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Return to the (managed) wild: Interpreting human settlements as “designer ecosystems”

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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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