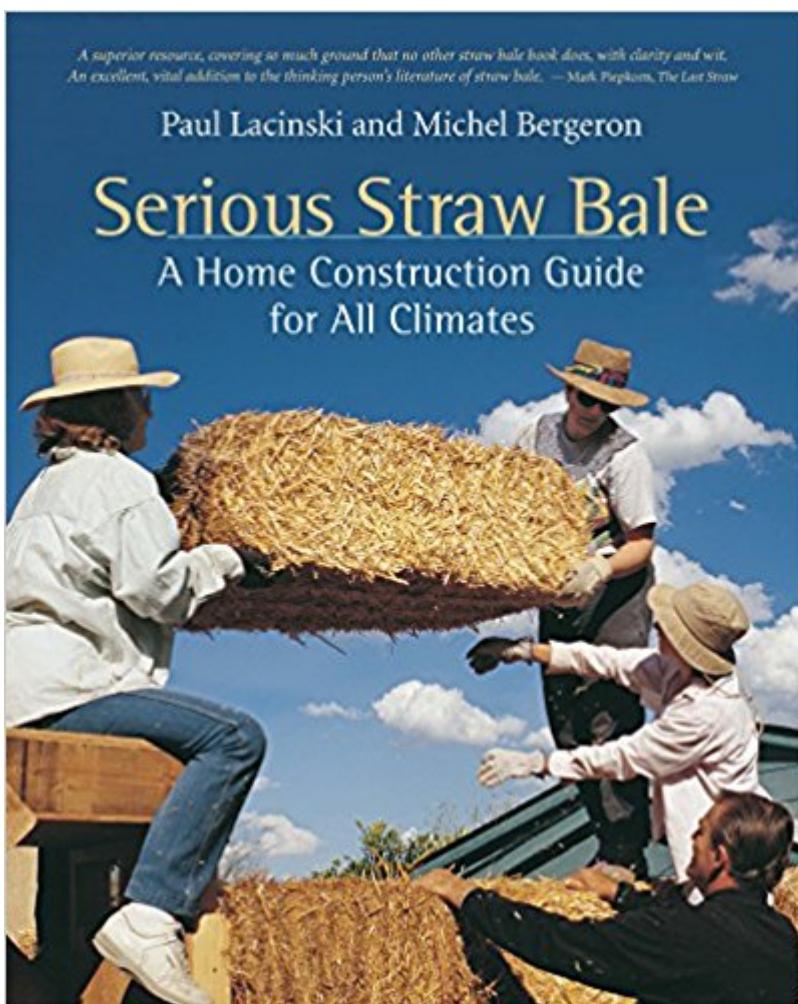


The book was found

Serious Straw Bale: A Home Construction Guide For All Climates (Real Goods Solar Living Book)



Synopsis

In 1994, when Chelsea Green published *The Straw Bale House*, the response from many people was a loud, "Huh?!" Those days are gone. With more than 100,000 copies sold, and straw bale projects underway in most regions of North America, we've entered a new era. Even building-code officials and insurance companies now look favorably upon straw bale buildings, with their extraordinary energy efficiency and wise use of agricultural waste for construction materials.

Bergeron and Lacinski's new book *Serious Straw Bale* is the first to look carefully at the specific design considerations critical to success with a straw bale building in more extreme climates-where seasonal changes in temperature, precipitation, and humidity create special stresses that builders must understand and address. The authors draw upon years of experience with natural materials and experimental techniques, and present a compelling rationale for building with straw-one of nature's most resilient, available, and affordable byproducts. For skeptics and true believers, this book will prove to be the latest word. Thorough explanations of how moisture and temperature affect buildings in seasonal climates, with descriptions of the unique capacities of straw and other natural materials to provide warmth, quiet, and comfort year-round. Comprehensive comparison of the two main approaches to straw bale construction: "Nebraska-style," where bales bear the weight of the roof, and framed structures, where bales provide insulation. Detailed advice-including many well-considered cautions-for contractors, owner-builders, and designers, following each stage of a bale-building process. This is a second-generation straw bale book, for those seeking serious information to meet serious challenges while adventuring in the most fun form of construction to come along in several centuries.

Book Information

Paperback: 371 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing; 1st edition (December 24, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1890132640

ISBN-13: 978-1890132644

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.9 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #171,745 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Architecture > Methods & Materials #336 in Books >

Customer Reviews

"Lacinski and Bergeron are strikingly thorough and forthright in presenting what it takes to make straw bale work in the toughest of climates."--Peter Yost, Senior Editor, Environmental Building News

Paul Lacinski is a partner in Green Space Collaborative, an environmental consulting firm offering integrated project management and innovative design services. He lives in Ashfield, Massachusetts. Architect Michel Bergeron is a founding member of Quebec's legendary ecological design-build firm, Archibio. He is an author, designer, and builder. He lives in Montreal.

This is a good overview of straw bale construction and the extra considerations required to be successful in wet and cold climates. It did not get that last star because most of the visual aides for the solution to problems were dated photographs; where an illustration or architectural type drawing would be more useful for me to apply the concepts to my situation.

Excellent book! I am glad I bought it. Title of book is really correct! This book is serious about building straw bale house - anyplace and from many construction approaches! The thing that I like about it is explained in this example... *other books that I read give you instruction just to build this that way and it will work... *Authors of Serious Straw Bale tell you that you may build this that way and that it will probably work... BUT in the same time they let you aware of MANY details that might make that not working... PLUS a few ideas of how else you can achieve this. Do you have questions about Straw bale buildings? Can pests live in a straw wall? Can I build it safe if I live in wet, windy and cold location? And how about earthquakes?... I found answers to them (from real buildings and experience of many owners) Summed up; Topics explained are written from actual experience and thoroughly thought up. Authors also give more than one solution to same problem - each with its own strong and weak points. Writing is engineerly systematic and detailed, but very easy to read and understand. I honestly recommend it

as described

Very thorough book on strawbale construction from Nebraska style to convention stick frame. It covers all the topics you need to know in order to get started with planning for construction. It is advisable that basic construction knowledge be attained prior to reading this book, but either way this is a beneficial read.

I really began to admire the book after the author gave a long list or reasons of why you probably don't want to build a straw bale home. Then, when the author went into the science of moisture and air flow, I was hooked. He wasn't trying to sell a belief system, he was trying to pass on the 'nuts and bolts' of building your own straw bale home. Sadly, the last part of the book was given over to an article written by someone who was clearly more in the clouds than on the ground building stuff, but all in all worth the money spent.

We are in our infancy in our strawbale journey. We have been on the internet for days (weeks..months?) trying to soak up all the information we can. But to have this book in your hands, to be able to leaf back and forth and re-absorb all the information contained in this book is invaluable! Our property is in the high desert, and the information on cold weather strawbale couldn't have been better! The only reason I did not give this book 5 stars is because I would have liked to see more on Nebraska Style building, but that's just our preference. Still reading and re-reading every day, and it's a keeper!

Stuffed full of great info.

It not only speaks of the technical issues associated with building with straw bales. It presents the human connection with the houses they built. I enjoyed reading the book and studying the different approaches each family took. Thank you.

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