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DIFFUSION : HARMONIA MUNDI

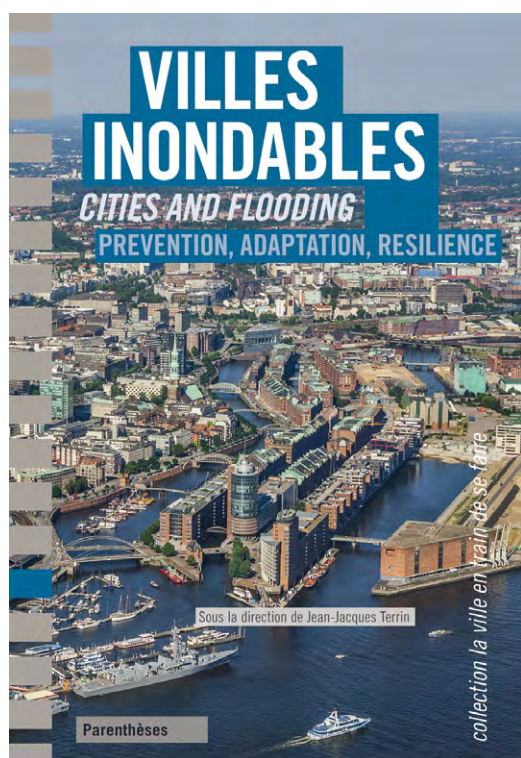
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Cities and flooding

Prevention, adaptation, resilience

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European towns and cities, often located next to rivers and the coast, are concerned about their vulnerability to flooding which is increasing as a consequence of climate change, demographic pressure and competition for city land. Urban development projects are increasing the recreational and environmental value of the riverbank and shoreline as they endeavour to improve the connections between the city and the water. This raises the question of the acceptability of these potentially flood-prone development sites. New innovative strategies are emerging that incorporate flood-risk management while increasing the appeal of waterside areas, reinforcing traditional flood prevention techniques while also inventing urban approaches and lifestyles that are better adapted to the presence of water. In this collection, the co-existence of these two planning attitudes is revealed in examples from Rotterdam and Dordrecht (the Netherlands), Hamburg and Mainz (Germany), Dunkirk, Lyon, Marseilles, Nîmes and Toulouse (France) and expert perspectives covering cases from further afield. They demonstrate the great potential of cities to innovate as they optimise their functional and temporal land-use planning strategies, invent architectural and technical systems capable of resisting water and enhance these new landscapes.

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