

A Planet in Peril

The Role of Design in Building Sustainable Cities

Mayor Jeremy Harris

With half of the world's population now living in cities, and with urbanization occurring at an accelerating rate, human civilization has now entered the "Urban Era". It is becoming increasingly evident, however, that up until now, the built environment has not been designed or developed in a sustainable way. The challenge of our time is to bridge the gap between the unsustainable design of the past and a new sustainable urban paradigm for the future.

In the developed world, our quality of life has been achieved by building our cities on an unsustainable paradigm of consumption and waste. If the urban built environment continues to be designed in this unsustainable way, the world will face potentially catastrophic effects. To meet this challenge we must redesign our cities. Its all about holistic design.

In his inspiring presentation, Mayor Harris will explore the complex challenges that we confront in sustainably transforming our cities thru design. He will examine the issues of green design, energy policy, urban design, sustainable transport, and sustainable urban infrastructure, and he will detail strategies and approaches that architects and design professionals can use to inspire and educate the public and government leaders in the sustainable re-design of our cities.