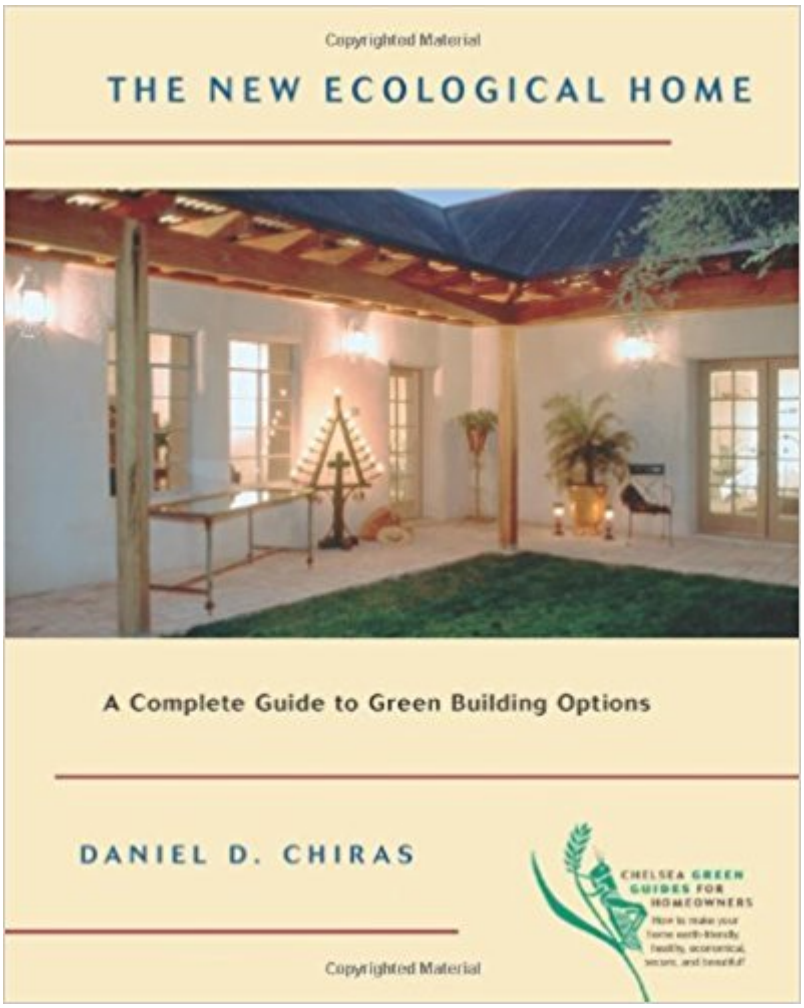
The New Ecological Home: A Complete Guide To Green Building Options (Chelsea Green Guides For Homeowners)



Synopsis

Shelter, like many other elements of human existence, comes at an extraordinary cost to our planet and its inhabitants. In the U.S. alone, construction of 1.2 million new homes a year results in a massive drain on Earth’s natural resource base. Today, nearly 60 percent of all timber cut in the U.S. is used in building houses, not to mention construction wastes and the huge amounts of resources used in the day-to-day operation of the "modern" household. In addition to environmental costs, there are the personal economic costsÃ¢â ¬â •the thousands of dollars each homeowner spends each year to heat, cool, and power our homes. Today, a new generation of architects and builders is emerging, intent on creating homes that meet human needs for shelter while causing only a fraction of the environmental impact of conventional housing. The New Ecological Home provides an overview of green building techniques, materials, products, and technologies that are either currently available or will be in the near future. Author Daniel Chiras provides a wealth of up-to-date, practical information for home buyers, owner-builders, and anyone interested in building for a sustainable future. Included are chapters on: The Healthy House Green Building Materials Wood-Wise Construction Energy Efficiency Earth-Sheltered Architecture Passive Solar Heating and Passive Cooling Green Power: Electricity from the Sun and Wind Water and Waste: Sustainable Approaches Environmental Landscaping

Book Information

Series: Chelsea Green Guides for Homeowners
Paperback: 336 pages
Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing; First Edition edition (May 30, 2004)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1931498164
ISBN-13: 978-1931498166
Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.8 x 10 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds
Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #680,989 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 inÃ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Energy Efficiency #463 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Landscape #840 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Residential

Customer Reviews

As homeowners become more environmentally savvy and demand ecological choices, a new generation of architects and builders is emerging, intent on creating warm and inviting homes that cause only a fraction of the environmental impact of conventional building methods. Dan Chiras’ The New Ecological Home provides an overview of green building techniques, materials, products and technologies that are either currently available or promise to be in the near future.

Dan Chiras paid his last electric bill in June of 1996. It is not that he has disavowed the use of electricity and modern conveniences, but rather that he has turned to the sun and wind to meet his family's needs. In 1995, Dan, a former full-time college professor with years of experience in sustainable development, built a state-of-the-art rammed earth tire and straw bale home in Evergreen, Colorado. He installed solar electric panels on the roof; a year or so later he installed a small wind generator. Since that time, he has met nearly all of his electrical needs for his home and office from these clean, renewable sources. Dan also heats his home in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains 8000-feet above sea level with energy from the sun thanks to passive solar design. For backup heat on those cold winter nights, he burns a cord of wood a year, gathered free from his community. His annual gas bill, mostly for showers and cooking, runs about $120 a year - about $2 to $3 per month for natural gas and $10 per month to read the meter! Dan has spent much of the past 30 years studying sustainability and applying what he has learned in solar energy, natural building, and green building to his residences, and most of the last ten years sharing the practical knowledge he has gained through writing, lectures, slide shows, and workshops. Dan has published 21 books to date including several college and high school textbooks: Environmental Science: Creating a Sustainable Future, Natural Resource Conservation, Human Biology, and Biology: The Web of Life. His high school environmental science text, Environmental Science, was selected as the official book of the U.S. Academic Decathlon's 1991 competition. In the early 1990s, Dan published two trade books on environmental issues and sustainability for a general audience: Beyond the Fray: Reshaping America's Response and Lessons from Nature: Learning to Live Sustainably on the Earth. Since 1995, Dan has focused most of his attention on residential green building. He has written extensively on the subject. His is books include: The Natural House: A Complete Guide to Healthy, Energy Efficient, Environmental Homes; The Natural Plaster Book; The Solar House: Passive Heating and Cooling; Superbia! 31 Ways to Create Sustainable Suburbs; and The New Ecological Home. His newest book, EcoKids: Raising Kids Who Care for the Earth will be published in the Spring of 2005 by New Society Publishers. Dan also writes extensively for

magazines, journals, newsletters, and newspapers. He has published nearly 250 articles on environmental issues, sustainability, natural building, natural plaster, green building, and passive solar heating and cooling. His articles appear regularly in Home Power, Mother Earth News, Natural Home, and The Last Straw. Dan also writes frequently for World Book Encyclopedia (Science Year) and Encyclopedia Americana. He authored a 12-page article on the environment for Encyclopedia Americana. Dan has written environmental pollution section for World Book Encyclopedia's annual publication, Science Year, since 1993. In 1997, he wrote an extensive piece for World Book on population growth and its many implications. Dan also wrote the ecology and air pollution sections for Encyclopedia Americana. In addition to his writing, Dan has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado in Denver and the University of Colorado at Denver. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Washington, where he taught a course on environmental science. He currently is a Melon Visiting Professor at Colorado College where he teaches courses on renewable energy, ecological design, and sustainable development. Through his writing and teaching in the 1980s and early 1990s, Dan played a leading role in promoting critical thinking, an understanding of the root causes of environmental issues, systemic solutions to environmental problems, sustainable development. He pioneered a systems approach to sustainable development and has played a lead role in articulating the principles, policies, and practices of sustainable development which seeks ways that business and society can prosper within a healthy environment. He is currently focusing most of his research and writing on sustainable building and sustainable communities. Dan's free time is spent mountain biking, canoeing, playing music, and gardening. For more information visit danchiras.com.

This is a pretty good book, great for some brainstorming of ideas and in a few cases ideas I hadn't yet heard of. I got the book a little late, just now in 2016 and though it is about 10 years old the ideas hold up.

During the planning phase of building our first home, this book was very helpful. We liked the emphasis right at the start on site selection -- what to look for in everything from the overall community to aspects of the land itself and how to environmentally protect that land during construction. A comparison checklist for assessing lots is included. Even though ours will not be a "natural House" (rammed earth, straw bale, etc.) and though those types of construction are covered, there was plenty of solid information on building a more energy efficient, and less wasteful, home of wood and concrete. Also included are chapters on design, using green and non- or less

toxic materials, sustainable approaches to water and waste, environmental landscaping, and enery-efficient design, heating, and cooling. As this will be a retirement home, we especially appreciated the chapter on accessiblilty and ergonomic design.

I found this book in our local library and was so impressed with it I bought it for my son in law to use in designing and constructing his dream home. I found it to be a comprehensive guide and wish I had a copy 30 years ago before building my mud brick home.

I had to change my order after I noticed that I messed up my order. I wasn't able to cancel the order. Too bad, but that's okay. :)

It was okay to me and it was required by my college course. It was my another textbook.

Having been the first of it's kind I have read, this book is well-organized and readable. It seems good for the person brainstorming on what steps to take in the design of their eco-home. For more specific information to carry out the tasks, I would suggest other resources.

This books organically combines introductions into various aspects of green home building with practical suggestions, calculations and brief product reviews.

I was expecting a more practical book, like "green from the ground up", with more design guidelines. Although the nice cover does not reflect the quality of the contents, it's worth reading it.

edition: Renewable Energy Options for Homeowners Black & Decker Codes for Homeowners, Updated 3rd Edition: Electrical - Mechanical - Plumbing - Building - Current with 2015-2017 Codes (Black & Decker Complete Guide) The Complete Guide to Building Backyard Ponds, Fountains, and Waterfalls for Homeowners: Everything You Need to Know Explained Simply (Back to Basics) Black & Decker Codes for Homeowners: Electrical Mechanical Plumbing Building Updated through 2014 (Black & Decker Complete Guide) Ecological and Environmental Physiology of Mammals (Ecological and Environmental Physiology Series) Long-Term Dynamics of Lakes in the Landscape: Long-Term Ecological Research on North Temperate Lakes (Long-Term Ecological Research Network Series) Options Trading: QuickStart Guide: The Simplified Beginner's Guide to Options Trading Options Trading: Beginner Guide to Crash It with Options Trading The Ultimate Options Trading Strategy Guide for Beginners: The Fundamental Basics of Options Trading and Six Profitable Strategies Simplified like Never Before Day Trading: Trading Guide: Make Money on Stocks, Options & Forex (Trading, Day Trading, Stock, Options, Trading Strategies) Positive Options for Children with Asthma: Everything Parents Need to Know (Positive Options for Health) Positive Options for Colorectal Cancer, Second Edition: Self-Help and Treatment (Positive Options for Health) Positive Options for Living with COPD: Self-Help and Treatment for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (Positive Options for Health)