

*A superior resource, covering so much ground that no other straw bale book does, with clarity and wit.
An excellent, vital addition to the thinking person's literature of straw bale. —Mark Piepkorn, The Last Straw*

Paul Lacinski and Michel Bergeron

SERIOUS STRAW BALE

A Home Construction Guide
for All Climates



A REAL GOODS SOLAR LIVING BOOK

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What's Serious About Straw Bale?



Three phases of straw bale in the city!
This straw bale residence in Montreal
was granted full approval under the
city's strict building codes.



Front cover photo by David Eisenberg.

Back cover photo by Michel Bergeron, who was a consultant on the design and construction.

Cover design by Ann Apell.

STRAW BALE HOUSES ARE BEAUTIFUL TO LOOK AT, comfortable to live in, and fun to build. Straw, a remarkable agricultural by-product, can be used in a surprising variety of climates, from the wet rainforests of the Pacific Northwest to the frigid hardscrabble of northern New England, if you know how to handle the "serious" issues of moisture, humidity, and temperature. In *Serious Straw Bale* Paul Lacinski and Michel Bergeron have created a comprehensive guide to help designers, contractors, and owner/builders everywhere decide if straw bale is a viable building option for their situation. Also included is hard-to-find information on plaster materials and techniques used to finish straw bale homes.

This is a book for skeptics and true believers, emphasizing careful planning and design work. The authors explain in compelling detail how moisture and temperature affect straw and other natural building materials. The versatility, flexibility, and affordability of straw bale (once thought suitable only for arid desert climates) have captured the imaginations of builders everywhere.

Although the use of straw as a building material dates back thousands of years, until recently its use was restricted to ecological building pioneers. Increasingly, building-code officials, banks, and insurance companies accept straw bale. Lacinski and Bergeron have consolidated, updated, and broadened the body of available information to show how straw bale houses can be enjoyed from coast to coast and border to border.

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