

## Editorial: Infusing a Research Culture

I am delighted to present to you this issue of the Built-environment-Sri Lanka journal after a lapse of its publication for a number of years. Dr. Rohinton Emmanuelle who had been its editor for almost twelve years since I left for Bahrain in 2000 had worked hard to sustain it, and had brought it to a very high standards. However, sustaining a research journal on Architecture in Sri Lanka is an arduous task particularly in the absence of prolific authors as well as reliable reviewers.

It was in such a background that I took it over last year. When it was founded in the year 1999, it was in fact even harder to do so. Nevertheless, the SLIA did it with the noble intention of infusing a research culture to the profession of architecture. In fact, it was also necessary to facilitate those who are dealing with built-environmental issues in Sri Lanka to have a sound research base. My return to its editorship again indeed was to help the SLIA to sustain the journal and achieve those objectives.

In this endeavor, I have been supported by a number of Sri Lankan scholars now living and working in many western countries by agreeing to review papers. Most critically, many scholars offered their research papers without which this would have not been possible. I appreciate their commitment and perseverance in the context of many demands made in revising the papers.

Sri Lanka's built-environment professionals however still have a long way to go in cultivating a vibrant research culture, which must be done sooner or later. This is particularly so in architecture where decisions are derived from personal experiences and assumptions rather than research. Unfortunately, research is seen as an activity belonging only to the academics. Most practitioners believe that they have little to do with research. This is not so. Indeed, there is a serious lack of understanding of architectural research; their value and production processes, which is invariably connected to practice. The Sri Lanka Institute of Architects has to take a more serious look at promoting research without which the profession will find it impossible to face the impending challenges of the profession. Towards that end, this issue is expected to provide a re-invigoration of ideas and perspectives offered, and an opportunity to rethink our approaches to research.

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