

Special Issue

Prefabrication and Modularized Construction

Message from the Guest Editors

Construction is still a largely manual process. The building sector has not experienced similar productivity gains as other industries have. Controlled fabrication processes, as in prefabrication and modularized construction, favor the economical use of resources and can increase productivity while reducing construction costs. The building sector is already one of the largest consumers of resources and contributors to climate change. Therefore, increasing productivity must go hand-in-hand with decarbonizing the entire life cycle of buildings, from material sourcing and fabrication to operation and reuse. Given the demands of a circular economy, prefabrication and modularized construction can cause additional sustainable effects. Examples of modularization and serialization in the building sector have not always gained social acceptance. Then, as now, attempts were made to counteract the housing shortage through incentives on the political level, the housing industry, developers, etc., to provide quick solutions. To avoid the deficits of the past, solutions must consider the planning, manufacturing, and social levels in order to achieve sustainable buildings.

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