

# **Designing to Avoid Disaster**

The Nature of Fracture-Critical  
Design

**Thomas Fisher**



# Designing To Avoid Disaster The Nature Of Fracture Critical Design

**Thomas Fisher**



## **Designing To Avoid Disaster The Nature Of Fracture Critical Design:**

*Designing To Avoid Disaster* Thomas Fisher, 2012-11-27 Recent catastrophic events such as the I 35W bridge collapse New Orleans flooding the BP oil spill Port au Prince s destruction by earthquake Fukushima nuclear plant s devastation by tsunami the Wall Street investment bank failures and the housing foreclosure epidemic and the collapse of housing prices all stem from what author Thomas Fisher calls fracture critical design This is design in which structures and systems have so little redundancy and so much interconnectedness and misguided efficiency that they fail completely if any one part does not perform as intended If we as architects planners engineers and citizens are to predict and prepare for the next disaster we need to recognize this error in our thinking and to understand how design thinking provides us with a way to anticipate unintended failures and increase the resiliency of the world in which we live In *Designing to Avoid Disaster* the author discusses the context and cultural assumptions that have led to a number of disasters worldwide describing the nature of fracture critical design and why it has become so prevalent He traces the impact of fracture critical thinking on everything from our economy and politics to our educational and infrastructure systems to the communities buildings and products we inhabit and use everyday And he shows how the natural environment and human population itself have both begun to move on a path toward a fracture critical collapse that we need to do everything possible to avoid We designed our way to such disasters and we can design our way out of them with a number of possible solutions that Fisher provides

**Designing to Avoid Disaster** Thomas Fisher, 2013 Author Thomas Fisher introduces the idea of fracture critical design and provides many solutions for how we can design to avoid major disasters

*Designing Our Way to a Better World* Thomas Fisher, 2016-05-01 Envisioning what we need when it doesn t yet exist this Thomas Fisher tells us is what design does And if what we need now is a better world functioning schools working infrastructure thriving cities why not design one Fisher shows how the principles of design apply to services and systems that seem to evolve naturally systems whose failures sometimes seem as arbitrary and inevitable as the weather But the invisible systems we depend on for our daily lives in education politics economics and public health are designed every bit as much as the products we buy and the environments we inhabit and are just as susceptible to creative reimagining *Designing Our Way to a Better World* challenges the assumptions that have led to so much poor performance in the public and private realms that our schools cannot teach creativity that our governments cannot predict the disasters that befall us that our health system will protect us from pandemics that our politics will remain polarized that our economy cannot avoid inequality and that our industry cannot help but pollute the environment Targeting these assumptions Fisher s approach reveals the power of design to synthesize our knowledge about the world into greater wholes In doing so this book opens up possible futures and better futures than the unsustainable and inequitable one we now face

*Debating Disaster Risk* Gonzalo Lizarralde, Lisa M. Bornstein, Tapan Dhar, 2025-08-19 Dealing with the risks of climate change and disaster is a political process It produces winners and losers mobility and permanence radical change

and continuity relief and suffering For some it ultimately leads to life or death Yet consultants academics humanitarian agents and politicians often simply propose well intentioned ideas resilience sustainability community participation emergency shelter green development while failing to perceive the blind spots and unintended consequences of such approaches Debating Disaster Risk brings together leading global experts to explore the controversies that emerge and the tough decisions that must be made when cities people and the environment are at risk Scholars and practitioners discuss the challenges of reducing vulnerability and rebuilding after destruction in an accessible and lively debate format with commentary by researchers students and development workers from across the world They emphasize the ethical consequences of decisions about how cities and communities should prepare for and react to disasters considering issues such as housing environmental protection urban development and infrastructure recovery A valuable resource for scholars students and practitioners in a variety of fields this book provides an in depth analysis of the difficult choices we face in dealing with disasters As climate change accelerates Debating Disaster Risk invites readers to grapple with the most pressing controversies

**Ardeth #01 (I - 2017)** AA.VV.,2017-08-30 Unlike the many magazines that revolve around the architectural world Ardeth concerns neither with outcomes architecture nor with the authors architects Ardeth concerns instead with their operational work i e projects The shift from subjects their good intentions as taught in Universities and reclaimed in the profession to objects the products of design at work within the social system that contains them engenders an analytical and falsifiable elaboration of the complex mechanisms that an open practice such as design involves Through a process of disciplinary redefinition Ardeth explores the falsifiability of design hypotheses as the object that allows the project to scientifically confront errors and approximations

*Climate-Adaptive Design in High Mountain Villages* Carey Clouse,2020-10-15 Drawing from the unique context and climate of the Himalaya this book highlights several innovative design interventions shaped by a myriad of social cultural environmental and political factors that have been employed in villages to combat climate change Climate Adaptive Design in High Mountain Villages focuses on Ladakh an outpost on the front lines of climate change and the region's creative responses to the pressing issues of food security water management energy efficiency design aid and material resources in the Anthropocene These strategies from artificial glaciers to tree armor showcase the breadth of creative solutions already underway In doing so the research addresses the broader concept of climate adaptive design and how it informs the disciplines of architecture landscape architecture and urban planning An ideal read for academics researchers and students in these fields this book presents a focused investigation into climate adaptive strategies that could provide transferable solutions for the rest of the world

*Futureproof* Jon Coaffee,2019-01-01 A compelling and definitive account of why we need to radically rethink our approach to dealing with catastrophic events Catastrophic events such as 9 11 Hurricane Katrina and the Tohoku Triple Disaster of earthquake tsunami and nuclear meltdown that hit the eastern seaboard of Japan in 2012 are seen as surprises that have a low probability of occurring but

have a debilitating impact when they do In this eye opening journey through modern and ancient risk management practices Jon Coaffee explains why we need to find a new way to navigate the deeply uncertain world that we live in Examining how governments have responded to terrorist threats climate change and natural hazards Coaffee shows how and why these measures have proven inadequate and what should be done to make us more resilient While conventional approaches have focused on planning and preparing for disruptions and enhanced our ability to bounce back our focus should be on anticipating future challenges and enhancing our capacity to adapt to new threats

### **Architecture Beyond Criticism**

Wolfgang F. E. Preiser, Aaron T. Davis, Ashraf M. Salama, Andrea Hardy, 2014-11-27 For the first time this book demonstrates that the two paradigms of architectural criticism and performance evaluation can not only co exist but complement each other in the assessment of built works As architecture takes more principled stances worldwide from environmental sustainability to social cultural and economic activism this book examines the roles of perceived and measured quality in architecture By exploring in tandem both subjective traditional architectural criticism and environmental design and performance evaluation and its objective evaluation criteria the book argues that both methodologies and outcomes can achieve a comprehensive assessment of quality in architecture Curated by a global editorial team the book includes Contributions from international architects and critics based in the UK USA Brazil France Qatar Egypt New Zealand China Japan and Germany Global case studies which illustrate both perspectives addressed by the book and comparative analyses of the findings A six part organization which includes introductions and conclusions from the editors to help guide the reader and further illuminate the contributions By presenting a systematic approach to assessing building performance design professionals will learn how to improve building design and performance with major stakeholders in mind especially end users occupants

### **Building Performance Evaluation**

Wolfgang F.E. Preiser, Andrea E. Hardy, Ulrich Schramm, 2017-08-30 The main aim of this book is to present an intriguing retrospective of Building Performance Evaluation BPE as it evolved from Post Occupancy Evaluation POE over the past 25 years On one hand this is done by updating original authors chapter content of Building Evaluation the first edition published in 1989 That in turn is augmented by an orientation toward current and future practice on the other including new authors who are engaged in ongoing cutting edge projects Therefore individual methodology oriented chapters covering the fundamental principles of POE and BPE go along with major thematic chapters topics of which like sustainability or integration of new technologies are addressed in a diversity of case studies from around the globe Research methodologies and framework of POEs continue to evolve POEs are one step on the larger scale of BPE in understanding how buildings function after they are occupied This resource helps architects building owners and facility managers understand the implications and reactions to the facilities that they designed built and or commissioned By considering the whole process from conception to future uses of the building there can be a more holistic approach to the planning programming design construction occupancy and future adaptability of the structure This

book is dedicated to first editor Wolfgang F E Preiser who passed away during the process of editing and reviewing chapters of this volume

**Altruism by Design** Adam R. Wilmes, 2015-04-24 Altruism by Design How to Effect Social Change as an Architect is meant to prepare the individual designer whether a student or practicing professional for a career dedicated to serving communities in need through design and construction It will help you understand the complexities opportunities and benefits of creating architecture that promotes social equality and community so that you can make a difference What you ll learn How community based studios can respond to natural disasters and economic conditions How to build what you design How to develop relationships with non traditional clients How to structure your career to be dedicated to social change and sustainable design How to discover funding opportunities for projects in a not for profit firm How to consider moral and financial aspects of your practice How you can collaborate with other design professions to determine the future of the built environment Featuring detailed case studies including work by Studio 804 and Pyotak Architects and more than 100 color images this book is essential reading for providing you with a viable path to altruistic design

**Kuwabara Payne**

**McKenna Blumberg Architects** , 2013-10-24 Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects 1987 in Toronto gegr ndet ist heute eines der interessantesten B ros in Nordamerika Bekannt wurden sie mit ihren sthetisch avancierten Entw rfen f r Kulturinstitutionen wie das Toronto International Film Festival oder das Minnesota Orchestra in Minneapolis Ein respektvoller sensibler Umgang mit historischer Bausubstanz ist f r zahlreiche ihrer Arbeiten charakteristisch wie beispielsweise die National Ballet School in Toronto kologisch innovative Konzepte wie f r Manitoba Hydro Place in Winnipeg entstehen in enger Zusammenarbeit mit f hrenden Klimaingenieuren hier mit Transsolar Eigens f r gro e Unternehmen oder Institutionen als Bauherren entwickelte KPMB den Ansatz des integrativen Entwurfsprozesses der in mehreren Stufen zahlreiche Mitarbeiter und somit sp tere Nutzer des Geb udes einbezieht Einen weiteren Schwerpunkt bilden Bildungseinrichtungen wie das Centre for Innovation and Governance Campus in Waterloo Ontario und das Social Sciences Building f r die Princeton University oder die Joseph L Rotman School of Management in Toronto

**Now Urbanism** Jeffrey Hou, Benjamin Spencer, Thaisa Way, Ken Yocom, 2014-10-10 After more than a century of heroic urban visions urban dwellers today live in suburban subdivisions gated communities edge cities apartment towers and slums The contemporary cities we know are more often the embodiment of unexpected outcomes and unintended consequences rather than visionary planning As an alternative approach for rethinking and remaking today s cities and regions this book explores the intersections of critical inquiry and immediate substantive actions The contributions inside recognize the rich complexities of the present city not as barriers or obstacles but as grounds for uncovering opportunity and unleashing potential Now Urbanism asserts that the future city is already here It views city making as grounded in the imperfect messy yet rich reality of the existing city and the everyday purposeful agency of its dwellers Through a framework of situating grounding performing distributing instigating and enduring these contributions written by a multidisciplinary group of practitioners and scholars illustrate

specificity context agency and networks of actors and actions in the re making of the contemporary city      **The Routledge Handbook of International Resilience** David Chandler,Jon Coaffee,2016-11-10 Resilience is increasingly discussed as a key concept across many fields of international policymaking from sustainable development and climate change insecurity conflict and terrorism to urban and rural planning international aid provision and the prevention of and responses to natural and man made disasters Edited by leading academic authorities from a number of disciplines this is the first handbook to deal with resilience as a new conceptual approach to understanding and addressing a range of interdependent global challenges The Handbook is divided into nine sections Introduction contested paradigms of resilience the challenges of resilience governing uncertainty resilience and neoliberalism environmental concerns and climate change adaptation urban planning disaster risk reduction and response international security and insecurity the policy and practices of international development Highlighting how resilience thinking is increasingly transforming international policy making and government and institutional practices this book will be an indispensable source of information for students academics and the wider public interested in resilience international relations and international security      **The Routledge Companion to Architecture and Social Engagement** Farhan Karim,2018-05-11 Socially engaged architecture is a broad and emerging architectural genre that promises to redefine architecture from a market driven profession to a mix of social business altruism and activism that intends to eradicate poverty resolve social exclusion and construct an egalitarian global society The Routledge Companion to Architecture and Social Engagement offers a critical enquiry of socially engaged architecture s current context characterized by socio economic inequity climate change war increasing global poverty microfinance the evolving notion of professionalism the changing conception of public and finally the growing academic interest in re visioning the social role of architecture Organized around case studies from the United States Brazil Venezuela the United Kingdom South Africa Rwanda Burkina Faso Nigeria Nepal Pakistan Iran Thailand Germany Australia Taiwan and Japan the book documents the most important recent developments in the field By examining diverse working methods and philosophies of socially engaged architecture the handbook shows how socially engaged architecture is entangled in the global politics of poverty reconstruction of the public sphere changing role of the state charity and neoliberal urbanism The book presents debates around the issue of whether architecture actually empowers the participators and alleviates socio economic exclusion or if it instead indirectly sustains an exploitive capitalism Bringing together a range of theories and case studies this companion offers a platform to facilitate future lines of inquiry in education research and practice      **Variability in Human Performance** Thomas J. Smith,Robert A. Henning,Michael G. Wade,Thomas Fisher,2014-08-26 Understanding the conditions under which variability in performance may arise and the processes related to its emergence gives us insight into the development of techniques for improving the quality of performance This book introduces a comprehensive framework for understanding human performance variability in terms of how human control of behavior is closely tied to design factors

in the performance environment Empirical evidence as well as practical examples and application areas introduced in support of this framework The book provides suggestions on how individuals groups and organizations can significantly reduce variability in human performance that often leads to systems failures Resilience and Risk Igor Linkov, José Manuel Palma-Oliveira, 2017-08-01 This volume addresses the challenges associated with methodology and application of risk and resilience science and practice to address emerging threats in environmental cyber infrastructure and other domains The book utilizes the collective expertise of scholars and experts in industry government and academia in the new and emerging field of resilience in order to provide a more comprehensive and universal understanding of how resilience methodology can be applied in various disciplines and applications This book advocates for a systems driven view of resilience in applications ranging from cyber security to ecology to social action and addresses resilience based management in infrastructure cyber social domains and methodology and tools Risk and Resilience has been written to open up a transparent dialog on resilience management for scientists and practitioners in all relevant academic disciplines and can be used as supplement in teaching risk assessment and management courses *Essentials of Safety* Ian Long, 2021-09-26 This book is not about safety It is about people and leadership It explores the few things in Safety that sit beneath all of the complexity and complicatedness of the workplace and that we simply must get right It explores what the underlying elements are that look through each of the lenses of the Individual Leaders and leadership the Systems we use and the workplace Cultures It does this by exploring each of 12 underlying elements Chapter 1 what leaders practices and routines might look like Chapter 2 barriers to implementation and their remedies Chapter 3 how to use the Essentials of Safety to learn after incidents Chapter 4 and how to measure the effectiveness in the workplace of each of the essential elements Chapter 5 It is designed to promote thinking not to be a set of instructions It is aimed at students safety practitioners leaders in the industry at all levels and anyone interested in understanding what good might look like in the safety and leadership space **Innovations in Transportable Healthcare Architecture** Stephen Verderber, 2015-10-05 Innovations in Transportable Healthcare Architecture is the first book to examine the ways that healthcare architecture can provide better assistance in disaster stricken communities Aimed at architects and other professionals working across the disaster relief sector it provides An overview of the need for rapid response healthcare facilities Global case studies which demonstrate real examples Historical perspectives on redeployables used in past military and civilian contexts Analysis of the advantages challenges and opportunities associated with offsite premanufactured healthcare facilities and their component systems for permanent installations or reuse on multiple sites Planning and design considerations for transportable offsite built healthcare architecture State of the art research on pop up clinics truck based configurations ISO container based outpatient clinical and trauma care centres and modularized facilities for contemporary military and civilian contexts Innovations in Transportable Healthcare Architecture will be an invaluable reference source for architects disaster mitigation planners design and engineering practitioners non governmental medical

aid organizations NGOs governmental health ministries and policy specialists across the spectrum of disciplines engaged in disaster mitigation and the provision of healthcare in medically underserved communities globally Rethinking Building Skins Eugenia Gasparri, Arianna Brambilla, Gabriele Lobaccaro, Francesco Goia, Annalisa Andaloro, Alberto Sangiorgio, 2021-12-05 Rethinking Building Skins Transformative Technologies and Research Trajectories provides a comprehensive collection of the most relevant and forward looking research in the field of facade design and construction today with a focus on both product and process innovation The book brings together the expertise creativity and critical thinking of more than fifty global innovators from both academia and industry to guide the reader in translating research into practice It identifies new opportunities for the construction sector to respond to present challenges towards a more sustainable efficient connected and safe future Introduces the reader to the role of facades with respect to the main challenges ahead Provides an overview of the major facade technological advancements throughout history and identifies prospective research trajectories Includes interviews with key industry players from different backgrounds and expertise Showcases a comprehensive range of leading research topics in the field organised by product and process innovation Covers major innovations across the value chain including facade design fabrication construction operation and maintenance and end of life Contributes towards the definition of an international research agenda and identifies emerging market opportunities for the facade industry

**Architecture in an Age of Uncertainty** Benjamin Flowers, 2016-04-15 In the past two decades economic bubbles inflated and architectural spending around the globe reached fever pitch In both well established centers of capital accumulation and far flung locales audacious building projects sprang up while the skyscraper heretofore more commonly associated with American capitalism seemed as if it might pack up and relocate to Dubai and Shanghai Of course much has changed in the past couple of years In formerly free spending Dubai the tallest building in the world is now named after the president of Abu Dhabi after he stepped in with last minute debt financing In cities across the United States housing prices have nose dived and cleared lots sit ready for commercial redevelopment that likely won't take place for another decade Similar stories are not hard to find in many other nations Architecture firms that swelled in flush days are jettisoning employees at a startling rate In the context of economic instability and its attendant social and political consequences this edited volume brings together scholars critics and architects to discuss the present state of uncertainty in the practice and discipline of architecture The chapters are organized into three main areas of inquiry economics practice and technology Within this larger framework authors explore issues of security ecological design disaster architecture the future of architectural practice and the ethical obligations of the social practice of design In doing so it argues that this period has actually afforded architecture a valuable moment of self reflection where alternative directions for both the theory and practice of architecture might be explored rather than continuing with an approach which was so nurtured by capitalist prosperity and affluence

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