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**Design and Architecture for Sustainable,  
Resilient, and User-Friendly Cities and  
Interiors**

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**Series Editors: Anna Visvizi and Asmaa Ibrahim**

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# **Design and Architecture for Sustainable, Resilient, and User-Friendly Cities and Interiors**

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## Preface

This book stems from the realization that in the otherwise burgeoning literature on smart cities and urban planning, too little attention is paid to building bridges between and among different disciplines, including architecture, urban planning, and public policy. As a result, the – what would seem as the most important imperative of research focusing on cities, i.e. user-friendly, inclusive, safe, sustainable and resilient cities (as in the SDG 11) is obscured by debates on what is technologically and technically possible. Less attention is paid to the question of how to make it happen. Clearly, cities and urban space consist of several layers, micro-, mezzo-, and macro – and so the conversation should account for them. This book, titled *Design and Architecture for Sustainable, Resilient and User-Friendly Cities and Interiors*, endeavors to delve on this issue, by showcasing how seemingly unrelated aspects of city life overlap and how these are relevant also for policymakers.

In other words, this book also makes a case that architecture and design need to be more intimately included in debates, be it academic or political, on smart cities and urban planning, including questions of policy design, strategy, and funding. This book recognizes that, what can be referred to, as smart urban design, bears immense potential to foster citizens participation and engagement at the community and local levels. It can facilitate city inhabitants emotional well-being, social interaction, and public health. These issues are central to political agendas on mental health, equity, and active citizenship and/or citizen engagement. In a similar manner, interior design is a piece and parcel of the debate on cities, architecture and urban planning. Interior design is a prerequisite of delivering specialized services to city inhabitants, be it pet care centers, hotels tailored to neurodiverse individuals, or individuals with disabilities. In brief, these topics need to be firmly embedded in public policy debates.

As this book highlights this necessity, it also calls for greater engagement with inter- and multidisciplinary research agenda. So far, very few authors dared to break the disciplinary silos in view of reaching out to colleagues researching cities, smart cities, urban space, interior design, and product design, from diverse disciplinary perspectives. This book suggests that it is possible, and yet it also calls for more attention to how this can be done right. As a start to this conversation, this book zooms into the sociocultural realities of the Arab Peninsula, a region largely unknown to several audiences outside. Notably, this approach might be and perhaps should be applied to examine other regions, in the Global South and in the Global North. Hence, this book, implicitly, sheds light on a nascent research agenda.

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The Editors of this book would like to express their gratitude to all contributing authors for their sharing their research and for embarking with the Editors on a long journey of reviews, and revisions. The initial versions of chapters included in this book have been presented at the 2nd International Architecture and Design Conference (ARCHIDES), 2023, titled *Man and Place 2: Reinventing the ARCHIDES through Humanization and Emerging Technologies. New Creative and Investment Perspectives*, hosted by the Effat University. A warm “thank you” goes to reviewers who collaborated closely with the Editors in view of making the best of the initial drafts of all chapters. Gratitude is expressed to the Publisher, Emerald Publishing, and the entire team, for their support and professionalism. Sincere appreciation is expressed to the President of the Effat University, Dr. Haifa Jamal Al-Lail, for her guidance and support. Gratitude is extended also to the Provost of the Effat University, Dr. Chuman Mervat, for her continuous encouragement and assistance.

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