



## Old House Eco Handbook: A Practical Guide to Retrofitting for Energy-Efficiency & Sustainability. by Roger Hunt, Marianne Suhr

*By Roger Hunt*

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**A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO RETROFITTING FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY** 'A much-needed and timely volume that mixes common-sense building science and practical instruction' Kevin McCloud  
Old House Eco Handbook is a companion volume to the authors' highly successful Old House Handbook, published in association with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). It seeks to answer the questions homeowners and others are asking about how to make old houses - medieval and timber-framed, Georgian, Victorian or Edwardian terraces - energy-efficient and sustainable. This book includes sections on: \* Roofs and ceilings - insulation options \* Windows and Doors - draft proofing, secondary glazing \* Painting and limewashing \* Energy and water - solar panels, hydro-power, water efficiency and recycling  
Energy-efficiency, in particular, is vital to cut carbon emissions, a major contributor to global warming. How should we go about this without devaluing future sustainability or the appeal and character of old homes by the use of inappropriate solutions? Old House Eco Handbook sets out to provide the answers.

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- Sales Rank: #2609364 in Books
- Published on: 2013-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.51" h x .83" w x 9.84" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 192 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

'a practical manifesto which puts the 'green' into heritage and urges us to reconsider our use of natural resources ... owners of historic buildings will find this invaluable. But it is not just owners who will benefit .. the Old House Eco Handbook contains in-depth technical information and guidance which architects and contractors can, and should, draw on." SPAB magazine "What a relief it is to read some of the advice given ... no jargon, no strange new materials, just common sense." The Suffolk Preservation Trust "I would happily give a copy to each of my clients to help explain the process, principles, good practice, malpractice and alternatives that should be considered ... a great induction course before embarking on a refurbishment so that the homeowner is able to make sound rational decisions ... " Green Building magazine 'straightforward language, a must especially for conservation architects' RIBA Journal "authoritative and exceptionally well-researched ... extensive and practical guide ... written with enough detail to appeal to architects and builders, yet in a way that is accessible to the homeowner ... it's a book that should be flicked through with plaster-encrusted fingers, rather than relegated to the coffee-table display." House & Garden "a beautifully crafted work packed full of easy to follow and practical advice that explains how older houses can be "tuned-up" to become more energy efficient. Moreover, this book is different to all the other advice you might find because here the wants and needs of the "Old House" are central to the type and method of the enhancements being employed; the protection of the building's historic and aesthetic value being of paramount importance." Surveyors Notebook 'takes a sympathetic approach to eco-renovation, addressing the knock-on effects of everything from improving the airtightness and thermal insulation of the home, to the installation of solar panels. Nothing in life is simple, and such home improvements need to be tackled with care.' Selfbuild & Design 'an indispensable guide for anyone looking to improve the energy efficiency of their draughty old pile without compromising its integrity.' Grand Designs 'This beautifully presented book considers the knock-on effects of eco building' Your Home 'Three green cheers for the Old House Eco Handbook ... It mixes an erudite analysis of building science with practical advice and demonstrations of best practice.' Grand Designs 'Comprehensive guide to retrofitting old houses to be energy efficient' The Bookseller

#### **About the Author**

MARIANNE SUHR is a Chartered Building Surveyor specialising in the repair of historic buildings. After a scholarship with the SPAB, she worked for seven years in architectural practice, then full-time on hands-on repair projects including three very different old houses. For the SPAB she has run over 40 homeowners' courses and numerous 'limesdays'. She is co-author (with Roger Hunt) of Old House Handbook, and has written and lectured extensively. A co-presenter of three series of BBC2's Restoration, she recently set up the Old House Consultancy, advising on repairs and alterations in the Oxfordshire locality. ROGER HUNT, co-author (with Marianne Suhr) of Old House Handbook, is an award-winning writer and blogger with a particular interest in sustainable and vernacular architecture and the materials and techniques used in construction. He is the author of Rural Britain: Then and Now, a celebration of the British countryside, Villages of England and Hidden Depths, an archaeological exploration of Surrey's past. He lectures on building-related issues, is a judge of the annual What House? Awards for new housing and serves on the editorial board of the SPAB magazine. His latest renovation project is a 1900 house on Martha's Vineyard in the USA. THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS was founded by William Morris in 1877 to counteract the highly destructive 'restoration' of medieval buildings being practised by many Victorian architects. Today it is the largest, oldest and most technically expert national pressure group fighting to save old buildings from decay, demolition and damage. Members include many leading conservation practitioners, homeowners living in houses spanning all historical periods and those who

simply care about old buildings.

## **Users Review**

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#### **Heather Bencomo:**

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