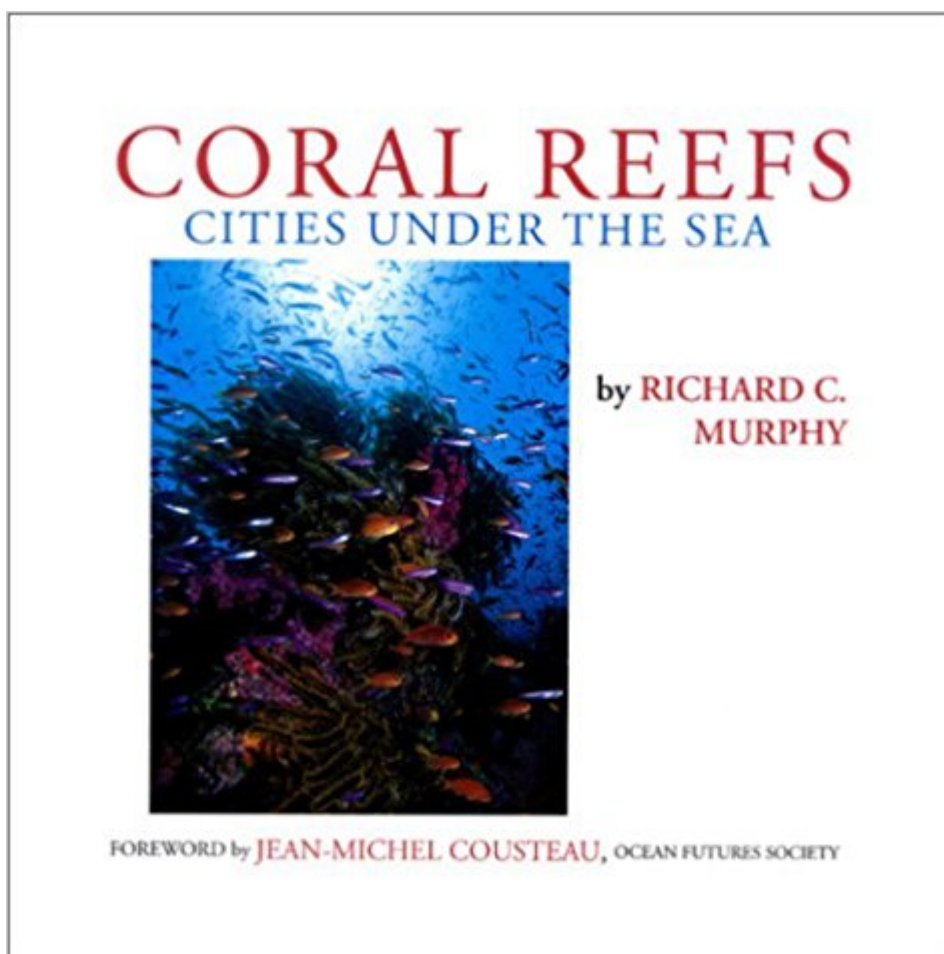




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Coral Reefs: Cities Under The Sea (Casebound Hardback)



Synopsis

The most fascinating aspects of coral reefs relate to how corals and reef residents meet the challenges of survival and live together. The focus of this book is on how a coral reef functions -- the jobs of individual residents and how they collectively create a sustainable community. The author explores how solar energy powers the reef, how raw materials are used efficiently and waste is recycled, why biodiversity is security, and how everything is connected. There are also many insights into the more personal lives of reef residents -- some are as strange as any science fiction. By viewing coral reefs in the context of a human city, one can more easily appreciate the creative ways reef communities operate; they neither undermine their own survival nor that of other communities elsewhere. In other words, a variety of species collectively enhances the survival of the entire community. Dr Murphy sees reef communities existing in a dynamic equilibrium where forces of competition, destruction, and decay are balanced by co-operation, repair, and rejuvenation. There are lessons for those of us who are concerned about making our own communities more sustainable. The subject matter is serious, but it is not taken so seriously that it isn't fun. The most fascinating aspects of coral reefs relate to how corals and reef residents meet the challenges of survival and live together.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...dazzles his audience with the fascinating world of the coral reef. ...conveyed eloquently with words and images. -- Jean-Michel Cousteau, President, Ocean Futures Society...so brilliantly beautiful and

informative. One only wishes for scuba gear to become part of Dr. Murphy's coral reefs. -- George Plimpton, Author and Editor...the best illustrated and most informative book aimed at the general reader that I have read on the subject. -- Dr Gregor Hodgson, Director, Reef Check Institute of the Environment, UCLAA wonderful book any reader should enjoy at the same time learning about the world through the eyes of scientists. -- Donald C. Potts, Professor of Biology, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology & Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa CruzHis photographs are consistently exquisite.... his expert knowledge and sharp eye enlivens reefs through fascinating and accurate images and text. -- Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Professor and Director, Centre for Marine Studies, The University of Queensland, AustraliaI hope this volume receives the praise it deserves. It should be in libraries worldwide to dazzle, inspire, and inform. -- Robert N. Ginsburg, Professor of Marine Geology, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of MiamiWith his magnificent narrative and never-before seen underwater photography, Dr. Richard Murphy conveys his exhilaration and excitement of science.... -- Zale Parry, Ambassador of the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences

RICHARD C. MURPHY, Ph.D., is a marine biologist, educator, writer, and photographer. His association with Jacques-Yves Cousteau and his son, Jean-Michel, began in 1968. As chief scientist and expedition researcher, he has worked in some of the most remote regions of the world studying how ecosystems function and how humans interact with the natural system. Richard is presently Vice President of Science and Education for Ocean Futures Society. His focus is sustainable resource management in developing countries and the creation of environmental educational programs for young people. Drawing on more than 30 years of exploration and study of a wide variety of eco-systems and cultures, Dr. Murphy states, "I believe a better understanding of how nature works can promote a better appreciation of the value of our natural heritage and help guide the next generation in living more sustainably on the planet." He is physically as well as intellectually dedicated to the sea and his passions include diving, surfing, and kite boarding.

Murphy's snapshot of life in coral reefs--organized in chapters with such titles as "Public Health," "Advertising" and "Personal Lives" (in keeping with presenting the reef as a city)--is easy to follow and fascinating. It is a great book for those unfamiliar with reefs, who desire a clear introduction to, for instance, the symbiotic relationship between coral and algae and the basic functions of sponges, worms, etc. on the reef. Every page is accompanied by breathtaking color photographs. His parallels to human cities and their lessons on sustainability can be slightly obvious, but these segues are

brief and are more than made up for by his oftentimes humorous, enthusiastic text.

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