FACTA UNIVERSITATIS
Series: **Architecture and Civil Engineering** Vol. 15, No 1, Special Issue, 2017, pp. i-ii

FOREWORD

This special issue of the Facta Universitatis, Series: Architecture and Civil Engineering contributes to the discussion about the places and technologies related to the future of society and places, design of places, facilities and infrastructure in line with new and future needs of inhabitants; it discusses strategies for high quality environment. The mentioned general objectives indicate the necessity of a multidisciplinary approach to this matter, of identification and establishment of relationships between issues of technological development, environmental protection, social change and cognitive science. Irrespective whether this initiative comes under the framework of different disciplines (engineering and technical sciences, humanities and social sciences) or fields, they share the same visions and goals. However, the main focuses of the articles are related to what extent the technologies could provide sustainable development of built environment. Over the last twenty years, sustainable development was generally accepted as the main goal in successful urban development strategies, supported with new technologies as the most powerful tools for realization.

A selection of articles was done after "The Third International Conference Places and Technologies – Keeping up with technologies to create cognitive city by highlighting its safety, sustainability, efficiency, imageability and livability" which was held in Belgrade 14-15th April 2016 and where more than 160 papers from 16 countries were presented. The organizers of the conference were: University of Belgrade (Faculty of Architecture) and Professional Association Urban Laboratory (UrbanLab). The aim of the conference was raising the questions about the future of our cities and environment, understanding from the critical aspect, the importance and role of technology in designing creative ideas to improve places. Finally, realizing the importance of the whole image of rapid technological development is disproportionate to the social progress. The conference program and research are based on the knowledge of several academic disciplines: engineering and technical sciences, cognitive sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Furthermore, a provocative scientific question was raised through the thematic framework of the conference. Is it an idea that drives the development of technology in architecture or is technology development a provocation for new ideas? Although exact universal answer cannot be given, presentations in main thematic areas of the conference pointed out that processes are specific, complex, interconnected and mutually dependent. They initiate a multi-layered development. Architectural practice shows that new urban and architectural concepts in terms of spatial, functional and organizational schemes and building design, require new technologies in the field of city planning, building structures, and building systems.

A significant influence on the development of new and improvement of existing technologies has been conducted by the society's commitment to protect the environment, reducing pollution and using renewable energy sources. According to the contemporary relations between architecture and technology, new urban and building concepts have been created mostly relaying on ICT. Attention is paid to the concept of cognitive city regarding city

regeneration, mitigation and sustainable development. A significant part of the conference was devoted to these subjects and the relevant papers from this field are published in the special issue.

Guest editor of a special issue
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Djukic