Index

Adarsh Housing Society scandal, 80, 85–86, 89, 148, 179n30
advocacy: Breathing Space festival, 74–77, 92; CitiSpace and, 74–77, 92, 178n23; civic advocacy, 71; housing advocacy networks, ix–x; Open Mumbai, 74–77; open space advocacy, 74; redevelopment and, 84–90; social equity/social justice and, 92–94; tensions and, 78–79
Agarwal, Anil, 163, 176n11
Ahmed, Mishkat, 44–45
AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education), 20, 175n77
air quality, 37, 55, 91–92
All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), 20, 175n77
Alternative Technology Foundation (ATF), 3, 4
American Institute of Architects, 56
Anderson, B., 129
Anthropocene, xi, 14, 162
APO Tokyo Eco-products Directory, 55
Appadurai, Arjun, 9, 19, 167, 184n7
Archaeological Survey of India, 20
architectural firms, 152, 176n17, 183n5, 183n12
Auroville: decentralized water management systems, 165; DEWATS (decentralized wastewater treatment), 49; founding of, 51, 110; good design practices, 52–53; Green Home Technologies, 51. See also Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Tamil Nadu, Auroville
Baltimore Ecosystem Study, 12, 173n42
Basic Services to the Urban Poor, 163
Baviskar, Amita, 14
BCIL (Biodiversity Conservation India (Ltd.)): housing development projects, 1–2, 21, 132fig.12; overview of, 1–4; promotional literature, 1–3
Bharatya Janata Party (BJP), 87
biodiversity, 36, 63, 91–92, 98, 101–5, 111, 180n16
Biodiversity Conservation India (Ltd.) (BCIL). See BCIL (Biodiversity Conservation India (Ltd.))
biogeochemical processes/systems, 11–12, 47–48, 174n69, 176n6(ch3), 182n31
birds, 94–107, 145
BJP (Bharatya Janata Party), 87
BMC (Bombay Municipal Corporation), 81–86, 88, 143, 148, 154
Bombay Natural History Society, 99
Bourdieu, Pierre, 20, 172n27
Braun, B., 14
Breathing Space festival, 74–79, 75fig.8, 76fig.9, 79, 84, 90, 92
BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) metrics, 12, 20, 177n21
Brundtland Report, 35, 54
Buchli, V., 174n69
builders: Builders’ Union, 146, 147–48; building firms, 142, 147; corruption and, 143, 147–48; popular image of, 146; status of, 5
built forms: expected shifts in, 38–39; good
design practices and, 15; impacts of, 51;
regionally-specific, precolonial, 43; social
forms and, x, 14–16, 174n69
Buttel, F., 17
Cadenasso, M. L., 12
capitalism: casino capitalism, 170n2; global
capitalism, 139, 140; good design and,
167–68; green capitalism, 59; indictment of,
139; market growth of, 143; Marx, Karl, 9,
171n23–24, 174n69
Castree, N., 14
Center for Science and the Environment, 163
Central Arizona-Phoenix Long Term Ecosystem
Study, 12, 173n42
Central Zoo Authority, 99
certification: assessment metrics, 12;
demands for, 151; gold certification, 183n5;
greenwashing and, 60, 171n21; imperfection
of, 138; value of in Mumbai, 144. See also
GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated
Housing Assessment); LEED (Leadership in
Energy and Environmental Design)
Chakrabarty, Dipesh, 9, 14
Chennai, 108, 110, 112, 141, 150
Chopra, P., 169n2
Choy, Timothy, 14
CitiSpace, 74–77, 92, 178n23, 178n25
climate change: global economic change
and, 139; global environmental awareness
and, 45, 135; An Inconvenient Truth (2006
documentary), 20, 40–41, 45; Mumbai floods
of 2005, 135; overview, 20, 40–41; RSIEA’s
mission and, 164
colonial era: coastal ecosystem and, xi; colonial
projects, 174n68; colonial spatial production,
4; governance, 82, 169n2; Indian elites in,
169n2; Indian heritage and, 42, 115, 130;
Mahalaxmi Racecourse, 74; physical form
aspects of, xi; political economy effects of,
43–44; remedies for, 128; urban traces of, 69
commensurability issues, 31, 34, 176n15
commitment: capitalist commitment, 59; of
environmental architects, 8, 15, 19, 26, 52, 140,
150, 160, 163; of faculty, 31–36; maintaining,
43, 52; as RSIEA mission, 31, 34–35, 125–26,
164; spiritual consciousness of, 111–12, 120
compromises: environmental, 165; in Indian
architecture, 114; legal compromise, 149–50;
of RSIEA environmental architects, 137, 146,
164–65; social, 165
consciousness, 108–32; Auroville study trips,
110–11, 116–23; corrupt practices and, 150;
Dakshinachitra study site, 112–15; Govardhan
Ashram and Eco-village, 123–28; identity
formation and, 19; Mahabalipuram, 115–16;
Marx on, 171n24; overview, 108–9; reference
texts, 129–32; Vedic lifestyle and, 111–12
corruption issues: beach conservation, 178n20;
coastal degradation, 37; sea level rise, xi;
Survival at Stake (Udyavar-Yehuda), 36;
vulture conservation, 94–107
consumerism, 38, 140, 143, 170n2
Correa, Charles, 44–45, 86–87, 131
corrupt practices, 143, 148–50, 152
Coulter, Mary Jane, 119
Council of Architecture (CoA), 20, 32–34
cow protection, 125–28, 181n9
cultural issues: cultural identity, 21; cultural
narratives, 17, 21, 172n27; cultural norms,
174n68; cultural production, 20; cultural
sensitivities, 144; power, 172n27. See also
Indian-ness
Curtis, William JR, 131
Dakshinachitra, 110, 112–15
Dashmukh, Laxmi (pseudonym), 84–90, 146
demand-supply system, 138, 140
Deshpande, Shirish, 57–58, 133
Design Studio, 136, 138
disturbance concept, 12, 47, 48, 49, 51, 104–5,
180n14
Doongerwadi forest, 94–107, 100fig.10, 165–66,
180n10
Doshi, BV, 132fig.12
drainage control, 91–92
Earth Charter, 54
Earth Summit (Rio de Janiero, 1992), 35
ecohistory, defined, 119
ecology: defined, 47; ecological ideas sources,
165; etymology of, 178n28; RSIEA training,
167; of urbanism, 10–11, 22, 180n16
ecology in practice, 133–61; certification, 144–46;
commitment and, 160–61; consumption,
142; corrupt practices, 143, 147–48, 148–50,
151–52; environmental shifts, 135, 136–39;
incremental change logic, 142; overview, 21;
political economy, 134; revolutionary change,
139–40; RSIEA training and, 146
ecosystem ecology: architecture and, 15–16;
integration of, 12, 16; land reclamation and,
xi; overview, 19; RSIEA curriculum and, 18
ecosystems: defined, 47; processes, 164, 174n69; urban ecosystems, 12–13

efficiency: of energy resources, 48, 55, 118, 142, 145–46; of material resources, 48, 54; of space resources, 48, 143–44

elites, Indian: colonial architecture and, 169n2; empowered, 6–7, 9; money power of, 38; urban development and, 66, 68, 93–95, 115, 144

embodied energy, 52, 55–56

energy efficiency, 5, 48, 55, 118, 142, 145–46

environment, defined, 46

environmental activism, 35–36, 45

environmental affinities, 19, 109, 164, 168, 175n74, 181n3

environmental architects: compromises, 146; as distinct from architects, 16; environmental shift and, 137–38; good design practices, 167; Indian identity and, 43–45; perception of RSIEA training, 135; primary role of, 23; rise of, 163; of RSIEA, 168; social movements and, 20; standards and, 177n21; status of, 5; superficial role of, 179n35; survey responses, 140; sustainability and, 3; training in nature, 184n5; training of, 183n12; urban environmental change and, 20

environmental architectural education, x, 14, 20, 136, 175n77, 175n78. See also RSIEA (Rachana Sansad Institute of Environmental Architecture)

environmental design. See green design

Environmental Products Declaration system, 56

environmental reflexivity, 130

environmental shifts, 135–38

environmental vitality, 38, 48, 49, 91

experimental architecture, 51

faculty, 37–39; CoA regulations and, 33–34; commitment of, 31–36; curriculum revisions, 32–34; integrated subjectivity and, 37–39; Lattoo, Dr., 29, 32fig 3; sociality of, 35; social-professional networks and, 30–32

fertilizers, 104, 127, 128, 182n31

Floor Space Index (FSI) regulations, 137, 144, 153

flora species, 26, 48, 63, 105, 119

forest management, 21, 71–72, 72fig 7, 91–92, 118–19, 145, 165–66. See also Doongerwadi forest

Foucault, Michel, 174n68

Gaia Hypothesis, 47, 49, 176n6

Gieryn, T., 176n8

global environmental awareness: awareness campaigns, 135, 140; climate change and, 45; historical narratives of, 20, 40–41

global environmental discourses: environmental architect’s mission, 37; global open space development, 92–93; global political economic patterns, 42–43; power relations and, 138; responsibility, 40–42; sustainability, 109; urbanization, 17–19, 168

global political shifts, 42–43, 138–39

good design: at Auroville, 52–53; capitalism and, 167–68; certification, 58–60, 64; characteristics, 146; collective sociality of, 164; defined, 15; as ecology in practice, 40–64, 166; environmental affinities, 19; environmental architecture as, 40–64; environmental vitality and, 49; global revolution and, 139; goal of, 49; Indian history of, 130; Indian identity and, 44–45; inspiration for, 184n5; as integrated subject, 31; knowledge frameworks, 31; materials protocols, 55–56; moral ecology of good design, 163; moral imperatives of, 45, 165; overview, 20–21, 40; program courses, 45–46, 51–53, 53–54, 56–57, 60; RSIEA curriculum, 46–51; of RSIEA’s environmental architects, 167; scalar logics of, 165; sociopolitical implications, 14–16; spiritual focus, 42–44, 51; stewardship, 41; study trips, 60–62, 63. See also Indian-ness

Gore, Al, 20, 40–41, 45

Govardhan Ashram and Eco-village: promotional literature, 111–12; study trips, 44, 111, 123–28, 129fig 11, 130; Vedic lifestyle at, 123–28; website of, 182n31. See also SBT system
government sector: Bharatya Janata Party (BJP), 87; colonial era, 82, 169n2; governance contests, 167, 175n74, 181n3; government policy changes, 136–37, 138; municipal government, 148–50, 170n2; private sector relationship, 146; state government (Delhi), 148
green architecture. See green design
greenbelts, 118–19

Green Cities Movement, 16
green design: Appadurai on, 19; defined, 15; future and, 3, 21; global scale of, 42; green expertise, 16; as identity marker, 21; lack of awareness and, 140; prospects for, 135; socially meaningful aspects of, 16; urban revolution and, 10–16
Green Home Technologies, 51
green marketing, 1–3, 136, 145–46
Green Rating for Integrated Housing Assessment (GRIHA). See GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Housing Assessment)
green spaces, 91–92
greenwashing, 60, 64
GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Housing Assessment): development of, 177n21;
imperfection of, 133, 138; incremental change and, 138, 144; standards of, 20; use of, 57, 136
Grundfos Pump Manufacturers, 58–60, 64
Habitat Summit (Istanbul, 1996), 35
Harvey, David, 8, 180n15
Hilgartner, S., 176n8
Hinduism, 44, 116, 125
Hindu nationalism, 44, 109, 181n9
historiography, architectural, xi, 111–12, 130, 175n78.
See also Indian-ness
historical narratives: historical reclamation, 43; history-claiming, 21; Indian green architecture and, 19, 67; overview, 19, 20; power relations and, 125–30; precolonial history, 111–12, 114–15, 128; understanding of, 17
Hobsbawm, E., 129
homeostasis, 47, 49
Hosagrahar, Jyoti, 174n67, 175n77
Housing and Urban Development Corporation, 42
housing sector: asymmetrical material wealth, 37; gentrification, 170n2; growth in, 5; inadequate housing, 170n2; social experience of, xi
human/nonhuman transformations, 92
human rights concerns, 37
Humar, H.D., 47
hybrid knowledge, 16, 50, 56, 60
identity struggles, 109, 130, 175n74, 175n77, 181n3
IGBC (Indian Green Building Council), 177n21
An Inconvenient Truth (2006 documentary), 20, 37–41, 45
incremental change logic, 37–38, 142
incremental design intervention logic, 137–38
India Bulls development firm, 4, 168
Indian green architecture, 19, 67
Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), 177n21
Indian-ness, 110–11, 116–23; Dakshinachitra study site, 112–15; Govardhan Ashram and Eco-village, 123–28; Indian National Trust for Architectural and Cultural Heritage, 4, 181n5; Mahabalipuram study site, 115–16; moral ecology and, 45; overview, 21, 108–9; reference texts, 129–32; transnational architectural discourse and, 45; Vedic lifestyle and, 111–12
industrialization, 143, 167–68
infrastructures: electrical infrastructure, 4; green, 145–46
integrated subjectivity, 23–39; in building process, 147; CoA regulations and, 34; environment as, 91; moral ecology and, 16; RSIEA faculty and, 35–39
International Environment Technology Center, 56
International Institute for a Sustainable Future, 35
International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKON), 44, 111, 124
International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 111
investments, foreign-capital driven speculative, 170n2
ISKON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), 177n21
incremental subjectivity, 23–39; in building process, 147; CoA regulations and, 34; environment as, 91; moral ecology and, 16; RSIEA faculty and, 35–39
Jasanoff, S., 50
Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, 163
Joshi, Ashok, 27–29, 28 fig. 2, 37, 37–39, 46, 49
Kathpalia, Nayana, 178n25
knowledge, architectural: biodiversity and, 180n16; Foucault on, 174n68; hybrid knowledge, 16, 50, 56, 60; moral ecology and, 16; Paniker on, 175n78; production of, 50
land reclamation, xi, 156, 159–60
Latto, Dr., 29, 32 fig. 3
Latro, B., 50
laws/regulations, 137, 138, 145–47, 149–50, 153, 170n2, 176n16, 177n21
LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design): development of, 177n21; gold certification, 58–60; imperfection of, 133, 138; incremental change and, 137–38; standards of, 20; use of, 135
Lefebvre, H., 13
Long Term Ecosystem Research (LTER), 12
Lovelock, James, 47, 49, 176n6
Mahabalipuram, 110, 115–16
Mahalaxmi Racecourse, 74, 75 fig. 8
Maharashtra Region and Town Planning Act of 1966, 6
Maharashtra state, 94–107, 128, 143, 170n2
marginalized groups, x, 93, 128
market sector: economic globalization, 143;
foreign products and, 143; good design
demand and, 138; green marketing, 136,
144–46
Marx, Karl, 9, 171n23–24, 174n69
materiality, 20, 164, 167, 174n69
materials: efficiency and, 48; embodied energy
in, 55; life cycles of, 55; local sourcing of, 56
materials protocols, 55
Mathews, A., 176n8,11
Matrimundir, 117, 120–21
Mayur, Rashmi, 35–36, 47
McGrath, B., 12
McHarg, Ian, 119, 181n24
McKinsey Global Institute, 5
Metcalf, T. R., 169n2
Mitchell, Timothy, 14
mitigation techniques, 51
moral ecology: Auroville and, 116–23; collective
reworking of, 175n74, 181n3; commitment
and, 162–64; Dakshinachitra study site,
112–15; environmental architecture and,
45; environmental future and, 9, 16; future
challenges, 167–68; Govardhan Ashram
and Eco-Village, 123–28; green marketing
and, 145; hybrid knowledge form and, 16;
Indian-ness and, 45, 129–32; integrated
subjectivity and, 16; knowledge and,
archetypal, 16; Mahabalipuram study
site, 115–16; making of through curricular
experience at RSIEA, 107; moral disposition,
167; in Mumbai, 166; overview, 21–22,
108–9; RSIEA and, 110–11, 111–12, 163; shared
values and, 3; urban environmental politics
and, 164–65
more-than-human nature, 91–94
more-than-social exclusion, 93–94
Morgan, J., 174n69
Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
(MCGM), 171n17
Murphy, Keith, 172n36
nationalism, 127–28, 130, 174n68, 177n21. See also
Hindu nationalism
National Planning Commission, 5
Navi Mumbai, 44–45
Nebel, B. J., 47
"Newlands" (private home), 119–20
NGOs (Non-Government Organizations),
178n23, 178n24
nonhuman nature, 9, 47, 165
Occupy movements, 139, 163
Odum, E., 47
Open Mumbai exhibition, 69–74, 70fig.6
Open Mumbai project, 70, 74–79, 84, 90, 103,
178n24
open space advocacy, 21, 91–92, 92–94, 93–94
open spaces: access to, 165; Breathing Space
festival, 74, 75fig.8, 76fig.9; demands
for, 6–7; in Mumbai, 70fig.6; Open Mumbai
exhibition, 72fig.7; overview, 21, 91–92;
predicaments, 91–107; Reserved Public Open
Spaces survey, 178n25; securing of, 145
Pali development project: critique of, 136, 157;
study trips, 54fig.4, 62fig.5, 135fig.13
Paniker, S., 109, 175n78, 181n5
Parsis, 94–95, 169n2, 180nn7,10
Pickett, S. T. A., 12
P .K. Das and Associates, 70, 93
PlaNYC Sustainable Development Plan, 93
political ecological theory, 34, 129, 144
political economy: alternative urban imaginaries
and, 134; expected shifts in, 38–39; global
capitalism and, 140; logic of change,
38–39; in Mumbai, 146; political economic
structures, 167; postcolonial effects, 43
Porecha, Mukund, 176n17
power relations: asymmetries of, x, 93;
bureaucratic authority, 4, 167; corporate
power and, 4; cultural languages and,
172n17; development growth and, 5; global
environmental crises and, 138; money
power logic, 38–39; social positionality and,
169n2; of structural system, 148–50. See also
government sector
Prakash, Gyan, xi
program courses: Design Principles, 55; Design
Studio (Environmental Architecture Studio),
60; Disturbances and Remedies, 46, 48;
Environmental Services Management
Systems, 46, 48; good design, 45–46, 49;
Green Home Technologies, 51–53; Indian
identity and, 44–45; Introduction to
Environmental and Sustainability, 46, 48;
mitigation techniques, 51; overview, 40–44;
Pali development project, 60; reference
texts, 47–49; spiritual focus, 44; Sustainable
Building Design Principles, 53–54; Sustainable
Building Materials, 53; technologies and,
50; Thermal Comfort and Passive Design,
53, 56–57; Urban Ecology & Environmental
Management, 46, 48. See also study trips
progress: Enlightenment notions of, 42–43; environmental improvement patterns as, 38–39; European ideas of progress, 169n12; at Govardham Eco-village, 112
rainwater harvesting techniques, 49
Ranger, T., 129
Ravishankar, Doddaswamy, 40, 42–44, 51, 55–58
reforms: conditions for, 138; national-level reforms, 170n2; reform strategies, 170n2, 170n11
Reimagining Mumbai seminar, 66–69, 74, 79, 84, 90
research methodology, 9–10, 17–18, 19, 140
Reserved Public Open Spaces survey, 178n25
residential development projects, 5, 144–46, 183n15
Richard, Mira, 110, 111, 117–19
RSIEA (Rachana Sansad Institute of Environmental Architecture): BCIL’s housing developments and, 132fig.12; classroom lectures, 28fig.2; culture of, 33–34; curriculum, 20–21, 32–34, 37, 42; degree programs, 25, 28–30, 40–42; eco-resort proposal, 135fig.13; education costs, 175n3; enrollment, 32–34; environmental architecture and, 130, 167; evaluative authority and, 30–31; expansion plans, 32–34; Gaia Hypothesis and, 47, 49, 176n6; graduates, 21, 140; mission of, x, 31; moral ecology of, 40–42, 163; overview, 20–21, 23, 25–27; public vision statement, 25–26; ranking of, 35; Research and Design Cell, 35; social-professional networks, 30–32; students, 140; training model, 50, 135, 146; website of, 175n5. See also faculty; program courses; study trips
Sanjay Gandhi National Park, 94, 99
Science and Technology Studies (STS), 173n62
Sears, Tamara, 115, 122, 130
Shiv Sena, 87, 143
Simone, A., 170n16
Sir JJ School of Architecture, 70, 74
Sivaramakrishnan, K., 10–11, 172n17, 180n16, 184n19
slum housing: reform strategies, 4, 170n2; Slum Dwellers International, ix; Slum Redevelopment Authority, 170n11
social equity, 92–94, 168
social identity construction process, 164, 175n74, 181n3
social life: environmental change in, 17; green design and, 10; identity and, 164; urban open space and, 91, 92–94
Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC), ix
socioeconomic development: in 1990s, 35; asymmetrical material wealth, 44–45; green architects and, 21
South Asian Vulture Recovery, 99
South Mumbai, 94–107, 141–42
space issues: efficiency and, 48; spatial logics, 174n69
SPARC (Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers), ix
spiritual focus, 40, 110–11, 117–20
Sri Aurobindo (person), 51, 111, 117, 118, 121
Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Tamil Nadu, Auroville: founding of, 110; Govardham comparison, 111; spiritual focus, 51; study trips, 116–23, 125, 128, 130, 141, 150; water management systems, 165. See also Auroville
standard metrics: Euro-American metrics, 177n21; use of, 57–58. See also certification stewardship, 23, 41
study trips: Auroville, 51, 110–11, 116–23, 125, 128, 130, 141, 150; Chennai, 58–60, 141, 150; Dakshinachitra, 110; Govardham Ashram and Eco-village, 111, 123–28, 129fig.11, 130; Grundfos Pump Manufacturers, 58–60; Indian-ness and, 108, 110; Mahabalipuram, 110; overview, 20, 21, 32fig.3, 44; Pali site, 54fig.4, 62fig.5, 135fig.13
surveys: Archaeological Survey of India, 20; research methodology, 17–18, 140; Reserved Public Open Spaces survey, 76, 178n25; of RSIEA students, 17–18
sustainability: certifications and, 177n21; defined, 47; ecology and, 47; environmental architects and, 21; Govardham Eco-village, 111–12, 129fig.11; historical basis for, 130; institutional mechanisms for, 43; international discourse on, 35–36, 92; issues overlooked, 144; moral ecology of, 42, 162–68; overview, 21; PlaNYC Sustainable Development Plan, 92–93; program courses and, 54; prospects for, 135; soldiering, 3; transportation systems, 151; Western, 109
Sustainability Assessment of Technology (SAT) protocols, 56
systems ecological thinking, 47, 49, 176n6
systems thinking, 49
INDEX

Taischete, Rajeev, 176n17
Taylor, P., 17

technologies, 20, 43, 48–49
temporality, 21–22, 166

Towers of Silence, 94–107, 180n10
traditionalism, 45, 109, 111–12, 125–30, 169n2
Tribe@Turf, 74
triple bottom line, 56
Tsing, Anna, 14

Udyavar-Yehuda, Roshni, ix–x, 2–3, 33–37, 176n17
United Nations (UN): environmental policies, 35, 36; SAT protocols, 56; sustainability policies, 54; urban growth estimates, 67
United States National Science Foundation, 173n42
urban development plans: Adarsha scandal and, 80, 89; BJP (Bharatya Janata Party) and, 87; Breathing Space festival, 74–79, 75fig.8, 76fig.9, 79, 84, 90, 92; gentrification, 170n2; institutional politics and, 79–89; Open Mumbai project, 70, 77–79, 84, 90, 103, 178n24; overview, 65–66, 90; power relations, 85–86; redevelopment, 87–88; regulatory leniency, 80–81; Reimagining Mumbai seminar, 66–69, 74, 79, 84, 90; suburb development, 81–82; urban self-governance, 83–85
urban development sector: changes in, 38–39, 140; consumer market and, 143; corrupt practices, 15, 38, 143, 152; global issues and, 17–19, 139; municipal architects in, 146, 148–50; overview, 21; political ecology of, 144; political economy of, 165, 167; power relations, 38–39
urban ecology: contemporary scholarship on, 12–14; defined, 23; moral ecology and, 164; overview, 23–25; understanding of, x; urban ecosystem ecology, 12, 49
urbanization, 4, 21, 168, 169n2
urban nature concept, 9–10, 14, 20
urban revolution, 10–16
U.S. Green Building Council, 58–60, 177n21

Vedic lifeways, 109, 111–12, 123–28
vernacular architecture: Dakshinachitra, 110, 112–15; Mahabalipuram, 110, 115–16; traditions and, 20; Vedic architecture, 109
vulture conservation: diclofenac use and, 94–95; Doongerwadi forest tour, 100–102; green space issue and, 96–98; open space politics and, 102–5; proposed initiative, 98–99; ritual decomposition and, 95; social justice and, 105–7; Towers of Silence, 99
wastewater management: DEWATS (decentralized wastewater treatment), 49, 165; SBT system, 182n31; treatment systems, 118
water management systems: in Auroville, 165; decentralized systems, 49, 118, 165; decentralized water management systems, 49, 165; green/open spaces and, 91–92; water access patterns, xi; water delivery infrastructure, 4; water efficiency, 142, 145–46; water pollution, 37; water recycling techniques, 118
Western values: Euro-American metrics, 177n21; progress ideas, 169n2; sustainability and, 43; Western capitalist individualism, 181n24; Western environmentalism, 47, 54
Wolf, E., 129
World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), 54
World Green Building Council, 177n21
World Health Organization (WHO), 152
Wright, R. T., 47

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, 20, 25
Zoroastrian religion, 94–95, 99
Building Green explores the experience of environmental architects in Mumbai, one of the world’s most populous and population-dense urban areas and a city iconic for its massive informal settlements, extreme wealth asymmetries, and ecological stresses. Under these conditions, what does it mean to learn, and try to practice, so-called green design? By tracing the training and professional experiences of environmental architects in India’s first graduate degree program in Environmental Architecture, Rademacher shows how environmental architects forged sustainability concepts and practices and sought to make them meaningful through engaged architectural practice. The book’s focus on practitioners offers insights into the many roles that converge to produce this emergent, critically important form of urban expertise. At once activists, scientists, and designers, the environmental architects profiled in Building Green act as key agents of urban change whose efforts in practice are shaped by a complex urban development economy, layered political power relations, and a calculus of when, and how, their expert skills might be operationalized in service of a global urban future.

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