

Special Issue

Forms of Informal Settlement: Upgrading, Morphology and Morphogenesis

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue focuses on the challenge of informal settlements. Drawing on multiple case studies across the cities of the global South, this Special Issue aims to explore the ways in which the built environment professions can most effectively engage with processes of upgrading as well as the transformation of negative place identities. Cities have become centres of jobs and opportunities, attracting flows of rural-to-urban migrants, for many of whom informality works as a resource to move beyond the regulatory order in terms of development, design, construction, and urban codes. While informal settlements accommodate about one billion people and counting, these settlements have remained largely undocumented and invisible on official maps. Nonetheless, they are here to stay as the challenge of informal settlements cannot be simply addressed through practices of forced eviction and demolition. With a few exceptions, most informal settlements can be upgraded incrementally and on the same site. The intention, therefore, is to better understand the ways in which forms of informal settlements work in order to provide an effective knowledge base for slum upgrading practices.

Guest Editor

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