Special Issue

Composite Structural Members in the Building Sector: From Design to Materials

Message from the Guest Editor

Traditionally, structural members consist of conventional materials, such as masonry, timber, steel, and concrete, have dominated the building sector. However, in recent years, composite structural members have attracted significant interest as replacements due to their numerous advantages. To date, the number of primary structural applications of composite structural members in building construction has remained relatively low and there appear to be several issues contributing to their slow uptake by the construction industry. Issues such as cost, absence of design standards, lack of industry standardization, poor understanding of construction issues by composites industry, and lack of designers experienced with composite structures are commonly placing these structural members at a disadvantage when considered against traditional structural members. This Special Issue of *Buildings* will focus on innovative and emerging methods and solutions, developed by researchers and professional engineers around the globe, to promote and advance the use of composite structural members in the building sector.

Guest Editor

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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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