
Building Green: Comprehensive How-To Guide to Alternative Building Methods

Thursday, 08 April 2010

Last Updated Friday, 09 April 2010

^ I have just read the most extraordinary book from cover to cover on Building Green: A complete how-to guide to alternative building methods, including earth plaster, straw bale, cordwood, cob and living roofs.

The book is called Building Green by Clarke Snell & Tim Callahan and if you are interested in going this route, this book would be your building bible.

They take you through structure, insulation and other basics as well incorporating green options such as using the sun's power in any home design. It is a practical hands-on guide with hundreds of detailed how-to photographs on building a 14 x 13 foot green building using four different alternative building methods: straw bale, cob, cordwood and modified stick-frame. The end result is a beautiful living, breathing, cottage. I had never seen cordwood incorporated into a build before, but it's quite amazing and versatile.

Here is just one pic of some beautiful cordwood wall detail.^ More pics below. ^ {nomultithumb}^ ^ This book goes on to detail how to mix mortar for whatever method you are choosing to build, options for windows and frames, construction blunders, if you're going the straw bale method - how to plaster a straw bale wall - in fact this book would be the next best thing to have these guys actually build your house for you.

They even give you their take on tools such as level and plumb tools, manual tools and power building tools you will need.

It is a must read for anyone even interested in alternative building methods.

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