

Criteria for a Sustainable Built Environment

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyses the current trends in sustainability implementation. An analysis of the most important sustainability assessment tools indicates that after about 15 years from their launch the recent tendency in sustainability assessment tools development aims at the sustainability assessment of urban areas. Independently of the development of these new tools, a significant number of cities in Europe and around the world are implementing sustainability measures. Although these cities are not being subjected to sustainability assessments, it is noticed that successful sustainability measures that are being applied in these cities have common principles to those assessed in the sustainability assessment tools. This way, as the paradigm of the sustainability assessment tools is changing from the building scale to the urban and the city scale, this new generation of sustainability assessment tools can be used to guide and to help cities and urban areas towards sustainability.