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Timber in Construction: Trends and Perspectives

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

For years, wood-based construction methods have been gaining market share and are thus asserting themselves against the obstacles. Furthermore, wood construction is receiving political support, as it combines the core goals of modern politics necessary for a climate-neutral future. The ecological features, however, remain important for wood in sustainability discourse. In the last few decades, timber engineering has developed rapidly. Wide-span structures as well as multi-story buildings made of wood are now common. New and more demanding areas of application for wood as a building material require continuous further development. As part of the European Green Deal, the European Union is planning a renovation strategy to make buildings more energy-efficient. The focus is not only on the energetic upgrading of the buildings, but also on their revitalization. As a climate-protecting and resource-saving method, wood construction allows revitalizing existing buildings or creating completely new ones. In the field of fire safety, there are many new findings in favor of the use of timber engineering materials and hybrids.

Prof. Dr. Vlatka Rajčič
Guest Editor

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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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