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Eco-Architecture III

Harmonisation between Architecture and Nature

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Wessex Institute of Technology, UK

W.P. De Wilde

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

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University of A Coruña, Spain

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Preface

This book contains most of the papers presented at the Eco-Architecture 2010 conference, which was the third edition of the International Conference on Harmonisation between Architecture and Nature. Previous editions were held in the New Forest, UK (2006) and the Algarve, Portugal (2008) and demonstrated the importance of a forum like this to discuss the characteristics and challenges of such architectural vision.

Eco-Architecture implies a new approach to the design process intended to harmonise its products with nature. This involves ideas such as minimum use of energy at each stage of the building process, taking into account the amount required during the extraction and transportation of materials, their fabrication, assembly, building erection, maintenance and eventual future recycling.

Another important issue is the adaptation of the architectural design to the natural environment, learning from nature and long time honoured samples of traditional constructions.

Presentations in the conference were related to topics like building technologies, design by passive systems, design with nature, ecological and cultural sensitivity, life cycle assessment, quantifying sustainability in architecture, resources and rehabilitation, and issues from education, research and practice. Case studies from different places around the world were also presented.

Eco-architecture is very multidisciplinary by definition, attracting, in addition to architects, many other professionals. In that regard the conference participants, in addition to architects, were engineers, planners, psychologist, sociologists and economists, providing an opportunity to share information and ideas with their colleagues from different regions around the world.

The Editors would like to express their gratitude to all authors for their contributions. They are also indebted to the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee of Eco-Architecture 2010 who reviewed most of the manuscripts efficiently and timely, thus ensuring their quality.

The Editors
A Coruña, 2010

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