



Urban Ecological Design: A Process for Regenerative Places

By Danilo Palazzo, Frederick R. Steiner

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This trailblazing book outlines an interdisciplinary "process model" for urban design that has been developed and tested over time. Its goal is not to explain how to design a specific city precinct or public space, but to describe useful steps to approach the transformation of urban spaces. Urban Ecological Design illustrates the different stages in which the process is organized, using theories, techniques, images, and case studies. In essence, it presents a "how-to" method to transform the urban landscape that is thoroughly informed by theory and practice.

The authors note that urban design is viewed as an interface between different disciplines. They describe the field as "peacefully overrun, invaded, and occupied" by city planners, architects, engineers, and landscape architects (with developers and politicians frequently joining in). They suggest that environmental concerns demand the consideration of ecology and sustainability issues in urban design. It is, after all, the urban designer who helps to orchestrate human relationships with other living organisms in the built environment.

The overall objective of the book is to reinforce the role of the urban designer as an honest broker and promoter of design processes and as an active agent of social creativity in the production of the public realm.

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Editorial Review

Review

"In this major contribution to urban design, Palazzo and Steiner emphasize not only the intricacies and promises of the process, but also the ecological imperatives of urban design. A wonderful compendium of methods, techniques, best practices—clearly written and amply illustrated—this book is essential for urban design students and practitioners."

(Tridib Banerjee *James Irvine Chair in Urban and Regional Planning, University of Southern CA*)

"Palazzo and Steiner bring together fresh perspectives from urban design and urban ecology, offering valuable lessons on how to face environmental challenges in building future cities. Their proposed process, which argues against limiting design to single solutions, rightly places ecological thinking at the heart of urban design."

(Ali Madanipour *Prof. of Urban Design, School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape, Newcastle U*)

"*Urban Ecological Design: A Process for Regenerative Places* is a comprehensive and accessible guidebook on urban design with an emphasis on ecology and sustainability."

(*ASLA's The Dirt blog*)

"Danilo Palazzo and Frederick Steiner have produced a textbook with soul."

(*Planning*)

"I found *Urban Ecological Design* to be an absolutely wonderful resource if you are interested in finding out what urban design is and how it's done."

(*Spacing*)

"...a richly provocative, yet practical compendium of problem-solving ideas."

(*Reference & Research Book News*)

"Each chapter provides extensive information, frequently in the form of bulleted lists; this shapes the book as a form of reference work for consultation, rather than as a narrative that can be read cover to cover."

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"a welcome addition to course reading for planning and urban design students...accessible and logical."

(*Journal of Planning Education and Research*)

"...the authors offer a clear view of professional practice, which embraces environmental concerns..."

(*Urban Design*)

"Intended for students, practitioners, developers, and public officials, this book offers many interesting and informative insights for those who are both new to the field and seasoned professionals alike. As one of the more comprehensive texts outlining the processes and thought that contributes to this evolving field, *Urban Ecological Design: A Process for Regenerative Places* is an excellent resource in helping those involved better understand and appreciate this highly interdisciplinary approach to transforming the land and landscape."

(Ecological Restoration)

"In this landmark book, Palazzo and Steiner outline a straightforward process for incorporating urban ecology into the design of cities, towns and regions. They present clear principles and practices that the next generation of urban designers can use to build greener, more livable cities and regions."

(Robert D. Yaro *President, Regional Plan Association, and Professor of Practice, U. Penn.*)

About the Author

Danilo Palazzo is Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Design at the Politecnico di Milano, Italy. His books include *Sulle spalle dei giganti* (Franco Angeli, 1997), *Transforming the Places of Production* (Olivares, 2002 with Fossa, Lane, Pirani), *Urban Design* (Mondadori Università, 2008). He recently wrote an essay for the *Companion to Urban Design* (Routledge, 2011).

Frederick R. Steiner is dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas, Austin, where he holds the Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture. His books include *Human Ecology: Following Nature's Lead* (Island Press, 2002), *The Living Landscape* (Island Press, 2008) and *The Essential Ian McHarg* (Island Press, 2006).

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