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Preface

This book studies the techniques of construction technology and services, the principles of environmental and materials science, and their applications. It also studies the nature and the historical development of the built environment together with the roles of people working in the construction industry. This wide range of topics is of practical use to students and practitioners studying and working in building construction, civil engineering, surveying, planning and development.

The text is intended to help a wide range of students studying construction and built environment topics. The contents will satisfy the principal requirements of courses and self-study for GNVQ/A levels, Edexcel/BTEC awards, HND/HNCs, degrees and professional qualifications. The style of writing is kept simple and supported by clear explanations, a structured layout, practical examples and diagrams. The highlighted definitions, checklists and keyword summaries will also help students preparing for tests, examinations and assignments. The text assumes a minimum of prior knowledge and uses underlying principles to develop an understanding of topics used by professional practitioners in the construction industry.

Some subjects have been distilled into complete treatments which have the advantage of being the first of their type and which enable everyone to gain a good overview of the construction landscape. However, all the subjects deserve further investigation and we hope that this book will be a starting point for many further studies and careers.

Alan Hore, Joseph Kehoe, Randall McMullan, Michael Penton