

Curriculum Vitae - Herbert Girardet

Herbert Girardet was born in Germany to a family of Huguenot background. He went to the UK in 1963 as a student and decided to make his home there. He is married with two grown-up sons. He has a B Sc Econ (LSE).

Herbert Girardet is a social anthropologist and cultural ecologist, now working as a writer, consultant and filmmaker. His main focus in recent years has been the sustainable development of cities and contemporary lifestyles. He is a recipient of a UN 'Global 500 Award for Outstanding Environmental Achievements', and an honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Books and reports:

- 1986: *Far from Paradise, 'the story of human impact on the planet'*; BBC Publications, London, four foreign editions; (co-author)
- 1987: *Blueprint for a Green Planet; 'how to take practical action to fight pollution'*; Dorling Kindersley, London, 12 foreign editions; (co-author)
- 1992: *Earthrise, 'how we can heal our injured planet'*; Paladin Books, HarperCollins, London; Published for the Rio Earth Summit; (author)
- 1992: *The Gaia Atlas of Cities, 'new directions for sustainable urban living'*, Gaia Books, London, four foreign editions; special edition for Habitat II, Istanbul, June 1996; (author)
- 1995: *Getting London in Shape for 2000*; report for London First on how London could take measures for sustainable development; (author)
- 1996: *Making Cities Work: 'the role of local authorities in the urban environment'*; Earthscan, London. Commissioned by the UN for Habitat II, Istanbul, June 1996; (co-author)
- 1996: *Creating a Sustainable London*, report for Sustainable London Trust on implementing sustainable development in London; (co-author)
- 1999: *Creating Sustainable Cities*, Green Books, Dartington; (author)
- 2001: *Tall Buildings and Sustainability*, report for the Corporation of London; (co-author)

TV work:

TV documentaries on cultural/ ecological themes:

- 1983 - 86: *Far from Paradise*, a seven-hour TV series; so far the only international TV series on the history of human impact on the Earth; (initiator and researcher)
- 1988: *Jungle Pharmacy*, Channel 4, 50 min documentary on the medicinal plant knowledge of Amazonian Indians; 6 international prizes; shown on TV in 70 countries; (producer)
- 1989: *The Altamira Gathering*, 15 min. news special for Channel 4; (director/ producer)
- 1990: *Halting the Fires*, Channel 4, 50 min documentary on ways to stop the destruction of the Amazon forest; 1 film festival prize; shown on TV in 15 countries; (writer-producer)
- 1994: *Metropolis*, Channel 4, 50 min documentary on 'London's metabolism'; (writer-producer)
- 1996: *Urban Best Practices*, WTN, 20 min. documentary for Habitat II, 1996; (producer)
- 1997 - 99: *Deadline 2000*, 28 three-minute TV films on environment and the new millennium. Four films shown every 100 days in 1998 and 1999; (producer)
- 1999 - 00: *The People's Planet*, a six-hour TV series for CNN and NHK, Tokyo, on the state of the world and initiatives to improve the relationship between people and planet; (series consultant)

Appointments:

- 1978 - 92: *Adviser, Town and Country Planning Association, London.* Work concerned mainly with sustainable settlement development
- 1980 - : *Associate Editor, Resurgence Magazine*
- 1987 - 89: *Environment Consultant, Channel 4, London.* Work concerned with selecting and commissioning environmental documentaries in the 'Fragile Earth' slot.
- 1990 - : *Patron, the Soil Association, Bristol.*
- 1994 - : *Chairman, The Schumacher Society, UK.* Mainly concerned with enhancing the effectiveness of the Society through increasing the number of lecture events across the UK.
- 1995 - 96: *Consultant, Habitat II Conference ('The UN City Summit'), 1996.* Working on concepts and policies for sustainable urban development.
- 1995 - : *Visiting Professor for Environmental Planning, Middlesex University, London.* Work concerned with curriculum development, conferences and lecturing.
- 1995 - : *Trustee: The Earth Love Fund and The Sustainable London Trust*
- 1998: *Consultant, Sustainable London study for the Bridge House Estate Fund.* Work involved developing criteria for the 'London Sustainability Exchange'.
- 1999 - : *Commissioning Editor, Schumacher Briefings.* Has, so far, commissioned and published nine 80 to 122 page briefings on different aspects of sustainable development.
- 2000: *Curator, London Living City Exhibition, May to July 2000, RIBA, London.* This exhibition was concerned with sustainable development in London in the run-up to the mayoral election.
- 2001: *Consultant to the GLA on spatial development, energy, transport and waste strategies.*
- 2002 - : *Chairman, Sustainability Alliance.* This new alliance of the RIBA, ICE, SIBSE and various other national institutes aims to raise the profile of architectural and engineering solutions to sustainable development.

Articles and lectures:

Since the 1980s he has written extensively in the national and international press, particularly in papers like *Resurgence*, *The Ecologist*, *Green Futures*, *Urban Futures*, *Habitat Debate*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *The Observer*. He frequently lectures to diverse audiences in the UK and at conferences in many countries.

In the last few years he has been invited to lecture at conferences in China, India, Malaysia, Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, the USA, Canada, Russia, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Spain, France, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Ireland. In the UK he is currently invited to lecture on average once a fortnight.

His collection of 12,000 slides from all over the world allows him to illustrate his lectures with a rich variety of his own images.