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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (1.25.19)

Authors (as it should appear on the book): Randolph T. Hester Jr. and Amber D. Nelson

Title: *Inhabiting the Sacred in Everyday Life*

Subtitle: *How to Design a Place that Touches Your Heart, Stirs You to Consecrate and Cultivate It as Home, Dwell Intentionally within It, Slay Monsters for It, and Let It Loose in Your Democracy*

Contributor: Foreword by Frederick R. Steiner

Partner: Published in association with the American Land Project

Book pages: 304

Illustrations: 145 color photographs, drawings, maps, plans, and diagrams

Trim size: 8.0" x 10.0" upright/portrait

List price: \$39.50

Discount: Short

ISBN (book): 978-1-938086-65-6

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Interactive e-book? None

Jacket: No

Edition size: 1,000

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Distributor: University of Virginia Press

Bookstore categories (list three): Design and Planning/Urbanism/Community Development

Tagline (25 words): A comprehensive and inspirational guide to cultivating and preserving the best qualities of any community, town, or city.

Audience: Professional designers and city planners; students and teachers of landscape architecture, city planning, preservation, and community development.

Selling points (list three): (1) Randy Hester is one of the most influential landscape architects of the past half-century; (2) this newest book encapsulates a lifetime of work in improving the quality of life in one's community; and (3) the direct link between a healthy democracy and design and planning is at the foundation of

the book.

Description of the work:

People everywhere hunger, often unconsciously, for places to live and work that are more than efficient machines for economic living. They seek places that enable them to fulfill their humanity, that add meaning to their life, that reintegrate emotion with reason, that enrich one's self and community.

In their pioneering book, Hester and Nelson explain how to give form in everyday landscapes to our most deeply held values and most ennobling purposes, thus turning profane spaces into sacred places. This transformation, which gives people and communities a sense of nearness and rootedness, may be accomplished in both interior private and exterior civic spaces.

Shaping neighborhood and civic space into sacred place requires a partnership between citizens, government and public officials, planners and designers, and other interested partners. Although large-scale and complex projects usually require the assistance of a professional designer and planner, many projects can be advanced by individuals and community groups. The process and techniques espoused by the authors will also be of use to indigenous peoples, especially in defending the territories essential to the survival of their cultures.

This book was thus written to appeal to all stakeholders who embrace a place. It is presented as an informative and practical guide to envisioning and creating more meaningful and fulfilling habitation that harmonizes local culture and personal experiences. In the first part of their book, Hester and Nelson share personal stories—aha moments—that changed their respective understandings and approaches to community design. In the second part, the authors present six strategies for inhabiting the sacred in any place, no matter the scale. They open each chapter with a theoretical framework and then share successful case studies—from all over the U.S. and globe—accompanied by tried-and-true “how to” techniques. The book concludes with a look toward the future. Beautifully illustrated and highly readable, *Inhabiting the Sacred in Everyday Life* is sure to be a book of lasting value.

Blurbs:

“Beautiful drawings and such meaningful words! Reading this book gives me a calming and serene feeling. There is an immediate sensation of being teleported to a spiritual realm. Yet what Hester and Nelson address are very down-to-earth matters of the everyday place. Connectedness of the common and the sacred, coupled with the essential interdependency of justice and space, are the core values that will resonate across time and culture.”
—John K. C. Liu, Chairman of the Building and Planning Research Foundation, National Taiwan University

“In *Inhabiting the Sacred in Everyday Life*, Hester and Nelson seamlessly interweave profound reflections stemming from decades of hands-on work with remarkably accessible practical advice. The six steps and

associated techniques the authors outline move readers through a process of collective learning, making, honoring, and inhabiting sacred places. This beautiful book is a meditation on what it means to belong to a place and to have a place belong to you.”

—Kaitlin M. Murphy, Chair of the Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory Graduate Interdisciplinary Program Graduate Interdisciplinary Program, University of Arizona, and author of *Mapping Memory: Visuality, Affect, and Embodied Politics in the Americas*

“As an educator, scholar, and landscape architect, I am convinced that *Inhabiting the Sacred in Everyday Life* should be required reading for all students and practitioners in the environmental design fields. As readers follow Hester and Nelson’s personal and communal journeys, they will learn how the best places should touch the heart, inspire contemplation, and teach the essential nature of interconnectedness.”

—Daniel Nadenicek, Draper Chair in Landscape Architecture, University of Georgia, and author of *Cultivating American Civilization: Frederick Billings and Nineteenth-century Landscape Improvement*

“Hester and Nelson have produced a personal manifesto to challenge our way of seeing, thinking, and living. This book has value to citizen activists and seasoned designers who need to be reintroduced to the *why* of design. Poetic and filled with vivid stories and well-placed sketches, maps, and photos, *Inhabiting the Sacred in Everyday Life* is a must-read for anyone who cares about place.”

—Rodney Swink, Past President of the American Society of Landscape Architects and Senior Associate for Planning and Development at PlaceEconomics

“In our technology-focused culture, the practice of being in and learning with your community is an underappreciated art. *Inhabiting the Sacred in Everyday Life* is at once a meditation on the power of place and a step-by-step guide to making thoughtful community change in your own neighborhood. Hester and Nelson break down their sophisticated approach to landscape architecture practice into six digestible steps that help designers, planners, and community leaders reconnect with the senses, work across differences, identify shared values, and organize collectively to make meaningful change. The book takes a humble, artful, and practical tone to the important work of community design and weaves design practice back into the sacred rituals of everyday life.”

—Dr. Barbara Brown Wilson, Assistant Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning, University of Virginia, and author of *Resilience for All: Striving for Equity through Community-Driven Design*

“Combining the wisdom of Randy Hester’s decades-long study of sacred landscapes with a fresh look at the topic by Amber Nelson, this delightful and beautifully illustrated book should speak to every student in every design and planning program. In describing the techniques toward inhabiting the sacred, the authors also provide specifics on how to preserve those special places in our everyday landscapes and everyday lives.”

—Linda Jewell, Professor Emerita of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, University of California,

Berkeley, and Fellow of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture

About the Authors:

Randolph T. Hester Jr. is Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, the Director of the Center for Ecological Democracy, and a practicing landscape architect in North Carolina. His previous books document fifty years of community-design innovation, including the *Neighborhood Guide to the Thoroughfare Plan* (Wake Environment Publications 1973), *User Needs as Design Criteria* (North Carolina State University, 1974), *A Citizen's Guide to Local Government* (Goals for Raleigh/Wake, 1975), *Neighborhood Space* (Dowden, Hutchinson and Ross, 1975), *Community Goal Setting* (Hutchinson, Ross, 1982), with Frank Smith, *Planning Neighborhood Space with People* (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1984), *Community Design Primer* (Ridge Times Press, 1990), *The Meaning of Gardens* (The MIT Press, 1990), with Mark Francis, *Community Planning Method and Technique* (Gendaikikakushitsu Publishers, 1997), *A Theory for Building Community* (Yungliou Press, 1999), with Sheng Lin Chang, and *Design for Ecological Democracy* (The MIT Press, 2006).

Amber D. Nelson is an independent landscape designer based in R o de Janierio, Brazil, and the South America Destination Manager for a sustainable place-based travel company, Context Travel.

About the Contributor:

Frederick R. Steiner is Dean of the School of Design and Paley Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, and the author and editor of more than a dozen books, including *Nature and Cities: The Ecological Imperative in Urban Planning* (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2016), with George F. Thompson and Armando Carbonell, named one of the best books of 2016 by the American Society of Landscape Architects, *Design for a Vulnerable Planet* (Texas, 2011), *The Living Landscape* (Island Press, 2008), and *Human Ecology* (Island Press, 2002; 2016).