Adobe Homes for All Climates: Simple, Affordable, and Earthquake-Resistant Natural Building Techniques

Lisa Schroder, Vince Ogletree
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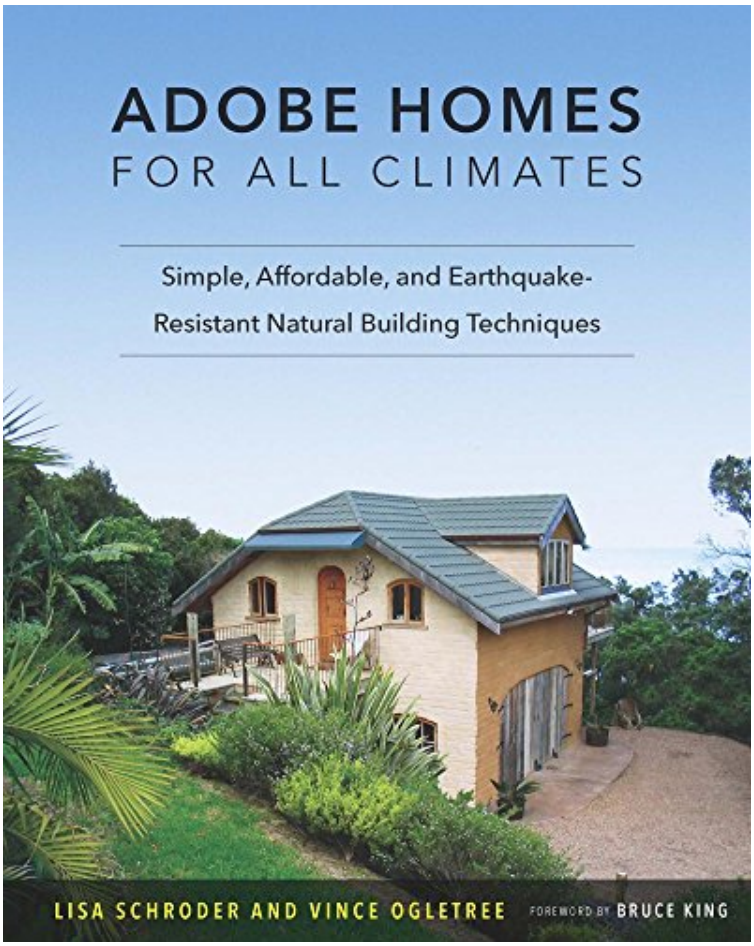

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Lisa Schroder, Vince Ogletree : Adobe Homes for All Climates: Simple, Affordable, and Earthquake-Resistant Natural Building Techniques before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adobe Homes for All Climates: Simple, Affordable, and Earthquake-Resistant Natural Building Techniques:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Christopher FernandesGreat read for understanding adobe building.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent book for those interested in adobe building or repairsBy Carol W.This is an excellent book for those interested in adobe building or repairs. I first saw this at the library and found it on .10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Adobe Homes for all ClimatesBy Kelly HartPublished in 2010, Adobe Homes for All Climates: Simple, Affordable, and Earthquake-Resistant Natural Building Techniques, by Lisa Schroder and Vince Ogletree presents a comprehensive look at how

one might go about building with adobe. It is based on many years of experience by the authors building residences, mainly in New Zealand. They evolved very specific techniques for every aspect of the building process, from fabricating the adobe blocks to erecting and plastering the walls.Since the authors were involved in the business of adobe construction, they were motivated to find the most efficient, durable, and pleasing ways of building they could. For this reason, they rely completely on cement-stabilized materials, which cure rapidly enough to be handled within a day and can be trusted to endure virtually any kind of weather once the walls are in place. This practice departs from traditional unstabilized adobe construction, which may require more maintenance over time, but perhaps would be a "greener" choice, because of the lower embodied energy.One of the more unique aspects of their system is the use of specialized molds for fabricating the blocks. The main difference with some of the molds they recommend is that they provide large holes in the center that can be used to route not only water and electric utilities, but also conceal concrete and steel reinforcement. With this method it is relatively easy to create a structure that would be acceptable to the most stringent codes for seismic reinforcement.Another novel part of their system is that special holes can be provided at specified intervals that can be used to insert temporary pipes as support for scaffolding, a very handy way to avoid the cost and hassle of erecting conventional scaffolding. Eventually these holes are filled in and become invisible.While there is a thorough discussion of the desired properties of soil that is suitable for an adobe mix, the authors caution that you should employ a soil engineer to make any final judgment about this. They are also cautious about their advice on foundation requirements, saying that an engineer should be involved in the design. I think that this caution is at least partially a matter of not wanting to be libel for any mistakes that an owner/builder might make, since they really give you enough information to figure all of this out yourself.The chapters that deal with plaster are some of the most detailed and complete that I have seen anywhere. They really explain the whole process of making and applying stabilized earthen plasters, from beginning to end.Since this book originated in New Zealand, some of the terminology is unique to that region and may not be familiar to all English speakers. One can generally figure out the intended meaning, however, through the context or the glossary at the end of the book.With "for all climates" as part of the title, I expected a much more thorough discussion of how one would go about insulating an adobe wall. Instead, there are really just a couple of paragraphs that explain that in less temperate regions one might want to either make the wall thicker than standard one foot, add some form of insulation to the exterior of the walls (especially on the north side in the northern hemisphere), or create an air gap cavity between two adjacent adobe walls. The book is beautifully illustrated with color pictures or diagrams on practically every page, but none of these show an insulated wall.On the whole, I would recommend this book to anyone who might consider building with adobe, whether you employ their system or not, since there is a wealth of information that will be useful regardless. I commend the authors and publisher (Chelsea Green) for a job very well done!

The lay-up of adobe bricks is an easy, forgiving way to achieve a solid masonry-wall system. Contrary to stereotypes, adobe is perfectly adaptable for use in cold, wet climates as well as hot and dry ones, and for areas prone to earthquakes. With its efficient use of energy, natural resources for construction, and minimal effort for long-term maintenance, its clear that the humble adobe brick is an ideal option for constructing eco-friendly structures throughout the world. The book is ideal both for first-time do-it-yourselfers and for experienced adobe builders seeking to improve their craft. Drawing on the experience of more than fifty major adobe projects since 1993, Adobe Homes for All Climates describes Adobe Building Systems patented reinforcement and scaffolding systems, showing readers how to construct adobe homes more easily and safely, and with superior strength, durability, structural integrity, and aesthetic appeal, as compared to earthen homes of the past. All aspects of adobe construction are covered, including making and laying adobe bricks, installing lintels and arches, conduits and pipes, doors and windows, top plates and bondbeams, ideal wall dimensions, adobe finishes, and other adobe construction components, such as the inexpensive use of scaffolding. These methods will produce a premium product that will meet and often exceed inspection standards. Equipped with this manual, you will be able to obtain a building permit, make adobe bricks swiftly, and confidently lay them up. You will be able to beautifully finish your adobe walls with earth plasters creating stunning colors and outstanding light effects and create a beautiful, energy-efficient home that will last for generations to come.

"With Adobe Homes for all Climates, [Schroder and Ogletree] offer a fresh, modern voice to the lively revival of earthen building, and provide a wealth of practical detail as well. People who are considering building with earthor just wondering why we would want to get back into themwould do well to consult this book."--Bruce King, director, Ecological Building Network, from the ForewordAbout the AuthorLisa Morey Schroder has a Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering and Management as well as a diploma in Architectural Design. She worked alongside Vince Ogletree for five years before founding Adobe Building Systems, LLC. She has been involved in the design and planning stages of dozens of adobe homes and has years of hands-on experience in all aspects of adobe construction. Schroder lives with her husband and two children in Vancouver, British Columbia.Vince Ogletree founded Earth Building Consultants Contractors, Ltd., in Auckland, New Zealand. Before his untimely death in 2005, he had twenty-

three years of building experience including twelve years working with earthen and adobe methods. Vince dedicated himself to working on this manual in the last year of his life so that others could benefit from his knowledge and expertise in adobe building and share in his passion for earthen building and in his vision for environmentally conscious construction.