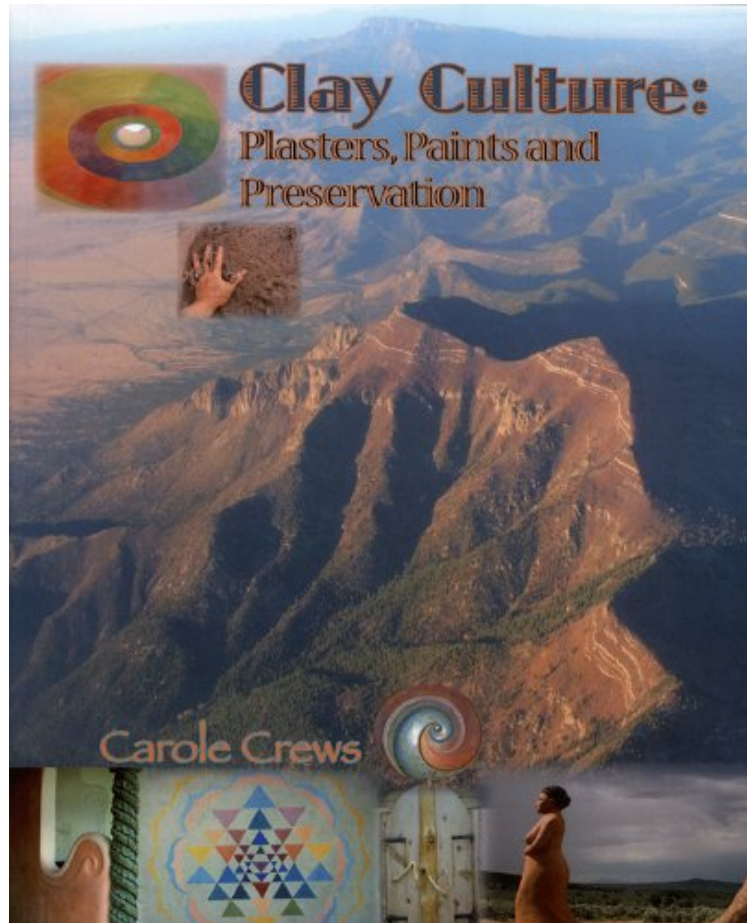


(Free download) Clay Culture: Plasters, Paints and Preservation

Clay Culture: Plasters, Paints and Preservation

Carole Crews

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Carole Crews : Clay Culture: Plasters, Paints and Preservation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clay Culture: Plasters, Paints and Preservation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great information.By Jacqueline G. MayInspiring! Great information.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Terrific Resource - clear and informativeBy Shannon DonnellyThis is a wonderful book to have both for the inspiration it offers and the practical recipes for mixing up clay slips, wheat paste glues, and a variety of clay mixes. There's tremendous experience offered up in the book along with images that can help you on your way to plastering or building. This is a book we keep close by and use a lot.7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Okay for beginnersBy C. WoodsSpeaking as a person who has built a strawbale home and covered it inside and out with earthen plaster, I would say that this book is not all that useful. It reminds me a lot of the how-to books from the 1960s and 70s; all the photos are black and white and the prose is cute-conversational.(In describing the thickness of clay paint as that of pancake batter, they use an entire half-page to include a pancake batter recipe, for example.) The font is overly large; is this to make the book appear thick and substantial? Instead of regularly using earthen clay found on or near site, these authors often use kaolin bought at a

potter's store. (Not so bad if you are 100% urban, however.) This isn't a totally bad book if you just want to get a start on making natural finishes, but there are far better, more sophisticated books that will teach one a great deal more about understanding and making natural plasters and finishes, and I would search them out if I were serious about such a project.

Clay Culture: Plasters, Paints and Preservation begins with the history of Taos, New Mexico, where earthen architecture remains a building block of culture. Many of the 280 black-and-white photographs are historic and illustrate the simplicity of old techniques and the role they play in a sustainable lifestyle. With hopes of shifting the conversation from "how-to" to "what next," Clay Culture offers thirty years worth of experience and information about building, repairing, and finishing walls with abundant, natural clay. During these shifting times, it's crucial to understand ways of providing shelter without a bank loan. It is only recently that we have forgotten how to take good care of ourselves without shopping. Models are a way to begin, and a great way to test local clay. Small compounds of numerous dwellings that catch water and grow food can support people more reliably than crashing stocks and bonds. With guidance from nature and simple means, "living situations"-that people actually enjoy living in-can be built. Traditional materials are perfect for utilizing sustainable design principles. This book offers a body of knowledge that will stimulate creative juices and help provide the confidence and understanding needed to use clay, sand, straw, binders, and pigments in buildings and art projects. Smooth and delicious walls-glimmering with enough color to raise spirits and repel dust, absorbent enough to prevent mold and cold, and with acoustic values to make your ears smile-are not extravagant. Beauty is here for the taking, and the giving. An artistic offering is a totem to hope, a creative expression to balance the weight of the world.

About the Author Carole Crews, an artist and builder from Taos, New Mexico, has played in the mud most of her life. By using earthen materials for artistic expression, she has developed techniques for making beautiful walls in the simplest ways possible, and hopes, through this book, to enable others to realize their own creative freedom and potential.