

(Download) Walls Around Us: The Thinking Person's Guide to How a House Works

Walls Around Us: The Thinking Person's Guide to How a House Works

David Owen

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David Owen : Walls Around Us: The Thinking Person's Guide to How a House Works before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walls Around Us: The Thinking Person's Guide to How a House Works:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good readBy CityguideA bit dated for today, but good writing is timeless and the topic of home maintenance and repair never go out of style. In thirty years HGTV will be doing stories on lunar habitat upgrades. For now, David Owen's book is one to enjoy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy T. ThackreyThis is one of my favorite books. It's funny and informative.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No issuesBy A. MarcotteBook arrived on-time and as described. No issues. I would use this vendor again in the future without hesitation. BTW, it's also a very good read!

Anyone who's ever quailed at the thought of buying a two-by-four or suspected that his (or her) dwelling is breaking down out of spite will be charmed, educated and entertained by this delightful history and how-to of the house.

From Publishers WeeklyWith wry wit, Owen tells about his Connecticut house and how it works, or doesn't work, lacing his humor with informative vignettes. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library

JournalThis is the literary version of Introductory House Maintenance/Remodeling 101. Owen, a staff writer for The New Yorker, describes in a popular style the general fundamentals of house construction and the materials involved. He also provides an overview of repairing, remodeling, and maintaining older houses with particular attention to walls, the roof, electricity, kitchens, bathrooms, and plumbing. Despite the basic coverage and limited use of illustrations, Owen's unique approach is extremely valuable to the first-time house owner or planner without a working knowledge of construction and maintenance.- W.T. Johnston, formerly with Coastal Plain Regional Lib., Tifton, Ga. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s`Most...men," says New Yorker staff-writer Owen (The Man Who Invented Saturday Morning, 1988, etc.), ``feel a paralyzing fear...at a lumberyard or hardware store." Fortunately for the jack-of-few-trades man (or woman), courage--and the knowledge it's based on--can now be gleaned from the author's literate, lucid, and witty guide to home building and repair. Owen's own house, a Connecticut Colonial built around 1790, serves as his model. Needing to repaint the house, for instance, he sets off to find the ultimate paint, winding up at the firm of Keeler Long, which makes paint for nuclear power plants (`It would probably be expensive," muses Owen, ``but it would last practically forever. Using it might even turn out to be a pretty good move, in the event of nuclear war"). There, he learns much about paint--including that the firm's epoxy-based product won't do for him (`epoxies [tend] to deteriorate in sunlight," warns proprietor Henry Long)--and passes that information on here, along with his own know-how on the history, nature, and uses and abuses of paints: We learn, for example, the pros and cons of latex paint, the best ways to keep paint from peeling off a house, and, in the sort of unexpected detail that livens every page, the trouble with letting a cow near a freshly oil-painted house--it will lick the paint, which contains flaxseed. Fascinating explorations of walls, roofs, kitchens, bathrooms, electricity, lumber (and its enemies: the stethoscope from a kid's toy medical bag is useful, Owen tells us, for detecting the munching of carpenter ants) follow, and come together in a detailed description of how, using power-tools, he adapted an extra bedroom into a custom-built study. Owen transforms even the repair of a leaking hot-water pipe into an enticing adventure: his congenial guidance will likely enthrall those who enjoy home repair--and, marvelously, many who don't. (Thirty-five line drawings--not seen.) -- Copyright 1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.