

Sustainable Community Design & Development  
Selected Bibliography  
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by Village Design Institute

Categories: Americana – Architecture – Bioregionalism – Civilization – Community – Consciousness – Co-Worlding – Deep Ecology – Democracy – Design – Economics – Ecovillages – Ekistics – Energy – Environmental Psychology – Epistemology – Geomancy – Growth – Human Ecology – Nature – New Urbanism – Permaculture – Place-Making – Planning – Sustainable Cities – Systems Theory – Transportation – Urbanism – Urban Village – Villages

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Americana – When it comes to planning for sustainable communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the American situation is particularly challenging: the vast majority of the infrastructure was implemented during a one-time bonanza of cheap available oil. During the coming period of energy descent, this infrastructure will prove to be highly dysfunctional – very inefficient and wasteful of energy. The following collection does a good job of placing the American settlement pattern in perspective, thus suggesting strategies for remediation.

- Bridenbaugh, C. (1964) *Cities in the Wilderness: Urban Life in America: 1625 – 1742*. Capricorn Books; New York
- Electric Wallpaper (2004) *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream*. DVD Produced by Electric Wallpaper; Toronto; Canada
- Fishman, Robert (1987) *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia*. Basic Books; New York
- Freidman, A. (2002) *Planning the New Suburbia: Flexibility by Design*. UBC Press; Vancouver, Canada
- Jacobs, Jane (1961) *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Random House; New York
- Kunstler, James (1993) *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-made Landscape*. Touchstone Books; New York
- Kunstler, James (1996) *Home from Nowhere: Remaking Our Everyday World for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Touchstone Books; New York
- Schuyler, D. (1986) *The New Urban Landscape: The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America*. The Johns Hopkins University Press; Baltimore, Maryland
- Scully, V. (1969) *American Architecture and Urbanism*. Praeger; New York
- Wachtel P. L. (1989) *The Poverty of Affluence: A Psychological Portrait of the American Way of Life*. New Society Publishers; Gabriola Island, B. C., Canada

- Warner, Sam Bass, Jr. (1995) *The Urban Wilderness: A History of the American City*. University of California Press; Berkeley

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Architecture – More than simply providing structure to the built environment, architecture can either facilitate or deny the creation of social space in which a sustainable culture may have a chance to take form. Fortunately, architecture has been in the process of emerging from the lifeless “modernist” era, where buildings were considered “machines for living.” Current trends in architecture include a revival of classicism, the introduction of new materials and “green” technologies, and a philosophical emphasis on placing architecture within an holistic set of relationships involving the entire settlement –ecologically, economically, socially, and experientially. The following is a random sampling from diverse perspectives.

- Earth Pledge Foundation, eds. (2000) *Sustainable Architecture White Papers*. Earth Pledge Foundation; New York
- Ferguson, Francis (1975) *Architecture, Cities, and the Systems Approach*. George Braziller; New York
- Humphrey, C. and P. Vitebsky (1997) *Sacred Architecture: Models of the Cosmos; Symbolic Form and Ornament; Traditions of East and West*. Little, Brown and Company; Boston
- Krier, Leon (1998) *Architecture: Choice or Fate*. Andreas Papadakis Publisher; Windsor Berks, Great Britain
- Norberg-Schulz, Christian (1979) *Genius Loci: Toward a Phenomenology of Architecture*. Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.; New York
- Norberg-Schulz, Christian (2000) *Architecture: Presence, Language, Place*. Skira Editore; Milano, Italy
- Pearson, M. P. and C. Richards, eds. (1994) *Architecture and Order: Approaches to Social Space*. Routledge; London
- Rudofsky, B. (1987) *Architecture Without Architects: A Short Introduction to Non-Pedigreed Architecture*. University of New Mexico Press; Albuquerque
- Stitt, Fred ( ) *Designing Buildings that Work*.

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Bioregionalism – Sustainable communities cannot exist in isolation – part of their long-term endurance comes from being part of an integrated network of communities within a larger bio-geographical context. This is bioregionalism. Most existing municipal, county, state, and national borders are completely arbitrary, cutting across topographical, geographical, hydrological, and/or natural cultural boundaries. Bioregionalism would redraw the map along these natural lines, paying particular attention to watersheds, and would seek to promote distinctive bioregional cultures.

- Callenbach, Ernest (1975) *Ecotopia*. Bantam Books; New York
- Sale, Kirkpatrick (1986) *Dwellers in the Land: The Bioregional Vision*.

- Van Andruss, Christopher and Judith Plant, and Eleanor Wright, eds. (1990) *Home ! A Bioregional Reader*. New Society Publishers; Gabriola Island, B.C., Canada

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Civilization – Technically speaking, civilization is the culture of cities. Despite its usually idealized romantic presentation as some kind of obvious improvement over Nature, civilization, ever since its inception in ancient Sumer over 5000 years ago, has brought with it some very un-wholesome side-effects, such as: a virtually continuous state of warfare, the ever increasing concentration and consolidation of arbitrary power, highly rigid social roles with a self-appointed ruling class, a troublesome alienation from Nature and the systematic destruction of entire ecological regimes. While a sustainable culture of the future most likely will not be completely absent of cities, it will most assuredly have as its basis a more human-scale socio-economic organization. I'm sure you'll find the following collection both provocative and revealing.

- Carter, Vernon Gill and Tom Dale (1975) *Topsoil and Civilization*. University of Oklahoma Press; Norman
- Eisler, Riane (1987) *The Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Future*. HarperSanFrancisco
- Kotke, Wm. H. (1993) *The Final Empire: The Collapse of Civilization: The Seed of the Future*. Arrow Point Press; Portland, OR
- Mare, E.C. (2003) *Apocalypse: Prelude to Enlightenment*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Mumford, Lewis (1934) *Technics and Civilization*. Harcourt Brace & Company; San Diego
- Quinn, Daniel (1992) *Ishmael*. Bantam/Turner; New York
- Sanderson, S. K., ed. (1995) *Civilizations and World Systems: Studying World Historical Change*. Altamira Press; Walnut Creek, CA
- Schmookler, Andrew Bard (1984) *The Parable of the Tribes: The Problem of Power in Social Evolution*. The University of California Press; Los Angeles
- Service, E.R. (1975) *Origins of the State and Civilization: The Process of Cultural Evolution*, W. H. Norton and Company; New York

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Community – This is really what it's all about isn't it – groups of people coming together consciously, voluntarily, and cooperatively to share in creating a meaningful life? This is the way humans have always lived; yet, the combination of unimaginable wealth, abundant energy, and wide open spaces has allowed Americans to temporarily forge a saga of rugged individualism. In the coming years, the converging phenomena of downsizing, voluntary simplicity, re-localization, and energy descent – not to mention the empty feelings of isolation – will compel people to once again gather together in community, and this is already happening in many quarters. As designers, we cannot create community outright, but we can knowingly construct the holistically-conceived, nature-encoded contexts in which community can create

*itself*, spontaneously, in a self-organizing manner. The following collection exhibits manifestations of community all the way from the “natural communities” of an ecological niche to the voluntary associations of citizens in civic groups, with many points in between.

- Dice, Lee R. (1962) *Natural Communities*, University of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor
- Goodman, Paul and Percival (1960) *Communitas: Means of Livelihood and Ways of Life*, Vintage Books; New York
- McCamant, Kathryn and Charles Durrett (1988, 1994) *CoHousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves*. Ten Speed Press; Berkeley
- Norwood, Ken and Kathleen Harris (1995) *Rebuilding Community in America: Housing for Ecological Living, Personal Empowerment, and the New Extended Family*. Shared Living Resource Center; Berkeley
- Peck, M. Scott (1987) *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace*. Touchstone Books; New York
- Roseland, Mark (1998) *Toward Sustainable Communities: Resources for Citizen's and their Governments*. New Society Publishers; Gabriola Island, B. C., Canada
- Shaffer, Carolyn R. and Kristin Amundsen (1993) *Creating Community Anywhere*. Jeremy P. Tarcher/Perigree; Los Angeles
- Shuman, M. H. (2000) *Going Local: Creating Self-reliant Communities in a Global Age*. Routledge; New York
- Whitmyer, Claude, ed. (1993) *In the Company of Others: Making Community in the Modern World*, Jeremy P. Tarcher/Perigree; Los Angeles
- Whyte, W. F. and K. K. Whyte (1991) *Making Mondragon: The Growth and Dynamics of the Worker Cooperative Complex*. Second Edition/Revised. ILR Press (an imprint of Cornell University Press); Ithaca and London

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**Consciousness** – In innumerable ways, the transition to a sustainable culture from our present hazardous situation simply will not happen without a corresponding leap in consciousness. The collective psyche is currently too dull and slow, too fixated on simple-minded personal gratification and ego aggrandizement to effect the needed changes; so an expansion of consciousness may need to occur first. It is said that once a vanguard has awakened to the need for a new order, once a critical mass is reached, then the rest of humanity will spontaneously catch up and act as if it has always been so. Although each of us can do our daily practice to nurture consciousness in our own personal way, the actual leap to planetary-wide enlightenment is beyond our control, and is never guaranteed. Some writers like to frame this leap in the language of an evolution to a new species of humanity. Many writers speak about a greater, more-inclusive planetary consciousness – Gaia – in which humanity is but just one organ, the active nervous system.

- Arguelles, Jose (1987) *The Mayan Factor: Pathways Beyond Technology*
- Arguelles, Jose (1984,1996) *Earth Ascending*, Bear & Company; Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Capra, Fritjof (1982) *The Turning Point: Science, Society, and the Rising Culture*. Bantam Books; Toronto
- Gebser, Jean (1986) *The Ever-Present Origin*. Ohio University Press; Athens
- Harman, Willis and Howard Rheingold (1984) *Higher Creativity: Liberating the Unconscious for Breakthrough Insights*. Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc.; Los Angeles
- Jantsch, Erich and Conrad H. Waddington (1976) *Evolution and Consciousness: Human Systems in Transition*. Addison-Wesley Publishing Company; Reading, MA
- Lovelock, James E. (1979) *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth*. Oxford University Press; Great Britain
- McWaters, Barry (1982) *Conscious Evolution: Personal and Planetary Transformation*. Evolutionary Press; San Francisco
- Richards, Fred and Anne Richards (1973) *Homonovus: The New Man*. Shields Publishing, Inc.; Boulder
- Rudhyar, Dane (1970) *The Planetarization of Consciousness*. Aurora Press; New York
- Sahtouris, Elisabet (1989) *Gaia: The Human Journey from Chaos to Cosmos*. Pocket Books; New York
- Thompson, William Irvin, ed. (1987) *Gaia: A Way of Knowing*. Lindisfarne Press; New York
- Wilber, Ken (1996) *A Brief History of Everything*. Shambhala Publications, Inc.; Boston

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Co-Worlding – This is a fairly new term with little supporting literature, yet nevertheless is a powerful conceptualization with far-reaching implications for the new humanity and the new culture. If we can imagine ourselves not only designing *with* Nature but designing *as* Nature, then we will be consciously co-participating in the planetary evolutionary process – taking over evolution as it were. The phenomenologists of philosophy like to talk about there being not just *one* world but rather a collection of numerous, diverse, overlapping, individualized *lifeworlds* – worlds within worlds. Co-worlding, then, is *becoming* Gaian evolution, enacting and consciously directing it within a localized context.

- Burneko, Guy (2003) *By the Torch of Chaos and Doubt: Consciousness, Culture, Poiesis and Religion in the Opening Global Millennium*. Hampton Press, Inc.; Cresskill, N.J.
- Goodman, Norman (1978) *Ways of Worldmaking*. Hackett Publishing Company; Indianapolis, IN
- Mare, E.C. (2000) *Neogenesis: Or, My Life Story: An Autobiography of Sorts*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Peat, F. David (1987) *Synchronicity: The Bridge between Matter & Mind*. Bantam Books; New York

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Deep Ecology – The fundamental premise here is that humans are but one lifeform in the planetary Web of Life. All lifeforms have intrinsic value irrespective of their utility to the human economic process. *Homo sapiens*, perched as it is at the top of the ecological food chain, could disappear and the rest of the Web of Life would still go on; in fact, the Web of Life as a whole would greatly benefit from the exit of *Homo sapiens*. This perspective takes on a sublime spiritual significance when we come to realize that the most useful function of humanity – as an agent in the biosphere – may be to consciously nurture and enhance the vitality of the Web of Life, thus facilitating salubrious and multi-faceted planetary evolution. However, as was suggested above, this will require the evolution of humanity to a new species, since *Homo sapiens* has proven itself to be an avid destroyer of life.

- Badiner, Alan, ed. (1990) *Dharma Gaia: A Harvest of Essays on Buddhism and Ecology*. Parallax Press; San Francisco
- Berry, Thomas ( ) *The Dream of the Earth*
- Devall, Bill (1988) *Simple in Means, Rich in Ends: Practicing Deep Ecology*. Peregrine Smith Books; Salt Lake City
- Devall, Bill and George Sessions (1985) *Deep Ecology: Living as if Nature Mattered*. Peregrine Smith Books; Salt Lake City
- Diamond, Irene and Gloria F. Orenstein (1990) *Reweaving the World: The Emergence of Ecofeminism*. Sierra Club Books; San Francisco
- Fox, Warwick (1990) *Toward a Transpersonal Ecology: Developing New Foundations for Environmentalism*. Shambhala; Boston
- Grossinger, Richard (1978) *Ecology and Consciousness*. North Atlantic Books; Richmond, CA
- Naess, Arne and David Rothenberg (1989) *Ecology, Community and Lifestyle*. Cambridge University Press; Cambridge, U.K.
- Sessions, George, ed. (1995) *Deep Ecology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Shambhala Publications, Inc.; Boston
- Suzuki, David (1998) *The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature*. Prometheus Books; Amherst, NY
- Tobias, Michael, ed. (1985) *Deep Ecology*. Avant Books; San Diego

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Democracy – In *The Republic*, Plato insisted that the most effective form of government for the *polis* would be an aristocracy – government led by the most talented, knowledgeable, and virtuous of the population. In the newly formed republic of America, Thomas Jefferson envisioned an agrarian society of well-informed citizens actively participating in a representative democracy. What will be the most effective form of government for a sustainable society of the future? Undoubtedly – whether aristocracy or

democracy – it will be re-centered back in the *polis*, where free citizens can debate their issues face-to-face in a human-scale forum, or *agora*.

- Bryan, Frank and John McClaughry (1990) *The Vermont Papers: Recreating Democracy on a Human Scale*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company; White River Junction, VT
- Flyvbjerg, Bent (1998) *Rationality and Power: Democracy in Practice*. University of Chicago Press; Chicago
- Habermas, Jurgen (1962) *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*. Trans. By T. Burger. The MIT Press; Cambridge, MA
- Kemmis, Daniel (1995) *The Good City and the Good Life: Renewing the Sense of Community*. A Marc Jaffe Book, Houghton Mifflin Company; Boston
- Plato (1974) *The Republic*. Trans. by G.M.A. Grube. Hackett Publishing Company; Indianapolis, IN

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Design – Design! Design! Design! It cannot be emphasized enough how important and valuable is this process to the creation of sustainable communities, and how underutilized it actually is. The present landscape of America was not designed at all; instead, a standard blueprint was mechanically applied to all situations. This section may be the creative heart of this bibliography, for here we have a collection from pioneers on the ecological frontier. These practitioners often are writing about their lessons learned from instituting ecological design projects of their own. As you will see, design is the art of the possible; it's about getting right down in there on the ground level and deftly working with and enhancing natural patterns, processes, and structures to create the living situations we really want. No wonder Buckminster Fuller called for a "design revolution."

- Alexander, Christopher, Sara Ishikawa and Murray Silverstein (1977) *A Pattern Language*. Oxford University Press; New York
- Alexander, Christopher (1979) *The Timeless Way of Building*. Oxford University Press; New York
- Corbett, Judy and Michael Corbett (2000) *Designing Sustainable Communities: Learning from Village Homes*. Island Press; Washington, D.C.
- Cowan, Stuart and Sim Van der Ryn (1996) *Ecological Design*. Island Press; Washington, D.C.
- Fuller, R. Buckminster (1969) *Utopia or Oblivion: The Prospects for Humanity*. Bantam Books; New York
- Lyle, John T. (1996) *Regenerative Design for Sustainable Development*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; New York
- McHarg, Ian (1992) *Design With Nature*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; New York
- Seamon, David, ed. (1993) *Dwelling, Seeing, Designing: Toward a Phenomenological Ecology*. State University of New York Press; Albany

- Thompson, George F. and Frederick R. Steiner, eds. (1997) *Ecological Design and Planning*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; New York
- Todd, Nancy Jack and John Todd (1994) *From Eco-Cities to Living Machines: Principles of Ecological Design*. North Atlantic Books, Berkeley, CA
- Van der Ryn, Sim and Peter Calthorpe (1986) *Sustainable Communities: A New Design Synthesis for Cities, Suburbs and Towns*. Sierra Club Books; San Francisco
- Zelov, Chris and P. Cousineau, eds. (1997) *Design Outlaws on the Ecological Frontier*. Knossus Publishing; Easton, PA

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Economics – Derived from the Greek roots *oikos* and *nomos*, economics originally referred to the “management of the home.” This home was not a house but rather was the encompassing local environment – the entire home range. Economics was the process whereby a community managed the local environment to produce their living. A closely related word, *ecology*, literally means “the study of the home.” This makes ‘economics’ rightly a subset of ‘ecology,’ since one must first study the home, and understand its qualities, before one can manage the home. Only relatively recently has ‘economics’ been bastardized to be equated with ‘finance.’ The two, however, are very different in character and purpose. The following readings will clarify the differences, and will help to re-position ‘economics’ as a discipline worthy of dignity.

- Costanza, Robert, ed. (1991) *Ecological Economics: The Science and Management of Sustainability*, Columbia University Press; New York
- Costanza, Robert (1997) *An Introduction to Ecological Economics*. CRC Press; Boca Raton, FL
- Daly, Herman E. (1978) *Steady-State Economics: The Economics of Biophysical Equilibrium and Moral Growth*. W.H. Freeman & Co.; San Francisco
- Daly, Herman E. and John B. Cobb, Jr. (1994) *For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy Toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future*. Beacon Press; Boston
- Daly, Herman E. (1997) *Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development*. Beacon Press; Boston
- Georgescu-Roegen, N. (1971) *The Entropy Law and the Economic Process*. Harvard University Press; Cambridge, Mass.
- Greco, Thomas H., Jr. (1994) *New Money for Healthy Communities*, Thomas H. Greco, Jr., Publisher; Tucson, AZ
- Hawken, Paul, Amory and T. Hunter Lovins (1999) *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*, Little, Brown, and Company; New York
- Henderson, Hazel (1991) *Paradigms in Progress: Life Beyond Economics*, Knowledge Systems, Inc.; Indianapolis
- Jacobs, Jane (1969) *The Economy of Cities*. Random House; New York



- Jacobs, Jane (1984) *Cities and the Wealth of Nations: Principles of Economic Life*. Random House; New York
- Krishnan, Rajaram, Jonathan M. Harris and Neva R. Goodwin (1995) *A Survey of Ecological Economics*, Island Press; Washington, D.C.
- Mare, E.C. (2002) *The Economics of Sustainable Leisure*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Milani, Brian (2000) *Designing the Green Economy*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.; Lanham, Maryland
- Schumacher, E.F. (1973) *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered*, Harper & Row; New York
- Tainter, Joseph (1996) *Getting Down to Earth: Practical Applications of Ecological Economics*. Island Press; Washington, D. C.

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Ecovillages – Ecovillages are intentional communities, in urban and rural contexts, which have become the living laboratories and educational research centers for the transition to sustainable culture. Although currently manifesting in many shapes and sizes, ecovillages strive to be full-featured, to be harmoniously integrated into Nature, to support healthy human development, and to be models of sustainability. Ecovillages attempt to balance four dimensions in their design process: ecological, economic, social, and spiritual. If you get a chance, please go visit one of the world’s premier ecovillages: you will enter a light space vibrating at a frequency that is waiting for the rest of the world to catch up. The ecovillage is the quintessential prototype for the sustainable community of the future.

- Christian, Diana Leafe (2003) *Creating a Life Together: Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages and Intentional Communities*. New Society Publishers; Gabriola Island, B.C., Canada
- Context Institute (1991) “Eco-Villages and Sustainable Communities.” A Report for Gaia Trust. Context Institute; Bainbridge Island, Washington
- Jackson, Hildur and Karen Svensson, eds. (2003) *Ecovillage Living: Restoring the Earth and Her People*. Gaia Trust: Green Books; Totnes, Devon, U.K.
- Mare, E.C. (2000a) *Ecovillages as Living Systems: Reviewing and Renewing Organic Settlement Patterning*, Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Mare, E.C. (2000b) *An Introduction to Ecovillage Economics*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Mare, E.C. (2000c) *The Ecovillage as a Living Cell*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA

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Ekistics – Ekistics is the scientific, multi-disciplinary study of human settlements. This is the most thorough and comprehensive approach to the design and development of sustainable communities available; in fact, this very bibliography – taking into account numerous dimensions simultaneously – is

an example of the use of ekistics. An ekistic analysis for any given project may include information from the following disciplines: human geography, cultural anthropology, hydrology, geology, botany, ecology, topology, topography, soil science, civil engineering, city planning, and the history of the place, etc. The challenge for the designer using this approach is to synthesize and integrate all the various information into a coherent and usable whole uniquely applicable to that particular site, at that particular time and location. There is not a whole lot of literature referencing 'ekistics' per se, but there are numerous writers using this 'whole settlement' approach. Ekistics, by the way, is another *oikos* word.

- Bell, Gwen, ed. (1976) *Strategies for Human Settlements: Habitat and Environment*. The University Press of Hawaii; Honolulu
- Doxiadis, Constantinos (1968) *Ekistics: An Introduction to the Science of Human Settlements*. Oxford University Press; New York
- Doxiadis, Constantinos (1977) *Ecology and Ekistics*. Westview Press; Boulder, Colorado
- Galantay, E.Y. (1975) *New Towns: Antiquity to the Present*. George Braziller; New York
- Hudson, F.S. (1970) *A Geography of Settlements*. MacDonald & Evans, Ltd.; London
- Jones, Edmund (1966) *Towns and Cities*. Oxford University Press; New York
- Mare, E.C. (1999) *Classic Maya Settlement Patterns*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Mare, E.C. (2001) *Classic Egyptian Settlement Patterns*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Mumford, Lewis (1961) *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, Its Prospects*. A Harvest Book; San Diego
- Pezzoli, K. (1998) *Human Settlements and Planning for Ecological Sustainability*. The MIT Press; Cambridge, Mass.
- Short, Professor John Rennie (1992) *Human Settlement*, Oxford University Press; New York
- Tinker, I. and M. Buvinic, eds. (1977) *The Many Facets of Human Settlements: Science and Society*. Papers prepared for AAAS activities in connection with HABITAT, the U.N. Conference of Human Settlements. Pergamon Press; Oxford, England

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Energy – Both the physicist and the disciplined meditator would agree: the entire universe is nothing more than a throbbing, pulsating, dynamically animated field of vibrating energy and energy potential. A theoretical understanding of energy and its ubiquitous usage in human and natural systems – all the way from the human body to civilization itself – will provide important background knowledge for the design of sustainable systems. The following collection also contains numerous references to the phenomenon of Peak Oil and its anticipated consequence of 'energy descent.'

- Campbell, Colin J. (2004) *The Coming Oil Crisis*. Independent Publishers Group; London
- Deffeyes, Kenneth S. (2001) *Hubbert's Peak: The Impending World Oil Shortage*. Princeton University Press; Princeton, N.J.

- Deffeyes, Kenneth S. (2005) *Beyond Oil: The View from Hubbert's Peak*. Hi and Wang; New York
- Gever, J. (1986) *Beyond Oil: The Threat to Food and Fuel in the Coming Decades*. Ballinger Publishing Co.; Pensacola, FL
- Heinberg, Richard (2003) *The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies*. New Society Publishers; Gabriola Island, B.C., Canada
- Heinberg, Richard (2004) *Powerdown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World*. New Society Publishers; Gabriola Island, B.C., Canada
- Lovins, Amory (1977) *Soft Energy Paths: Toward a Durable Peace*, Harper Colophon Books; New York
- Mare, E.C. (2002) *Sustainable Settlement Energetics: EMergy and Ecovillage*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Miller, David H. (1981) *Energy at the Surface of the Earth: An Introduction to the Energetics of Ecosystems*, Academic Press; New York
- Odum, Howard T. (1971) *Environment, Power, and Society*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; New York
- Odum, Howard T. and E.C. Odum (1976) *Energy Basis for Man and Nature*. McGraw-Hill Book Company; New York
- Odum, Howard T. (1996) *Environmental Accounting: EMERGY and Environmental Decision Making*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; New York
- Rifkin, Jeremy (2002) *The Hydrogen Economy: The Creation of the Worldwide Energy Web and the Distribution of Power on Earth*. Jeremy P. Tarcher; New York
- Roberts, P. (2004) *The End of Oil: On the Edge of a Perilous New World*. Houghton-Mifflin; New York
- Smil, Vaclav (1991) *General Energetics: Energy in the Biosphere and Civilization*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; New York
- Weigert, Richard G., ed. (1976) *Ecological Energetics*. Dowden, Hutchinson & Ross, Inc.; Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

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Environmental Psychology – The fundamental question here is: what is the correlation between the quality or character of the environments in which people do their living and their behavior or potentials as human beings? Is there a direct causal relationship? Resulting questions would be: Is it possible to design the environment in such a way so as to encourage desired behavior? Can we design environments that influence and enhance human potential, particularly the expansion of consciousness? Interesting questions, and I'm sure you'll find the following readings will leave you with some definite opinions.

- Abram, David (1996) *The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-than-Human World*. Vintage Books; New York

- Bell, P.A., et al. (1990) *Environmental Psychology*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers; Fort Worth, TX
- Gallagher, Winifred (1993) *The Power of Place: How Our Surroundings Shape Our Thoughts, Emotions, and Actions*. Poseidon Press; New York
- Jung, C.G., ed. (1964) *Man and His Symbols*. Dell Publishing Company, Inc.; New York
- Krasner, L., ed. (1980) *Environmental Design and Human Behavior: A Psychology of the Individual in Society*. Pergamon General Psychology Series, Pergamon Press; New York
- Zeisel, John (1981) *Inquiry by Design: Tools for Environment-Behavior Research*. University Press; Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Epistemology – This section may be the best place to begin for the individual who sincerely wants to design and develop sustainable communities. Epistemology asks, “How do we know what we know?” In other words, by what basis do we justify knowledge as ‘true’ knowledge? Is there perennial truth or is all truth relative? More than mere philosophical cogitation, these questions are directly applicable to the work we do, for whether we realize it or not we have inherited an epistemology. The epistemology of the West goes something like this: Mind and Body are separate substances; the Universe is composed of isolated individual units. An alternative epistemology would assert: Mind is the emerging epiphenomenon of an organism interfacing with its environment, and Mind cannot exist without Body; individuals have no distinct identity outside of their relationships with other individuals. These two ‘ways of knowing’ will produce two very different built environments – one sustainable and the other unsustainable. Food for thought.....

- Bateson, Gregory (1972) *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*. Ballantine Books; New York
- Bateson Gregory (1979) *Mind and Nature: A Necessary Unity*. E.P. Dutton; New York
- Bateson, Gregory and Mary Catherine Bateson (1987) *Angels Fear: Towards an Epistemology of the Sacred*. Macmillan Publishing Company; New York
- Dychtwald, Ken (1978) *Body-Mind*. Jove Books; New York
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg (1976) *Philosophical Hermeneutics*. Trans. By David E. Linge. University of California Press; Berkeley
- Johnson, Mark (1987) *The Body in the Mind*. University of Chicago Press; Chicago
- Mare, E.C. (2004) *Towards an Epistemology for the Ecovillage Designer: Place-making, Co-worlding, Eco-poiesis*. Village Design Institute; Bellingham, WA
- Maturana, Humberto and Francisco Varela (1987) *The Tree of Knowledge: The Biological Roots of Human Understanding*. Shambhala; Boston
- Olds, Linda E, (1992) *Metaphors of Interrelatedness: Towards a Systems Theory of Knowledge*. State University of New York Press; Albany

- Polanyi, Michael (1958) *Personal Knowledge: Towards a Post-Critical Philosophy*. University of Chicago Press
- Preston, Christopher (2003) *Grounding Knowledge: Environmental Philosophy, Epistemology, and Place*. University of Georgia Press; Athens
- Rorty, Richard (1979) *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature*. University Press; Princeton, N.J.
- Tarnas, Richard (1991) *The Passion of the Western Mind: Understanding the Ideas that Have Shaped Our Worldview*. Harmony Books; New York
- Varela, Francisco, Evan Thompson and Eleanor Rosch (1999) *The Embodied Mind: Cognitive Science and Human Experience*. MIT Press; Cambridge, Mass.
- Wright, Will (1992) *Wild Knowledge: Science, Language, and Social Life in a Fragile Environment*. University of Minnesota Press; Minneapolis

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Geomancy – Included in this section are Feng Shui, Sacred Geometry, and Geomancy. What these practices all have in common is the utilization of unseen, elemental, or supra-sensory phenomena in the design process. Feng Shui is the Taoist art of placement. Sacred Geometry re-creates the proportions found in Nature, particularly the Golden Mean, right into the built environment. Geomancy locates subtle Earth energies like ley lines and power points and uses this information in the placement of features. Geomancy is also used to heal Earth energies. Most designers probably would not consider taking the design process to these subtle dimensions; however, if the goal is to design the environment in such a way that it may influence the expansion of consciousness, then including these dimensions will be needed.

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Growth – Built into a debt-based financial system is an imperative for growth. This is because GDP must increase unceasingly so that earnings can expand to pay back interest. Should growth cease, then the financial system will collapse in upon itself. Yet, the following writers all agree that in a materially-closed system like the Earth, growth is finite, or rather cyclical, and cannot continue in a straight line indefinitely. In fact, the growth imperative is already causing deep strain in some critical environmental support systems. If you were to overlay graphs showing fossil fuel use and global population levels, the two indicators would mirror each other – they both start with a gradual rise and then reach a point where they shoot up in tandem exponentially. Projections of these graphs with other indicators predict the world system going into overshoot, then collapse. These books are well worth reading; growth cannot continue indefinitely.

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Human Ecology – Human Ecology is the study of the relationships between human beings and their environment. Sustainable Community Design and Development could be called, on a very fundamental level, *applied* human ecology. There are a set of common needs required by all human groups. The manner in which groups satisfy these needs through interfacing with their local environment is the basis of culture. Therefore, this section also includes writings from the associated fields of Cultural Anthropology and Human Geography. This is important, basic, essential knowledge that should be the foundation for any further study.

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Nature – It's very profound to recognize that Nature is a living, organic process that has been proceeding in ever greater complexity and diversity for some 3.9 *billion* years. That makes Nature – whatever it is that keeps Nature together – *very* sustainable. Designers will be exceedingly wise to thoroughly investigate the patterns, processes, principles, and structures of Nature. Unfortunately, civilized people began thinking they were *superior* to Nature; but how can this be? Human beings have always been and will always be just a part of Nature, so how can a part be superior to the whole from which it is constituted? Civilized hubris has caused immense destruction of Nature. It's time now to reconnect with Nature and begin acting as an agent in Her behalf by healing the wounds and paying attention to the health of the whole.

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New Urbanism – Proponents of the New Urbanism have been very effective at analyzing and critiquing the dysfunctional American settlement pattern. They also have been very effective at forwarding workable solutions, some of which include: Transit Oriented Development (TODs), increasing density through infill, introducing Pedestrian Pockets, moving toward a multiple mixed-use, and attempting to regain some of the character and community of the “traditional town.” The New Urbanists also have been winning some very lucrative contracts. All in all, however, my personal opinion is that New Urbanism, like Cohousing, is a big step in the right direction but ultimately does not go far enough toward the creation of genuine sustainable communities.

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Permaculture – Permaculture is a comprehensive *design system* whose goal is the creation of sustainable human systems by modeling them after natural systems. Permaculture begins with a set of ethics: Take care of the Earth; Take care of other people; Devote all surplus to the first two. Permaculture also comes with a set of guiding principles, such as: maximize edge, multiple functions for each element, vertical stacking in time and space, zone and sector analysis, choosing the least energy investment for the most productive output, etc. Since Permaculture is a *design system*, it can be applied to design problems of any scale or type. In practice, however, Permaculture always seems to begin with sustainable food systems, so I



have included this subject in this section labeled Permaculture. Is Permaculture 'Permanent-Culture' or Permanent-Agriculture?' I prefer 'Permanent-Horticulture.'

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Place-Making – In the hastily configured, haphazardly unorganized American landscape, elements and features are usually thrown together on the basis of financial expediency, with little long-term vision given as to how they may come together as a meaningful, coherent whole. Place-making is the rectification of this situation. Taking the meaning of 'place' to its ultimate conclusion, a 'place' is the holistically-conceived context in which people's lives unfold; it is the stage and setting upon which the events of life are enacted; it is the protective enclosure through which a unique *lifeworld* may emerge; it is the interface of culture, Nature, and human aspiration at a given time and space. Places are rich in symbolic meaning and grow richer over time – they eventually come to resonate at a unique vibration, imparting an expansion of consciousness to all who enter. Planners, designers, and developers who are exposed to this way of perceiving will not be able to build in the same limited way again.

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Planning – Of course, the retrofit awaiting the North American continent is of such gargantuan scale and scope that the planners inevitably will need to be involved. Alas, the planners' typical education does not have the holistic depth nor transdisciplinary breadth that is being forwarded here, denying them the ability to perceive the dynamic, interdependent, multi-dimensional relationships that constitute a fully sustainable scenario. Planners are trained in a mechanistic, reductionistic view of the world, in which all problems can be reduced to isolated individual units on preconfigured blocks. Planning is generally a top-down profession in which creativity is limited to enforcing codes or adjusting zoning. Planners' most useful talent may be political savvy, as they often find themselves mediating heated disputes between developing interests and citizen's groups over the proposed use of land. Fortunately, there is a growing body of writing moving planning in a more creative, thoughtful, sustainable direction.

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Sustainable Cities – Is the term “sustainable cities” an oxymoron? After all, how will we possibly convert such huge, barren expanses of concrete and steel into livable environments that can be continued into the indefinite future? Whatever the solutions may be, this is an arena where the challenge must be faced squarely, because the majority of the world’s population now lives in cities. Fortunately, there are many talented people working on finding solutions, including the section of the United Nations devoted to human settlements – UN-HABITAT. Perhaps the most effective way to approach the city problem is to sub-organize the city into more human-scale sub-systems – the neighborhood, district, quarter, or urban village? At this scale, community can take hold, so at this scale the quest for sustainability can come with a human face.

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Systems Theory – For the past 500 years, the Western scientific project has been dissecting reality into ever smaller bits; and so, what we are left with is a society of separate, isolated individuals working in highly specialized roles and living a landscape of dispersed, disconnected units. Systems theory is the scientific project to put everything back together again. A system is “an integrated whole whose essential

properties arise from the interrelationship among its parts.” In this view of the world, there is little distinct identity *outside of* relationship – relationship is paramount. Systems theory also includes such language as: “emergent properties,” “feedback loops,” self-organization,” and “continuities across scale.” This kind of languaging, and the concepts it relates to, will be indispensable for the organic re-organization of the world in a self-maintaining, self-regenerating, self-referencing, sustainable future – a future of systems within systems within systems within systems....

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Transportation – A big issue in the coming retrofit will be sustainable transportation. Wholeheartedly, there will be a big shift away from the socially destructive single-occupant automobile –even with the introduction of ethanol, hydrogen, biodiesel, and electric hybrids. The inclusion of more light-rail, high speed rail, and non-fossil-fueled buses will alter lifestyles and modify the pace of life. Pedestrian-oriented, bicycle friendly, villages will mean that most people won't need a car at all. What effect will this have on the national economy? On global warming? On people's health? Wouldn't you like to see the re-introduction of more horses and horse-drawn wagons and carriages?

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Urbanism – The way language is commonly used, one would think that there are only two kinds of human living situations – rural and urban; but what about all the many varied possibilities in between? Of course, urban is that pole characterized by the highest density. Within this (one might say, unnatural) density, culture can be created that is an abstraction from Nature. This benefits that part of the human intellect that revels in conceptual ideas, logic, symbolism, linearity and rationality. It leads to geometric patterns and the spiritual notion of perfected platonic forms, as well as to anonymity, inscrutability, and liberal innovation. If left unchecked it will lead to full blown civilization. The student of sustainable settlements must understand the role urbanism plays in the human aspiration, for we need it in small measure but must make sure always to keep it in proportion.

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Urban Village – Here is a fairly new concept potent with possibilities for re-organizing the city along sustainable patterns; for here is a potentially magic blend of the excitement, diversity, and obscurity of urbanism with the stability, durability, and conviviality of the village. The term had been used rhetorically in various places for years until the Prince of Wales commissioned a team to write a “Briefing Sheet” outlining the qualities, characteristics, and parameters of an authentic, sustainable “urban village.” The report was one of the most thoughtful, clear – and indeed, workable – proposals for sustainable settlements ever written. Unfortunately, many commercial interests have co-opted the term, and few of these even try to reach the standards set forth in the Briefing Sheet; many are simply upscale consumer shopping enclaves. Nevertheless, the concept “urban village” deserves a continued full and open development as the standard to use for the retrofit of the urban pattern during the coming period of energy descent.

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Villages – Here we have the primordial human settlement pattern. There are villages currently in place that have been there for thousands of years. The village pattern and associated village culture have proven themselves sustainable over time. This is so because villages grow up organically in symbiosis with their supporting environments. The Village Design Institute proposes that village-scale is the most appropriate scale around which to organize for sustainability.

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