

Special Issue

“Alive” Materials in Architecture and Design

Message from the Guest Editors

Traditionally, architects search for resources and technology to select and apply state-of-the-art materials as well as conventionally used materials for their building designs. However, the understanding of the sustainability issue has transformed the whole paradigm of architectural materials from a simple assembly of multiple commercially available building materials and products to a holistically curated wide collection and system of materials. Although the politically and socially normative concept of sustainability limits material interests to a prescribed range of standardized and authenticated building materials, creative architects and researchers who reject common practice have attempted to challenge the definition of sustainability in architectural materials. Now, we need to expand the scope of the controversy surrounding architectural materials. We would like to gain insights into the interpretation of aliveness in architectural materials by architects, designers, engineers, and researchers in the pursuit of sustainability from various experiments, studies, and reviews.

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