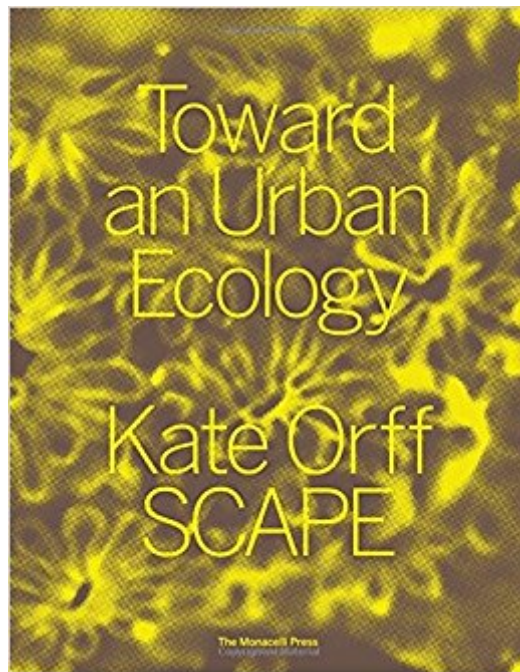




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# Toward An Urban Ecology: SCAPE / Landscape Architecture



## Synopsis

Kate Orff has an optimistic and transformative message about our world: we can bring together social and ecological systems to sustainably remake our cities and landscapes. Part monograph, part manual, part manifesto, *Toward an Urban Ecology* reconceives urban landscape design as a form of activism, demonstrating how to move beyond familiar and increasingly outmoded ways of thinking about environmental, urban, and social issues as separate domains; and advocating for the synthesis of practice to create a truly urban ecology. In purely practical terms, *SCAPE* has already generated numerous tools and techniques that designers, policy makers, and communities can use to address some of the most pressing issues of our time, including the loss of biodiversity, the loss of social cohesion, and ecological degradation. *Toward an Urban Ecology* features numerous projects and select research from *SCAPE*, and conveys a range of strategies to engender a more resilient and inclusive built environment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Cities have multiple connections to the biosphere. Today they are all negative, destructive. This book shows us in great detail and with splendid clarity how we can turn them positive. It goes well beyond standard solutions as it brilliantly explores the biosphere and makes discoveries." - Saskia Sassen, Professor, Columbia University and author of *Expulsions* "[This book is] a call to action on urban ecology and climate change, with landscape as the principal medium. Kate

Orff's *Toward an Urban Ecology* is a presentation of ground-breaking projects by SCAPE, and the principles and strategies that underlie their success. Human societies cannot successfully mitigate and adapt to the stresses of climate change without a new state of mind, and landscape architects and artists have an essential role to play....required reading for landscape architects." - Anne Whiston Spirn, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, author of *The Granite Garden* "A beautiful book with engaging full-page color photography that delves into Breakwaters, their Rebuild by Design project in Staten Island, and others." -*The Dirt* "Kate Orff is an optimistic and creative force in the world of climate adaptive design. Her book is part monograph and part a clarion call for the need of meshing the social and environmental to deal with the future problems of our planet." -*Land8*

Kate Orff's activist and visionary work on design for climate dynamics has been shared and developed in collaboration with arts institutions, governments, and scholars worldwide. Since founding the New York-based landscape architecture and urban design firm SCAPE, Kate Orff has advanced projects of all scales: from award-winning, harbor-wide planning efforts and groundbreaking work for the NYC Coastal Protection Plan, to on-the-ground ecological investigations such as mussel pilot installations in the Gowanus Bay. She is the Director of the Urban Design Program at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Kate's work bridges design, science, and community participation to redefine the role of the landscape architect in the age of climate change. She is coauthor, with Richard Misrach, of *Petrochemical America* (2012) and coeditor and author of the book *Gateway: Visions for an Urban National Park* (2011). She lives in Forest Hills, New York.

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