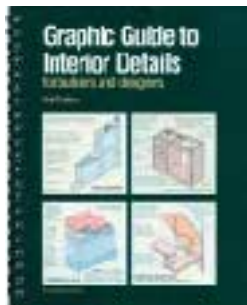


# Graphic Guides for Builders

by Pete Young

We can all use a visual explanation of residential construction details at one time or another. Rob Thallon has put together one of the best collections of drawings for frame construction and interior details. The *Graphic Guide to Frame Construction* (1991) and the *Graphic Guide to Interior Details* (1996) are both intended as reference books for builders

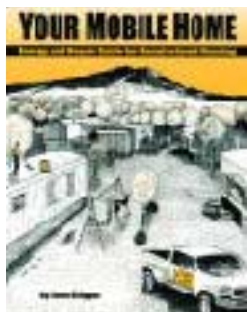


and designers (\$30 each, Taunton Press, P.O. Box 5506, Newtown, CT 06470, 800/888-8286). The frame construction book covers foundations, floors, walls, roofs, and stairs. The interior details book covers walls, ceilings, floors, cabinets, countertops, trim, and stairs, and has appendices on paints/coatings, composite panels, fire/safety codes, and sound reduction.

Both books are slightly over 200 pages. The obvious strength of these guides is the detailed drawings. In addition, each major subject is clearly introduced and each drawing is comprehensively explained.

## Prefab Housing Primer

Remodelers who find themselves adding onto or upgrading a manufactured house might want to consult *Your Mobile Home: Energy and Repair Guide for Manufactured Housing* (\$20; Saturn Resource Management, 324 Fuller Ave., N-13, Helena, MT 59601, 800/735-0577). In this well-written, one-of-a-kind



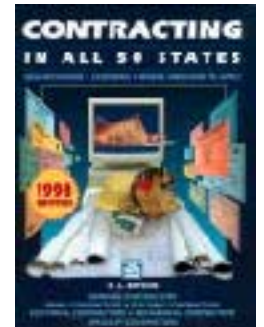
book, John Krigger organizes 15 chapters, system by system — foundations, floors, walls, doors/windows, roofs, heating, and so on — and provides good supporting pictures and drawings. The book details how manufactured housing is built and gives strategies for moving a prefab unit, tying down a mobile home to a foundation, and retrofitting insulation

into floors, walls, and roof spaces. The book finishes with a helpful glossary and index as well as various appendices on energy issues, wind storm resistance, code compliance, and maintenance.

## Contractors and State Regulations

*Contracting In All 50 States* (\$36, Craftsman Book Co., 6058 Corte del Cedro, Carlsbad, CA 92009, 800/829-8123; www.craftsman-book.com), by R.L. Bryson, is a comprehensive review of licensing procedures for contractors throughout the U.S. The

book devotes a chapter to each state, describing the licenses needed for all construction trades and how to obtain them, plus what types of tests, if any, are needed. If tests are involved, Bryson suggests other books as study guides. Special situations, such as pre-registration for state-funded project bids, are identified and explained. This somewhat expensive book is probably best suited for contractors working in multiple states.



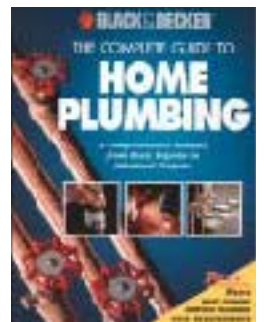
## Victorian Geometry

*Circular Work in Carpentry and Joinery* was written by George Collings in 1886. Karl Shumaker has revived this classic manual on Victorian period details by adding new illustrations and extensive annotations. The book (\$22; Linden Publishing, 336 W. Bedford, Suite 107, Fresno, CA 93711; 800/345-4447) follows a unique, two-column format. The inside columns contain the original text and illustrations without alteration. The outside columns contain Shumaker's added material, which assists in explaining various points from the original text. With this side-by-side treatment, Shumaker successfully bridges 100 years and allows present-day tradespeople to learn the highly skilled techniques of Victorian era carpentry and joinery. But beware, you'll need to remember at least some of your high school geometry, because this stuff gets a little complicated.



## Plumbing with Pictures

If you learn best by looking at pictures, then the *Complete Guide to Home Plumbing* is the plumbing book for you. Part of the Black & Decker series, this book covers planning and installing new plumbing, as well as replacing and repairing old plumbing. Packed with good color pictures from front to back, the book claims to meet current uniform plumbing code requirements. At \$20, it's a bargain to boot (Creative Publishing, 5900 Green Oak Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55343, 800/328-3895).



*continued*

## FREE & CHEAP

*Resources, continued*

### Job-Site Dumpster Tips

Send \$5 shipping to the NAHB Research Center (400 Prince George's Blvd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-8731, 800/638-8556) for a free copy of the *Residential Construction Waste Management: A Builder's Field Guide*. The main message of this field guide is that builders can save money and landfill space at the same time by minimizing waste during the framing and finishing of residential housing. As a first step, the pamphlet covers strategies for separating waste by material type. The guide then explains options for how to recycle waste, estimates how much money can be saved through recycling, and provides contact information for state agencies that can identify the recycling collection sites in each state.



### Lighting Research Center

Helping your clients choose the proper lighting could get easier, thanks to several free publications offered by the Lighting Research Center (LRC), located at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in upstate New York. LRC bills itself as the world's largest research and education center dedicated to lighting. Free publications include reports on compact fluorescent lamp products, dimming electronic ballasts, occupancy sensors, and reflector lamps. You can also order a free subscription to LRC's newsletter, "Lighting Future." Order online at [www.lrc.rpi.edu/request.html](http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/request.html), by calling 518/276-8176, or by writing to LRC at 877 25th St., Watervliet, NY 12189.

### Short Safety Handbook

Part of supervising a safe work crew is making sure they understand basic safety issues. The American Society of Concrete Contractors puts out a 20-page *Employee Safety Handbook* that briefly covers many universal construction safety concerns. Send \$2 to ASCC, 38800 Country Club Dr., Farmington, MI 48333, or call 800/877-2753.



### Energy Code Updates

If you're wondering what the current energy codes are in your state, point your Internet browser to *Building Codes Assistance Project*: [www.crest.org/efficiency/bcap](http://www.crest.org/efficiency/bcap). Once you've arrived at the BCAP Web site, click on the "Status of State Energy Codes Report" option and you'll find an index of most states.

