

ESCOOT Architecture

S U S T A I N A B L E A R C H I T E C T U R E T O D A Y

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A GREEN VITRUVIUS

ISBN 1-873936-94-X, James & James 145pp £25

This book was produced by the European Union's Thermie programme, which was set up to promote the greater use of European energy technology. Subtitled *Principles and Practice of Sustainable Architectural Design*, it sets out to be the 11th of Vitruvius' ten books on architecture. Even if it does not quite live up to this grand aim, nonetheless the book provides an excellent holistic approach to the subject, giving a practical guide in the areas of energy and water use, materials, indoor air quality and dealing with waste. The book is organised into five parts: the design and construction process, issues to be considered, strategies to be adopted, the elements of green design and finally advice on design evaluation. Each section is neatly set out, with an introduction, an easy-to-follow text with clear tables and diagrams and finishing with a list of references. It focuses more on how to use green design (rather than why) and should become a textbook for the experienced practitioner who is aware of environmental issues and who wishes to design and realise a more sustainable form of architecture. It is to be hoped that the book's claim of forming a fourth Vitruvian ideal, that of enhancing the environment, is fulfilled so that the concept of sustainable design becomes a vital part of an architect's remit and education. The book does come across as a little dry and lacking in-depth analysis of specific buildings; also the cover photograph is back-to-front and there is no index. But this should not stop it being kept as an important reference book.

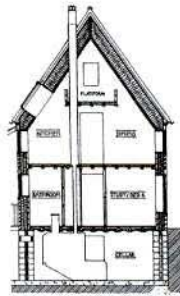
THE GREEN SKYSCRAPER

Ken Yeang
ISBN 3-7913-1993-0, Prestel 304pp £15.95
This book presents a clear framework for looking at ecological building design and a step-by-step examination of the principles involved and how to apply them to large buildings. In particular it provides guidance on designing tall and complex – yet 'green' – buildings in high-density urban contexts. In the process examples of Yeang's work plus others are shown. By looking at the unfashionable (but necessary) high-rise building, it will assist designers develop more rigorous criteria for ecological design.

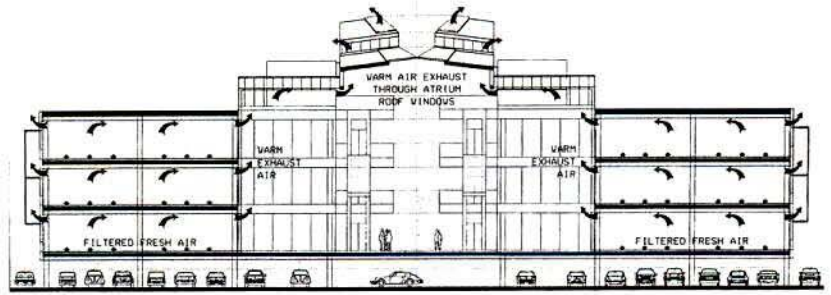
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Randall Thomas (ed), second edition,
ISBN 0-419-23760-7, Spon 259pp £21.50
Randall Thomas is a senior partner at Max Fordham & Partners and also a visiting professor at Kingston University. Little wonder therefore that this book combines the authority of a leading practitioner with the clear presentation

The latest eco-design titles reviewed by Michael Winter, an architect with Fitzroy Robinson, whose recent projects include the innovative Barclaycard hq in Northampton (AT80).



From top: British Gas offices by Peter Foggo Associates, the Brenda & Robert Vale house and light-shelf project by David Lloyd Jones, all from *Sustainable Architecture* by Brian Edwards.



of an experienced lecturer. The first part provides an excellent overview of the basic principles and issues of environmental design, including the comfort and health of people in their environment, the greenhouse effect, site planning, building form, energy use and materials. Also covered are natural ventilation systems, alternative energy sources and - briefly - waste disposal (although surprisingly little on reed beds and water treatments). Now updated three years after its first publication, this book concludes with a selection of detailed case studies which not surprisingly, but also disappointingly, are all Max Fordham projects. Nonetheless they do cover a good range of building types, many completed some time ago and presented with useful post-occupancy data. The book remains an essential primer and guide to environmental design for all architects, designers and engineers.

SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

Brian Edwards, second edition, ISBN 0 7506 4134 7, Architectural Press 277pp £35
Subtitled *European Directives and Building Design*, the second edition of this impressive book brings it up-to-date with the vital changes in European environmental law made over the past four years. It also includes six additional chapters on subjects such as photovoltaics, water conservation and sustainable construction and contains many more illustrations of built examples covering a wider range of buildings. The new responsibilities and opportunities for architects and designers emerging from new European and UK environmental laws and directives are clearly set out

and valuable guidance is given on energy and pollution, environmental impact and management, environmental health and safety, recycling and ecology. Indeed, by concentrating on law it could almost function as a legal handbook for 'green' building. The text is well presented and supported by many tables, diagrams and photographs and provides a good overview of sustainable development and green building design principles.

DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Andrew Scott (ed), ISBN 0-419-23620-1, Spon 146pp £29.99
Edited by a former partner in the Milton Keynes-based practice Denton Scott, this book brings together presentations given by some leading practitioners – including Short & Associates, Battle McCarthy, Jourda & Perraudin, Ken Yeang and Foster & Partners – at a conference held at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1996. Although supposedly targeted at architects, the papers appear to be written more for academics than the working professional. The book is interesting but not an essential reference.

GREEN BUILDING MATERIALS

Ross Spiegel and Dru Meadow, ISBN 0-471-29133-1, Wiley 322pp £41.95
This rather expensive book has been written for North America and is not very useful to UK-based readers. It does discuss in some depth why one should only use green building materials but nearly half of its pages provide a guide for their selection and specification plus many references – unfortunately all for the United States. Not useful unless working in the USA.

BEYOND THE BACKYARD: SUSTAINABLE HOUSING EXPERIENCES

Anke van Hal, ISBN 90-75365-24-1, Aeneas 72pp £9.10

HOUSING AND URBANISATION

Charles Correa, ISBN 0-500-28210-2, Thames & Hudson 144pp £9.95

OLYMPIC ARCHITECTURE: BUILDING SYDNEY 2000

Patrick Bingham-Hall, ISBN 0-949284-39-4, Watermark 280pp £35

COMMUNITY PLANNING HANDBOOK

Nick Wates, ISBN 1-85383-654-0, Earthscan 232pp £14.95

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT IN ARCHITECTURE: A TECHNICAL DESIGN GUIDE

Nick Baker & Koen Steemers, ISBN 0-419-22770-9, Spon 224pp £35

