

**A**cademia XXII, research journal of the Facultad de Arquitectura de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, is published online twice a year by the Centro de Investigaciones en Arquitectura, Urbanismo y Paisaje (CIAUP). On this occasion, we are honored to recall that, with this issue, the journal celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of continuous publication. The work was initiated, in 2010, by the journal's founder: Iván San Martín Córdova, with the assistance of Lucía Santa Ana Lozada; later, the work was undertaken by Johanna Lozoya Meckes, and thereafter was handed over to Alejandra Contreras Padilla. We believe that, in its third epoch, the journal has succeeded in becoming a reference point with regards to scientific research in the fields of architecture, urbanism and landscape, and that it represents a common ground for academic communities in Mexico and elsewhere, whilst contributing to the enhancement of the Facultad de Arquitectura role in its disclosure.

With the present issue, entitled "Interventions - Intervenciones," -which is twinned with the previous one: "Changing – Cambiante"- we bring to a close the second 'twin call,' which we consider complementary, though on a different range of themes, and contributed to the discussions previously presented in No's. 27 and 28: "Blue" and "Green," respectively. These themes will be followed in the upcoming issues of the journal: No's. 31 and 32: "Enclosed-Envolventes" and "Coexisting - Coexistente," respectively; calls that will address architectural research throughout Ancient America. The "Envolventes" call was published last September (the deadline being March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025), so we extend our invitation for you to participate.

It should be noted that both "Changing – Interventions," which we are now bringing to a close, and "Enveloping – Coexisting," in the forthcoming issues, are the result of close collaboration with the respective Guest editors invited to participate in *Dossier*, Andrea Berenice Rodríguez Figueroa and Alejandro Villalobos Pérez, respectively, to whom we extend our gratitude for their support.

This issue contains three main sections devoted to research: *Dossier*, *Artículos de Investigación* and *Reportes técnicos*. Also,

Documenta, which showcases the archival materials of the Facultad de Arquitectura, along with CIAUP and Postgraduate Studies, which are informative sections. The latter, in turn, hosts the list of Doctoral Theses and Master's Degrees in Architecture and Urbanism presented in the period covered by this Issue.

I take this opportunity to announce my farewell as Editor in Chief of the journal, and to thank all the people who have collaborated in its development: the Dean of the Facultad de Arquitectura, the editorial coordinator, the Advisory Board, the Editorial Committee and the editorial team; the deputy editor Federico Martínez Delamain, and the designer Gabriel Pineda Peralta, without whose unconditional support, the project would surely not have achieved all that has been accomplished. At the same time, I welcome Dr. Vanessa Nagel Vega, who, as of Issue 31, will take over the journal as the new Editor in Chief, and to whom we wish a promising future. We are convinced that the journal will continue on its upward path.

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**T**he Dossier of this Issue of the journal *Academia XXII* is entitled “Interventions - *Intervenciones*: living places in transformation,” and complements the previous Issue entitled “Changing - *Cambiante*: a history of living places.” These two numbers are born from a common theme: living places, places that I consider as architectural landscapes. In this case, we were interested in dealing with the issue of intervention, since humans are constantly intervening in our living places, and have done so in several ways. Above all, we are interested in getting to know how living places that have been transformed in some way by human touch, when the environment has a specific meaning to a specific community.

Some of the authors of the current Dossier agree that the preservation and safeguarding of living places with history, for example, of historic gardens, has been cast aside. We have intervened in them, many times, in the same way as we treat historic buildings, which are not constructed with living beings, which means they do not grow, are not born, nor do they die; therefore: Should we treat them the same way, given that they are living spaces?

For several decades –and in some countries, for centuries–, the theory of the conservation and intervention in gardens, and the restoration thereof, has been on the table. In this Dossier, it was interesting to deal with the restoration/conservation/intervention/adaptation and re-signification of all those living places; a complicated topic, because: How does one intervene (in all its nuances)

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in a place that is changing and dynamic by nature? How does one preserve a living place if it dies naturally? In short: How should we 'intervene' in a living, cyclical and dynamic place?

The complexity increases when we introduce the theme of history because, in addition to the living place having its own natural growth and maturity, it turns out that humans inhabit it, so, as time passes, this fact can change its function, and this new function can cause changes in the flora or fauna of the original proposal; often these changes negate the history with which the living place was conceived and constructed. For example: if, in a private garden, or the orchard of an ex-convent, the flora is replaced, in many cases the reasons for the change, or replacement, are foreign to the living place. This issue presents some of these cases, although we also include several examples in which the different types of vegetation were respected as living beings, both regarding the history of the place and the life of the species; but there are times when the original vegetation did not have the same fate, thereby being removed without having considered the cultural and environmental history of the place. The reflection, in this regard, is whether or not it is valid and acceptable to kill/replace a living being without truly understanding the consequences of the said decision. Allowing them to first fulfill their life cycle would be an option; by doing so, we would see which species would take their place. Several central axes in the decision making are interwoven here: the intrinsic characteristics of each species (biological); their aesthetic characteristics, such as texture, height, color, way of life; their environmental characteristics (external to the individual according to its species); and their cultural characteristics (external to the individual).

How should one intervene in a historic garden if it is a living place, given that its inhabitants are born, grow according to the laws of nature, and die; they are mobile and unpredictable regarding their shape. These questions, today unanswered, can be resolved if we open up further spaces like this journal, to describe how these historical places, which harbor life, have been intervened in, and how human beings share experiences with them.

So, it is not only about replacing a living being (or killing it), there is and was an intention (natural or cultural) for which the decision was taken. Anyone who intervenes in a living historical place needs to study those cultural, biological, aesthetic, environmental and historic characteristics before intervening in living spaces. This requires not only respect for human life, but also respect for all the forms of life on the planet. This is one of the characteristics that defines us as landscape architects, we deal with living beings and materialize living places.

Gardens and living places nourish human life, affect the senses and feelings, health, hygiene, and the well-being of humans; the aesthetics, and the beauty of life and of culture. Living places communicate part of the history of a place, they not only signify, but form part of the historical narrative of a community.

This *Dossier* displays the narratives of several living spaces in diverse contexts, including gardens, orchards, parks, and protected natural monuments. It also motivated us to present issues such as the relationship between art and nature, and to reconsider territorial boundaries. Thus, this Issue, by way of the different articles, brings together a reflection on the conservation of living places on a historical level, on a methodological level, and also on an interventionist level. It still remains for us to create a theory that will lead us to consider, and reconsider, how to intervene in living spaces with a cultural and environmental history.