

Witold Rybczynski

Witold Rybczynski, of Polish parentage, was born in Edinburgh, raised in London, and attended Jesuit schools in England and Canada. He studied architecture at McGill University in Montreal, where he also taught; he is currently the Martin and Margy Meyerson Professor of Urbanism at the University of Pennsylvania. His architectural experience has included designing houses as a registered architect, as well as researching low-cost housing for which he received a 1991 *Progressive Architecture* award. In 1993, he was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and he has received honorary doctorates from McGill University and the University of Western Ontario. In 2007, he received the Vincent Scully Prize, the Seaside Prize, and the Institute Collaborative Honors from the AIA. He serves on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

Described as "one of our most original, accessible, and stimulating writers on architecture" by *Library Journal*, Rybczynski is currently architecture critic for the on-line magazine *Slate*. He has written fifteen books on subjects as varied as the evolution of comfort, a history of the weekend, American urbanism, the development of a new community, and a search for the origins of the screwdriver. *Home* has been translated into ten languages, and was nominated for a Governor General's Literary Prize, while *A Clearing in the Distance*, a biography of Frederick Law Olmsted, received the J. Anthony Lukas Prize, a Christopher Award, a Philadelphia Athenæum literary award, and was shortlisted for the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Nonfiction.

His essays appear regularly in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and the *Atlantic*, and he has written for *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*. He is the author of *Last Harvest: From Cornfield to New Town*, and his current book is *Makeshift Metropolis: Ideas about Cities*.

Witold Rybczynski lives with his wife Shirley Hallam in Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia.

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