Special Issue

Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Architecture

Message from the Guest Editors

The definition of sustainable architecture is undergoing continuous evolution. For many years, the concept was initially primarily equated with energy efficiency and later with the concept of resource consumption reduction, aimed at minimizing environmental impact within broader climate change mitigation strategies. However, the accelerating pace of environmental phenomena, coupled with the limited effectiveness of global interventions, is increasingly shifting the discourse toward a conception of sustainability that emphasizes the capacity of the built environment to adapt to a transformed context and support, over time, the health of both humans and the planet. Recent research highlights significant opportunities for the built environment to generate (and re-generate) positive impacts for people—particularly as the global urban population continues to grow—and natural ecosystems, which are under increasing threat from biodiversity loss.
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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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