

Shelter, when it was first published in 1973, was the Whole Earth Catalog of architecture and alternative building. In some ways not much has changed in 17 years; alternative building and energy systems have not had much impact on our cities and they are needed now more than ever, so Shelter seems as relevant as it did in 1973. Shelter publications is planning an active publishing life for interesting, alternative ideas about art and building. You can write to them at Shelter Publications, Box 279, Bolinas, California 94924, to find out what's next.

David Pearson, *The Natural House Book: Creating a healthy harmonious and ecologically-sound home environment*. New York: Fireside/Simon & Schuster, 1989.

The introduction refers to this as a nuts and bolts dream book. Author/architect Pearson tells us what needs to be done to design healthy and beautiful living spaces: use natural materials, avoid wasteful consumption of energy and water and avoid toxic and harmful materials. The dangerous house chapter is particularly useful, as are the appendices on energy, materials, and toxins, and the list of sources of healthy products, which may be somewhat out of date by now.

James Wines, *De-Architecture*. New York: Rizzoli, 1987.

James Wines is a sculptor and principal in the architectural group, SITE. This book is his manifesto. It is a critical study of the designed environment and a critique of contemporary architecture, public art and community spaces. Wines is passionate and creative in his advocacy of architecture as art. He ends the book with a catalog of designs by artists, builders and architects. These are designs which he sees as existing outside the mainstream of architecture, but offering new perceptions and solutions. Included among these is one folk art environment, that of Clarence Schmidt. We think he could have included more environments to make his point, but just about anything Wines does is okay with us. If you don't know about this book, you should.

Michael Wallis, *Route 66: The Mother Road*. New York: St. Martins Press, 1990.

Wallis uses postcards, roadside signs, oral histories and photographs to construct this colorful history of the myth and reality of Route 66, the Main Street of America. We begin the trip in Chicago, travel through Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and end in California, on the beaches of Santa Monica. It is a colorful ride. Many of the roadside sites he documents look to us like candidates for folk art environment status.

Candida Lycett Green and Andrew Lawson. *Brilliant Gardens: A Celebration of English Gardening*. London: Chatto & Windus, 1989.

This book is about the small and transient gardens of ordinary people in England who have a passion and flair for artistic gardening, of which it looks like there are many. Among these descriptions and pictures of flower gardens are several

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