From dream to reality

creating a healthy, beautiful natural home
by Elke Cole
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house design 101
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* what do you do?
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* what do you do?
* how do things relate?
house design 101

* what do you do?
* how do things relate?
* at what time of day?
house design 101

- what do you do?
- how do things relate?
- at what time of day?
- being in and going through spaces
let the sunshine in
let the sunshine in

daylight when you want it
let the sunshine in

daylight when you want it

warmth when you need it
affordability: keep it small
natural materials

- locally available
- non toxic
- easy to work with
- ecologically harmless

examples:
earth: cob, light-clay, adobe
fibre: straw bales, wool
wood: timber, logs, lumber
finishes: clay, lime, casein
straw bales

benefits:

• highly insulative
• thick, breathable walls
• can be loadbearing
• owner builder friendly
bale raising
Finishing strawbale walls with earthen plaster

step 1: bodycoat

step 2/3: finish coat & clay paint
strawbale houses
building Cob

benefits:
- high thermal mass
- local, unprocessed materials
- easily sculpted
- builds community too!
- accessible
cob houses
the hybrid house

combining for maximum benefits:

• insulate the North side
• thermal mass to the south
• light weight on top
O.U.R. Ecovillage demonstration site and education centre
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permaculture
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natural building

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sustainable food

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How to get help

- take a workshop
- early connection with building department
- work with professional to plan
- host a workshop
Thank you

* www.elkecole.com
* www.ourecovillage.org
* www.greenplan.ca
* www.nbnetwork.org
* www.cobworks.com