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## PREFACE

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This Special issue contains a selection of papers presented at the Design and Nature meeting held in the New Forest.

The issue deals with a rich variety of studies, some of them concentrating on fundamentals of natural processes, with others focussing on applications.

Although the topics are diverse, the studies involve nature and its significance for modern scientific thought and design. The common thread is searching for the harmonisation of human activities with nature.

A recent theme is the interdisciplinary character of these studies and the transferability of the results presented in most of these papers. It is not coincidental that the contributors of papers in this, as well as all the issues of the Journal, come from a variety of backgrounds and academic disciplines. This Journal, as well as the regular meetings that its sponsors, has become a focus for the discussion of common problems, which are beyond the remit of the specialised institutions in which the work is carried out.

The Journal Editor is indebted to them for their papers, as well as the reviewers, whose work ensured the quality of the contents of this issue.

*The Editor*  
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