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Advanced Information

A Complete Guide to Straw Bale Building

by Rikki Nitzkin and Maren Termens

A comprehensive hands-on guide for builders – both self-builders and professionals – and an essential handbook for designers that includes many construction details.

Straw bale buildings are warm in winter and cool in summer. The natural materials used create beautiful healthy homes that also have a low environmental impact. For self-builders, working with straw is affordable and enjoyable. In professional construction, a positive relationship between quality, price and long-term savings can easily be achieved. Straw bale is also especially suited to community-based projects as it generates curiosity and often needs groups of enthusiastic volunteers.

This complete guide gives detailed descriptions about how straw bales react to different applications and enables anyone to design and build these natural homes in different climates.

Included are:

- Step-by-step instructions for many processes
- Tips, tricks, advice and warnings
- Over 600 photos, drawings and diagrams
- Materials, tools and building techniques
- Solutions to common problems
- Plans for a practice straw bale building

Since every build is unique (availability of materials, skills, budget, climate etc.), many different and varied building techniques are explained. Self-builders will learn a vast array of skills and the confidence to build on their own, while professionals will be enabled to successfully incorporate bale building into their portfolios.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Rikki Nitzkin found her way to straw bale when building her own home in the Catalan Pyrenees. Maren Termens has a degree in Technical Architecture and found straw bale building through the Institut Tecnològic de la Construcció. Together they founded the Red de Construcció Con Paja (Spanish Straw Building Network) and have since built many buildings and taught over 100 workshops.

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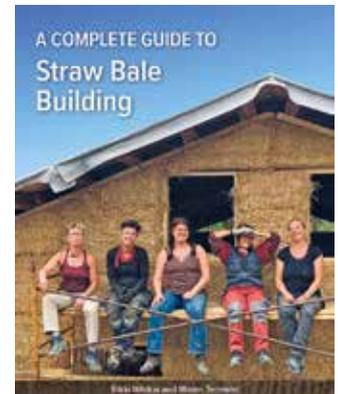
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