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## Preface

By Henk J. Scholten and Jack Dangermond

The first GIS Summer Institute was held in Amsterdam in August 1989 at the School of Architecture, Town Planning, and Landscape. The Institute's work foresaw the evolution into a digitized world and the adoption of computerized spatial analysis. 22 years later, two of the original participants from that event, Henk Scholten and Jack Dangermond, met again. At that meeting, Jack told Henk about his past professor, Carl Steinitz, who was writing a book about geodesign.

It was an inspiring new concept; a new perspective on an old and familiar problem. In the geodesign framework long-term models are coupled with short-term (impact) models. In its vision, spatial planners should use the outcomes of the long-term models to assess whether the developments occurring in a region necessitate intervention. If true, several solutions to the encountered issues are almost always available. The most promising solutions are worked out in scenarios and the effects are calculated using the impact models. This provides the possibility to test whether the planners' intended goals are attained and what negative effects might occur. If the outcomes are unsatisfactory, go back a step and try again.

In a way, this process is what we are doing today with geodesign. It is a framework for how we can design together to solve complex problems. We step back, using traditional techniques of spatial analysis and modeling, in order to step forth towards innovative technologies and collaboration frameworks.

Our world faces serious challenges, and it's clear that we need to work together to collectively create a better future. We need to leverage our very best brains, our best creative talent, our best design talent, and our best science, and use all of these combined to create a better future. To meet the geographic challenges we face, we need to grow geodesign from a concept understood by a few to a framework used by all. We need to inform the world about the value of geodesign, while at the same time making it easy to implement and use throughout organizations and across society.

Inspired by the successes of Geodesign Summits by Esri in Redlands, California, we organized the first Geodesign Summit in Europe in September of 2013. Designers, planners and geospatial scientists from around the world gathered to share ideas on how to design with spatial information in Europe. This book is testament to the momentum that geodesign is gaining both academically and professionally.

We're confident that through the continued good work of many, geodesign will in due course be widely adopted and recognized as one of the most important ideas to come out of this century.

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