

## The experts' word on climate change impacts

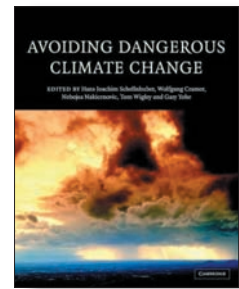
In 2005, as part of the 2005 G8 Presidency, the UK Government hosted the international scientific conference *Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change* at the Met Office in Exeter. In a landmark acknowledgement of the climate change phenomenon that shifted the momentum of the debate over its importance, the conference brought together most of the world's leading authorities on climate change to summarise forecasts on the significant effects of anthropocentric climate change and detail

counter planning for emissions stabilisation levels and technologies.

The proceedings, now published in *Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change*, present the central topics addressed, including critical thresholds and key vulnerabilities of the climate system, impacts on human and natural systems, socio-economic costs and benefits of emissions pathways, and technological options for meeting different stabilisation levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

With the Foreword by British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and an introduction from Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the International Panel on Climate Change, this compilation provides an invaluable and historic reference for researchers, policy-makers, business leaders and indeed anyone who wants the latest expert words on climate change thinking.

Free download online at [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/internat/dangerous-cc.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/internat/dangerous-cc.htm)



### *Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change*

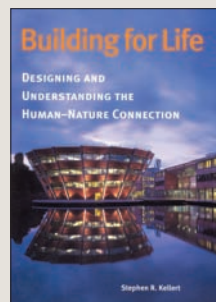
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## Building for Life

While sustainable design has made great strides in recent years, award-winning author Stephen Kellert feels it still falls short of fully integrating nature into our built environment. In *Building For Life* he proposes a new sustainable architecture model: 'restorative environmental design', examining the fundamental interconnectedness of people and nature, and the loss of this connection's result in a diminished quality of life.

Kellert's book beautifully



illustrates how architects and designers can use simple methods to address our innate needs for contact with nature, through the use of natural lighting, ventilation, and materials, as well as some more

unexpected methodologies such as the use of metaphor, perspective, enticement, and symbol. These design techniques have been shown to foster intellectual development, relaxation, and physical and emotional well-being.

In the works of architects like Frank Lloyd Wright, Eero Saarinen, Cesar Pelli, Norman Foster, and Michael Hopkins, Kellert reflects on the success of these strategies and presents models for moving forward. Ultimately, he views our fractured relationship with nature as a design problem rather than an unavoidable aspect of

modern life, and therefore proposes practical and creative solutions for cultivating a more experience of nature in the built environment.

### *Building for Life*

*Designing and Understanding the Human-Nature Connection*

Stephen R Kellert

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## Nature and society intertwined

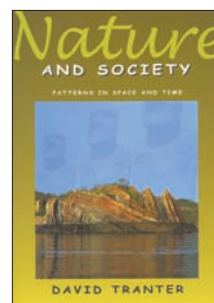
The specter of severe effects from climate change is forcing a general reflection of humans' place in nature and our fuller comprehension of that position. Scientist David Tranter OAM wisely addresses that question in *Nature and Society*.

Drawing on down-to-Earth perspective gained from biological research, a childhood outdoors, and a range of unique adventures, Tranter has written a rewarding book that powerfully illustrates how similar

patterns in space and time ultimately bind society and nature together.

Relevant philosophical reflections from some of history's most insightful commentators back up the book's case studies of the working principles of nature's law, and the parallel evolution of society under and, at times, above them.

While one of the background messages is that limited human timeframes forget the enduring lessons of the natural



order, the book positively highlights our innate ability to adapt our thinking.

'Accustomed to believe we are the peak of creation, human beings place too little value on

the lessons of natural history. Clever as we are, society is the new kid on the block and to survive we need to be street smart,' Tranter begins. Anyone who contemplates human dimensions will enjoy considering his further elaborations on this rather central subject.

### *Nature and Society*

*Patterns in space and time*

David Tranter

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