

Richard Plunz

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As Director of the [Urban Design Program](#) at the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation , Columbia University, Richard Plunz is considered one of the world's leading authorities on housing and urban development. As Director of the [Urban Design Lab](#), at the Earth Institute, he has developed innovative work related to the challenge of contemporary urban life, from urban sustainable infrastructure, to the myriad developmental factors related to the contemporary city.

After receiving professional degrees in engineering and in architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Plunz specialized in urbanism related to both urban history and application of cybernetic theory to urban development. Plunz has held professorships at Rensselaer, Pennsylvania State University, Columbia University, and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). He has taught and lectured extensively in the United States and internationally. Plunz is the author of many articles, studies, and reports. His books including the landmark study, *A History of Housing in New York City*, (1990), translated in French and Japanese. His recent co-edited books include *The Urban Lifeworld. Formation, Perception, Representation* (2002); *After Shopping* (2003). and *Eco-Gowanus: Urban Remediation by Design* (2007). His last co-edited publication has been *Urban Climate Change Crossroads* (2010).

Plunz's work has been supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the J. M. Kaplan Fund, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Aga Kahn Award, the United States Public Health Service and the Ford Foundation. In 1991, he received the Andrew J. Thomas Award from the American Institute of Architects for his pioneering work in housing.