

Edited by Carmela Cucuzzella, Sherif Goubran

# Sustainable Architecture

*Between Measurement and Meaning*

SERIES IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## Summary

Each day new articles, books, and reports present new methods, standards, and technologies for achieving sustainability in architecture. Additionally, new materials, technological gadgets, and data are increasingly considered the staples of architecture's future. As we increasingly embrace this techno-advancement, we must be equally aware that we may be pushing architecture into a managerial science and away from its core concerns such as expression, contextuality, functionality and aesthetics.

Sustainable architecture that is focused on the abstract measurements of consumption, energy, and emissions loses sight of the vital role that architecture holds in our world: it is the field that creates our public spaces and our places of dwelling, of business, of production, of leisure, and creation. Additionally, it fails to comprehend the human dimension of buildings, as elements that are deeply connected to their sites' historic contexts and that play a key role in defining our social relations and our connection to the spaces we occupy and utilize.

"Sustainable Architecture – Between Measurement and Meaning" takes a step back to reflect on how sustainability in the built environment can be theorized and practiced critically. This book exposes that architecture remains a human and social science that lies at the intersection of measurements and meanings. It reveals that sustainable architecture can still operate in a dialectic space of expression, rather than serving as a manifesto for either the technical or socio-cultural extremes. It purports that the human intuition, senses, and skills still holds the key to unravelling alternative futures of sustainable built spaces. And that most importantly, humans still have a place in sustainable architecture.

This book will be of interest to students, early career scholars, established researchers and practitioners studying sustainability in the built environment. It can be used as a reference to those in the fields of design, architecture, landscape and urban design, urban studies, geography, social sciences, and engineering.

## About the editor

**Dr. Carmela Cucuzzella** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Design and Computation Arts at Concordia University and holds the Concordia University Research Chair in Integrated Design and Sustainability for the Built Environment (IDEAS-BE.ca). She is also a member of the inter-university research team, Laboratoire d'étude de l'architecture potentielle (LEAP). In 2020, she published, "Analyzing Eco-Architecture Beyond Performance". In 2019, she co-edited, "On the Potential of Didacticism in Architecture" with Dr. Cynthia Hammond, and in 2015 co-edited, "Architecture Competitions and the Production of Culture, Quality and Knowledge: An International Inquiry" with Dr. Jean-Pierre Chupin and Dr. Bechara Helal. Her research is focused on how sustainable design practices for the built environment can foster socio-cultural transformations while improving environmental conditions in the city – the potential of a collective making of the city.

**Sherif Goubran** is an Instructor at the Department of Architecture at the School of Science and Engineering (SSE) at the American University in Cairo (AUC - Egypt). He is also a PhD candidate in the Individualized Program at Concordia University and a Vanier Scholar (SSHRC). He is the author of various publications and editor and author of several academic books focused on sustainability transitions in the built environment. He also recently co-edited a collection focused on the business and economic repercussions of environmental policy. His research, which combines knowledge from the fields of design, building engineering and finance, is focused on studying the alignment between sustainable design and building practices, and the broader socio-cultural sustainable development objectives.

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With a Foreword by  
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