

leadership role of urban designers in Britain's efforts to achieve more sustainable cities. Clearly, however, there is still much to do. Finally, this edition aims to explore the relationship between culture and sustainable urban form: in particular, to question the validity of the compact city concept as a universal model for sustainability. It will examine other ideas for achieving sustainable urban forms, and particularly the 'bio-city', a city rooted in its bioregion and one which is self sustaining in most of its needs for continued existence.

I have taken the opportunity afforded by this new edition to work with Peter Shirley, a nature conservationist with long experience in environmental management. Peter has written Chapter 5, The Urban Park. Ecology

and an appreciation of nature seem to me to be the key to an understanding of sustainable development, and it is to people working in this field to whom architects and urban designers need turn for advice and leadership in the search for sustainable urban forms.

'Moreover, if we wish to understand the phenomenal world, then we will reasonably direct our questions to those scientists who are concerned with this realm – the natural scientists. More precisely, when our preoccupation is with the inter-action of organisms and environment – and I can think of no better description of our concern – then, we must turn to ecologists, for that is their competence'. (McHarg, 1969).

November 2004

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Every effort has been made to trace owners of copyright material but the publishers would be glad to hear from any copyright owners of material produced in this book whose copyright has unwittingly been infringed.

I wish to acknowledge my debt to two former students: to Bob Overy who, while I was teaching at The Queen's University of Belfast, introduced me to the role of public participation in planning; and to Steve Charter who encouraged me to start courses in sustainable development at the Institute of Planning Studies in the University of Nottingham. Both of these ideas, sustainable development and participation, are, in my view, critical for the development of a discipline of urban design. I have also had the pleasure, during the early 1990s, of working in the same department as Brenda and Robert Vale. Their work in the field of Green Architecture was and still is inspirational.

The manuscript of this book, as in the case of the other two volumes in the series, was read by my wife Kate McMahon Moughtin who ensured that it made sense and that it could be read easily. Many of the fine drawings, which help to clarify the meaning of the text, were made by Peter Whitehouse, while Glyn Halls turned my negatives into photographs which illustrate the text. I am also greatly indebted to the Leverhulme Trust who gave generous financial support for the preparation of the first edition of this book.

Peter Shirley wishes to acknowledge the help of John Hadidian, The Humane Society of the United States; Paul Stephenson, The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country; Martha and Jim Lentz, Harmony, Florida; Mathew Sutcliffe, the Mersey Basin Campaign; and Dr David Lonsdale, the Amateur Entomologists' Society.