

As the founding editor, it is with great pride that I introduce the inaugural issue of the *Integrated Design Research (IDR) Journal*, Volume 01, Issue 01. This publication marks the culmination of dedicated efforts to create a platform that bridges design research, education, practice, and industry. The scope of the *IDR Journal* emphasises the significance of design subcultures, with a particular focus on design in the Global South and Asia. It values the exploration and understanding of diverse design practices, movements, and contributions from these regions, encompassing areas such as society and culture, vernacular knowledge and practice, economy and industries, design pedagogy and thinking, design across technologies, and circularity and sustainability. These rich design solutions often differ from mainstream global trends and bring unique perspectives to the forefront.

The *IDR Journal* highlights the importance of understanding and integrating these varied perspectives to foster a more comprehensive and inclusive global dialogue about design. Our goal is to showcase how design is practised, taught, and evolved in different cultural contexts, and how these practices contribute to global knowledge, sustainability, and innovation. The journal was launched to promote this global dialogue with an academic focus on design research, education, and practice, emphasising original theoretical, empirical, and applied research that contributes to establishing design as a discipline within these regions.

The journey of the *IDR Journal* began with the successful launch of the *IDR Research Conference 2022*, an event that, for the first time, brought together academia and industry professionals in this context. The overwhelming enthusiasm and recognition of its importance by contributors underscored the necessity of this journal for the region and beyond. This collective support and commitment helped us launch the *IDR Journal* two years later—this year, 2024—as a peer-reviewed, bi-annual publication.

This journal stands as a testament to the growing need for scholarly and practical discourse that supports the evolution of design as a field, focusing on the region while opening the dialogue to the West. It aims to act as a catalyst for dialogue, innovation, and collaboration.

This inaugural issue comprises seven articles. This volume begins with thought-provoking work such as *“Post-structural Possibilities in Architectural Design: Deconstruction as a Strategy to Start Architecture of Postcolonial Knowledge and Ideology,”* which explores postcolonial critiques and deconstructive strategies in architectural design. By examining the remnants of colonial ideology within post-independent Sri Lankan architecture, this paper encourages readers to reflect on how deconstruction can inform more inclusive and contextually relevant architectural practices. Complementing this discourse is the article on *“Benefits and Barriers to Accelerate Craft Revival for Traditional Agasti Jewellery Craft in Sri Lanka,”* which highlights the intersection of cultural heritage and design. It emphasises the urgency of preserving traditional knowledge while proposing strategies for craft restoration that are vital for sustaining local artisanship.

Articles such as *“Investigating the Paradox of Bad Seating Postures Despite Good Ergonomics: Identifying Causal Factors”* and *“Exploring the Role of Customer-Centric Car Dealership Interior Design in Sri Lanka: A Study on Customer Satisfaction”* illustrate the journal's

commitment to addressing contemporary challenges in design and user experience. The study on ergonomic seating delves into the persistent issue of poor posture in well-designed environments, while the research on dealership interiors analyses how spatial variables influence customer satisfaction, providing practical implications for design professionals. These pieces underline the journal's focus on applied research that bridges theoretical knowledge with real-world practice.

The exploration of sustainable and culturally resonant design is further demonstrated in "*Communicative Factors in Visual Abstraction of a Kithul Tree in an 18th Century Mural Painting of Sri Lanka.*" It explores the communicative aspects of traditional art forms, emphasising the value of cultural semiotics in design interpretation. Innovative case studies, such as "*Prototyping Fragile Buffer Packaging: From Existing to Potential,*" which highlights advancements in packaging design, and "*Online Education: Teachers' Endeavours in Adaptation and Optimization of Digital Tools and Features for Distance Learning in Sri Lanka During COVID-19 Pandemic,*" reflects the adaptability of educational design in unprecedented times. Collectively, these articles embody the *IDR Journal's* dedication to presenting diverse, relevant, and impactful research that enriches the global design discourse, particularly through the lens of the Global South and Asia.

With the publication of this inaugural issue of the *Integrated Design Research (IDR) Journal*, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the authors for their exceptional contributions. Your research and insights have set the foundation for what we envision as a dynamic and thought-provoking platform. I am also deeply grateful to the reviewers, the editorial team, and all contributors whose dedication and expertise have brought this issue to life.

The *IDR Journal* aims to foster an inclusive and interdisciplinary dialogue in the field of design, and we invite scholars, practitioners, and innovators to contribute their work and perspectives to future issues. The success of this journal relies on the ongoing support and engagement of the design community, and we hope it will continue to serve as a space for sharing knowledge, sparking discussion, and driving innovation.

As we move forward, we look with anticipation to the continued growth of the *IDR Journal* as a respected publication that bridges design research, practice, and education. We encourage our readers and contributors to join us in this journey, helping to shape a richer and more inclusive global design discourse.

**Dr. Sumanthri Samarawickrama**

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