Special Issue

Age-Friendly Built Environment and Sustainable Architectural Design

Message from the Guest Editors

Our living, working, and movement environments must address aging-specific challenges, actively promote health improvement, balance two key dimensions. Strategic investments in health-oriented environments yield multiplicative benefits. By designing spaces that prioritize wellbeing, we create sustainable conditions for current and future generations. This intersection of urban planning and population health is where health equity gaps can be addressed, access to green spaces enhances physical activity, safety infrastructure reduces preventable harms. For vulnerable populations. universal design principles and inclusive accessibility are critical to support independent living, enable active aging and reduce environmental barriers. For this Special Issue, we invite contributions focused exclusively on interconnected challenges related to aging, the environment, and health optimization. The topics of Interest are as follows:

- Age-friendly landcape design;
- Age-friendly rural housing;
- Safety issues of elderly populations in rural areas;
- Age-friendly housing solutions;
- Smart cities for aging support;
- Housing and rural design that connects different generations.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Branko Gabrovec

National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dr. Francesca Pagliaro

Department Unit for Energy Efficiency—Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (DUEE—ENEA), Via Anguillarese 301, 00123 Rome, Italy

Dr. Domen Zupančič

Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Deadline for manuscript submissions

20 May 2026



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1 CiteScore 4.4



mdpi.com/si/251595

Buildings Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 buildings@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/buildings





an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1 CiteScore 4.4





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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. David Arditi

Construction Engineering and Management Program, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology, 3201 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60616, USA

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within SCIE (Web of Science), Scopus, Ei Compendex, Inspec, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Construction and Building Technology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Architecture)

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 14.9 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.7 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).