



SPECIAL ISSUE

Deconstruction, Demolition and Destruction

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Guest editors: André Thomsen, Frank Schultmann and Niklaus Kohler

Why are buildings demolished? The phenomenon of demolition (or 'end of life') is more than a set of technical problems (design strategies, deconstruction, waste reduction, financial management, etc) requiring investigation. Theoretical and evidence-based research approaches are presented to understand not only the drivers but the significant social, economic and environmental impacts as well.

Demolition is becoming a key research and policy area due to the pressing concerns of managing 'shrinking cities', clearing old districts for rapid urbanisation in growing cities, financial pressures for redevelopment as well as managing existing assets and reducing a large waste stream.

A large field of research is opening which combines top-down theoretical approaches (e.g. a theory of obsolescence), concepts from social-ecological system analysis (adaption, resilience), approaches from social science (e.g. social capital, collective memories) and others still to be articulated. In parallel and to complement the top-down approach, bottom-up studies are emerging about process of urban transformation e.g. shrinkage under different forms, survival analysis of particular building stocks, actor-oriented approaches. Demolition is a good example of the necessity of transdisciplinary research: no discipline can claim demolition to be its own.

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