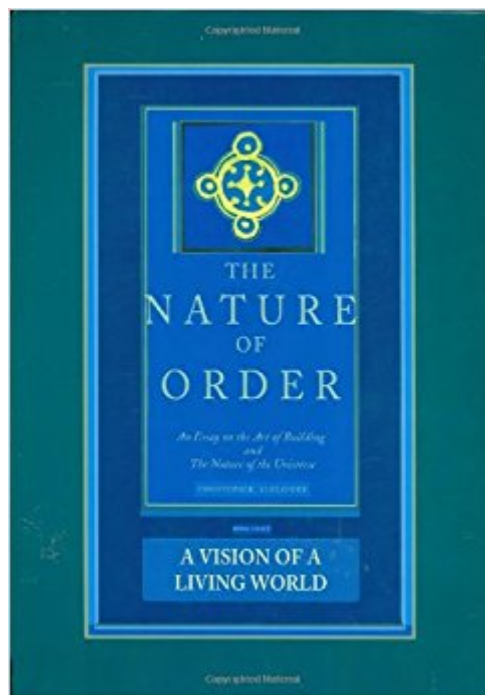


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The Nature Of Order: An Essay On The Art Of Building And The Nature Of The Universe, Book 3 - A Vision Of A Living World (Center For Environmental Structure, Vol. 11)



Synopsis

In Book Three of this four-volume work, Alexander presents hundreds of his own buildings and those of his contemporaries who have used methods consistent with the theory of living process. Containing nearly seven hundred pages of projects which have been built and planned in a number of countries over a thirty-year period, this book amply illustrates the impact of living process on the world. The book provides the reader with an intuitive feel for the kind of world which is needed to generate living structure in the world and its communities; its style and geometry and its ecological and natural character. The projects include public buildings, neighbourhoods, housing built by people for themselves, public urban space, rooms, gardens, ornament, colours, details of construction and construction innovation. These buildings, and the methods needed to design and build them, define living structure in a practical way that can be re-applied across a range of other projects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I discovered Christopher Alexander around 1986 when I read *A Pattern Language* and *The Timeless Way of Building*. *A Pattern Language* was our guide in designing our strawbale house, built in 1997. I fell in love with him then, and these books simply increased my profound admiration for him and joy in his work. Christopher Alexander is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an architect, a builder, and the author of many books and technical papers. He is the winner of the first medal for research ever awarded by the American Institute of Architects, and after 40 years of teaching is Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley. He trained in

Physics and Mathematics at Cambridge and was part of the group of scientists who developed systems theory along with Herbert Simon. He has been investigating the interaction between science and architecture all of his life, and this beautiful four-volume work contains the results of his research. Although many of Alexander's ideas are subtle and require thoughtful reflection, the basic thesis of these four volumes might be stated: everything that exists contains "life," and the degree to which "life" is manifest in any particular can be "objectively" determined by probing one's "subjective" world. Book Three provides a practical guide to creating great places based on his concepts of "centers," "wholeness," and "structure-preserving transformations." Page after page of photos (many in color) and diagrams give weight to Alexander's process-oriented approach to building. If you have wondered whether there is a way to reinvent our cities and suburbs away from "sprawl" and into vibrant, living places - here is how.

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