

Survey on Ecological Design and Architectural Practice¹

“Environmental problems... are mostly the result of a miscalibration between human intentions and ecological results, which is to say that they are a species of design failure....the obvious solution is better design”. David Orr. *From The Nature of Design* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)

PART I – How important is ecology in design?

Please indicate your affiliation to the (name of school) and Program

- Faculty _____
- Adjunct _____
- Studio critic _____
- Other _____
- Program/Department _____
- Professional Degree _____

1. Do you believe that managing the human impact on natural processes is, or will become, an important issue in the design profession?

- Yes
- No

2. How relevant should ecological considerations be in the design process?

- Very important
- Less important

3. Do you believe that improving the environmental performance of the built environment can impact social and economic stability?

On a scale of 1 to 5: (1 – no impact; 5 – great impact)

4. To what extent do you believe that individual well-being and human health issues are influenced by the quality of our built environment?

On a scale of 1 to 5: (1 – no impact; 5 – great impact)

5. Rate the extent to which you believe ecological thinking should affect the following disciplines. On a scale of 1 to 5: (1 – not affect; 5 – strongly affect)

- ___ Building environmental systems and controls
- ___ Material selection
- ___ Construction technology
- ___ Building envelope design
- ___ Space planning
- ___ Building programming
- ___ Siting/massing of built structures
- ___ Landscape design

¹ From a 2000 survey designed by graduate students at Harvard University Graduate School of Design

- Site planning and engineering
- Community and neighborhood design
- Land use decisions
- Transportation policy
- Regional planning

6. Rate the extent to which you think that ecological thinking should play a role in the following disciplines or activities:

On a scale of 1 to 5: (1 – not affect; 5 – strongly affect)

- Building economics
- Design regulations
- Building aesthetics
- Social and behavioral theory
- Professional licensing
- Design theory
- Professional ethics

7. Do you intend to directly incorporate ecological considerations into your studio/coursework in the future?

- Yes
- No

8. In your opinion, do you believe students are provided with adequate understanding and skill sets to enable them to factor ecological considerations into their designs?

- Yes
- No

9. In the following curriculum areas, how well do you believe ecological concerns are represented at (name of school)?:

(1- overly emphasized 3- well represented 5 – under represented)

- Design Studio
- Theory/ history
- Technology
- Professional Practice
- Extra-curricular activities?

10. Which, if any, extra-curricular activities do you think might best augment the students training in ecological design?

- External speakers
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Student organizations
- Competitions
- Other

11. Does the school have required or elective studios or courses that significantly focus on ecological design or sustainable development? (If yes, please identify course and instructor)
- No
 Requirement(s) _____
 Elective(s) _____
12. Do you believe ecological design instruction should fall within the building technology segment or do you think it should be integrated broadly across the studio and theory/technical/professional practice curricula?
- Technical area
 Broadly integrated into studio
 Broadly integrated into rest of curriculum
13. Does the school have intra-departmental course options (landscape, planning, urban design) or cross-listed university courses that focus on ecological issues or sustainable development? (If yes, please identify course and instructor)
- No
 Intra-departmental _____
 Other university courses _____
14. Would you as educator like to offer more ecological design emphasis in your studio or course(s) if you had good support? (If yes, what might you need?)
- No
 Yes
 - Attending external conferences
 - Web-based tools
 - Live classroom format
 - Other _____

Additional Comments and Recommendations

Please return this survey to ___ : by ___: