



RE MAKING METROPOLIS

Global challenges of the urban landscape

Edited by
Edward A. Cook
Jesus J. Lara

ROUTLEDGE



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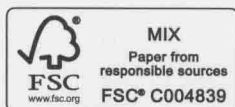
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Remaking Metropolis

Remaking Metropolis examines examples of both urban decay and destruction as well as urban rebirth. It shows why particular approaches were successful, or did not achieve their objectives. By bringing together innovative approaches to urban living from across the world, and by demonstrating how local initiatives can contribute to global solutions, the book establishes a framework in which to evaluate current and future developments for urban change, and to stimulate a reassessment of urban redevelopment and policies.

“Think globally, act locally” is an oft used phrase to encourage citizens to take steps close to home as part of addressing overarching environmental issues. Critics of this view point to the potential for parochial or even myopic approaches, while supporters argue that it creates both a more sustainable and a more culturally grounded environment. *Remaking Metropolis* brings together real world experiences that combine local action with a global world view, to demonstrate the continuum between the local and the remote.

At the same time the compartmentalization of contemporary perspectives toward human life in the fields of science, design, ecology, medicine, and politics is leading to increased fragmentation of the mind, body, city, and globe. By bridging these artificial divides between disciplines, this collection of individual case studies demonstrates the holistic approach necessary for a genuinely sustainable urban condition.

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Preface

This book explores theories, processes, and practices involved in remaking cities. It also examines the global context that both influences the way cities evolve and demonstrates how globalization can facilitate progress toward creating more sustainable cities. Recognition of the city as an essential contributor to many global environmental problems is central to the discussion, but the contributions herein also offer paths forward. The range of contributions includes theoretical or conceptual discussions of more general philosophies or approaches as well as specific projects that demonstrate how local actions can make significant contributions toward achieving more sustainable cities and in the broader sense a more sustainable planet. The urban landscape has become one of the realms in which the tension between global and local has become most prevalent. The oft used aphorism of thinking globally and acting locally has particular relevance in this context and is shown throughout this volume in the many examples of innovative and visionary work. Compartmentalization of contemporary perspectives toward human life in cities from the fields of science, design, ecology, medicine, or politics has become increasingly fragmented in recent decades. Planning and design disciplines have the potential to contribute solutions to some urban problems, but there is recognition that there must be a broader and more coordinated multidisciplinary approach taken to create more sustainable, ecologically healthy, and culturally grounded cities and regions. More voices and actions are needed that have a world view and see the continuum between local and global and are not fractured and obscured by disciplinary lenses.

The discussion included in this volume grew out of a symposium held at Arizona State University that brought together influential environmental scientists, urban planners and designers, landscape architects, architects, and others for three days to study problems and ideas and to share solutions that are being implemented in locations around the world. Subsequent contributions were invited from others who are engaged in work that provided additional geographic representation, but more importantly extended the array of possible responses to the many challenges facing contemporary cities. Through their built and written works, those who have contributed to urban landscape discourse and action provided the foundation for discussion about the future of the urban landscape

in a global context. The intent is to expand the dialogue through the publication of this book. While much of the content is drawn from and applicable to North American cities, the global topic and the international perspective and origin of contributors makes this volume relevant throughout the world with similar groups in industrialized and developing nations. Additionally, the diversity of content and disciplinary interests represented extends the relevance beyond designers and planners to include social scientists, environmental health professionals, and political groups. With the emerging focus on sustainability, and in particular urban sustainability, this book should provide an interesting perspective on challenges and responses to many local and global urban problems.

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