

The compact city is deemed to be a sustainable city, by governmental agencies, stakeholders and vested interest constituents. Higher density living is seen as a desirable contribution to genuinely sustainable urbanity, the greater number of people, the richer the community; “*urbanity is based on density*”, urban sprawl is un-sustainable. This paper considers the impact of the transition from industrial to residential urban habitats and assesses the role of design in creating harmonious attachments to these developments for their inhabitants. It correspondingly examines the critical application of diverse ecologies in this process and the potential to establish notions of place and a more sustainable environment. The design options reviewed within the study and the likelihood of designing and building more eco-diverse public spaces are appraised and examined.