



## Architectural Theory for Sustainable Urban Design

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Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (31 July 2019)**

### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Sustainable urban systems are widely talked about, but not yet implemented. Three problems prevent this: (i) A very poor understanding of the system dynamics that permit a city to function in a more sustainable manner; (ii) an architectural approach to planning, which focuses almost exclusively on individual buildings instead of a connected urban fabric; (iii) the belief that we can solve the problems of sustainability through technology alone. Encouraged by industrial society and a superficial, formal approach to design, these factors work against long-term sustainability. We have to learn to optimize the energy and network flows that drive a city. True sustainability can only arise by implementing low-tech, low-cost, low-maintenance solutions. This Special Issue welcomes contributions on how to change the basic epistemology of design. The goal is to abandon an abstract, visual approach, to instead embrace adaptivity connected with human needs and the natural environment.

- Sustainability
- Resilience
- Complex systems
- Adaptive design
- Anti-fragility
- Design patterns





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