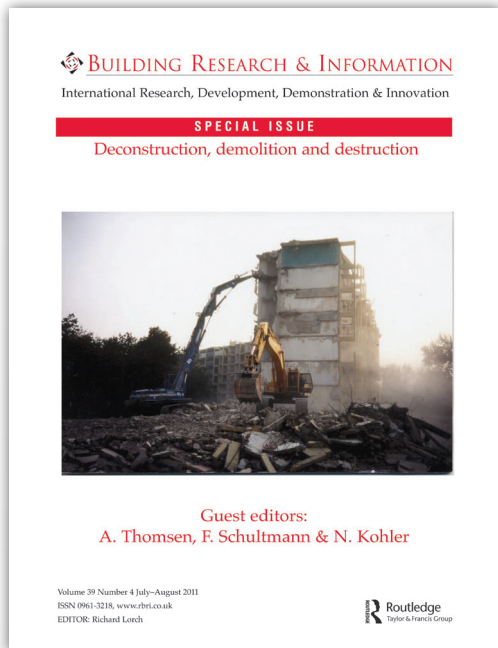




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D. Wallace and R. Wallace
- **The post-war destruction of Swedish cities**
B.O.H. Johansson

SPECIAL ISSUE

Deconstruction, Demolition and Destruction

Volume 39, issue 5, July / August 2011

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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• **Understanding obsolescence: a conceptual model for buildings**

A Thomsen and K van der Flier
39(4), 2011, pp 352–362

• **Consequences of massive housing destruction: the New York City fire epidemic**

D Wallace and R Wallace
39(4), 2011, pp 395–411

• **Demolition in the Bijlmermeer: lessons from transforming a large housing estate**

F Wassenberg
39(4), 2011, pp 363–379

• **Demolition and preservation in shrinking US industrial cities**

Alan Mallach
39(4), 2011, pp 380–394

• **The post-war destruction of Swedish cities**

Bengt O.H. Johansson
39(4), 2011, pp 412–429

• **Matching construction and demolition waste supply to recycling demand: a regional management chain model**

M Hiete, J Stengel, J Ludwig and F Schultmann
39(4), 2011, pp 333–351

• **Social stakes of urban renewal: recent French housing policy**

P Gilbert
37(5–6), 2009, pp 638–648

• **Housing stock shrinkage: vacancy and demolition trends in Germany**

C Deilmann; K-H Effenberger; J Banse
37(5–6), 2009, pp 660–668

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André Thomsen; Kees van der Flier
37(5–6), 2009, pp 649–659

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U Hassler
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A S Nordby; B Berge; F Hakonsen; A G Hestnes
37(1), 2009, pp 55–67

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I Sartori; H Bergsdal; D B Müller; H Brattebø
36(5), 2008, pp 412–425

• **Defining closed-loop material cycle construction**

P Sassi
36(5), 2008, pp 509–519

• **Designing with reused building components: some challenges**

M Gorgolewski
36(2), 2008, pp 175–188

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K Yamaguchi; Y Matsufuji; T Koyama
35(6), 2007, pp 616–628

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F Schultmann; N Sunke
35(6), 2007, pp 602–615

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P E Bradley; N Kohler
35(5), 2007, pp 529–542

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L Itard; G Klunder
35(3), 2007, pp 252–267

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P Lindsell; S.H. Büchner
14(3), 1986, pp 160–163

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C Thormark
28(3), 2000, pp 176–183

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C. De Pauw; E. Rousseau
14(3), 1986, pp 164–169

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