

Intervista di Paolo Bulletti ad uno degli autori del volume *The Greening of Architecture*, l'architetto Phill Tabb.

PB How did you become involved with writing this book? And how much time did you devote to the project?

PT I was asked to write a chapter in a book entitled "A Critical History of Contemporary Architecture," published by Ashgate Publishing in London and edited by Elie Haddad and David Rifkind. My chapter was to be on green architecture. In brainstorming the topic, I came up with the concept of "greening" architecture where sustainability became a process of evolution rather than a thing you stick on a building. So, my chapter in that book became "Greening Architecture: the Impact of Sustainability." After I completed my first draft of this chapter, many of my reviewers felt that it was very strong and should be made into a book by itself. I contacted Ashgate and they agreed, and I consequently prepared a book proposal, which was accepted. I worked between 8 and 10 hours a day on this book for two and a half years, which also included my teaching responsibilities and later the publication process (securing permissions, reviewing the script, etc.).

PB Which of the early green design strategies can be considered up-to-date?

PT Actually most green strategies are applicable today. What seems to change are some of the technologies that are in response to the strategies. For example, daylighting is a universal green strategy, but the technologies (i.e. glazing systems, glass types, shading devices, etc.) tend to evolve and get more refined over time. Green strategies that are relevant today include: passive solar heating, solar control, daylighting, improved thermal insulation, solar access, geothermal heating and cooling, natural ventilation, etc.

PB Can you indicate the five most important steps in the greening of Architecture?

PT Green architecture in the first place is context-responsive and therefore needs to respond to the climatic conditions, ecology of the place, urban opportunities and liabilities, and precedents that have preceded the project. Secondly, green architecture responds to contemporary culture meaning there are certain needs and responsibilities that will also inform the design and construction of the building. Cultural values relative to the environment are changing and therefore demand greater attention given to such issues as health, energy resource depletions, as well as economy. Green buildings need to acknowledge and respond to the nested context within which it is to be created. This means, in what ways can the architecture connect and contribute to the larger natural or urban environment within which it exists. Green architecture should be sensitive to dynamic process, such as changing climate or weather conditions, changing seasons and day-night situations. Green architecture is an incremental process that evolves over time.

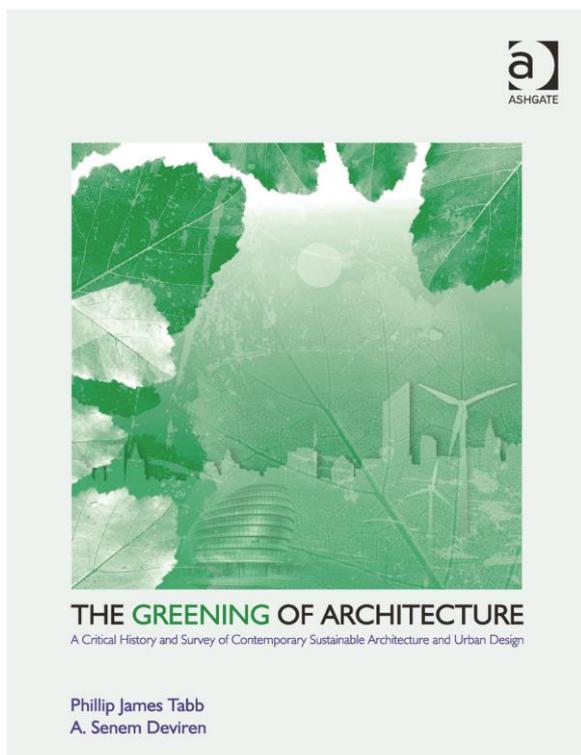
PB *Who do you consider driving the sustainable movement in the built environment? the architects, the clients, the governments? Has it changed during the last century?*

PT Probably all of these have contributed to the driving of the movement. Certainly global warming, increase of natural disasters, and the rise in energy costs have increased public awareness. Since the early 1960s, there has been a great deal of research and publication of the negative effects of our contemporary ways of life. Architects, engineers and many other professionals have responded to the extent possible within the normal constraints of a given project. The media has also contributed by showing both the negative effects and new developments in the field.

PB *What are the challenges of green architecture in years to come?*

PT Simply put, survival of our species! How in the world can we continue to live in the way we do in light of increasing world populations, decreasing renewable resources, increase extinction of species, continued wars (that are largely caused by global resource distributions), and greater inequities worldwide? I guess a question to ask ourselves, will our ability to implement green strategies in incremental ways be accomplished soon enough to curb our thirst for resource consumption? Another huge challenge is with making our existing building/settlement stock more efficient.

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The Greening of Architecture: A Critical History and Survey of Contemporary Sustainable Architecture and Urban Design

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This accessible and engaging text is the first to offer a comprehensive critical history and analysis of the greening of architecture through accumulative reduction of negative environmental effects caused by buildings, urban designs and settlements. Describing the progressive development of green architecture from 1960 to 2010, it illustrates how it is ever evolving and ameliorated through alterations in form, technology, materials and use and it examines different places worldwide that represent a diversity of cultural and climatic contexts.

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