

Dollens, Dennis. *The Pangolin's Guide to Bio-digital Movement in Architecture*. [Venice, Calif.]: XFrog, 2010. Print.

**Summary:** This book gives a thorough insight on one particular project by Dennis Dollens. The Torre Darwin is explained in this biomimetics series using diagrams, narratives, and images to show the reader how the structure of the building was conceived. It also goes into detail on how plant growth and functions are extracted and implemented into digital models. Algorithmic modeling is used in such a way as to predict effects of say, pharmaceuticals on plant development and growth. The algorithms are then used to help designers find forms that are similar or identical to those found in nature. This book is an interesting one because it sheds light on not only natural forms, but also on nature's morphological evolution and processes. I can definitely see myself using this book as a guide map on how to design step by step a building (or set of buildings) using nature's DNA. It also sheds light on programs like XFrog that make the process of modeling natural forms that much easier.

Gruber, Petra. *Biomimetics in Architecture: Architecture of Life and Buildings*.  
Wien: Springer, 2011. Print.

**Summary:** By far, this was one of the most inspiring books on biomimetics in architecture, thus far. It goes into depths on comparing and contrasting ways in which designers have used nature's species and processes to inform design in architecture. It does a really good job at uncovering the lingo used in biomimetics. It also goes into depths on the different strategies and approaches one may use when looking at nature's wonders. It explores ways in which architecture can help address. Mediate, or restore natural land that has been lost, ways to reduce raw material, energy, reduce waste, and emissions into soil, wastewater, and air.

Schumacher, Patrik. *The Autopoiesis of Architecture*. Chichester: J. Wiley, 2011. Print.

**Summary:** Patrik Schumacher is a figure in architecture that has received my attention as of late. He is the "engineer" behind Zaha Hadid and really the person charged with realizing her avant-garde designs. This read lies on the leisure side and as is a big interest of mine. Schumacher has played a key role in the deployment of parametrics within architecture and offers an interesting approach to how we can conceive architecture today. This book presents a new theoretical approach to architecture-The Autopoiesis. A biological self-production term that goes to describe the essential characteristics of life as a circular organization that reproduces all its specific components out of its own life processes. It uses the processes used to communicate architectural ideas (i.e. diagrams, drawings, texts, and built works) to produce a cohesive building that has a discussion with other subsystems like art, science, politics, the environment, and the economy. The book itself is a great way for me to gain inspiration on ways to elevate my design so that in the end, I can bring together conceptual ideas that are then manifested into physical architectural forms. All in an effort to respond to the ever changing conditions within the current societal and technological developments.

Tony DeFalco and Associates. "Equity in EcoDistricts: Addressing Concerns of Low-Income Communities and Communities of Color." Ecodistricts Summit. Oregon, Portland. 26 Oct. 2011. Lecture.

**Summary:** This talk was invaluable in my process of designing. Tony evoked a new way of thinking for people in the audience and reinforced some of my ideas about the Ecodistrict developments. He talked about the reasons why we as designers need to keep the less fortunate in mind when designing and also the ways in which people may interact and engage communities of color here in Portland. The ideas presented were not necessarily design strategies, but more on the Social Justice impacts of the Ecodistricts. I was able to establish a contact with Tony for future reference and to pass ideas on to him feedback.

Tschumi, Bernard. *Event-cities 2*. Cambridge, MA: MIT, 2000. Print

**Summary:** This book I chose to read upon for its striking title, "event cities". Bernard Tschumi in this book goes on to describe how events can help shape our thinking about space and the way its executed. Movement of people is of particular importance in the Lloyd and Tschumi has done a great job at uncovering the hidden forces lying underneath movement of people from place to place. He also does a great job at describing techniques of using these forces to inform design and ways to activate empty voids in the urban fabric.