HANDBOOK OF JAPAN–UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENT–BEHAVIOR RESEARCH

Toward a Transactional Approach

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Preface

This volume is an outgrowth of research on the relations between human beings and their environments, which has developed internationally. This development is evident in environment–behavior research studies conducted in countries other than the United States. See Stokols and Altman (1987) for examples of such work in Australia, Japan, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the former Soviet Union, and Latin and North America. The international development of this research area is also evident in the establishment of professional organizations in different countries such as the Environment–Behavior Design Research Association (EDRA) in the United States, the Man–Environment Research Association (MERA) in Japan, the International Association for People–Environment Studies (IAPS) in Great Britain, and the People and Physical Environment Research Association (PAPER) in Australia.

This volume focuses on environment–behavior research within Japan and the United States as well as cross-cultural studies involving both countries. As we note in detail in Chapter 1, the conference on which the work presented herein is based was preceded by three Japan–United States conferences on environment–behavior research, the first of which took place in Tokyo in 1980.

As currently conceived, the present volume stands alone as a compendium of a significant proportion of cross-cultural research on environment–behavior relations in Japan and the United States that has been developing over the last 15 years. As such, we envision the volume as a basic interdisciplinary reference for anthropologists, architects, psychologists, sociologists, urban planners, and environmental geographers. Pedagogically, the book might be appropriate for advanced undergraduate courses in environmental and/or cross-cultural psychology. More definitely, the work can serve as a primary text in a range of graduate courses on environment–behavior research.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the following institutions and individuals who contributed to the Japan–United States seminar on which this volume is based. First, the seminar would not have occurred without the generous support of the United States National Science Foundation, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and both the Heinz Werner Institute for Developmental Analysis and the Frances L. Hiatt School of Psychology of Clark University. Second, there are several individuals who contributed greatly to the actual success of the seminar: Joyce Lee, who organized all details of the seminar from beginning to end (including expert typing and retyping of manuscripts); and Lorraine G. Wapner, who provided an exceptional social context that nurtured the camaraderie among—and fostered the continued collaboration of—conference participants.

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