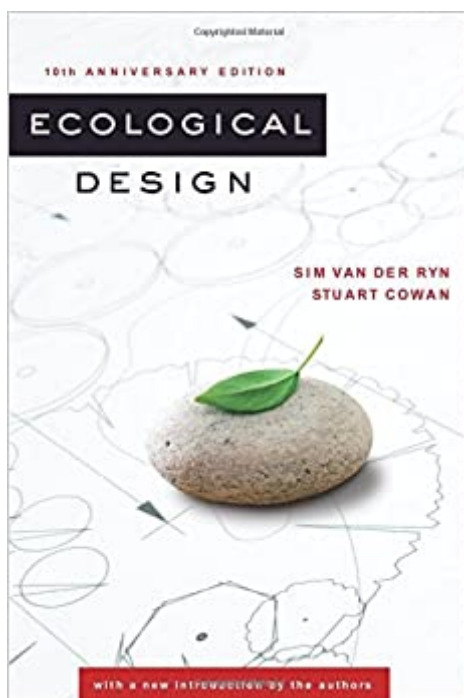


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Ecological Design, Tenth Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

Ecological Design is a landmark volume that helped usher in an exciting new era in green design and sustainability planning. Since its initial publication in 1996, the book has been critically important in sparking dialogue and triggering collaboration across spatial scales and design professions in pursuit of buildings, products, and landscapes with radically decreased environmental impacts. This 10th anniversary edition makes the work available to a new generation of practitioners and thinkers concerned with moving our society onto a more sustainable path. Using examples from architecture, industrial ecology, sustainable agriculture, ecological wastewater treatment, and many other fields, Ecological Design provides a framework for integrating human design with living systems. Drawing on complex systems, ecology, and early examples of green building and design, the book challenges us to go further, creating buildings, infrastructures, and landscapes that are truly restorative rather than merely diminishing the rate at which things are getting worse.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The publication of Ecological Design was a seminal moment for the green building movement, and the book remains one of our most valuable and relevant texts today. Sim Van der Ryn is one of the fathers of sustainable design, but his work transcends time; together with Stuart Cowan, he has written a work that will inspire and inform us for years to come." (S. Richard Fedrizzi President, CEO and Founding Chairman of the U.S. Green Building Council)"A bench-mark pioneering work, that remains vitally relevant today, after a decade of influencing the ecodesign community, and now with

new ideas and a critical assessment of the sustainability status quo." (Dr. Ken Yeang architect and planner, Llewelyn Davies Yeang, UK)"The fundamental ideas at work here – conserving resources, designing with nature, making people responsible for their own shit (literally) – undoubtedly deserve consideration." (Metropolis Magazine)

Sim Van der Ryn is President of The Ecological Design Collaborative, a design and consulting practice providing comprehensive services through the non-profit Ecological Design Institute established in 1969. He has been at the forefront of integrating ecological principles into the built environment, creating multi-scale solutions driven by nature's intelligence for over 40 years. Sim has served as California's first energy-conscious State Architect, authored seven influential books, including *Ecological Design*, and won numerous honors and awards for his leadership and innovation in architecture and planning including a Fellowship of the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts (1997); Rockefeller Scholar in Residence, Bellagio, Italy (1997 and 2013); a Commendation for Excellence in Technology, California Council American Institute of Architects (1981); and a Guggenheim Fellowship (1971). He is an adjunct architecture faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley.

It sort of gets me that a lot of permaculture designers and other ecological designers whether that be in hydrology, LA, whatever, don't know of this work or just sort of pass over it. It's short, sweet, and nails home the very basic and fundamental principles that inform an ecological design process and practice. This book deserves a lot more attention, especially from permaculturists who seems to believe Bill Mollison invented all of the thoughts he popularized. I come back to this almost annually. This is one of those works that has little details that only come out after multiple passes.

For someone who questions green design, this book has opened my eyes.

A new benchmark in ecological awareness. Sym van der Ryn has long been practicing ecological design, and draws on his wealth of experience to give readers many valuable insights into this growing practice. Van der Ryn warns readers to separate the wheat from the chaff as there are many persons claiming to be toeing the line when it comes to sustainable design, but few are actually doing it. What is needed is a whole new approach to eco-friendly architecture and planning development, not just more band-aids. The book takes a fairly general approach but there are numerous references for those really interested in pursuing the subject in more depth. He outlines

his principles of ecological design which begins with gaining a better awareness of your locality, by looking into the ecological history of your community. Who knows your street may be where a stream once flowed, and that your storm drain in all likelihood flows into your water source, so be careful what you dump into it! Van der Ryn avoids the cliches and pieces together a compelling set of anecdotes and observations which will open you up the broad field of possibilities. The book is well researched and written, with the valuable assistance of Stuart Cowan, a former student of van der Ryn. It is imperative that we gain a better appreciation of our natural environment before adding any more to our built environment. Sustainable design is our only future.

Sim is a beacon of light in an industry that is fogged over. He embraces that all issues should be discussed & planned for before building are built. Too many times projects are visions of a person with deep pockets & they lose out on the basic core issues.

Worth reading, but it might not make it through my next bookshelf thinning. It has two particularly good points: the 5 principles, and the hilarious wording for the opposite of ecological design. My main complaint applies to many of the books and articles on this subject. I'd like a little less cheerleading, and a little more technical direction. Most of the world probably still needs the cheerleading.

groundbreaking work !

Happy with Purchase

Van der Ryn writes a good book, slightly dated... Some issues are complex but this is a good read for design professionals or any persons with influence in that field.

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