



Ecological Design

Sim Van der Ryn , Stuart Cowan

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Sim Van der Ryn and Stuart Cowan present a vision of how the living world and the human world can be rejoined by taking ecology as the basis for design. Ecological design intelligence -- effective adaptation to and integration with nature's processes -- can be applied at all levels of scale, creating revolutionary forms of buildings, landscapes, cities, and technologies. The authors weave together case studies, personal anecdotes, images, and theory to provide a thorough treatment of the concept of ecological design. In the process, they present and explain a series of design principles that can help build a sustainable world with increased efficiency, fewer toxics, less pollution, and healthier natural systems.

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From Reader Review Ecological Design for online ebook

Sarhee says

Great synopsis of ecological design.

Kassin says

What I learned from this book (and my just-completed Sustainable Design class) is how incredibly UNSustainable my actions are. For as much as I think and talk about it, I realized that other than sewing my socks & clothing, having a recycling bin in my house, and switching to better cleaning products, I really am not doing much. Yes, the five principles of this book (1. Solutions Grow from Place, 2. Ecological Accounting Informs Design, 3. Design With Nature, 4. Everyone is a Designer, and 5. Make Nature Visible) are already helping me frame my design projects better, but really the real question is a bigger one. How will I make real changes in my life that will positively impact the environment? Can I dedicate myself to learning more, and to constantly keeping this issue at the front of my mind, in front of all my decisions? How can I spread the word? What gifts do I have that will help me make an impact? One good thing: Ecological/sustainable/green design is so COOL! Had a fun talk with my dad the other day (he hearts George Bush) - and it was awesome to hear his latest thoughts... he agreed that green design really is just smart, healthy, community-oriented design, and that's what he grew up around in Iowa. He doesn't have a problem with it, but is mostly just pissed that the "f-ing liberals" are trying to take it on as a new idea. THAT comment, my friends, was a breakthrough. I am hopeful about the movement.

Lindsay Miller says

What a gem! The authors develop a comprehensive picture and promote deep understanding of environmental crisis as design failure, while exploring revamps of industry, agriculture, infrastructure, and architecture following ecological models of material cycling ("waste equals food"), diversity as resilience, self-direction and adaptability, etc. The book is structured nicely into five principles highlighting what makes a truly restorative, integrated, and robust system.

I haven't done this book justice. It's not to be missed.
