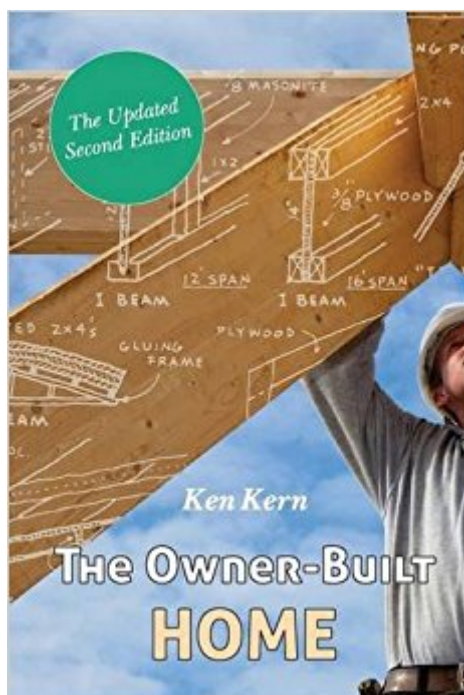


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# The Owner-Built Home



## Synopsis

Many Americans dream about building their own home. With this book you can make those dreams a reality. As innovative and original as it was when first published in 1972, Ken Kern's *The Owner-Built Home* is an aspiring DIY homebuilder's bible. Finally, after years of demand, it is back in print for the next generation of owner-builders. The product of years of research and experimentation with innumerable design and construction techniques around the world, *The Owner-Built Home* is full of practical tips. It describes in refreshing, straight-forward language, everything involved in making a home. Fully illustrated with drawings, photographs, and plans, *The Owner-Built Home* is an indispensable tool for anyone planning to build a house.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is very inspiring. My girlfriend and I were looking at houses to buy, but we both hate the idea of taking huge loans in an unstable housing market. Instead, we're going to purchase some land and build our own house, paying as we go. This book is an excellent resource for fleshing out that idea and giving us inspiration and options.

Got this for my mom!

The bible for anyone who dreams of building their own home.

Had this in the 70's...glad to find again

best book on home building and thinking outside the box ;)

I wrote this review for a friend tonight, before I looked it up on .I had no idea it was a collectors item.I got my original copy in 1973I studied it like the BibleMy copy is almost worn out from use.I built two houses using it as my guide.It is true that you would need to consult local building codes, but it is a wonderful way to examin what you want, there is a list of questions in the back, that would help you decide what you want, and would be a great thing to review before you talk to a builder or architectIn the Ken Kern"Owner Built Home"He says if someone wants wall to wall carpet, they should get carpet slippers.Another thing I remember,There are two classes of world travelers.Those with no money and those with a lot of money.And little in between.The most inexpensive houses are made of adobe.And the most expensive houses are made of adobe, and little in-between.Same thing with gravel driveways.He traveled the world and studied all building methods.He proposes living in a trailer and building in stages, and then removing the trailer.He has a good section on color and the psychological effect of color.I chose room colors based on his ideas 22 years ago, and I have not changed them, and I like them.

I purchased my copy of Kern's classic builders' guide in 1979, launched a home-building career with the book in my toolkit and I'm still using it today. As other reviewers have noted, you can't apply everything offered here in every location because building codes often get in the way of building outside the box. But what you will find here is hands-on practical advice about the way construction really functions and a can-do attitude that will infuse any building project you undertake in the future. The best single piece of information I took away from Kern's teaching is to ALWAYS use ring-shank or spiral-shank nails in any structural application (that is, you would use them for framing but not for molding). None of the homes I built from 1979 to 1995 have squeaky floors today. Thanks Ken!These days I'm well into a writing career, but am refurbishing a century-old home into some semblance of "green." Kern's book is in the next room, beside my tool bag. His advice still rocks.One cautionary note: Kern finally, apparently, went too far outside the box and died when an experimental structure he was building collapsed in a wind storm. We lost a good'un.

Ken Kern is a must read. I cherish his dedication to his values. A true American philosopher that's

on my bookshelf alongside, Thoreau's Walden Emerson's Essays, Ben Franklin's Autobiography, Pirsig's Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Mike Oehler's The Fifty Dollar and Up Underground House Book, John Muir's How to Keep Your Volkswagen Alive: A Manual of Step-by-Step Procedures for the Complete Idiot, Mark Twain's Short Stories, Jack London's Alcoholic Memoirs, Steinbeck's Short Stories, and a few by Bukowski and the Nearing's. Schools need a class on Kern and the Kernistas. Most of my other heroes are very political and theoretical, but Kern is just so pragmatic, so American. In a time when charlatans hide behind talk of family values and desecrate democracy, my frustration rises and I need to get grounded. I've just finished Scott Nearing's The Making of a Radical and I'm all primed to act locally, to act responsibly. My angst and apathy is finally turning back to the constructive, and I'm fortunate to have the inspiration of Ken Kern. Yeah, a lot of things bother me, but I'm going to focus on what I can do to make things a little righter or rather leftier.

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