



## Earthen Architecture: Challenges and Opportunities for the 21st Century

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

In recent decades, earthen heritage has been challenged due to climate change, natural catastrophes, man-made disasters, the degradation of the environment caused by man-made activities, a lack of heritage protection, and the pressures of modern living in a globalised world. Also due to a lack of knowledge, in several countries, earthen heritage has been exposed to incorrect interventions and even to gentrification. This is why this heritage is seriously threatened and urgently needs to be protected.

With this new paradigm, questions arise regarding the need for earthen heritage to survive, the need to adapt to a changing world, and to enhance the opportunity for new earthen design. Further studies are needed to improve earthen material, preserve earthen heritage, confront contemporary challenges, and rethink cities to become more sustainable societies.

This Special Issue intends to enhance the relevancy and value that earthen heritage has in this changing world, but also the potential that earthen architecture and construction can have for a more sustainable society and greener future.





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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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