

Title: Building on our Past
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A book that combines the ingenuity of our ancestors with the latest advances in technology and ecological awareness.

A redefining of our environmental responsibilities is encouraging a fresh approach to our natural resources. In *Building On Our Past*, Peter Hancock looks at the best practices from our rich architectural heritage and considers the incorporation of modern innovations. The aim is to create beautiful, yet thermo-efficient and sustainable, new buildings. He shows how centuries of technological developments can often be improved with the latest materials, inventions and construction techniques, to be used in modern, sustainable and ecologically sensitive structures.

Designed for a non-specialist audience, *Building On Our Past* aims to be both practical and inspirational with objective advice and an overview of what can be, and has been achieved. It enables home-builders and developers to formulate ideas and plans in advance of consulting professional designers and architects. It looks at practical ways in which both new and old ideas can be incorporated into 21st century buildings.

Building On Our Past is an essential guide for the individual builder or established developer who wishes to use environmentally sensitive technologies in a new building or restoration project. Each chapter takes a particular theme, examines traditional construction methods and how they work, then looks at the way these have been improved with modern materials and technology. These elements are supported by real life case studies.

The choice of materials and construction methods continues to open up fresh and exciting possibilities. There has never been a greater awareness of our environmental responsibilities, or a better time to act.

Details of recent government and independent schemes designed to promote sustainable buildings are also provided. From thatched roofs and cob walls, solar heating and wind turbines, or underfloor heating and heat pumps, the book reveals how both tried and tested ideas can be used alongside cutting-edge technology to create beautiful yet thermally efficient and sustainable buildings that meet the needs of the twenty-first century.

The book is loaded with practical advice and has the advantage that Peter is a clear thinker and a great communicator, being a professional teacher and an established author.