



Unearthing the Value of Data in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) Industry

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Message from the Guest Editor

A construction project can be analogized as a nexus from which various stakeholders connect from planning to decommissioning and form information exchange networks to realize the project. A construction project is built on reams of data generated from various sources throughout the project lifecycle. Thus, it would not be an overstatement to say that a critical element of the future of construction companies and industry is data. With the advancement and emergence of a new generation of information technologies, data and data-driven decisions is becoming a commonly used phrase.

This Special Issue of *Buildings* on “Unearthing the Value of Data in the AEC Industry” goes beyond theory and offers insights into recent research breakthroughs on practical solutions, in order to turn data into action in the AEC industry.





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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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