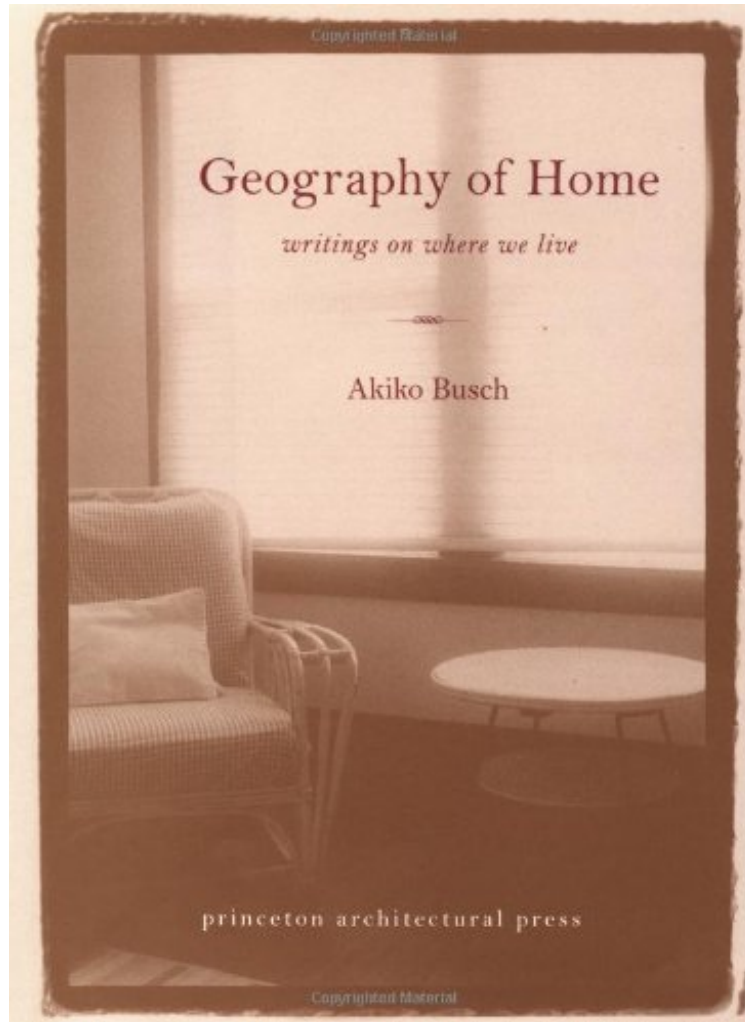


(Download ebook) Geography of Home: Writings on Where We Live

## Geography of Home: Writings on Where We Live

*Akiko Busch*

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**Akiko Busch : Geography of Home: Writings on Where We Live** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Geography of Home: Writings on Where We Live:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Pithy Insights About Homes That Don't Fit Lives By Douglas W Rae This little book of essays is a fine read -- brightly written, free of the usual jargon, quick with insight. It helps the reader to understand why that expensively furnished living room lies silent while the kitchen bustles with everything but cooking. I enjoyed it immensely. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A bit thin for the price and for a Princeton book By Susan B. Hanley I may be a bit hard on this book because I have written on similar subjects on Japan and I was expecting more insight. It's my hobby to read everything I can on how people live and so I was looking forward to this book. But if you have read on this subject in popular magazines, I suspect you will find that you already know much of what's in this book of essays. And it's only 160 pages with not a lot of print on each, so

expensive. My suggestion if you are interested in this subject is to start with Witold Rybczynski's *HOME: A SHORT HISTORY OF AN IDEA*, which Busch cites. *HOME* is insightful, well-researched, and as well written as Busch's easy read. 11 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Charming and provocative reflections on how we live  
By Douglas K. Smith  
Bravo! Aki Busch takes us on a charming and provocative stroll both through her home and each of ours. Ever wonder why you still have a front door? Or whatever happened to the front porch? Or why your kitchen and closets and garage are so essential? READ THIS BOOK and find out!!

The house is home to many things. Far more than four walls and a roof, it contains our private and public lives, our families, our memories and aspirations, and it reflects our attitudes toward society, culture, the environment, and our neighbors. In a literary tour of the spaces of our homes, *Geography of Home* reflects on how we define such elusive qualities as privacy, security, and comfort. Part social history, part architectural history, part personal anecdote, this rich book uncovers the hidden meanings of seemingly simple domestic spaces, in chapters ranging from "The Front Door" and "The Porch" to "The Library," "The Kitchen," "The Bedroom," "The Bathroom," and "The Garage," among others. These writings about the home touch on our culture's fundamental issues: the notion of family, the aging of the population, working at home, and respect for the environment. Together, these eloquent essays help us understand not only what home means for each of us, but how our idea of home shapes our place in the world. As Busch writes, "There are times when our homes express infinite possibilities, when they reflect who we are and what we might be."

From Kirkus  
An appealing, insightful collection of musings on the architecture, psychology, and history of house and home in America. Busch, a contributing editor at *Metropolis* magazine, has assembled 14 essays originally published there. Analyzing the domestic spaces that compose the American home, she offers fascinating insights into the changing conditions and circumstances of our habitats. The front door, for example, in her view has become almost obsolete, not only because we use the door closest to the driveway, but because "it represents a formality for which we have little use in an age when informality and casualness provide comfort." As we have come to increasingly view our home as a private sanctuary providing respite from a chaotic and menacing world, states Busch, we tend to avoid the door that is closest to the public, though we continue to build houses with front doors. Front porches until after WWII an integral part of every home, a place where people shared news and gossip have also become somewhat an anachronism, the author believes. People get their news elsewhere and are wary about exposing themselves to the fumes of passing cars. In urban environments, front stoops that once served as a "neighborhoods outdoor living room" are avoided for fear of aimless violence. But the importance of other architectural spaces has grown. Closet space is now regarded as a priority because, suggests Busch, "as we become a more transient society, we tend to define home by the accumulation of possessions as much as by place." In other words, the more tenuously we view our daily existence, the more fervently we pile up things. Living rooms are now often decorated according to the inhabitants personality. Kitchens, ironically, have expanded, as homeowners find the work done therefrom preparing food to eating a necessary relief from technology and mechanization. This cozy book provides provocative and intelligent insights that land close to home. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. Akiko Busch doesn't so much look at houses as cock her head and listen to them. What she hears is the rustle of humanity within their all-too-mortal frames. *House and Garden*, June 1999 With her light touch, Busch--at once learned and unpretentious--takes you through a tour of homes and homemaking that is rich in history and sumptuously detailed. 'Dining Room' tells, among other things, of how table knives lost their pointed ends when Louis XIV decided that the table was no place for dueling. Henceforth all knife-ends were to be rounded and a great leap was made, if not for mankind, then for manners...No corner of the home or habit of the mind goes neglected here; reading this, you will look on your house--from its public face, the front door, to the inner sanctum of the well-appointed bathroom--with new eyes. *Dana Goodyear, Pool Spa Living*, August 1999 About the Author Akiko Busch has written about architecture and design for publications such as *Graphis*, *Metropolis*, *House Garden*, and *I.D. Magazine*.