The Natural House and the Original Green

The Natural House Seminar

Harvard
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Two Problems

★ Time

★ Language

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The Problem of Time

★ Three Watersheds
★ From Here, From Now?
★ Why Does it Matter?

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Getting the Rain Off

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Happiness with the Past?

★ Complete Happiness = Comfort but No Growth
★ Complete Unhappiness = Sickness, Suicide
★ Balance = Learn, Move Forward
Things that Work Regardless of Time of Origin

* Single Patterns

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STYLE = RELIGION

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Toolkit = Obsolescence

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Patterns vs. Styles

★ Early Necessity of Style
★ Blunt Instrument vs. Surgical Precision
★ Intelligence of Pattern Discourse

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Repeating Useful Things = Being Responsible
ALL RESPONSIBILITY = DEAD TRADITION

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Tradition Without Invention & Growth = Rut

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Figuring Things Out = Exploring the Unknown
All Exploration = Anti-Tradition

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Responsibility & Exploration = Living Tradition

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Living Traditions
Spawn Creativity

★ Highly Motivated – Survival
★ Begins with Essentials

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The Problem of Language

★ Sustainability
★ Natural
★ Vernacular
★ Tradition

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Natural

★ Occurring Without Artifice
★ Unintended Poetry
★ Setting the Stage

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Occurring Without Artifice
Unintended Poetry

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SETTING the STAGE
or GIVING the ORDERS?

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VERNACULAR

★ Vernacular Style
★ Living Vernacular Tradition

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Vernacular Style vs. Vernacular Living Tradition

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Vernacular | Median | Classical

More Organic | More Refined

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Builder Demotion

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Tradition

★ Dead - Historical
★ Living - Us, Today

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the Necessity of Uniqueness

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the ENORMOUS EFFORT to FIGURE IT OUT
Self-Plagiarism?

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What Is A Living Tradition?

★ Insight
★ Resonance
★ Repetition
★ Adoption

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Toward a Living Tradition

* Insight
* Cause
* Movement
* Living Tradition
Living Tradition

★ Most-Loved Places

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LIKENESS

★ HIGHEST LEVEL OF COMMAND & CONTROL

★ EXTREME DIFFICULTY OF THE ORGANIC WITH MECHANICAL PARADIGM

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Behavior

★ We Can’t Deliver Sustainability
★ 800% Efficiency
★ Going Shopping

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Toward Tradition

- Making Ourselves Better
- Making Others Better
- Restarting Living Traditions

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THE TRANSMISSION DEVICE

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SmartDwelling Regions

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HISTORIAN vs. STORY-TELLER
Rose Town

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By Today's Builders

By Their Grandparents

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AN EDUCATED MAN IS ONE
WHO HAS LEARNED HOW TO
GET WHAT HE WANTS
WITHOUT VIOLATING
THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.
Living Tradition
*Building in Rose Town*

Where to Build
Higher Ground

Build your house on higher ground so that the floods do not make you homeless.

How to Build
1. Building Shape & Walls
Above the Flood

Raise the floor of your house at least half your height above the ground because even the higher ground will flood in the worst of storms.

Strong Foundation

Build your foundation strong, with heavy columns of brick, block, or concrete so that logs and branches washing along in the flood do not smear your foundation and sweep your house away.

Light Wings

Build your house where each room has at least two outdoor walls, letting light and air into every room, because light exposes the dust and air ohne the wet things that would make you sick.

Ceiling Height

Build your ceilings high, up twice your height or more, so that the hot air can rise, keeping you cooler.

* Kingston, Jamaica *
Build the wall where the sun sets as narrow as possible, then protect it from the hot, afternoon sun with hedges and louvered verandahs so that you stay cooler in your home.

Build your walls of mud or brick so that they are stronger when the hurricane comes.

Build most of your house from materials available in Jamaica whenever possible so that you do not have to pay for shipping heavy materials from overseas.

Protect your windows with solid board shutters, so that you can quickly shut the shutters to protect your home when the storm is on its way.

Build at least one window on each end of your house that is either under a tree or under a verandah so you can leave these windows open and pull cool air into your home.
3 • VERANDAHS & BALCONIES

STREET VERANDAH

Build a verandah opening onto the street, because it is in sitting on the street verandah that you can both visit with your neighbors, and also take back your street from those who are behaving rudely or out of order.

BACK VERANDAH

Build a verandah in your yard so you can work on things outdoors but out of the sun.

BEVELED POSTS

Bevel the corners of all your verandah posts so that they last longer and are more comfortable to lean against.

4 • EAVES & ROOFS

HIP ROOF

Build your roof sloping up equally from all walls so that each part of the roof strengthens the parts beside it in a storm.

ROOF SLOPE

Slope your roof so that its height is 2/3 to 3/4 of its width, from ridge to eave, so that it will be strongest in a storm.
Let your roof overhang your wall a very short distance so that the hurricane has less room for grab, so that your roof might better survive the storm.

If you must have a large overhang somewhere on your house, build it as a separate eave that can be sacrificed to the storm, leaving your main roof unhurt.

Secure your zinc roof using many screws, especially at the edges, which is where the hurricane attacks it most fiercely.

Paint your zinc roof with zinc paint when it gets rusty so that its life is prolonged, and so that the zinc will reflect the sun's heat back to the sky, keeping you cooler.

Build a high vent near the center of your house so that the hot air near your ceiling can escape, pulling cooler air in your windows.

If you build an upper story, put the stairs outside so that they do not take up space in your house.

Let there be a wall built at the front of your house which is as tall as your shoulder, so that your yard is private from the street but you can watch the street from your verandah.
**Front Garden**

Plant the land in front of your front wall with a front garden to make your street a more pleasant place and be a gift to your neighbors.

**Rainwater**

Build rain troughs or gutters around your roof and store the rainwater in a cistern where you can use it later.

**Bathing**

Build at least one bath in every yard so that the people living in that yard can clean themselves.

**Sewage**

Do not release sewage into the ground but digest it in a septic tank so that you do not further contaminate Rose Tynn’s soil and water.

**Workshop**

Build the place where you work near the street so your raw materials are easy to deliver and your customers don’t need to come into your yard.

**Gardens**

Plant your yard with things you can eat: for why should your yard lay fallow while you spend more of your money at the grocery store?
Plant your yard with things you can eat for why should your yard lay fallow while you spend more of your money at the grocery store?
the Original GREEN
The Original Green

NOURISHABLE  LOVABLE

ACCESSIBLE  DURABLE

SERVICEABLE  FLEXIBLE

SECURABLE  FRUGAL

PLACES

BUILDINGS
NOURISHABLE PLACES

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Accessible Places

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SERVICEABLE PLACES
Lovable Buildings

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Down the Unlovable Carbon Stair-Steps

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Beauty or Lovability?

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Beauty or Lovability?

★ Admiration
★ Action
★ Breadth

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What’s The Delivery System?

★ Public Education’s Way

★ Higher Education’s Way

★ the Specialists’ Way

★ Nature’s Way

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Public Education’s Way
Higher Education’s Way

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NATURE’S WAY

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Three Sources of Lovability

★ Things that Reflect Us
★ Things that Delight Us
★ Things that Put Us in Harmony

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Things that Reflect Us

★ Reflecting the Human Form
★ Reflecting the Culture of our Groups
★ Reflecting the Culture of our Region
★ Reflecting the Culture of our Nation

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Things that Delight Us

★ Sensual
★ Group
★ Memory
★ Intellectual
★ Sheltering
★ Challenging

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Things that Put Us in Harmony

★ Mathematical
★ Simplicity
★ Authenticity
★ Natural Processes
★ Natural Laws
★ Natural Forms
★ Harmony with the Region

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Failed Experiments Embedded in Lovable Buildings

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Stacking the Deck

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Durable Buildings

★ Commodities vs. Proprietary Products
★ Repairable & Patchable
★ Attachment
★ Stretching Carbon
★ Materials
★ Instructed Operation
★ Margin of Error
★ Timeframe

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Strength vs. Durability

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Attachment to Shell

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No Maintenance = Maintenance-Proof

Charming Patched

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STRETCHING CARBON

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Carving Into Walls
Carving Into Roofs

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Carving Into Ceilings

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Carving Into Porch Ceilings

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INSTRUCTED OPERATION

SELF-EVIDENT OPERATION

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Flexible Buildings

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Ceiling Height

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Simplicity of Massing

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Simplicity of Circulation

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Unnatural Growth

Natural Growth

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GIZMO GREEN

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Lost in the Science

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Oblivious to the Storm

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Places

Nourishable
Organic Farming

Accessible
Compact & Walkable

Serviceable
Diverse

Securable
Identity

Buildings

Lovable
NU: Codes

Durable
Living Traditions

Flexible
Living Traditions

Frugal
Living Traditions

Gizmo Green
Living Traditions
CONDITIONING BUILDINGS FIRST

CONDITIONING PEOPLE FIRST

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Thermostat Wars

TO ALL EMPLOYEES
VERY IMPORTANT!!!

PLEASE DO NOT TAMPER WITH
THE
THERMOSTAT

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MIAMI HEAT

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LIVING IN SEASON

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Most Efficient Equipment

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Public Realm

★ Streets
★ Plazas
★ Squares
★ Greens
★ Parks
★ Playgrounds

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PRIVATE REALM

★ Courtyards
★ Gardens

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Cost Savings

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Footprint of the Garden

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Outdoor Living Rooms

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How Green is Grass?

Please keep off the grass.

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Garden Room

Principles & Parts

★ Types
★ Orientation
★ Proportion
★ Shapes
★ Walls
★ Floors
★ Ceilings
★ Doors
★ Furnishings
★ Fixtures

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Breakfast Terrace

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Dinner Garden

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Hearth Garden

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Kitchen Garden

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MASTER GARDEN

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Smaller & Smarter

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Double the Size
~
Half the Family

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Small is the New Luxury

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Expandability

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Katrina Cottage VIII

Keeping Room 15'10 x 13'9
Bed Alcove 9'6 x 13'9
Bath 5'0 x 7'9
Bedroom 9'9 x 13'9
Entry/Grow Zone
Dining Booth
Front Porch

Wardrobe
Home Office/Grow Zone
Bunk or Futon

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SHOTGUN EXPANSION

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Booth or Table

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Dining/Office/Home Work

Booth

Beam made up of double 2x12 over flat 1x8 over 6x6

Columns chamfered as shown; capitals are 2x2 w/ t 1 1/4 quarter round below

Architect suggests using salvaged base for table & church pew for bench components

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Insulating Bed Alcove

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Insulating Bed Alcove

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Nooks & Armoires

Master Bedroom
13-1 x 17-1

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Reduced Footprint

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Under-Bed Storage

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In-Bed Storage

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Thick Walls

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Boarded Walls

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Recycle vs. Reuse

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Putting Buildings Back to Work

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Be Frugal Naturally First

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Then Bridge The Gap

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Schooner Bay

★ Ecological Dividend
★ Time
★ Plant Material
★ Earthwork
★ Forest
★ Dunes
★ Cistern
★ Eco Machine
★ Smaller & Smarter Homes...
★ Schooner Bay Miracle

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