

**Annotated Bibliography**  
**Sustainable Urban Design and Development**  
**“The Top 52” – Read one for each week of the year!**  
**Assembled by Village Design Institute**  
**May 2009**

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- Bacon, Edmund N. (1967, 1974) *Design of Cities*. Penguin Books; New York – This is a superbly illustrated account of the development of urban form, from ancient Athens to modern Brasilia. Says the author, “The building of cities is one of [humanity’s] greatest achievements. The form of [the] city always has been and always will be a pitiless indicator of the state of [a particular] civilization. This form is determined by the multiplicity of decisions made by the people who live in it. In certain circumstances these decisions have interacted to produce a force of such clarity and form that a noble city has been born.” I particularly enjoy Bacon’s analysis of the development of the piazzas in Florence and Venice.
- Beatley, Timothy (2000) *Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities*. Island Press; Washington, D.C. – In this volume, Professor Beatley explains what planners and local officials in the United States can learn from the sustainable cities movement in Europe. The book draws from the extensive European experience, examining the progress and policies of twenty-five of the most innovative cities in eleven European countries. Beatley focuses on the key lessons from these cities and what their experience can teach us about effectively and creatively promoting sustainable urban development in the United States. While some of the achievements displayed are impressive, as isolated cases, I find that the book lacks a coherent theory of sustainable urban design as a whole. Still, the fact that the book exists shows how far Europe is ahead of the U.S. in these matters.
- Calthorpe, Peter (1993) *The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community, and the American Dream*. Princeton Architectural Press; New York – Calthorpe, in case you haven’t heard, is one of the most successful practicing “new urbanists.” Earlier he co-authored a book with Sim Van der Ryn entitled *Sustainable Communities*, in which the now familiar argument was raised that in order for communities to become sustainable they need to be integrated into their local ecology. Says Calthorpe: “Although that work defined the environmental and technical basis for sustainable communities, it failed to incorporate the “urbanism” which makes communities socially vibrant and alive.” And so, in *The Next American Metropolis*, Calthorpe developed the theoretical constructs of “pedestrian pockets” and “transit oriented development” (TODs) – and I bet he’s glad he did too, cause now he’s making big bucks! His CAD drawings are amazing.
- Castells, Manuel (1972, 1979) *The Urban Question: A Marxist Approach*. The MIT Press; Cambridge – For the politically inclined, this volume, originally published in French, is bound to stir up some indignation over the prevailing Anglo-American presentation of urban process. From the preface: “The fundamental aim of this book is to develop new tools of research while criticizing the traditional categories with which the social sciences, technocracy and the mass media have usually

conceived urban problems. The criticism aims at being as rigorous as possible: that is why, on the one hand, it is based on the examination of the urban sociological literature of several countries...and, on the other hand, it tries to deconstruct the mechanisms by which these categories displace questions and distort our vision of reality, in terms of socially dominant interests.” Not a reading for the tame-hearted; much of the content complements the important perspectives of Paulo Friere.

- Childs, Mark (2004) *Squares: A Public Place Design Guide for Urbanists*. University of New Mexico Press; Albuquerque – Most of the books listed in this bibliography concern themselves with the urban context as a whole – city scale. This particular book looks more closely at a subsystem of the successful urban context – the square, plaza, or piazza. Isn't that what helps to make the city so exciting? To appear anonymously in a busy plaza and get a feel for the collective vibe? The public place needs to be constructed just so, to proportions that give it a sense of enclosure without feeling crowded. That the subject matter of this book is a study of its own goes to show how much thought can be put into the design and development of the urban context, for there are subsystems within subsystems within subsystems...Thanks Professor Childs for this memorable work.
- Collins, George R. and Christiane Crasemann Collins (1986) *Camillo Sitte: The Birth of Modern City Planning*. Dover Publications, Inc.; Mineola, New York – In the late nineteenth century, noted Austrian architect and urban planner Camillo Sitte ignited a new age of city planning with his revolutionary text, *City Planning According to Artistic Principles*. Inspired by medieval and baroque designs, Sitte emphasized the creation of spacious plazas, enhanced by monuments and other aesthetic elements. This volume contains Sitte's entire 1889 book, as well as the Collins' extensive and illuminating commentary.
- Cuthbert, Alexander R., editor (2003) *Designing Cities: Critical Readings in Urban Design*. Blackwell Publishing; Oxford, U.K. – Says the publisher, “The volume has been carefully structured to help students gain an understanding of the theoretical context from which urban design has emerged. At the same time, it promotes a particular theoretical paradigm, suggesting that urban design is best viewed as a branch of spatial political economy. The selection of articles advances this idea as far as possible, both in its organization and in its content. The reader includes work from the past 30 years by such world famous authors as Manuel Castells and David Harvey, as well as writing by lesser known scholars which deserves a wider audience.” The editor is Australian, by the way.
- Detwyler, Thomas R. and Melvin G. Marcus, (1972) *Urbanization and Environment: The Physical Geography of the City*. Duxbury Press; Belmont, CA – Here is an example of the surge of fresh important thinking that arose in the late 60s and early 70s as a result of incorporating ‘ecology’ into other disciplines. This volume aims 1) to demonstrate how humans have changed the natural environment by urbanization, 2) to suggest how physical features and processes influence the growth and function of cities, and 3) to reveal some of the feedback between human action and environmental processes.
- Duany, Andres, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk and Jeff Speck (2000) *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*. North Point Press; New York – While I wouldn't say that this book is purely urban in its treatment, nevertheless, it is worthwhile to include here because the authors have gone on to become famous and successful ‘new urbanists.’ They were quite good at

critiquing the “suburban nation” yet I thought their solution was a bit too nostalgic romanticizing: they kept referring to the “traditional town” as the model to emulate, as the ultimate in human community achievement. Well, excuse me, but there aren’t a lot of “traditional towns” in North America either – all we have is a bunch of gridded abstractions thrown down by the railroad companies. Still, if you go to their website you will see dozens of beautiful CAD drawings of real new urbanist projects, so they are doing something ell and right.

- Durning, Alan Thein (1996) *The Car and the City*. Northwest Environment Watch; Vancouver, B.C. – This is a useful booklet full of facts and figures detailing the impact of the car on the environment and social life. Written by a local NGO, I have to thank them for the impact they’ve made in our region. This is not just another analytic approach to economic and environmental urban concerns, *The Car and the City* is an offbeat journey through three great metropolises – Seattle, Portland, Vancouver – by car, train, bus, bicycle, and foot. It’s a fascinating conversation with people who are quietly, but radically, rearranging the furniture of the modern city. Very Ecotopian!
- Eisner, Simon, Arthur Gallion and Stanley Eisner (1993) *The Urban Pattern, Sixth Edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; New York – In print continuously since 1950, *The Urban Pattern* is the classic text, especially for students entering the planning profession. Like the preceding editions, the evolution of cities is put into a broad historical perspective. Other key topics probed include the role of geography in determining the location and nature of urban centers, concerns of the growing elderly population, policy planning, private planning, the role of zoning, land subdivision, capital improvements, and installation, maintenance, and financing of the infrastructure.
- Ferguson, Francis (1975) *Architecture, Cities, and the Systems Approach*. George Braziller; New York – One merely has to peruse the GEDS curriculum to appreciate how important ‘systems thinking’ is when designing for a sustainable future. Well that’s exactly what this book does: it’s a good scholarly work that relates then current investigation in systems theory as it can be applied to urban design and planning. Sometimes a bit dry; nevertheless, a useful perspective and valuable read for anyone wanting to develop ‘systems thinking.’
- Galanty, Ervin Y. (1975) *New Towns: Antiquity to the Present*. George Braziller; New York – While referencing specifically “new towns,” this book has relevance to our present discussion as the introduction to an important series produced by Braziller publishers. In the Preface, the editor explains, “To provide a simple structure for the volume, I have divided the vast material typologically in four main chapters: new capitals, colonial towns, planned industrial towns, and decongestion. Each chapter is an independent essay and consists of definitions, a historical survey, and case studies – leading to a bibliography which should permit those interested to follow up different aspects of new town building barely mentioned here, such as ideal cities and utopian communities.
- Gans, Herbert J. (1962, 1982) *The Urban Villagers: Group and Class in the Life of Italian-Americans*. The Free Press; New York – Definitely the most oft-cited study of urban sociology that I have come across, *The Urban Villagers* describes how Italian immigrants to Boston attempted to re-create traditional village family and social patterns in the new American urban milieu. The researcher Gans says they were quite successful, even though the slum-labeled, gridded blocks posed formidable challenges. The city wanted to improve its appearance so it tore down the slums and

built apartments and public housing blocks. Many urban villagers had to disperse, and among those that remained, traditional family and social life was effectively destroyed. This book is valuable reading for understanding how *Homo sapiens* prefers to distribute themselves.

- Girardet, Herbert (1999) *Creating Sustainable Cities*. Green Books; Totnes, Devon, UK – I know this petite book comes highly recommended. Of course, this is volume 2 of the important Schumacher Briefing papers, a series to which Mr. Dawson has also contributed. Mr. Girardet apparently was invited to contribute due to his prior publications as well as work with the UN. The back cover asks: “How can we put the pulsing heart of conviviality back into our cities? How can we make sure of creating cities of diversity for the new millennium – places of cultural vigor and physical beauty that are also sustainable in economic and environmental terms? This Schumacher Briefing shows the way forward.” These questions seem obvious enough; I’ll have to look inside to find the answers.
- Girouard, Mark (1985) *Cities and People: A Social and Architectural History*. Yale University Press; New Haven – In this sumptuously illustrated book, the author takes us on a guided tour of select cities and their inhabitants at select periods in their history focusing on design in light of the needs of the men and women who lived in them. Of particular interest is the examination of the myths that existed (and still exist) at different periods of city-building.
- Goodman, Paul and Percival Goodman (1947, 1960) *Communitas: Means of Livelihood and Ways of Life*. Vintage Books; New York – Somewhat of a subculture classic, this is nevertheless a wise book, for it deals with the underlying values and purposes, political and moral, on which planning of any sort must be based; as such, it serves as a guide to the planning of cities that begins with first principles. This writing is avowedly utopian, both in its critique of earlier community plans and in its presentation of new ones.
- Hall, Peter (1998) *Cities in Civilization*. Fromm International; New York – In this engagingly written and thoroughly researched history of over 1100 pages, this renowned urban scholar tells the story of Western civilization through the histories of its greatest cities. Whether looking at Periclean Athens or Elizabethan London, Hall asks: Why are cities always at the heart of their culture’s Golden Ages? What makes a particular city, at a particular time, suddenly become exceptionally creative and innovative? Why do urban centers flourish briefly, decline suddenly, and reawaken periodically? The answers to these questions provide important clues for designing a future *beyond* sustainability.
- Hardoy, Jorge (1968) *Urban Planning in Pre-Columbian America*, George Braziller; New York – As mentioned earlier, Braziller produced an important series in the history of urban design and planning. I read this particular volume while pitching a tent at Huehuecoyotl! The author describes the layout, form and functions behind Mayan, Aztec, and Incan urban centers – and provides general characteristics of urbanization in pre-Columbian America. I find dredging into these historical surveys to be rich in uncovering ideas for sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Other volumes in this series that I have in my collection include: *The Renaissance City*, *Cities of Ancient Greece and Italy: Planning in Classical Antiquity*, *Cities and Planning in the Ancient Near East*, *Medieval Cities*, and the interesting sounding and perhaps more relevant for Ecovillage Design *Village Planning in the Primitive World*. I highly recommend this series!

- Jacobs, Jane (1961, 1992) *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Vintage Books; New York – Jacobs is certainly one of the luminaries in the study of the sociology of urban life. In this volume, she draws from her own (somewhat idealistically conveyed) experiences in New York City and Toronto. She writes about what makes streets safe or unsafe; about what constitutes a neighborhood, and what function it serves in the larger organism of the city; about why some neighborhoods remain impoverished while other regenerate themselves. In the words of the publisher, “Compassionate, bracingly indignant, and always keenly detailed, Jane Jacobs’s monumental work provides an essential framework for assessing the vitality of all cities.”
- Jacobs, Jane (1984) *Cities and the Wealth of Nations: Principles of Economic Life*. Random House; New York – Says the publisher: “In this iconoclastic work, which profoundly upsets the way we think about wealth and poverty and the rise and decline of nations or empires, Jacobs argues that virtually all economic life, no matter how geographically remote from cities, depends on cities to maintain it or change it. Productive cities, she explains, create prosperous mixed economies in their own surrounding regions, but shape stunted, wildly unbalanced – and usually exploited and poor – economies in regions that lack productive cities of their own.”
- Jenks, Mike, Elizabeth Burton and Katie Williams (1996) *The Compact City: A Sustainable Urban Form?* E & FN Spon; London – The folks over at the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD), Oxford Brookes University, have produced a stunningly intelligent series on sustainable urban design. This first one must have broke new ground at the time. By collecting a bunch of intelligent articles addressing the question raised in the title, some for and some against, to varying degrees, the editors succeed in creating a lively discussion that begins to form a theoretical construct in the reader’s mind. This self-generated theoretical construct can then be used as a template or model to guide the reader’s professional or educational work. “Brilliant, just brilliant!” as they would say over there at Oxford.
- Jenks, Mike and Nicola Dempsey (2005) *Future Forms and Designs for Sustainable Cities*. Elsevier; Amsterdam – This is the third volume in the series (for # 2 see Williams below). Each one is a task to get through, just because there is intelligent thinking to engage with on every page. This book provides an accessible presentation of the latest research in sustainable urban planning and design, and illustrates recent sustainable plans and schemes to show how they stand up against the latest research. I certainly didn’t agree or resonate with every idea that was presented – particularly the ‘megastructure’ concept! – and that’s just the point: the purpose was to stimulate *thinking* so as to come up with your own ideas; and in that the editors and writers of articles succeeded gallantly.
- Kemmis, Daniel (1995) *The Good City and the Good Life: Renewing the Sense of Community*. A Marc Jaffe Book; Boston – This book is not so much about ‘design’ *per se*, yet is still a useful read because it is so civic minded. The author is a former mayor of Missoula, Montana – a very Western small city that we would call more of a ‘college town.’ Kemmis writes with folksy appeal as he relays efforts he and his administration took to re-invigorate Missoula with a sense of community. Of course, he wouldn’t be talkin’ ‘bout community in the same sense that those folks at Findhorn would be talkin’ ‘bout community – and that’s OK: even those horrible unenlightened ‘mainstreamers’ need to feel a sense of belonging too, at their own pace.

- Kostof, Spiro (1991) *The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History*. Bullfinch Press; Boston – This book is worth it just for the pictures! Like the amazing aerial view of Siena on the front cover. You may be surprised to know that this seasoned urban historian Kostof claims that the winding streets were actually *designed*, and did not evolve organically from ancient “donkey trails,” as everyone assumes. As a compendium, this classic gives thorough treatment to four basic city morphologies – “organic” patterns, the grid, the city as diagram, and the grand manner – with a final chapter devoted to an analysis of the urban skyline. Kostof’s penetrating insight will prove invaluable to anyone attempting to comprehend urban form.
- Kostof, Spiro (1992) *The City Assembled: The Elements of Urban Form Through History*. Bullfinch Press; Boston – This is both a companion volume to Kostof’s earlier work and an independent study of its own. While the earlier work focused on cities as a whole, as complete entities, this book approaches and attempts to apprehend the subsystems of urban design, the component elements that are used to make assemblages: streets, public places, urban divisions (religious, political, and social), and the fringe area where city and country meet. Says one critic, “[Kostof’s] unusual but carefully thought out organization puts the major questions and topics of urbanism in their proper relation to one another.”
- Krier, Leon (1998) *Architecture: Choice or Fate*. Andreas Papdakis Publisher; Windsor, Berks, U.K. – This is one of my favorite books of all time. Krier is the official architect for the Prince of Wales. In this important work he offers a scathing critique of Modernism while laying the foundation for a new Organicism based on the sensible revival of Classical forms, proportions, processes, techniques, goals, etc. The book includes some of the most beautiful site plans and hand-drawn townscapes I’ve ever seen, some of these quite mythological. The author has a special talent for drawing little side sketches to illustrate important points in the text. This is essential reading if you want to design urban patterns beyond sustainability.
- Krier, Leon (2008) *The Architectural Tuning of Settlements*. The Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment; London – This is a most recent booklet that Krier wrote for a series produced by the Prince’s Foundation. The booklet picks up where the previous book left off – that is, honoring and endorsing traditional urban forms in a proposed revival of organicism – yet goes a step further by convincingly arguing how these traditional urban forms become the relevant templates around which to begin re-organizing for energy descent – a compact yet potent addition to the growing sustainable community design and development literature.
- Krier, Rob (2006) *Town Spaces: Contemporary Interpretations in Traditional Urbanism*. Birkhauser – Publishers for Architecture; Basel – Brother to Leon, Rob is another celebrated scholar-practitioner in the movement to restore traditional values and practices to architecture and urban design. In four chapters on new towns, city districts, urban centers and the restructuring of towns and cities, with commentaries by notable architectural historians and critics, this book develops details typologies for urban composition, including designs and large recent realizations that are characterized by a sense of public spirit, identification and order. In the author’s words: “A new town plan should not contribute simply to an artist’s self-actualization. It has to emerge out of the store of experience of local and regional urban architectural culture and fit seamlessly into this cultural landscape.” For more on “cultural landscape,” see Magnaghi.

- Lynch, Kevin (1960) *The Image of the City*. The MIT Press; Cambridge – With this book, Lynch entered superhero status among urban designers and planners. The purpose is a close examination of three American cities from the perspective of the user; that is, how does the city *feel* by the people who are living in and moving through it? In answering this question, Lynch develops the important theme of ‘legibility,’ and teaches how to define and design urban spaces in terms of the 5 essential elements: Paths, Edges, Districts, Nodes, and Landmarks.
- Lynch, Kevin (1981, 1994) *Good City Form*. The MIT Press; Cambridge – Lynch made another valuable contribution to urban conceptualizing with this clear-minded book. Inside he looks at connections between human values and the physical forms of cities, sets requirements for a normative theory of city form, reviews earlier physical images of what Utopian communities might be, sees what is to be learned from dysfunctional images, and helps us place city forms into one or another of three theoretic constructs: cosmic or ceremonial centers, the machine city, and the city as an organism. Don’t forget: Lynch also co-authored the immensely useful *Site Planning*.
- Magnaghi, Alberto, translated by David Kerr (2000) *The Urban Village: A Charter for Democracy and Local Self-Sustainable Development*. Zed Books; London – I was so happy to discover Magnaghi’s excellent book; I hungrily consumed it within a few days. This Professor of Land Use Planning at the University of Florence sets forth some very important concepts and considerations when thinking about and proposing to implement ‘sustainable development.’ These concepts and considerations are subsumed under the overarching title that Magnaghi calls “The Territorialista School.” Far too detailed to mention in this brief annotated bibliography; nevertheless, I can hint that they arise from the “cultural landscapes” that were created around the Tuscan city-states and their immediate regions. Go and read this essential book!
- Mare, E. Christopher (2006) *The Urban Village: Synergy of Ecology and Urbanism*. Village Design Institute; Seattle – This project began as a Ph.D. study. The final paper grew so long and received such encouraging feedback that I decided to publish it as an offering from my educational non-profit. I had just heard about a concept called the “urban village;” I wanted to fully investigate this new concept to discover if it could be used as the urban application for the Ecovillage Design Education. What I found is that the concept is used rather loosely – in some cases even ignorantly – yet it has so much potential. By far the best conceptualization I came across was sponsored by the Prince’s Foundation. I filled in this conceptualization, and, taking the best from the others, used ecovillage design principles to produce a more complete version of the urban village – a true synergy of ecology and urbanism.
- Mare, E. Christopher (2008) *An Historical Survey of Urban Densities as a Consequence of Energy Regime: Descent into the Urban Village*. Village Design Institute; Seattle – I wrote this paper as a contribution to the Ecocity Summit 2008. It is basically an extension of my book in that I took one parameter – urban density – and took it to a more detailed analysis. What I discovered during my research is that throughout history urban densities remained fairly constant and uniform – up until the energy surge of the Industrial Revolution that is. From there, urban densities soared uncontrollably up to the present state of so-called mega-cities. The lesson? There is a direct and inextricable link between urban density and prevailing energy regime. This finding has important consequences when conceiving retrofit solutions during energy descent. This finding also creates a bit of

controversy, given that many of the most well thought-out sustainable urban design solutions call for maximizing density. There is a natural (energetically determined) limit!

- Mumford, Lewis (1961) *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects. A Harvest Book; San Diego* – This is the copiously literary and erudite Mumford’s *tour de force*, all 657 pages of it! Inside he surveys the entire spectrum of the city’s existence, all the way from the initial emergence from tribal village centers to prospects for a livable future beyond post-modernism. There are valuable insights on every page; and, in the absence of reference notes, one has to wonder where did Mumford gain all this knowledge? To know how the city developed through history is to understand how we got to where we are today. I started reading this book a couple of years ago and I’m still only half finished!
- Mumford, Lewis (1956, 1968) *The Urban Prospect*. Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.; New York – Mumford was a prolific writer and an influential champion of ‘organic’ city form. He wrote perhaps a half-dozen books relevant to sustainable urban design; here I limit myself to listing just two. In this particular volume, Mumford offers a penetrating analysis of the “urban crisis” of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He then demonstrates that if any large improvement is to take place, it can only be through a change of mind and a profound alteration of the American way of life from one devoted to technological and financial expansion to a radically different mode, centered on the development of autonomous and self-fulfilling persons in communities conceived and organized on the human scale.
- Newman, Peter and Jeffrey Kenworthy (1999) *Sustainability and Cities: Overcoming Automobile Dependence*. Island Press; Washington, D.C. – Of the two Australian authors of this indispensable work, Kenworthy has become most famous – I saw an excellent slide show he delivered at Antioch University. Overcoming automobile dependence means reversing the prior trend toward sprawl and re-organizing the metro pattern around identifiable nodes, and the book describes exactly how to go about that. While a little ahead of its time, this book now belongs on the desk of every elected municipal official as we progress deeper into the era of energy descent.
- Norberg-Schulz, Christian (2000) *Architecture: Presence, Language, Place*. Skira; Milano – Norberg-Schulz, who was a distinguished professor of architecture at the University of Oslo, died shortly after this book was published, so it became his final statement. The book builds off the phenomenological approach developed by Husserl, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty by looking at the question of human ‘being in the world’ in relation to the character and quality of spatial aspects. I am just now entering this book. The study of architecture is immensely important because, as the Prince of Wales says, architecture *defines* urban spaces.
- Olsen, Donald J. (1986) *The City as a Work of Art: London, Paris, Vienna*. Yale University Press; New Haven – A marvelous book, which brilliantly relates the form and functions of these three great cities to the political cultures and social values which molded and created them. I think the title speaks for itself, for with a little purposeful intent, some meaningful education – and a little help from philanthropy – designers and residents *could* turn their city into a work of art. I particularly like Olsen’s development of a ‘social geography.’
- Portney, Kent E. (2003) *Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: Economic Development, the Environment, and Quality of Life in American Cities*. The MIT Press; Cambridge – I appreciate when a writer comes

along every once in a while who can tackle the important task of “taking sustainable cities seriously” – just because so much of the sustainability literature comes across as simple wishful thinking. Mr. Portney is just such a writer. His clear-minded discussion of what exactly sustainability means is one of the best I’ve ever seen (see especially p. 6). After laying out his theoretical points, Portney describes 8 cities that are in fact taking sustainability seriously, by actively implementing a sustainability agenda. This reading may be dry – even sobering – for the utopian; yet this is how the work actually gets done at civic scale.

- Register, Richard (2006) *Ecocities: Rebuilding Cities in Balance with Nature*. New Society Publishers; Gabriola Island, British Columbia – This is the revised edition to Register’s highly influential work *Eco-City Berkeley*. Both are treasure troves of not only ideas but, most importantly, processes for as the subtitle says “rebuilding cities in balance with Nature.” Toward the end of the book is a brilliant set of diagrams showing how the City of Berkeley could, over the next 30 years, reduce its footprint by withdrawing into well-defined urban centers surrounded by ecological buffer zones. Register, through his organization Urban Ecology and Ecocity Builders, convened the first Ecocity Conference in 1990. I was privileged to attend and give a presentation at the Ecocity Summit in San Francisco in 2008.
- Roseland, Mark, editor (1997) *Eco-City Dimensions: Healthy Communities, Healthy Planet*. New Society Publishers; Gabriola Island, British Columbia – The vision of ecological cities – or “eco-cities” – is one that links ecological sustainability with social justice and the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods. It is a vision that acknowledges the ecological limits to growth, that promotes ecological and cultural diversity and a vibrant, democratic community life, and that supports a community-based economy directed toward fulfilling real human needs rather than simply expanding. Indeed, many of the articles in this collection feature sustainable solutions initiated by citizen’s movements and organizations, as does Vancouver-based Professor Roseland’s previous work *Toward Sustainable Communities: A Resource Book for Municipal and Local Governments*.
- Rossi, Aldo (1984) *The Architecture of the City*. The MIT Press; Cambridge – Aldo Rossi, a practicing architect and leader of the Italian architectural movement *La Tendenza*, is also one of the most influential theorists writing in his day. *The Architecture of the City* is his major work of architectural and urban theory. In part a protest against functionalism and the Modern Movement, in part an attempt to restore the craft of architecture to its position as the only valid object of architectural study, and in part an analysis of the rules and forms of the city’s construction, the book has become immensely popular among architects and design students.
- Sjoberg, Gideon (1960) *The Pre-Industrial City: Past and Present*. The Free Press; New York – As mentioned earlier, the transition from pre-industrial to industrial modes of production forced a profound transformation in the urban pattern, determined fundamentally by the transition in energy regime; therefore, during the coming energy descent, valuable insight may be gained by a careful and selective study of the *pre*-industrial city – and Sjoberg’s is one of the best. This is a broad, multi-disciplinary survey of what urban life may be like once again without the influx of cheap and plentiful supplies of energy.
- Soja, Edward W. (2000) *Postmetropolis: Critical Studies of Cities and Regions*. Blackwell; Oxford – In addition to being an innovative text in urban and regional studies and an insightful application of

new approaches to interpreting the spatiality of human life, this book is also about contemporary Los Angeles, a vivid and far-reaching account of its turbulent recent history and geography. In response, the author offers six discourses on the *post*-metropolis: 1) The post-Fordist industrial metropolis: Restructuring the geopolitical economy of urbanism, 2) Cosmopolis: The globalization of cityspace, 3) Exopolis: The restructuring of urban form, 4) Fractal city: Metropoliarities and the restructured social mosaic, 5) The carceral archipelago: Governing space in the postmetropolis, and 6) Simcities: Restructuring the urban imaginary. This author, a teacher at UCLA, is well-read.

- Sucher, David (1995) *City Comforts: How to Build an Urban Village*. City Comforts Press; Seattle – The author was a city council person when then mayor Norm Rice declared, “We are going to turn Seattle into a city of urban villages!” Everybody looked around and shook their head and agreed, “Yeah, let’s turn Seattle into a city of urban villages.” Then they thought twice about it and looked around again, asking “What exactly is an urban village?” Sucher attempts to answer that very question in this compact and delightfully written response. Mostly, the book shows small things that make city life more pleasant: art, kiosks, places to gather, taming cars, etc.; yet amid this seeming triviality Sucher makes a profound observation: the urban village could be the best of both worlds: the neighborliness of the village with the excitement of the city.
- Thomas, Randall, editor (2003) *Sustainable Urban Design: An Environmental Approach*. Spon Press; London – This book is just one example of the surge of recent, descent conceptualizing about sustainable urban design coming out of the UK. This is a collection by and for practicing professionals, so at times it can lean toward the technical. One review says, “The authors of *Sustainable Urban Design* form part of an increasingly persuasive group demonstrating that urban renaissance can make a key contribution to the environment. Their work takes us one step further to realising a twenty-first century characterised by environmentally responsible cities powered by solar energy. As more of us become city dwellers, we must ensure that our urban environment is as dynamic and as energy efficient as possible.”
- Toynbee, Arnold, editor (1968) *Cities of Destiny*. McGraw-Hill Book Company; New York – This book is so large it can fill up my brief case! And how can we attempt to understand how cities grew to be so unsustainable without occasionally dipping into the insights offered by a scholarly historical study? In this particular study, the three crucial stages in urban history – city-state, capital city, Megalopolis – are defined in Professor Toynbee’s forewords to these corresponding sections of the book, which bring together nineteen chapters by the world’s leading historians describing key cities at the height of their greatness.
- Vitruvius, translated by Morris Hicky Morgan (1960) *The Ten Books on Architecture*. Dover Publications; New York – In this classic of classics, the learned and well-traveled Vitruvius offers the ten books to Caesar – with due veneration of course! This is a must read for gaining an insight into the imperial B.C. mind in the process of creating great works of art. Vitruvius gets as detailed as explaining how to make and apply plasters, for example; yet for our purposes there are relevant sections such as ‘The Site of a City’ or ‘The Sites for Public Buildings.’ There also are fascinating specifications for the construction of temples, theatres, baths, basilicas, etc.
- Walter, Bob, Lois Arkin and Richard Crenshaw, editors (1992) *Sustainable Cities: Concepts and Strategies for Eco-City Development*. – This is an important collection of some of the best and brightest

authors and ideas of their day. Inside you can find articles about diverse considerations for urban sustainability, covering such topics as: recycling, food co-ops and urban farms, a sense of place, water harvesting, electric cars, economic strategies, etc. As a collection of articles, however, as in any edited collection, it provides only scattered bits and pieces of the picture and lacks any coherent, coordinated synthesis that can define a theory of urban morphology at city scale.

- Warner, Sam Bass, Jr. (1972, 1995) *The Urban Wilderness: The History of the American City*. University of California Press, Berkeley – The surfer of this annotated bibliography may excuse me for listing so many Americo-specific titles; yet, I would argue that the crisis of the American urban experience reflects the crisis of the urban experience of the world at large; for Americana was rapidly thrown together in a mad rush of urban ‘growth’ that bypassed, excluded, or demurred any coherent pattern of development that could have included the common good as a goal. Warner has linked visual and cultural representations with socio-economic analysis in a binding portrayal that offers lessons for what *not* to do in the future.
- Williams, Katie, Elizabeth Burton and Mike Jenks (2000) *Achieving Sustainable Urban Form*. Spon Press; London – This second book in the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development series cost me \$107 – but it was well worth it! This series is the most concentrated collection in the world of intelligent thinking concerning sustainable urban design and development. The depth, the breadth, the professionalism, the serious scholarship and the earnest quest to find viable, workable solutions that can be replicated in the ‘real’ world – all this makes existing urban ‘ecovillage’ experiments look rather amateurish by comparison, no matter how good-hearted: The gap in authentic utilitarian comprehension is conspicuous – that’s why I’m hoping some ecovillage enthusiasts out there will take the time to learn some of the latest concepts and ideas going around the sustainable urban design and development circles. This Annotated Bibliography is a good place to start.