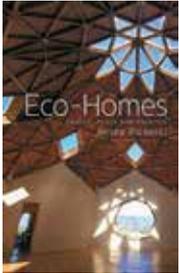




# Reviews...



## Eco-Homes

### *People, Place and Politics*

Jenny Pickerill

RRP \$70. ISBN 9781780325309

Published by Zed Books (2016). UK

[www.jennypickerill.info](http://www.jennypickerill.info)

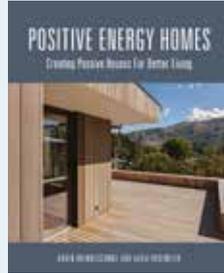
Jenny Pickerill is a Professor in Environmental Geography at the University of Sheffield, England. She is particularly interested in inspiring grassroots solutions to environmental problems; in this case, sustainable eco-housing.

The book is written in such a way as to appeal to academics and practitioners in the field of eco-housing, as well as to owner builders and the average layperson interested in the topic.

Approaching the problem from three angles – people, places and politics – she delves deeply into the social, geographical and political issues, teasing out the reasons for the relatively slow uptake of eco-housing, despite the benefits being known for decades.

Focussing on owner built eco-housing, through the use of 34 case studies from seven countries, it provides an international perspective of affordable eco-housing solutions.

*'While it is unashamedly an academic piece of work, based on years of empirical fieldwork interpreted using geographical and sociological theories, its findings often also point to practical ways forward.'*



## Positive Energy Homes

### *Creating Passive Homes for Better Living*

Robin Brimblecombe and Kara Rosemeier

RRP \$60. ISBN 9781486303762

Published by CSIRO Publishing (2017). AUS

[www.publish.csiro.au](http://www.publish.csiro.au)

Zero energy homes have been the focus of sustainable living efforts for a while, but the move is now towards positive energy homes – those that produce more energy than they consume, allowing you to sell that excess back to the power companies, to share via community networks, or to power an electric vehicle.

Using the Passive House standard as the basis for creating positive energy homes, this book provides a guide to the elements of a building that influence energy consumption, such as airtightness, insulation, humidity, thermal bridges, heating and cooling, and ventilation.

Chapters focus on one area of Passive House design at a time, covered thoroughly with photos, diagrams and examples to aid understanding. An additional list of resources is included at the end of each chapter.

Apart from the physical aspects of the building envelope itself, topics such as *Light, views and connection with the environment* and *Appliances* are also covered, as well as a comprehensive *Toolbox* to help with designing your home. After all, a healthy happy home is more than just walls, windows and a roof.



## Sustainable Compromises

### *A Yurt, a Straw Bale House, and Ecological Living*

Alan Boye

RRP \$70. ISBN 9780803264878

Published by Nebraska Press (2014). USA/UK

[www.nebraskapress.unl.edu](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu)

Two seemingly separate stories are wound together around the common thread of ecological living. 23-year-old Alan, broke and idealistic, builds himself a yurt in the desert, where he lives alone for a year without electricity or running water. 35 years later, with wife Linda, he embarks on the journey of building a small, inexpensive, off-grid and environmentally sound house.

Building the straw bale house was an ongoing series of compromises between their green ideals and the restraints of time and money.

While each stage of the build is covered – design, water, foundations, solar access, materials – this is not a step-by-step manual on how to build. Rather, it is a guide on how to manoeuvre along the rocky road that building often entails. It is intertwined with life events and the lessons that have all helped to shape the decisions and compromises made along the way to achieving the dream of living the life they want to live.

A postscript section *Mistakes were made* details the items of the design and build that are not working as they had hoped, along with possible future solutions to these.