

SECOND PLACE, POETRY
JUDITH HEGEWALD

The House

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Prompts: **atrium, wind, grandiose, haunt, decline, menace**

We gathered in the **atrium**
Away from **wind** and rain
A **grandiose** enclosure
Overlooking the terrain.

A house enriched with history
Severely in **decline**
The **haunted** memories of war
That raged along the Rhine.

Our reason for assembling
Was tearing at the heart
As heirs to this magnificence
It was our state-of-art.

Officials said its disrepair
Was now a safety crime,
A **menace** to society
Once grand, outlived it's time.

While gazing at the scenic view
We talked of early years
As children we were spared the war
But privy to the tears.

Our family passed the ownership
From hand to hand to ours
We pledged to keep the home intact
Preserving its memoirs.

But now we saw that it was time
To say auf wiedersehen
Goodbye to part of history
And yield without disdain.

Perhaps a new development
Will spring up in its place
Or maybe an amusement park
Will fill the empty space.

Whatever choice officials make
With progress as their brand

Our hearts will always treasure
That it rests on family land.