

Richard Saul Wurman

Graphic Designer | Architect | Publisher | Cartographer

The Business of Understanding

Information Architecture

Information Anxiety

TED

19.20.21

Urban Observatory

Information Architecture

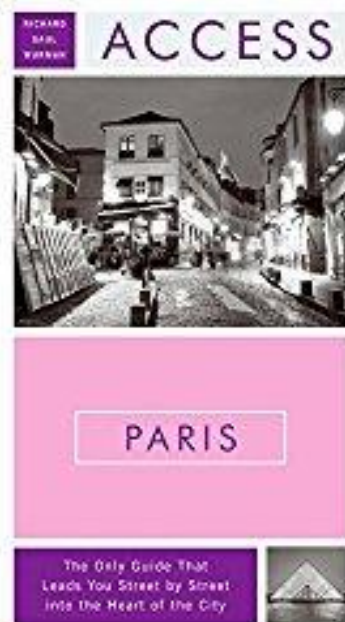
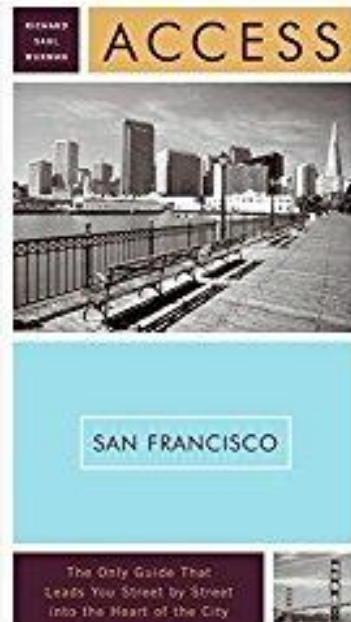
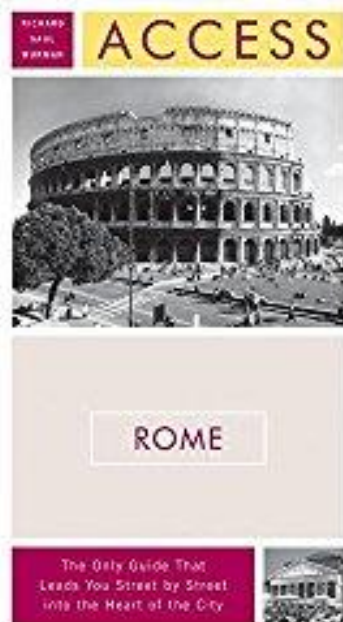
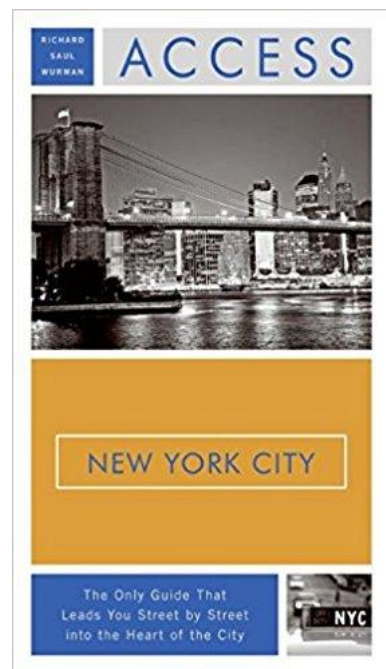
- a. the individual who organizes the patterns inherent in data, making the complex clear
- b. a person who creates the structure or map of information which allows others to find their personal paths to knowledge
- c. the emerging 21st century professional occupation addressing the needs of the age focused upon clarity, human understanding, and the science of the organization of information.

“I have a compulsion to order chaos.”



- Richard Saul Wurman

Access Guides



Information Anxiety

“Information anxiety is the black hole between data and knowledge, and it happens when information doesn’t tell us what we want or need to know.”

- Richard Saul Wurman

LATCH

“The organization of information actually creates the information and it changes the pattern of understanding.”

Location

Alphabet

Time

Category

Hierarchy



I could organize these dogs alphabetically...



Or by category (country of origin, for example)...



Or by time (for example, the year in which the breed was officially recognized by the American Kennel Club) ...



Then again, I might arrange them in a hierarchy by weight in pounds...



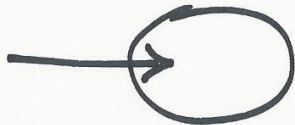
TED Conference

A wide-angle photograph of a large audience seated in a dark auditorium, facing a stage. A single speaker is visible on the stage, illuminated by a spotlight. The background features several vertical light panels and stage lighting rigs. The overall atmosphere is professional and focused.

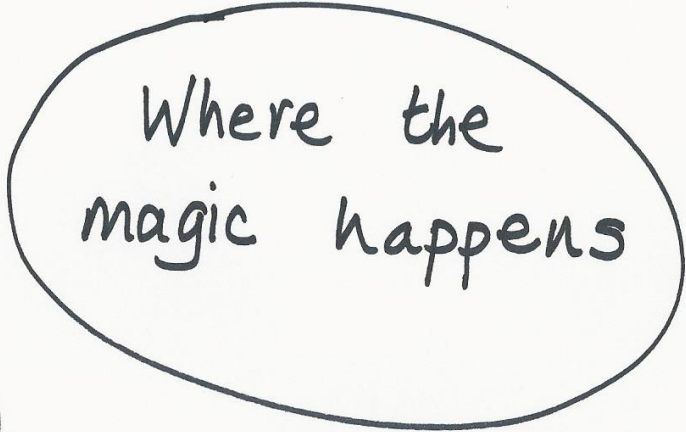
TED Ideas worth spreading

Failure is just
delayed **success.**

Your
comfort zone

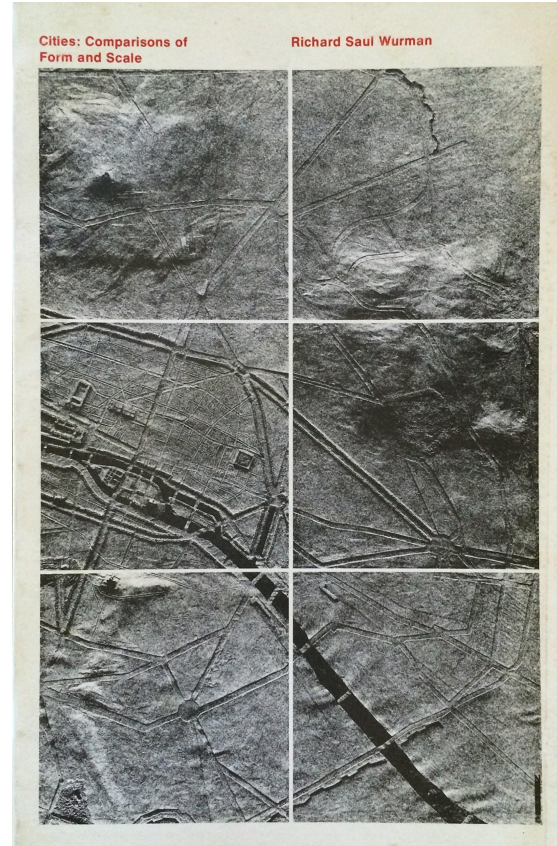


Where the
magic happens



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Making the City Observable



1000

Times Change

The world's largest cities through time

-
1. Cordova, Spain 450,000
 2. Kaifeng, China 400,000
 3. Istanbul, Turkey 300,000
 4. Angkor, Cambodia 200,000
 5. Kyoto, Japan 175,000
 6. Cairo, Egypt 135,000
 7. Baghdad, Iraq 125,000
 8. Neyshabur, Iran 125,000
 9. Al-Hasa, Saudi Arabia 110,000
 10. Patan, India 100,000
 11. Tikal, Guatemala 92,000

In the year 1000, Cordova, Spain was probably the largest city in the world. In the millenium year, the largest concentrations of people were found in Asia and the Middle East with the exceptions of Kyoto, Japan, and Cordova, Spain.

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“The task that we have at hand is this task at turning this non-information, this stuff that’s around us—the data—into an easier way to inform. That’s the journey we’re still on.”

\$3.95

