



# **Bomboozled: How the U.S. Government Misled Itself and Its People into Believing They Could Survive a Nuclear Attack**

*Susan Roy*

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Conceived by a misguided government seeking to quiet the fears of an anxious public, the concept of the Family Fallout Shelter was Cold War paranoia at its finest, a massive bit of propaganda by architecture that has no more truth behind it than the absurd notion of duck and cover. Inundated with government-sponsored films, posters, booklets, traveling caravans and exhibitions, the American family bought into the idea, investing millions of dollars in home shelters of every conceivable material and design. *Bomboozled: How the U.S. Government Misled Itself and Its People Into Believing They Could Survive a Nuclear Attack* lays bare the buried truths of America's family fallout shelter obsession. Author Susan Roy charts the panic-fueled evolution of the shelter from a well-stocked basement pantry to a full-fledged (and often completely decorated) home addition, revealing through extensive archival photography, nuclear-era memorabilia, and previously unpublished media, a government and people in the grip of self-delusion. Fastidiously researched and sharply written, *Bomboozled* captures the absurdity and uncertainty of a culture that knew no better than to trust its government's message. Susan Roy is a writer and editor on architecture, design, and cultural history. The founding managing editor of *Allure* magazine, she has also held senior editorial positions at *This Old House*, *SELF*, *Good Housekeeping* and *Avenue*. She holds a master's degree in architectural history from Columbia University; *Bomboozled* is loosely based on the subject of her master's thesis, *The Family Fallout Shelter During the Cold War*.

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