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**Paul Warwick Thompson, Director**  
**Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum**

Paul Warwick Thompson is director of the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in New York City. He joined the Smithsonian in September 2000 after serving as director of the Design Museum in London. Thompson replaced Dianne Pilgrim, who retired in January 2000 after 12 years as Cooper-Hewitt's director.

Thompson reports to Smithsonian Under Secretary for American Museums and National Programs Sheila Burke.

Thompson joined the staff of the Design Museum in 1988 as Curator of Contemporary Design. He was named the curator in 1990 and director in 1992. He previously worked as scriptwriter and researcher (1987-1988) for the Design Council, the national governmental body charged with promoting design to British industry; and taught English at St. Bede's School in Eastbourne, E. Sussex, in the United Kingdom.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Bristol (1980), and a master's degree (1984) and a doctorate (1987) from the University of East Anglia.

Thompson is married and has two children.

The Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, located in the former Andrew Carnegie mansion in New York City at 2 East 91st St., is devoted exclusively to historical and contemporary design. Its collection includes more than 250,000 objects in four curatorial areas — applied arts and industrial design, drawings and prints, textiles, and wallcoverings. The Design Resource Center is open to visitors by appointment.

In 1897, Sarah and Eleanor Hewitt established the first design museum in the United States as part of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, the free school founded by their grandfather, Peter Cooper. That museum became Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in 1968 when the collections were transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

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