Guest Editorial

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This special issue of *Journal of Building Appraisal* contains selected papers presented at the Third Conference on Building Pathology and Rehabilitation (PATORREB-2009), held at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, Portugal, during the period 18–20 March 2009, which was organized jointly by the Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and the Polytechnic of the University of São Paulo and co-sponsored by CIB.

The goal of the conference was to provide a unique opportunity to exchange information and stimulate reflection, to present the latest results as well as to review the relevant issues on construction pathology, particularly areas such as responsibilities, guarantees and insurance; structural pathologies; stone, wood, mortar and concrete pathologies; hygrothermal behaviour of buildings; costs resulting from poor quality, durability and diagnostic techniques.

As rehabilitation is a strategic area that is concerned not only with the monumental heritage and historic buildings, but also with other buildings that have been in use for sometime and need to be adapted to the demands of the present, the following areas should also be considered: rehabilitation of the constructed heritage; strategies and incentives; diagnostic and design methodologies; the appropriation of existing regulations for rehabilitation; energy efficiency; restoration of public spaces; adaptive rehabilitation; rehabilitation technologies, and analysis of case studies.

More than 140 papers were presented by researchers coming from different countries, namely Portugal, Spain, Brazil and various countries of Latin America. The large number of presented papers emphasizes the considerable academic and industrial interest in the conference theme. The editors wish to thank the invited speakers and the authors for their participation and cooperation, which made this third conference especially successful.

Finally, we wish to express our warm thanks and appreciation to our colleagues of the organizing committee and the members of the scientific committee for their sustained assistance, help and enthusiasm during the preparation for the conference.

The fourth conference, PATORREB-2012, will be held in the city of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

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