



In these times of change, political discourse and public engagement about the idea of nationalism, and development for masses rather than only for classes make it important to talk about issues of “identity” on multiple scales and public participation in the decision-making processes. Narendra Denge reviews a book on the subject of heritage management in South Asia which may have lessons, as the authors observe, for a global context.

The section *View from within* explores various meanings of the words “Indianness” and “indigenous” in the realm of landscape design. History is never absolute. Continuing research and explorations give it new meanings. The study of pedestrian circulation and street patterns from *Manasara*, the ancient Indian treatise on architecture and town-planning, adds a new temporal dimension and brings to light new findings in the area of urban design and planning. Harshad Bhatia’s essay calls for a more nuanced approach in the public participatory frameworks in planning sector with greater transparency.

In Pune, a part of the country where “landscape design” was often related to “horticulture”, the landscape practice of Ravi and Varsha Gavandi—now more than twenty five years old—has been able to provide informed direction to clients and users in understanding the meaning of landscape design that is linked with natural science, design and aesthetics. On the way, their projects offer many creative ways of engagement with nature. A special feature in the issue shares their journey.

A perspective regarding the issues and potentials concerning landscape architecture is presented by Alpa Nawre. This is a timely wake up call for the profession taking in account the much anticipated development that the present government is projecting in the years to come. The urgent need for resource management, addressing environmental issues such as land degradation, air and water pollution calls for a proactive action from the profession, in the form of research, discourse and practice where it engages directly with these challenges on a larger scale. Recently, landscape design competitions have been organized for the development of significant city-level public spaces such as the India Gate area (National War Memorial and Museum), New Delhi and ecologically crucial areas such as Mahim (Maharashtra Nature Park MNP), Mumbai. This is a positive step that gives opportunity to landscape professionals to enlighten allied professionals and development authorities about their value on a larger scale. In this issue, we feature the first winning entry of the MNP competition.

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