## Contents

| - |              | - |
|---|--------------|---|
| 1 | Functions    | 7 |
|   | I WIICCIOIIS |   |

- 1.1 Introduction and who builds 1
- 1.2 Places to live: control of the physical environment 2
- 1.3 Places to live: control of the biological environment 11
- 1.4 Feeding: burrowers and net builders 20
- 1.5 Intraspecific communication 27

## 2 Building materials: nature, origins, and processing 33

- 2.1 Introduction 33
- 2.2 Materials obtained by selecting and sorting 38
- 2.3 Materials created by processing 41
- 2.4 Self-secreted materials 47
- 2.5 Assessment of predictions 63

## 3 Construction: behaviour and anatomy 66

- 3.1 Introduction 66
- 3.2 Piling up: fetch and drop 67
- 3.3 Interlocking and weaving 70
- 3.4 Sticking together 75
- 3.5 Modelling 77
- 3.6 Folding and rolling 79
- 3.7 Spinning 82
- 3.8 Sculpting 86
- 3.9 Conclusions 93

## 4 Work organisation and building complexity 98

- 4.1 Introduction 98
- 4.2 Evidence of spatial knowledge 98
- 4.3 Organisation of workforces 100

|   | 4.4 Organisation of the building sequence 109         |
|---|---|
|   | 4.5 Instinct learning and cognition 122               |
| 5 | Mechanics, growth, and design 131                     |
|   | 5.1 Introduction 131                                  |
|   | 5.2 Growth and design 132                             |
|   | 5.3 Mechanical design 141                             |
|   | 5.4 The spider orb web: engineering in tension 150    |
|   | 5.5 Design and aesthetic sense 158                    |
| 6 | Building costs, optimal solutions,                    |
|   | and trade-offs 163                                    |
|   | 6.1 Introduction 163                                  |
|   | 6.2 Building homes 164                                |
|   | 6.3 Foraging with burrows and webs 175                |
| 7 | Animal architects as ecosystem engineers 193          |
|   | 7.1 Introduction 193                                  |
|   | 7.2 Definitions 193                                   |
|   | 7.3 Predictions and tests 195                         |
|   | 7.4 Bioturbation of aquatic and terrestrial sediments |
|   | 7.5 Patterning of landscape and patch formation 209   |
|   | 7.6 Habitat modification and the promotion            |
|   | of species diversity 207                              |
|   | 7.7 Mutualisms and associations 214                   |
|   | 7.8 Conclusions 220                                   |
| 8 | Evolution 226   |
|   |   |

| 8.1 | Animal architecture as behavioural evider | nce | 226 |
|-----|---|-----|-----|
| 8.2 | Building and the key adaptation concept   | 232 |     |

198

Does building facilitate social evolution? 8.3 240

Niche construction, ecological and 8.4

cultural inheritance 249

**Bibliography** 256 Author Index 304 **Species Index** 308 **Subject Index** 313