

Preface

In this book, I tried to unearth the truth behind common perceptions of sustainable architecture. For more than 40 years, the energy efficiency reductionism paradigm has been held up as the solution to building's environmental impact. It is time to think not just about sustaining the world's badly damaged ecosystems and human communities, but about regenerating them instead.

In my own professional work as an architect and sustainability consultant, I have concentrated primarily on the use of green building rating systems, examining building resource consumption (energy, water and air) and building materials end life. Therefore, I selected four case studies with a positive impact and performed a systematic assessment to develop common rules for an environmentally enhancing and restorative relationship between architecture and the ecosystems.

Architects are under the obligation to learn about regenerative buildings and inform their clients and building users about their positive impact. Many times, clients distance themselves from sustainability issues and architects hesitate about sustainability until the contractor makes the decision for them. In this context, inaction and indecision is dangerous. Therefore, we need to learn about regenerative and circular design so that form follows performance. In parallel, we should not underestimate the learning curve to design, build and operate regenerative and positive impact buildings.

Contemporary architecture has to often confine itself to visual impact, reducing it to a mere image. Architects should move from designing architectural artefact to design performing architectural systems. We need to create healthy living and working environments with a positive impact on clients and users and the environment. The concept of regenerative architecture can help to reverse the climate change phenomena under the rules of capitalism. We have the knowledge and technologies to make a positive impact built environment and regenerate local

communities. It is high time that the learned lessons presented in this book to become embedded in the teaching of architecture, building construction and urban planning at universities and technical schools all over the world.

Liège, Belgium
July 2017

Shady Attia

Regenerative and Positive Impact Architecture
Learning from Case Studies

Attia, S.

2018, XIX, 94 p. 29 illus., 26 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-66717-1