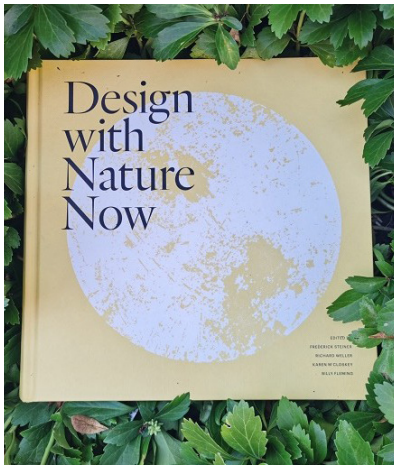


Design with Nature Now

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Imagine if environmental degradation caused human extinction in your lifetime? In 1969 Ian L. McHarg, Professor of Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania released *Design with Nature*. An innovative ecological approach to solve this threat. 50 years on, *Design with Nature Now* reflects on both its ongoing relevance and how it has evolved to today's challenges.

Content in the 351-page book stems from the 2019 *Design with Nature Now* exhibition and conference at the University of Pennsylvania. Contributors range from faculty members, to guest speakers and scholars and practitioners who knew McHarg personally. The book has 4 key sections with the first giving personal tributes and a biography. In section 2, critical reviews of both McHarg's method and alternative approaches are provided. Section 3 showcases 25 projects divided into 5 themes, *Big Wilds*, *Rising Tides*, *Fresh Waters*, *Toxic Lands*, and *Urban Futures*. These projects, such as the *Great Green Wall*, often cover large, complex sites. Lastly, commentaries are given about how these projects not only exemplify and extend McHarg's method, but show the way landscape architects and planners are shaping today.

The book's subjectivity gives an intimate image of McHarg and his passion for landscape architecture. Repeating terms 'Anthropocene' and 'climate change' express urgency that landscape architecture is at, yet again, another critical turning point. An urgency McHarg must have similarly felt 50 years ago. The projects presented have impactful, stark imagery and concise descriptions. Their large-scale contexts, sometimes across multi-cultural continents, really resonates McHarg's 'think big' approach. These projects successfully highlight both McHarg's methodology shortcomings and extensions, such as *Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative*, which focuses on non-human lives and *A New Urban Ground*, centred on designing for adaption. However, the lengthy commentaries leads the reader to search for the desired answers or project reviews. More detail could be given on who the key speakers are, and their relationship to the projects. Limited thoughts by the designers themselves also raises questions about their experience when using McHarg's methods. Nonetheless, the discussed human and ecology concepts, showcased projects and insightful critiques are thought-provoking. From political ecology, to earth's objectification as a design project (and if this is even avoidable), to how we value our novel ecosystems emerging from climate change. These engaging ideas lead the reader to rethink the future responsibility and role of landscape architects and related disciplines.

Design with Nature Now shows how a 50-year-old approach can still influence new, innovative projects. This is an important read for anyone who wants to know what *Design with Nature* means today, that goes beyond just humans and urban space, to design for the indeterminate and transforming world in the Anthropocene.