THE ORIGINAL GREEN: UNLOCKING the MYSTERY of TRUE SUSTAINABILITY

University of New Mexico
School of Architecture + Planning
Albuquerque
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Stephen A. Mouzon, AIA CNU LEED
The New Urban Guild
Miami Beach, Florida, USA
How Things Operate

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Lots of Controls

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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 Achilles Heel of Architecture
3. the Carbon Focus
4. the Supply-Side Focus
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

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10. the Absence of Plain-Spoken Sustainability
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

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the Necessity of Uniqueness

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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*
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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Vernacular  Median  Classical

More Organic  More Refined

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6. the Expanded Uses

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5. the **NARROWED RESOURCE RANGE**
4. the Expanded Comfort Range

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Conditioning the Buildings First

Conditioning the Humans First

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LIVING in Season

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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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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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NATURE’S 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 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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The Transmission Device

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GIZMO GREEN

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PATTERNS vs. STYLES

★ Early Necessity of Style
★ Intelligence of Pattern Discourse
★ Blunt Instrument vs. Surgical Precision

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3 Levels of the Vernacular

★ Style

★ Design Principles

★ Living Vernacular Tradition

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“This is how we build here”
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.

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What Is the Original Green?

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The Original Green

Nourishable

Accessible

Serviceable

Securable

Lovable

Durable

Flexible

Frugal

PLACES

BUILDINGS
NOURISHABLE PLACES

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Tightly-Embedded
Opportunistic

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Slope-Adaptable

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Multi-Layered

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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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Family Farm

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Edge Yard (Front Yard) Garden

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Roof or Terrace Garden
Arbor Garden
Balcony Garden

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Farmer’s Market

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Accessible Places

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Walkability: Alleys

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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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Affordability: Mews

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Securable Places

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Lovable Buildings

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Down the Unlovable Carbon Stair-Steps

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Beauty or Lovability?

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BEAUTY or LOVABILITY?

★ ADMIRATION

★ ACTION

★ BREADTH

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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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THINGS that Delight Us

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

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Sensual Delight

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Warmth
Sounds
SIGHTS
Group Delight

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POLITICAL ASSEMBLY
Social 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

25'  20'  15'  10'  5'  0'

Sidewalk

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Front Porch Principles

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.
MEMORY DELIGHT

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SHELTERING DELIGHT

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Embracing Spaces
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

- Courtyard
- Master Bath
- Master Bedroom 15" x 20" (3:4)
- Master Ensuite
- Master Wardrobe
- Dining
- Kitchen 15" x 9" (3:2)
- Dressing Room
- Utility
- 2-Car Garage
- Side Porch
- Entry Hall
- Living 20" x 15" (4:3)
HARMONY with NATURAL Processes

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Gravity
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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Ridiculous
“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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Frugal Buildings

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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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The Original Green

PLACES
- NOURISHABLE: Organic Farming
- ACCESSIBLE: Compact & Walkable
- SERVICEABLE: Diverse
- SECURABLE: Identity

BUILDINGS
- LOVABLE: Living Codes
- DURABLE: Living Traditions
- FLEXIBLE: Living Traditions
- FRUGAL: Gizmo Green