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# Patterns Of Home: The Ten Essentials Of Enduring Design



## Synopsis

The key to creating a house that is memorable, satisfying, and enduring is to apply a group of design concepts--or "patterns"--that focus on the experience of being in a home. In this groundbreaking work, internationally respected architects Max Jacobson, Murray Silverstein, and Barbara Winslow present the ten essential patterns that shape and define a well-crafted home. Patterns explore the presence of light, the relationship between indoors and out, the flow through rooms, and the feel of one space as you are sitting in another. Clearly written and profusely illustrated with houses from all over the country, "Patterns of Home," brings the timeless lessons of residential design to anyone seeking inspiration and direction in the design or remodel of a home. The patterns described in the book can make the difference between a home that satisfies only the material needs of the owners and one that captures the essence of home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Coauthors (along with several other writers) of the landmark design guide *A Pattern Language*, Jacobson and Silverstein join with their architectural partner, Winslow, to further simplify building design by distilling the principles they previously set forth as ten essentials for residential homes. These fundamentals cover such subjects as making the best use of light; keeping all parts of the house from windows to walls to rooms in proportion; and including "in-between" places like porches, window seats, alcoves and sunrooms in the design of the home. Some of their concepts are fairly abstract; for example, they suggest imagining the home as not just a building but a "site" that

contains both indoor and outdoor rooms, and they counsel readers to "let the overall form of the house grow naturally out of the forms of its various parts, rather than being superimposed from the outside." These theories are complemented by more concrete advice about how to measure out a human-sized room, balance private and common spaces and much more. The authors include diagrams and color photographs of 33 actual homes with detailed explanatory captions. While it is aimed predominately at professional designers, this guide is useful for anyone contemplating a new home or making renovations to an existing one; certainly it will change the way readers think about the architectural spaces around them. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Why are some houses such a pleasure to visit or inhabit? This spin-off from *A Pattern Language*, which has been a design resource for decades, successfully answers that question. California architects Jacobson and Murray Silverstein helped coauthor *A Pattern Language*, and with partner Barbara Winslow they have chosen ten principles or patterns of house design that they consider most important (and which serve as chapter heads): "Inhabiting the Site," "Creating Rooms," "Sheltering Roof," "Capturing Light," "Parts in Proportion," "Flow Through Rooms," "Private Edges, Common Core," "Refuge and Outlook," "Places in Between," and "Composing with Materials." Each pattern is illustrated with sketches and photographs, as the authors provide beautiful examples of 33 homes by various U.S. architects or designers, mostly in the western United States. The well-organized text and layout combine with the 410 outstanding color photographs and 155 black-and-white illustrations to help the reader visualize these patterns in practice. Highly recommended for public libraries and libraries supporting architecture courses. David R. Conn, Surrey P.L., BC Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a pleasant alternative to the developers' narrow selection. So dream a little. Look at examples from different parts of the U.S., using breezeways, unique placements of stairs, entry doors, and auto parking. See how different architects dealt with lot shape, natural features (like streams), and homes built on a sloping lot. If you are fascinated by a home around a courtyard, Pages 55-71 discuss indoor/outdoor living through use of large doors, plantings, and patios. Besides the numerous photos, there are planviews of the room arrangements. Some examples are remodels which preserve a historic look. Be aware that the dramatic ceilings, window views, or walkways can not be grafted onto standard designs. They require detailed integration with A/C,

wiring, insulation, and structural members to avoid contractor misunderstandings. I agree with other reviewers that Susanka communicates better.

I am a huge fan of Christopher Alexander's *The Timeless Way of Building* and I ordered this book without knowing that it was written by several of his disciples. It was a pleasant surprise when I discovered that this book brings to life Alexander's fundamental premise that living spaces can be created when positive patterns are repeated. Admittedly, I'm often sucked in by many books with great pictures and I never really get down to reading the text from cover to cover. This book is different. Not only is there wonderful visual reference, but the copy does a thorough job of explaining the reasoning behind the architectural decisions. I love this book.

I have paired this with the Susanka books to help design a practical home to meet our needs. Simple does not mean unattractive.

I liked this book a great deal. It provides a vocabulary to describe the elements that make a good design. It is well organized and the concepts are easy to understand. I can now go into houses I like and don't like and identify why, as well as what I want to incorporate into our remodel. I followed this book up with *Home by Design* by Susanka. While organized differently, the latter uses many of the same concepts, and is a good companion volume. On the basis of reviews here, I bought "*A Pattern Language*". I think it is best appreciated after having looked at one of the two described above.

I'm a graduate student in Building Science and this is a required text for one of my drafting courses. My presumption had been that this, like most books chosen for class room teaching, would be less than exciting. I'm glad to say I was very wrong. I haven't read it all the way through yet, but will before this semester ends and I look forward to it. If you're an experienced designer, this book may not have much to offer, but if you're a student just starting designing, you should be very inspired by it. This early in the semester, I've only read the first 4 chapters but have gained a lot of insight and have already been able to incorporate most of it into the few designs I've had to do for class so far, especially in terms of the importance of outdoor spaces - too often completely overlooked in home designs! I can hardly wait to get through "*Flow Through Rooms*" and "*Places in Between*". I have a good friend who has been designing "green" house for the past several years and he told me he re-reads "*Patterns of Home*" on a regular basis because it's so inspiring. You won't be disappointed.

The authors of this book have taken the best of Alexander's "A Pattern Language", and combined wonderfully designed and excellently photographed homes to publish an inspiring and thought provoking book. Frankly, the world has too many "500 House Plans" types of books. This one describes the logic, reason, and common sense that involves the interlocking of ten basic patterns that could make any basic design more successful. As a residential architect, I consider this among my five top-rated books.

very nice and interesting book, one of a kind

This book provides valuable information for those who want to pursue the perfectly built and positioned home. The concepts are fascinating and could be somewhat easy to put into practice, however, the author uses large, VERY expensively built homes leaving the impression that only the very wealthy can afford such superior design. This is unfortunate. I do believe that some of the most basic concepts can be put into play in most homes it would just take some imagination and determination.

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