Special Issue

Multispecies Architectural Design: Challenges and Opportunities

Message from the Guest Editor

The rapid expansion of the global human population has resulted in a significant decline in biodiversity. Conventional environmental design approaches have proven insufficient in tackling this pressing issue, necessitating innovative research at the building scale. Multispecies design, which acknowledges non-human species as active stakeholders, represents a paradigm shift away from anthropocentric architectural design. To effectively design for multispecies environments, interdisciplinary collaboration between architecture, ecology, and animal geography is crucial. This collaboration should aim to generate new knowledge, design methods, and tools that enable the translation of non-human species' needs into architectural form. This Special Issue highlights the urgency to address declining biodiversity through multispecies design and investigates the challenges and opportunities associated with integrating ecological knowledge into architectural practice. By embracing the needs of non-human species, built environments have the potential to foster biodiversity conservation and facilitate a more harmonious coexistence between humans and the natural world.

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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