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# Building Green, New Edition: A Complete How-To Guide To Alternative Building Methods Earth Plaster \* Straw Bale \* Cordwood \* Cob \* Living Roofs (Building Green: A Complete How-To Guide To Alternative)





## Synopsis

The best-selling and highly regarded reference to sustainable construction gets an update! It's refreshed with a completely revised introduction, a bright new cover, and extensive online resource tie-ins. This groundbreaking book doesn't just tell you about "green" house-building techniques: it actually shows you, with more than 1,200 step-by-step photographs that follow the actual erection of an alternative building from site selection to final-touch interior details. Readers will get a clear sense of the real world challenges as Snell and Callahan create a lovely country cottage using four methods: straw bale, cob, cordwood, and modified stick-frame. Along with sidebars throughout, there's a thorough discussion of the fundamentals of building construction, alternative approaches, and designing a beautiful yet environmentally responsible home. Building Green was the first book of its kind and it remains heads and shoulders above other titles in this field.

## Book Information

Series: Building Green: A Complete How-To Guide to Alternative

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Building Green: "Building Green chronicles the project from start to finish, combining the gorgeous photography of an architecture coffee-table book with the detailed instructions of a building manual." - ReadyMade "This large, generously illustrated manual is an excellent primer on owner-designed and site-inspired building." - Publishers Weekly "The most comprehensive and reader-friendly green building book...It's great for both

the green building novice and expert." *Builders Booksource* "This book is a must read for architects, builders, and all people who want to create a healthy home." *Helmut Ziehe, Founder, International Institute for Bau-Biologie & Ecology, Inc.* "Well-written and understandable with wonderful illustrations." *Pliny Fisk & Gail Vittori, Co-Directors, The Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems*

CLARKE SNELL has decades of experience in green building, sustainability, and low impact living. Author of *The Good House Book* (Lark, 2004), he lives in the mountains of western North Carolina with his wife in a partially-bermed, passive-solar house in a small intentional community they helped create. TIM CALLAHAN is a designer, inventor, and "recovering general contractor" with over 30 years of experience in a broad range of design and building projects. Together, Clarke and Tim run a design, consulting, research, and rabble-rousing network dedicated to the development of high-performance natural building systems. For more information, see their Web site at [www.thinkgreenbuilding.com](http://www.thinkgreenbuilding.com).

Very explicit. Wrote by an experienced builder who knows how to combine all methods in order to accomplish quality construction. All natural building methods are explained, with pros and cons. The author gives lots of good honest tips. Traditional building is explained too, including pro and cons. Written pleasantly, easy to read, accompanied by lots of good pictures.

I can't recommend this book enough. A friend of mine has done a lot of study into green building as well as even done collage courses and used upscale books in classes and she even told me this book has more than the ones she has read.

This book is a great read for anyone who wants to know more about four building techniques with demonstrable "green" or "sustainable" attributes. It strikes a good balance between theory and practice, as well as moving from concept through design to execution. Beautifully illustrated with copious photos, this thick and heavy book is a pleasure to either read from cover to cover as I did, skim or pick and choose what you want to explore in greater depth. The co-authors approach the material from somewhat different viewpoints – one a bit more starry-eyed than the other, but both of them accomplished builders with pragmatic concerns about how to build structures which shelter the body, inspire the mind, and sit as gently as possible on the planet. This is all done while administering just enough but not too much

righteous political argument about how wasteful many other methods of building and construction are. You don't need to know much already about the subject material to get value from this book, as it is written clearly enough to convey basic concepts to complete beginners, while providing enough detail to satisfy more advanced readers. I look forward to sharing the book with my precocious twelve year-old nephew who is fascinated with 3D computer modeling and architecture, that is, \*after\* I'm done with it!

The best thing about this book is the degree of detail about specific aspects of building with different building techniques - straw bale, cob, cordwood and modified wood frame. Copiously illustrated with photos taken as the authors actually build a small guest cottage, you really get an appreciation for how much planning and general building knowledge is required to construct a quality dwelling - something that videos just can't match. It was well worth reading and I highly recommend it to novice builder wanna-be's. It should make you think about just how much you don't know and need to learn before you try building something!

Fantastic book, clear instructions, great photos. I'll be building a yurt first, but then using this as a template for my first house.

I love this book! The amount of photos is amazing and if you want to build your own green building, this is a very good guide to do so. These guys have taken care of all the details, from the designing process right through to finishing touches its all there. A practical guide to a building process which is green clean and healthy. I recommend this to anyone who is taking charge of creating a healthier way of living and learning new skills.

I love it. So many ideas and choices to help you build and complete your home. I can't wait to start building mines.

The only things I wish it covered would be wiring and plumbing. I also wish it said a bit more about roofing options, but alas the roof in the example was a living one I do like the book though and recommend it as a good guide for alternative building.

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