LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to volume 1 of the *Nexus Network Journal (NNJ)*, the journal for architecture and mathematics. The Nexus conferences began in June 1996, with the first conference in Fucecchio, Italy, in the province of Florence. Nexus '96 was the first conference of its kind, an international forum for discussions about the relationships between architecture and mathematics. At the Nexus conference held in Mantua in June of 1998, I chaired a discussion about the future of Nexus. One of the ideas I proposed was that of an e-journal. My thought was, in light of the interest in our field generated by the biennial Nexus conferences, there was a need for a means of continuing our discourse between conferences. Because Nexus participants have come from five continents, the Internet is a perfect medium for this kind of discourse. Or is it?

The idea of an electronic journal has raised some interesting issues, both positive and negative, with regards to what the *NNJ* is intended to accomplish. First and foremost for possible contributors who are interested in the diffusion of their work is, given the impermanent nature of sites on the World Wide Web, how long is an article published online available? If the article cannot be accessed after a certain period of time, how can it be cited? And if it cannot be cited, why would an author choose the Internet as a publishing medium? To overcome this problem, it was decided that new issues of the journal will appear four times a year on the Internet; all four issues for that year are to remain online for a year each. Subsequently, at the end of each year, the four issues will be gathered and produced in a permanent medium. But what "permanent" medium? The US Library of Congress suggests a CD-ROM, which would have a separate ISSN number and could be bought and catalogued just like a book. But is a CD permanent? Perhaps CDs will one day go the way of the old 5-1/4" floppies. Paper still appears to be the only permanent medium, thus it was decided that the journal might be better produced as a yearly, printed volume. Another drawback to an electronic journal is that some scholars simply don't read them. This, too, may be solved by the yearly issue of the journal in another medium. Here then, is the print version of volume 1, 1999, of the *Nexus Network Journal*.

There are, however, some very positive things about an e-journal, as the reader will discover by reading the *NNJ* online at its current URL:

http://www.leonet.it/culture/nexus/network_journal

I believe that readers and authors alike will appreciate the immediacy of it. Readers' comments can be inserted as they arrive, making later readings of the same paper even more informative. The ability to link an article to other related pages is another valuable plus. This should be an ideal medium for the reprinting of old materials no longer widely available but within the public domain. The purpose of the *NNJ* as a research resource is admirably served by these advantages.

The purpose of the *NNJ* is to publish articles on architecture and mathematics that present the subject in the widest possible panorama. Thus, like the Nexus conferences, we seek material that is interdisciplinary and multicultural, and will present both architecture and

mathematics in a new light. Just a few of the issues explored in the present volume of the *NNJ* are proportion, number symbolism, triangulation, fuzzy logic and tiling patterns; the cultures considered in this volume include the Egyptian, Mesoamerican, European and Persian; the authors are art historians, geometers, mathematicians and architects.

Because the *NNJ* is designed as a research resource, I would like to point out some of the features it contains. *Featured Articles* will present new research into a wide range of subjects in architecture and mathematics. Authors who are interested in publishing abstracts or queries are invited to submit them; it would be very interesting to know what kind of work we might be reading in the future. The *Conference Reports* will help us participate in a larger community of researchers. The *Book Reviews* will provide in-depth analyses of publications relevant to architecture and mathematics. The *Virtual Library* is an excellent bibliography of books related to architecture and mathematics that help the reader identify the materials he or she needs. If you are interested in submitting material for consideration for publication in the *NNJ*, as I hope you are, you will find the Submission Guidelines helpful.

It is my pleasure to thank the sponsor of the *NNJ* website, Sesa Group, a leader in the field of information technology, and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, a grant from whom made this present print publication possible.

Kim Williams, Editor-in-Chief