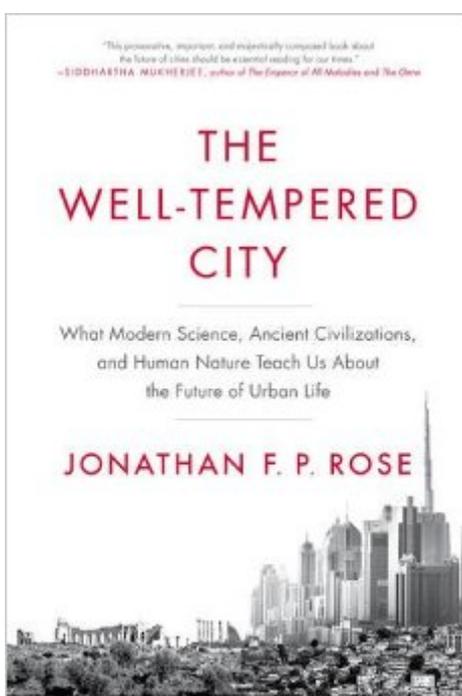


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# The Well-Tempered City: What Modern Science, Ancient Civilizations, And Human Nature Teach Us About The Future Of Urban Life



## Synopsis

In the vein of Jane Jacobs's *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* and Edward Glaeser's *Triumph of the City*, Jonathan F. P. Rose is a visionary in urban development and renewal who champions the role of cities in addressing the environmental, economic, and social challenges of the twenty-first century. Cities are birthplaces of civilization; centers of culture, trade, and progress; cauldrons of opportunity and the home of eighty percent of the world's population by 2050. As the 21st century progresses, metropolitan areas will bear the brunt of global megatrends such as climate change, natural resource depletion, population growth, income inequality, mass migrations, education and health disparities, among many others. In *The Well-Tempered City*, Jonathan F. P. Rose, the man who repairs the fabric of cities, distills a lifetime of interdisciplinary research and firsthand experience into a five-pronged model for how to design and reshape our cities with the goal of equalizing their landscape of opportunity. Drawing from the musical concept of temperament as a way to achieve harmony, Rose argues that well-tempered cities can be infused with systems that bend the arc of their development toward equality, resilience, adaptability, well-being, and the ever-unfolding harmony between civilization and nature. These goals may never be fully achieved, but our cities will be richer and happier if we aspire to them, and if we infuse our every plan and constructive step with this intention. A celebration of the city and an impassioned argument for its role in addressing the important issues in these volatile times, *The Well-Tempered City* is a reasoned, hopeful blueprint for a thriving metropolis and the future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love the subtitle of this book, "What Modern Science, Ancient Civilizations and Human Nature Teach Us About the Future of Urban Life." As an environmental engineer, I am fascinated on the topic of infrastructure. A little over ten years ago, I took a fascinating urban planning class at Marquette University in Milwaukee. It really got me thinking about the way we build and maintain cities. I also realized I am a "new urbanist" and prefer to live in an old house in the city and fix it up rather than to contribute the urban sprawl. Try explaining this to my family who seem to think the only sign of success is building your own new house on a one acre plot in the country! I also worked a lot at my previous job in the area of low impact development. How can we develop our cities smarter using less concrete to make sure that water can infiltrate into the soil and build back into our groundwater supplies? I was intrigued with the *Well-Tempered City* as it is authored by a premier urban planner and promised to take a look at the past to come up with innovative designs for the city of the future. Rose argues that the five qualities of a well-tempered city are coherence, circularity, resilience, community, and compassion. The book is broke up into five parts to delve deep into the five qualities of the well-tempered city. The book is set up in chapters with many interesting subsections within each chapter. I must admit that I found Rose's prose at times to be a bit pretentious, especially at the start of the book. He spent the intro waxing on about Bach and his way to tune instruments and how that relates to urban planning. I am a fan of Bach, but the engineer within me just wanted him to get on with his book.

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