

The 17th International Research Conference of Faculty of Architecture Research Unit (FARU 2024) Event Report

The 17th International Research Conference of Faculty of Architecture Research Unit (FARU2024) was successfully held on 6th and 7th December 2024 at the University of Moratuwa. The conference theme was “Spatial Dynamics: Envisioning Tomorrow’s Design through Advanced Practices” to accelerate action on sustainability, as we approach the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The conference received 80 full papers, which is a substantial level of improvement in terms of the number of papers received for FARU annual conference. Out of the total received, 63 papers including 15 foreign papers had been accepted and presented after the review process, 8 papers got declined and 9 withdrawn. The conference had several key sessions as presented below.

The **Conference Inauguration** was commenced at 3.00 pm on 6th December with the National Anthem followed by the lighting of traditional oil lamp by the chief guest, invitees, and faculty staff members. Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake, Conference Chair of FARU 2024 and Dean, Faculty of Architecture warmly welcomed the attendees. Then the conference theme address was delivered by Dr. Menaha Thayaparan, Conference Co-chair and Director, FARU. Then Dr. D.P. Chandrasekera, Deputy Vice Chancellor, delivered his Chief Guest address. The keynote was thereafter delivered by the keynote speaker, Professor Kaushal Keraminiyage from University of Salford, UK. The keynote address was on A new dimension of Sustainability: Digitally Sustainable and Resilient Communities in the face of Risks to Digital Infrastructure. While appreciating the digitalization, Professor Kaushal warned the potential risks involved with a full digitalization system.

The **First set of Parallel Sessions** were held from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm on 6th December 2024.

- Session A1 - Sustainable Design (Chaired by Dr. Sumanthri Samarawickrama) – 5 papers
- Session A2 - Economic, Social and Environmental Livability (Chaired by Prof. Kanchana Perera) – 5 papers
- Session A3 - Sustainable Urbanism [Online] (Chaired by Dr. Harshini Mallawarachchi) – 5 papers

There after the conference delegates were taken to the **Conference Dinner** arranged at Randiya Hotel in Moratuwa. The transport was provided between University and the Dinner venue for those who requested. The conference dinner provided a great opportunity for networking and collaboration among faculty members. The conference dinner was graced by 125 conference delegates who enjoyed the music and the meal.

The **Second set of Parallel Sessions** were held from 9.00 am to 10.15 am on 7th December 2024.

- Session B1 - Sustainable Practices in Construction (Chaired by Prof. Anuradha Waidyasekara) – 5 papers
- Session B2 - Culture and Social Spaces (Chaired by Prof. Udayanagi Kulatunga) – 5 papers
- Session B3 - Health, Environment, and Sustainable Spaces [Online] (Chaired by Dr. Pournima Sridarran) – 7 papers

The **Third set of Parallel Sessions** were held from 10.45 am to 12.00 noon on 7th December 2024.

- Session C1 - Workplace Safety (Chaired by Prof. Nayanthara de Silva) – 6 papers
- Session C2 - Urban Resilience and Sustainability (Chaired by Prof. Jagath Munasinghe) – 6 papers
- Session C3 - Urban Space and Cultural Dynamics [Online] (Chaired by Dr. Priyanwada Singhapathirana) – 6 papers

Conference Lunch was served for the conference delegates at the Rubert Peiris Building from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm

The **Fourth set of Parallel Sessions** were held from 1.00 pm to 2.15 pm on 7th December 2024.

- Session D1 - Design for Well-Being Across Generations (Chaired by Dr.Kamal Wasala) – 5 papers
- Session D2 - Technological advancements in the built environment (Chaired by Dr. Chameera De Silva) – 6 papers
- Session D3 - Sustainable Architecture and Built Environment (Chaired by Prof. Narein Perera) – 4 papers

The **Closing Ceremony** was finally held from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm, which was graced by the conference delegates who joined both physically and virtually. Initially the Rapporteurs' Report summarizing the 2-day conference was presented by Dr. Suranga Jayasena. The awarding ceremony was then held. From each technical session, one presenter was awarded with the Best presenter award. Additionally the conference awarded one best paper award and two highly commendable paper awards. Soon after the awarding ceremony the theme for FARU2025 was unveiled by Director FARU. The theme for the next year will be **Beyond Boundaries: Co-Creating Inclusive & Resilient Spaces**. With the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Menaha Thayaparan the 17th International Research Conference of FARU 2024 was officially concluded.

Both the conference inauguration and closing ceremony were compered by Ms.Chanthurangi De silva.

On behalf of the FARU team, we wish to thank all the attendees of FARU2024 conference for witnessing the annual conference of the Faculty of Architecture Research Unit. We also would like to thank several individuals who have contributed in various ways to make this event a success. We wish to thank the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Deans of the Faculties, Acting Librarian, Heads of the Departments of Architecture Faculty, Director Research, and Chair Research Week for gracing the inauguration of FARU2024 conference. Our since thanks to Prof.Kaushal Keraminiaye, the keynote speaker for accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address which provided great insightful thoughts about the sustainable and resilient digitalisation of the systems. We thank all the authors and presenters who contributed to this conference both physically and virtually. Our special thanks to the international scientific committee members of FARU who took their valuable time in reviewing the papers to ensure the quality of the publication. Thanks are due for all the session chairs and session coordinators who have immensely supported to the smooth running of the sessions in a timely manner. Special thanks to Dr.Sumathri and Mr.Sathira Ravin for providing the artwork for the conference. We appreciate the generous supported offered by the main sponsors of the FARU2024 conference who are the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa, and Prof.Samitha Manawadu and his Project Consultancy Unit Team, and the other sponsors Jayakody Cost Consultants (Pvt) Ltd, AKK Engineers (Pvt) Ltd, and Sterling Steel (Pvt) Ltd. Many thanks to those who provided photography and videography. We are grateful for Ms.Chanthurangi De silva for bringing so much life to this event.

We also would like to thank Prof.Yasangika Sandanayake, Dean Faculty of Architecture and the Conference-Chair for her guidance and advice given to us whenever we needed. We are very much thankful to the FARU committee members representing each department, conference organising committee members and the team of undergraduates who supported with ushering. Special thanks go to all the technical support received from the departments of Integrated Design, Town and Country Planning, Architecture and Building Economics, UG division, Project Consultancy Unit, the Dean's Office, PG office and FARU office. Special thanks to Mr.Ruwan Attanayake who ensured that all the tough logistics issues were taken care of.

Photos of FARU2024 Annual Conference



Inauguration



Inauguration



Inauguration



**Welcome Address by Conference Chair / Dean,
Faculty of Architecture,
Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake**



**Theme Address by Conference Co-Chair / Director-
FARU
Dr.Menaha Thayaparan**



**Address by Chief Guest, Deputy Vice
Chancellor, University of Moratuwa
Dr.D.P.Chandrasekera**



**Keynote Address by Prof. Kaushal Keraminiyage,
University of Salford, UK**



**Vote of Thanks by FARU Committee Member
Dr.Pournima Shridarran**



Conference Dinner



Conference Dinner



Conference Dinner



Conference Dinner



Technical Sessions



Technical Sessions



Technical Sessions



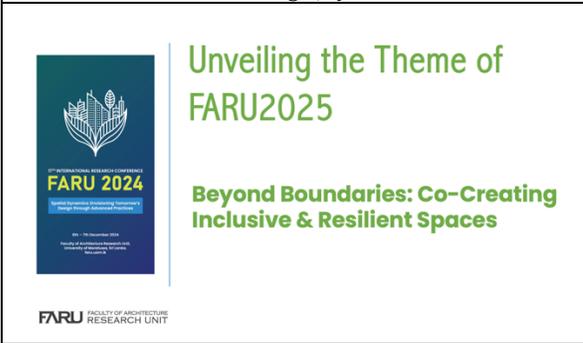
The compère of the inauguration and closing ceremony
Ms.Chanthurangi De silva



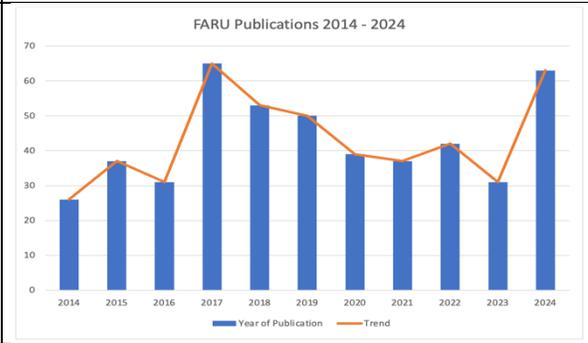
Rapporteurs' Report by FARU Committee Member
Dr. Suranga Jayasena



Awarding Ceremony



Unveiling the theme of FARU 2025



FARU publications for last 10 years



The conference venue
Rubert Peiris Auditorium



Part of the audience

Prepared by:
Dr. Menaha Thayaparan
December 2024