

Kitchen & Bathroom Manual

by Pete Young

The *Kitchen & Bathroom Installation Manual, Volume 1*, by Walter Stoepelwerth and Darrell Lewis, covers installation techniques and project management procedures for both remodeling jobs and new construction. The manual covers sales, design, estimating, and job-site work phases as well as the behind-the-scenes business systems involved in K&B contracting. Detailed graphics clearly depict design, construction, and installation issues; standard dimensions and clearances are also included, along with sample project checklists. Other manuals in the series provide in-depth coverage of other K&B topics, including project management, carpentry, plumbing, countertops, and cabinets. At \$50 each, however, Volume 1 of the general installation manual gives the best return for the price (National Kitchen & Bath Association, 687 Willow Grove St., Hackettstown, NJ 07840; 800/843-6522; www.nkba.org).



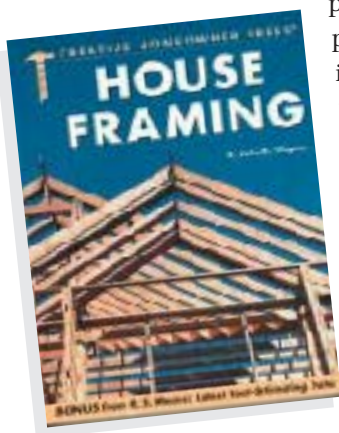
Framing and Finish Carpentry

Two new books make for welcome additions to your construction library. The first is John Wagner's recently compiled *House Framing* (\$20 from Creative Homeowner Press, P.O. Box 38, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458; 800/631-7795 x313; www.chp-publisher.com). Organized into three parts — planning and

preparing, building a house frame, and three sample projects from start to finish — this basic framing book is packed full of information, yet is easy to use and understand. The section on preparing for a job explains engineering concepts, safety issues, fasteners & connectors, reading blueprints, and more, and the sample projects cover out-of-the-ordinary issues, such as using steel studs in basements and building bay windows. The superb color illustrations are tied directly to subheadings in the text so you don't get lost bouncing from pictures to text. Several appendices are aimed at contractors and include cost-estimating aids and forms. Although *House Framing*

might be too basic for seasoned contractors, it is one of the best texts I have seen for new contractors or less experienced carpenters who are ready to take on more responsibility.

The second book, *Finish Carpentry* by William Spence, is suited to the professional carpenter. Like his earlier book on residential framing (*Builders Library*, 10/95), Spence brings a fresh perspective to a familiar subject matter by treating





it in a way that stresses professional craftsmanship. The book opens with sections on tools and safety before moving on to a subject-by-subject treatment of interior and exterior finish work, including moldings, doors, windows, wainscoting, wood flooring, stairs, drywall, cabinets, cornices, roofing, and siding. A whopping 650

detailed drawings and black & white photographs make it simple to visualize strategies and techniques. At \$20 (Sterling Publishing Co., 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016; 800/367-9692; www.sterlingpublishing.com), this book deserves serious consideration by any contractor or carpenter needing a finish carpentry reference.

Accessible Building Guide

The authors of *Building for a Lifetime: The Design and Construction of Fully Accessible Homes* (\$45 from Taunton Books, P.O. Box 5506, Newtown, CT 06470; 800/477-8727; www.taunton.com) have drawn on results from the L.E.A.D. 2010 research project (Laboratory for Efficient and Accessible Design for the year 2010) at the Institute for Technology

Development in Oxford, Miss. Anticipating the large numbers of baby boomers who will begin to hit retirement age around the year 2010, L.E.A.D. 2010 documented how people within a wide range of physical ability and age negotiated different residential building designs. *Building for a Lifetime* gives site and house design tips for creating practical residential living space for people with a wide

range of physical abilities. Accessibility is defined not only in terms of people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, but also in terms of the natural aging of all people. In that sense, accessibility is an issue all builders need to consider. Each of the 18 chapters has an extensive contact list and bibliography for pursuing additional information.



Concrete Manuals

One of the few new comprehensive guides on building with insulating concrete forms (ICFs) carries a Portland Cement Association endorsement. *Insulating Concrete Forms for Residential Design and Construction* (\$60 from McGraw Hill, P.O. Box 545, Blacklick, OH 43004; 800/262-4729; www.books.mcgraw-hill.com)

explains ICF components, design considerations, engineering principles, and assembly techniques. A product directory is included at the back of the book. Although somewhat dry, this utilitarian book includes photos, drawings, and tables to complement the text.

If you need a general reference on concrete and masonry, Ken Nolan's revised *Masonry & Concrete Construction* (\$25 from Craftsman Book Company, P.O. Box 6500, Carlsbad, CA 92018; 800/829-8123; www.craftsman-book.com) is a solid choice. The book covers site prep, concrete and mortar mixing characteristics, concrete footings, various foundation systems, reinforced masonry, and brick wall and veneer systems. Additional chapters cover other specialty issues, such as working with limestone, cleaning and painting brick, flashing, chimneys and fireplaces, floors, and pavements. A 50-page appendix on safety is informative on issues such as scaffold sizing. The book finishes with a detailed glossary and index.



FREE & CHEAP

Legal Help

The Surety Information Office (5225 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20015; 202/686-7463; www.sio.org) offers a series of ten free brochures on contract surety bonding for construction projects. If your company is considering getting bonded some time in the future, this might be a good place to start looking into the issue. Although some of the brochures are aimed at bankers, order all 10 to get the full picture.



Liability for problems on a project is typically defined in the original contract between a general contractor and a subcontractor, including risk transfer clauses. For help understanding this sometimes slippery contract language, the American Society for Concrete Construction (38800 Country Club Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331; 800/877-2753; www.asc-conc.org) puts out an inexpensive (\$4) bulletin, entitled *Risk Transfer: Insurance Bulletin #2*.



More on Masonry

The Portland Cement Association (P.O. Box 726, Skokie, IL 60076; 800/868-6733; www.portcement.org) offers two good technical pamphlets: *Recommended Practices for Laying Concrete Block* (\$11) and *Masonry Mortars* (\$5).

