This paper analyses the sustainable infrastructure of our urbanized habitats, which is a fundamental matter for planners and architects et al, but this is often more of a theoretical concern than a practical application of innovative design implementation. The role of modernism and our attachment to familiar design motifs are contrasted with a more radical approach to the application of ecology within the urban landscape. The role of place and the perception of modernist methodology as being factors in the establishment of placeness are challenged and the role of fortuitous ecologies are appraised.