

# Window Manual

**W**indow technology has changed dramatically in the last 25 years, first with the introduction of insulated glass, then with new frame materials such as vinyl and clad wood, and again when high-tech coatings began to make windows even more energy efficient. *Residential Windows: A Guide to New Technologies and Energy Performance* (\$22 from W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 500 Fifth Ave., New York,

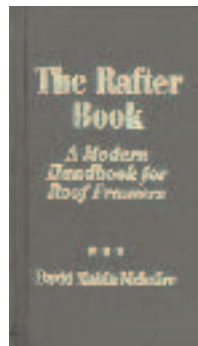


NY 10110; 800/233-4830; www.wwnorton.com) can help both builders and their customers make informed choices when trying to find the right window for the job. Drawing on research done at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, authors John Carmody, Stephen Selkowitz, and Lisa Heschong pack six chapters and five appendices into just over 200 pages that will answer almost any question imaginable concerning current window technology. The text does a good job of explaining the differences in window structure and design among various manufacturers, and identifies the most energy-

and cost-efficient windows for each U.S. climate. The book also provides information on window-related codes and standards, and the organizations that oversee these regulations.

## Roof Framer's Pocket Guide

The first 25 pages of David Mahin McIntire's *Rafter Book: A Modern Handbook for Roof Framers* (\$17.95 from The Rafter Book, P.O. Box 1142, Haiku, HI 96708) use clear illustrations to explain the terminology and methods for simple and complex roof framing. The remaining 100-plus pages are filled with rafter tables for roof pitches from 1/4/12 to 25/12 for spans up to 50 feet. Each table includes saw and framing square settings for common, hip, valley, and jack rafters, as well as for fascia boards, frieze blocks, and roof sheathing. The whole book measures just 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> by 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches, fitting easily into a toolbox or pocket.



## Tax Planner

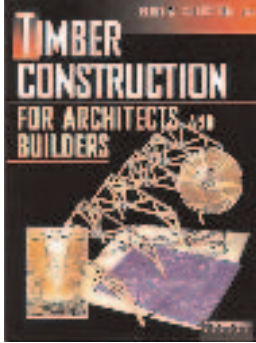
Michael Thomsett's *Contractor's Year-Round Tax Guide: Plan Your Business to Minimize Your Taxes* (\$26.50; Craftsman Book Company, P.O. Box 6500, Carlsbad, CA 92018; 800/829-8123; www.craftsman-book.com) not only explains construc-



tion-related tax regulations, it clarifies when builders should seek expert tax advice, then equips readers to evaluate the professional advice they receive. Readers can use either the two-page table of contents or the eight-page index to quickly locate tax topics from among the 30 chapters, which include types of business organization and accounting systems, buying vs. leasing equipment, taxable vs. non-taxable income, and deductible vs. non-deductible expenses. Useful examples as well as occasional tables help make the book easier to follow.

## Timber Framing's Delight

For those caught up in the timber framing renaissance of recent years, *Timber Construction for Architects and Builders* (\$60; McGraw-Hill, 11 West 19th St., New York, NY 10011; 800/262-4729; [www.books.mcgraw-hill.com](http://www.books.mcgraw-hill.com)) provides a hands-on approach to design and construction techniques while carefully avoiding extensive engineering tables or complicated mathematical equations. Author Elliot Goldstein consistently distinguishes heavy timber techniques from those of lightweight wood and structural steel frames, with specific design chapters focused on fasteners and connectors, joinery, trusses, and lateral bracing. Construction chapters cover estimating and bidding, shop drawings, and frame erection, and are supplemented by chapters on code-related issues. Photographs, illustrations, graphs, and charts are plentiful throughout the book, which also includes two useful case studies.



## FREE & CHEAP

### Septic System Overview

*The Book on Septics and Mounds* (\$5 from Herr Environmental, Inc., S14 W33511 Hwy. 18, Delafield, WI 53018; 414/968-2550; [www.herrenvironmental.com](http://www.herrenvironmental.com)) is a helpful 50-page primer that covers private on-site wastewater treatment. Separate chapters examine the planning, construction, and maintenance of both septic and mound systems and include information on evaluating and working with existing systems.

### Using APA-Rated Engineered Wood

Although limited to engineered wood products that are rated by the APA, the *Residential & Commercial Design/Construction Guide* contains helpful reference information for panels, glulams, and I-joists used in the design and construction of floor, wall, and roof systems. The 70-page guide explains the APA's grading system and how to properly spec engineered wood products as well as how to properly store and handle materials once they arrive at a job site. Specialty topics such as shear walls as well as fire- and wind-resistant construction are also included. For a copy, send \$4 to APA - The Engineered Wood Association (P.O. Box 11700, Tacoma, WA 98411; 253/565-6600; [www.apawood.org](http://www.apawood.org)).

