

HISTORY  
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## Ecopia Intelligent Building, Sustainable Living

Today, more than half the world's population lives in cities. By 2050, the figure will have risen to more than two thirds.

Cities produce huge amounts of greenhouse gases and garbage, and are at the root of many of the world's environmental problems. Energy, water and raw materials are in increasingly short supply. What can we do to halt this trend?

The series Ecopia looks at exciting projects that address key questions: How should we live and work in the future? How should we shape our public urban spaces? How can green architecture provide new impetus for urgently needed ecological reforms?

**01 Eco-Cities** **HD**

Hamburg's Hafencity and the Tianjin Eco-City have been praised as models of sustainable urban planning. A huge stretch of derelict dockland along the Elbe river in Hamburg is being redeveloped to create vibrant new city neighborhoods. It is currently Europe's largest building site. The Tianjin Eco-City in eastern China is being built on undeveloped land. The plan is to try out eco-friendly technologies that can help slash energy consumption in China's cities.

**02 Worlds of Knowledge** **HD**

School buildings made of locally-sourced clay in Burkina Faso, with a sophisticated roof construction and a passive ventilation system that uses no electricity. A university campus in South Korea that has been partially sunk into the ground to blend in with the landscape of an existing park. And a virtually planned science lab in Germany that is carrying out research into work environments of the future. These three sustainable projects from Africa, Asia and Europe in the education sector invite imitation.

**04 The Sky's the Limit** **HD**

The number of skyscrapers currently at planning or construction stage has never been greater. These buildings are becoming steadily more luxurious, imposing, taller and more robust. But architects are increasingly required to consider the environmental impact of their designs. The key question here is how to build in a manner that is simultaneously effective, efficient and ecologically sound. A sustainably built high-rise block costs around 10 percent more than a conventional one. But in view of rising energy prices, this investment pays for itself in just a few years. When assessing how to improve the green credentials of our towns and cities, the skyscrapers of the future are representative of the need to consider ecological and economic principles in equal measure.

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#### 05 Modern Culture Temples **HD**

Museums, concert halls, theaters and libraries enjoy high status throughout the world. They are all landmarks of a town or city and define its cultural identity. As well as being important factors in the competition to attract international tourists, they also provide local people with a place to gather and exchange ideas. And if their architectural design is spectacular and avant-garde, these buildings hold a very special appeal.

#### 06 Tourism Goes Green **HD**

The tourism industry is viewed worldwide as an important economic factor with considerable growth potential. But more and more people are concerned about the environmental impact of their holidays. This has led to more sustainable architecture for tourist facilities. For example, in the east African nation of Rwanda, work is underway on two hotels distinguished by their innovative ecological approaches, cooperation with local partners and a design that reflects local traditions. On the Indonesian island of Bali, designers have created a holiday complex that aims to combine luxury with ecological principles. Materials have been sourced from the region; the ceilings are made of bamboo from certified plantations. The water recycling quota within the complex is at 80 percent, and most of the staff have been recruited from nearby villages.