

Special Issue

Future Cities and Their Downtowns: Urban Studies and Planning

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue seeks robust and original research on the future of cities and their downtowns. Contributions are welcome on any relevant topic and disciplinary perspective, specifically focused on the city centre or on the relationships between the core and the wider urban system. Papers exploring responses in city centres to change, such as the adaptation and repurposing of buildings, and the connections between buildings and public spaces are particularly welcome, as are studies considering policy and regulation. Such themes could include smart cities and digital construction, zero-carbon city centres and buildings, the futureproofing of downtowns, repurposing and lifecycle perspectives for buildings and spaces, governance and funding, as well as planning, spatial equity, inclusiveness and fair transitions.

Guest Editor

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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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Prof. Dr. David Arditi

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