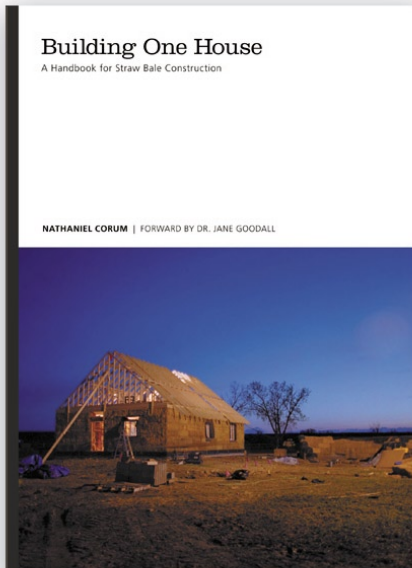




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\$24.95 soft cover, 192 pages, 133 photos and illustrations, size is 6" x 8.25"



Nathaniel Corum, the book's author, is Community Design Director for Red Feather Development Group. His concern is to find ways of encouraging cultural and environmental sustainability within indigenous communities. Previously a Fulbright Scholar in North Africa, his work at Red Feather is funded by a Rose Architectural Fellowship. He studied design at Stanford University and has a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

## Red Feather Kicks Off 2004 With Publication Of *Building One House: A Handbook For Straw Bale Construction*

BOZEMAN, MONTANA—The Red Feather Development Group has just published a handbook describing a straightforward, step-by-step straw bale construction process. The book was made possible by a grant to the Seattle design firm studiovertex from Sappi Fine Paper.

Over the past decade Red Feather has researched many construction methods and has arrived at a prototype that reflects the needs and resources of the American Indian communities with whom we work. *Building One House* gives the reader information about building a straw bale home from initial site selection to finished product, while further refining the typical Red Feather house—a home that is inexpensive, environmentally sound, and easily adapted to the various skills and needs of tribal members, owner/builders and contractors. The book also includes a preface by Dr. Jane Goodall, case studies of several Red Feather projects, and an overview of the housing challenges facing American Indian communities today.

## The Red Feather Development Group

Of the 2.5 million tribal members who live on American Indian reservations, over 300,000 are homeless or live in life-threatening, substandard conditions. Thousands more, live in homes that lack water and electricity and experience the kind of overcrowding that destroys hopes, lives, and life expectancy.

Red Feather Development Group focuses the public's eye on the poverty and desperate housing problems that have plagued American Indian reservations for generations. Red Feather raises funds and organizes volunteers to build desperately needed homes within reservation communities, while educating and empowering tribal members to create long-term solutions for their housing needs.

As a result of this work, Red Feather has received a tremendous amount of positive media through television and hundreds of publications. **The Oprah Winfrey Show**, **NBC Nightly News**, and the **Today Show** on NBC have all played an integral role in opening the eyes of a national audience to the Red Feather initiative and the housing issues facing native communities.

Corporate America has also expressed interest and support of the Red Feather endeavor. Costco Wholesale, Bosch, Polo Ralph Lauren, and Volvo Cars of North America have all provided major support. Last year Volvo awarded Robert Young—Red Feather's Founder and Executive Director—the inaugural Volvo for Life Award and are now using the Red Feather story for international marketing and promotion.



## **Praise for Red Feather Development Group and *Building One House: A Handbook For Straw Bale Construction***

"As a Chickasaw who has lived in New Mexico, Montana, South Dakota and Oklahoma, I've witnessed the generally distressed state of Indian homes and housing. Building One House: A Handbook for Straw Bale Construction describes Red Feather Development Group's proven construction process in step-by-step fashion, and will enable tribal housing personnel, American Indian families, and tribal community groups to address housing shortages on American Indian reservations. This handbook brings us a giant step closer to total Indian housing self-sufficiency and the pride of home ownership. Robert Young and Nathaniel Corum deserve our honor and support."

**Charles Blackwell**

Chickasaw Nation Ambassador to the United States of America

"That so many people living in the 21st century, in the richest country in the world, should be living in abject poverty, is a blot on American society. The Red Feather project is extremely important. It is culturally and environmentally sensitive; it has incredibly low overheads; it is truly making a difference."

**Jane Goodall PhD, DBE**

Founder – the Jane Goodall Institute  
United Nations Messenger of Peace

"Our work has its source in the belief that straw bale construction was bequeathed to us by Nebraska pioneers as a life-affirming promise to a world in great need. Thus we actively support Red Feather Development Group's vision and work because Red Feather demonstrates an inspiring commitment to fulfill that promise. This book helps bring an essential quality—replicability—to our desire to make straw bale construction widely available to under-housed Native American families."

**Matts Myhrman & Judy Knox**

Out On Bale  
Founders of The Last Straw Journal

"Straw bale construction is at once an American invention and a sustainable answer to housing needs on and off the reservation. Nathaniel Corum of Red Feather Development Group has produced an accessible and informative resource that promises to improve the housing situation on many American Indian Nations."

**Rick West**

Director, Smithsonian Institution  
National Museum of the American Indian

