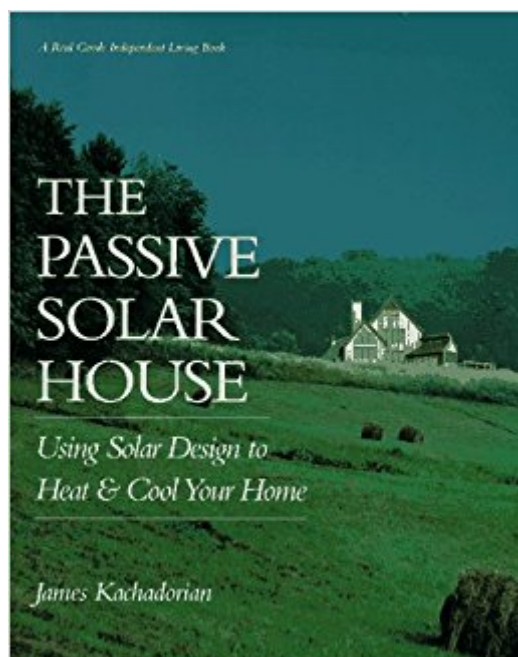




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The Passive Solar House: Using Solar Design To Heat And Cool Your Home (Real Goods Independent Living Book)



Synopsis

This book offers a technique for building homes that heat and cool themselves in a wide range of different climates, using ordinary building materials available anywhere and with methods familiar to all building contractors and many do-it-yourselfers. A formerly patented design for author James Kachadorian's Solar Slab heat exchanger is now available for the use of anyone motivated by the desire to build a house that needs a backup furnace or air conditioner rarely if ever. This is a building book for the next century. Applicable to a diversity of regions, climates, budgets, and styles of architecture, Kachadorian's techniques translate the essentials of timeless solar design (siting a home in harmony with nature, using windows as solar collectors, achieving year-round comfort by balancing good insulation with healthy supplies of fresh air) into practical wisdom for today's new generation of solar builders.

Book Information

Series: Real Goods Independent Living Book

Paperback: 220 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing Company; 1st US Edition 1st Printing edition (May 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0930031970

ISBN-13: 978-0930031978

Product Dimensions: 10 x 8 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #961,215 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Energy Efficiency #311 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning #1754 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Sustainable Living

Customer Reviews

Published in concert with the Real Goods Trading Company of California, this book explains in detail the whys and wherefores of a particular form of passive solar design, formerly patented but now in the public domain. The patent was held by the author and used while he was president of Green Mountain Homes, a fabricator of post-and-beam kit homes. The science he used and describes here is settled and elegant, even quaint, and is detailed to a degree that could be off-putting to some readers. On the bright side, the enthusiasm he brings to the subject is useful,

even to those prospective homebuilders who may not be interested in solar heating and cooling. The book is suffused with a sensitivity to environmental issues of all sorts, a useful perspective in these resource-limited times. An essentially simple book, elegant in presentation and forceful in argument; recommended for extensive scientific (for the references and associated calculations) and/or broader home-building collections. ?Alexander Hartmann, INFOPHILE, Williamsport, Pa. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

For the past ten years *The Passive Solar House* has offered proven techniques for building homes that heat and cool themselves, using readily available materials and methods familiar to all building contractors and many do-it-yourself homeowners. True to this innovative, straightforward approach, the new edition of this best-selling guide includes CSOL passive solar design software, making it easier than ever to heat your home with the power of the sun. Since *The Passive Solar House* was first published, passive solar construction expert James Kachadorian has perfected user-friendly, PC-compatible software to supplement the design process explained in the book by allowing homeowners/designers to enter the specifications of their design and see how changing a variable will affect its energy efficiency. This is the building book for a world of climbing energy costs. Applicable to diverse regions, climates, budgets, and styles of architecture, Kachadorian's techniques translate the essentials of timeless solar design into practical wisdom for today's solar builders. Profiles of successful passive solar design, construction, and retrofit projects from readers of the first edition provide inspiration to first-time homebuilders and renovators alike.

Kachadorian knows passive solar building in New England and presents what he knows well. Those looking to build in the southwest or southeastern United States (or elsewhere) could certainly benefit from passive solar principles, but probably won't find much specific help here. I am still looking for the book that presents the subject of passive solar broadly. There seem to be many applications and forms for passive solar heating/cooling/lighting to be explored, especially in conjunction with other forms of sustainable building. I would highly recommend *Alternative Construction* from Wiley Publishers for those interested.

It is amazing how many houses are plopped down in this country with no consideration of the sun. After reading this book, it becomes apparent that even if we built the same houses, but simply oriented them with respect to the sun (i.e., windowed rooms facing south, closets on the north wall, etc.) we could make drastic reductions in our consumption of natural resources. The book has

general information on site selection, house layout, etc. but also details a manner of building involving forgoing a basement for a floor of concrete (for thermal mass), window placement and insulating shutters. During the day, the house will not overheat because the 'solar slab' soaks it up, while at night recirculation techniques are outlined that make this heat available and comfortable at night. The book also includes all the formulas used in the calculations of thermal mass, window sizing, etc. Even if you don't plan on building the house in this book, I got some great ideas involving placement of a hearth (a vertical thermal mass) in front of windows to put the sun to work minimizing the need for heating fuel. If you are planning a house, I'd highly recommend this book.

This is a well-written book about passive solar design. The author easily convinces you that he knows what he is talking about. Facts, formulas, calculation charts and instructions: he gives you all you need to plan and build your own passive solar home ... and get about half of your heating and cooling costs for free from the sun. Live with nature, design with nature, whatever. Buy the book and read it. It is long over due (about 35 years!). I gave away my copy and bought another one for friends, then I ordered the latest book authored by James Kachadorian.

Very comprehensive guide to passive solar for residential applications.

This should have been the first book I purchased on this topic. However binding weak, pages falling out.

I was disappointed that the content was not as current as I wanted. I didn't learn anything new.

Fast shipping. Item as described.

Most of the book discusses the author's (admittedly clever) passive solar designs. I learned a considerable amount from the book, but would have appreciated more information about other types of passive solar homes, such as earth sheltered or single-story designs. Well worth the time it takes to read it, but I hope that there is a 2nd edition.

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