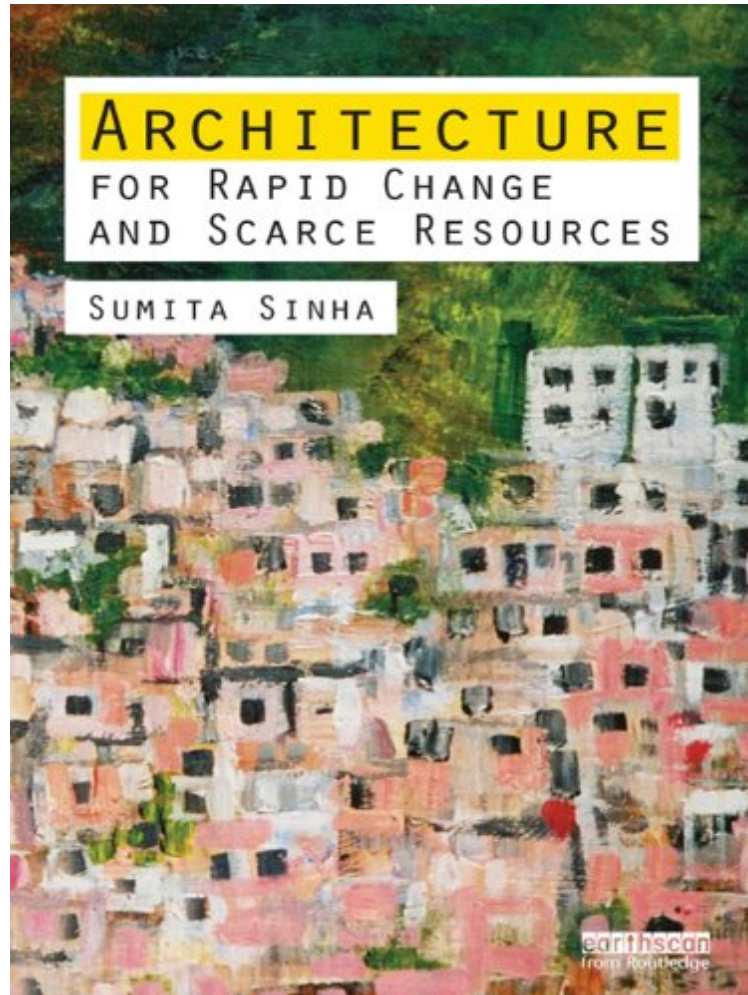


## Architecture for Rapid Change and Scarce Resources

Sumita Sinha

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**Sumita Sinha : Architecture for Rapid Change and Scarce Resources** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture for Rapid Change and Scarce Resources:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome - Sumita's book is a Call to ArmsBy DaphneSumita Sinha is the founder of Architects for Change, the RIBA Equality and Diversity Forum. In her new book which sits in tandem with her MA course of the same title at London Metropolitan University, 'Architecture for Rapid Change and Scarce Resources'. Her lively and engaging prose addresses us all as 'development activists' and we become instant recruits. She employs her own breadth of vision honed over twenty years in several countries to persuade us into making connections and daring to look at contradictions. It is a survey of current paradoxes in the world and asks questions of ourselves. Sumita takes us into the 'heart of darkness' and we see various innovative practices and our awareness is raised kicking and screaming into the margins of life such as slums, informal settlements, cities and a phenomena she calls 'globalisation'. The Ultimate in alternate materials? A door

made of human excrement at the Museum of Toilets, New Delhi, in order to change people's minds about human waste. Will you change yours? p. 102. The book is packed with lively narrative intermingled with facts, images and her own photographs that boggle the mind, challenge our assumptions, engage and inform us from the safety of the printed word. Much like the slum it is teeming with life and raises a poignant visceral smell that repels and attracts in equal measure. Sumita has created a triumph of a book. Daphne Chalk-Birdsall, Academic Liaison Librarian for Architecture and Interior Design at London Metropolitan University

Architects, development practitioners and designers are working in a global environment and issues such as environmental and cultural sustainability matter more than ever. Past interactions and interventions between developed and developing countries have often been unequal and inappropriate. We now need to embrace fresh design practices based on respect for diversity and equality, participation and empowerment. This book explores what it means for development activists to practise architecture on a global scale, and provides a blueprint for developing architectural practices based on reciprocal working methods. The content is based on real situations - through extended field research and contacts with architecture schools and architects, as well as participating NGOs. It demonstrates that the ability to produce appropriate and sustainable design is increasingly relevant, whether in the field of disaster relief, longer-term development or wider urban contexts, both in rich countries and poor countries.

This thought provoking book links the structured world of buildings and design with the chaotic world of fluidity and diversity, bringing community participation in design into the centre of any planning process, even at a time of rapid change and resource scarcity. Reconciling the need for swift action with participatory processes is a challenge but as Sinha shows, this brings about the most sustainable solution and creates the most value. The book provides practical tips and advice and provides a good overview for students of architecture, those engaged in urban planning, as well as the development activist. Nicole Kenton, International Institute for Environment and Development This book identifies the need for cultural sensitivity in design and architecture, as well as wider development practice, as a result of the challenges of operating in an increasingly global environment. In an in-depth exploration of culture and perception, Sinha rightly acknowledges that respect and professionalism are central to effective working practice as development practitioners. This book helps readers to understand the challenges of operating in a different cultural context and through poignant recommendations asks us to examine our own preconceptions of ourselves and of others. Article 25 At a time when modern architecture in the west has long since lost its social purpose and become the brand style of corporate capitalism, a now diminishing brand, this timely book offers a new prospect of an enlightened architectural future. Professor Mike McEvoy, University of Brighton This will hopefully be a wake up call for the architectural profession, and its education system, to re-establish its fundamental political, social and environmental responsibilities. More important perhaps, and more difficult, is the book's emphasis on the need to ask questions and create connections, to gain a deeper understanding of the inseparability of all life on this extraordinary planet. You may not agree with every sentence in the book but you must read it and at the very least begin to acknowledge some of the critical issues it raises about the future of human society. Roger Kelly, former Director of the Centre for Alternate Technology. About the Author Sumita Sinha is a practising architect and teacher, who has worked in India, Serbia, France, Spain, Venezuela and the UK. Sumita is the founder of Architects For Change, the Equality Forum at the Royal Institute of British Architects. Sumita is the recipient of many awards including the UIA:UNESCO International Design Award and the Atkins Inspire Award 2008.