

**T**his number is the first issue of the Third Period of Academia XXII. Founded by Dr. Iván San Martín Córdova, who coordinated the journal throughout the First Period, from 2010 to 2017. The Second Period, between 2017 and 2022, was initially in the hands of Dr. Johana Lozoya Meckes, and later, those of Dr. Alejandra Contreras Padilla; it was in this Second Period when the journal changed from the printed, to the digital format; this period also saw the introduction of Dossier, a thematic section in each issue.

In this new era, the journal consolidates itself as a digital academic research publication based on three primary sections: Dossier, Research articles, and Technical reports. Each number has a specific theme in the Dossier, but is also open to receiving research articles that do not address the theme of the Research articles section. It is important to specify that, as of the Third Period, each theme runs for two issues, thus, being a biannual journal, the two annual issues are related through the overarching theme. In the case at hand, number 27, and the theme "Azul", is to be twinned with "Verde", in number 28.

Regarding the Technical reports section, it should be noted that the articles are of particular importance, given that the focus is on experimental scientific research in the fields of architecture, urbanism and landscape. This section is headed by Dr. Alberto Muciño Vélez, from the Laboratorio de Materiales y Sistemas Estructurales (LMSE) of the Facultad de Arquitectura, a CONAHCYT laboratory.

Another characteristic of the Third Period is the introduction of Documenta, a section that provides a showcase to highlight documents relevant to the history of architecture, urbanism and landscape; the said articles are stored in (or form part of) the different collections held in the custody of the Facultad de Arquitectura, principally from two of them: the Acervo de Arquitectura Mexicana, and the Archives of the Lilia Guzmán y García Library. This section is led by Dr. Elisa Drago Quaglia, from the Acervo de Arquitectura Mexicana (AAM).

Likewise, the journal seeks to become a platform for the dissemination of research, not only in terms of the research articles that form part of the journal's sections, but also by disseminating work from the Centro de Investigaciones en Arquitectura, Urbanismo y Paisaje (CIAUP), of the Facultad de Arquitectura, and from the Programa de Maestría y Doctorado en Arquitectura (PMYDA), of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

## **Blue: materials and their interaction with the environment**

*Buildings are no longer considered as permanent, as they once were, but of a much more limited duration, [...] in addition, with the almost unlimited manufacture of construction materials, and their exaggerated advertising focused on maximum consumption, architectural fashion trends have been fostered that last as little as the production of many of those materials, which quickly give way to new ones.<sup>1</sup>*

As stated in the epigraph, barely 45 years ago, the production capacity of materials was considered unlimited, and processes that today have become widespread were noted, such as architectural 'fast fashion'. However, in contrast, we are currently aware that we are experiencing a paradigm shift in this regard. We are undergoing a change from the abundance of cheap energy, which occurred as a result of the exploitation of fossil fuels at the beginning of the 20th Century, to an adverse scenario in this Century. As Alejandra Caballero and Luis Fernando Guerrero remind us, with the arrival of the Anthropocene era, the phrase "constructions are a reflection of the society that produces them and the events through which they transit",<sup>2</sup> takes on a new dimension, inducing us to reflect on the very viability of the survival of the earth, and all life thereon.

Issue 27 of the magazine that we are now presenting evaluates how both natural and processed materials make up the human habitat; a broad and relevant theme, when faced with the current environmental crisis, albeit whilst assuming the undeniable responsibility of architecture and urbanism in the said process.

In this complex transformational scenario, a central research topic is to enable a match between the habitat needs of the human being, and the ecological capacities of the earth itself to satisfy them. Among the multiple avenues that may be explored are the life cycle of the materials, an understanding of the relationship between human beings and materials, and how we can extend the useful life of the materials, regarding their physical aspect, but also covering the intangible by way of their resignification; highly different approaches, though all complementary; from the science of the materials themselves, through the history of architecture, and finally, through psychological perception.