Editor's Note

This edition reflects the IDR Journal's commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue in design research, practice, and education, with a particular emphasis on the diverse and dynamic contexts of the Global South and Asia. Continuing its exploration of culture, sustainability, innovation, and pedagogy, this issue offers distinct perspectives that highlight the unique contributions of our region to global design discourse.

The IDR Journal remains steadfast in its mission to amplify voices that challenge mainstream design narratives, prioritizing vernacular knowledge, cultural integration, and sustainable practices. This issue features seven scholarly articles that exemplify the journal's interdisciplinary ethos, bridging traditional practices with contemporary challenges and presenting future-oriented solutions.

Several articles delve into the cultural dimensions of design, demonstrating how tradition, heritage, and identity are expressed through diverse visual media. For example, the analysis of early Sinhala newspaper layouts and the exploration of Christmas postage stamps reveal the profound role of visual design in encapsulating and communicating cultural values. These studies highlight the enduring significance of graphical elements and symbolic representation in crafting culturally resonant designs.

Sustainability and user-centric approaches emerge as central themes. Articles addressing recyclable packaging solutions for Sri Lanka's export market and green building interior designs in the apparel industry underscore the critical need for environmentally conscious practices. These studies present practical strategies for sustainable design while illustrating its broader impact on industries, employee well-being, and the global economy.

The developmental implications of design are further examined in "Effects of Pre-School Architectural Characteristics on the Growth of Children." This study emphasizes the role of architectural elements—spatial arrangements, lighting, and sustainability—in shaping children's cognitive, emotional, and social development. Similarly, "The Impact of Green Building Interiors on Employee Productivity with Special Reference to the Apparel Industry in Sri Lanka" offers actionable insights into how sustainable design principles in green buildings, such as MAS Thurulie, enhance employee well-being and productivity.

In the realm of design education, "Role of Artificial Intelligence Text-to-Image Tools in Design Education" investigates the integration of AI in the creative process. This article explores how AI-driven concept generation tools are reshaping design pedagogy and practice, offering a nuanced perspective on the intersection of technology and creativity.

As we celebrate the publication of this issue, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our authors, reviewers, and editorial team for their dedication and invaluable contributions. The depth and diversity of research in this issue exemplify the journal's mission to champion design knowledge from the Global South and Asia, reinforcing its position as a vital contributor to global design conversations.

We invite scholars, practitioners, and students to join us in this ongoing journey by contributing their insights to future issues, enriching the ever-expanding horizons of design knowledge. Together, let us continue to challenge conventional narratives, foster innovation, and celebrate the transformative potential of design.

Dr. Sumanthri Samarawickrama

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