

attention to aesthetics and the definition of criteria by which visual quality or delight is judged. This book explores the problems of defining quality in urban design but seen against a backcloth of the current concerns about the global environment. It is the third volume in this series and builds upon the ideas contained in the first two volumes. The first volume outlined the meaning and role played by the main elements of urban design; discussing, in particular, the form and function of street and square. The second volume dealt in more detail with the ways in which the elements of the public realm are decorated. It outlined the general principles for the embellishment of floor plane; the walls of streets and squares, corners, roof-line, roofscape and skyline, corners; together with a discussion of the design and distribution of the three-dimensional ornaments that are placed in streets and squares. The present book aims to relate the main components of urban design to a general theory of urban structuring, paying particular attention to the city and its form, the urban quarter or district and the street block or insulae.

This book, like the previous volumes, explores the lessons for urban design which can be learnt from the past. However, like *Urban Design: Street and Square* and *Urban Design: Ornament and Decoration* this book does not advocate a process of simply copying from the past: it is not an apologia nor a support for wholesale pastiche in the public realm. The book attempts to come to terms with the logic of sustainable development and then to formulate principles of urban design based upon the acceptance of this particular environmental code. In the final chapter of the book the ideas of sustainable development are confronted with the reality of the modern, largely unsustainable city which has an extensive physical infrastructure and which will change only slowly. The last chapter, therefore, examines those elements within the range of ideas which are subsumed under the umbrella title of sustainable development which may in favourable circumstances be implemented in the foreseeable future.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

There are five main reasons for the second edition of this book. The first – and possibly the most important – reason for the new edition is bringing the text up to date. A lot has happened since the First Edition was published in 1996: there has been some good news, but generally the environmental outlook for the planet is bleak. In retrospect, it appears to me that the first edition was too circumspect, and was ‘skeptical’ of some of the ‘doom and gloom’ which pervaded the writings of the deep green lobby, though the book did not display the blasé optimism of the later ‘Lomborgian’ analysis of global conditions (Lomborg, 1998). The second reason for this Second Edition is therefore to change the tone of the book and to attack the subject in a more forthright way, fully acknowledging the parlous state of the environment. Following on from this the third reason for this new edition is, to analyse the relationship between urban structures and this deepening environmental crisis, which is both caused by humankind and will impinge negatively and seriously on the quality of life of future generations. In many respects there is no environmental crisis, the environment will recover: rather,

the problem is a human crisis, a crisis from which the human race may not recover. Recovery for humanity may depend on a dramatic change in attitude to the environment, resulting in the pursuit of sensible policies of sustainable development. In *The Observer* of 11th January, 2004 there was an account of key talks involving Government’s most senior climate experts who have – ‘... produced proposals to site a massive shield on the edge of space that would deflect the Sun’s rays and stabilise the climate’. This illustrates how seriously the catastrophic implications of climate change are being taken. But this is further evidence that it is, once again, the symptom – the environment – which is being treated, and not the sickness. It is the way that human society is organized which requires the attention.

Despite the apparent weakness of the Kyoto Protocol and the persistence, in its wayward policies, of the main world polluter, the USA, there have been some notable achievements in the global efforts to secure more sustainable patterns of development. In particular, this country – Great Britain – has much of which to be proud. The fourth aim of this Second Edition celebrates the