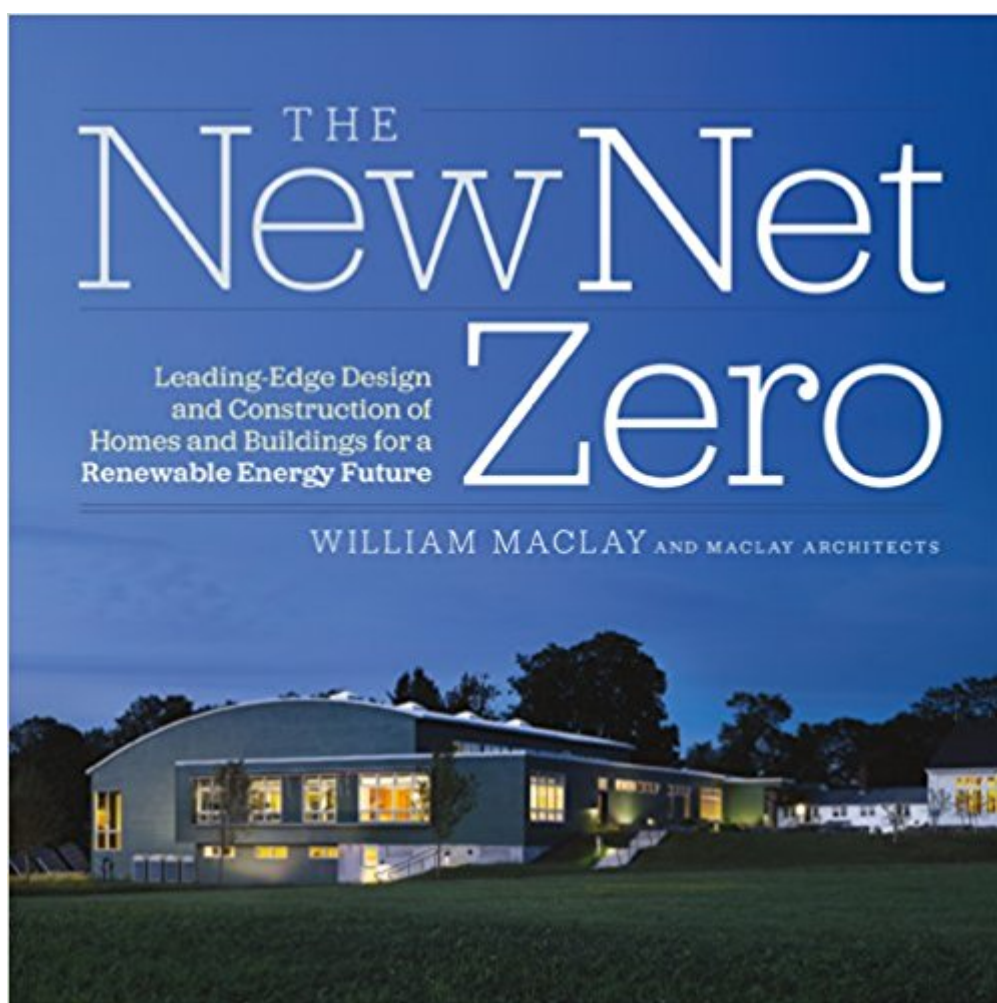


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# The New Net Zero: Leading-Edge Design And Construction Of Homes And Buildings For A Renewable Energy Future



## Synopsis

The new threshold for green building is not just low energy, it's net-zero energy. In *The New Net Zero*, sustainable architect Bill Maclay charts the path for designers and builders interested in exploring green design's new frontier net-zero-energy structures that produce as much energy as they consume and are carbon neutral. In a nation where traditional buildings use roughly 40 percent of the total fossil energy, the interest in net-zero building is growing enormously among both designers interested in addressing climate change and consumers interested in energy efficiency and long-term savings. Maclay, an award-winning net-zero designer whose buildings have achieved high-performance goals at affordable costs, makes the case for a net-zero future; explains net-zero building metrics, integrated design practices, and renewable energy options; and shares his lessons learned on net-zero teambuilding. Designers and builders will find a wealth of state-of-the-art information on such considerations as air, water, and vapor barriers; embodied energy; residential and commercial net-zero standards; monitoring and commissioning; insulation options; costs; and more. The comprehensive overview is accompanied by several case studies, which include institutional buildings, commercial projects, and residences. Both new-building and renovation projects are covered in detail. *The New Net Zero* is geared toward professionals exploring net-zero design, but also suitable for nonprofessionals seeking ideas and strategies on net-zero options that are beautiful and renewably powered.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The New Net Zero illustrates what’s possible today and provides a wealth of building examples, information, and know-how for designers and builders as we move to phase out carbon emissions in the built environment.”—Edward Mazria, FAIA, FRAIC; founder and CEO, Architecture 2030

“We have the tools, as this gorgeous book shows, to imagine a new future. The question is whether we have the will—and the power of these images may go some ways toward creating that precious resource.”—Bill McKibben, founder, 350.org; author of *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*

“Bill Maclay is both a talented designer and a passionate advocate of net-zero and energy-positive buildings. In *The New Net Zero* he has defined the path to success by presenting aesthetically compelling, energy-self-reliant buildings and by clearly building the case that net zero is, by far, the preferred approach both economically as well as environmentally.”—Steven J. Strong, president, Solar Design Associates; author of *The Solar Electric House*

“Maclay Architects have focused their entire business model on net zero and have written one of the most in-depth and definitive books, *The New Net Zero*, on net-zero design and construction applicable to commercial buildings.”—Rick Fedrizzi, CEO and founding chair, US Green Building Council

“The global carbon/climate challenge is huge. This book shows a clear path to success—from global vision to concrete strategies, technology, and practices. This book completely demystifies how to get to net zero and shows what thoughtful, integrated design can accomplish on a wide range of building types. This is a unique book in showing that net zero is readily achievable with today’s technology. These buildings save money over fossil-fuel buildings and can be (are) beautiful and healthy. Read this. Learn this. And get going with the important work ahead of us all.”—Gunnar Hubbard, FAIA, LEED Fellow; principal and sustainability practice leader, Thornton Tomasetti

“A magnum opus of net-zero-energy design and construction, chock full of excellent detail and inspiration. Bill is a great sage of the net zero energy movement, and his wisdom comes through on every page. *The New Net Zero* is very readable, and beautiful as well. I learn something every time I read it—highly recommended.”—Brad Liljequist, AICP, LEED AP; net zero energy director, International Living Future Institute; author of *The Power of Zero: Learning from the World’s First Net Zero Energy Buildings*

Design is the first signal of human intention. Thoreau once wrote, ‘What’s the use of a fine house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on?’ Bill Maclay thoroughly describes an intentional architect’s Platonic search for truth in beauty and Aristotelian search for truth in science with a Hippocratic oath to seek to ‘do no harm.’ With this fine book

he provides a robust foundation for buildings that can rise up to become beneficial to people, place and planet."--William McDonough, coauthor of *Cradle to Cradle* and *The Upcycle*, founder of Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute

“This book will become a game changer at a pivotal point in history. The New Net Zero is a technical manifesto that brings together engineering, ecology, architecture, energy, the construction industry, transportation, and design into a coherent whole. Its goal is to transform the built environment into landscapes that heal, while reversing climate change. Immensely practical, thorough, and technologically comprehensive: it is a masterful job.”--John Todd, founder, John Todd Ecological Designs

The New Net Zero is a thorough philosophical and technical rendering of the subject. What makes it exciting and meaningful is that it is not just about the details and technology, it also demonstrates how it is essential to build on human and other natural-system relationships to succeed. There is hope in these pages; this book goes a long way to prove that a sustainable future is possible and practical.”--Bill Reed, coauthor of *The Integrative Design Guide to Green Building* and president of the Integrative Design Collaborative

The New Net Zero is a treasure trove of design and construction knowledge gleaned over a 40-year career in creating leading-edge, net-zero-energy and near-net-zero-energy buildings of all types and sizes. Detailed, practical information on design is interspersed with beautifully illustrated case studies of Maclay’s projects. If I could recommend only one book on low-energy, green building today, this would be it.”--Alex Wilson, founder of BuildingGreen, Inc. and president of the Resilient Design Institute

"The New Net Zero is comprehensive, authoritative, beautifully written, well illustrated, and incredibly timely. With the effects of climate change escalating rapidly, moving away from fossil-fuel energy has become desperately necessary. The good news is that it has now become possible to cost effectively power our buildings entirely with renewable energy sources, and this is the best book yet about why and how to build net-zero buildings. Maclay and his team have long been leaders in proving the net-zero proposition, and he has gracefully delivered a detailed manual for the big design and building breakthrough that can happen now.”--Tedd Benson, founder of Bensonwood & Unity Homes and author of *Building the Timber Frame House*, *The Timber-Frame Home*, and *Timberframe*

Bill Maclay, founder and president of Maclay Architects, has been a lecturer and educator at colleges, universities, and conferences focused on environmental design. He is also past president of the Vermont Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and has served on the board of directors of the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility and the Yestermorrow Design/Build

School, among other organizations. Maclay and his firm have long been involved in research on all aspects of environmental design, including sustainable design, indoor air quality, building science, material selection, and related issues. Maclay committed to using renewable energy to create a nonfossil-fuel-based future in 1970. He developed, designed, and built one of the first renewable communities in the US, and his innovative renewable and energy-conserving projects have been exhibited and published internationally. Maclay Architects' projects range from single-family residences to multifamily residential, commercial, and institutional projects. Maclay has a BA from Williams College and a master of architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. Maclay Architects is located in Waitsfield, Vermont.

As a veteran Builder with 41 years in the industry, I have found this book detailed, thorough, beautiful and inspiring. The building sections and analysis are clear and balanced, and the presentation of everything from the math and science to the art and trades is comprehensive. I recommend this for those seeking a deep look, starting out, taking the pulse of progress, and those looking for refreshment and updating: architects, planners, builders, developers, institutional managers. Jonathan A. Wright. Northampton, MA

When I first saw the book's listing on , I balked at the price. Once you see the quality and content of this book, however, you'll see that it's well worth it. Most of the book is centered around case studies. Beautiful diagrams and photography are coupled with cold, hard data and provide a great foundation for educating yourself on energy efficient home building strategies. I especially like the author's acknowledgment that ROI is important. Just because you can do net-zero doesn't mean it's awesome cost effective. There is a balance. This is a great book for established builders and architects, as well as laypeople just interested in the field.

An excellent book with great graphics.

bought for my dad who is building a net zero house. he said the book was fantastic.

Excellent information, very well written, nice pictures and illustrations. So much to learn in just one book.

I purchased this for a General Contractor and he loved it! Thanked me twice!

Excellent discussion as well as detailed drawings. I highly recommend.

Informative book.

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