The Original Green

University of Colorado
Boulder
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The New Urban Guild
Miami Beach, Florida, USA
the Original GREEN
Unlocking the Mystery of True Sustainability

Stephen A. Mouzon
The Guild Foundation Press
Miami

Foreword by
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
How Things Operate

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Lots of Controls

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Precision Alignments

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Massive Use of Energy

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How Things Grow

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THINGS that have Life

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WHERE THEY can THRIVE

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How We Get There

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How We Participate

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What's the Problem?

1. the Absence of Plain-Spoken Sustainability
2. the Supply-Side Focus
3. the Carbon Focus
4. the Achilles Heel of Architecture
5. the Trouble with Consumption
6. the Problem of Growth
7. the Fate of “Ought-To”
8. the Dilemma of Global Warming
9. the Danger of Wishes
10. the 2.5 Billion People

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10. the Absence of Plain-Spoken Sustainability

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9. the Danger of Wishes

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8. the DILEMMA of Global Warming

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7. the Fate of “Ought-To”

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6. the Problem of Growth

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5. the TROUBLE with CONSUMPTION

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Planned Obsolescence

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Throwaway Buildings

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THROWAWAY PLACES

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4. the **Achilles Heel of Architecture**

[Image of a building with text: www.originalgreen.org]
the Necessity of Uniqueness

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the ENORMOUS EFFORT to FIGURE IT OUT

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3. the Carbon Focus

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2. the Supply-Side Focus

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1. the 2.5 Billion People

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WHAT CAN WE DO?

10. the Things that Work
9. the Diversified Extent
8. the Diversified Environment
7. the Diversified Means
6. the Expanded Uses

5. the Narrowed Resource Range
4. the Expanded Comfort Range
3. the Localized Operations
2. the Sharing of Wisdom
1. the Involvement of Everyone

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10. the Things that Work

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9. *the Diversified Extent*
8. the DIVERSIFIED ENVIRONMENT

The Transect is the operating system of the New Urbanism. The idea of the Transect originated in the 1900's as an ecological tool used to describe a series of natural habitats, but transects have existed in nature since the dawn of time.
the TRANSECT

★ T1: Natural (the wilderness)

★ T2: Rural (fields & meadows)

★ T3: Suburban (the outskirts)

★ T4: General Urban (neighborhoods)

★ T5: Urban Center (main street)

★ T6: Urban Core (downtown)
7. the Diversified Means

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6. the Expanded Uses

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5. the NARROWED RESOURCE RANGE

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4. the EXPANDED Comfort Range
CONDITIONING
the
BUILDINGS FIRST

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CONDITIONING
the
HUMANS FIRST

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3. the Localized Operations

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Large-Scale Operations

Localized Operations

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Web of Daily Life

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Web of Daily Life

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2. the Sharing of Wisdom

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What’s The Delivery System?

★ Public Education’s Way
★ Higher Education’s Way
★ the Specialists’ Way
★ Nature’s Way

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Public Education's Way

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Higher Education’s Way

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the Specialists’ Way

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I. the Involvement of Everyone

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What Is A Living Tradition?

★ Inspiration
★ Resonance
★ Repetition
★ Adoption

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THE DEATH of TRADITION

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The Great Decline

1925–1945

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The Dark Ages of Architecture

1945-1980

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The New Renaissance

★ First Phase: 1980–2005
★ Second Phase: 2006–?
★ Third Phase: ?–

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Workings of a Living Tradition

★ Easily Perceived
★ Easily Loved
★ Easily Performed
★ ... by the People, not just the Specialists

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Building the Future
Can Traditional Architecture and Urbanism be Green?
21 - 22 November 2006, London, UK

Sustainable design has changed the direction of this century’s architecture and sustainable communities have become the mantra for planning. The growing awareness of global climate change has led to an awakening of interest in green urbanism and architecture. Most often, green design is seen as something that is quite high tech, as opposed to natural. Vernacular architecture and organically evolved cities have always responded to the limits of the time, whether in response to climate, to resources, or to skills.

This conference examines whether vernacular traditions can offer some lessons about responding to today’s environmental challenges, and the emerging limits imposed by climate change.

Speakers

- Bill Dunster
- Elizabeth Moule
- Stefanos Polyzoides
- James Steele
- Quinlan Terry
- Tom Woolley & others.

The need to create a traditional response is vital when one considers two factors: the overwhelming preference of consumers for traditional residences and the fact that, according to the Sustainable Development Commission, 75% of the homes in which Britons will live in 2050 have already been built. Prominent architects, urbanists and scientists will examine ways that traditional architecture and urbanism can respond to 21st century environmental issues; will look at the sustainable refurbishment of Victorian and Edwardian terraces and will develop a practical agenda for moving forward.

The conference is organised with the support of our partner, the Building Research Establishment. The event will be held at:
“This is how we build here”

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ARCHITECTURE’S
BIOMIMICRY

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That which can reproduce and live sustainably is green; that which is incapable of doing so is not green. This is the standard of life. Life is that process which creates all things green.
What Is the Original Green?

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The Original Green

PLACES

NOURISHABLE

LOVABLE

ACCESSIBLE

DURABLE

SERVICEABLE

FLEXIBLE

SECURABLE

FRUGAL

BUILDINGS
NOURISHABLE PLACES

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Tightly-Embedded
Opportunistic

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Slope-Adaptable

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Scales of Agriculture

★ Employing Farm
★ Family Farm
★ Allotment Garden
★ Edge Yard Garden
★ Courtyard Garden
★ Roof Garden
★ Arbor Garden
★ Wall Garden
★ Balcony Garden
★ Window Garden

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EMPLOYING FARM

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Family Farm

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Allotment Garden

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Edge Yard (Front Yard) Garden

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Courtyard Garden

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Roof or Terrace Garden

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Wall Garden

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Window Garden

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Accessible Places

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SERVICEABLE PLACES

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Reducing Property Values of the Adjacent Homes

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Affordability:

Cottages

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Affordability:
Rear Lane Addresses

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Securable Places

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Lovable Buildings

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Down the Unlovable Carbon Stair-Steps
Three Sources of Lovability

★ Things that Reflect Us
★ Things that Delight Us
★ Things that Put Us in Harmony

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Things that Reflect Us

★ Reflecting the Human Form
★ Reflecting the Culture of our Groups
★ Reflecting the Culture of our Region
★ Reflecting the Culture of our Nation

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Horizontal Arrangement
THINGS that Delight Us

★ Sensual
★ Group
★ Memory
★ Intellectual
★ Sheltering
★ Challenging

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Sensual Delight

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Warmth
Cool Breeze
Sounds
SIGHTS
Group Delight

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SPORTS
Political Assembly
Setting the Stage

★ Accidental Meetings
★ Geometry

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Front Porch Principles

Porch Floor Height
(Above sidewalk, measured at front edge of porch)
Front Porch Principles

Fence, Hedge & Wall Reduction Factors
(Deduct from minimum required porch floor height)

Top (double dot) line is fence
Bottom (single-dot) line is hedge & wall

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Porch Railing Adjustment Factors

(Adjust minimum required porch floor height)

Top (dotted) line is additional height required when no railing is used.
(This does not work close to the sidewalk because of building code requirement that railing be used for porches higher than 30” above grade at porch edge.)

Bottom (triple-dot) line is height reduction allowed for masonry or 75%+ solid wood rails.

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Memory Delight

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Intellectual Delight

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SHELTERING DELIGHT

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Embracing Spaces
Challenging Delight

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Bracing Places
Things that Put Us in Harmony

★ Mathematical
★ Simplicity
★ Authenticity
★ Natural Processes
★ Natural Laws
★ Natural Forms
★ Harmony with the Region

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Mathematical Harmony

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RATIONAL PROPORTIONS
Plan Proportions
The Third Dimension
HARMONY with NATURAL Processes

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HARMONY with NATURAL LAWS

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Gravity
THERMODYNAMICS
Harmony of Natural Forms

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HARMONY with the Region

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Vernacular Questions

★ No Universally Lovable Style
★ Tuned to Localities, but...
★ Loved by People Around the World?
★ Not Designed to be Lovable, but to Meet Needs
★ Sense of Basic Appropriateness... Is This the Key?

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Pienza
Ridiculous
Durable Buildings

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Unnaturally Used Materials

Naturally Used Materials

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“No Maintenance”

Repairable & Patchable

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Flexible Buildings

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Proximity to Street

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Ceiling Height

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Simplicity of Massing

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Simplicity of Circulation

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Pipes

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SUSTAINABILITY and the MELTDOWN

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Be Frugal First

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Then Bridge The Gap

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Putting Buildings Back to Work

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PLACES

The Original Green

BUILDINGS

NOURISHABLE

LOVABLE

DURABLE

FLEXIBLE

ACCESSIBLE

SERVICEABLE

SECURABLE

FRUGAL

IDENTITY

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