

The LAST STRAW

The International Quarterly Journal of Straw Bale and Natural Building

ALL ISSUES OF THE LAST STRAW JOURNAL ARE AVAILABLE IN PRINTVERSION
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**Issue #41 - Spring 2003
Costs & Budget**

Value vs. Cost, Proper Planning for an Accurate Budget, Be Your Own General Contractor, SB Home Construction Costs, Cost Savers, Calculating SB Wall Costs

**Issue #42 - Summer 2003
New Systems**

High-density Straw, Baled Paper, Plastic, Carboard, Tires, Vaults, Prefab Bale Walls

**Issue #43 - Fall 2003
A Case for Clay**

Earthen plasters: why, how we should use them; Soil science: soil, plaster and clay testing; Plater recipes; Decorative plastering.

**Issue #44 - Winter 2003
A World Tour of Strawbale**

News from around the world - Australia, Belarus, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Israel, Iraq, Mexico, Mongolia, The Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Siberia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, USA.

**Issue #45 - Spring 2004
Living with Straw**

SB Homeowner Survey, All about Cracks (maintenance), Natural Paints, Post-Occupancy Evaluation, House Tour Etiquette, A Fire Story, Fire Safety Testing/Reports, Electrical Wiring, Hanging on Bale Walls

**Issue #46 - Summer 2004
We Did It This Way**

A Simple Top Plate for Load-bearing Walls, A Rubble Trench Foundation, Simple Window Bucks & Sills, Three Bale Wall Connections, Details for a Light Post-and-Beam System, A Concrete Bond Beam Detail, What's Behind Those Damp Patches?

**Issue #47 - Fall 2004
A Summer of Gatherings**

Getting Trained in SB and Natural Building, Teaching Natural Building to Youth,

Financing Straw-bale Projects, Tricks of the Trade: Tree Planting Pouches, Design & Instrumentation of an Experimental Building, The Rice Hull House, ISBBC-04, Natural Building Colloquium-East, First European NB Colloquium

**Issue #48 - Winter 2004
Sustainable Systems**

The Big Picture: Defining "Eco-sensible" Design; Annualized Geo-Solar: Heating Our Homes with Sunshine, Natural Ventilation: Let There be Air, Fresh Air; Renewable Energy: A Perfect Fit with SB; Down the Drain: What About Waste Water?; The Bale Screws: Keeping Things Tight; Casein Glue

**Issue #49 - Spring 2005
Myths and Realities**

SB is cheap, SB construction is only for owner/builders, SB walls "breathe," Wet bales will dry out, SB bldg is easy, & more, Moisture Discussion, Silicate Paint, Milling Bales, Exterior Insulation, Electrical Boxes

**Issue #50 - Summer 2005
Elements of Design**

Meeting Design Goals with Straw Bales, Design Without Design, Designing Small, Potential Savings from Alternative Construction Method, What is...sustainability, green building, natural building & appropriate technologies; Bale Preparation, Tips about Bales

Issue #51- Fall 2005

A SB & Natural Building Sampler
Tractor Cob; Strawbale and Natural Building Well Suited to Hybrid Design and Construction; An Update of SB Construction Efforts in Mongolia, SB? Yes! But Differently; In Search of the Straw-bale Goddess; Lime and Straw: A Symbiotic Relationship

**Issue #52 - Winter 2005
Natural Materials and Building**

Comparison of Building Materials, The Case for Natural Building, Cob, Balecob, PaperCrete, Ecomposites, EcoNest (Clay/Straw), Building Materials from the Sea - Mussel Shells and Seagrass, Magic Walls (SB privacy & garden walls), Privacy Walls and Fences (photographs), Bamboo Joinery Design, Bamboo Earns ICC Approval, Earth Plaster Goes Mainstream, Earthen Floor (Step-by-Step)

Issue #53 - Spring 2006

Know Thy Straw Bales: What have we learned? Testing & Research Update
SB Construction - What Have We Learned?, Straw-bale Sound Insulation & Acoustics, Straw Bale Cousins, Moisture Basics & SB Moisture Basics, Straw Samples Tested by Delmhost Company for Accuracy of Moisture Meter, Another Evolution of Moisture Sensors, Seismic-resistant Straw-bale Walls, Plaster Testing, Quick In-Quick Out Concept

**Issue #54 - June 2006
The Status of SB Code and Permitting Worldwide**

The Status of SB Codes and Permitting Worldwide; Primary U.S./International Sources and Quotes from Sources; Links for SB Codes, Guidelines, and Documentation; Table of SB Building Codes, Guidelines, and Mandates in the U.S.

**Issue #55 - September 2006
Natural Materials and Building II**

Why We Build with Earthbags; Cordwood Masonry, Bousillage; EarthPlastered Concrete Block Wall; Garden Wall Experiment; How to Build a Straw-bale Wall; Straw/clay update; Ebonite Fire Test; Straw-bale Home in Idaho, Straw-bale Studio; Strawbale Over Wood Frame Floors; Carpeting as a Base for Plaster; Sealing an Earthen Floor, Developing a SB Panel Wall

System; Compressed Straw Panels, Natural Building Materials Showrooms

**Issue #56 - December 2006
Ecovillages, Communities and Cohousing**

Housing Our Society: Options for Cohousing, Ecovillages and Cohousing: Aldinga & Rosneath - Australia, Dancing Rabbit - Missouri, Emerald Earth, Forty Oaks & Two Acre Wood - California, The Farm - Tennessee, Ithaca - New York, Cohousing and Communities: Sustainable Living Solutions, The Need to Connect, Cordwood How-To, The China Trip, Strawbale in Pakistan, ISBBC Canada 2006

**Issue #57 - March 2007
Then and Now**

This issue includes updated versions of some previously published articles to illustrate how things were Then and how they are Now. Plus: Earthbag Structures in disaster and poverty-stricken areas, Finishing bale walls with siding (rain screens), Thatching with Cattails, Used Pool Liners as roof membranes, Waste Wood Columns: Turning scrap into structure, Lessons of a Mixmaster (with recipes), Truth Windows, Mandalas and Straw Bales.

**Issue #58 - June 2007
Water Conservation and Management**

Catchwater/Rainwater Harvesting, Greywater Retrofit, Water Storage Jars, What is Permaculture?, Microhydro Power, Water Storage for Off-grid Living, Planted Filter, Rain Chains, Outdoor Showers, Bamboo Design for Affordable Housing Project, The Lone Oak Bale Building, Bale-wall Airplane Hangar and more...

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The Best of TLS Issues #1-40 CD-Rom • Highlights from The First Ten Years

Issue #1 - Winter 1993

- An Architect's Notebook
- Eight-sided Bale House
- First Phase of Testing
- A Forest Sanctuary
- Shed Roof Problem
- Fire Safety

Issue #2 - Spring 1993

- Bamboo Pins
- Myths & Legends
- Seismic Straw
- Staining Concrete Floors
- SB Greenhouse

Issue #3 - Summer 1993

- Hay & Straw -Part I
- Lessons from the Fire
- Low-End SB Construction
- R-value
- Windows and Stresses
- Test Results
- Stud Wall with Straw Infill

Issue #4 - Fall 1993

- Documenting the Legacy
- Straw Conference U.K.
- Hay & Straw - Part II
- Gathering in Arthur

Issue #5 - Winter 1994

- Trailer Retrofit; Hybrids
- Straw in the Ceiling
- Building Codes, Testing, Research
- Earthquakes

Issue #6 - Spring 1994

- The French Experience
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- How Does it Stack Up?
- Bale Research Network
- SB Tepee

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- Bamboo Roof in Mexico
- Navajos Bale for Builders
- SB Privacy Walls; SB Castle
- Steel Frames

Issue #8 - Fall 1994

- SB & Moisture
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- Fire Safety
- To Parapet or Not

Issue #9 - Winter 1995

- Stuccos & Plasters
- Glorious Mud!
- Surfacing Walls, Finishing Bale Walls, Preparations for Stucco; Recipe Exchange; Lime Renders; Portland Cement Plaster
- Plastic Strapping

Issue #10 - Spring 1995

Constructive Women

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- STRAWomen
- Women Build Houses
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- Permaculture and SB
- Research, Testing, Codes

Issue #12 - Fall 1995

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- Trading Wages for Sweat
- Affordable SB Housing
- SB Comes to Mongolia
- SB Roof; Roofing Options
- Foundation Connections

Issue #13 - Winter 1996

Safely Gathered In

- An Ecological Accounting
- Designing with SB
- Nebraska-Style
- Designing Consciously
- Challenges to Design
- Passive Solar and SB
- A Home-Built Stucco Gun
- Two-Ended Bale Needle
- Building with Mini-Bales
- Light Clay-Straw
- Thatch and Thatching
- Cobbing it all Together
- Goodness of Mud
- Sustainability and Codes
- A Burning Issue

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Wading Into Mainstream

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- Code Officials Speak
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Options for Foundations

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- Brick and Bale, Bale Adobe, Bale and Cob; Sticks and Stones

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Around World w/80 Bales

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Wild with Hope

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Small Planet, Good Home

- Ecological Footprint
- Climate Design, Energy Conservation, Solar Heating/Cooling
- Rainwater Catchment, Greywater
- Constructed Wetlands
- Composting Toilets
- SB Retrofit
- Salvaged & Recycled Materials
- Straw-bale Patents

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Moisture: Enemy Within

- Threat to SB Housing
- Moisture Barriers
- SB In Heating Climates
- Stachybotrys Atra
- The Wet Truth, Wet Hazards
- Baled Floors And More
- Moisture Monitoring
- Homemade Meters
- Keeping Bales Dry

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Open To The Public

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Codes & Testing Update

- Sustainability & the Codes, International Code, Australia's Codes, Letter From An Inspector; Structural Test Results; Fuel-Use Report
- Straw-bale Arch Test
- Underground Bales
- Basement Bale Walls
- SB in Australia & NZ
- Baled Paper Blocks; Baled Kudzu
- Exo-skeletons, Corners, Compression, Outlets

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- A Simple Sturdy Wall
- Two-string Loadbearing; Load-bearing Hybrid
- Notes on Post-and-Beam
- Modified Post-and-Beam
- A Simple Rough-Buck
- Owner-Builder Kit
- Prefab Steel Framing, Steel and Straw Bales
- Building With Jumbo Bales
- Straw-bale Veneer
- Keyed Bale Frame
- Earthbags and Bales
- A Straw/Clay Sandwich
- Seismic Testing Program
- Staple Pullout Resistance
- Exterior Pinning Test
- Ecomaterials in Cuba
- Bamboo Architecture

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European SB Scrapbook

- Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, France, England, Poland, Belarus, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Romania, Kosovo, Italy, Portugal,

Austria, Belgium, Northern Ireland...

- Internat'l SB Conference
- Rainscreen Siding
- Lime Plaster, History of Cob, Cordwood Masonry, Thatching, Wattle-and-Daub

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Healthy Homes

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Integrating Materials & Systems

- A Simple SB Home
- Beyond the SB Home
- Natural Systems in Bldg
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- Bare Minimum Structures
- Combining Nat'l Materials for Energy Efficiency; Thermal Mass Heat; Energy and SB Walls; Composting Toilets
- Constructed Wetlands
- Aerobic Pumice Wick
- Earthbag Construction

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Lime Plaster

- The Role of Wall Coverings
- Selecting Lime Products; Lime Paste; Using Waste Limes for Plaster, Stucco, Mortars; Successful Lime Plaster; Limewash; Lime-Ash Floors; Stabilizing Earthen Materials w/ Lime
- Keeping SB Walls Dry

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Small Houses

- Journey To A Small Place
- Making SqFt Work Harder; Building In The Urban Calm; Small In The Suburbs; A Family-Sized House
- Indian Hand-Baled House; Bumps & Curves in Scotland; Living In Round Feet; Moore For Less

Why Size Matters

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- Designing for Cold Climates
- Importance of Being Airtight; Good Detailing Practices
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- Moisture in the SB Slab
- Cold Climate Cob; Cordwood, Earthberming & Masonry Stoves; Warm Floor Heating; A SB Hot Tub
- Canadian Military Workshop
- Reports from Poland, Turkey, Mongolia, & SB Conferences

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- The Function of Finishes
- Earth Building and Moisture
- Designing for Earth Plasters
- Mysteries of Mud Revealed
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- Carbide Lime; Waterproof Stucco; Stucco Pumping Iron; Earth-Cement Plaster; Gypsum

Plaster on SB; Testing Plaster Permeability

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- SB as Stressed Skin Panel
- Thoughts on Good Detailing
- Self-draining Foundations, Pier Foundation, Rammed Tyre Foundations

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Solar Solutions

- Passive Solar Heating, Cooling, Design, Passive Solar Resources, Solar Roof Design
- Thermal Mass Applications; Backup Heating Systems; Masonry Heaters; Integrated Design
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- Building Natural Builders

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- Producing Bales on the Farm
- Mainstreaming in the UK
- Nat'l Building Commercially
- SB Open to the Public

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SB & Education

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- Mexican Home; Play yards: Naturally Built Environments
- Strawbale Meets Waldorf Education; Promoting Educational Stewardship; Tierra Madre Learns Important Lesson; Working with Students
- Homemade Plaster Sprayer Plans; Lime Plastering Lessons
- SB Shop/Lumber Link Frame
- Owner-Built in Colorado

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The Red Tape Issue: 10th Anniversary

- TLS Turns Ten!
- Defending Loadbearing Construction
- Breaking Down Barriers
- Insurance, Codes, Financing, Documentation
- Infrared Look at Bale Walls
- Project Pages; Wild & Crazy Scheme Column

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