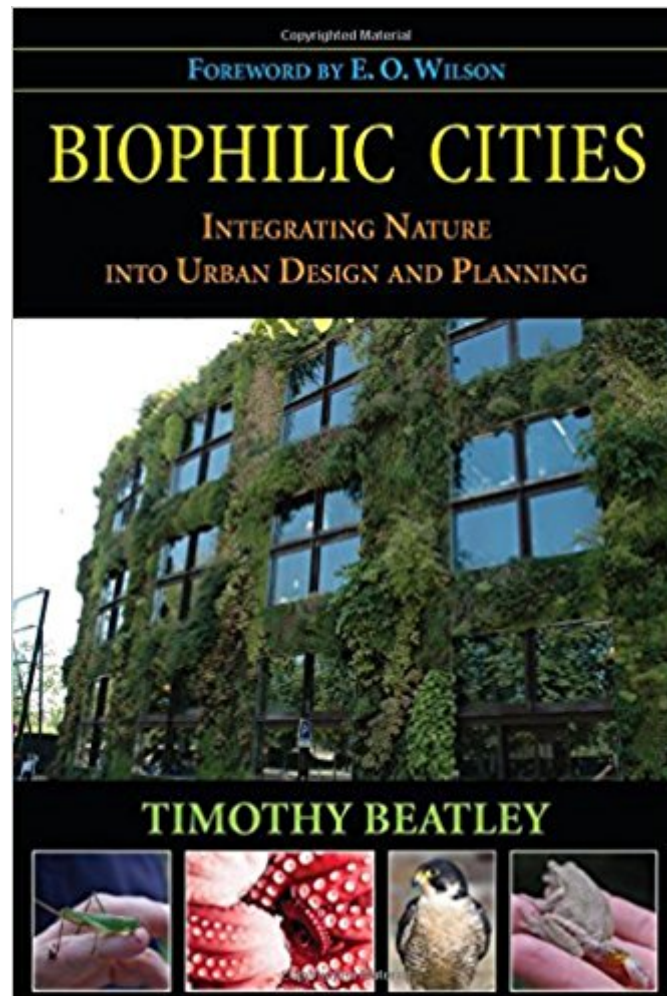




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Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature Into Urban Design And Planning



Synopsis

Tim Beatley has long been a leader in advocating for the "greening" of cities. But too often, he notes, urban greening efforts focus on everything except nature, emphasizing such elements as public transit, renewable energy production, and energy efficient building systems. While these are important aspects of reimagining urban living, they are not enough, says Beatley. We must remember that human beings have an innate need to connect with the natural world (the biophilia hypothesis). And any vision of a sustainable urban future must place its focus squarely on nature, on the presence, conservation, and celebration of the actual green features and natural life forms. A biophilic city is more than simply a biodiverse city, says Beatley. It is a place that learns from nature and emulates natural systems, incorporates natural forms and images into its buildings and cityscapes, and designs and plans in conjunction with nature. A biophilic city cherishes the natural features that already exist but also works to restore and repair what has been lost or degraded. In *Biophilic Cities* Beatley not only outlines the essential elements of a biophilic city, but provides examples and stories about cities that have successfully integrated biophilic elements--from the building to the regional level--around the world. From urban ecological networks and connected systems of urban greenspace, to green rooftops and green walls and sidewalk gardens, Beatley reviews the emerging practice of biophilic urban design and planning, and tells many compelling stories of individuals and groups working hard to transform cities from grey and lifeless to green and biodiverse.

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Customer Reviews

Timothy Beatley might be an unfamiliar name here in the UK, but in the USA he is a well-known advocate for the greening of cities through his role as Professor of Sustainable Communities at the University of Virginia. For him, this greening isn't just about improving recycling rates or using renewable energy. He believes we have an innate need to connect with nature in our daily lives. If satisfying this need isn't incorporated into urban design, then a steady decline in our mental and physical health will surely follow. In *Biophilic Cities*, Beatley sets out his holistic vision of how this can be achieved: by conserving and improving on what's already there, or by repairing nature whenever the opportunity arises. This isn't just about having one or two "grand design" style projects: the cumulative benefit of having smaller, closer green spaces is also discussed. He argues that nature in our cities isn't just about biodiversity or lots of types of green space either. It's a place where natural materials, forms, systems and images are incorporated into design. There must also be plenty of opportunities to celebrate or learn about the natural world, usually through community initiatives and organisations. He also recognises that strong leadership is needed to make all of this happen, e.g. via a local mayor, a professional body or a campaign group. Specific legislation is also cited as ensuring success at city, regional or national levels. There are plentiful examples of how major cities around the world have integrated nature into their urban planning, plus how a biophilic vision can be broken down into specific measures of success. Here the more familiar green roofs, green walls, urban nature trails, community farms and gardens are discussed.

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