food security as a multi-scalar governance architecture. Their portfolio model connects household provisioning, neighborhood retail, civic redistribution, municipal logistics, market information, and inter-regional procurement, offering a pilotable framework for translating fragmented instruments into coordinated resilience functions.

Questions of urban transformation and the evidence used to evaluate it are then developed in two complementary studies. In “From SEKA to Sekapark: An analysis of post-industrial transformation through measurable spatial indicators,” Aslihan Uygun and Elif Sağlık combine field observation, archival interpretation, remote sensing, and GIS-based analyses to assess the conversion of the SEKA Paper Factory in İzmit into a cultural, recreational, ecological, and publicly accessible waterfront landscape. The study makes visible both the consolidation of transformation along the waterfront and the unresolved conditions of the former production core.

“A morphological framework for delineating character areas in a coastal town: The case of Görele, Türkiye,” by Beyza Karadeniz and Yelda Aydın Türk, similarly turns spatial differentiation into a basis for planning action. By integrating historical development, environmental structure, built form, land use, and a rural-to-urban transect, the authors show why density measures alone cannot adequately guide context-sensitive development in topographically constrained coastal towns.

The social and political stakes of spatial resilience become particularly urgent in “Reading spatial inequality in Gaza through UNRWA reports: Displacement and urban fragmentation” by Areen Soboh and Bengi Su Ertürkmen. Drawing on situation reports from October 2023 to December 2025, the study translates textual and numerical records into a temporal-spatial reading of displacement, shelter overcrowding, infrastructural damage, service access, and uneven humanitarian assistance. Importantly, it also examines the representational limits of institutional reporting. Resilience here cannot be reduced to recovery language: the article demonstrates how repeated displacement and disrupted services continually reproduce vulnerability and spatial inequality.

The lived consequences of emergency shelter are examined at the scale of the interior in “Interior comfort performance and improvement approaches of temporary housing units in disaster zones” by Esra Avlanmaz Bilecen and Buse Büyükkörmürçü. Based on field observations and a survey of 90 residents in the Osmangazi Neighborhood container settlement in İslahiye, Gaziantep, established after the February 6, 2023 earthquakes, the study identifies noise, odor, inadequate air conditioning, spatial restriction, and household size as significant factors shaping comfort. Its human-centered improvement framework reminds us that temporary housing frequently becomes prolonged habitation; speed and quantity therefore cannot substitute for environmental quality, privacy, ergonomics, and everyday dignity.

In “Green building certification systems: An assessment of the city of İzmir,” Duygu Gökce, Onur Tos, and Harika Tos examine LEED- and BREEAM-certified projects across different building functions. For LEED-certified buildings, the findings identify strong performance in energy, water, indoor environmental quality, location, and site-related categories, together with weaker attention to materials and resources. BREEAM records, by contrast, are characterized more by the operational performance of existing buildings, environmental management, energy and water conservation, waste control, and user comfort. The study also points to the limits of publicly available records for assessing the wider spatial and socio-economic distribution of certified development.

Heritage resilience is approached not as the preservation of isolated objects, but as the management of layered relationships. In “Contemporary practices and policies for the conservation and presentation of antique ruins in multi-layered cities: Insights from İzmir,” Beylem Doğa Tabur and Mine Hamamcıoğlu Turan examine the Kadifekale city walls through historical research, fieldwork, comparative cases, and policy analysis. Their proposed framework emphasizes integrated, participatory, and sustainable management capable of making obscured historical layers physically, socially, and intellectually accessible within a changing urban fabric.

The institutional production of urban space is addressed in “Spatial and economic effects of TOKI practices in the context of public housing investments: The Erzincan example” by Banu Tantan and Şevkiye Şence Türk. Examining public housing investments in a non-metropolitan city center through seven spatial and economic variables, the study finds no discernible direct economic impact: in Erzincan, TOKI appears primarily as earthquake, disaster, or social housing practice rather than as a local economic catalyst. Spatially, the picture is mixed. Cooperation with local administrations on inner-city transformation is associated with more planned settlement, while projects outside the center, particularly along the west–northwest development axis, raise concerns about urban integrity, architectural character, and rising infrastructure costs. The article therefore invites a more differentiated evaluation of centralized housing policy, one attentive not only to housing provision but also to location, urban integration, and the restructuring of land and development dynamics.

This concern with visibility and erasure takes a critical visual turn in “Photographic counter-memory as urban resilience: Evaluating Murat Germen’s photographic practice in Istanbul’s urban transformation since 2000” by Sena Özfiliş and İpek Akpınar. Through the cases of Fikirtepe and Bağdat Avenue, the article distinguishes aggressive erasure from aesthetic recoding and interprets photographic practice as a counter-archive. Its contribution lies in clarifying two functions of counter-memory: preserving testimony for future contestation and, where loss remains publicly legible, mobilizing collective recognition. Photography cannot reverse material transformation, but it can sustain the capacity to remember, interpret, and challenge it.

At the infrastructural scale, “Climate-induced flooding and coastal transportation vulnerability: Implications for urban resilience in İzmir, Türkiye,” by Çağla Ercanlı and Ahmet Karakurt, links long-term relative sea-level observations with high-frequency traffic data. The analysis demonstrates that even modest, statistically significant reductions in traffic flow can reveal localized vulnerabilities that broader regional assessments may obscure. The study strengthens the case for corridor-scale evidence in climate adaptation, infrastructure management, and emergency mobility planning.

“Impact of form factor variability on building energy assessment: A computational and empirical analysis for early-stage design” by Mark Alegbe, Hammed Nasiru, John Lekwauwa Kalu, Laurence Chukwuemeka, and Nnamdi Diribe challenges the assumption that compactness automatically improves energy performance. Through parametric form transformation, EnergyPlus simulation, and statistical analysis, the authors show that energy demand in tropical residential contexts emerges from the interaction of morphology, volume, façade exposure, orientation, and climatic response. The article therefore argues for context-sensitive early-stage assessment rather than reliance on a single geometric metric.

Everyday environments provide another important register of resilience. “User satisfaction in home office environments: A comparative analysis of environmental factors by gender and age” by Kemal Yıldırım, Kübra Müezzinoğlu Başpınar, and Pınar Arı demonstrates that satisfaction with remote-working spaces is not homogeneous. Ergonomics, spatial organization, technical equipment, concentration, and perceived flexibility vary across demographic groups, with age emerging as a particularly influential factor. The findings support more inclusive interior design strategies and ergonomic policies for home-based and hybrid work.

The issue concludes with “Sustainability theory and practice in industrial design education: A comparative case study” by Elif Küçüksayraç. Comparing two consecutive semesters of an undergraduate course, the study shows how changes in the time plan and assessment criteria shift student work from ideation toward design development. It also considers the role of international design competitions in strengthening motivation, project quality, and external validation. The article positions sustainability education as an iterative pedagogical design problem in its own right, requiring alignment among theory, process, evaluation, and demonstrable outcomes.

Taken together, the articles in this issue resist a narrow understanding of resilience as durability or recovery. They show that resilient environments depend on measurable performance, but also on governance, accessibility, memory, representation, user experience, and pedagogical capacity. They move across scales without treating them as separate domains: household practices connect to metropolitan systems; interiors

connect to post-disaster recovery; building form connects to climatic performance; heritage connects to public memory; and data connect to the political question of what becomes visible in planning and design.

As DRArch continues to provide a platform for interdisciplinary and critically engaged research, we invite readers to consider resilience not as a self-evident label, but as a proposition that must be specified, tested, and situated. We extend our sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and all contributors whose careful work made this issue possible. We hope that the studies presented here will support further research, collaboration, and action toward built environments that are not only adaptive and sustainable, but also equitable, meaningful, and accountable.

Best regards...

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Cover photo: Image copyright © Mehmet Topçu, (2014). The image on the left is detail "Lombard Street, San Francisco, 2014. A distinctive street characterized by its winding layout adapted to the steep slope, dense landscaping, and surrounding residences."

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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