3. Cherish children’s spaces

It’s a natural impulse to nurture our young—let that impulse extend to the places where young people learn.

*Bm:* We claim to be committed to the safety and health of children—then we put them in a context where the chemical load is really heavy. It may be invisible, but we know it’s there.

*Er:* I’ve seen a fossil-fuel power plant right next to a series of schools. And this plant was spewing out heavy metals, like mercury, at levels way above the allowable average of the EPA, right next to the schools. We need to be concerned not only with making the buildings, but also the urban environment around them.

—Bruce Mau and Elva Rubio, BMD