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Book Title: THE WHOLE BUILDING HANDBOOK- HOW TO DESIGN HEALTHY, EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

Authors' Name: Varis Bokalders, Maria Block

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Number of Pages: 689

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Number of Illustrations: every page contains approximately 3 illustrations- mostly photos, sometimes graphs or charts.

**Keywords:** Sustainable architecture, ecological design, environmental problems, recycling, energy conservation.

The objective of this book is defined by the authors of it as to provide the knowledge to understand what is involved in planning and building sustainably from a holistic perspective based on a comprehensive and integrated approach. The objective has been achieved by preparing a book which covers all aspects of planning and architecture from the point of view of sustainability. The book also provides a wise approach to the concept of sustainability in general.

The four parts of the book are: health, conservation, eco-cycles and place. The part which is about health provides knowledge about materials (including selection of construction materials and construction techniques), services (including building systems such as heating, plumbing etc), construction (including the ways of avoiding moisture problems, radon, noise etc) and implementation (including issues about economics and project management besides construction waste and site conditions). The second part which is about conservation focuses on waste (including recycling and ecological design), water (including water conservation and purification), electricity (including large information about household appliances, electrical equipment and lighting besides what can be done without electricity) and heating and cooling (including insulation, heat recovery and related issues of architectural design). The third part which is about eco-cycles covers renewable heat (including cooling, solar energy, bio energy and heat pumps), renewable electricity (including solar cells, hydro power and wind power), sewage (including natural and mechanical purification and nutrient recycling) and vegetation and cultivation (including gardens, ecological agriculture, green structures and vegetation on buildings).

The last part which is called place is about social fabric (including cultural patterns, traffic, the holistic town and city / country interaction), how to handle existing buildings (including rebuilding, decontamination, energy conservation and issues about operation / maintenance) and nature (including flora fauna, hydrology, geology / topography and adaptation to climate).

The book can be very usefull for architects and interior architects. Since it has an index and a good bibliography it can also be used by post-graduate students who reserach about sustainable architecture. However, the book can also serve as a kind of guide book of sustainable architecture for everybody. It is nicely written and interesting.

The book is very well illustrated and its graphic design is also very pleasing. There are many explanatory graphics besides good visual examples for different solutions to different problems. The book also contains several case studies at the end of various parts.