

In recent years it has become apparent that we are heading for a world of cities. In this new situation, how can we be sure to create both liveable and sustainable cities?

One thing is clear: cities are sub-systems of global economic, financial and technical systems. National economies are embedded in and controlled from them. To become sustainable, their ecological footprints need to be dramatically reduced.

Most of the world's energy is used in cities and all transport systems start and end there. Most of the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is due to combustion within or on behalf of cities. It is clear that investment in efficient energy and resource use is crucial for both the economy and the ecology of cities and for creating new local jobs.

But all this requires a new imagination in politics and economics, and the use of policy tools that go way beyond the scope of current local authority planning.

Some cities in history have declined and collapsed, but others survive till today. Let us make sure that we apply the lessons of history and the latest human knowledge to create liveable and sustainable cities in the 21st century.

# Herbert Girardet

## Cities, People, Planet- Creating Liveable and Sustainable Cities



Perhaps the world's foremost urban ecologist, Herbert Girardet is a specialist in making cities sustainable. He is a prolific writer and film-maker, and last year was the City of Adelaide's "Thinker-in-Residence".

Herbert is the recipient of the UN Global 500 Award for Outstanding Environmental Achievement, an honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Chairman of the UK Sustainability Alliance and Chairman of the Schumacher Society.

Herbert's latest book, "Cities, People, Planet - Creating Liveable and Sustainable Cities", will be published by John Wiley in September 2004.

**Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2004**

**Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**Place: Room 419, 4/F Knowles Building, HKU**

Department of Architecture  
The University of Hong Kong  
[www.arch.hku.hk/events](http://www.arch.hku.hk/events)