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Mechanics of Masonry Towers

Guest Editors:

Dr. Rafael Shehu
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (DICA), Politecnico Di Milano, Milan 20133, Italy

Dr. Ahmad Basshofi Habieb
Civil Engineering Department, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Surabaya 60111, Indonesia

Dr. Maria Gracia López Patiño
Department of Architectural Constructions, Polytechnic University of Valencia, 46022 Valencia, Spain

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Message from the Guest Editors

Masonry towers, with their historical and cultural significance, stand as enduring testaments to human ingenuity and architectural excellence. These structures, ranging from medieval church spires and bell towers to defensive watchtowers and iconic minarets, have not only defined skylines, but also embodied the socio-cultural narratives of their times. The unique structural characteristics and aesthetic appeal of masonry towers present a rich area of study and pose distinct challenges in terms of analysis, preservation and adaptation to modern needs.

This Special Issue aims to collate cutting-edge research and insights from a multidisciplinary perspective, focusing on the engineering, architectural and conservation aspects of masonry towers. Contributions will explore both the historical context and the latest technological advancements in the analysis and preservation of these iconic structures.

Key Topics:

- Structural Analysis and Modeling;
- Seismic Performance and Retrofitting;
- Material Characterization and Conservation Techniques;
- Heritage and Cultural Significance;
- Case Studies and Practical Applications;
- Similar modern structures inspired by masonry towers;

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. David Arditi
Construction Engineering and Management Program, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology, 3201 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60616, USA

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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Contact Us

Buildings Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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