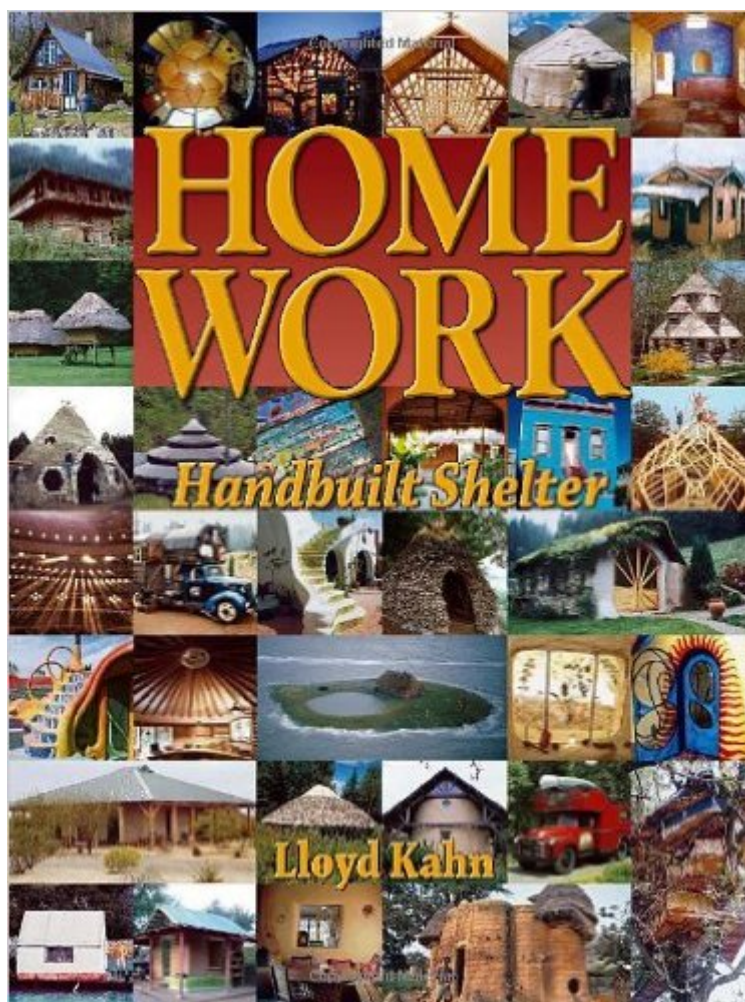


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# Home Work: Handbuilt Shelter



## Synopsis

Master builder Louie Frazier's Japanese-style pole house in Northern California, reachable on a 500' cable across a river / Ian MacLeod's handbuilt stone house in South Africa, where baboons jump on the roof at night / Ma Page's bottle house in the Nevada desert / artist Michael Kahn's semi-subterranean sculptural village in Arizona / Bill and Athena Steen's strawbale houses / Ianto Evans' cob houses in Oregon / the Archlibre group of countercultural builders in the French Pyrenees / Bill Coperthwaite's spectacular 3-story yurt in the Maine woods / Bill Castle's finely-crafted log home and sauna in the NY Appalachians / a commune in the Tennessee mountains / the "Flying Concrete" brothers in Mexico and their far-out sculptural structures / Barns in California, Washington, and Connecticut / Photo-essays of Lloyd Kahn's trips to Nevada, the Mississippi Delta, Costa Rica, Nova Scotia, and Baja California / Photos of buildings all over the world by photographers Yoshio Komatsu and Kevin Kelly + more, lots more. . . I get excited just listing these things! -LKPS SHELTER, it turns out, had a major influence on builders, and included are buildings our 1973 book inspired, so this is truly a sequel.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Shelter Publications (April 20, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0936070331

ISBN-13: 978-0936070339

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 9 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (62 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

After years of waiting, I finally held a copy of Home Work: Handbuilt Shelter by Lloyd Kahn in my hands. I have rarely been this enthusiastic about a book, and not just because I am in it! Ever since his first publication of Shelter in 1973 (which I also contributed to), Lloyd has been collecting imagery and stories for this eventual sequel. Shelter, a black and white over-sized catalog of

unusual building, has become legendary as a book of inspiration for several generations of free-spirited home builders. The fact that it is still in print after 30 years attests to the durability of its significance. This seminal book heralded the emergence of geodesic domes and strawbale homes, as well as the influence of vernacular building styles from around the world on North American architecture. With *Home Work*, Lloyd has gone beyond the glory of his earlier work in many ways. Not only does it seem more comprehensive, but it is almost entirely in color. This is a sumptuous coffee table book that will likely not spend much time on the table, since it is so intriguing you just want to pick up and browse through it. Every page is chock full of fun, unusual, lyrical, quaint, artistic, humble, elegant, practical, colorful, whimsical, well-crafted, funky, traditional, and outlandish buildings that were lovingly built by the hands of those who reside there. All of this is presented with Lloyd's casual style of layout and commentary that is reminiscent of a scrap book. Many of the photos are actually collages of several exposures spliced together to create expansive murals. Flipping through the pages of *Home Work* will take you back to the early day of hippie huts and forward to the cutting edge of natural building technology.

This is the best book of its type that I have encountered. There are a lot of people out there building interesting structures with their own hands in their own way. For those who either are doing this or aspire to it, there isn't much out there in the way of books or cheerleading. '*Home Work*' focuses largely on interesting homes built by baby-boomers who may or may not call themselves hippies, but are generally coming out of the 'back to the land' movement of the 60's and 70's that is generally associated with that subculture. This may or may not have been intentional on the part of the author. There is also a heavy West-coast bias at work. Every builder profiled seems to have a sauna & a beard and I could swear there's a pot plant in the foreground of one of the photos. Honestly the stuff that the hippies started building 30 years ago is probably the cream of the 'interesting' owner-built homes in America. They had the will to build on their own, the low budgets that force creativity and building codes in rural areas were not quite so common as they are today. The timing was just right. Lloyd Kahn has found some of the coolest buildings that resulted from that hiccup of pioneering in the modern era, photographed them beautifully and humanized the builders. Kahn takes time out half way through the book to celebrate simply-built structures and the joy of encountering them by presenting a series of photographic essays documenting his travels through regions thick with soulful buildings. Do you find yourself slowing down when you drive past solemn timber-framed barns or ramshackle sheds? Lloyd Kahn understands you. He has thoughtfully provided a number of pages of 'barn porn' for the junkies among us.

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