

information such as service facilities for day and night fishing, parking, and immediate evacuation in the event of inclement weather. Coastal researchers will also find information of interest in this guide. As useful as the book is, one would hope that it will become widely available to beachgoers and others with related interests.

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The Urban Edge, edited by Joseph E. Petrillo and Peter Grenell, The California Coastal Conservancy and William Kaufmann, Inc., Los Altos, California, 1985, 108p. \$14.95, ISBN 0-86576-078-0.

Where the land meets the sea remains an area of special fascination to humans. In endless variety, statisticians cite the number of people within a certain distance of the ocean's edge. That interest translates into conflicting desires to protect and to develop the coastal boundary. It also translates into books on this theme.

The Urban Edge is another in this group. Yet, it takes a unique tack, focussing on the role design plays in balancing protection and development. The intent is to describe for a lay audience the State of California's programs in this area. Included are a description of the California Coastal Plan and in particular the role of the book's sponsor, the Coastal Conservancy (an agency of the State of California); a history of the California coast from the architectural perspective; advice on negotiating development projects through involvement of the local citizenry; information on financing large-scale projects that design an area rather than just develop it; and most interesting of all, many photographs interspersing views of developed and pristine coastline in California.

This book, through its photographs, demonstrates the way humans add another layer to the physical and biological diversity of the coast — a useful perspective to those who concentrate on its physical and biological properties alone. Human development here is not a monomorphic extension of urban sprawl. Simple wooden structures vie with giant concrete monoliths against the waves. We also want structures where we can parade before the tides in our finest plumage. But we then seek solitude in the coastal fringe. Protection, development, and access all shape California's coastline and they are balanced through perhaps the world's most

comprehensive coastal program.

It is at this point that *The Urban Edge* begins to disappoint. Surely, the editors intended a larger audience than that of California's coastal community. Discussion of the California coastal program, however, seems directed at those already knowledgeable about it. The Coastal Conservancy's charge under the state's coastal legislation is "protecting, preserving, and restoring coastal resources through programs of land acquisition, waterfront restoration, wetland enhancement, public access, agricultural preservation, open space protection, and aid to local land trusts." It is a unique institution in state government, and several chapters discuss persuasively its useful role in resolving controversy over development projects. These discussions could have been enhanced with photographs related to the discussion. One of the book's shortcomings is that photographs, despite their intrinsic interest, often do not correlate with the text and in some cases are unlabelled.

The Urban Edge then tantalizes. For example, it argues that California's early European settlers sought to insulate themselves from the sea. Each new wave brought its style and translated it to the California coast. But the nature of today's development, the vision of the second generation Californian perhaps looks different, but the driving forces behind that change are not considered.

In summary, this book seems confused about its objectives. Is it a manual of coastal protection and development? An analysis of the coast's architectural history? A promotional for the Coastal Conservancy? Each could be useful; all three wrapped together informative to a broad audience. but as it stands, the bits and pieces of *The Urban Edge* are less than satisfying.

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The Ecology of Rocky Coasts, edited by P.G. Moore and R. Seed, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1985, 467p. £40.00, ISBN 0-340-37011-4.

This book has the subtitle "Essays presented to J.R. Lewis, D.Sc." and should therefore be viewed as a collection of essays rather than as a text book or an attempt at an encyclopedic coverage of rocky shore ecology. The foreword, preface and first chapter explain the impact of Jack Lewis, well-known author of the *Ecology of Rocky Shores*,