

## Survey on Ecological Design and Architectural Practice<sup>1</sup>

“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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 \_\_\_: