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Sustainable Building Environment

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Message from the Guest Editor

The civil construction industry, which is responsible for the building environment, has a major impact on the social and economic development of a country. Meanwhile, the civil construction industry is considered one of the most polluting economies in existence and a major enemy of sustainable development. This negative scenario highlights the need for reforms in terms of work process methodology and demands the use of newly developed techniques and technologies. Due to the ever-increasing pressure from society and health organizations, sustainability becomes an especially important concern within the civil construction industry. The adoption of new concepts, such as BIM, energy-efficient buildings, lean and green construction, material reuse, life cycle assessment, etc., is growing as processes and technology evolve. The integration of these new concepts and technologies can help in the development of optimized solutions, which are more economic and reduce the negative impact this industry has in the environment.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Current urban environments are home to multi-modal transit systems, extensive energy grids, a building stock, and integrated services. Sprawling neighborhoods are composed of buildings that accommodate living and working quarters. However, it is expected that the cities and communities of the future will face complex and enormous challenges, including maintenance, interconnectivity, resilience, energy efficiency, and sustainability issues, to name but a few. A smart city uses advanced technologies and a digital infrastructure to improve the outcomes in every aspect of a city's operations. A smart building optimizes the experience of occupants, staff, and management by using a modern and connected environment. Innovations in technology that can bring dramatic improvements to design, planning, and policy are critical in developing the cities and buildings of the future.

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