

Special Issue

Housing as a Nexus of Unaffordability, Illegality and Livability

Message from the Guest Editor

Providing affordable housing for its residents has long been a challenge for many cities in both the Global South and Global North. The imbalance between supply and demand of affordable housing triggers the proliferation of substandard or even illegal housing in many cases. While the extant literature on this aspect has focused mainly on informal settlements built on government land (such as slums and squatter areas) and urban enclaves (such as urban villages), little attention has been paid to unlawful extensions or alterations of existing housing stock. In many cities such as Hong Kong, Guangzhou, London and Melbourne, existing houses or apartment units are subdivided in an illegal or unauthorized manner and leased out to low-income earners. Addressing this informal housing crisis will require research that illustrates the scope of the problem. The questions of how the informal housing sector swells in these places and how safe and decent accommodation can be provided to the disadvantaged must be investigated. This Special Issue calls for papers that can address any of the following questions:

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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