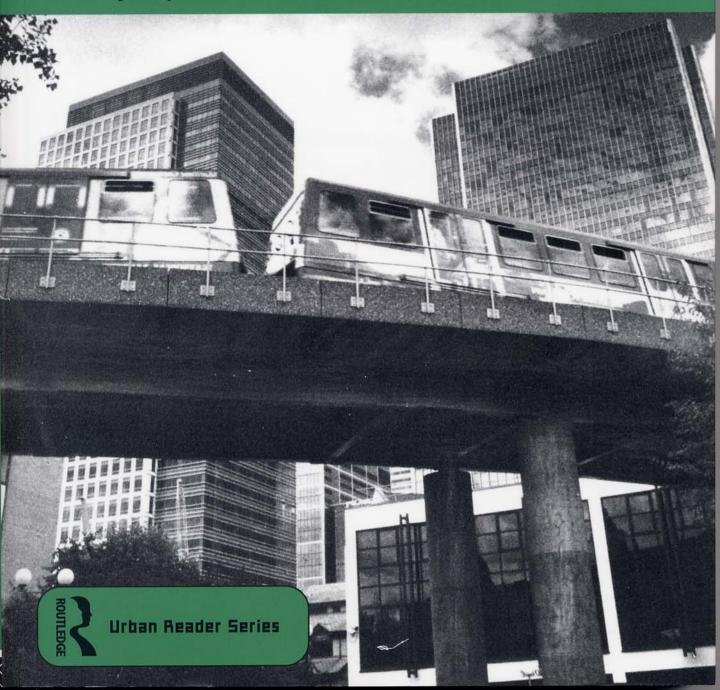
THE SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT READER

Edited by Stephen M. Wheeler and Timothy Beatley



Adelaide EcoVillage (Christie Walk)

A new ecological co-housing project is under construction in the Southern Australian city of Adelaide, with the first five units occupied in 2002. Green city ideas have a long history in Adelaide, under the advocacy of Paul Downton, and the organization Urban Ecology Australia. This project, known as Christie Walk (See plates CS5 and CS6), is an example of ecological infill. When completed it will include four townhouses, six apartments and four straw-bale cottages. A community house is also included. Ecological features include onsite sewage treatment and graywater recycling. Stormwater is retained onsite and used for toilet flushing.

The homes are designed to be very energy-efficient, and include both active and passive solar. The building designs take advantage of high thermal mass, extensive insulation, and a natural ventilation system. Stairwells act as ventilation flues. Vegetation and landscaping using native plants cools the air.

Extensive use has been made of recycled materials (e.g., flyash in concrete, recycled timber in windows, reuse of brick and stone from demolished buildings), as well as non-toxic paints and finishes. The outer shell of the building has been designed to last longer than 100 years, with interior doors and walls made from renewable resources. A rooftop garden is included, as well as a community garden where food will be produced for the neighborhood.

Siting this development on an L-shaped parcel in the heart of Adelaide reflects its sustainability values as well. Its urban location will permit living with little or no dependence on cars. Public transit and shopping are nearby. In recognition of the project's location, some relief from the city's parking requirement was given – only ten parking spaces were required for these fourteen units.

For more information, see: "Urban Ecology Australia – Christie Walk," at www.urbanecology.org.au/christiewalk/main.html

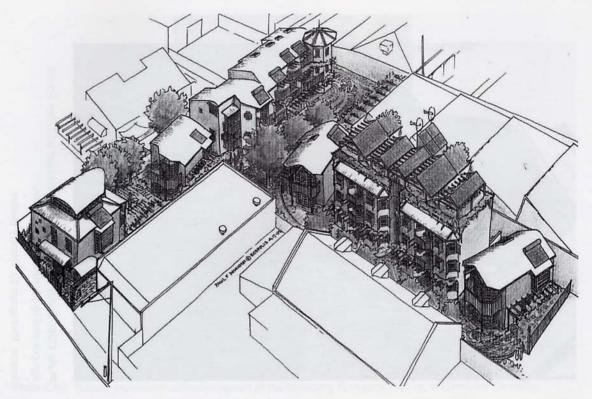


Plate CS5: Artist's rendering of Christie Walk, Adelaide, Australia.

Source: Courtesy Paul Downton, Urban Ecology Australia.

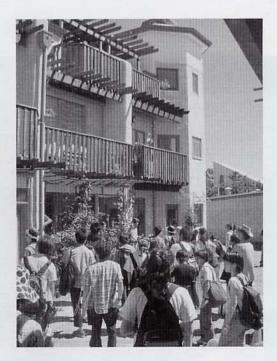


Plate CS6: Christie Walk, Adelaide, Australia.

Source: Photograph by Paul Downton.

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The Sustainable Urban Development Reader brings together classic readings from a wide variety of sources to investigate how our cities and towns can become more sustainable.

Thirty-eight selections span issues such as land-use planning, urban design, transportation, ecological restoration, economic development, resource use, and equity planning. Part introductions outline the major themes, while the editors' introductions to the individual writings explain their interest and significance to wider debates. Additional parts present twenty-four case studies of real-world sustainable urban planning examples, sustainability planning exercises, and further reading.

Providing background in theory, practical application, and vision, in a clear, accessible format, The Sustainable Urban Development Reader is an essential resource for students, professionals, and indeed anyone interested in the future of urban environments.

Stephen M. Wheeler is Assistant Professor of Community and Regional Planning at the University of New Mexico, and Timothy Beatley is Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities in the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia.

Planning / Urban Studies / Geography / Architecture

CONTRIBUTORS

Edward B. Barbier • Timothy Beatley • William W. Behrens III • Robert Bullard • Ernest Callenbach • Peter Calthorpe • Robert Cervero • Herman E. Daly • David Eisenberg • Andre Gunder Frank • Jan Gehl • Herbert Giradet • Paul Hawken • Dolores Hayden • Ebenezer Howard • Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao • Allan B. Jacobs • Jane Jacobs • Jeffrey Kenworthy • Charles Komanoff • Ursula K. Le Guin • Josef Leitman • Aldo Leopold • Michael Lerner • Hwa-Jen Liu • Virginia Maclaren • William McDonough • Ian L. McHarg • Dennis L. Meadows • Donella H. Meadows • Lewis Mumford • Peter Newman • David Pearce • John Pucher • Jonas Rabinovitch • Jörgan Randers • William Rees • Ann L. Riley • Paul Shimek • Michael Shuman • John Tillman Lyle • United Nations • Brenda Vale • Robert Vale • Mathis Wackernagel • Anne Whiston Spirn • World Commission on Environment and Development • Peter Yost

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