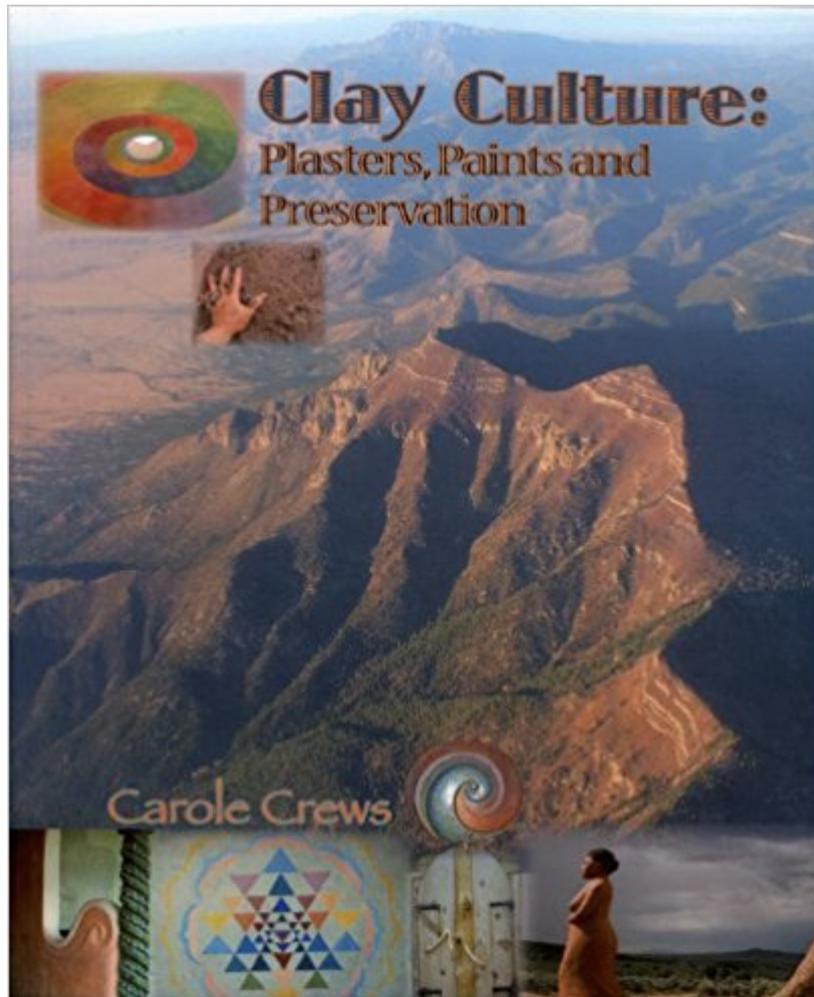


The book was found

# Clay Culture: Plasters, Paints And Preservation



## Synopsis

Clay Culture: Plasters, Paints and Preservation begins with the history of Taos, New Mexico, where earthen architecture remains a building block of culture. Many of the 280 black-and-white photographs are historic and illustrate the simplicity of old techniques and the role they play in a sustainable lifestyle. With hopes of shifting the conversation from "how-to" to "what next," Clay Culture offers thirty years worth of experience and information about building, repairing, and finishing walls with abundant, natural clay. During these shifting times, it's crucial to understand ways of providing shelter without a bank loan. It is only recently that we have forgotten how to take good care of ourselves without shopping. Models are a way to begin, and a great way to test local clay.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Gourmet Adobe Press (June 21, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0984222901

ISBN-13: 978-0984222902

Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 8.2 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #531,287 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Masonry](#) #105 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Historic Preservation](#) #664 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Do-It-Yourself](#)

## Customer Reviews

Speaking as a person who has built a strawbale home and covered it inside and out with earthen plaster, I would say that this book is not all that useful. It reminds me a lot of the how-to books from the 1960s and 70s; all the photos are black and white and the prose is cute-conversational. (In describing the thickness of clay paint as that of pancake batter, they use an entire half-page to include a pancake batter recipe, for example.) The font is overly large; is this to make the book appear thick and substantial? Instead of regularly using earthen clay found on or near site, these authors often use kaolin bought at a potter's store. (Not so bad if you are 100% urban, however.) This isn't a totally bad book if you just want to get a start on making natural finishes, but there are

far better, more sophisticated books that will teach one a great deal more about understanding and making natural plasters and finishes, and I would search them out if I were serious about such a project.

This is a wonderful book to have both for the inspiration it offers and the practical recipes for mixing up clay slips, wheat paste glues, and a variety of clay mixes. There's tremendous experience offered up in the book along with images that can help you on your way to plastering or building. This is a book we keep close by and use a lot.

This is a wonderful book! I began my adobe house before the book was available, doing all the work myself. I was using other books which were helpful, but my experience working with adobe changed with this book. I found ways of working which were both easier and much faster. Carole also encourages experimentation and creativity. There is no one right way to work, this book gives many methods and recipes and ideas.

Carole Crews book "Clay Culture" pulls all of the ends together for anyone who is already in love with natural earth clays and adobe construction . . . or will help you begin your fall. The book gives a great historical foundation and a non-intimidating "how to get your hands into it" approach for restoration and new building with earthen materials. Crews really conveys that we can all enjoy the material as well as the process in creating a home(stead) from the materials around us, just as many generations before us have. This book blessed my life.

Inspiring! Great information.

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