

Idealizing Architecture

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The latest issue of the *Muhon Journal* consists of six articles. Collectively, these articles springboard from the ways we think about fundamentals of architecture and how we idealize architecture as a creative and critical process. Idealizing architecture as a theme for this issue captures the myriad of ways of thinking about architecture and the modes of seeing the spatial fundamentals through critical reflection, historical analysis, material experimentation, and environmental characterization.

John Arvin Manaloto's article, "Investigation of the Compressive Strengths of Coconut Shells as Partial Alternative of Coarse Aggregates in Concrete Mix" discussed how the coconut shell can be used as a substitute for coarse aggregates. Manaloto's research covered the physical properties of coconut shells and the components of concrete, which revealed a need to explore suitable materials as a substitute for concrete mix.

Leandro Nicholas Poco's article, "Manila: City Beautiful Lost? A Historical and Configurational Analysis of Daniel Burnham's Proposed 1905 City Beautiful Plan" covered how Daniel Burnham's proposed master plan could respond to Metro Manila's contemporary socio-spatial inequities and problems with urbanization. Utilizing Burnham's plan, Poco's paper showed that careful architectural planning is imperative in designing Philippine cities.

Elke Simone Tiotuico's article, "Architectural Environment Modification for Alleviation of Allergic Sensitization to Air Pollutants in the Urban Indoor Environment" showed that there is a prevalence of chronic allergic disorders in urbanized regions in Asia due to the presence of air pollutants in the environment. Tiotuico's study showed that design spatial elements can be useful in preventing common urban air pollutants from entering the indoor environment.

Illuminado Quinto Jr.'s article "Reverberation Time of University of Mindanao Matina Campus

Classrooms—A Basis for Acoustic Environment Enhancement" showed that building acoustics can affect the quality of the learning environment in classrooms due to excessive background noise and reverberation. Quinto's paper revealed the need for classrooms to be compliant with the reverberation time.

Ronald John Dalmacio's article "A Comparison of the Present and Proposed O.R. Department of Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Using Evidence-Based Design Criteria showed that a lack of information on designing Surgery Departments in Philippine hospitals pose a challenge for architects. Dalmacio's paper showed that evidence-based design criteria are relevant to address a contextualized design for Philippine medical facilities.

Cecilia May Villanueva and Thomas Mical's article "Wellbeing in Future Urban Landscapes in the City of Manila" discussed that Manila's future urban landscapes are distributed and connected with green spaces. Villanueva and Mical's paper showed that existing community resources should be utilized to design grassroots innovations.

Through the latest issue of the *Muhon Journal*, may this encourage scholars and practitioners to engage in various areas of architectural research to promote innovative practices for researchers and professionals. We must always remember that architectural knowledge is in flux and established ideas about building and placemaking are constantly being challenged, resulting in better prospects for the Filipino designed and built environment.