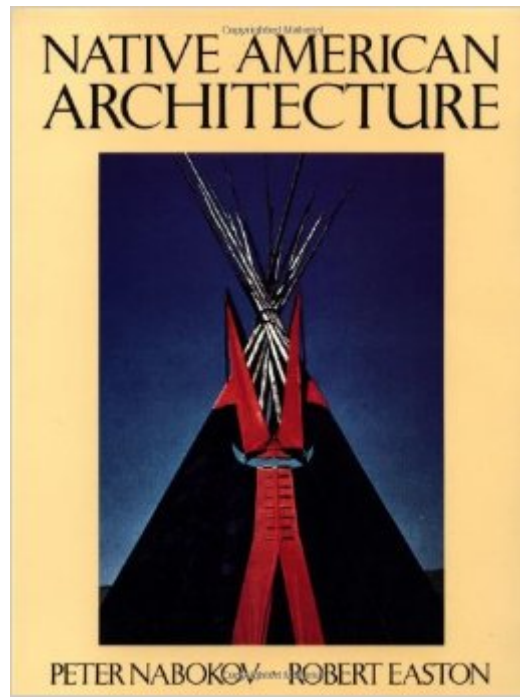


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# Native American Architecture



## Synopsis

For many people, Native American architecture calls to mind the wigwam, tipi, iglu, and pueblo. Yet the richly diverse building traditions of Native Americans encompass much more, including specific structures for sleeping, working, worshipping, meditating, playing, dancing, lounging, giving birth, decision-making, cleansing, storing and preparing food, caring for animals, and honoring the dead. In effect, the architecture covers all facets of Indian life. The collaboration between an architect and an anthropologist, *Native American Architecture* presents the first book-length, fully illustrated exploration of North American Indian architecture to appear in over a century. Peter Nabokov and Robert Easton together examine the building traditions of the major tribes in nine regional areas of the continent from the huge plank-house villages of the Northwest Coast to the moundbuilder towns and temples of the Southeast, to the Navajo hogans and adobe pueblos of the Southwest. Going beyond a traditional survey of buildings, the book offers a broad, clear view into the Native American world, revealing a new perspective on the interaction between their buildings and culture. Looking at Native American architecture as more than buildings, villages, and camps, Nabokov and Easton also focus on their use of space, their environment, their social mores, and their religious beliefs. Each chapter concludes with an account of traditional Indian building practices undergoing a revival or in danger today. The volume also includes a wealth of historical photographs and drawings (including sixteen pages of color illustrations), architectural renderings, and specially prepared interpretive diagrams which decode the sacred cosmology of the principal house types.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is an excellent bioregional overview of Native American structures. What I appreciate most is the way the authors have actually shown HOW the structures were made, sometimes in actual step-by-step procedures, which would allow someone to actually build in that style and using many of the same natural materials today. Another thing I love about the book is that the authors have sincerely tried to understand my Native American relationships to all the materials and the sacredness of the spaces we created. The authors treat that understanding with respect and honor. In this day when material resources are dwindling at alarming rates and the Earth is being devastated by the mindless rape of resources, it is a reminder to us all that we can choose alternatives to conventional wood-frame homes and return to more sustainable and natural housing for our respective bioregions. This book, though maybe not necessarily intended as such, is a hands-on, how-to book for us all. It reminds us that Native Americans lived in harmony and balance with our lands and our local plant and animal family for tens of thousands of years without destroying the places in which we lived. The photographs are instructive and beautiful and the architectural-type drawings are a delight. They make the actual building of these structures possible. I use parts of this book as required reading for all my students, especially my graduate students, and have taught actual classes using this book as the text, though it is not written in a "textbook" style. It is a very readable book and most useful for these times. I recommend it highly to all.

This is the best book I've found providing practical information on the construction of various shelters. We are preparing to build a village using all indigenous shelters and the book provides outstanding information on a wide variety of shelters, regions and materials. It's incredibly well researched and includes information on the cultural significance of each shelter, the materials used and the people's relationship to the harvesting and use of the material. Plenty of photos and diagrams of actual construction are provided so you can understand all the principles needed to build each shelter and there is some information on how different villages were laid out. It is well written and an interesting read whether you hope to build a shelter or not.

Fantastic book about the wide variety of structures built by native Americans - an absolute must read for anyone interested in pre-European architecture of the US and Canada. Or really anyone interested in architecture. This book covers the full range from the Northeast to the Southwest. Fabulously researched and illustrated. The book includes details about construction methods and usage while also putting the structures in a social context. 8 pages of color photographs in the center of the book. Beautiful images with medium quality reproduction. My only criticism of this book

is that the photographs appear to be low quality reproductions - like that of a good quality Xerox machine. They are clear enough to read but with such rich text and line drawings, I expected higher quality images. But don't let that deter you from buying this book - I've not seen anything which compares to it.

More than a testament to Native American artistic vision and ingenuity, this book is a delightful resource for survivalists as well as historians - and for those who would just like to find ideas for less technological ways of building simple dwellings. Well illustrated with diagrams, photos and how-to drawings for constructing shelters in many different climates and with various resource limitations. Excellent, fun to read and full of eye opening ideas.

I had to buy this book for my multi cultural architectural history class. The book was very informative with lot of pictures illustrating the building techniques and styles. Although, most pictures are in black and white. It was easy to read and understand, with out being dry like most text books. The book also helps illustrate the cultures of Native American peoples. I would recommend this book for anyone who is interested in architecture from a non western view point, and in Native American culture.

This book is well written, and finely illustrated. Historical photos and accurate descriptions of the structures illustrate not only how Native Americans lived, but how they built their homes, shelters and camps. This book is valuable for the historian, survivalist and primitive technologist among others. Well worth the cost!

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