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## Preface

Pragmatic optimism – this is how 2016’s Pritzker prize winner Alejandro Aravena describes his approach to making holistic and innovative architectural concepts, deployable in economically disadvantaged areas or regions that have encountered natural catastrophes. Similar to an architect, the variety and complexity of ecosystems and their challenges drive my work. Ecosystems that make up our living and working spaces, either on-site or remote, compete for awareness, investment, project budgets and creative heads like that of Mr Aravena who resolves any disputes despite budgeting constraints and sheer hopeless conditions on-site!

Regardless of whether the ecosystems consist of 20 participants or several hundreds or thousands of organizations, each of them has legitimacy. And any of the ecosystems can be decoded via a method that has been researched over the past years. Technology is not the critical element necessarily. It is rather a synthesis of strategic, functional and technical elements flanked by innovation empowerment and the willingness to change that make the decoding happen.

Mobility is a basic need of human beings, one that seeks fulfillment on the one hand. On the other hand, mobility raises the expectation that designers and decision makers will treat mobility needs in a responsible manner. Locations without access are living spaces of the past, as everyone would certainly agree. But how far are we reaching out in our thinking and decision capabilities to connect everyone? Are holistic concepts realistically suitable for smaller ecosystems and medium-sized cities that have less budgeting and investment means and are faced with fading innovation capacity?

Throughout my work with decision makers, forward thinkers, public and private entities, non-profit organizations and start-ups the ecosystems’ viewpoint has opened up the discourse and has been well received. Curiosity and interest do matter more than remote couch surfing. I am often questioned about which steps to take first. Hereby, I encounter the need for a procedure model and a roadmap that outlines these steps. Another aspect that is questioned by individual interest groups is the role of the many individual contributors: many acting in isolation or solely pursuing their vision of participatory mobility deployment. Who is supporting? How does competence building take place and who coaches? The extra mile is often up to single organizations, interest groups and employees. To those I dedicate this book!

I would like to sincerely thank all co-authors for their exciting insights and contributions that enrich, suggest and exemplify mobility matters and trends from various distinct viewpoints and levels of detail. I would like to thank Tim Jones for his introductory words and his contribution. Finally, my special thanks go to the Springer team for its support and help.

To all readers: I hope that you encounter new and exciting perspectives. Happy reading and I am looking forward to your feedback!

St. Gallen, 2017

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Trends, Concepts and Best Practices

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