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Ecodesign: A Manual For Ecological Design



Synopsis

Saving the environment from continued devastation by our built environment is the single most important issue for our tomorrow, feeding into our post-millennial fears that this third millennium will indeed be our last. Ken Yeang reconstructs and revises how and why our current design approach and perception of architecture must radically change if we are to ensure a sustainable future. He argues forcefully that this can only be achieved by adopting the environmentalist's view that, aesthetics apart, regards our environment simply as an assembly of materials (mostly transported over long distances), that are transiently concentrated on to a single locality and used for living, working and leisure whose footprints affect that locality's ecology and whose eventual disposal has to be accommodated somewhere in the biosphere. This manual offers clear instructions to designers on how to design, build and use a green sustainable architecture. The aim is to produce and maintain ecosystem-like structures and systems whose content and outputs not only integrate benignly with the natural environment, but whose built form and systems function with sensitivity to the locality's ecology as well in relation to global biospheric processes, and contribute positively to biodiversity (as opposed to reducing it). The goal is structures and systems that are low consumers of non-renewable resources, built with materials that have low ecological consequences and are designed to facilitate disassembly, continuous reuse and recycling (a cyclic process that mimics the way ecosystems recycle materials), and that at the end of their useful lives can be reintegrated seamlessly back into the natural environment. Each of these aspects (and other attendant ones) is examined in detail with regards to how they influence design and planning. Ecodesign provides designers with a comprehensive set of strategies for approaching ecological design and planning combined with in-depth analysis and research material not found elsewhere.

Book Information

Hardcover: 500 pages

Publisher: Academy Press (October 23, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0470852917

ISBN-13: 978-0470852910

Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 1.6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #587,407 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #245 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Architecture > Sustainability & Green Design #451 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Ecology #1573 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Architecture

Customer Reviews

This is a very, very, very, technical book. This volume was a must buy during architecture school and one that I should never have gotten. The book arrived in perfect condition, it is just a book that does not offer much value as a design student.

I love ken's "rethinking the skyscraper" There is so much description in the diagrams and drawings etc. This book is difficult because there is so much to read and not as many diagrams to explain the ideas. The ideas are complex and i just wish there was more information to clarify.

“Ecodesign, a manual for ecological design”, is a complex & useful as well as a pleasant & readable book. The approach followed by Ken Yeang and the structure of the book makes it useful for those interested in sustainability as well as professional designers. Premises & strategies --some of them subject of debate-- are presented in a non-dogmatic fashion, allowing the reader to form its own opinion, thus contributing to build new knowledge on the subject. Chapter B, Design Instructions, the core of the book, is precisely a toolbox that guides the reader in a step by step set of directions that assist designers & planners to make the relevant decisions in the ecological design process, far beyond the concept of green buildings. The book has been very useful to us as socioeconomic & regional planners, allowing not also to determine the main guidelines for a regional strategic plan, but also to determine the specific criteria that should be applied in the specific design at the urban & building levels. The book is much more than a useful tool, it is a “landmark” in the field of sustainability, a much needed line of thought in the world of today, if we want to have a world tomorrow.

It is a good and very complete book on the subject. It looks at all the aspects of eco-architecture, but maybe a bit too difficult to read if you are not specially interested in the subject. It has given me a lot of new thoughts and ideas. Very good indeed.

This book is very good and I love it! I liked this book because it is complete and has important details about the ecodesign. It's amazing.

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