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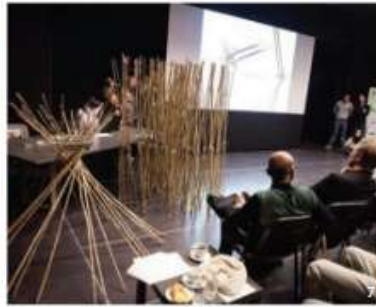
*"This is sustainability: the revolution in our minds and in our tools. It will
take time, but there is no other way... Because we have to. If not, we shall
not meet the requirements of the next generations."*

Françoise Héléne Jourda, Jourda Architectes

PREVIOUS:

Activating Public Spaces:
Valla Aurelia park in Rome;
ECOWEEK workshop led by Orizzontale,
OSA Architecture e Paesaggio
with Living Urban Scape
(Image ECOWEEK)
THIS AND OPPOSITE PAGES:

1. Sketching in London, ECOWEEK 2014 in London, UK.
2. Collecting reclaimed materials. Tel Aviv port, ECOWEEK 2013 in the Middle East.
3. Closing event: Chiostri dell' Università Statale, ECOWEEK 2011 in Milano, Italy.
4. Workshop, Technopolis, ECOWEEK 2011 in Athens, Greece.
5. Site visit: SHOOTING RANGE in Wola Justowska, ECOWEEK 2012 in Krakow, Poland.
6. Workshop, Valla Aurelia Park, ECOWEEK 2012 in Rome, Italy.
7. Workshop presentations, MOCIAK, ECOWEEK 2013 in Krakow, Poland.
8. Workshop presentations, Megatrend University, ECOWEEK 2012 in Belgrade, Serbia.
(All images ECOWEEK)



Fifty architects, landscape architects, designers, and environmental leaders from 15 countries around the world, share their vision to inspire, provoke, and educate. They join their voices and vision on sustainability, sustainable design, urbanism, and architecture in essays, articles, interviews, project presentations, and manifestos, to amplify a message of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, embodied in their work.

The contributing authors to this book are among the extended ECOWEEK 'family.' They have lectured or led ECOWEEK workshops in cities around the world. Among

them, Kengo Kuma, Bjarke Ingels, Françoise-Hélène Jourda, Diebedo Francis Kéré, Michael Sorkin, Gemot Minke, Prof. David Orr, and Robert Swan, OBE, joined by professionals, leaders and educators, young professionals, and students.

They share their inspiring work - schools, public buildings, housing, rehabilitation of existing buildings, gardens, community gardens, environmental education, and environmental leadership - and their own insights about sustainability and sustainable design. They have been an inspiration to ECOWEEK participants, and now they can inspire us too.

ECOWEEK conferences and sustainable design workshops have become for the past 10 years, a unique experience and a turning point to the professional growth and career for hundreds of young professionals and students.

The ECOWEEK NGO was created in 2005 with the mission to raise environmental awareness and to promote the principles of sustainability. ECOWEEK international conferences and sustainable design workshops bring together professionals and students of Architecture, Design, Landscape Architecture, and Environmental Engineering from around the world. ECOWEEK workshops are assigned design or design-build interventions in the public realm, aiming to educate, train, and empower, while contributing to local communities. The ECOWEEK NET [www.ecowee.net] network has members in 54 countries.

The Book #1 marks ECOWEEK's first 10-year anniversary and its commitment to education, cooperation, and sustainable design.

Contents

- 7 **FOREWORD** by David W. Orr
Professor of Environmental Studies and
Politics Oberlin College (USA).
- 10 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**
- 13 **INTRODUCTION** by
Elias Messinas Architect (ECOWEEK),
and Dan Price Architect (Israel).
- A. SHORT ESSAYS**
- 24 Julie Bargmann Landscape Architect
DIRT Studio (USA).
*Manifesto Series 07: Finding the
Formless.*
- 30 Bjarke Ingels Architect BIG (Denmark &
USA).
Hedonistic Sustainability.
- 36 Françoise-Hélène Jourda Architect
Jourda Architects (France).
About Sustainability.
- 42 Michael Sorkin Architect Sorkin Studio
(USA).
Love Thy Neighbor(hood).
- 50 Marta Pozo Architect MVRDV (Holland &
China).
Contradictory Guest.
- B. FROM URBAN TO ARCHITECTURE**
- 58 Kengo Kuma Architect (Japan).
Eco-City.
- 64 Annalisa Metta Architect (Italy).
*Public Space Design: Three Couples and
a Trio.*
- 72 Braha Kunda Architect HIT (Israel).
*Toward 'Urban Acupuncture' - A Work in
Progress.*
- 78 Ivan Redi Architect ORTLOS (Austria & UK).
*A Holistic Approach toward Regenerative
Architecture.*
- 86 Richard Ingersoll Architecture Historian
Syracuse University (Italy).
Eat the City.
- 96 Thomas Doxiadis Architect and
Landscape Architect Doxiadis+ (Greece).
*Symbiotic Design and Didactic
Landscapes.*
- 104 Galia Hanoch-Roe Landscape Architect
(Israel).
*Sustainable Design of Educational
Landscapes.*
- 114 Maria Luisa Palumbo Architect InArch
(Italy).
*Toward an Urban Ecosystem: The
Productive Footprint Design Method.*
- 120 Jan Johansson Architect (Denmark).
*Designing Sustainable Quality in
Architecture for the Users.*
- 128 Gil Peled Architect eco-challenges
(Israel).
*Green Retrofit: A Challenge at Global
and Local Levels.*
- 134 Ulf Meyer Architect Ingenhoven
Architects (Germany).
In Search of the Truly Green Building.
- 140 Elena Barthel Architect Rural Studio
(USA & Italy).
Ingredients.
- 148 Isaac Meir Architect Ben Gurion
University (Israel).
*Green Architecture: The Architecture of
Survivability.*
- 156 Vasileios Ntovros Architect (Greece).
Looking for Eco-Logic.
- 164 Joseph Cory Architect GEOTEKTURA
(Israel).
Green Scale.
- 172 Ørjan Nyheim Architect PIRII (Norway).
*The Architect's Framework for
Sustainable Architecture in Norway.*
- 180 Barak Pelman Architect (Israel).
*Sustainability: An Intrinsic Part of
Architectural Design?*
- 186 Stelios Zerefos, Chris Tassas Architects
Zerefos Tassas Architects (Greece).
*Reuse and Refurbishment as an
Ecological Approach to Architectural
Design.*
- 194 Maciej Siuda Architect (Poland).
Redefining Architecture.
- C. PROJECTS & EXAMPLES**
- 202 Ivan Harbour Architect Rogers Stirk
Harbour (UK).
Homeshell.
- 208 Daniel Pearl Architect L'Œuf (Canada). 5
'Benny Farm': Theory into Practice.
- 220 Alessio Battistella Architect ARCo (Italy).
*Resilient Design - A possible Approach
to Sustainable Design in Emergency
Contexts: A School in Al Khan Al Ahmar,
Palestine.*
- 228 Jana Leoni Architect (Germany).
*The 'Green Moabit' Urban District
Development Concept in Berlin.*
- 236 Orizzontale (Italy).
*Challenging the Hidden Potential of the
City.*
- 244 Maria Livia Olivetti Architect (Italy).
*Valle Aurelia in Progress: Planning for
Real Experiment.*
- 250 Hilde Sponheim Architect LPO (Norway).
*Wulkan Area | Reused | Restructured |
Revitalized.*
- 256 Tom Rankin Architect (Italy & USA).
*A Place for Reuse in Rome's Via
Portuense.*
- 264 David Knafo Architect Knafo Klimor
Architects (Israel).
Building a Green School.

270 Alexandros Kouloukouris Architect
KARD Architects (Greece).
Business Building 'Ben 10'.

276 Michael Christensen Architect
(Denmark).
*Two Projects: DTU Compute and Soil
Center Copenhagen.*

284 Gernot Minke Architect (Germany).
*Load-Bearing Vaults and Domes from
Straw Bales.*

290 Uri Gilad Architect office,
winhov (Holland & Switzerland).
*Second Life for a City Monument:
Transformation of a Monument into W
Hotel Amsterdam.*

296 Costas Stef. Tsipiras Architect (Greece).
*Macedonian Sun: Bioclimatic Passive
House in Thessaloniki. The First Holistic
Philosophy Residence in Greece.*

304 Abram de Boer Architect (Holland).
*Reconstructing Architecture: The
Octrooigebouw.*

D. INTERVIEWS

312 Robert Swan Leadership &
Environmental Expert 2041.org (UK &
USA).
Preserving Antarctica.

318 Diebedo Francis Kere Architect
(Germany & Africa).
School in Gando, Burkina Faso.

324 Kristian Skovbakke Villadsen Architect
Gehl Architects (Denmark & China).
Invite in 1:1.

330 Benjamin Gill Environmentalist
BioRegional (UK & Greece).
From Eco to Happy Communities.

338 Michael Photiadis Architect (Greece).
The New Acropolis Museum in Athens.

346 Francesco Bedeschi Architect University
of Arkansas Rome Center (Italy).
Educating (Young) Architects in Italy.

E. (YOUNG) VOICES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

352 Annalisa Metta Architect (Italy).
Tips to Young Professionals.

356 Magdalena Malska Architect (Poland).
Journey Through Architecture.

364 Mehtap Leyla Turanalp Planner (Turkey
& USA).
*Balance: It is in (our) Nature. Reflections
of a Young Planner.*

370 Dimitrios Farmakis Civil & BIM Engineer
(Greece).
Meaningful Synergies.

378 Jelena Lucic Founding Chairman
ECOIST (Serbia & China).
Interview.

386 AUTHORS

Foreword

The Designers' Challenge

David W. Orr



A specter haunts our common future. We have warmed the Earth by more than 0.8°C, with at least that much more on the way. A 2°C increase by 2050 is likely, with absolutely no assurance that we can stop it there. Even in the early stages of climate destabilization, we're now witnessing weather extremes and changes that were not supposed to occur until mid-century or later. Because CO₂ remains in the atmosphere for a long time, we have committed posterity to centuries of rising temperatures, rising sea levels flooding coastal cities, ecological chaos, and collateral effects including famine, violence, political and economic turmoil, and psychological trauma. Now we must act to contain the consequences of our past actions, not for a few years or decades, but over centuries and millennia.

The challenge posed by rapid climate change is not an anomaly, but rather a manifestation of the logic inherent in the larger economic and political systems. It cannot be resolved within the paradigm and worldview in which

it was created. It is a global crisis, beyond the capacity of any nation-state to solve on its own. If humans are not merely to survive, but to thrive, we will have to change the structures that have generated the crisis, not merely change the coefficients of change. The challenge of climate destabilization has no solution, as we customarily use that word, but it is possible that we can design systems that permit humans to adapt to a different world.

In 5,000 years of history, our ancestors did considerable damage to the forests, soils, and biological diversity of the Earth. But in time the effects were repairable and/or occurred at a small enough scale that they did not diminish the slow, but steady, demographic and material advance of humankind. Until quite recently an 'empty' Earth had plenty of room for migration to less populated regions. We now live in a very different and 'full world', in which the last lands on the five continents have been occupied and exploited. The continually quickening pace of change now threatens to upend virtually everything

1. Villa Aurelia in Progress flyer for the party at the end of the ECOWEEK workshop (Courtesy of Maria Livia Olivetti)

2, 3, 4, 5. Saturday afternoon party in Villa Aurelia (Courtesy of Maria Livia Olivetti)

Maria Livia Olivetti (Italy) Architect, heads the national research project 'Living Urban Scape' (LUS), funded by the Italian Ministry of Education at Roma Tre University.

Maria Livia Olivetti



VALLE AURELIA
IN PROGRESS
 idee per il borghetto

ECO WEEK
 2012

STRADABANDA
 MOSTRA
 FOTOGRAFICA

29.09.12
 ALBORGHETTO
 DI VALLE AURELIA
FESTA
 giardino del maresciallo
 via delle ceramiche
 h 16:30
 appuntamento alla biblioteca valle aurelia
 viale di valle aurelia 129

1

sa
 orizzontale
 LIVING
 URBAN
 SCAPES
 ABITARE LO SPAZIO URBANO

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 Commissione Cultura

Valle Aurelia in Progress: Planning for Real Experiment

Maria Livia Olivetti

It was thanks to my friend and colleague Annalisa Metta that I got involved in the ECOWEEK experience. At that time I already was (and still am) the coordinator of a research program named Living Urban Scape (LUS), the main focus of which is to find new solutions for the renovation of public residential housing blocks, starting from the open spaces. For this reason, I was very enthusiastic when Annalisa proposed to me to test some of the theories we had developed in LUS on a real scale, in Valle Aurelia in Rome. The suburb of Valle Aurelia was built in 1975 on the site of a small ancient village. It is located at the edge of the Pineto regional park and consists primarily of large residential buildings housing factory laborers, mostly immigrants from Libya. The buildings are surrounded by expanses of green open space covered largely by wild vegetation. The disconnect between the built and open

environment was partly the fault of the inhabitants, who have become indifferent to the surrounding landscape and don't use it for their daily outdoor activities. They pass through it without acknowledging its presence or realizing its potential.

Our challenge was to reconnect the open space to the built environment of the residential blocks, and thereby create an open space accessible and useful to the local population for their daily outdoor activity. No doubt that the challenge was too ambitious, considering the means at our disposal. Nevertheless, we decided to take advantage of the opportunity offered by ECOWEEK to test our theories in practice and learn from the social physical reaction to our intervention.

We began on our work on a cloudy day, in the last week of September 2012. We had six





248 days and a diverse team of 20 architecture and planning students from different parts of the world. We also had a modest budget of 1,000 euros to purchase materials for the implementation of the project. Initially there was hesitation, but we soon became wholeheartedly immersed in the task. By the end of the week, the first small park at the entrance of the Pineto Park was transformed. With wooden furniture and signage, an exhibition with photographs of the historic neighborhood prior to its demolition, a staircase which gave access to the park from the street, and signage leading to the park, the project took on a life of its own. Along the 500m path connecting the apartment blocks to the park entrance, we made stencil drawings on the asphalt sidewalks, indicating the distance to the park. The signage provoked the residents to follow the path. At the end of the week, we organized a public party and a photography exhibition within the park showing the site we had transformed. We advertised with posters in the neighborhood, and soon the park was full of people – people of different ages and nationalities. We were astonished to see the broad response to our invitation by the local community, coming together on a September afternoon for the first time, to reclaim the public open space we revealed to them.

It was the first step in our goal to make the local community aware of its natural surroundings: and to start a process of reclaiming these natural public spaces. We needed to show them the possibility of using, preserving, and maintaining them for the well-being of the community. The Valle Aurelia in Progress experiment (in short, VAP) has changed the spatial configuration of the site, through minimal interventions of gardening and light temporary structures. Reflecting on the results of the project, it was highly engaging and challenging for our group of students and young architects for many reasons, both social and educational. VAP was an outstanding experience for all stakeholders. It benefited the students, the local residents and the LUS research program in many ways:

The students and young architects were exposed to and participated in an alternate methodology for learning. They had the opportunity to experience the components that form the landscape, to understand the relationships, and to develop a design strategy for a real site. The students learned how to work as a team and to overcome language and cultural barriers.

The local residents were involved for the first time in a process with a group of professionals

and young professionals who were sincerely interested in hearing and addressing the daily problems of their neighborhood. The local residents opened their homes and gave the students access to work in their outdoor spaces, helped them with materials, tools, and electricity throughout the entire week. VAP made the local residents witness the power of community in urban renovation and the maintenance of the local open spaces.

The LUS research program, motivated by the assumption that urban action constitutes

the most viable path for the renovation of public residential suburbs, reached a positive conclusion. We realized that real action is the primary instrument to fulfill our research assumption. Having learned from the VAP experience, we are now extending our attention to a variety of realities that constitute the public space within the urban context. We are seeking opportunities to address these challenges with innovative solutions and experimentation toward a renaissance of the public open space.



1. Vulkan area: The 'cut' (Photographer Øystein Haukeland)
2. Vulkan area: Existing conditions (Courtesy of LPO)
3. Vulkan area: The 'cut' in progress (Courtesy of LPO)
4. Vulkan area: Urban connection (Photographer Torjeir Tandberg)
5. Vulkan area: Mathallen exterior (Photographer Aspelin Ramm)
6. Vulkan area: Mathallen facade reflections (Courtesy of LPO)
7. Vulkan area: Mathallen interior (Photographer Aspelin Ramm)

Hilde Sponheim (Norway) Partner at LPO Architects, is a graduate of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, working mainly on urbanism and urban development, sustainability, and environmental projects.

Hilde Sponheim



Fifty architects, landscape architects, designers, and environmental leaders join their voices and vision regarding sustainable design, urbanism, and architecture. Many environmentally aware architects and designers work alone. It is time their contributions were recorded and published, so that the message of social, economic, and environmental sustainability which their work embodies is better heard.

The purpose of this publication is to amplify the individual voices of architects, designers, landscape architects, environmental leaders, and educators from around the world. The contributors to this publication are all part of the extended ECOWEEK 'family.' They have lectured or led ECOWEEK workshops in cities around the world and are all committed and professionally active. Among them Kango Kuma, Bjarke Ingels, Françoise-Hélène Jourda, Diebedo Francis Kere, Michael Sorkin, Gernot Minke, Prof. David Orr, and Robert Swen, OBE.

ECOWEEK is a non-profit organization with the mission of raising environmental awareness. Through sustainable design workshops, it promotes the principle of sustainability around the world. ECOWEEK is a platform. The workshops bring these professionals and students together to share their knowledge, experience, and their personal dedication to make the message of sustainability tangible and inspiring.

This book marks the 10th anniversary of ECOWEEK, and we hope that it will inspire others to search, find, and push the limits of sustainable design and practice.

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