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# Nature And Cities: The Ecological Imperative In Urban Design And Planning



## Synopsis

Named one of the American Society of Landscape Architects™ Best Books of 2016, *Nature and Cities* asserts that ecologically based urban designs and plans are essential as the world urbanizes and the effects of climate change grow more severe. In this collection of essays, leading international landscape architects, architects, city planners, and urban designers explore the economic, environmental, and public health benefits of integrating nature more fully into cities and of linking ecological information to actions across many scales, communities, and regions. The book builds upon the premise of *Ecological Design and Planning*, also edited by George F. Thompson and Frederick R. Steiner (Wiley, 1997).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In their new book, editors Frederick Steiner, FASLA, George Thompson, and Armando Carbonell have made complex ideas about urban ecological design incredibly accessible. They make a convincing argument that "ecological literacy"™ is an "essential base"™ for anyone involved in urban planning and design today. There are 17 thought-provoking essays from leading landscape architects and planners from around the world. • "DIRT Best Books of 2016 (American Society of Landscape Architects) The beautiful photographs and lush design of *Nature and Cities* mask a radical and revolutionary set of ideas from some of the world's most insightful and intelligent landscape architects and urbanists. Brilliantly curated and edited, these essays offer fresh ideas about how to integrate our understanding of the human condition and the health, vitality,

and sustainability of the planet.â • â "Darren Walker, Ford Foundation, Presidentâ œThis interconnected collection of essays is a stirring manifesto for sustaining beauty and a new public works agenda based on resilient infrastructureâ "and a call to action for landscape architects to inform and inspire decision makers.â • â "Adrian Benepe, SVP and Director of City Park Development, The Trust for Public Land, and Former Commissioner, New York City Department of Parks & Recreationâ œDaniel Burnham famously counseled an earlierÂ generation of landscape architects, â ^Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir menâ ™s blood. . . .â ™ The authors here have followed that advice; this book overflows with imaginative insights and proposalsÂ to guide the ongoing urbanization of our planet.â • â "Bruce Babbitt, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, 1993â "Â-2001 Â â œThis valuable collection of new essays asserts that nature and cities can no longer be posited as diametrically opposed conditions. In this critical moment of rapid global climate change and unprecedented species loss, we are ethically tasked with the creation and stewardship of equitable urban systems and productive urban landscapes that support both human and nonhuman biota.â • â "Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, Associate Professor, City College of New York, andÂ Coauthor, *On the Water: Palisade Bay* Â â œYes, lightening can strike twice. Expanding on the discourse they ignited almost 20 years ago with *Ecological Planning and Design*, Thompson and Steiner (joined by Carbonell) have assembled another collection of timely, illuminating, and thought-provoking essays that is essential reading for both students and professionals.â •

Â â "Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, President + CEO, The Cultural Landscape Foundation Â â œNature and Cities summarizes all that we have learned about how natural systems shape cities since Ian McHargâ ™s *Design with Nature* was published in 1969. It illustrates how design professionals, ecologists, and citizens can strike a new balance between human settlements and nature in designing the cities and regions of the emerging Anthropocene epoch.â • â "Robert Yaro, Professor of Practice, University of Pennsylvania, andÂ President Emeritus, Regional Plan Association Â â œThis important and beautiful book signals an exciting maturation of the linkage between ecological science and the theory and practice of urban design. The essayists represent multiple generations of urban designers and plannersâ "both long-standing pioneers and new leaders emerging from the current generation. Their collective wisdom is masterfully synthesized by the editorsâ ™ introduction and afterword.â • â "Steward T.A. Pickett, Distinguished Senior Scientist and Director, Baltimore Ecosystem Study, Long-Term Ecological Research, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies Â

Frederick R. Steiner, from 2001 to 2016, was dean of the School of Architecture and Harry M.

Rockwell Chair in Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. He is now dean of the School of Design and Paley Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a fellow of the American Academy in Rome. His articles have appeared in Environmental Management, Journal of the American Planning Association, Landscape and Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Landscape Journal, and his many books include Design for a Vulnerable Planet (Texas, 2011), The Living Landscape (Island Press, 2008), and Human Ecology (Island Press, 2002; 2016). He has been a visiting professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, and was a Fulbright-Hays research scholar at Wageningen University in The Netherlands. George F. Thompson has been a professional editor and publisher since 1984. Books he has brought to publication have won more than 100 major awards, for which he has received lifetime achievement awards and commendations from the Association of American Geographers, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Photo District News, and Vernacular Architecture Forum. He is an author and editor of seven books, including Chicago Portfolio (Center for American Places, 2006), Ecological Design and Planning, with Frederick R. Steiner (John Wiley, 1997; 2007), and Landscape in America (Texas, 1995), which was designated a Notable Book of 1995 by Harperâ™s magazine. Armando Carbonell (FAICP FAcSS Hon MRTPI) has chaired the urban planning program at the Lincoln Institute since 1999. He spent the early part of his career as an academic geographer and went on to initiate a new planning system for Cape Cod, Massachusetts, as the founding executive director of the Cape Cod Commission. In 1992, he was a Loeb fellow in the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He later taught urban planning at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania and served as an editor of the British journal Town Planning Review. He is the author and editor of numerous works on city and regional planning and planning for climate change.

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