

# Small utopias. Influence of social factors on spatial development of ecological settlement structures

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## Abstract

The paper is focused on the issues concerning shaping and developing ecological concepts of settlements, perceived as a process of spatial and social growth, based on the need of creating a new social order in the face of the necessity of going back to nature, and maintaining the state of equilibrium between the built and the biological environment. In each of such realizations some ideas of utopian visions may be found, targeted at creating ideal conditions for life, based on a certain concise axiological order. The author of this paper declares the thesis that the trend of sustainable architecture, targeted at reaching the state of equilibrium of the ecological, economic and social factors is a continuation of the idea of a new system of values that should motivate action against profound social conflicts and degradation of the natural environment. The selected concepts and their implementation were analyzed, demonstrating a harmonious connection of the anthropogenic and natural factors, which became one of the fundamental assumptions. The analyses and the author's experience from participating in the project: "Eco-Zone Settlement" lead to the conclusion that the determinants of such solutions are: joint objectives and professed values of local communities, as well as the processes that enable their functioning in connection with other urban structures.

**Keywords:** sustainable development, ecological settlement, local communities.