

## Guest editors



### **Dr. Bijaya K. Shrestha**

***Dr. Bijaya K. Shrestha received Doctoral degree from the University of Tokyo, Japan (1995-'98), Master in Urban Design from the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (1993-'95) and B. Arch. from Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, India (1983-'88). Having professional experiences of 30 years he served to numerous organisations – Government of Nepal, Town Development Fund, UN-Habitat Nepal, academic institutions, private sector and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD): Disaster Management Hyogo Office, Kobe, Japan, besides carrying out the consulting works for ADB, UNICEF, UN-Habitat and UNDP. At present, he is working as a freelance profession and visiting numerous architectural schools in the Kathmandu valley. He worked as a team leader for preparation of strategic master plan for Lumbini province at Dhang; DRRM expert for preparations of Risk Sensitive Land Use plan for six different municipalities outside the Kathmandu valley, and***

***presently leading the entire team for preparation of comprehensive physical development master plan of the Kathmandu valley. He is the recipient of numerous gold medals (all three classes of Mahendra Vidhya Bhushan) and prizes for his excellent academic performance. He has contributed many dozens of papers, published in various forms: book chapter, international and local journals, editor of conference proceedings and local magazines including in local newspapers. He is also an editorial member of International editing board of 'Urbani Izzivi' Journal and also reviews articles for publication in numerous international journals such as Cities, Urban design International and so on. His field of expertise includes urban design, built environment management, risk sensitive land use planning, disaster management, conservation of historic settlements, local level planning and capacity building of municipalities.***



***Babita Thapa is a graduate in architecture and holds a postgraduate degree in Urban Design and Conservation from Nepal. She worked at BDA Nepal Consultancy on various architectural and planning projects for more than four years. Currently she is a full time senior lecturer at Acme Engineering College, where she shares her expertise and passion for urban design and architectural conservation subjects with the next generation of architects.***

## **Editorial**

**The Department of Architecture of Acme Engineering College under Purbanchal University in Kathmandu, Nepal require to conduct urban design and conservation studio for the student of B. Arch, 4<sup>th</sup> year students. The objectives of this course are twofold: capacitating the students to analyze the built form from planning and urban design perspective as well as to prepare for the final thesis work. After this course, the student joins one full semester as a practicum in various architectural and planning consulting firms before appearing for the final thesis work. Unlike in previous semester, this course focus on settlement level. Instead of taking one single site with limited issues, the whole class was divided into six different groups. Each group consists of 4-5 students. They were given six different types of sites: one group of student was given revitalization of Bagmati riverfront whereas second group was allocated redevelopment of Mahabaudha commercial areas. Two more groups were assigned revitalization of the historic settlements of Khokana and Harsiddhi, both located in Lalitpur metropolitan city. The remaining two groups were given critical review of land pooled sites where they are supposed to propose an alternate master layout plan along with detailing. The intention of making group is to explore in detail not only in collection of information but also in processing of data and finding the relevant issues before addressing them in the planning and design solutions. Moreover, different sites and context means students can learn from each other during various stages of the assignment through presentation and discussion. Finally, publication of student works encourages them as well as the junior students to work in a practical and meaningful way.**

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