

B o o k R e v i e w

Architecture and the Urban Environment: A Vision for the New Age

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This very good illustrated book offers a critical appraisal of the place and direction of architecture and urban design for the contemporary world at the start of the 21st century.

The book defines architectural and environmental goals for the new age by analyzing recent contemporary work for its responsiveness to important social and environmental issues and comparing it to successful examples in architecture. Author argues that this new sustainable approach to architecture should be recognized as a new development of architectural history subject. This practical guide illustrates current social and natural issues to help architects in their approach to future architectural and urban design.

This book expresses a holistic vision and proposes a value system in response to the diagnosis which includes architectural and environmental ethics; user involvement in the design process and technological advances aimed at sustainable resource use. Contains 240 images of the world's most important buildings that have had impact on architectural and urban design in the last decade. Explore shifting social, environmental, technological, economic and political issues and their relation to the role of architects, designers and developers in the new millennium.

The book provides many hints to the asking of fundamental design questions, challenging preconceived design solutions by bringing a world perspective. This book may help promote a wider and deeper view of alternatives of architecture and urban design. Environmental economics is presented as a potential bridge over the gap between the expectations of the business sector and the concerns of environmental lobbies. Through examples and case studies, an accessible analysis of carefully researched data, drawn from primary sources derived all over the world, allows the author to outline the current urgency for architects and urban designers to respond with real commitment to current and future changing contexts.

Author called the architecture in the new age as "Architecture in the age of consumerism" in the Introduction of the book. The first chapter is titled as "The Urban Habitat: A canvas for architecture" and covers universal cultural needs and relations between urban spaces, definitions of urban ecosystem, debate on socio-spatial patterning and movement corridors and destinations. Directions in Architecture for the new age is examined under the sub title of characterization. The third chapter called "Cultural Rhythms" and dedicated to some concepts on responses to lifestyles of the citizens. The next chapter is searching for the responses of lifestyle by using urban design and the title of this chapter is "Urban Design in Response". The potential catalyst, urban spatial systems, urban design guidelines, sense of place and space, optimum users level, urban imprints on natural regimes are the subjects of

this chapter. The fifth chapter is "Sensory Attributes" and covers proportion and scale color and texture concept. The "architecture in response" section of the book emphasizes the subjects of conceptual edge, sustainable design, sustainable construction, landscaping and environment, protection of natural environment, holism in architectural design, and organic design in architecture. The following chapter is based on "Environmental Economics", and examines the profit through conservation, application on economic principles, alternative technologies. The last chapter is "Timeless Way" in which author argues environmental factors and says "it is in our hands to determine the future of the earth".

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