

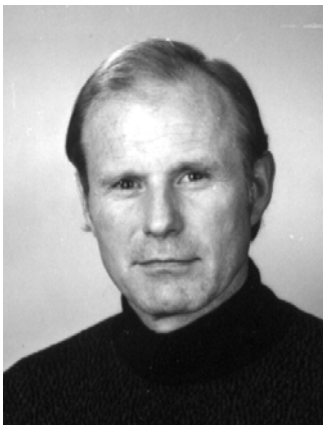
The Sustainable City

Towards a New Post-modern Symbiosis between Nature, Human Society and Urbanism Theory, Concept, Model Projects

The present modern city is not sustainable. It is the reflection of modern society's vision of overcoming human dependence upon the dictates of nature by scientific and technical means. Urban and settlement structures have become the symbol and the built reflection of the supposed triumph over nature. New lifeways appeared all the more desirable the less they depended upon the cycles and rhythms of nature and natural and physical conditions.

The primarily scientific and technical solutions that have been proposed to date have proven largely unsuccessful. Scientific and technical solutions disregard the socially contingent nature of this misdevelopment, addressing only its symptoms, not its causes. Its cause is largely located in the separation between nature and human society that characterizes modern cities. The basis of a new and sustainable urban development can only be a return to the unity of nature and society. This unity must be redefined within contemporary postmodern conditions, and form the basis of rethinking urban theory and the development of new concepts towards postmodern urbanism and sustainable urban restructuring.

The presentation will focus on the first steps in this undertaking which have been elaborated since the 1980s. The theoretical aspects and methodological concepts will be explained using example of model projects on sustainable urban planning mainly from Germany and other European countries.



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1942: born in Stettin, Germany

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Since the mid 1970s Dr. Hahn's research work has focused on Urban and Regional Ecology. In the 1980s he developed the theory and concept of "Ecological Urban Restructuring". In the 1980s and 1990s Dr. Hahn initiated and directed numerous research and practical pilot projects on Ecological Urban Restructuring in different German cities.

Since 1998 Dr. Hahn has been Professor for Urban Ecology and Ecological Urban Restructuring at University of Dortmund. Since 2000 he has been guest professor for the same subject at the University of Aalborg, Denmark. Since 2003 he has taught Urban Ecology also at the Technical University Berlin.

In 1999 he has been invited by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for a several month research stay on Urban Ecology in Japan. Since 2003 he has been external Project member at the Laboratory of Regional Design with Ecology the Graduate School of Hosei University, Tokyo.