



SUSTAINABLE USER-ORIENTED HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

Guest Editors: Vladimir Lojanica & Michiel Smits

(University of Belgrade - Faculty of Architecture)

Papers due: August 15, 2025

The growing challenges of aging demographics in Europe, combined with the global call for sustainable development, have brought the question of elderly housing to the forefront of architectural, urban, and educational research and design. Decisions made today can significantly influence ecological, social, and economic sustainability in the future. This special issue of the Serbian Architecture Journal (SAJ) focuses on how user-centered design, systems thinking, and agile development can be effectively applied to create innovative housing solutions that meet the evolving needs of aging populations. Sustainable housing for the elderly ensures safety, dignity, community connection, and adaptability in the face of environmental and social change.

The Erasmus+ project “sUser – Introducing User-driven design and agile development skills in the case of sustainable service housing for elderly” introduces a multidisciplinary approach to the development of new educational methods and tools that support sustainable housing design. The project brings together higher education institutions from Finland, Austria, the Netherlands, and Serbia, and aims to foster new models of collaboration between educators, researchers, and design professionals. This special issue gathers contributions from members of the sUser research network and other experts working at the intersection of architecture, design, urban planning, and education. The contributing articles will address the challenges, innovations, and pedagogical strategies involved in sustainable housing design for the elderly.

Topics:

- User-centered approaches and agile methodologies in housing design
- Sustainable technologies and adaptable living environments
- Community-based models of care and housing
- Participatory design and co-creation with the elderly
- Educational tools and interdisciplinary teaching practices
- Case studies and research methodologies

More information about the sUser project is available at: <https://suserproject.org/>
Instructions for authors can be found on the SAJ website <https://saj-journal.org/>.

SAJ: Serbian Architectural Journal (ISSN 1821 - 3952, e-ISSN 2787-1908) is an international peer-reviewed journal, published in the English language, three times a year since 2009 by the Faculty of Architecture, the University of Belgrade. For more information about the journal, please follow this link. Please note that SAJ is an open-access journal indexed by SCIndeks, where all published papers are available for viewing, reading, and downloading in full text. Though primarily focusing on topics with a background in architecture, urbanism, and urban planning, the SAJ also welcomes interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research and submissions from various academic disciplines. To submit a paper, kindly go to our Author Guidelines page and follow the instructions provided. Alternatively, if you are familiar with the SAJ publication process, you can submit your paper directly through the Assistant publishing platform. If you do not feel comfortable using the platform, please submit your paper by emailing the Editorial office directly at saj@arh.bg.ac.rs.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Editorial Office at saj@arh.bg.ac.rs.

