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Chapter

8

Conclusion

It has become evident that the built environment has started to recognize the effect that the environmental neglect has generated. Kirsten Childs asks “How can these disparate goals – human well being and the enhancement of the environment – be addressed by one set of functional and aesthetic objectives?” (Childs 2005, p.41)

Samuel Mockbee of the Rural Studio equates architecture with morality. He claims that evident gluttonous affluence has seduced the profession of architecture, tempting it away from its moral mandate towards 'stage-set design' that no longer takes people or place into consideration” (Steele 2005, p.233). Although this seems to be the case, this exploration of the arena of sustainability has identified various examples of projects that indicate that the perceived disparity between environmental concerns and the quest for human happiness is a misconception. “In environmental/sustainable design philosophy, it is a truism that critical factors that optimise building performance and reduce environmental impact also enhance human well being “(Childs 2005, p.41).

In the pursuit of an architectural expression of the researched sustainable design philosophy, it has become evident that it is not possible for one set of

aesthetic or address the concerns of different projects. When setting out to achieve an architectural expression that restores the natural environment as well as man's connection to this environment, each project needs to respond to its own context by evolving out of the social, cultural, climatic and physical influences in and around the site.

Much of today's contemporary architecture “is devised as an interpretation or illustration of spurious theory, rather than being grounded in a larger web of realities. The architecture of the emergent new long term paradigm must be born from an evolutionary and ecological perspective, to be good for both planet and people and grounded in the complex and sensual realities of place and lived experience (Buchanan 2005, p.29). The emergence of sustainable architectural thought, in response to the environmental crisis has awarded architects an opportunity to be part of the solution.

