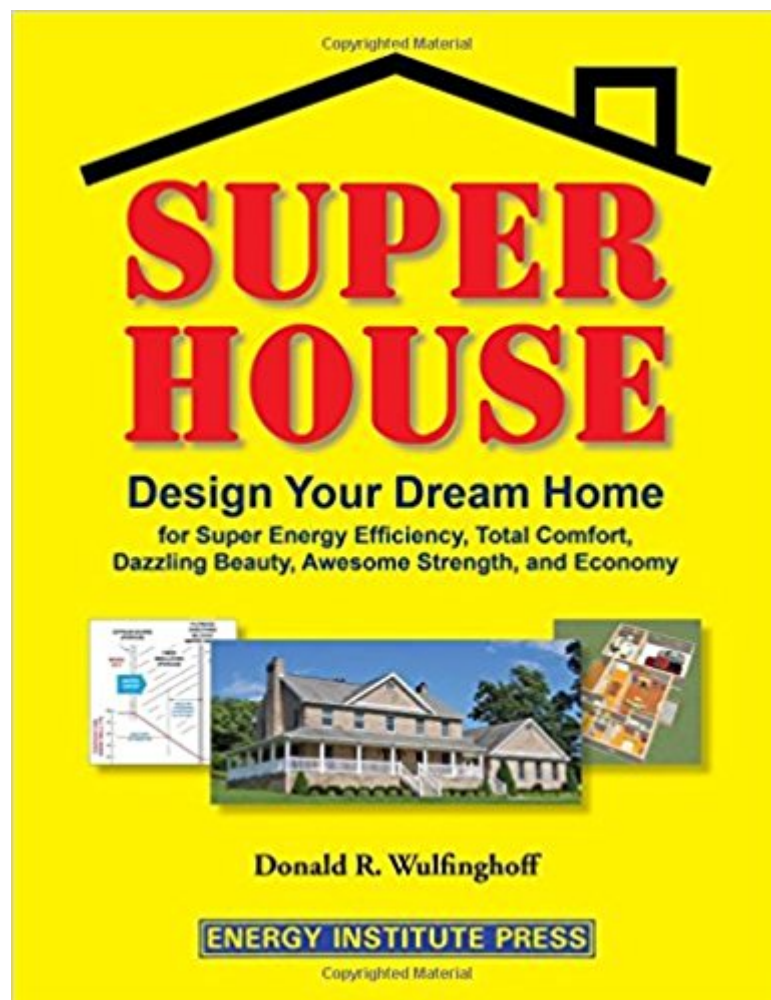




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# Super House: Design Your Dream Home For Super Energy Efficiency, Total Comfort, Dazzling Beauty, Awesome Strength, And Economy



## Synopsis

SUPER HOUSE was written to empower anyone to create an ideal home. If you want to design a new home or make an addition to an existing home, it leads you step-by-step through everything you need to know. For renovations and repairs, you will find the critical information that guarantees a perfect job. If you are buying an appliance, Super House advises you how to make the best choice. If you are shopping for a home on the market, Super House

## Book Information

Paperback: 700 pages

Publisher: Energy Inst Pr; 1st edition (March 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0965792633

ISBN-13: 978-0965792639

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 8.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #187,284 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #195 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Residential](#) #360 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Sustainable Living](#) #427 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Design & Construction](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book allows readers with little to no experience to design the optimal house for their location, community, and family needs. Donald R. Wulfinhoff maximizes the relationship between our homes and our lives in his enormously helpful design guide, Super House: Design Your Dream Home for Super Energy Efficiency, Total Comfort, Dazzling Beauty, Awesome Strength, and Economy. Planning and building a house from scratch or even undertaking a simple addition or renovation can be daunting in scope. Yet through flow charts, checklists, worksheets, bulleted lists, and ample photographs, Super House breaks down big-picture issues such as architectural styles while also addressing nitty-gritty details such as the optimal placement of a toilet. For ease of flipping, the eight design steps of Super House are color-coded on each right page. Wulfinhoff devotes the most coverage to creating a superstructure that is, a house that is resilient to damage by nature, crime, and age. The second largest topic is arguably the most fun of the book: planning the home's layout and style. Here Wulfinhoff provides plenty of visuals of well-executed style

elements, such as groupings of windows. Aesthetics, efficiency, and practicality are the foundations of Super House. For example, Wulfinghoff encourages those building a home to go stand on the land prior to construction to orient the layout and exploit the best views. He also suggests placing rarely used rooms like formal dining rooms and guest bedrooms toward the front of the house to serve as a buffer to a busy street. He likewise encourages placing rooms in clusters that streamline efficient heating and cooling throughout the day and night. In place of a locked safe, Wulfinghoff believes that every house should have a strong room with reinforced walls and doors in which to store valuables. Wulfinghoff's tone is genial and authoritative. He has worked in the construction field for years, and he quickly earns the readers trust through exhaustive detail. --Foreword

ReviewsEnergy-efficiency expert Wulfinghoff brings a lifetime of experience in home design and efficiency to this hefty volume. Breaking the process of building a new home or retrofitting an existing one into eight steps, from planning to completion, Wulfinghoff focuses on choice of materials and systems that work well and support energy conservation and economy. He includes sections on choosing a builder, selecting doors and windows, plumbing, heating/cooling, and lighting. A lengthy section discusses alternative energy sources solar, wind, geothermal and earth-sheltered construction. Without sacrificing comfort or spending excessive amounts of money, it is possible to design a house that is far superior to those widely available, Wulfinghoff asserts. ... the volume addresses almost any question a DIYer might have while building or renovating a home. Worksheets and checklists provide guidance for each phase of the process. --Publishers

WeeklyImpressively well written, exceptionally well organized, Super House: Design Your Dream Home for Super Energy Efficiency, Total Comfort, Dazzling Beauty, Awesome Strength, and Economy is thoroughly 'user friendly' in content and presentation. Enhanced with 620 full color illustrations, English and metric units, and a 3-color index, Super House is very highly recommended for personal, professional, community, and academic library architecture collections. This is the ultimate instructional guide and manual on home design and specifically designed for readers of all backgrounds. Super House includes worksheets, checklists, and galleries of illustrations to provide the assurance that a first-time home designer needs. Each step recommends the best choices to consider. A bonus section explains alternative energy sources and technologies, and advises which to use and which to avoid. Super House will pay for itself the first time you use it. --Midwest Book Review

Donald Wulfinghoff has a mission to improve the quality of buildings. He taught the first courses on energy efficiency at the George Washington University, in the U.S. capital. His talks have been

attended by thousands from around the world. He was introduced on C Span as the world's expert on efficiency in buildings by Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, the respected sustainability sage of Congress. His Energy Efficiency Manual is the world's leading book on energy efficiency in buildings and industry. From the outset, Don recognized the quality of homes as a prime component of human wellbeing, and he has worked to optimize every aspect of home design. He was a pioneer in exploiting the synergy between energy efficiency, comfort, indoor health, structural strength, and fire safety. And, he is emphatic that energy efficient homes must also be beautiful, practical, and economical. He built his own home as a proving ground for several major innovations. Don is renowned for merging theory and practice in a way that is accessible to people of all backgrounds. Readers applaud his easy, conversational style. He doesn't resist droll observations, and he doesn't pull his punches. Don wrote this book for you. He understands your ambition to have an ideal home, and he wants you to bring that wish to reality. You and he will be spending a lot of time together. So, get ready and enjoy the ride!

Unbelievable detailed description of the critical choices i have to make to build my ultimate, function ,green home! This author knows his stuff and shares his knowledge and insight in this very comprehensive book. Any one of the chapters has an "ah ha" moment. I know from my experience as a realtor that any mistake along the way when building a home can be costly. It is exciting to find a guide that reviews problems and offers "best choice" suggestions. I have bookmarked a hundred selections for energy efficiency and many for durable materials that i wasn't aware of. I am no longer fearing the process of building my dream house, actually i am more excited than ever. This is a must have book if a new home is in your future.

Excellent book. A must have. Perfect for new house design, remodeling of your home, or when doing major repairs. Helps you understand the principles behind house construction. Helps you talk to your contractor or workmen.

Great book. Discusses everything you need to know to make informed decisions about your house.

When I first looked at a copy of Super House, I was amazed at its breadth and depth, better than anything I have encountered before. It is about 700 pages long, beautifully illustrated, and with the clearest presentation that I can imagine for so much subject matter. I kept dipping into the book like a kid in a candy store, finding interesting reading on almost every page. The book is a treasure.

title promotes it as a book on home design. However, only a fraction of potential Super House readers will actually use the book to design a new house. Most will use parts of it for smaller projects, for making repairs, and maybe even for selecting appliances. The book is organized to lead a do-it-yourself home designer through a sequence of eight design steps, each with its own chapter:

1. architectural layout and appearance
2. design of windows and skylights, and shading for them
3. the structure of the house
4. heating, cooling, and ventilation
5. plumbing fixtures, water heaters, and water filtering
6. lighting
7. selecting the appliances
8. dealing with contractors and architects.

Each of these eight chapters is a treasure trove of information, most of which can be used independently. An excellent index leads to almost any topic related to home design, critical construction issues, and routine repairs to replaceable items like windows and roofing surfaces. However, the book does not teach basic building skills, such as carpentry or electrical wiring. The book is about design, not construction. To learn the trade skills that you would need to actually build a house, get other books or get a job with a construction crew. The book really does pursue the goal of creating a home that is "ideal." In addition to optimizing the usual architectural and construction issues, the book seems determined to eliminate anything that would impair the long term comfort and pleasure of living in the house. For example, the book goes into detail about minimizing the hazards of radon, carbon monoxide, mildew, windstorms, burglary, and indoor air quality problems that originate in ducts and construction materials. If there is any important issue or minor improvement that has been left out, I haven't found it. An appendix deals with various energy sources that the author does not consider to be ready for prime time. The degree of detail varies among these. The explanations of wood fueled heating and geothermal heat pumps are probably the best introductions to those topics that you can find anywhere. Summaries of the various kinds of solar energy systems are shorter, but still enlightening. The author dismisses wind generators for individual homes in half a page. He also gives short shrift to straw bale houses, earth sheltered houses, log homes, going off the grid, and sewage recycling. This last part of the book may provide the greatest benefit for some readers by keeping them from making bad choices that are expensive and irreversible. I have done quite a lot of home renovation, and I have many friends with similar interests. So, I bought several copies of Super House to give to friends who will enjoy it. Probably each one will use the book in a different way, and each one will profit from it.

When you first look at the cover, it seems that it's either a Yellow Pages directory or How to build a House for Dummies. On those formats alone, it is a compendium of facts, advice, details and every

aspect of what it's going to take to make this house last longer, more efficient and be better built than the Pyramids at Giza in Egypt..Mr. Wulfinghoff seems to have scrutinized so many issues that, even after you have begun construction on a house built to spec or building a major addition or renovation, questions about HVAC, windows/doors efficiency, bath fixtures, efficient living spaces, mud rooms, storage and closets and one of the most important issues ... the kitchen.The kitchen is the most important, and most expensive, room in your house, Because of that, it demands a very thoughtful approach ... one that you will appreciate the day it becomes usable to 10-20 years beyond. Mr. Wulfinghoff will have you consider how the room will be utilized, whether you are the type of person who likes to entertain and have dinner parties or cater larger parties that will require adequate prep areas, cook tops with gas - continuous grates that allow you to slide a pot from one side of the burners to the other side without having to pick the pot up - or electric cook tops which include induction burners or high capacity burners. You may also be interested in wall oven(s) with adjunct warming boxes that will maintain proper holding temperatures.The next major consideration is refrigeration. Mr. Wulfinghoff prods you to think about how large it needs to be, whether filtered water and ice are important enough to add to the final price. Sooner or later, then more electronics you demand on an appliance, the more likely you will find it necessary to call an appliance repair co. and that will occur just after the warranty ends.The sink is also something that requires a thoughtful approach. Do you need a prep sink, and a prep area next to it? Are you going to be making pastry? If yes, you will need a section of the counter top to be marble. Marble has qualities that make it ideal for rolling out dough, due to its ability to be at least 4 degrees cooler than other counter tops. The faucet is also a consideration. When you are up to your elbows in food prep, turning the faucet on without your hands is now possible with several manufacturers offering faucets that will flow just by touching the downspout.Lastly, it would make sense to decide what type of washing machine you will need. As with EVERY appliance, be sure to look for the Energy Star for the most efficient appliance. The author insists that you go to the website that will explain how the appliances are graded and what are the most efficient units.By thoughtfully utilizing step 7, you will be able to decide how much utility, storage will be required and what you are maximum utility, storage and the most efficient appliances that will assist you in creating a space that will allow sufficient prep space and efficient the kitchen is relative to the placement of the appliances. Is the kitchen going to produce food for large parties yet still have a cozy space for quiet breakfasts that make you want to drink coffee/tea and read a newspaper or magazine with a view outside that, weather permitting, will allow you to eat in attached gazebo or Florida room. and join with the serenity of a well conceived landscape design that is dynamic in its year-round appeal (deciduous and evergreen) with plants

that will hand off flowering times so the view you have will always offer a new and developing character. This book covers all of these major aspects of how you are going to get the most out of your house. And, as other ideas, issues and on and on, this book will have answered your query as well as why the answer given is definitive. The book details how the house is situated so you get maximum exposure for sun to warm the house as well as the placement of shade trees and shrubs that will tone down the heat on hot summer days. As one reviewer quipped, this is not one that covers style. The book leaves that to you, the reader. Just acknowledge that whichever style you choose, will be enhanced by how those style features are incorporated into a house full of efficient heating/cooling systems, energy star appliances, tight windows and doors and everything else you might, or might not, think about the Super House book will likely have an answer for. The book Mr. Wulfinghoff has written is an invaluable tool and compelling enough to draw you in... and keep you until your question has been explained and possibly pique your curiosity to continue to the next step. Yes, I like this book and wish it had been written 30 years ago.

Don Wulfinghoff does it again: he assembled a definitive encyclopedia of energy-smart measures. This time, it's for the homeowner: opportunities to design, construct, operate, and repair a home in ways that reduce expense while ensuring comfort. The format of this book helps you to embrace a wheelbarrow-full of information. Color photos are plentiful. Inspired by the home improvement project books, the contents are color-tabbed for ease of navigation. Most importantly, Don leverages his deep technical knowledge with clear, straightforward text that speaks to us ordinary folk, relieving us of the political superstition that so often precludes meaningful conversation about energy optimization. Buy the book, and learn with confidence.

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