

## Anne Whiston Spirn

Anne Whiston Spirn is professor of landscape architecture and planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her first book, *The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design*, won the President's Award of Excellence from the ASLA in 1984 and remains a standard university text. Her second book, *The Language of Landscape* (1998), argues that landscape is a form of language with its own grammar and metaphors, and that we endanger ourselves by failing to learn and use this language. *Daring to Look* (2008) presents photographs and reports from the field by the great photographer Dorothea Lange in 1939 and reflects on how the dynamics she saw and recorded in the Great Depression are still shaping American lives and landscapes. Spirn's most recent book, *The Eye Is a Door: Landscape, Photography, and the Art of Discovery* (2014), is about seeing as a way of knowing and photography as a way of thinking. Since 1987, Spirn has directed the West Philadelphia Landscape Project, an award-winning action research program integrating research, teaching and community service. Spirn's book-in-progress, *Top-Down/Bottom-Up: Restoring Nature, Rebuilding Community*, describes this research-in-action and its lessons for building safer, healthier, and more equitable communities. In 2001, she received Japan's International Cosmos Prize for "contributions to the harmonious coexistence of nature and mankind." Spirn received a B.A. from Radcliffe College and MLA from Penn. She was the chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Penn (succeeding Ian McHarg) from 1986-1993 and Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning from 1986-2000. See [www.annewhistonspirn.com](http://www.annewhistonspirn.com), which is a gateway to her work.