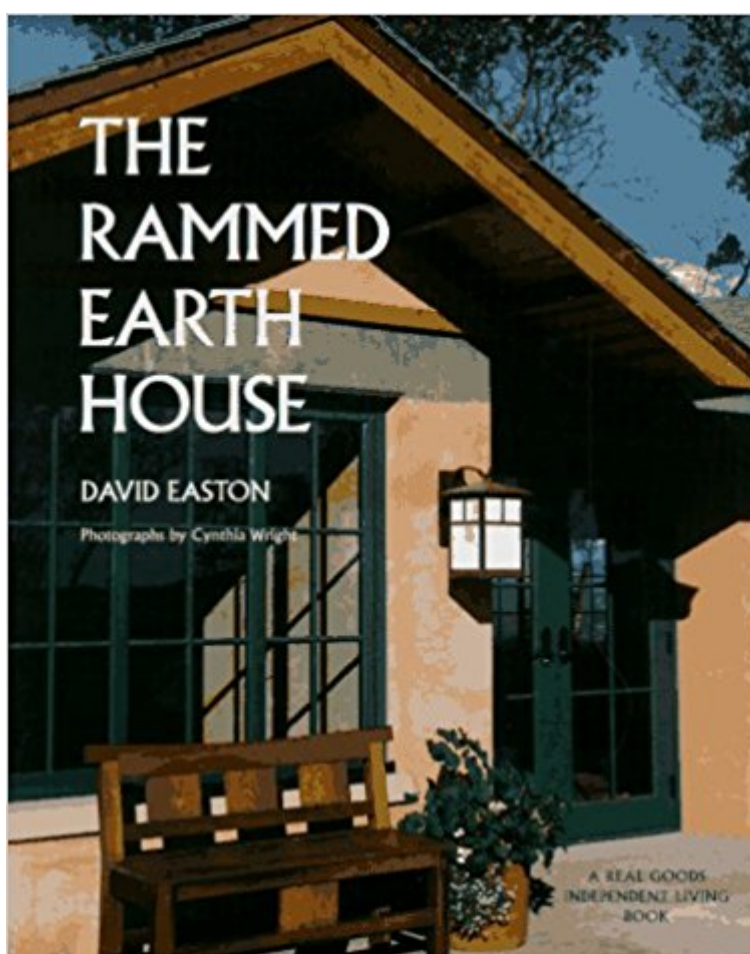


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# The Rammed Earth House: Rediscovering The Most Ancient Building Material (Real Goods Independent Living Book)



## Synopsis

The Rammed Earth House is an eye-opening example of how the most dramatic innovations in home design and construction frequently have their origins in the distant past. By rediscovering the most ancient of all building materials — earth — forward-thinking homebuilders can now create structures that set new standards for beauty, durability, and efficient use of natural resources. Rammed earth construction is a step forward into a sustainable future, when homes will combine pleasing aesthetics and intense practicality with a powerful sense of place. Rammed earth homes are built entirely on-site, using basic elements — earth, water, and a little cement. The solid masonry walls permit design flexibility while providing year-round comfort and minimal use of energy. The builder and resident of a rammed earth house will experience the deep satisfaction of creating permanence in a world dominated by the disposable. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The beauty and grace of rammed earth construction is described in fascinating detail by David Easton. The photographs of different structures, both modern and ancient, by Cynthia Wright, create a breathtaking glimpse into a building technique that is as old as human history, but exactly suitable for today's resource-conscious and environmentally friendly building needs. Trees may be getting a

bit scarce these days, but there's no current shortage of dirt, the main component of rammed earth homes. From such a prosaic material, gold has been spun in these timeless, graceful, and nearly indestructible homes and buildings.

"David has always been a pioneer, and I'm particularly excited about his work bringing rammed earth as an appropriate technology to areas of the developing world. Guided by David's team, rural communities build structures far more permanent and energy efficient than any they had before."--Mike Korchinsky, Founder and CEO, Wildlife Works, Inc."I find great hope in David Easton's description of ways to meld the environmentally friendly with the aesthetically satisfying. And I find inspiration in his very practical advice on making these beautiful blends of earth and air a part of our lives. Architecture defines us, and helps us to find meaning in the very structures we call our homes. This book is a must read for all interested in blending spirituality with practicality."--J. Kalani English, Hawaii State Senator"David Easton is an essential figure in the world of earthen architecture, both in the field and on paper. Through his work and books, Easton brings a practical answer to the Brundtland statement on sustainable development. He has proven beyond doubt that earthen architecture is a viable option for Our Common Future."--Hugo Houben, International Centre for Earth Construction, Grenoble, France"David Easton's book is a definitive account of the art and technology of rammed earth construction. Architects, builders, and home-owners interested in earth construction methods should start here." -John Ochsendorf, PhD Associate Professor of Building Technology MIT Department of Architecture --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I purchased this book in order to find an optimistic source on the subject of rammed earth. David Easton does have a positive attitude about the subject. I enjoyed his enthusiasm. I enjoyed the 10 or so pages of color pictures and the many black and white pictures through the book. Like another reviewer, I felt the book lacked some good engineering sketches and some good pictorial illustrations of the forming systems. I was encouraged enough by his book to want to build a rammed earth house somewhere in the coming years. [johnkurtz@comcast.net](mailto:johnkurtz@comcast.net).

My fiance and I are reading this book together on Kindle, studying in anticipation of actually putting what we learn into the building of our own first home together in Kansas. We are encouraged by all the history of successful efforts by others with less technological resources available more than a half a century ago. The descriptions of each material are very complete and the photographs of

houses still standing today in diverse locales give us a realistic vision to guide our own custom plan. We hope to erect a lovely, solid home that will not only be a legacy for our children (and grandchildren yet unborn) but one that may be featured in a future publication on this exciting resurrected, proven home-building paradigm.

Dissatisfied by the layout and the grouping of so few color pictures in the middle of the book

I am going to develop a cottage for very cheap! Sand is free where I want to build. Will have to bring in clay and straw. Cheap to build a frame so I get 'perfect' lines, take down the frames and re-utilize frames on the next portion of wall creation. A bit of cement on the outside and plaster on the inside and all is well. This is already insulated to draw in and accept heat, and radiate heat. In summer, it will be cool (like a basement or garage), same principle. All I will need to do is add wiring, plumbing, solar/wind turbines, well/pump and septic. I am off-grid! I have already designed the house, interior will have modular furniture that hangs from the walls so as to have open floor plan, have sofa beds to utilize space for visitors without having extra bedrooms, having a loft on a second floor for office space, plenty of windows facing east and west, solar facing south, turbines having a wind tunnel facing both NW and SE as that is the direction the wind comes from here. Can't wait to perfect talents in developing rammed earth (aka cob) house in modeling a dog house for sample. Will have beams across top with sloping roof and steel roof so snow will slide off. Of course, will need spray-in insulation topside and seal the roof structure on inside. Ready to play! Cheaply too. Can even put solar pump in pond so pond won't freeze, for animals to utilize all year, pump wonderful attraction at back window. All free of monthly bills. Upfront solar and wind costs will be far less than new house purchase. Best of all the worlds! Love this book. I am so excited. I would recommend to anyone.

The book seems to cover all the requirements that need to be known. The explanations are very clear and the photography is also very helpful in visualizing what needs to be done. The book is also very pleasant to read.

The book to buy for rammed earth construction, David Easton has been doing this far longer than anyone else. Covers all phases of rammed earth building process.

Nice info but drawings would be appreciated instead of pictures that aren't great and very wordy and repetitive at times. There is really good info in the book but you have to hunt for it. More set up

explaining for a business wanting to start rammed earth how to do it than for an individuals help.

I have been reading much about rammed earth construction. Once you get past the benefits of this type of construction many questions about the method of construction still exist. On the internet it is these details that are missing. How do I make forms? How do I construct windows? Basic questions that require some detail to understand properly. We are taking on the task of building one of these homes ourselves in a 3rd world nation - without the benefit of seeing it done here in the USA. My reading to this point has left many practical gaps in being able to go from concept to implementation. Then I bought this book. WOW. You have to get it. I found myself, many times, saying I wish the author would explain "x" then.... in the next paragraph he does. How refreshing. All aspects of rammed earth are dealt with, but what makes this book great are the details of construction that are obligatorily missing in most sources online. I am very please with this book!

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