

Trends and Prospects in Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings

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Message from the Guest Editor

For decades, academics have promoted and researched the idea of low energy or net zero buildings, and a few examples have been constructed. However, the mass move to zero has not happened. In this Special Issue we ask, why? This will be achieved through papers that examine the limits of low energy buildings, be they materials, architecture, or society/policy. New ways of looking at the problem will be particularly welcome, for example, simple energy models that can be used by architects, or the way that finance or the media can be used to encourage the mass roll-out of low carbon buildings.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Current urban environments are home to multi-modal transit systems, extensive energy grids, a building stock, and integrated services. Sprawling neighborhoods are composed of buildings that accommodate living and working quarters. However, it is expected that the cities and communities of the future will face complex and enormous challenges, including maintenance, interconnectivity, resilience, energy efficiency, and sustainability issues, to name but a few. A smart city uses advanced technologies and a digital infrastructure to improve the outcomes in every aspect of a city's operations. A smart building optimizes the experience of occupants, staff, and management by using a modern and connected environment. Innovations in technology that can bring dramatic improvements to design, planning, and policy are critical in developing the cities and buildings of the future.

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