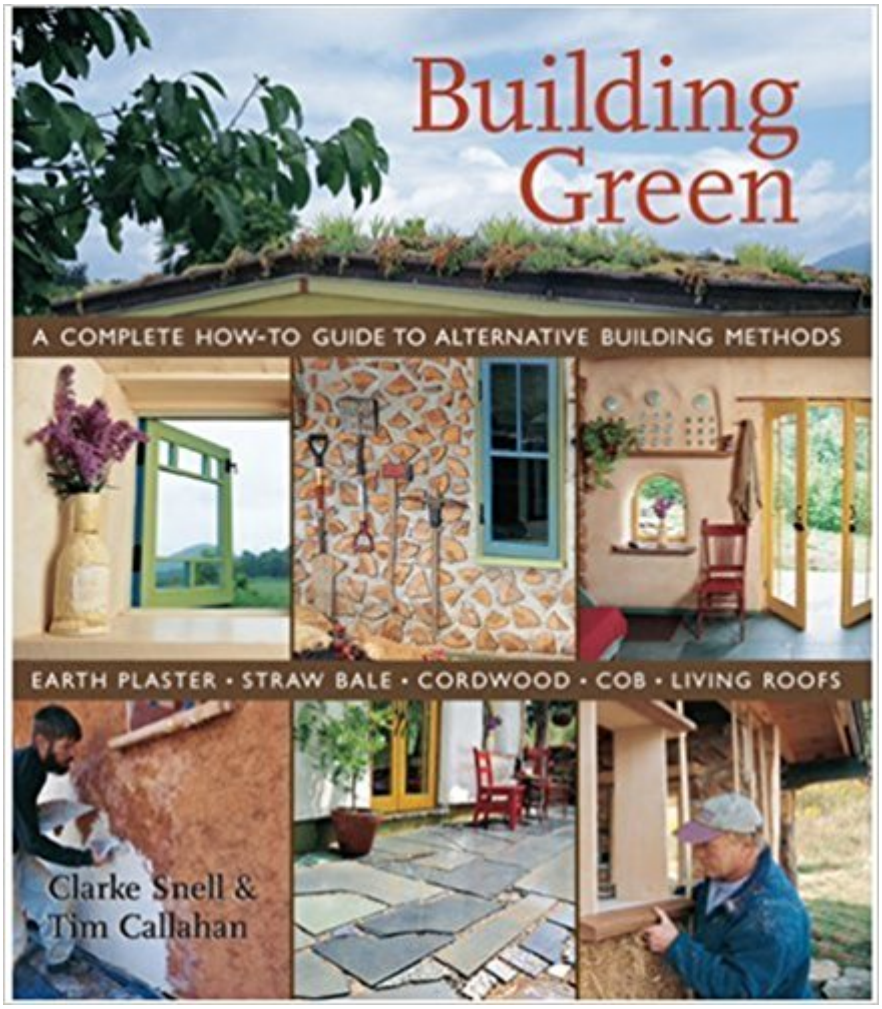
Building Green: A Complete How-To Guide To Alternative Building Methods Earth Plaster * Straw Bale * Cordwood * Cob * Living Roofs



Synopsis

Clarke Snell and Timothy L. Callahan, whose popular Good House Book helped environmentally-minded readers create an earth-friendly home, have returned with a photo-packed, amazingly complete, start-to-finish guide to "green" housebuilding.This absolutely groundbreaking manual doesn’t just talk about eco-friendly building techniques, but actually shows every step! More than 1,200 close-up photographs, along with in-depth descriptions, follow the real construction of an alternative house from site selection to the addition of final-touch interior details. Co-authors Clarke Snell and Timothy Callahan (a professional builder and contractor) provide thorough discussions of the fundamental concepts of construction, substitutes for conventional approaches, and planning a home that’s not only comfortable and beautiful, but environmentally responsible. Then, they roll up their sleeves and get to work assembling a guest house that incorporates four different alternative building methods: straw bale, cob, cordwood, and modified stick frame. The images show every move: how the site is cleared, the basic structure put together, the cob wall sculpted, the bales and cordwood stacked, a living roof created, and more. Most important, the manual conveys real-world challenges and processes, and offers dozens of sidebars with invaluable advice. It’s head and shoulders above all others in the field.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This large, generously illustrated manual is an excellent primer on owner-designed and site-inspired

building. Snell, who wrote the eco-friendly The Good House Book, and Callahan, a more conventional but highly experienced builder and contractor, take readers step-by-step through the creation of a charming little guesthouse, demonstrating a variety of "green" techniques along the way. They start with an introduction to building fundamentals and how alternative materials can provide the necessities of housing: structure, climate-control and separation from as well as connection to the outer world. Next comes a mini-course in design. But the bulk of the book is hands-on: the nuts-and-bolts of siting; foundations; flooring; living (plant-covered) roofs; and cob, cordwood, straw-bale and modified stick frame wallsÃ¢â ¬â •although the book's minimal treatment of electricity and plumbing, and how to integrate them with unfamiliar materials like cob or straw-bale, disappoints. Snell's tendency to decry the sins of modern architectural practice can become exasperating, but doesn't diminish the value of his extensive experience-derived knowledge; and the grace and beauty of the authors' building project, featuring Callahan's fine finish work, is inspiring. The abundance of color photos detailing the construction process, supplemented by examples from indigenous buildings around the world, is particularly helpful. (Jan.)

Clarke Snell is an expert in the field of green building and self-sufficiency. 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 practicing general contractor. An experienced timber-frame builder, Tim is currently focused on residential projects of unique character.

We build everything ourselves and pride ourselves on a truly green footprint, so bought this book for ideas about alternative building. This is a wonderful and comprehensive guide for anyone wanting to do-it-yourself in an Earth-friendly way. It has become our Bible for building--everything from our own house to the outbuildings for our chickens, goats and homestead tools.The book contains informative historical backgrounds for several building styles such as cob, strawbale, conventional stick framing, timeberframe, cordwood and so on, while giving real-life step-by-step instructions on how you can do it yourself. It also has sections on natural floors from dirt, stone, etc.; living roofs; drainage ideas; recycling bottles and other things as decoration, insulation and more. It is chock full of tips, and includes insightful perspectives on the things that worked well and those that did not.My copy of this book is well thumbed (I've read it through cover to cover several times and go back to it often). I really never get tired at looking at it and planning new projects. It is so inspiring!

Really a great conceptual guide for those looking into green building. The authors emphasizes the incorporation of design and functionality. This first half is most useful for our purposes and the second half is a good step-by-step guide for those who intend to try out these green building techniques they use.

I love this book! They build a beautiful cottage and every single step is documented, photographed and explained without over complicating anything. You could literally build a very nice environmentally low impact home with only this book and some cash. The book is beautifully composed and mostly full of photographs and concise construction fundamentals. As a building nerd, this is one of the few books I recommend. My only disclaimer would be that they use the wrong type of media(soil) for the green roof that they installed on the cottage. I would use a 10% organic matter maximum mineral soil for a green roof and if you want to install one get a supplemental reference.

If you are a builder or "newbee" to building and considering a book that shares good to great "how-to" perspectives on green technology, this is for you. One structure, from foundation to finished form, is discusses with a minimal over-view of the history and / or examples of other structures related to this small home.I have been reading, studying and participating in green building technology for about 7 years. I have an ever-growing library related to natural processes and green technology. This is one book I'd recommend to anyone interested in hands-on learning that's well presented. You'll want to keep this one.

I was extremely pleased with the in-depth discussions of various building techniques. The pictures are well done and helpful. This is not a book you would just sit down and read, but it is certainly a wonderful resource for types of building. I bought it used and the cost of the book and the shipping were more than fair. It is in 'like new' condition. Very pleased with my purchase.

I'm a visual person and this book is full of pictures. My husband is a technical writer so it's a little "wordy" for us but you definitely get your moneys worth from this book- lots of techniques with step by step instructions and the historical references them as well.

An excellent book that explains and gives how to methods of the implementation of alternative home

building methods.

Great introduction to building green

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) Building Green: A Complete How-To Guide to Alternative Building Methods Earth Plaster * Straw Bale * Cordwood * Cob * Living Roofs The Good House Book: A Common-Sense Guide to Alternative Homebuilding Solar * Straw Bale * Cob * Adobe * Earth Plaster * & More (A Natural Home Book) By Edward Plaster Lab Manual with Studyware for Plaster's Soil Science and Management, 6th (6th Edition) [Paperback] Serious Straw Bale: A Home Construction Guide for All Climates (Real Goods Solar Living Book) The Straw Bale House (A Real Goods Independent Living Book) Straw Bale Gardens Complete The Beauty of Straw Bale Homes Ultimate Gardening Book: 5 Gardening Books in 1: Square Foot Gardening, Container Gardening, Urban Homesteading, Straw Bale Gardening, Vertical Gardening Cordwood Building: The State of the Art (Natural Building Series) GOING GREEN USING DIATOMACEOUS EARTH HOW-TO TIPS: An Easy Guide Book Using A Safer Alternative, Natural Silica Mineral, Food Grade Insecticide: Practical consumer tips, recipes, and methods Using Natural Finishes: Lime and Earth Based Plasters, Renders & Paints (Sustainable Building) OMC Cobra Stern Drive Shop Manual, 1986-1993 (Includes 1988 and 1989 King Cobra Models) Collins Cobuild (Collins COBUILD S.) [CD-ROM] LEED v4 Green Associate Exam Guide (LEED GA): Comprehensive Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building LEED Certification, and Sustainability (Green Associate Exam Guide Series) (Volume 1) The Natural Plaster Book: Earth, Lime, and Gypsum Plasters for Natural Homes The Professional Design Guide to Green Roofs LEED GA MOCK EXAMS (LEED v4): Questions, Answers, and Explanations: A Must-Have for the LEED Green Associate Exam, Green Building LEED Certification, ... Green Associate Exam Guide Series (Volume 2) Michelin the Green Guide Dordogne Berry Limousin (Michelin Green Guide: Dordogne, Berry, Limousin (Green Guide/Michelin) The Hand-Sculpted House: A Practical and Philosophical Guide to Building a Cob Cottage: The Real Goods Solar Living Book

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