

Contents

	Preface	vi
	Acknowledgements	viii
1	Setting the Context for Evaluating Sustainable Development	1
	The environmental perspective	1
	The international policy debates	4
	Extension of the debate	9
	The impact of the built environment	10
	Sustainability: a definition	12
	Seeking a shared set of values	13
	Striving for a common framework and classification system	16
	The characteristics of assessment and measurement for sustainable development	17
	Management and intervention for sustainable development	21
	Implementing management decisions	23
	Summary	24
2	Approaches to Evaluation	26
	The Natural Step	27
	The concept of community capital	30
	The ecological footprint	33
	Discussion	36
	Why evaluate?	37
	Indicators and measures	38

	Traditional versus sustainability indicators	40
	Generic and specific questions	42
	International indicators	44
	Progress on UN Habitat indicators	51
	Summary	52
3	Time and Sustainability	54
	Innovation and stability	56
	Perceptions of sustainable development	57
	Critical failure points	61
	Time in evaluation	66
	Future aversion	68
	Clever or wise?	69
	Practical assessment of 'time'	70
	The luxury of the 'time' horizon	71
4	A Proposed Framework for Evaluating Sustainable Development	74
	The need for a holistic and integrated framework	75
	The theoretical underpinning of the framework	78
	The built environment explained by the modalities	80
	The fifteen modalities for understanding sustainable development in the built environment	83
	Development of the multi-modal framework for decision-making	91
	Key questions for examining sustainable development within each modality	92
	Synthesis of results	96
	Summary	98
5	The Framework as a Structuring Tool: Case Studies	100
	Case study 1: selection of a municipal waste treatment system	102
	Case study 2: 'multi-stakeholder' urban regeneration decision-making	107
	Case study 3: social reporting of Modena City strategic plan	113
	Key issues of social reporting	114
	Summary and conclusion	118

6	Assessment Methods	121
	A directory of assessment methods	123
	An outline summary of the main assessment methods in use	127
	Linking the assessment methods to the framework	137
	Summary and conclusions	140
7	Towards Management Systems and Protocols	144
	Who manages?	147
	The planning framework	149
	Management in a learning organisation	151
	Soft system methodology	153
	Process protocols	154
8	The Future Issues	161
	The Vancouver study	167
	A research agenda	172
	In conclusion	174
	Appendix A: The Philosophy of the 'Cosmomic Idea of Reality'	175
	Appendix B: Commission of the European Communities: Communication from the Commission - Structural Indicators	181
	Executive summary	181
	Structural indicators	182
	Annex 1: Indicators under development	193
	Annex 2: Definition, source, availability and policy objective behind the selected indicators	198
	References	205
	Websites	225
	Index	226