Special Issue

Buildings Sustainability, from Construction Materials to Indoor Comfort

Message from the Guest Editors

Nowadays, building sustainability is a matter of concern, as this sector represents 39% of the overall greenhouse gas emissions. In this regard, research has established that the above-mentioned impact is mainly produced in the construction and use phases of buildings. Efforts to address this issue have been centred on achieving a substantial decrease in the environmental impacts produced by this sector. The main strategies adopted include the development of durable and eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient facilities, and smart design technologies that aim to reduce the energy demand. To establish the environmental benefits of these strategies, the current method of consensus is the Life Cycle Assessment, as defined in the ISO 14040 series of standards. Finally, the aim of this issue is to encourage the dissemination of knowledge, promoting reductions in the environmental impacts associated with the use of buildings and the construction industry. Both review and original papers are welcomed.

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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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