

Special Issue

Integrating Nature-Based Solutions into the Built Environment of Urban and Rural Areas

Message from the Guest Editors

Topics to be considered in this Special Issue include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Explore the advantages and challenges of integrating NBSs in urban and rural development;
- Identify suitable types of NBSs to address the specific environmental and social challenges faced by cities and rural villages;
- Identify strategies for conserving natural and heritage sites within cities and rural villages;
- Identify ways to govern carbon emissions from urban and rural built environments;
- Identify ways that NBSs affect urban–rural relationships;
- Identify ways to conserve biodiversity in urban and rural built environments;
- Propose methods to assess and monitor the impact of NBSs in urban and rural built environments;
- Analyze the roles of stakeholders in the planning and implantation of NBSs in cities and rural villages;
- Analyze ways to develop green infrastructure or natural infrastructure;
- Examine the efficacy of policies for promoting NBSs in cities and rural villages.

Guest Editors

Dr. Lei Zhu

Department of Construction and Real Estate, School of Civil Engineering, Southeast University, Nanjing 210096, China

Prof. Dr. Chin Haw Lim

Solar Energy Research Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi 43600, Selangor, Malaysia

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 September 2025)



Buildings

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1
CiteScore 4.4



mdpi.com/si/232156

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

[mdpi.com/journal/
buildings](https://mdpi.com/journal/buildings)





Buildings

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1
CiteScore 4.4



[mdpi.com/journal/
buildings](https://mdpi.com/journal/buildings)



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 15.1 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.9 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the second half of 2025).