

# **Self-Reliance Library**

The Self-Reliance Library is an autonomous reading and creating library. It is a collection of older books and reference materials that Temporary Services has found inspiring while doing our own projects and living our lives. The Self-Reliance Library contains recently published titles as well as out of print books we are just discovering. It includes a couple of our own publications as well. The collection is designed to provoke the reader, solve creative problems, or suggest imaginative directions for a range of creative practices.

Topics in the Self-Reliance Library include: visionary architecture, desperate or wildly imaginative mobility, miniature architecture and nomadic living, self-publishing and design, everyday repair solutions, designs for fantasy worlds and alternate realities, technologies used in prisons and other restrictive or impoverished settings, ecologically sound living, survivalism, weapon production for self defense or recreation, skill-sharing, and approaches to living radically.

acting in public



# ALL THEIR OWN

People and  
the Places They Build

by Jan Worples



## Acting in Public

Maier, Julia and Rick, Matthias, eds. Berlin: Raumlaborberlin, 2008, 192 pp.

Raum Labor is a platform run by a number of people based in Berlin interested in making cities more open to experimental temporary uses. Raum Labor has built a number of exciting urban structures from inflatable shells attached to shipping containers for small exhibitions to wooden towers for viewing and using city spaces in new ways. The group's *Spacebuster* is a truck from the back of which a large inflatable structure emerges and accommodates up to 80 people. It can easily be moved around for various events and gatherings. This book is filled with ideas for transforming "underestimated" urban spaces in inspiring ways.

## All Their Own: People and the Places They Build

Wampler, Jan. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978, 206 pp.

This richly-illustrated book surveys architecture "based on the desires of people" and includes inventive homes and monuments by numerous creators including David Brown, Everett Knowlton, Art Beal, Romano Gabriel, Father Matthias Wernerus, and Fred Burns. Photographs of their structures are accompanied by small, neatly labeled diagrams that show the overall layout of these often dazzlingly complex, ornate, or sprawling buildings and compounds. Many of the builders included are quoted alongside their works, talking about approaches that often reflect a strong spirit of self-reliance and self-education. Creative recycling of cast off materials is a common feature of many of the buildings. More than a few of the structures are cumulative and have evolved over a period of many years. Maude Meagher and Carolyn Smiley of Los Gatos, Cali-

fornia state, "We know nothing whatever about building. We had never done any rough work. One of us was a writer, the other a lecturer and educator with book binding and amateur movies as her hobbies. But we both had college degrees, and we assumed that since primitive people can build their own adobe houses, we could too, if we put our minds to it, solving each problem as it came up."

## Ant Farm: 1968-1978

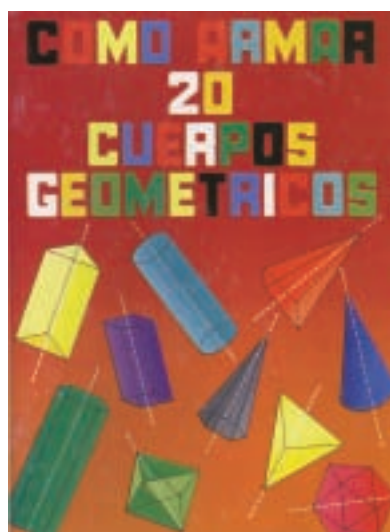
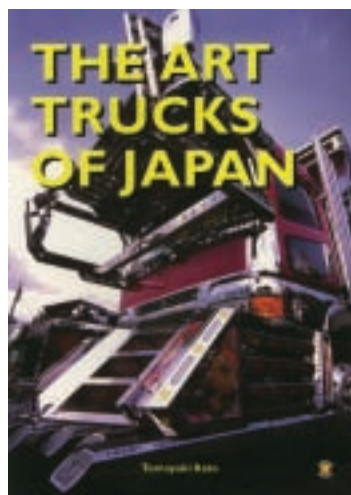
Lewallen, Constance M. and Seid, Steve. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2004, 212 pp.

The Ant Farm crew were amazing visionaries in all the things they undertook. They were grounded in the counter culture of the late 1960s and early 1970s. This may be part of the reason their work did not get much critical attention until a few years ago. This book gathers together many of their projects. They were active in guerrilla television, making inflatable structures on a massive scale, designing bizarre buildings, creating media spectacles, and networking Hippies across the land into alternative communications structures. Ant Farm buried Cadillac cars in the desert and crashed other cars through walls of burning televisions. They made lush drawings of utopian cities and architecture, produced gorgeous posters laying out their ideas for others to copy. Their work remains fresh and inspiring. If only more artists had the guts and the vision these folks had, life would be a lot more interesting.

## Archigram

Cooke, Peter, ed. New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999, 152 pp.

Archigram started as a broadsheet published in London in 1961 by a group of architecture graduates. From the 1960s through about 1972 Archigram articulated a wild range of futuristic ideas



using graphics, drawings, collages, models, and multi-media presentations. Archigram's members were Peter Cook, Warren Chalk, Dennis Crompton, David Greene, Ron Herron and Mike Webb. Their highly inventive ideas included a "Walking City" composed of moving buildings with telescoping legs, a "Plug-In City" with capsule homes, systems of living pods, and so much more. This comprehensive book contains many examples of the group's writings and work, often drawn from their publications. Their ideas remain ripe for new interpretations.

### **The Art Trucks of Japan**

Kato, Tomoyuki. Tokyo, Japan: DH Publishing, 2008, 80 pp.

This slender book consists primarily of vibrant color photographs of "dekotora" or "decorated trucks" – gleaming, highly illuminated and heavily airbrushed chrome monsters that were inspired by extravagant vehicles shown in the 1975 Japanese film *Truck Yaro!* The trucks are commonly hybrids of other trucks with limitless accessorizing that recall the complexities of Transformers toys mixed with the flashing lights and gleaming metal of a classic pinball machine or a dazzling disco. The airbrushed imagery, that ranges from peaceful dolphins to dramatic renderings of characters from Noh theater, recalls the public paintings seen on the sides of vans in the 1970s.

### **Backyard Ballistics**

Gurstelle, William. Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press, 2001, 192 pp.

A how-to guide for making "potato cannons, paper match rockets, Cincinnati fire kites, tennis ball mortars, and more dynamite devices." In addition to materials lists and lessons in physics, historical context is included for many of the items described. Don't shoot your eye out or burn down your neighbor's home!

### **Bikes of Burden**

Kemp, Hans. Hong Kong, China: Visionary World Ltd., 2003, 160 pp.

This book of 150 color photos by Hans Kemp documents extraordinary uses of motorbikes on the streets of Vietnam. Metal fencing, dead pigs, dozens of chickens, doors, truck tires and entire families are shown being transported on single bikes. These documents of everyday labor and survival evoke a sense of wonder and complete awe.

### **Bookmobiles and Bookmobile Service**

Brown, Eleanor Frances. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1967, 474 pp.

Bookmobiles are the original mobile structures and an obsession of ours. They take libraries and put them on wheels in order to provide better access to ideas, resources, and information for wider audiences. They are particularly important for people in remote areas or with disabilities. These inspiring structures have been with us for a very long time. This book is filled with great images of everything from Civil War era mobile libraries pulled by horses to libraries in Germany in the 1930s with walls that expand with the flip of switch.

### **Como Hacer 20 Cuerpos Geometricos**

Chavez, Carlos. Mexico City, Mexico: Gomez-Gomez Hnos. Editores, 44 pp.

A succinct publication that shows how to cut and fold paper or cardboard to make 20 different three-dimensional geometric shapes; the book is a tool that can be used with young children or adults to build complex structures. One could easily use an opaque projector to transfer the paper cutting and folding patterns onto large cardboard sheets to create giant three dimensional objects.



## DO IT YOURSELF

A handbook  
for changing  
our world

Edited by the Trapese Collective

## **The Convict Cookbook**

Baker, Torrey, Bland, Marco, and others, Washington State Penitentiary. Walla Walla, WA: J. G. Narum, 2004, 164 pp.

This cookbook was a class project by convicts at the Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) in Walla Walla, Washington. It presents recipes by prisoners at WSP along with relatives and friends of prisoners, correctional officers, instructors, and prison volunteers. The recipes by prisoners for “in-cell” dishes often depend on the limited range of ingredients that come from the prison store or snack bar as well as methods for cooking and preparing those ingredients that can be achieved inside a cell. As a result, some of the recipes feature unusually creative applications of highly generic ingredients and recipes for items like cookies that can be produced without baking. Other hot foods, such as an omelet prepared in a Ziploc bag, depend on boiling water and an immersion heater – one of the few cooking devices that prisoners are often permitted to have in their cell. The book includes some methods of replacing popular products like Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate mix with ad hoc versions combining more commonly found ingredients. A glossary of convict slang at the WSP is also included.

## **Discographisme Récréatif (Homemade Record Sleeves)**

Caillet, Patrice. Montreuil, France: Éditions Bricolage, 2009, 240 pp.

This book expands upon the earlier *Recreational Discographics* with a larger page format and all new material. *Discographisme Récréatif* focuses on the amateur inventiveness found in handmade or hand-altered vinyl record covers. Many strategies are shown in full color from a great trove of used record store discoveries. In addition to the usual

overdrawn photos with anatomical embellishments (male recording artists turned into women, and vice versa) are more than a few beautiful creations where the jacket was missing so an entirely new cover was created, or a plain white sleeve was heavily decorated with painting, drawing, collage or a combination of the three. While some of these designs are casual or irreverent, many more show a fanatical excitement for music and records that results in an entirely new kind of graphic design and packaging art. Imagine the world we would live in if consumers redesigned all kinds of packaging with this level of interest and enthusiasm!

## **Do It Yourself: A Handbook For Changing Our World**

Trapeze Collective, eds. Ann Arbor, MI: Pluto Press, 2007, 306 pp.

Paulo Freire, the Brazilian educator and theorist, once said that education itself is the practice of freedom.

The members of the Trapeze Collective, three longtime self-identified radical educators, have practiced the freedom to create change amongst others. They share their hits, misses, advice, and reading lists in 2007's *Do It Yourself*. This is a guide to many facets of sustainable living, including energy consumption, self-organizing, cultural activism, and organizing around health-care. It's filled with inspiring stories of change and resistance alongside practical step-by-step directions for building everything from a composting toilet to a consensus-based community group. The goal is the activity that one feels spurred toward after reading the basics in *Do It Yourself*. Change does seem possible after seeing concrete examples of the work that amateurs, citizens, and experts alike have accomplished.



## **Dwelling Portably: 1980 - 89**

Davis, Bert and Holly. Bloomington, IN: Microcosm Publishing, 2008, 164 pp.

## **Dwelling Portably: 1990 - 1999**

Davis, Bert and Holly. Bloomington, IN: Microcosm Publishing, 2009, 168 pp.

## **Dwelling Portably: 2000 - 2008**

Davis, Bert and Holly. Bloomington, IN: Microcosm Publishing, 2009, 168 pp.

"The advice in this book is taken from personal experience. It is not intended to be a stand-alone survival guide. It's up to you to decide what is right in your situation."



*Dwelling Portably* was originally published by Bert and Holly Davis as a series of small zines over 28 years. They used a typewriter for text and hand drawn images for their tidy, packed publications. They made the zines as they lived a nomadic life in the woods of the Pacific Northwest of the United States. The zine shows tips and strategies for living a frugal, low-impact, nomadic life. There are plans for building tension bridges, makeshift shelters, packing your bike efficiently and a lot more. As a zine, with rather limited distribution, *Dwelling Portably* built up a large cult following and was next to impossible to find either through zine distributors or in stores selling them. Fortunately, Microcosm Publishing did what they do best: gathered together all the copies of the zines and published them in three volumes. We have found these publications in both forms – as zines and now books – deeply compelling and bursting with human spirit and creativity that you wish you would encounter much more often.

## **The Dymaxion World of Buckminster Fuller**



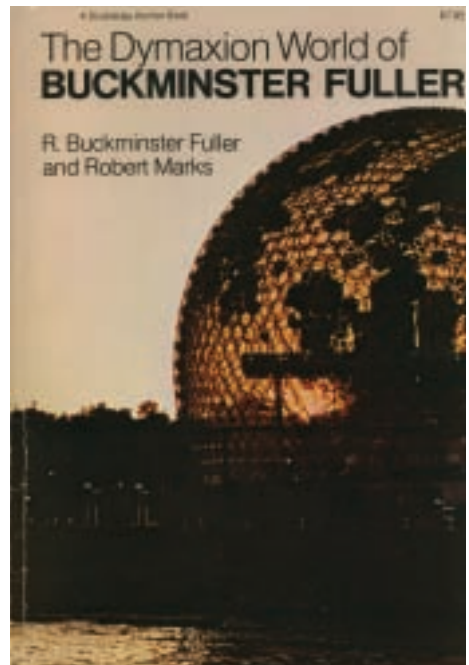
Fuller, Buckminster R. and Marks, Robert. Garden City, NY: Doubleday Anchor, 1973, 246 pp.

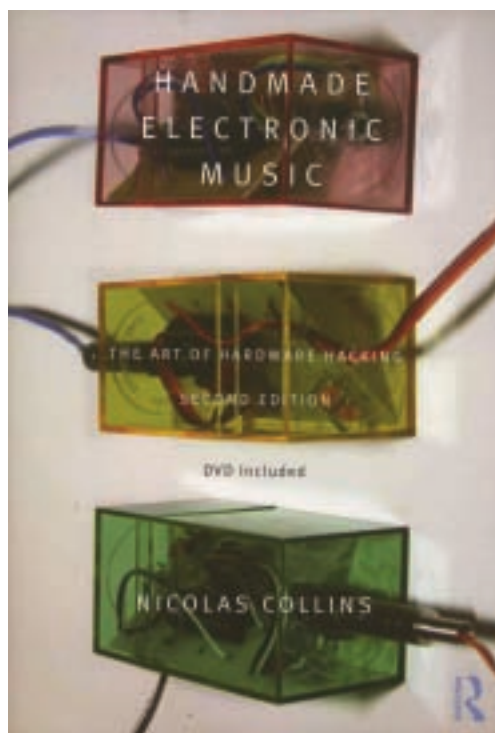
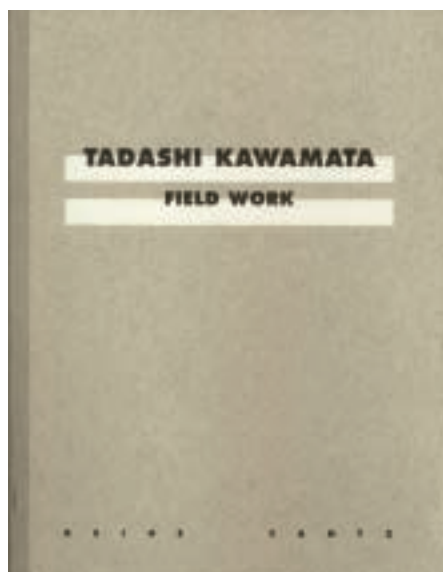
Buckminster Fuller's legacy as an inventor, engineer, and futurist is explored in this collection of drawings, photographs, and text that Fuller himself prepared with the help of journalist Robert Marks. Widely known for his innovations in creating structures with the geodesic dome as a model, Fuller's influence on language, global viewpoints, and efficiency can be re-discovered here. This out-of-print book was an important addition to the Self-Reliance Library as it includes much information about the larger engineering context that is necessary to understand in order to see the depth of Fuller's (often derided) vision. An incredible amount of exciting illustrations are included: sketches, photographs of prototypes that the public may have not been aware of at the time of their creation, and personal notes from Fuller. Gaining an understanding of Fuller's sometimes heady concepts can help us understand the limitations of the ways in which our public and private spaces are currently structured.

### **Fantastic Architecture – Personal and Eccentric Visions**

Photographs by Schuyt, Michael and Elfers, Joost. Text by Collins, George R. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1980, 254 pp.

This oversize book on unusual architectural structures features cursory text descriptions and large format photographic overviews and details by two photographers that traveled to document many of these firsthand. In addition to obvious choices like Buckminster Fuller, Antonio Gaudí, and Simon Rodia's Watts Towers, the book also digs into Pieter Wiersma's sand castles, Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle





Village, novelty vernacular architecture like a hot dog stand in the shape of a hot dog, and the art of topiary. Most of these buildings and sites are complex enough to each warrant a book. While we crave many more photos of some of the places documented by Schuyt and Elferris, this book remains a rich introduction.

### **Field Work**

Kawamata, Tadashi. Hannover, Germany: Reihe Cantz, 1997, 68 pp.

Since 1984, artist Tadashi Kawamata, who is best known for his large scale architectural creations, has also undertaken a more personal, fast and guerrilla style method of building called *Field Work*. He works with cast off boards, bits of wood, and sheets of cardboard and affixes these materials in a temporary and provisional way with nails or tape. These small structures, resembling single-person homeless shelters, are put up quickly in overlooked city spaces along the margins of urban centers. This book includes black and white photos of Kawamata's *Field Work* in multiple cities, with a couple photos of his process of driving with a van filled with scrap materials in search of work sites. The book opens up our perception of the many places where small shelters could be sited and the ways in which temporary micro-architecture could integrate itself alongside preexisting structures.

### **The Foxfire Book**

Wigginton, Eliot, ed. Garden City, NY, Anchor Books, 1972, 388 pp.

### **Foxfire 2**

Wigginton, Eliot, ed. Garden City, NY, Anchor Books, 1973, 428 pp.

### **Foxfire 3**

Wigginton, Eliot, ed. Garden City, NY, Anchor Books, 1975, 522 pp.

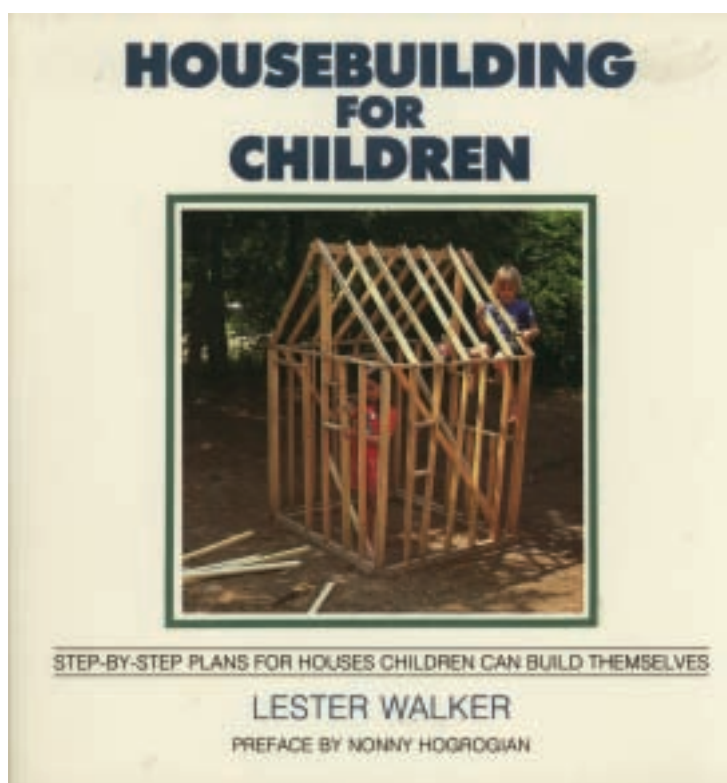
Foxfire is a series of twelve numbered

books, originally derived from a magazine of the same name, that focus on southern Appalachian living. We have included the first three books in this series. Each is a combination of how-to material, folklore and oral histories and is rich in information, photos and illustrations. *Foxfire* was initiated by Eliot Wigginton, a high school teacher, whose students collected oral histories from local people. Some of the many topics included in these first three volumes on "the affairs of plain living" are log cabin building, moonshining, wild plant foods, spinning and weaving, animal care, banjos and dulcimers, butter churns, and ginseng. Far more than a mere description of living practices, these books provide so much information in their large page counts that they often become thorough instructional guides.

### **Handmade Electronic Music**

Collins, Nicolas. New York, NY. Routledge, 2009, 364 pp.

This book and DVD set's subtitle is "The Art of Hardware Hacking," and the art part as well as the hacker part are explored with expertise in the second edition updated in 2009. Nicolas Collins is a composer and performer of electronic music himself, as well as an academic and editor. He writes with experience, offering both tips and tricks for making electronic circuits and hacked instruments, as well as offering photos and descriptions of contemporary circuit breakers and makers, performers, inventors, and their handmade and homemade instruments and creations. Pretty much everything one might need to know about this genre of electronic music is included, and for those who have prior extensive knowledge, Collins has included more information (and some corrections!) on his personal website. This kind of work is not just for gearheads or tech nerds. The per-



formative aspect of these inventions, as well as the sometimes totally dysfunctional ways in which they work, will be of interest to anyone.

## **Home-Made: Contemporary Russian Folk Artifacts**

Arkhipov, Vladimir. London, England, Fuel Publishing, 2006, 304 pp.

Vladimir Arkhipov is a Russian artist who has been researching, collecting, and exploring the world of hand-made, usually utilitarian objects since 1990. *Home-Made* is a compendium of photographs of and stories about these items and their creators. In the book's introduction, Arkhipov explains that his personal collection of these "thingamyjigs" (the author's word choice) started when he happened to see an unusual clothes hook on the wall of an acquaintance's house. It was made from an old toothbrush. Arkhipov was immediately drawn to this sort of self-made design and contacted friends and family to seek out similar objects and solutions in their own houses. The book consists of a myriad of photographs of these objects, along with short descriptions and interviews by many of the creators. Many of the inventions and creations remind us of the same impetus and ingenuity that the inventors represented in our book *Prisoners' Inventions*. Books like *Home-Made* help to reinforce our notion that creativity and inspiring invention can be found under any circumstances.

## **Home Work – Handbuilt Shelter**

Kahn, Lloyd. Bolinas, CA: Shelter Publications, 2004, 260 pp.

Lloyd Kahn is responsible for numerous inspiring books on handbuilt housing. He was the "Shelter" section editor for the *Whole Earth Catalog* and this book is the

23rd for his imprint Shelter Publications. This sumptuous book is a jam-packed greatest hits compendium of Kahn's decades of research. It includes hundreds of mostly color photos – often eight per page – of handbuilt construction from around the world. Subjects include multiple profiles of individual builders, yurts, desert houses, homes off the grid, homes on the beach, new settlers in New Mexico, "zomes", houses built on rock, mud and straw constructions, bamboo joinery, tree houses, a bottle house, and an extensive selection of mobile homes. There are also contributions from writers that are similarly obsessed with handbuilding like Lester Walker and Kevin Kelly, along with a section of recommended books on building.

## **Housebuilding For Children Step-By-Step Plans For Houses Children Can Build Themselves**

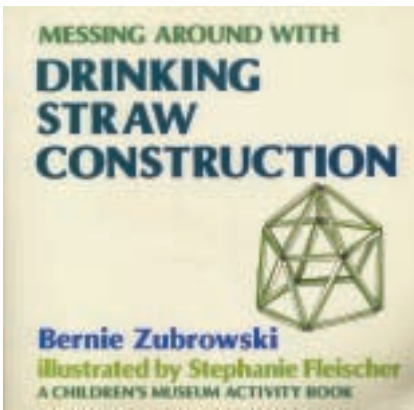
Walker, Lester. Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, 1977, 176 pp.

This book offers clear instructions and exciting photos of buildings made by children ages 7-10. The core list of tools needed is a mere seven items (not counting the box of bandages and carpenter's apron). Though the structures are intended for play (such as tree houses and structures made from scavenged junk), many of the houses look quite durable and could be fun to assemble for a variety of creative projects for adults. Note that Lester Walker is also the author of *Tiny Tiny Houses*.

## **Make Your Place: Affordable, Sustainable Nesting Skills**

Briggs, Raleigh. Bloomington, IN: Microcosm Publishing, 2009, 128 pp.

Another inexpensive and handy book



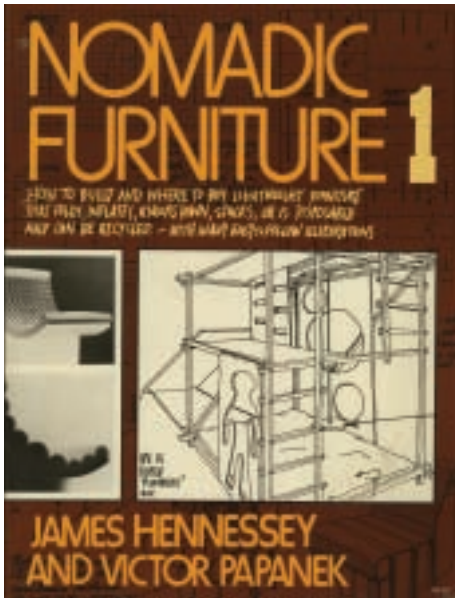
published by Microcosm. Designed with charming, clear drawings and completely handwritten text, *Make Your Place* focuses on DIY approaches to health and first aid, non-toxic cleaning and body care, and gardening. In the health and first aid section you'll learn how to make natural salves, tinctures, and tonics and treat burns, rashes, stomach problems, bruises, headaches and more. The cleaning portion addresses eco-friendly recipes for taking care of floors, toilets, windows and pet stains, as well as your hair, face, teeth, cats and dogs. For your garden, this book shares helpful knowledge on composting, fertilizing, planting and pest control.

### **Making Stuff & Doing Things: A Collection of DIY Guides to Doing Just About Everything**

Bravo, Kyle, ed. Bloomington, IN: Microcosm Publishing, 2005, 288 pp.

A compendium of folk knowledge from a variety of sources and authors with a youthful Punk spirit. The presentation of this information ranges from a rough photocopy and collage aesthetic to hand-drawn, hand-written, or computer-designed layouts. Some of these ideas are particularly smart and cost effective (making a homemade Neti pot for nasal rinsing using a dishwashing soap bottle and some salt), while other ideas (such as sculpting, making a mold, and casting your own dildos and buttplugs) really force the question of whether or not some things are better left to the experts. Other ideas look like lots of creative fun, such as tips for making your own looping audio tapes, quill pens and rubber stamps.

### **Messing Around With Drinking Straw Construction**



Zubrowski, Bernie, Boston, MA: Linda, Brown and Company, 1981, 68 pp.

This activity book by The Children's Museum, with illustrations by Stephanie Fleischer, provides information on basic architectural engineering principals for strong design. Photos of children at work on structures scaled to their bodies suggest a range of creative applications.

### **Mingering Mike: The Amazing Career of an Imaginary Soul Superstar**

Hadar, Dori. New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007, 192 pp.

Ready to create your own world from scratch? How about your own albums, singles, kung fu movie soundtracks, and benefit record for sickle cell anemia research? Take a lesson from "Mingering" Mike Stevens, whose childhood and adolescent isolation drew him to create an imaginary world and an alternate life for himself. Author Dori Hader happened to find a crate of Mingering Mike's creations while looking for albums at a flea market in Washington, D.C. These are not only drawings of fantasy record covers, but in some cases homemade records themselves (complete with grooves in the fake vinyl, liner notes, and sometimes shrinkwrap). In another great moment of kismet, Hader is a criminal investigator and DJ, and was able to actually find Mike Stevens and get his permission to help show the world these amazing creations. This is self-reliance of the finest caliber – a true artist who creates his own world and multiple record labels to fulfill his lifelong dreams when Spaceship Earth just ain't cuttin' it.

### **A Modern Herbal: How to Grow, Cook, and Use Herbs**

Stevenson, Violet, ed. Hong Kong, China: Lynx Press Ltd, 1974, 144 pp.

This is a fantastically illustrated and fairly complete guide to herbs, including their history, and identification and cultivation tips. It's also a collection of practical things to do with herbs including cooking and making potpourri. Herbs in containers, as house plants, and their ancient properties are discussed.

### **New Treehouses of the World**

Nelson, Pete. New York, NY: Abrams. 2009, 224 pp.

Any notion that treehouses are merely play structures for children is thoroughly demolished by this sumptuously illustrated book for adults (and kids too if they have amazing parents). Treehouses around the world are photographed from both the outside and their interiors. Homes range from small single-room units to complex multi-level structures. The range of ladders and scaffolds used to gain entry to the shelters is nearly as varied as the homes themselves. Just as Lester Walker's book *Tiny Tiny Houses* awakens the desire to own a single room structure on land, this title makes living in a forest, high in the branches, look absolutely glorious. The author Pete Nelson also runs a Treehouse building company, TreeHouse Workshop Inc. in Seattle, and *New Treehouses of the World* is enhanced by examples of his own designs and the experience he brings to building them.

### **Nomadic Furniture 1**

Hennessey, James and Papanek, Victor. New York, NY: Pantheon, 1973, 164 pp.

### **Nomadic Furniture 2**

Hennessey, James and Papanek, Victor. New York, NY: Pantheon, 1974, 158 pp.

Though these books were authored in

# PIONEERING IN THE URBAN WILDERNESS

By JIM STRATTON



## ALL ABOUT LOFTS

New York, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago,  
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Jacksonville,  
Kansas City, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis/  
St. Paul, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Portland,  
St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa, Washington D.C.,  
and across the country.



1973 and 1974, passages like this about nomadic living and frequent relocation could have been written yesterday or next week, "For those of us in the 'floating academic crap-game' (professors), 'forever' is a 9-month appointment." The focus, as stated in the first book, is on, "How to build and where to buy lightweight furniture that folds, collapses, stacks, knocks down, inflates or can be thrown away and recycled. Being both a book of instruction and a catalog of access for easy moving." Not everything must be built or purchased, however. A section of the first book shows how common recycled orange crates and grape boxes were used to outfit a store.

In addition to seating, desks and storage, the second book includes plans for creating playground equipment, lighting fixtures, lamp shades, and a treehouse. The authors are also obvious music lovers so advice on stereo equipment and record storage is here too. Both books are designed with a wonderful style of handwritten text and excellent clear photos and drawings. Were it not for the appearance of reel-to-reel players in some of the photos, many of the designs would feel completely contemporary – in part because of a resurgence of interest in this period of design, but also because they are still relevant to people's needs. The second book contains a dedication to those who, "are still choosing instead of thinking you know, traveling instead of feeling you have arrived, finding yourself instead of settling down."

### **The Owner-Built Home**

Kern, Ken. Auberry, CA: Homestead Press, 1972, 290 pp.

Ken Kern's guide to building your own home from the ground up is considered something of a bible amongst self-made, country homemaker, and weekend builder types. It's divided into sections

such as "Site and Climate," and teaches basic building techniques while reminding the amateur builder to keep both environmental and aesthetic issues in mind while designing and building their dream home. The techniques and suggestions featured are low-cost and simple, but are all a testament to building something correctly the first time to last a lifetime.

### **Pioneering in the Urban Wilderness**

Stratton, Jim. New York, NY: Urizen Books Inc., 1977, 208 pp.

A fascinating look at the phenomena of renovating dilapidated urban lofts into livable homes and alternative art spaces throughout many U.S. cities but with a focus on New York City. Jim Stratton's writing is loaded with colorful stories derived from direct experience transforming these sometimes extremely rough buildings. In addition to accounting for construction and utilities challenges, he describes the threat of building inspectors, and concerns about other tenants that call attention to illegal renovations by being careless about moving construction materials in and out during daylight. Of particular interest is Stratton's account of the development of art galleries and spaces in SoHo and the real estate involvements of film-maker Jonas Mekas, and George Maciunas, the father of the Fluxus movement, and his company that used the same name, as well as Fluxhouse.

### **Prisoners' Inventions**

Angelo and Temporary Services. Chicago, IL: WhiteWalls, 2003, 132 pp.

Prison is a place where one's basic needs of shelter and food are taken care of just enough for a crude existence. Survival there is about maintaining one's sense of self-worth, purpose, and carving out as much autonomy as is humanly possible



under such difficult restraints. This book explores the amazing capacity of humans to use their creativity to endure the humiliating and dehumanizing confines of prison. It is a celebration of ingenuity and presents the reader with an array of inventions. One can learn how to cook food using burning toilet paper and the built in steel furniture. Leisure activities like playing chess, dominoes, or entertaining oneself with pet insects can be achieved with simple materials and solutions. There are instructions for homemade sex dolls and privacy curtains for the small space of a single cell.

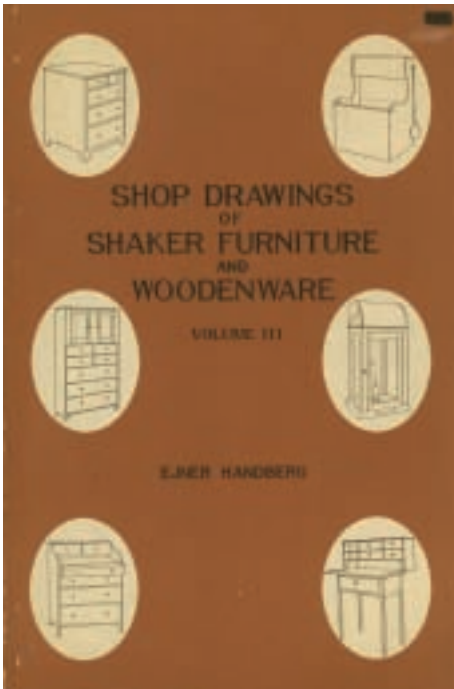
Angelo, our friend and collaborator on this book, wrote about and illustrated many of the inventions from firsthand knowledge. Some of the inventions come from things that Angelo has seen in prison; others are objects that Angelo and his cellmates have made themselves. All of these items are contraband.

This book fundamentally altered how we understand the material make up of our world. It gave us a profound appreciation for creativity that is applied with rigor and unrelenting drive. We wish more of the people on the outside who consider themselves artists or creative had half the capacity that prisoners do when they come up with these solutions for brief moments of sanity and control in a place that does everything to keep you off balance.

### **Project Student Autonomy: A Student's Guide to Taking Back Power in the Classroom**

Self-published by Project Student Autonomy. Santa Cruz, CA: Quiver Distro, 2006, 24 pp.

*Project Student Autonomy* is a decent anti-copyright publication that asks questions about power and autonomy in the



student learning experience. Why do we have the rules and expectations we have in our current educational systems. Are all students actually benefiting from the way that things are? How can we, as students, parents, and teachers, create classroom experiences that go beyond the constraints of homework and lecturing? Radical and practical approaches to changing the classroom experience on a personal and local level are offered along with case studies from the Project Student Autonomy group's research.

### **Public Phenomena**

Temporary Services. Chicago, IL: Half Letter Press, 2008, 152 pp.

This book is the result of over ten years of photographic documentation and research on the variety of modifications and inventions people make in public. From roadside memorials to makeshift barriers, people consistently alter shared common spaces to suit their needs, or let both man-made and natural aberrations run wild. The result is a new kind of public space – with creative and inspiring moments that push past the original planned design of cities.

### **Recreational Discographics**

Caillet, Patrice. Montreuil, France: Éditions Bricolage, 2004, 132 pp.

Patrice Caillet's first compilation of beautiful, found, recreated and modified record album covers. (See also *Discographics Récricatif*, 2009)

### **Simple Methods of Mining Gold**

Faulk, Terry R. Palmer Lake, CO: Filter Press, 1969, 32 pp.

*Simple Methods of Mining Gold* offers exactly what the title suggests - a primer on finding, mining, and staking a claim

on "placer gold" nuggets that may still be available in the American West and Alaska. We like the format (it's in the Temporary Services-approved half letter, machine-stapled booklet size) and the meticulous yet optimistic advice that Faulk provides to prospective miners. This small booklet is part of a series of over thirty that Filter Press published from the 1950s through the 1970s. Each volume in the series promises information and instruction in the ways of the "Wild and Woolly West," from Navajo weaving to game cookery.

### **Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware, Vol. I**

Handberg, Ejner. Stockbridge, MA: The Berkshire Traveller Press, 1973, 96 pp.

### **Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware, Vol. II**

Handberg, Ejner. Stockbridge, MA: The Berkshire Traveller Press, 1975, 82 pp.

### **Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware, Vol. III**

Handberg, Ejner. Stockbridge, MA: The Berkshire Traveller Press, 1977, 96 pp.

These three identically-designed volumes provide clearly measured and proportioned line drawings designed to help readers construct their own copies of Shaker furniture designs, which are known for their simplicity, austerity and spare use of materials. While amateurs might have a hard time comprehending some of the joining methods from these drawings, those with a moderate degree of wood-working skill should be able to follow the illustrations with success. Se-

# THE SURVIVOR

Volume 1

By Kurt Saxon

Ways That Run the Grass



How to Make a Simple Shelter



JUST A FEW OF THE ARTICLES IN VOLUME 1

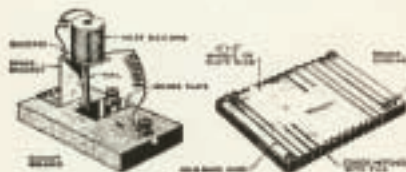
- MONEY MAKING AND SAVING FOR ALL
- TOY MAKING FOR PROFIT AND GIFTS
- MARIONETTES: COM- PLETE COURSE
- CUT YOUR FOOD BILL: EAT BETTER
- THE HYGIENIC COOK- BOOK (1874)
- SOYBEANS FOR SUR- VIVAL
- RELOCATING: PLAN YOUR MOVE
- BAKING BREAD: ANY ONE CAN
- SPROUTING SEEDS: NEVER HUNGER
- SURVIVING NUCLEAR WINTER
- GREENHOUSE: SIMPLE, PRODUCTIVE
- EARTHWORMS FOR FOOD
- HOME WORKSHOP MANUAL (1932)
- MAKING A 1913 HAND GLIDER
- SUPPLIES: PROOFING YOUR HOME
- MAKING IMITATION GOLD & SILVER
- MECHANICS FOOT- POWERED COMBINA- TION LATHE
- SET UP YOUR OWN HOME FOUNDRY
- GLASS BLOWING AND FORMING



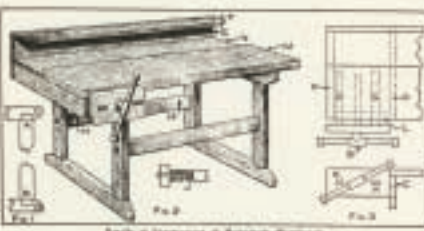
How to Make a Simple Shelter



Shelter in the Wind



An Electric Motor, When They Cannot Control, and the Best Hand-Powered Motor: A Small Motor, Made in Your Own Workshop



Sketch of Construction of a Simple Workshop



How to Make a Simple Shelter

lected photos and original Shaker catalog renderings are included in each volume to help readers get a more specific sense of the finished products.

### **The Survivor, Volume 1**

Saxon, Kurt. Alpena, AR: Atlan Formularies, 1988, 476 pp.

While Kurt Saxon states that, "Survival is about looking out for number 1", he also notes that, "The inexperienced dreamer simply cannot survive alone." This book may have been inspired by the author's desire to be prepared against a foreign invasion, but it also contains many ideas (and reprints from old articles in *Popular Mechanics*) for expanding one's approach to living in any situation.

### **Tiny Tiny Houses or How to Get Away From It All**

Walker, Lester. Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, 1987, 224 pp.

For this book, long a favorite of Temporary Services, Lester Walker compiled over 40 examples of buildings under 325 square feet, providing photos, drawings, floor plans, and in some cases instructions for the reader to follow. Examples include a rolling home on wheels, a tent house, an ice fishing shanty, a portable shelter cart for the homeless designed by Christopher Egan, Henry David Thoreau's cabin, and George Bernard Shaw's writing hut which can be manually rotated to take advantage of the arc of the sun. The appendix includes ideas for kitchens and bathrooms

### **Toolbox For Sustainable City Living**

Kellogg, Scott, and Pettigrew, Stacy. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2008, 248 pp.

The Austin-based Rhizome collective

published this inspiring book on how to practice sustainable living and design in urban centers. The book shows how to keep and raise chickens, establish aquaculture, build composting toilets, and integrate water conservation and grey water into a healthy garden. Members of Temporary Services visited the warehouse in 2009. We got to see many of the systems documented in the book. We also met an enormous turkey that had free run of the place. The Rhizome collective responsible for this book seemed to be on hiatus and maybe an addendum to the book should be written telling folks that if you choose to follow the instructions in the book, expect to do a lot of maintenance and upkeep if you want things to keep going.

### **Whole Earth: Access to Tools & Ideas for the Twenty-First Century**

Rheingold, Howard, ed. San Francisco, CA: Harper San Francisco and Point Foundation, 1994, 384 pp.

Long before the internet and quick searches you had to do the hard work to find the tools and information needed for building geodesic domes, making solar power, raising your own food, and dropping out of industrialized America. *The Whole Earth* (WEC) Catalog, published mainly between 1968 and 1972, was a one-stop source for many to get the tools for rebuilding a more just, ecological, and peaceful world. The biggest promise of this counter-cultural catalog was its simple yet empowering motto, "access to tools." You could get books or tools for building houses by hand, creating radio stations, wiring a building, fishing and so much more. The book was more than a catalog. It also had reviews of important counter-cultural gatherings or the use of psychedelic drugs. More than any other publication that came out of this time, the



# **Working Big**

**A Teachers' Guide to  
Environmental Sculpture**

**John Lidstone/Clarence Bunch**

WEC gives a strong sense of the productive side of the counter-cultural movement and its grand aspirations. We continue to find reasons to learn from the people who made the WEC.

### **The Wizard's Eye: Visions of American Resourcefulness**

Higgs, Jim and Milligan, Charles. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 1978, 108 pp.

From the back cover: "A sourcebook of imaginative money-making, energy-producing, house-building and fixing ideas that all use recycled materials, and the ability to see the gold in the scrapheap."

*The Wizard's Eye*, which includes an introduction by Buckminster Fuller, is a slick, mainstream book that presents short profiles on some pretty radical and imaginative ideas, as well as others that reflect 1960s and 70s aesthetics that could use some updating. Some of the more exciting inclusions are a mobile home made from the cockpit of a DC-7 and Bonnie Sherk's inner-city farm on an island of land surrounded by freeway exits and on ramps.

### **Working Big: A Teachers' Guide to Environmental Sculpture**

Bunch, Clarence, and Lidstone, John. New York, NY: Litton Educational Publishing, Inc., 1975, 96 pp.

This exciting guide applies some of the ideas of artists and writers like Ant Farm, Otto Piene and Willoughby Sharp to large scale art projects that can be executed with children. A pull quote from the back cover, "Children who have the opportunity to work together with large-scale materials are more likely to have meaningful, in-depth experiences than those whose background has been restricted to participation in small-scale

classroom activities. [...] A school should recognize that (such projects are) not only a logical extension of the classroom curriculum but also a way that students can become involved with art forms that are relevant to the world they live in."

# **About Temporary Services**

Temporary Services is Brett Bloom, Salem Collo-Julin and Marc Fischer. We have existed as a group, with several changes in membership and structure, since 1998. We produce exhibitions, events, projects, and publications. The distinction between art practice and other creative human endeavors is irrelevant to us.

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