

'...Esther Charlesworth's book is a stimulating and groundbreaking contribution to our understanding of what more can be done to aid this [post-war reconstruction] process by a group of professionals whose role until now has been seen in much more limited terms ...She has shown us, persuasively and impressively, how architects and planners, working with other professionals across multiple disciplines but above all with local people in their communities, can serve as true architects of peace.'

GARETH EVANS, PRESIDENT AND CEO, INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP, FOREIGN MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA 1988-1996



Cities are under siege. From the bombing of Belgrade in 1999 to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan in March 2001 and the demolition of urban and industrial infrastructure in Baghdad in 2005, there appears to be a relentless attack on urban culture, values and architecture. By whom and across what political and aesthetic criteria are these cities and icons to be rebuilt?

The title of this timely and inspiring new book, **Architects Without Frontiers**, points to the potential for architects to play important roles in post-war relief and reconstruction. Working *sans frontières* gives architects and design professionals the opportunity to assist peace-making efforts in the period immediately after conflict, when much of the housing, hospital, educational, transport, civic and business infrastructure has been destroyed or badly damaged.

Through useful case studies, Charlesworth imaginatively examines the role of architects, planners, urban designers and landscape architects in three cities following conflict - Beirut, Nicosia and Mostar - three cities where the mental and physical scars of violent conflict still remain. This book expands both the traditional role of the architect - from 'hero' to 'peacemaker' - and also suggests how design educators can stretch their wings to encompass the proliferating agendas and sites of uncivil unrest.



Architectural Press
An imprint of Elsevier
www.architecturalpress.com

ISBN 0-7506-6840-7



9 780750 668408



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