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# Handbook Low-Tech

## Innovation Through Reduction

### Edited by Robert Kaltenbrunner

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- A uniquely comprehensive survey of low-tech approaches in architecture and construction
- Compiles and systematizes information that was so far hard to find and documented scattered across a multitude of sources
- Combines theoretical concepts with actual data from quantitative assessments of individual measures' effectiveness
- Illustrates the significance, opportunities, and limitations of low-tech approaches throughout the entire process from needs assessment to use of the completed structure
- Simple and robust low-tech solutions in construction make decisive contributions to achieving climate protection goals and are resource- and energy-efficient, reducing the construction industry's ecological footprint

The term "low-tech" describes a design that is user-friendly, low-maintenance,and resource- and energy-efficient. It aims for sustainability, simplicity, and the least impact on the natural environment; low-tech architecture reduces the ecological footprint of buildings. The ***Handbook LowTech*** puts these concepts in context, illustrates how to apply them, and quantifies their effectiveness.

Building on American architect Christopher Alexander's (1936–2022) concept of a "pattern language," the***Handbook LowTech*** is organised into the three fields of Space, Use, and Materials and enables intuitive navigation. This uniquely comprehensive survey on low-tech approaches in architecture and construction compiles and systematises information and advice that previously was difficult to find in one place. It brings together research findings from leading schools of architecture and technology as well as from specialist practitioners, making available their proven know-how as an evidence-based and realistic foundation for design and construction.

**Robert Kaltenbrunner** is an architect and urban designer. He was director of the Department of Housing and Building at Germany's Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) in Bonn and Berlin 2000–25.**Jörg Lammers** is an architect working as a researcher in the field of energy-efficient and climate-adapted building at BBSR in Bonn and Berlin.

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