

# RETURN TO THE (MANAGED) WILD

Interpreting  
Human Settlements as  
“Designer  
Ecosystems”



Age of Ecology

Biosphere Consciousness

Ecology as a Master Complexity Science

# **DYNAMIC NETWORK**

Structural

Functional

Compositional

# SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

**Nature**  
**Culture**

**NOVEL** Ecosystem Functions  
&  
Services

**ECOSYSTEMS**

# SETTLEMENTS MEDIATE PLACE WITHIN BIOSPHERE

“urbanization is not merely a linear distancing of human life from nature, but rather a process by which new and more complex relationships of society and nature are created”

Roger Keil in Kinkela, 2009, p.906.

# DESIGN SUPPORTS ADAPTATION

“Cultural change operates by mechanisms that can validate a general and driven trend to technological progress — so very different from the minor and passive trend that Darwinian processes permit in the realm of natural evolution”

Gould, 1996, p.223

# THE SPIRIT OF INVENTION MUST BE GROUNDED IN A RESPECT FOR BIOSPHERE PARAMETERS

“Our urge to make things, to create things, is certainly as deep as the urge of the Sun to shine and the Earth to spin...”

Swimme & Tucker, 2011, p.116

“Power is creating... ‘[Man] is driven to make his imprint on the world, to transform and to change, and not only to be transformed and changed...If ...man is not able to *act* [he attempts] to restore his capacity...one way is to...destroy.’”

Fromm cited in Lappé, 2011, p.192

# SOCIAL- ECOLOGICAL NOVELTY CAN BE A FUNCTION OF COMPLEXITY

“For humanity, culture is the endless list of flow architectures we have created that sweep the globe... Culture flows from high to low, like all the other streams that obey the second law of thermodynamics...Culture is inventing and knowing the channels and the ways in which to move. Culture is the knowledge to produce, harness, distribute and use power...”

Bejan & Peder Zane, 2012, p.336



# ENCHANTMENT CAN INFORM ENTRENCHMENT

“Look at the technology and you will see it interpenetrated with nature; look at nature and you will find the imprint of human technology.”

White, 2003, p.9

BASIN LAYER I

perspective

BASIN LAYER II

practice

BASIN LAYER III

progress

**instrumental value  
to economies**

**instrumental value  
to population  
health**

**psycho-spiritual  
affinity**

BERMAN; LEOPOLD; KELLERT & WILSON;  
ROSZAK

**interconnected web**

CAPRA; NAESS; RIFKIN

**BASIN LAYER I**

**perspective**

**optimized  
resource use**

**metabolic**

BENYUS; LOVELOCK;  
MCDONOUGH & BRAUNGART;  
REGISTER

**green  
infrastructures**

**BASIN LAYER II**

**practice**

design + ecology  
(designer ecosystems)

HOBBS, HIGGS & HALL; HOBBS, HIGGS & HARRIS

**BASIN LAYER III**

**progress**

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