

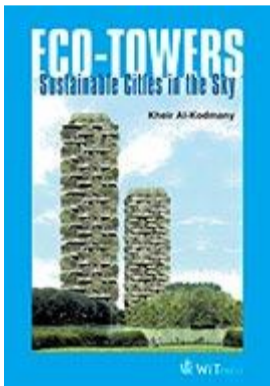


New book on the greening of skyscrapers from WIT Press

We believe this new book may interest some readers of *R N I U*, since it contains references to Mexican examples while introducing the concept of green scyscrapers. I have attached cover artwork. If you would like more information on the book or a review copy, please let me know.

Dee Halzack

Eco-Towers: Sustainable Cities in the Sky



Author:

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none

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Eco-Towers... introduces readers to groundbreaking designs, progressive projects, and innovative ways of thinking about a new generation of green skyscrapers that are more concerned with functional efficiencies and environmental considerations and could thus provide solutions to crises the world faces today, including climate change, depleting resources, deteriorating ecology, population increase, decreasing food supply, urban heat island effect, pollution, deforestation, and more. The book suggests that the eco-tower culminates the cultural and technological evolutions of the 21st century by building and improving on the experiences of earlier designs of skyscrapers and philosophies, particularly green, sustainable, and ecological. It argues that the true green skyscraper is the one that engages successfully with its larger urban context by establishing symbiotic relationships with the social, economic, environmental and transportation aspects.

Since tall buildings are becoming larger and taller, serving greater numbers of people, and exerting higher demand on the environment and existing infrastructure, any improvements in their design and construction will significantly enhance urban conditions. As such, the book elucidates how green skyscrapers better serve tenants, mitigate environmental impacts, and improve integration with the city infrastructure. Particularly, with high density, greenscrapers development that relies on mass transit may make cities energy-efficient. In the future, new smart technologies will continue to offer innovative design approaches to support sustainable design and evoke exciting aesthetics of skyscraper development.

The book also examines various green rating systems including LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) ratings, which were developed by the U.S. Green Building Council in order to create standards for environmentally-conscious designs. The book explains how skyscrapers' long life cycle offers the greatest justifications for recycling precious resources, and makes it a worthwhile to employ green features in constructing new skyscrapers and retrofitting existing ones. Subsequently, the book explores new designs that are employing cutting-edge green technologies at a grand scale, including water-saving technologies, solar panels, helical wind turbines, sunlight-sensing LED lights, rainwater catchment systems, graywater and blackwater recycling systems, seawater-powered air conditioning, and the like. In the future, new building materials and smart technologies will continue to offer innovative design approaches to sustainable tall buildings with new aesthetics, referred to as "eco-iconic" skyscrapers. Two such skyscrapers cited are located in Mexico: Torre Cube, Guadalajara, Jalisco, and Vertical Park, Stackable Solar Skyscraper, Mexico City.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Kheir Al-Kodmany (Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he teaches urban design and physical planning. Before joining the UIC faculty, Dr. Al-Kodmany worked on tall building projects as an architectural designer for the Chicago firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. He recently co-authored best-selling *The Future of the City: Tall Buildings and Urban Design* and has authored/co-authored dozens of journal articles on skyscrapers. According to a study conducted by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Dr Al-Kodmany ranked seventh in the number of publications by all US planning faculty members 1998–2003. He received the Outstanding Research and Outstanding Teaching Awards from the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign upon completing his PhD there. Dr Al-Kodmany received his early training in architecture from his late father, Professor Abdul Muhsen Al-Kodmany, a Le Corbusier trainee.

Dr Al-Kodmany helped the Saudi Government in facilitating the performance of safe Hajj by applying visualization and crowd management techniques to reconfigure and expand the existing infrastructure to accommodate about three million pilgrims who travel to Mecca for the event annually. He helped the City of Chicago in crowd management, emergency evacuation and planning for the "Taste of Chicago" event. He also worked as a consultant to the Jordanian Government on integrating high-rise development in the Amman Master Plan.

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