



# The Space Between (Cultural Exegesis): A Christian Engagement with the Built Environment

*Eric O. Jacobsen*

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## Thinking Theologically about the Built Environment

"Eric Jacobsen sets himself two goals: to get us to attend to urban space--the space between the buildings in a city or village--and to explain why Christians in particular should care about the quality of urban space. He succeeds admirably on both counts. A fine contribution to an extremely important topic that has been neglected for too long by too many."

--**Nicholas Wolterstorff**, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia

"*The Space Between* is a seasoned Presbyterian pastor's account of the reciprocal relationship between urban form and communal life. Jacobsen, working from a Christ-centered perspective emphasizing both justice and generosity, articulates what religious communities have to gain from traditional towns and neighborhoods, and what they have to give. Highly recommended."

--**Philip Bess**, University of Notre Dame School of Architecture; author, *Till We Have Built Jerusalem*

"*The Space Between* takes us on an eye-opening tour of the places that both shape and reflect us. Readers may never look at their homes, neighborhoods, towns, and churches in the same way again. An important first step in reclaiming the *locality* of the local church."

--**Kevin J. Vanhoozer**, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

"Jacobsen demonstrates that the church's intellectuals are bringing to bear on the world of ideas the insights of Christian theology and their own intuitive experiences of the places they inhabit. Given the scale of what we have built--from the sprawling exurbs to the troubled cities--there is much to say and do. *The Space Between* opens our imaginations to see that the places we make can and should be sustainable realizations of beauty and places of justice."

--**Christopher C. Miller**, department of architecture, Judson University

"Jesus urges us to love our neighbor, but in many modern cities we have destroyed our neighborhoods, making it much more difficult to know who our neighbors are let alone love them. In this compelling and beautifully written book Jacobsen tells us how that has happened, why it matters, and what we should be doing about it. This book calls us to think again, and more theologically, about the way our built environment shapes our life together."

--**Murray Rae**, University of Otago

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