Special Issue

Sustainable Housing and Urban Planning: Enhancing Well-Being Through Environmental Design

Message from the Guest Editors

Environmental design is a pivotal factor in achieving sustainable housing and urban planning, particularly in addressing the interconnected challenges of urbanization, climate change, and resource scarcity. As cities grow more complex, balancing ecological resilience, social equity, and economic viability demands innovative strategies that transcend traditional planning approaches. The multifaceted nature of urban systems—encompassing energy efficiency, public health, infrastructure, and community needs—makes sustainable design an intricate and often daunting endeavor. To navigate these complexities, integrated environmental design has emerged as a critical framework, harmonizing ecological stewardship with human-centric development. This approach prioritizes interdisciplinary collaboration, leveraging cutting-edge technologies, nature-based solutions, and participatory processes to create adaptive and inclusive urban environments. With escalating global uncertainties, there is growing emphasis on advancing resilient and equitable design practices. Special Issue Link: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/buildings/special_issues/29DY17N5G9

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 September 2026

Buildings

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1
CiteScore 4.4

mdpi.com/si/235587

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About the Journal

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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