

## XS Green: Big Ideas, Small Buildings

English  
ISBN: 1904313558  
<http://www.phaidon.com>

Phyllis Richardson

This work dedicated to small buildings and small structures attempts to answer the questions of what it means to build «green» and how to enrich the world around us? The projects emphasise the fact of «building» well and «being» well. 224 pages  
€ 29.95  
Thames & Hudson Publishers  
English  
ISBN: 0500342305  
<http://www.thameshudson.com>

## Sustainability at the Cutting Edge Emerging Technologies for low energy buildings

Peter Smith

Prefaced by Lord Rogers, this completely revised second edition is a guide to the understanding of technologies linked to sustainable development. It is both case studies and emerging technologies that will transform the relationship between construction and energy. Since construction is responsible for a large part of CO2 emissions, the book suggests how the sector is to generate suitable solutions. 196 pages  
€ 40.90  
Elsevier Publishers  
English  
ISBN: 0-7506-8300-7  
<http://www.elsevier.com>

## 50 maisons d'architectes - Détails de construction

V. McLeod

Through structures throughout the world (with numerous plans and diagrams), this new book shows how major architects managed to find imaginative solutions to meet the wishes of contractors and the specific conditions of the environment. A number of characteristic details will inspire architects and students in their quest for new technical approaches. 238 pages  
€ 45.00  
Eyrolles Publishers  
English  
ISBN: 2-212-12008-7  
<http://www.eyrolles.com>

Robert Kronenburg

The author of this essay provides an original history of flexible architecture, which is both innovative and adaptable. Analysing how it is designed, drawn, completed and used, allows to understand its ability to solve current and future problems, linked to technical, social and economical developments. 239 pages  
€ 53.00  
Norma Publishers  
French  
ISBN: 978-2-9155-4208-0  
<http://www.editions-norma.com/>

Steven Hill

Loisium World of Wine

Meeting between contemporary architecture and a long tradition of wine culture, the Loisium project in Austria is presented with the American architect's own vision and is broadened in its context with reflections on the region. € 24.00  
Hatje Cantz Publishers  
English - German  
ISBN: 978-90-5662-579-5  
<http://www.hatjecantz.de>

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

Nicholas Adams

This monograph examines thirty of the most emblematic buildings designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM), the legendary American architecture firm, from its founding in Chicago in 1936. Since then, SOM has set up offices all over the world and carried through 10,000 projects in 50 countries, a number of which are veritable masterpieces. The American critic, Nicholas Adams, contextualises SOM's contribution to architecture, past and present. 340 pages  
€ 45.00  
Phaidon Publishers

## Federal Building San Francisco

Arch. Thom Mayne (Morphosis)

This bold project is based on the concepts of movement and interaction between private and public spaces. Covering 56,206 m<sup>2</sup>, the San Francisco Federal Building is one of the most ambitious projects by the Morphosis agency in terms of high environmental quality. This first-rate urban landmark redefines at the same time a social culture in the workplace by improving comfort and productivity of employees whilst shaking up the traditional administrative hierarchy. While Thom Mayne, 2005 Pritzker Prize, is not a «green» architect as such - he often displayed a lack of interest, even a slight disdain vis-à-vis the principles of green architecture - the project is truly the result of a desire for sustainable development. In the last few years, an actual change took place within the Morphosis firm, notably with Tim Christ, project leader. At the same time, Morphosis worked in Europe where very strict standards apply to energy efficiency matters (Hypo bank, Klagenfurt/Austria). These lessons would later benefit projects in the United States.

That is how the federal building includes a long list of views sensitive to the environment. The narrow shape of the building precisely matches the dimensions, allowing natural light and fresh air to reach the middle of each level of offices. Covering the south façade, the system of perforated metallic panels, which is somewhat reminiscent of that of the Caltrans building in Los Angeles (2004), is used to provide solar protection to office spaces, avoiding, among others, the use of air conditioning. These panels extend at the bottom of the tower onto the public square. On the other hand, the building uses a more sophisticated version of the lift system implemented in the Caltrans project. Lifts only stop every three levels to open onto corridors decorated with Ed Ruscha's drawings. There are practically no parking spaces in the underground car park for most of the 1,700 employees working in the building on a daily basis, thus promoting the use of public transport.

The project is the result of a simple and powerful architectural gesture. Nevertheless, technological data is complex. Ove Arup Engineering and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory spent two years working on elaborating the measurement system in order to reduce the energy bill. «It's a giant step for us, Thom Mayne admitted. The federal building represents the synthesis of the architectural and ethical act.» This proves that it is possible to combine sustainability with a heightened sense of creativity.



## portrait



## Françoise-Hélène Jourda, Paris

Truly a key figure in sustainable development. For a long time the French architect has positioned her personal work to «contribute to curbing the catastrophic phenomenon, which will only end in the destruction of the quality of life of our environment in the more or less short-term». And, as usual with relentless energy, she tried to see her approach through to the end, dragging along her partners and clients. Her goal was to encourage them to live differently, under different conditions, in order to stop harming all of the environment.

In order to do so «all of one's architectural practice must be called into question». Her daily actions and even her teachings at the Vienna technical school bear this out. It starts with certain ethics vis-à-vis the order, subsequently by taking into account the geography, the climate and existing local resources, it means working primarily with renewable materials, minimising the use of materials that generate pollution in their production, it also involves recovering rainwater, banning air conditioning, treating the buildings' shells as efficiently as possible, using non-polluting energies, solar energy, photovoltaic cells, etc. Despite their technological sophistication, her buildings prove that bold design can be produced through ecological solutions. As regards residential architecture, Françoise-Hélène Jourda feels that the charm of living in general consists of a type of nomadism in one's own house where comfort is adapted to the activity of the moment and where we no longer believe that only heating and air-conditioning are able to improve this comfort. Consequently the building can be considered as a type of protective shell that is undressed at times or dressed differently. «I am all for living skins, buildings that react to their environment.» «Sustainable development means rediscovering man, the architect affirms. And to do so, to take great care of the environment.» It is first and foremost a humanistic approach. High-tech is not part of her vocabulary. To her only «low-tech» exists. However, the reality of her work is well anchored in society and culture. «The architect is not a designer, not a creator of images, of shells, of dresses, of skirts around a building. The architect is there to ensure that people live more happily tomorrow than yesterday. In any case, this is what motivates me.»

**Akademie Mont-Cenis 1998**  
An example in terms of sustainable development, this unique museum was created on the basis of three types of architecture interconnected in a very unexpected way: glass greenhouses, wooden boxes and large «pebbles» used along the museum's itinerary. This project speaks to the means to be implemented today to respect the planet (wooden structure, photovoltaic cells, etc.) and to a somewhat disconcerting architecture, very gentle, very human.



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