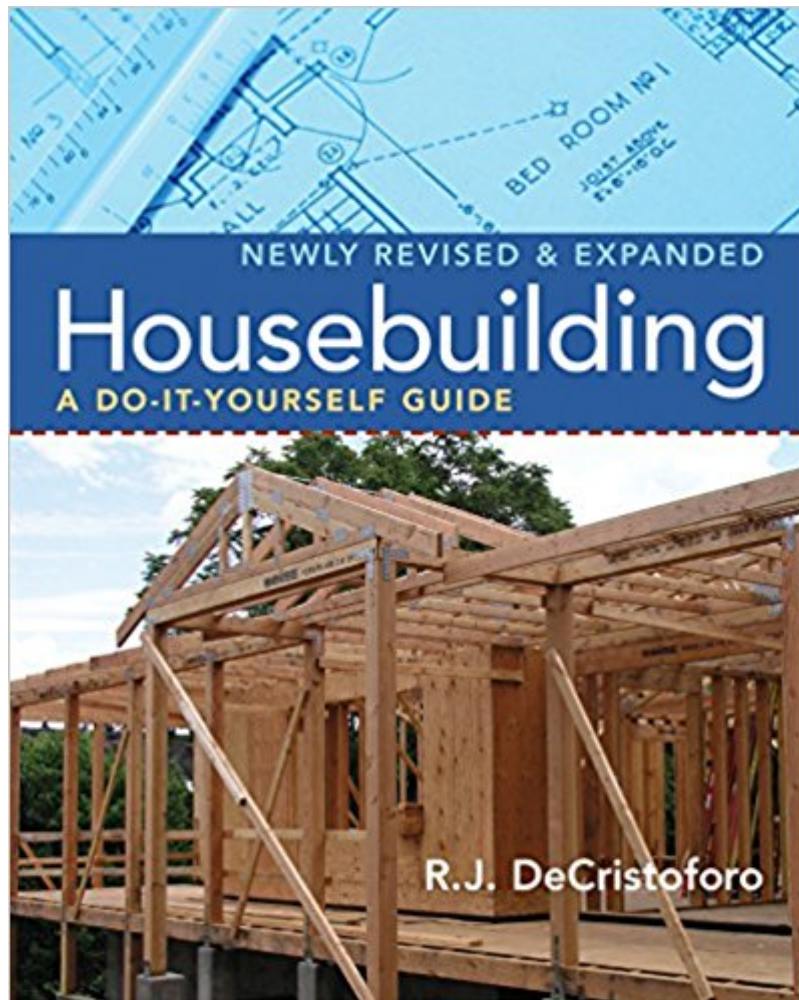




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Housebuilding: A Do-It-Yourself Guide, Revised & Expanded



Synopsis

Housebuilding has always been the book of choice for prospective home builders; and with this extensive, thoughtful revision, it becomes a resource readers will continue to depend on for years to come. In addition to showcasing 800 exciting new full-color illustrations and more than 50 color photographs, an improved two-column design makes the text easier to follow. Photo captions; not in previous editions; allow readers to browse through quickly. Also included for the first time: a chapter on environmentally friendly building alternatives; increased emphasis on safety; information on modern cordless tools; updated techniques, materials, and standards; energy-efficient options, from structural insulated panels to radiant floor heating; a current appendix of major manufacturers, resources, and websites; and much, much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most do-it-yourselfers are part-timers and only a few are likely to attempt to build a house from scratch, but in this Popular Science reworking of the author's 1977 book, they will find everything they need to know about home construction and improvement. In clear text accompanied by tables, photographs and line drawings, DeCristoforo describes the basics and many options concerning, for example, site selection, tools and materials, foundation, frame, roof, walls and partitions, doors and windows, stairways, chimneys, flooring, plumbing, heating and electricity. This manual is an excellent guide to more limited projects, such as refinishing an attic or adding a room, for making repairs or for dealing knowledgeably with hired professionals. Of particular interest is DeCristoforo's advice for using maximum solar energy and minimum outside fuel consumption. Copyright 1987

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Do-it-yourselfers will find everything they need to know; Publishers Weekly. It's still one of the easiest books to follow...It outlines how to get from planning to completion. Washington Post.

Pros: Easy read! I went through the entire bookstore in my hometown, this was one of the few books that really explained mostly everything necessary to build a house. I'm 55. In my 20's I worked on houses doing light to heavy duty home repairs, but I never took a course or school training and I wish I had. This book does a good job for covering all of the basics you'd probably learn with formal training, without the professor-talk. Let's say you couldn't read, but you can count money and read blueprints like some of my friends in the past have done. If you studied the pictures and memorized them, I'm willing to bet, there's a good chance you could build a solid, modern home, just from the pictures alone. Now this is a testament to how well this book was written by the now deceased author Mr. R.J. DeCristoforo. Over the years I would buy one of these 500-1000 page tomes' and might end up reading about 30-40 pages while it eventually would fall apart in the floorboard of an extended cab pick-up after several years of I'm going to read that thing one day. The difference between this book and the book written by educators is that this one is easy to read. It's like this guy is standing right next to you saying, you do this this way and you do that that way while showing step by step how all of the small details fit into the big picture.

Cons: Very few of these construction guides tell the name and descriptions of the tools of the trade manual or otherwise power tools. We could use some pictures of all of the tools necessary to build a house and at least a brief explanation of how to use them in a production environment, @ the jobsite!

On a side note: All Authors need to show more pages online of their book. I had to go to several bookstores in my surrounding area just to locate several good titles. I've written several titles on over the years. One thing I've learned: DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE!!! People (chances are very good: your competition) will tell you not to put too much information online because someone will still it. Hell, the people @ will even tell you: The more details you give of your book online= more sales. In the past I've gave away books for free and guess which ones sold the most? The free ones! Why? More people see your titles and most don't even buy. But it's always those few fans who for whatever reason would rather have a hard or soft copy of your work. So in summary, give us details. The more good details you give us, the better decisions we can make on your titles and If your particular book is not selling? Keep writing. Everyday! Eventually they'll sell, in BIC numbers!

This book is not a guide, it is an overview of the building methods. The content might all be there, but the presentation is in the format of a stream-of-conscious discussion about home building which you could achieve every morning by browsing wiki articles. This book is marketed to people unfamiliar with building, but I'm afraid it would be useless for someone with no experience at all. Chapters appear out of order from when you would actually perform the task (e.g., hanging windows and doors appears after siding the house) and I have yet to find the true step-by-step guide portion of the book. For a particular chapter, it is very unclear what procedure you perform first unless you read through the lines and in many cases read ahead to find out what goes below whatever it is you are installing. The pictures are nice as long as you can spot the errors/omissions (or determine what it is they are trying to show you in the first place [an arrow pointing to something important would be helpful]) and often the figure legends are an exact repeat of the language in the text, instead of using that space to point out a subtlety or other important item. This book needs to be restructured or given a new title. A useful "guide" needs to enumerate steps clearly and present them in a multitude of forms, i.e., the text, a table or chart. Then that step-by-step design needs to match figures. Yes, there are many ways to build a home, but this book attempts to discuss them all simultaneously so that you can no longer distinguish between them. The book attempts to do a lot, and fails at most of it. This is a review of how to build homes in America, not a guide.

I bought this book for my son who is interested in the topic. My husband, who owns a home improvement business, also likes to look at it. In fact, when my son opened it at Christmas, my husband said he had just seen this book at a friend's house. Said friend is building his house from start to finish. I bought it based on the good reviews.

This appears to be an excellent reference book. I haven't fully read all of the material but it has what I needed.

Love this book!! Everything inside this book is laid out clearly. The pictures are very helpful when you want to really grasp the technique being explained... i would recommend this book if you are looking to build your own house .

good book

This book has comprehensive info on framing a home, but written in easy-to-read format, with plenty of pictures. It has additional sections on electric, plumbing, heating and air, etc. Can be used by do-it-yourselfer to build a home, or to teach framing at either college or high school level.

So much information! Great Book!

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