

AIMS AND SCOPE

STRUCTURAL (formerly *L'Edilizia*) is an independent Italian magazine. Since its foundation in 1967, it has been foremost in its field of engineering, materials science and technology for all kinds of construction: reinforced concrete, masonry, steel, timber, composite materials and light-weight structures.

Through its peer-reviewed articles, *STRUCTURAL* documents theoretical and experimental researches as well as construction technologies for a very broad range of construction engineering disciplines. We span from structural analysis and modelling to materials science, from the inspection and monitoring of structures to the life cycle assessment of buildings and infrastructures, from studying new materials to characterising traditional ones; from experimental outcomes to innovative patents.

STRUCTURAL stands out in the panorama of European journals due to its technical and scientific approach to design, maintenance and safety of steel, reinforced concrete, timber and masonry constructions, and seismic evaluation of existing structures, of monumental-artistic heritage, considering also seismic retrofitting and improvement technologies. Regarding the latter Italy has a leading position in Europe, given its historical context and the high level of seismic activity of the Country. *STRUCTURAL* pays particular attention to themes linked to building resilience both regarding the anthropic environment and seismic actions, to technologies of structural repair, restoration and retrofitting.

Focusing on the themes of stability and the structural and seismic reinforcement of historical buildings and monuments, Italy is one of the most seismic countries in Europe. Furthermore, it has a unique historical and monumental heritage, built long before the recent seismic mapping and regulations. In this context therefore, concerning all building materials, Italy has developed and continues to develop unique and exemplary analysis techniques and strengthening technologies within Europe, playing a leading role in this field globally.

Thus follows the choice to promote the use of the Italian language for the papers, not only to make the magazine accessible to Engineers, but also to comply with national standards and regulations and to facilitate and feed debate about emerging topics. Moreover, though the filter of an English translation is indispensable when comparing and exploring international issues, it can sometimes be read as a forced simplification with respect to the complexity of the Italian context, where traditional construction techniques are often side by side with the most advanced research in the materials field coming from both universities and the manufacturing world.

This does not however impede the use of the English language for the documentation of topics or experiences where our readers are already, as a professional necessity, familiar with the international regulations (e.g. questions linked with the use of EU or US standards for steelworking, or themes generally related to the problems of durability of reinforced concrete structures).

STRUCTURAL has a long history of close collaboration with almost all Italian universities. This becomes obvious when examining the scientific committee. This includes some of the most prominent Italian exponents of engineering, with prestigious reputation at an international level. Above all *STRUCTURAL* has, over the years, built a fundamental connection with the world of applied research, whether at university level or that of industrial development, or in the professional world. In the construction engineering field, it is an important space where young researchers can publish results of their activities and where professionals can come across with the most recent innovations and promote their application.

The economic recession in the building sector, as well as that in publishing, have had only a marginal influence on the life of the magazine. Today we can indeed confirm that *STRUCTURAL* remains almost the only independent Italian magazine in the field of construction engineering.