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Beyond Habitat

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Foreword

This book is actually one half of a dialogue –my half of discussions with John Kettle that started when we met in 1961, long before the book was taped, –and continue on. The tapes we made were transcribed, the transcriptions edited and considered; sometimes I have re-written and added to them. At times the observations are of a kind one confides only to a friend; I have let them stand because I have learned that ideas and process cannot be separated, that they must become one if we are to bridge the gap between concept and reality, in the environment as elsewhere.

It was after a lecture I gave at M.I.T. while Habitat was still under construction that Michael Connolly, editor-in-chief of The M.I.T. Press planted the seed for this book by urging me to write it. It might have ended being another academic architectural statement if it were not for my Canadian publisher, May Cutler of Tundra Books, who from the outset insisted that the communication of ideas concerning the environment must not be limited to the involved professionals, that if the contemporary city is to change, these ideas must be communicable to everyone.

M.S.

