While climate change, sustainable architecture, and green technologies have become increasingly topical, issues surrounding the sustainability of the city are much less developed. The premise of this book is that an ecological approach is urgently needed as an imaginative and practical method for addressing existing as well as new cities.

Ecological Urbanism, now in an updated second edition, considers the city with multiple instruments and with a worldview that is fluid in scale and disciplinary focus. Design provides the synthetic key to connect ecology with an urbanism that is not in contradiction with its environment. The book brings together practitioners, theorists, economists, engineers, artists, policymakers, scientists, and public health specialists, with the goal of providing a multilayered, diverse, and nuanced understanding of ecological urbanism and what it might be in the future. The promise is nothing short of a new ethics and aesthetics of the urban.

This book is also part of an ongoing series of research projects at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design that explore alternative and radical approaches between ecology and architecture, landscape architecture, planning, and urbanism.
Contents

9 Preface
12 Why Ecological Urbanism? Why Now?
Mohsen Mostafavi

ANTICIPATE
56 Advancement versus Apocalypse
Rem Koolhaas
72 Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge: A Comprehensive Urban Water Strategy for Hoboken
OMA, AMO, Royal HaskoningDHV, Baltmori Associates, and HR&A Advisors
78 Mumbai on My Mind: Some Thoughts on Sustainability
Homi K. Bhabha
84 Urban Earth: Mumbai
Daniel Raven-Ellison and Kye Askins
90 Notes on the Third Ecology
Sanford Kwinter
102 Social Inequality and Climate Change
Ulrich Beck
106 For a Post-Environmentalism:
Seven Suggestions for a New Athens Charter and the Weak Metropolis
Andrea Branzi
110 Weak Work: Andrea Branzi’s “Weak Metropolis” and the Projective Potential of an “Ecological Urbanism”
Charles Waldheim
118 From “Sustain” to “Ability”
JDS Architects
120 The Value of Anticipation Despite Its Fallibility
Robert B. Textor
124 Three Scenarios for the City of the Future
Tereform ONE
126 The Democratization of the Skyline
Maison Edouard François
128 International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR)—Project Atelier Rotterdam: Urban Metabolism
Design Offices: James Corner Field Operations, FABRIC
130 Forty Years Later—Back to a Sub-lunar Earth
Bruno Latour

COLLABORATE
136 Art Fieldwork
Giuliana Bruno
138 Ecological Urbanism and/as Urban Metaphor
Lawrence Buell
140 Black and White in Green Cities
Lizbeth Cohen
142 The Return of Nature
Preston Scott Cohen and Erika Naginski
144 Urban Ecological Practices: Félix Guattari’s Three Ecologies
Verena Andermatt Conley
146 Retrofitting the City
Leland D. Cott
148 Productive Urban Environments
Margaret Crawford

SENSE
152 The City from the Perspective of the Nose
Sissel Tolaas
162 Urban Earth: Mexico City
Daniel Raven-Ellison
166 CitySense: An Urban-Scale Sensor Network
Matt Walsh and Josh Bers
168 Self-Engineering Ecologies
Christine Outram, Assaf Biderman, and Carlo Ratti
174 Jade Eco Park
Philippe Rahm architectes, mosbach paysagistes, Ricky Liu & Associates
176 Get Sunflowered
Rosalea Monacella and Craig Douglas (OUTR Research Lab) in collaboration with artist Ben Morrison
178 There’s More to Green than Meets the Eye: Green Urbanism in Bahrain
Gareth Doherty
188 Design Anthropology
Gareth Doherty
190 Play Me, I’m Yours and Sky Orchestra
Luke Jerram

CURATE
196 Curating Resources
Niall Kirkwood
200 The Sea and Monsoon Within: A Mumbai Manifesto
Anuradha Mathur and Dilip da Cunha
214 Transcendent Eco-cities or Urban Ecological Security?
Mike Hodson and Simon Marvin
222 New Waterscapes for Singapore
Herbert Dreiseitl
226 Natura Garden, Parque Bicentenario
Marco Schjetnan
228 Houston Central Station
Snøhetta
230 To Raise the Water Level in a Fishpond
Zhang Huan
232 Two Wadi Restorations
Burolf Jappold and Moriyama & Teshima Architects
234 Envisioning Ecological Cities
Mitchell Joachim
240 Return to Nature
Sandi Hilal, Alessandro Petti, and Eyal Weizman
246 Estuary as Agent for Urbanism: Lower Don Lands
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates
250 “The Greenprint”
Water Hood
252 One Airport Square
Mario Cucinella Architects
254 The Horizon House
Matthew Conway, Rob Darrio, Carlos Cerezo Dávila, Nate Imai, Takuya Iwamura, Mariano Gomez Luque, Ana Garcia Puyol, and Thomas Sherman
Mark Mulligan and Kiel Moe, Faculty Advisors

PRODUCE
258 Energy Sub-structure, Supra-structure, Infra-structure
D. Michelle Addington
266 Uppsala Power Plant
BIG
268 Almere Oosterwold
MVrdv
270 Aux Hermes, Citoyens!
Dorothee Imbert
282 Little Sun
Olafur Eliasson

INTERACT
312 Management Challenges in Urban Transformation: Organizing to Learn
Amy C. Edmondson
314 Air Purification in Cities
David Edwards
316 Social Justice and Ecological Urbanism
Susan S. Fainstein
318 Governing the Ecological City
Gerald E. Frug
320 Underground Future
Peter Gaison
322 Temperate and Bounded
Edward Glaser
324 Bioinspired Adaptive Architecture and Sustainability
Donald E. Ingber

PRODUCE
258 Energy Sub-structure, Supra-structure, Infra-structure
D. Michelle Addington
266 Uppsala Power Plant
BIG
268 Almere Oosterwold
MVrdv
270 Aux Hermes, Citoyens!
Dorothee Imbert
282 Little Sun
Olafur Eliasson

INTERACT
312 Management Challenges in Urban Transformation: Organizing to Learn
Amy C. Edmondson
314 Air Purification in Cities
David Edwards
316 Social Justice and Ecological Urbanism
Susan S. Fainstein
318 Governing the Ecological City
Gerald E. Frug
320 Underground Future
Peter Gaison
322 Temperate and Bounded
Edward Glaser
324 Bioinspired Adaptive Architecture and Sustainability
Donald E. Ingber

SOCIAL JUSTICE
328 Urban Ecology in the Anthropocene
Richard T. T. Forman
333 The Agency of Ecology
Chris Reed
344 The Plaza at Harvard
Chris Reed, Stoss Landscape Urbanism
348 Redefining Infrastructure
Pierre Bélanger
366 User-Generated Urbanism
Rebar
370 Situating Urban Ecological Experiments in Public Space
Alexander J. Felson and Linda Pollak
378 A Holistic View of the Urban Phenomenon
Salvador Rueda
**MOBILIZE**

400 Mobility, Infrastructure, and Society
Richard Sommer

402 Sustainable Urban Mobility through Light Electric Vehicles
William J. Mitchell

418 Sustainable Mobility in Action
Pedro P. Parodi

422 New MoBilities for London
Heatherwick Studio

424 Northeastern Integral Urban Project
City of Medellín, Alejandro Echeverri and, Empresa de Desarrollo Urbano (EDU)

426 The Metro and the City
Eduardo Souto de Moura

428 Queens Quay Boulevard
West 8 + DTAH

430 R-Urban—Network of Resilience Practices
Constantin Petcu and Doina Petrescu, atelier d’architecture autogérée

432 Sustaining the City in the Face of Advanced Marginality
Loïc Wacquant

436 A General Theory of Ecological Urbanism
Andrés Duany

442 The Political Ecology of Ecological Urbanism
Paul Robbins

446 The SynCity Urban Energy System Model

450 Oil City: Petro-landscapes and Sustainable Futures
Michael Watts

455 Niger Delta Oil Fields
Ed Kashi

458 Transforming Health in Informal Settlements through the Right to Research
Anita Pathi-Deshmukh, Ramnath Subbaraman, Kiran Sawant, Shrutha Shihole, and Tejal Shihole

460 Our São Paulo Network
Refa Nossa São Paulo

**MEASURE**

464 Five Ecological Challenges for the Contemporary City
Stefano Boeri

472 Investigating the Importance of Customized Energy Model Inputs: A Case Study of Gund Hall
Holly W. Samuelson and Christoph F. Reinhart

476 Perception of Urban Density
Vicky Cheng and Koen Steemers

492 Nature Culture
Kathryn Moore

496 London’s Estuary Region
Sir Terry Farrell

504 Urban Earth: London
Daniel Raven-Ellison

510 Sustainability Initiatives in London
Camilla Ween

514 SITES v2
Frederick Steiner and Danièle Piaranuzzi

516 Moving beyond LEED: Evaluating Green at the Urban Scale
Thomas Schroeper

518 The Envision Rating System for Sustainable Infrastructure
Andreas Georgoulas, Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure, Harvard University Graduate School of Design

520 Landscapes of Specialization
Bill Rankin

522 SlaveCity
Atelier Van Lieshout

526 Your glacial expectations
Olafur Eliasson and Günther Vogt

**COLLABORATE**

530 Comfort and Carbon Footprint
Alex Krieger

532 Ecological Urbanism and Health Equity: An Ecosocial Perspective
Nancy Krieger

534 Nature, Infrastructures, and the Urban Condition
Antoine Picon

536 Sustainability and Lifestyle
Spiro Pollatis

538 Ecological Urbanism and the Landscape
Martha Schwartz

540 Old Dark
John R. Stilgoe

542 Religious Studies and Ecological Urbanism
Donald K. Swearener

544 Ecological Urbanism and East Asian Literatures
Karen Thurber

**ADAPT**

550 Insurgent Ecologies: (Re)Claiming Ground in Landscape and Urbanism
Nina-Marie Lister

562 The Minhocão Marquise
Triptyque in collaboration with Guil Blanche

564 Lagos Water Communities
NLE

566 Performative Wood: Integral Computational Design for a Climate-Responsive Timber Surface Structure
Achim Menges

574 Asakusa Tourist Information Center
Kengo Kuma & Associates

576 Dancing Trees, Singing Birds
Hiroshi Nakamura and NAP Co., Ltd.

578 Shrinking Gotham’s Footprint
Laurie Kerr

584 Adapativity in Architecture
Hoberman Associates, Ziggy Drozdowski and Shawn Gupta

590 Tozzer Anthropology Building
Kennedy & Violich Architecture

**INCUBATE**

594 Balances and Challenges of Integrated Practice
Toshiko Mori

600 The Luxury of Reduction: On the Role of Architecture in Ecological Urbanism
Matthias Sauerbruch

606 Bank of America
COOKFOX

608 In Situ: Site Specificity in Sustainable Architecture
Anja Thierfelder and Matthias Schuler

616 Holding Pattern
Interboro Partners

620 Verticalism (The Future of the Skyscraper)
Ifikari Abalos

626 Urban Prototypes
Raoul Bunschoten

632 Smart Region: A Guide to Dynamic Masterplanning
Raoul Bunschoten/CHORA

638 Raisé Chickens
Rob Daurio, Jose Maria Ortúz-Cotro, A Sustainable Future for Exuma

**APPENDIX**

644 Contributors

648 Acknowledgments

650 Index

654 Illustration Credits
Preface

The first edition of *Ecological Urbanism* was published in 2010. Since then, many other publications, events, courses, and even graduate programs have been dedicated to the topic. The influences and pressures of urbanization, as one of the key factors of contemporary life, together with a growing awareness of environmental issues, have made consideration of the book’s subject matter even more urgent.

*Ecological Urbanism* has been translated into Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish. Arabic and Persian editions are also in preparation. Exhibitions and conferences on the theme have been held in Kuwait City, São Paulo, Santiago, and Shanghai, along with a Harvard University Graduate School of Design collaboration with Peking University in Beijing. Clearly the issues discussed in the book transcend any specific locality and are seen as relevant, both within the academy and in professional practice, to a wide spectrum of conditions and sites.

Since the volume’s initial publication, we have learned a great deal from the interest, conversations, and contributions of others—more than we could ever have anticipated with a book of this type. With the first English edition out of print, the making of this revised edition has provided a welcome opportunity for updates reflecting these vibrant engagements.

Of the book’s two essential components—texts and projects—it is primarily the project portion that has been the subject of revision. The projects are seen as exemplars of an approach, a certain set of intentions, and as with most experiments, some have proved more successful than others. A significant number have been replaced with more recent examples, including projects by many of the original contributors. In choosing these projects, our aim has been both to emphasize the need for a particular sensibility in dealing with urbanization and to provide demonstrations of some of the more pertinent design ideas currently being promoted around the globe. We hope the book will inspire scholars and practitioners to participate in the discussions and the making of projects that will have a deep impact on the way in which we consider and shape our surroundings for years to come.
Design Anthropology

Gareth Doherty

Ecology, at its core, is the study of the interaction of organisms with one another and with their environment. Ecological urbanism suggests that these relationships are political, economic, and aesthetic in addition to environmental. In speculating on urban futures, it is essential to consider the multiple ecologies of a given area. This raises a question of method: if we are to design and plan in ways that are more ecologically using ecology in this broad sense of the word—then we need to find ways to understand, or sense, the ecologies of that area.

Anthropology—the study of people and their interactions—offers a highly relevant set of tools for understanding relationships. Typically an anthropologist will spend an extended period conducting fieldwork: living within a community, building trust, learning the languages and codes of behavior, and carefully, methodically, noting details not just of peoples’ daily lives but aspects of objects and the environment as well. Anthropologists compile field notes using words, sketches, photographs, videos, or a combination of these or other means of recording their observations. Through this participation in the nuances of everyday life, and in analyzing field notes, anthropologists begin to understand patterns and unearth relationships that might have gone unnoticed before.

Anthropology has much to offer the study of people's daily lives but aspects of objects and the environment as well. Anthropologists compile field notes using words, sketches, photographs, videos, or a combination of these or other means of recording their observations. Through this participation in the nuances of everyday life, and in analyzing field notes, anthropologists begin to understand patterns and unearth relationships that might have gone unnoticed before.

Anthropology has much to offer the processes of design at varied scales through greater insight into how people live and how they’d like to live; revealed histories of a site in relation to human inhabitation; and deep understanding of the forces—human and otherwise—that impinge on a site. But this observational and analytical work takes time; in addition to spending at least a year in the field, a period of reflection and writing is required. And many sites are larger and more complex than a single anthropologist could manage to study alone. For these reasons, anthropology has been difficult to integrate in design or planning processes despite the many benefits that would accrue.

But what if the individual fieldworker becomes part of a collective? What if, rather than one person spending a year in the field, fifty-two people spent a week each? Of course the data will be different, but can it have a similar level of the desired “thickness”? A course offered at Harvard University by the Graduate School of Design and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences created the opportunity to explore this idea for multi-authored fieldwork. Led by myself (a landscape architect) and Professor Steven Caton (an anthropologist), the new course was about both the anthropology of design and the design of anthropology. During the first year, we studied the Graduate School of Design as our field site, compiling findings on index cards. Gathering and sharing notes in this way allows the work of the individual to become part of a collective enterprise. Then, for three years, we initiated an experiment in collective fieldwork in The Bahamas as part of a research project there that I headed with GSD Dean Mohsen Mostafavi.

The site, the Exuma archipelago, is 180 kilometers long, with 365 island and cays; it was so large that it would have been unmanageable for a single person to study, even over three years. While not obviously an urban site at first glance, each of its islands and small communities has its own complex ecologies, and a distinctive voice. We sent students to live in various communities for ten days at a time. Usually they went in groups of three: one graduate student of design, one undergraduate or graduate student of anthropology, and one social science undergraduate from the College of The Bahamas under the tutelage of Bahamian anthropologist, Professor Nicollette Bethel. The students developed detailed notes that were collectively shared, coded, and analyzed for patterns that would later inform design proposals. This collaboration culminated in a more comprehensive reading of the landscape than one person alone could have achieved.

In an unexpected outcome of this process, it was increasingly evident that fieldwork had become more than observation, because we were also designers, thinking about and initiating projects. I am interested in fieldwork that includes action and reflection, doing and observing, facts and meaning, prescription and description, all linked through design. It is within this space that really rich opportunities can arise to discover, or sense, the varied ecologies of the land.

2 See Mohsen Mostafavi and Verena Conley, this volume.
3 As the anthropologist Clifford Geertz puts it, “Man is an animal suspended in webs of significance he himself has spun.” See The Interpretation of Cultures (New York: Basic Books, 1973), 5.
4 Referring to “thick description,” a term coined by Gilbert Ryle and made famous by Clifford Geertz to describe what anthropologists do.
5 See my review essay on Cairo Cosmopolitan in the International Journal of Middle East Studies 42 (2010), 725–726, where I discuss the idea of multi-author ethnography.