Editorial

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We are pleased to announce that *URBAN DESIGN International* has been selected for coverage by Thomson Reuters. Beginning with Volume 13(1) 2008, the journal has been accepted for abstracting and indexing in the Arts and Humanities Citation Index®. This significant achievement is in recognition of the journal's high standards of publication and editorial content since its launch in 1996. We are most grateful to our readers and contributors, editors and referees. Our profound appreciation also goes to those who have always helped us with their spirit of academic solidarity disregarding to the differences of backgrounds and credos, as well their geographical locations. On this occasion, we would like to summarise the journal's key characteristics; the journal covers all fields of the urban design discipline and is a scholarly publication with a strong practitioner emphasis. It is relevant for all of those involved in architectural and planning education and practice. It is relevant for urban designers, architects and landscape architects, planners, surveyors, policy makers, engineers and all professionals concerned with urban development and design. At the same time, the journal seeks to publish the best international articles in the field. The third issue of volume 14 includes three quite different papers that focus on walkability, museality and urban renewal in the context of urban design. In the first paper, Khalid S. Al-Hagla returns to the New Urbanism idea that initiated the urban design movement in the United States in the early 1980s and has been revisited in a number of the *URBAN DESIGN International* issues (Talen, 2006; Biddulph, 2008). According to one of the key principles of the New Urbanism charter, 'streets and squares should be safe, comfortable and interesting to the pedestrian. Properly configured, they encourage walking and enable neighbours to know each other and protect their communities' proposing that the walkable street and neighbourhood should be the essential element of urban design (Leccese and McCormick, 2000). In the paper, Al-Hagla introduces a comprehensive assessment methodology for evaluating the 'walkability' performance, describes its application and attempt to tackle mismatch

between the aspiration to the principle of walkability and its realisation in Saifi Village, Beirut. Anja Barbara Nelle proposes a concept of 'museality' as a characteristic of heritage town centres and exemplifies a 'musealisation' process through the presentation of three case studies in Spanish-colonial World heritage towns. She notes that musealisation is an urban transformation process that is not specifically addressed in urban planning or development. The author aims to promote an understanding of musealisation and proposes that this process should not remain as a passive practice which only arises due to historical past and special circumstances, but can be actively addressed and regulated through the planning procedures involving political and administrative establishments, as well as organised communities. In the concluding paper of this issue, Jose Javier Gomez Alvarez writes from Mexico on 'fragmentary industrial areas and urban renewal'. By addressing the issue of de-industrialisation and industrial conversion that has recently been common to many major cities in technologically advanced countries of Western Europe and North America (Ryan, 2008), the author attempts to illustrate an alternative view and understanding of this process for the medium income Latin American cities. Paradoxically, he finds that conditions of the transformation of fragmented and degraded industrial inner areas into urban public spaces 'often exist within the context', as existing configuration, location and potential of such industrial zone usually either strongly stimulate or completely hinder the renewal of the area. Research in the paper focuses on the industrial inner-city areas along the west section of the Railway Axis of Guadalajara and aims to find potential places, in which the 'public space' and 'the city' can be rescued from the increasingly dominant fragmentary urban environment.

References

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