

Academia xxii, the research journal of the *Facultad de Arquitectura* of the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*, is published digitally twice a year by the *Centro de Investigaciones en Arquitectura Urbanismo y Paisaje*.

This issue marks the beginning of the second pair of “sister” calls for papers, the central theme of the journal’s third epoch. The current issue, entitled “Changing” – “*Cambiante*,” will be twinned with “Interventions” – “*Intervenciones*,” the next one. Our commitment to publishing two issues of the journal oriented to the same field, but with complementary approaches, we believe promotes the idea of carrying out research with a greater breadth of vision, but also provides thematic depth on the topics that we consider essential to the field of urban and landscape architecture today.

This Issue comprises three main sections dedicated to research: *Dossier*, *Research Articles* and *Technical Reports*. Likewise, *Documenta* and *Espacios* are the other sections of the journal that complement the former; *Documenta* acts as the digital showcase of the documentary heritage of the *Facultad de Arquitectura*, whilst *Espacios* comprises works from the *Centro de Investigaciones en Arquitectura, Urbanismo y Paisaje* (CIAUP), and from Postgraduate Studies, which are sections of an informative nature. The latter, in turn, plays host to the Editorial Novelties of the CIAUP and provide a list of the Doctoral Theses and master’s degrees in architecture and urbanism that were presented throughout the period comprising this Issue. To this end, they count with the support of the *Acervo de Arquitectura Mexicana* (AAM) and the CIAUP; all of which form part of the *Facultad de Arquitectura*, along with the Postgraduate Department of Architecture and Urbanism; all of them have been essential, and we would like to thank them all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have collaborated in the development of the journal: the Dean of the *Facultad de Arquitectura*, the Managing editor, the Advisory Board, the Editorial Committee, and the editorial team; thanks also go to the assistant editor: Federico Martínez Delamain, and

the designer: Gabriel Pineda Peralta, without whose unconditional support for this project, it would not have achieved all that has been accomplished. Mainly, the production of the journal in three formats: pdf, html and xml; along with its indexing in the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ), in *AmeliCa*, the open access academic platform for Latin America and the Global South, and in *Scielo*, the *Scientific Electronic Library Online*; as well as an increased presence among both national and international audiences for the authors and topics. For several reasons, I see myself with the need to resign from the position of Editor in Chief of the journal, however, I am convinced that in its Third era the journal has been strengthened. I sincerely hope that the journal will continue along this path.

Changing: The history of living places

A twelve-foot wall covered with jasmine, bignonia and wisteria, entirely surrounds the garden, offering protection from the occasional frosts that visit Mexico City in the winter.¹

This call is the first of two in which 'place' is approached as a 'scale of study.' In these works of analysis and research on 'place,' we delve into the history of places that were built with living beings. Their changing condition defines them, and includes a vast universe of places that, according to their time and culture, have received different names: gardens, orchards, parks, groves, plots, avenues, green infrastructure, and still others named them *hueyi tecpan*, *yuan*, *you*, *teien* and *bageecha*.

As we can observe in the historical photographs depicting the courtyard and garden of the *Casa de Alvarado*² (figs. 1 and 2), both the architecture and the vegetation formed a symbiosis that defined the place. The size and type of vegetation, its arrangement in the courtyard, in pots and flowerbeds, and the expansive exuberance in the garden define a very specific space with socio-cultural implications. "The garden is not big but it has views that give it charm," said Cora M. Oneal in 1945, who also described how walkers "[...] were flanked by ancient figures and carved stone ornaments; the cypresses rise above an informal and colorful flowerbed; and a mass of color illuminates the dark majesty of the great cedars, firs

¹ Cora M. Oneal, *Gardens and Homes of Mexico*, Dallas, Banks Upshaw and Company, 1945, p. 74.

² Currently, the Casa Alvarado acts as the Headquarters of the National Sound Archives (*Fonoteca Nacional*) and the gardens have a different aspect; in fact, one part of the gardens hosts the so called: "Sound Garden" – "*Jardín sonoro*."

and pines that have been there since ancient times.” Commenting on a flamboyant bougainvillea, she expresses that it flaunts its bright flowers; on a heliotrope, that it has soft and exquisite tones. She points out the profuse presence of forget-me-nots, snapdragons and acanthus; the existence of an old bower, covered with white roses, and how pink geraniums and honeysuckle intertwine. She tells us that in a corner of the garden there is an old well, covered with flowers; adding that there were tigridias (*oceloxóchitl*) in the garden and explains that it was the Aztec flower, and that its presence in Mexican gardens is something rare and charming to see. Finally, she asserts that the garden of the *Casa de Alvarado* was home to the most famous wisteria vine in Mexico.³

This emotional and delicate description simply complements a visual testimony that helps us understand the enduring value of “Changing” – “*Cambiante*.” This garden, as do many other living places, exists to this day, though not in the same way. The history of such places takes on an uncommon relevance.

That is why this Issue is focused on presenting research that has been dedicated to building a historical narrative that analyzes the changing, living aspect and transformation of these places. In a complementary way, the open discussion about this topic was addressed in Issues 27 and 28, “Blue” and “Green,” respectively, but on a different, territorial scale.

³ Cora M. ONeal, *op. cit.*, p. 74.