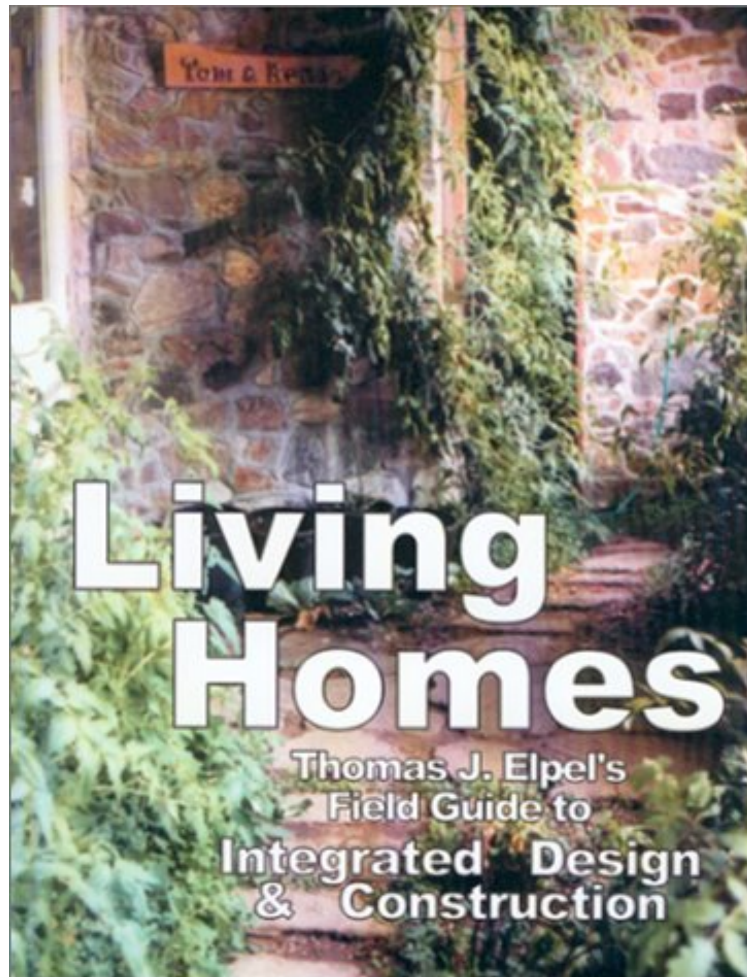


[FREE] Living Homes: Thomas J. Elpel's Field Guide to Integrated Design and Construction

Living Homes: Thomas J. Elpel's Field Guide to Integrated Design and Construction

Thomas J. Elpel

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Thomas J. Elpel : Living Homes: Thomas J. Elpel's Field Guide to Integrated Design and Construction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Homes: Thomas J. Elpel's Field Guide to Integrated Design and Construction:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. slapped together, poor effortBy JA GrayI had expected with a title like Living Holmes: Thomas J. Elpel's Guide to Integrated Design and Construction a scholarly and practical book. Instead it strikes me as someone who put this together to make a quick buck.The review by Charlamaine Taylor, you should realize that they are in business together (see my review of their video on slipform walls).I cannot speculate on a persons motivations for writing, you can get some good information from the book, but my best recommendation is to view this book and his distributor Charlamaine Taylor with caution. We need less hastily produced books and more

informative professionally produced books
13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. big problems with technical information
By Laurie J. Neverman
This book has a lot of big ideas, but is very weak on technical details. The author repeatedly uses phrases like, "We tried this, but it didn't work very well" without offering a follow up of something that DOES work. Maybe some of the suggestions would work better in an arid climate, but around here many of his suggestions are recipes for mold growth, rot and indoor air quality problems. Also, much of what is suggested is in violation of building codes, such as using a single wall heat exchanger in a solar water heating system where the heat exchange takes place between glycol-based antifreeze and potable water. Use the book for ideas, but please get your technical information somewhere else.
29 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Great description of slipform stonewall building
By C. Taylor
I was really excited to see this book appear. A classic "Build Your Own Stone House" is now out of print, and I thought there was nothing to replace it. Since I am a bookseller of alternative housebuilding books I was looking for another resource on stone building. Elpel does a very good job of covering all the bases for the prospective owner builder. He allows the reader to envision how home siting, use of passive solar, water needs and energy use will affect the final home for years to come. He covers plumbing, electric, septic, even making a solar hot water heater. But the best part for me was the description of the "terra Tiles" earthen floor method. This is good stuff! Chapters on straw bale and log home building allow the reader to compare various methods. Also coverage of masonry stove building, overall Elpel provides a real understanding of "how to", and an easy to read book.

The house of your Dreams does not have to be expensive. The key is all in the planning. How much a house costs, how it looks, how comfortable it is, how energy-efficient it is all these things occur on paper before you pick up even one tool. A little extra time in the planning process can save you tens of thousands of dollars in construction and maintenance. That is time well spent! Living Homes takes you through the planning process to design an energy and resource efficient home that won't break the bank. Then, from the footings on up to the roof, author Thomas J. Elpel guides you through the nuts and bolts of construction for slipform stone masonry, tilt-up stone walls, log home construction, building with strawbales, making your own terra tile floors, windows doors, solar water systems, masonry heaters, framing, plumbing, greywater, septic systems, swamp filters, painting and more!

Tom Elpel's ground work in slipform stone masonry was clear, concise, and very helpful. -- Dani G. Hotchkiss, Colorado
About the Author
Thomas J. Elpel had the rare opportunity as a child to spend hundreds of hours with his grandmother exploring the hills and meadows of southwest Montana. She taught him about wild edible and medicinal plants and wilderness survival skills, igniting a passion for nature that has inspired him ever since. Tom's desire to live close to nature logically developed into an equal passion for resource-efficient construction with natural materials and sustainable paths to economic prosperity.