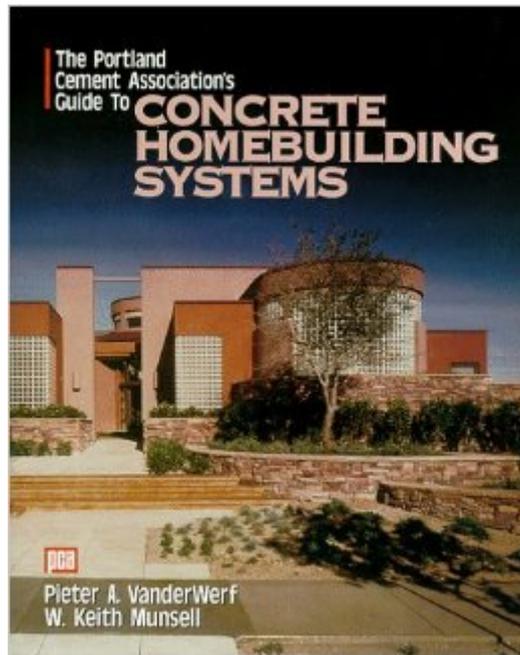


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# The Portland Cement Association's Guide To Concrete Homebuilding Systems



## Synopsis

Your one-source guide to Concrete-Based Homebuilding Systems. Residential contractors, architects, and developers will welcome this first total guide to the latest concrete-based homebuilding systems (CBHSs). With lumber costs still on the rise after doubling the early '90s, The Portland Cement Association Guide to Concrete Homes, by Peter VanderWerf and W. Keith Munsel, can deliver, durable, cost-efficient, esthetically pleasing alternative building materials and construction methods. It's all spelled out in an authoritative sourcebook that explains and compares the various types of CBHSs and lists special materials and tools for building them--provides case histories of concrete homes already built and in use--and contains data vital to building professionals who want to learn tomorrow's techniques today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Remember, this book is almost TEN years old because it is based on research done in 1993 and published in '95. So there have been advances and experience that go well beyond this book. Dwell magazine has often tickled me with various new building techniques and I wanted to learn more about what might be appropriate for me and the Midwestern climate. This book will give you an overview of SOME of the styles (mortarless, poured-in-place, etc.), and also indicate what might be appropriate for your situation. I'm not a builder or an architect but I wanted to design my own house, so this book did help me to recognize and comprehend the different categories of techniques. At the same time, this topic could really use an update that you won't find from the Portland Cement

Association. My advice to people like me is to keep looking and seek out small-scale builders who will familiarize you with their technique that they know best. There are dozens, and the most difficult thing is getting a crew that doesn't have to be trained for a new technique but has already completed several homes using a proven method. This book, even though it is somewhat old will give you a good sense of what to expect from building codes and prices, but it's just not enough, and there are no pretty pictures.

This book is written for the tradesman, but is easy for a layman to understand. It covers the full range of concrete building products for residential wall systems. It provides extensive comparisons for each system, including relative cost, R-value, impact on other building components, and learning curve. In particular, the Guide covers ICF (Insulating Concrete Forms), mortared and mortarless block, shotcrete, and proprietary systems such as the Hebel aerated concrete blocks. The authors interviewed hundreds of builders in the field and share design and installation tips as well as the relative advantages and disadvantages of each system. Guide to Concrete Homebuilding Systems is a \*must read\* for anyone interested in the latest developments in concrete wall building systems.

This is the first book I have ever returned to. I was looking for a book to tell me "How To". This book is more advertising than anything else.

I bought this book because I am thinking of building my own house. This book is geared toward contractors and not homeowner-builders.

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