

Counting pages. Adding words. Subtracting months and days from the editorial process, only to flip the hourglass and start again. Adding and subtracting, counting and discounting, analyzing and reviewing. From eighty to fifty thousand characters with spaces. Always with spaces, just like architecture. Building bridges between authors, reviewers and readers. Because behind every issue lies an editorial strategy: decisions, timing, questions. Academic care and quality are never improvised. The goal is clear: to guarantee the continuity and rigor of the publication. That has been the case since Issue No. 30 during my time as co-editor and now continues with Issue No. 31, as I take on the role of editor-in-chief of *Academia XXII*.

In this time of transitions, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the School of Architecture at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. To Dr. Juan Ignacio del Cueto Ruiz-Funes, for placing his trust in this project and opening the doors that allowed it to be placed in my hands. And to Dr. Mónica Cejudo Collera, for sustaining this publication as a consolidated platform for research—open to publishing original work by authors from our university and from other institutions, both national and international.

Academia XXII, a biannual research journal, was founded in 2010 thanks to the tireless work of Dr. Ivan San Martín Córdova, founding editor, to whom I am also grateful for his trust. This journal is an inseparable part of the *Centro de Investigaciones en Arquitectura, Urbanismo y Paisaje*—Center for Research in Architecture, Urbanism, and Landscape (CIAUP), and I therefore extend my thanks to the outgoing coordinator, Dr. María de Lourdes Díaz Hernández, as well as to the incoming coordinator, Prof. Alicia Susana Ezeta Genis. This publication also relies on the support of the Editorial Coordination Office, and I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Lorenzo Rocha Cito and Armando López Carrillo to the production of this issue.

An enthusiastic Editorial Committee has contributed to the development of this publication with their work and thoughtful

feedback, and I would like to acknowledge their efforts here as well. I thank Dr. Elisa Drago Quaglia, in charge of the Documenta section, and Dr. Alberto Muciño Vélez, responsible for the technical reports. I am also grateful to the members of the Editorial Board, who continue to serve as the backbone of this project, and to the previous editor-in-chief, Dr. Alejandro Leal Menegus, for his support during this transition, for sharing his inexhaustible enthusiasm for the journal, and for his deep experience with the processes and timing required to carry it out successfully.

Of course, I am deeply grateful to the authors who have entrusted this platform with the publication of their research, and to the reviewers who have supported the double-blind peer evaluation of all our dossier articles, research papers, and technical reports. Without their expert feedback, the journal could not meet its standards of academic quality. In this Issue No. 31, I would also like to recognize those who made this publication possible: Federico Martínez Delamain, Deputy Editor; Gabriel Pineda Peralta, Graphic Designer; Mercedes Cortés Arriaga, Indexing; Allan Dawson, Translations; and the support team from the Editorial Coordination Office.

In this Third Era of the journal, we maintain a well-defined structure: dossier, Documenta, research articles, technical reports, CIAUP Space, and Graduate Studies —the latter two being informative in nature—. While each issue's dossier focuses on a specific theme, the journal remains open to receiving research articles on any topic. Thus, in this issue, we invite readers to explore historical analyses of the Paseo de la Reforma and the Guadalquivir Complex in Mexico City, urbanism in the city of Valparaíso, Chile, and a highly relevant reflection on the historiography of modern religious architecture.

The dossier we present responds to the call for papers titled "Enclosed: Ancient America's Collective Spaces," which runs alongside our current call for issue 32: "Coexistent: Archaeological and Historical Sites in Urban Contexts." For both issues, we have relied on the invaluable expertise of Dr. Alejandro Villalobos Pérez, guest editor of the dossier, tireless enthusiast, scholar, and expert on our Mesoamerican architecture, to whom I also express my deepest gratitude.

We can only hope that, in these times of economic austerity, resilience —which has already become a part of our daily lives as the capacity to adapt to adverse situations— will extend to the academic realm and open doors or windows so that this research journal may continue to appear on digital screens for many more issues to come.

With the firm intention and commitment to contribute to the enrichment of the diverse visions that the extinct societies of our latitude developed, with respect to their near and remote environments, we proposed that Issue No. 31 of *Academia XXII*, in its Dossier section, should delineate a window through which we are able to elucidate upon the geometric possibilities of urban and architectural design, as well as the regional resonances, its permanence, mutations, and its relationship with eternity.

We open this document with reflections on the built environment, and on its condition as a canvas, whereby time overlaps, constructing legible discourses through the ancestral relationship of their functional components, the relationships of individuals, and through their increasingly complex forms of collective organization, which were shaped by their different forms, or approaches. This first installment proves that the territorial processes contain surviving clues as to the ways of understanding and inhabiting the collective space of the northern geography of the Yucatan Peninsula.

As we progress in this issue, we explore the emergence of basic survival elements in contexts of complex topography, which provide their possessors not only with the resources of collective survival, but offer them unquestionable supremacy regarding routes, paths and trails, and their approaches to cultural, economic and necessarily interdependent regions. These human groups established strategic positions over a long period and were able to develop their own urban, defensive and fortified routes, as well as options of unique architectural complexes in the Mesoamerican universe.

Infected by the overwhelming importance of the latest findings in the great city of the Mesoamerican Classic period, Teotihuacan goes on the attendance list in the discussion about enveloping, now combined with that other great subject, which is barely explored, the site's mural paintings. Following the author's lines, the architectural systems of the city and its essential components persist

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Guest Editor (Dossier)

through the preservation of ancestral traditions, present not only in the tasks of living quarters.

“Enclosed” – “*Envolvente*” is not only an adjective, as described by the RAE*, it is also an active participle of the verb to envelop, it is the first and final perception of a natural or cultural object, it is the opportunity that abstraction exploits in the face of what first appears to the eye. It is the initial detonating moment of the sensorial process. This fourth installment proposes that the remote builders of the Mayan lowlands, in the current state of Campeche, may have perhaps abstracted from their technological and constructive ancestral heritage, the axial and scenic vocation of their monumental architecture, through their –now acknowledged– powerful iconographic contents.

With a sizeable number of opinions, photographs and personal graphics, along with easily accessible illustrations, we bring this Dossier to a close with the proposal of an inconclusive discussion regarding a possible original geometry, and its western import counterpart; its resistance and possible derivations bring us closer to the mysterious world of language, concepts and meanings, sometimes evident, others hidden or underlying.

Having thus traced our window into the infinite universe of conceptual possibilities, geometry and architecture of original American antiquity, we close our Dossier as a further glimpse into the necessary approaches to our remote cultural legacy.

*RAE - Real Academia Española – Royal Spanish Academy.