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.

Guest Editors

Dr. Tobias Schwinn

Institute for Computational Design and Construction, University of Stuttgart, 70174 Stuttgart, Germany

Prof. Dr. Jutta Albus

Juniorprofessorship Resource Efficient Building Construction, Technical University of Dortmund, 44227 Dortmund, Germany

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Sustainability
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
sustainability@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Marc A. Rosen
Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

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