



The Blog



Benefits of Reawakening the Earth Sheltered Green House Design

Posted on 24. Jan, 2012 by [Maryruth Belsey Priebe](#) in [Articles](#)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=DSbQ3t-j41Y

If you want to be inspired by real life [passive solar house plans](#), definitely check out this [YouTube video](#) on one man's earth sheltered journey in the Saumur region of France. Besides the fact that the scenes in the video are of the quintessential charming French landscape, it tells the story of how humans have been using earth sheltering to construct efficient, comfortable homes for centuries.

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But far from a bygone green building technique, earth sheltering offers many lessons to modern green architecture. Any type of earth sheltered design – whether it's rammed earth, adobe, earthbags, or otherwise made with earth – will provide mounds of environmental and energy benefits. Consider the following perks of choosing an earth sheltered green house plan:

- Receive the natural temperature balancing effects of the earth to keep your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer, thereby reducing costs for heating and cooling.
- If oriented properly and built with energy efficient windows and doors, you can take advantage of passive solar heating which provides another source of warmth during cold months. Sun shades at the correct angle will prevent overheating during the summer months.
- Never worry about frozen pipes because they're buried underground where the temperature is constant and unfrozen.
- Reduce building material requirements since much of the structure of an earth sheltered home is provided by, well, the earth.
- Minimize the potential negative impacts of natural disasters like tornadoes, hurricanes, and earthquakes – your sheltered home provides protection against these elements.



The way this French man has revitalized the already existing earth sheltered spaces is just fantastic. But even if you don't have hidden rockside homes on your property, you can still enjoy the benefits of earth sheltering in your next green home. Check it out and let us know what you think.

earth sheltered green house plans



A modern version of an earth sheltered green house design

Image of a modern earth sheltered home via [Mother Earth News](#)



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