Chapter 19

Conclusions

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Vernacular architecture (VA) is associated with traditional cultures and exploits indigenous materials, creating comfort through natural concepts such as shading, night radiation and ventilation, thick walls, the use of courtyards and microclimates created by use of water and greenery.

Vernacular buildings do not normally require many mechanical devices to regulate heat and cold in summer and winter. Such architecture is not susceptible to replication because it is site dependent and varies from one climate zone to another.

The authors have demonstrated the strengths of VA in all corners of the planet. In every climate zone and all forms of economy, VA can be seen to meet the crucial demand for sustainable housing and public buildings. It is imperative that as the planet approaches ever closer to climate change point of no return, architects, economists, and politicians act now to stave off this catastrophe. Any reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, however small, is better than no reduction at all.

Architects must utilize all methods open to them via environmentally friendly building materials, natural methods for obtaining sustaining comfort temperature levels and ventilation, utilizing some of the positive elements of the VA without neglecting the need to design buildings which address both community and individual needs for adequate living space and privacy. Let us hope that architects address the challenge which face us all, and especially the next generation.

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