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Cover: Synagogue on the Cochin Peninsula in the Indian state of Kerala. Photo by Patricia Fels.

In this issue we present the winners of the 2006 EDRA/*Places* Awards. This cooperative program between *Places* and the Environmental Design Research Association is entering its tenth year. Its goal remains to bring attention to design, planning and research projects sometimes bypassed by other awards programs and professional publications, but which promote care and understanding for qualities of place. Our presentation this year includes commentary by two jurors and the host of the 2006 jury.

The remainder of the issue consists of contributions that fill our regular sections. In “Speaking of Places,” architect Patricia Fels argues that India is home to a rich and underappreciated vernacular heritage whose rediscovery offers a valuable resource for modern-day cities. As a “Portfolio,” we present a selection of images from British photographer David Spero, whose recent work documents the worlds of those whose impassioned beliefs force them to the margins of contemporary society. Our “Research and Debate” section contains Karen Pinkus’s investigation of a strangely fortuitous meeting of art, architecture and neighborhood that defined a transitional, democratic moment in fast-changing Los Angeles. As a “Dispatch,” we feature Catriona Stuart’s description of (Park)ing Day, a global effort designed to reclaim parking spaces as temporary public parks.

In this issue we also inaugurate a new section, “On Second Thought...,” intended to provide humorous views of environmental design and planning endeavors. “How Leonine Features Enhance Bridge Capacity: A Short History of Traffic Engineering” was originally submitted as a part of our “Building Community Across the Transect” issue. We hope you enjoy it here, and that it spurs similar contributions from fields that rarely take enough time to have fun at their own expense.