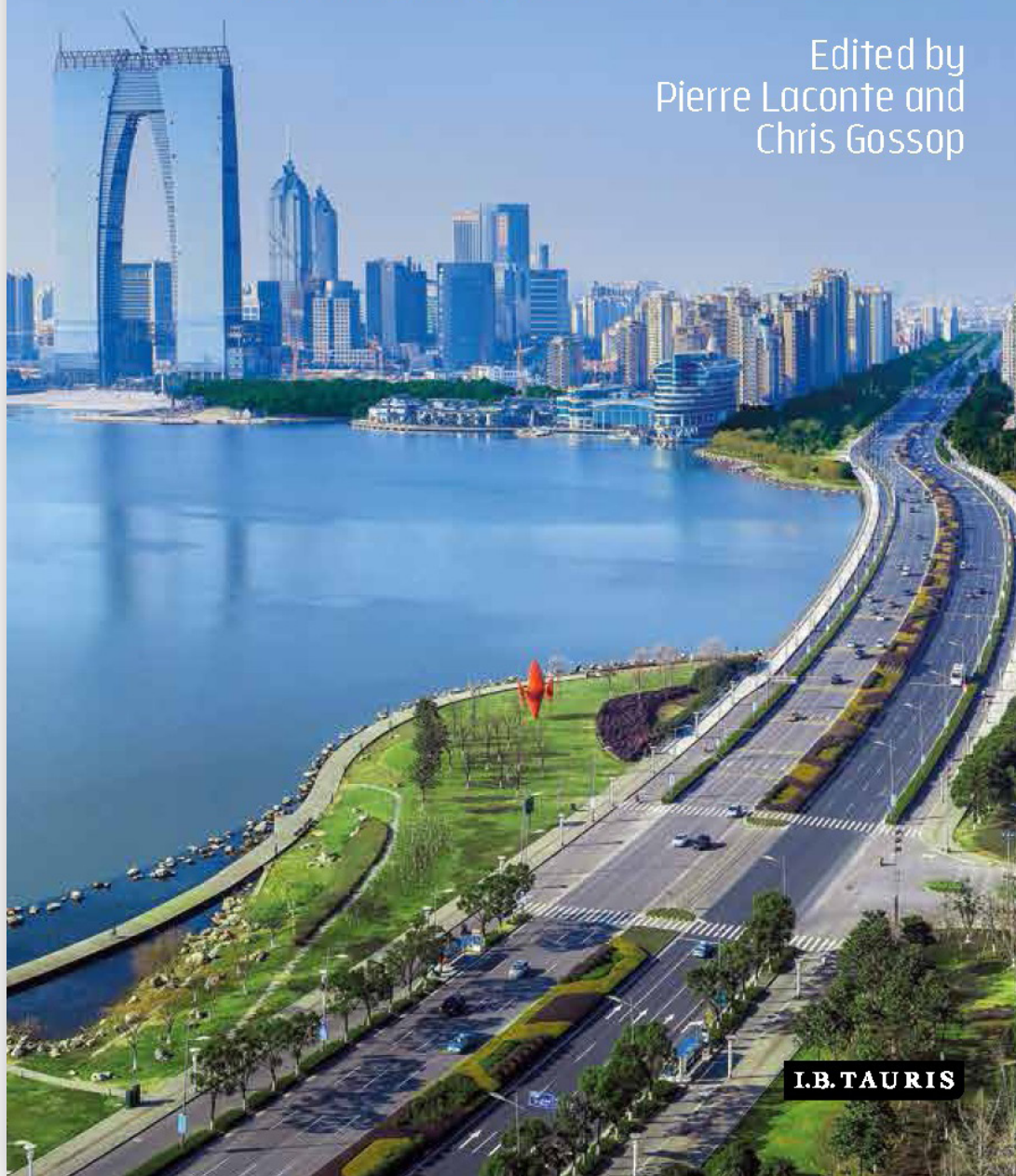


# sustainable cities

Assessing the Performance  
and Practice of  
Urban Environments

Edited by  
Pierre Laconte and  
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## MAIN CONTENT

Part I examines the built environment at three levels of observation – individual buildings, urban neighbourhoods and entire cities and towns. While charting the genuine improvements made, it also reveals the scale and complexity of the task ahead. Part II offers a critical assessment of the techniques used to assess global and local sustainability, including the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions, ecological footprint analysis, and the assessment of urban biodiversity. It proposes an alternative approach to CO<sub>2</sub>, making the case for this greenhouse gas to be seen as a resource, rather than as a liability.

Part III refers to a number of examples of urban best practice: Urban transport (Peter Hall's last paper), Waterfronts as a resource, Amsterdam's ring canals (World Heritage), London's King's Cross development, Hamburg's energy efficiency district, Lee Kuan Yew World City Prizes - Bilbao, New York and Suzhou, Singapore being their model, and the new university town of Louvain near Brussels.

## SOME CONCLUSIONS

- Best practices in urban sustainability are always linked to a space and time framework & specific assessment tools.
- Sustainability is linked to circularity, i.e. saving and reuse of scarce resources.
- Global warming is a planetary issue. Its policies are strongly related to geopolitics (China, Russia, USA).
- Greenhouse gases are a virtual reality resulting from calculations. Their measurement is broadly agreed at planetary level but not at the level of urban areas (impact of the GHG import and export). Their trading can therefore not be considered as a reliable tool.
- Management of urban environments requires local measurement tools of air, water, soil quality etc. and wherever possible their international comparability.

**"a masterpiece gathering the wisdoms of well-known experts from different fields concerning sustainable cities"**

**Chen Yulin, Jiang Yang - Review on "Sustainable Cities: Assessing the Performance and Practice of Urban Environments" in *China City Planning Review* vol. 26, No. 2, 2017, pp. 75-78.**

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