

**William McDonough is an advisor, designer, thought leader, and author. His vision for a future of abundance for all is helping companies and communities think differently. Together they are changing the world.**



William McDonough is a globally recognized leader in sustainable development. Trained as an architect, McDonough's interests and influence range widely, and he works at scales from the global to the molecular. *Time* magazine recognized him as a "Hero for the Planet," noting, "His utopianism is grounded in a unified philosophy that—in demonstrable and practical ways—is changing the design of the world."

In 1996, McDonough received the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development, and in 2003 he earned the first U.S. EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award for his work with Shaw Industries. In 2004, he received the National Design Award for exemplary achievement in the field of environmental design.

McDonough is the architect of many of the recognized flagships of sustainable design, including the [Ford Rouge truck plant in Dearborn, Michigan](#); the [Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies at Oberlin College](#); and NASA's "space station on Earth," [Sustainability Base](#), one of the most innovative facilities in the federal portfolio. McDonough has written and lectured extensively on design as the first signal of human intention. He was commissioned in 1991 to write [The Hannover Principles: Design for Sustainability](#) as guidelines for the City of Hannover's EXPO 2000, still recognized two decades after publication as a touchstone of sustainable design. In 2002, McDonough and the German chemist Michael Braungart co-authored [Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things](#) (North Point Press, 2002), which is widely acknowledged as a seminal text of the sustainability movement. Their latest book is [The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability--Designing for Abundance](#) (North Point Press, 2013).

McDonough advises commercial and governmental leaders worldwide through [McDonough Advisors](#). He is also active with [William McDonough + Partners](#), his architecture practice with offices in Charlottesville, Virginia, and San Francisco, California, as well as [McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry](#), the Cradle to Cradle consulting firm co-founded with Braungart. He has co-founded, with Braungart, not-for-profit organizations to allow public accessibility to Cradle to Cradle thinking. These include GreenBlue (2000), to convene industry groups around Cradle to Cradle issues, and the [Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute](#) (2009), founded at the invitation of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to create a

global standard for the development of safe and healthy products. McDonough also co-founded [Make It Right](#) (2006) with Brad Pitt to bring affordable Cradle to Cradle-inspired homes to the New Orleans Lower 9th Ward after Hurricane Katrina.

## **EDUCATION**

- Yale University, School of Architecture, Master of Architecture, 1976
- Dartmouth College, Bachelor of Arts, Magna cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1973

## **ACADEMIC**

### **University of Virginia**

- Dean, School of Architecture and Edward E. Elson Endowed Chair, 1994–1999
- Darden School of Business, Professor of Business Administration & Alumni Research Professor, 1999–present

### **University of Cambridge**

- Sustainability Leadership Council, founding member, 2007–present

### **Stanford University**

- Consulting Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2004–present

### **Yale University**

- School of Forestry & Environmental Studies Leadership Council, 2002–present

### **Arizona State University**

- International Board of Trustees for Sustainability, 2007–present

### **Instituto de Empresa, Madrid, Spain**

- Eco-Intelligent Management Center, Chair, 2004–2006

### **Cornell University**

- A.D. White Professor-at-Large, 1999–2004

### **Tongji University, Shanghai**

- Honorary Professor, 2004

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **China-U.S. Center for Sustainable Development**

- U.S. Chairman and Member of the Board of Councilors, 1999–2009
- Chairman Emeritus of the U.S. Board of Councilors, 2009-present

### **U.N. Conference on Environment & Development (The Earth Summit)**

- Official Representative for Architecture and City Planning, International Union of Architects and the American Institute of Architects (dual role), Rio de Janeiro, 1992

### **Preparatory Committee for UNCED (The Earth Summit)**

- Official Representative, New York, 1992

## **COMMERCIAL**

### **Walmart**

- External Advisory Council, 2009–present

### **General Electric**

- Ecomagination, Board of Advisors, 2008–2009

### **Dow Jones Sustainability Index**

- Advisory Board, 2004-present

**VantagePoint Capital Partners**

- Senior Advisor, 2004–present

**Cherokee Sustainability Council**

- member, present

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS****Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute**

- cofounder, 2010

**World Economic Forum**

- Cultural Leader 2002–2008
- Global Agenda Council, Future of Sustainable Construction, Chairman, 2008–2009
- Global Agenda Council on Design, 2010

**Make It Right Foundation**

- cofounder, 2006
- Board Member, 2006–present

**Healthy Child Healthy World**

- Advisory Board, 2006–present

**GreenBlue**

- cofounder, 2002

**President's Council on Sustainable Development**

- Special Advisor to President Clinton, 1993–1996

**ASSOCIATIONS****American Institute of Architects**

- Fellow, 1997–present
- Committee on the Environment, Founding Member, 1989–1993

**Royal Institute of British Architects**

- International Fellow, 2008–present

**Urban Land Institute**

- Fellow, 1999–present

**U.S. Green Building Council**

- Charter Member, 1993–present

**American Society of Landscape Architects**

- Honorary Membership, 2008

**SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS**

- **United States Presidential Award for Sustainable Development**, 1996
- **The Smithsonian Institution, Cooper-Hewitt Museum**, National Design Award, 2004
- **Presidential Green Chemistry Award** (for work with Shaw Industries), 2004
- **21st Century Visionary Science Leadership Award**, U.S. EPA, 2008
- **Hero for the Planet**, *Time Magazine*, 1999
- **Benjamin Botwinick Prize for Ethical Practice in the Professions**, Columbia University Business School, 2003
- **I.D. Forty Design Award**, *I.D. Magazine*, 2001
- **Designer of the Year**, *Interiors Magazine*, 1999