In un’epoca in cui l’innalzamento del mare non è più un’ipotesi remota ma una variabile del design urbano, “*Planning and Designing Cities for a Rising Sea Level*” si pone come un riferimento essenziale. Curata da un team d’eccellenza — Gertrud Jørgensen, Tom Nielsen, Karsten Arnbjerg-Nielsen e Kamilla Stener Møller — l’opera sintetizza cinque anni di ricerche interdisciplinari supportate dalla fondazione Realdania.

Il libro affronta quello che gli esperti definiscono un “*wicked problem*“: un problema estremamente complesso e incerto, dove l’entità e la velocità del cambiamento mettono i decisori politici di fronte a scelte spesso difficili, obbligando gli stakeholder coinvolti ad una riflessione più profonda.

Gli autori sollevano interrogativi cruciali: quando è preferibile convivere con l’elemento liquido piuttosto che resistervi? come gestire, in modo costruttivo e positivo, la transizione di aree urbane che sono destinate a diventare zone umide? come possiamo ridisegnare il confine tra terra e mare in modo che la protezione diventi anche un’opportunità di rigenerazione urbana?

Il testo scorre attraverso una struttura logica che parte dal dato scientifico — la comprensione del rischio idraulico — per arrivare alla gestione pratica. Il valore aggiunto risiede nel dialogo tra competenze diverse, grazie ai contributi di 30 esperti internazionali, così come nella presenza non solo di approcci e schemi ingegneristici, ma anche di analisi di sostenibilità economica e sociale, di visioni paesaggistiche capaci di trasformare le zone a rischio in spazi fruibili. A partire da prove scientifiche e visioni future audaci, il volume punta a dimostrare come la necessità di adattamento può diventare l’occasione per creare soluzioni urbane nuove.

Si tratta non solo di un manuale tecnico (diritto, governance, valutazione del rischio), ma di un manifesto per una nuova urbanistica costiera che delinea quattro direttrici strategiche: resistere con infrastrutture, accogliere l’acqua negli spazi urbani, espandersi con soluzioni anfibie o, nei casi più estremi, pianificare una ritirata strategica. Una lettura indispensabile per chi vuole capire come le città costiere possano non solo gestire l’emergenza e le sfide climatiche, ma definire

strategie di adattamento e nuovi modelli di sviluppo, capaci di coniugare la protezione del territorio e degli insediamenti con la sostenibilità ambientale, arrivando a ridefinire il rapporto tra città e acqua in contesti ad alto rischio idraulico e in un paesaggio in continua evoluzione.

In an era where rising sea levels are no longer a remote hypothesis but a core variable of urban design, '*Planning and Designing Cities for a Rising Sea Level*' stands as an essential reference. Edited by a distinguished team—Gertrud Jørgensen, Tom Nielsen, Karsten Arnbjerg-Nielsen, and Kamilla Stener Møller—this work synthesizes five years of interdisciplinary research supported by the Realdania Foundation.

The book tackles what experts define as a 'wicked problem': an extremely complex and uncertain challenge where the scale and pace of change confront policymakers with difficult choices, forcing stakeholders into a deeper reflection.

The authors raise crucial questions: When is it preferable to coexist with water rather than resist it? How can we constructively manage the transition of urban areas destined to become wetlands? And how can we redesign the land-sea interface so that protection becomes an opportunity for urban regeneration?

The text follows a logical progression, moving from scientific data—the understanding of hydraulic risk—to practical management. Its added value lies in the dialogue between diverse expertise, featuring contributions from 30 international experts. It offers not only engineering schemes but also socio-economic sustainability analyses and landscape visions capable of transforming high-risk zones into accessible public spaces. Grounded in scientific evidence and bold future visions, the volume demonstrates how the need for adaptation can serve as a catalyst for innovative urban solutions.

This is more than just a technical manual covering law, governance, and risk assessment; it is a manifesto for a new coastal urbanism. It outlines four strategic pillars: resisting through infrastructure, accommodating water within urban spaces, expanding with amphibious solutions, or, in extreme cases, planning a strategic retreat. It is essential reading for those seeking to understand how coastal cities can move beyond emergency management to define adaptation strategies and

development models that reconcile territorial protection with environmental sustainability, ultimately redefining the relationship between the city and water in a constantly evolving landscape.

BOOK Info

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