

# Call for Abstracts

## Construction Innovation: Materials, Processes, and Systems

CHS Annual Conference in collaboration with Cambridge Faculty of Architecture  
Queens' College, Cambridge, Friday 26- Sunday 28 September 2025

The aim of this year's Annual Construction History Society Conference from the **26-28 September 2025** is to explore the theme of the history of innovation in construction, with a particular focus on materials, processes and systems. The aim of the first day is to provide a forum in which scholars from a variety of disciplines can explore the subject of the history of construction innovation from multiple perspectives. Topics might include (but are not limited to):

- The invention of new materials
- Changes in technology
- Cladding systems
- Prefabrication
- Structural systems
- Patents
- Innovation in organization of design work and building construction
- Changes in laws to promote construction

This topic is not aimed at a particular historical period. Abstracts are welcome from any period, for instance those looking at ancient Roman innovations or changes in the 17<sup>th</sup> century will be as acceptable as those looking at twentieth-century curtain walls. The object is to study the process of innovations and the barriers and hurdles to change.

The second day will consider any paper on the subject of construction history including a special session on fountains and water supply (see separate calls for abstracts).

This is a history conference. The review panel will only accept papers that are based on historical research, not surveys of contemporary practice or conservation.

### Abstract submission

Abstracts should be 300-500 words long and should include the full names, academic affiliation or employer, a description of the subject proposed, the sources to be used, and where it fits within or how it relates to the current literature on the topic, together with address and email contact details. Submissions should be made to [chs@aha.cam.ac.uk](mailto:chs@aha.cam.ac.uk). The revised submission date for the abstracts is **30 January 2025**.

### Process and Paper Submission

The abstracts will be peer-reviewed and the authors informed of the results by **15 February 2025**. The final paper must be submitted by **1 May 2025**. Final papers will be 5000 words/30,000 characters and can include up to 10 images. The editors reserve the right to reject papers that do not meet the necessary standards at this stage.

## **Publication**

Successful papers must be submitted by **1 May 2025** and will be prepared for publication and printed in July/August. The proceedings are published as an edited book with an ISBN number published and available on the first day of the conference.

**All final accepted papers must be presented at the conference by at least one of the authors**

Papers will only be accepted by those who are prepared to record or deliver their papers in person. At least one of the authors must pay the full registration fee (£100).

The conference runs from **26-28 September 2025** in Queens' College, Cambridge and will be held in hybrid form with live and virtual sessions. **Please do not submit an abstract if you are unable to present or answer questions on those dates**