

## **What People Are Saying About Integral City 3.7**

What is truly amazing about the book and its author is that they serve as guides for the real-world heroes dealing with the real-world issues, while offering a direct connection to the timeless dimension of ever-present Wisdom and Wholeness.

***Integral City 3.7*** is an indispensable aide for anyone reaching beyond the obvious and mundane in a beautiful journey to holistic living in the cities we could consciously co-create.

Marilyn's work inspired us to set a high goal of integrally developing 1000 cities to transform our country and the future of Earth.

**Lev Gordon**, Cofounder of Living Cities Movement, Russia

### ***The Cities We Shape by Our Relating, and that Shape Us as Gaian Citizens - of a Planetary City of Cities – Beeing for Gaia***

For those who make the city, and – especially – cities, their live/work place par excellence, this is probably the most comprehensive, inclusive and balanced framing of their field – broadly, and integrally, defined – that they are ever likely to encounter. It focuses on reframing complex challenges, but the main - almost pre-requisite - challenge involves a fundamental reframing of their own, whole, selves, in a wholeness-privileging project like no other.

This is not for the faint of heart, or the weak of will; it actually calls for an extraordinary generosity of spirit, and an embrace of the fundamental spirituality of it all. Practitioners will be called to account, and especially to care, to an unprecedented degree. Professionals will be challenged to address not simply what they profess, but how and – especially why – they profess, in ways that will shake them to their professional core. Purpose will become the object of exquisite discernment – ongoingly, always – with reflection-in-action as default mode.

In bald terms the call is to deepen care, raise context and widen capacity: to go on an outer and inner journey – to take caring to new levels, and new levels of mastery; to scale up and out – and down and in, addressing evolution and involution; and to aim for a capacity of overview that is also an integration, an integration-in-action that is as much spirituality-in-action. The explicatory framing is applied integral theory, leavened by spiral dynamics, with a guide who is first and foremost a practitioner, who very much walks her talk - with the sensibility of a grandmother caring deeply for the world being bequeathed to her granddaughter. The author models 'integral' as a reframe of 'professional', and we wonder - who might be inclined to follow her example?

Drawing on the metaphor of the city as human hive, and inspired by the incredibly productive life of bees, you will be challenged to identify 'the 20 kilos of honey' that defines your purpose, and your modus operandi. It will engage not only your 'minding' (your normal 'thinking') but will take you very much into the realms of your hearting and souling. The understanding on offer is as much an over-standing (and an inner-standing, and an outer-standing). It takes 'all-round' and 'as-a-whole' to mind-boggling new interpretations; and your caring will never be the same, nor as nuanced, again; 'care-taking' takes on a whole new visceral meaning.

Being proficient, or professional - or simply being a human being rather than a human doing - is further reframed as 'beeing for Gaia'. The provenance is as delicious as life-sustaining honey.

**Ian Wight** PhD FCIP GTB, Senior Scholar, City Planning, University of Manitoba

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Where do we begin to heal our world in crisis? Marilyn Hamilton has chosen one key entry point — the city — the unit of human culture she calls "the human hive". And she has explored, in many diverse ways, how cities can make wise choices to address their challenges and create more healthy futures.

Dr. Hamilton helps her reader understand cities and how to foster civic regeneration by looking through a rich suite of powerful integrative lenses. Each reveals something unique about the life of a city, and they reveal the patterns that connect the peculiar challenges and opportunities of thousands of cities.

In the three Integral City volumes she synthesizes and applies an encyclopedic range of powerful integrative frames to help cities dialogue skillfully, plan consciously and evolve cooperatively. She is one of the most creative social architects applying integral and evolutionary tools to practical real-world challenges. If you care to understand a city, the Integral City books are a crash course in bringing a birds-eye meta-systemic intelligence to the task.

The third volume may be the most ambitious and elegant of them all. It reframes the means with which we can bring our best intelligence to the hyper-complex challenges of the 21st Century in terms of care, context and capacity, a useful original system for understanding different crucial dimensions of what must be necessary for successful collaboration among a city's stakeholders. Her writings renew hope by uncovering and highlighting many hidden opportunities for cities to lead the way toward a regeneration of human culture amidst our crises of fragmentation.

**Terry Patten**, Author *A New Republic of the Heart*, Co-Author *Integral Spiritual Practise*, Founder Integral Heart

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No longer are cities defined by a single slowly evolving Worldview as they have tended to be up until the erosion of both modern and post-modern Worldviews failed to provide fair, equitable and resilient cities for all. Current trends in sustainable or smart cities have proved insufficient to encompass and include the degree of complex thinking needed. A complexity that defies individual or expert group planning. A complexity that needs to involve us all in the development of self-organising evolving cities which allow us to define who we are and what we want from our co-created urban environment. A city capable of holding various cultures and Worldviews that can be technically resilient and can be socially relevant and culturally inclusive for all its citizens. Marilyn's *Integral City 3.7* and the other two earlier volumes are part of the evolving process that defines the actions we all need to be involved in if our cities are to be places we love to be a part of.

**Paul van Schaik** - Founder IntegralMENTORS: Creator and publisher of the *Integral UrbanHub series - Thriveable Cities* and Executive Director Integral Without Borders

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Imagine human hives who know how to connect. They can map their existing connections, align people to purpose and priorities. They can amplify what works, let go of what doesn't and continuously improve the value they contribute to Gaia" [Appendix F1: Imagine the City as a Human Hive"]. From the breadth and depth of her work, Hamilton's third book in the Integral City series appears to be a scientific and philosophical exploration of the challenges facing a burgeoning humanity increasingly nested in urban environments. But it is much more than that. It is also a handbook for stewards of the growth and structure of living cities as well as for curators of complex evolutionary learning communities. Her work explores the scientific bases for the emergence of collective wellbeing in hypercomplex human communities and their potential for expressing intelligence through networked connections between and among them. In an age of increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environments, Hamilton's work is an essential guide for understanding the evolution of a city as a learning system and how to fulfill its potential as a true expression of Gaia.

**Alexander Laszlo, PhD,**

- 57th President of the International Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS) and Chair of the Board of Trustees
- President of the Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science (BCSSS)
- President of the Honorary Board of Advisors of the World Complexity Science Academy (WCSA)
- Director of the Doctoral Program in Leadership and Systemic Innovation at the Buenos Aires Institute of Technology (ITBA)

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In this Book 3 [of the Integral City series], Marilyn Hamilton brings out very clearly the essential dimensions, notably the spiritual one, that will allow integral cities to be at the leading edge of planetary renewal. By emphasizing the depth and interconnectedness of caring, contexting, and capacity building at multiple scales – from the individual to the ecoregion – and with a long-term perspective, she guides us wisely in the systemic exploration of the most complex challenges of social/economic/environmental sustainability and resiliency. What an inspiring, thoughtful and coherent invitation to evolve cities into conscious, inclusive, learning, and self-evolving meta-organisms!

**Alain Gauthier** – Executive Director, Core Leadership Development – Co-founder of the Society for Organizational Learning – Member of Bay Area Integral – Author: *Actualizing Evolutionary Co-Leadership - To Evolve a Creative and Responsible Society*

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This book is committed to unravelling the paradox of the city as intractable global problem and inescapable solution for continuing and thriving human life on Earth. Marilyn Hamilton coins new terms for the new ideas in the emerging paradigm of the city as living developmental system. The contemporary city is an unsustainable collage without composition or conscience. In wisdom looking deeply forward many generations, the emerging Integral City articulated here gives hope for the wholeness of people and planet. Read it, let your brain recover, then get to work.

**Mark DeKay**, Professor of Architecture, University of Tennessee, author, *Integral Sustainable Design: Transformative Perspectives*

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Marilyn Hamilton continues to amaze with her hundred year plus vision for the human hive. Marilyn's ongoing application of meta-theory with prime focus on self, other, place and planet is inspiration for us all. Her work shapes and informs Integral Councils and Integrated Development. This book and the series is a must read for all those voices; the Citizens, Civil society, Civic Managers and Business.

**Chris Woodhouse** Founder of the Integrated Development Framework, Integral Councils and Inaugural chair of Integral Institute Australia.

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More integral thinking and strategies for the future of our cities from one of the planet's best systems thinkers, Marilyn Hamilton.

**Hazel Henderson**, CEO, Ethical Markets Certified B. Corporation, author *Mapping the Global Transition to the Solar Age* and other books.

One of the brightest lights in my universe, Marilyn Hamilton keeps deepening her exploration of the capacities needed to make cities thrive. She is among the few who dare to engage in energetic enquiries and explicitly address the role of other life forms in shaping the life conditions for those of us who inhabit what she calls 'human hives'. Having been part of several of her constellations, I can testify to the impactful insights that come out of tapping into the knowing field under her attuned guidance. I applaud her for offering clear language, models, and practices for the emerging intelligence we need to keep our cities livable for its citizens and a force for good in their local ecology. May those we appoint to administer and govern our human hives benefit from the theoretical and practical frameworks that I know the author is happy to come and share even more of than she has done in this groundbreaking book.

**Lisette Schuitemaker**

Chair of Trustees of the Findhorn Foundation, Scotland

Author *The Eldest Daughter Effect; Alight; The Childhood Conclusions Fix*

City dweller of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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