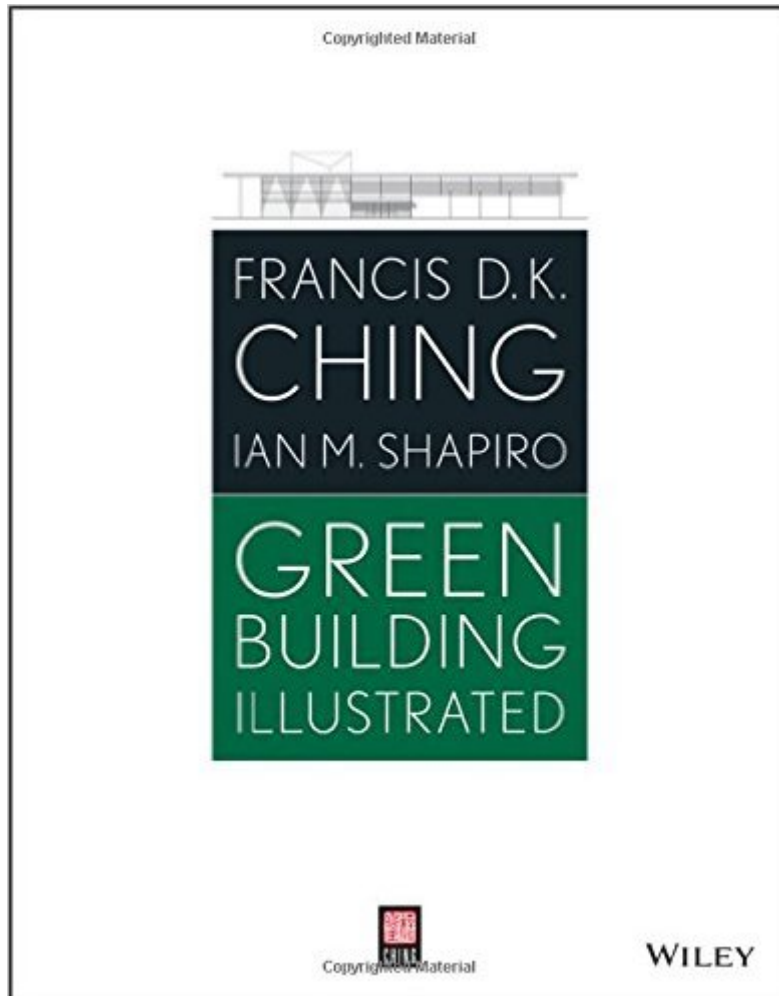


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# Green Building Illustrated



## Synopsis

Green Building Illustrated is a must-read for students and professionals in the building industry. The combination of incredibly expressive illustrations and accessible technical writing make concepts of green building on paper as intuitive as they would be if you toured a space with experts in sustainable building.

“Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO, and Founding Chair of the U.S. Green Building Council

“The authors of Green Building Illustrated deliver clear and intelligent text, augmented by straightforward but compelling illustrations describing green building basics. This comprehensive book covers everything from the definition of green building, to details of high performance design, to sensible applications of renewable energy. This is a book with appeal for all architects and designers, because it addresses general principles such as holistic and integrated design, along with practical realities like affordability and energy codes. Green Building Illustrated describes a pathway for reaching Architecture 2030’s carbon emission reduction targets for the built environment.

“Ed Mazria, founder of Architecture 2030

“a neophyte will have a very good overview of all the factors involved in green building. I see some excellent pedagogy at work!

“ Jim Gunshinan, Editor, Home Energy Magazine

Francis D.K. Ching brings his signature graphic style to the topic of sustainable design. In the tradition of the classic Building Construction Illustrated, Francis D.K. Ching and Ian M. Shapiro offer a graphical presentation to the theory, practices, and complexities of sustainable design using an approach that proceeds methodically. From the outside to the inside of a building, they cover all aspects of sustainability, providing a framework and detailed strategies to design buildings that are substantively green. The book begins with an explanation of why we need to build green, the theories behind it and current rating systems before moving on to a comprehensive discussion of vital topics. These topics include site selection, passive design using building shape, water conservation, ventilation and air quality, heating and cooling, minimum-impact materials, and much more. Explains the fundamental issues of sustainable design and construction in a beautifully illustrated format. Illustrated by legendary author, architect, and draftsman Francis D.K. Ching, with text by recognized engineer and researcher Ian M. Shapiro. Ideal for architects, engineers, and builders, as well as students in these fields. Sure to be the standard reference on the subject for students, professionals, and anyone interested in sustainable design and construction of buildings, Green Building Illustrated is an informative, practical, and graphically beautiful resource.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book represents a stunning and impressive effort in explaining green design concepts and specific methods in ways that are visually pleasing, and instantly accessible to both designers and non-designers alike. The clarity of the explanations are impeccable, and the illustrations are spot-on. The chapters logically progress from design principles, to context, siting, shape and then individual measures, materials, technologies and practices, so it could be read fully-through, and/or used as a reference. I'd highly recommend for anyone in the building industry.

If I were teaching a course on Green Building or Sustainable Design, this would be high on the list as a resource to provide an overview of these subjects. Profusely illustrated and well organized, it covers so many topics clearly and concisely. As one previous reviewer noted, "more broad than deep." This is not a negative, just an awareness you need to have when purchasing, and makes this book marketable to a much wider audience. It is aimed more for the generalists who wish to learn the field, rather than for specialists who might need more depth to specific areas. What is wonderful about this book, is that the illustrations boil down concepts in a brief graphic form that is easy to use in communicating complex ideas or topics. Useful, handsomely illustrated, and covers a broad set of issues. Highly Recommended.

Another great book by Francis Ching. I have been a fan of Ching ever since I read my brother's copy of "Building Construction Illustrated" over a decade ago. This book is a little different from the

former not just in subject material but from the fact that the author doesn't delve too deeply into each aspect of "green building". Certainly the topic is covered and done so in classic Ching style that is easy to understand and follow, but not in as much depth as in "Building Construction Illustrated". The book discusses things like energy use and insulation as one might expect, and alternative forms of those, but also things like how to plan a site and how landscaping will affect efficiency, new technologies, etc. I think for a first edition this is a great book, but as another review noted the pace of advancement will be fast in "green building" and I think the second edition will probably be better. Hopefully individual aspects are covered in a little more depth. One thing I did notice, which I didn't really like is the print. It is very light and the hairline font doesn't help. This is true of the newest edition of "Building Construction Illustrated" as well. I guess they're trying to "be green" but come on. In any event there's a reason why Francis Ching's books have such good reviews - time and money is never wasted reading any of them.

This is not titled The Green Building Bible, and it is not. But what it does assert itself to be, it does very well. This will be a dated text as progress keeps moving forward, but for 2014 it is very relevant. Green Sustainable Building uses a lot of natural, time tested approaches that work with natural systems to creating human settlements and so in that regard much of the information will be classic. It is an illustrated book full of very nice illustrations with descriptive texts beside. It would companion well with a green building book that has little to no illustrations in it. (Especially the chapters on codes). Of course there are illustrated code books out there as well. But what this book does that the codes books doesn't is that it attempts to put all major aspects of Green Building into one book. I think the authors have accomplished that very well. Definitely 5 Stars. There are much worse building texts out there and I own quite a few of them. (I am NAHB Green Professional Certified and Advanced Green Builder College Certified) and am glad to now have this text.

What is Green Building? What materials have the best insulative properties? How do you control condensation when working with a highly insulated interior? What are the best kinds of green energy sources and what can you expect from them? Highly insulated buildings can have problems their less climate controlled cousins do not. Adding a new window? How much will it add to your homes heating and cooling bills? I have purchased several books on solar power and building energy efficient homes, but this one has the best range of useful information. Much of the book is dedicated to systems of heating and cooling. While the book discusses insulated concrete form construction I knocked off one star because I was hoping it would mention more about insulating

container homes which are growing in popularity and are very safe and weather resistant, especially in areas prone to tornado and hurricane activity.

Anyone who has seriously studied Architecture or a related field is familiar with Francis Ching's work and style - the apparently simple but actually information-rich line drawing as the focal point, with nuggets of text around it to call out the specifics and underline the lesson. Ching is a classic in the field, and green design is at the forefront of the field. So what's not to like? Well, the subject matter here is notably more conceptual than concrete, and the graphic-plus-text format is being stretched to fit. Instead of a diagram of how to frame a doorway, with king stud and header nicely shown, we frequently get much larger blocks of text, with graphics that would be more at home on a Power-point slide. If, like me, you seek out Ching's work because he writes for visual thinkers, be aware that this book may be more frustrating than just reading an ordinary textbook on the subject. (And, as other reviewers have also noted, the "handwriting" text font, while charming, is a pain to read for long columns of print).

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