

# PREFACE

The subject matter of this book is an introduction to the method of urban design. It is the fourth book in this series on urban design and builds upon the ideas in the first three. The first volume, *Urban Design: Street and Square*, outlined the meaning of and role played by the main elements of urban design discussing, in particular, the form and function of street and square. The second volume, *Urban Design: Ornament and Decoration*, dealt in detail with the ways in which the elements of the public domain are embellished. It outlined the general principles for the decoration of: floor plane, or pavement; the façades of street and square; roofline; roofscape; skyline; and street corners. It also examined the arrangement of three-dimensional city ornaments, such as sculpture and fountains, which are placed in public places. The third volume, *Urban Design: Green Dimensions*, relates the main components of urban design to a general theory of urban structuring, paying particular attention to the city and its form, the urban quarter or district and the street block or insulae. The third volume examined the logic and imperative of sustainable development and then formulated principles of urban design based upon this particular environmental code. This volume assumes the case for sustainable development is proven; it explores a

design method capable of delivering both development and environmental protection.

My interest in urban design began in the mid-1950s but it was not until the early 1980s that I started serious work on these four volumes. During the last sixteen years my ideas about the subject have changed radically. The most significant change was brought about by a growing awareness of the damage being inflicted upon the global environment by thoughtless development. Much of the development was for the betterment of an already affluent West and many of the ill effects of development were and still are being felt by the poor of the underdeveloped world. It seemed to me that any discussion of urban design which did not address environmental concerns was highly superficial, particularly at a time of increasing pollution, growing fears of the greenhouse effect and the consequences of climate change. *Urban Design: Green Dimensions* was my first attempt to address environmental issues directly, though one perceptive critic considered its conclusions to be a little tentative or guarded. This current volume fully accepts the environmental crisis which the planet faces. It therefore attempts to develop an urban design method which has sustainability and environmental protection at the centre of its philosophy.