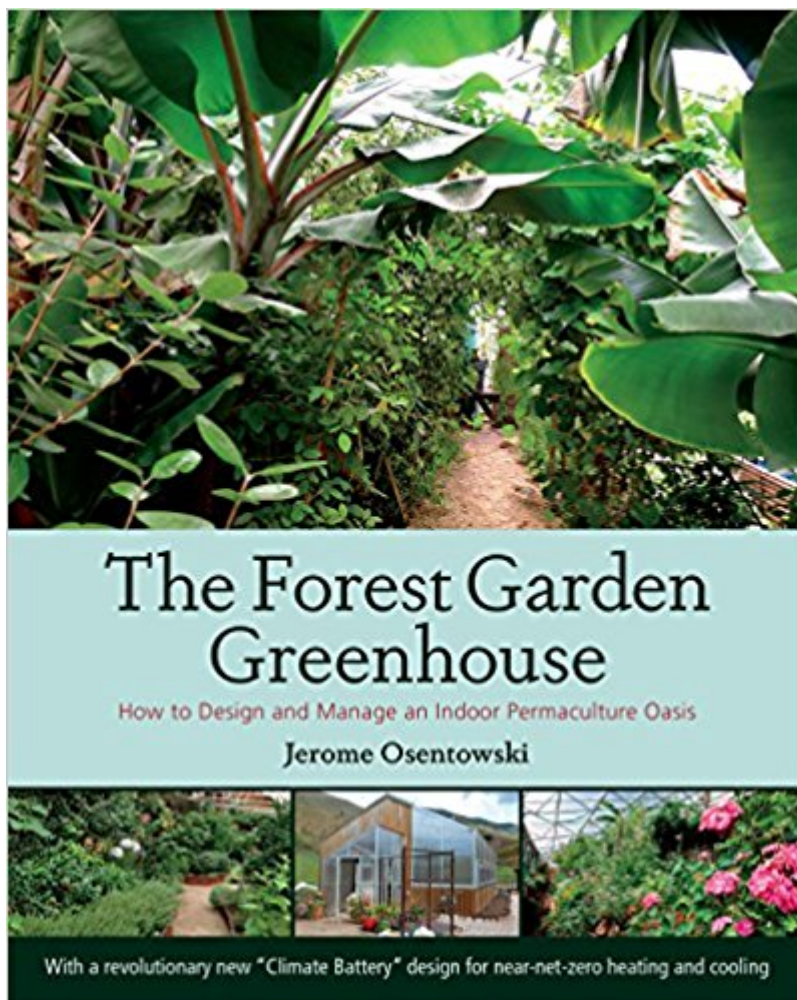


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# The Forest Garden Greenhouse: How To Design And Manage An Indoor Permaculture Oasis



## Synopsis

With a revolutionary new “Climate Battery” design for near-net-zero heating and cooling By the turn of the nineteenth century, thousands of acres of glass houses surrounded large American cities, becoming a commonplace symbol of the market garden and nursery trades. But the possibilities of the indoor garden to transform our homes and our lives remain largely unrealized. In this groundbreaking book, Jerome Osentowski, one of North America’s most accomplished permaculture designers, presents a wholly new approach to a very old horticultural subject. In *The Forest Garden Greenhouse*, he shows how bringing the forest garden indoors is not only possible, but doable on unlikely terrain and in cold climates, using near-net-zero technology. Different from other books on greenhouse design and management, this book advocates for an indoor agriculture using permaculture design concepts—integration, multi-functions, perennials, and polycultures—that take season extension into new and important territory. Osentowski, director and founder of Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute (CRMPI), farms at 7,200 feet on a steep, rocky hillside in Colorado, incorporating deep, holistic permaculture design with practical common sense. It is at this site, high on a mountaintop, where Osentowski (along with architect and design partner Michael Thompson) has been designing and building revolutionary greenhouses that utilize passive and active solar technology via what they call the “climate battery”—a subterranean air-circulation system that takes the hot, moist, ambient air from the greenhouse during the day, stores it in the soil, and discharges it at night—that can offer tropical and Mediterranean climates at similarly high altitudes and in cold climates (and everywhere else). Osentowski’s greenhouse designs, which can range from the backyard homesteader to commercial greenhouses, are completely ecological and use a simple design that traps hot and cold air and regulates it for best possible use. The book is part case study of the amazing greenhouses at CRMPI and part how-to primer for anyone interested in a more integrated model for growing food and medicine in a greenhouse. With detailed design drawings, photos, and profiles of successful greenhouse projects on all scales, this inspirational manual will considerably change the conversation about greenhouse design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Publishers Weekly- "Osentowski shows how building and maintaining a Mediterranean or tropical greenhouse full of figs, lemons, papayas, and bananas can be both affordable and practical.

Drawing on his 30 years of experimentation and teaching in the harsh, dry mountain environment of his Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute, he offers lush descriptions of his five greenhouses and in-depth, layered advice on designing and constructing a balmy winter retreat. His method uses a 'climate battery' consisting of tubes buried underground to collect and hold warm air from the greenhouse, which then recirculate it when the temperature cools, backed up in the coldest days with a pellet or wood stove that can simultaneously heat an attached sauna.

Osentowski admits that he prefers a hands-on method of teaching, and his written tours through greenhouses are sometimes hard to follow. Novices may be intimidated by the lack of step-by-step, formulaic instruction. But more experienced gardeners, builders, and tinkerers, and even intrepid beginners willing to carefully observe, compute, and ponder, will find this readable guide jam-packed with enough information and inspiration to help them attempt their own indoor paradises. "A grand master of American permaculture, Jerome Osentowski has pioneered school gardens, high-altitude/high-nutrient cropping, bio-islands for organic golf course management, and heritage fruit trees for the mountain West. Of them all, the forest garden greenhouse is the most impressive. A marvel of integration between humans, the built environment, and the natural world, the greenhouse, in a world of climate calamity, will prove indispensable for both home comfort and food production. The Forest Garden Greenhouse surpasses all others on the subject for technical innovation and practical design." --Peter Bane, author of The Permaculture Handbook: Garden Farming for Town and Country, board member, Permaculture Institute of North America, and former publisher and editor, Permaculture

Activist's Magazine "In 1997 I had the privilege of visiting Jerome Osentowski's forest garden in Basalt, Colorado. There is no doubt that Jerome learns from nature with enthusiasm and is one of the few with the capacity to translate his observations into a garden that feeds people and dreams. The Forest Garden Greenhouse not only makes you wonder how you could achieve forest gardens at home and in your community, but it also makes you take action without delay! There is a sense of urgency that we transform our resource use; with wisdom gained from experience, Jerome shows us how we can do just that." --Gunter Pauli, author of The Blue Economy "This revolutionary book captures what Jerome Osentowski has learned in decades of building and tending his high-altitude food forest and extensive permaculture site. Jerome's climate battery is a brilliant idea deserving a broad audience. It brings greenhouse technology into the twenty-first century using simple, appropriate materials. The Forest Garden Greenhouse clearly and elegantly describes the greenhouse, the garden, and the evolution of Jerome's deep wisdom and creativity. This is much more than a greenhouse book; it's a manifesto and guidebook showing how permaculture can help us live regenerative lives." --Toby Hemenway, author of The Permaculture City and Gaia's Garden "Jerome Osentowski is a master of simple, elegantly frugal, eminently practical indoor gardens that can grow lots of almost anything almost anywhere by not treating soil like dirt. His recipe for rich sheet-mulched soil has so far produced 58 passive-solar banana crops (and over 100 other kinds of higher plants including Bornean tropics) in my own super-insulated passive-solar home near Aspen. Now The Forest Garden Greenhouse lucidly shares Jerome's deep, versatile, and ever-evolving experience. Read, learn, apply, improve, spread, enjoy!" --Amory B. Lovins, cofounder and chief scientist, Rocky Mountain Institute "Living in a cold climate is no excuse for not growing your own tropical fruits and year-round vegetables. The Forest Garden Greenhouse teaches how to harvest not just food but year-round temperateness, based on the real-world experience of a seasoned greenhouse designer and manager. After my last visit to Jerome's greenhouse, I came home to Massachusetts and we built a subtropical greenhouse. Once you read his book, you will want to, too!" --Eric Toensmeier, author of The Carbon Farming Solution and Perennial Vegetables

Booklist- "As an instructor at Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute in Colorado, which he founded almost 30 years ago, veteran gardener and environmental sustainability expert Osentowski teaches what he embodies in his daily life. His passive solar home hugs the side of a mountain, and the

produce from his state-of-the-art, one-acre greenhouse provides most of his income. In this groundbreaking, user-friendly guide, Osentowski employs this same structure as the working model for his cutting-edge indoor growing techniques. A key innovation featured here is a solar heat technology called the climate battery, which uses a network of buried tubes that can keep plants warm and thriving even in the dead of winter. Along with clear instructions on installing a climate battery in existing greenhouses, Osentowski provides seasoned guidance on bed layout and soil techniques, successful companion planting, and cultivating microclimates in and around the greenhouse. His well-written, amply illustrated handbook also contains a wealth of information on permaculture-related growing practices that greenhouse amateurs and professionals will find invaluable.

Save your money and get the book from the library first before deciding to purchase. The book has a lovely cover and colored photographs (which is why the review is 2 stars instead of 1 star). Somehow, though, this book is EMPTY of all information. I would get excited about a chapter title, and after reading the chapter I wondered what just happened. Where did the time go? Did two pages stick together and I missed the content? The chapter on building an earth battery - which is what I was specifically interested in - was technically barren and just had filler. Honestly, YouTube videos are more useful. Scouring the internet and reading random blogs has more info than this book.

Not a lot of how to. More like a story about the greenhouse they built. Had to go online to try and find information about building a greenhouse. Not sure who came up with the sub-title, but not real accurate.

Exceptional book by a pioneer in greenhouse gardening. Loads of information based on decades of experience. Climate battery technology is awesome, but could be more technical "how-to" build in the book.

Very interesting book with lots of pics and info on how this gentleman made Forest Garden greenhouses in his cold climate. Tells how to do it for yourself. Thoroughly enjoyed it and keep picking it up to re-read parts.

I was somewhat disappointed actually. It was lacking in real detail, though some readers will be

satisfied with the story and his trek through all this. I'm giving it only '1 star' but I don't hate it. The publishers did a great job of creating more than there really was I think. To me it was more of a "How-not-to..." report, than a how to report. A lot of unnecessary problems and not enough technical detail as many hoped for. Without my less positive comments, I allowed 3 colleagues to read it over the past weeks and only one felt it was worth purchasing. But then after we all discussed it he decided he was also just really more impressed with the way the publishers presented the story and information, more than the actual usable content. Yes, the publication is 'well done', but still missing much. I'm not a negative guy at all, but don't understand why some are so mesmerised to give it a '5 star rating'. I guess you need to fit into a very niche lifestyle to feel this was more than "an interesting read". I guess what we are really saying is that it should probably have been a blog story or magazine article. His work, overall, isn't something most people will want to duplicate. It's just another use of 'geo-air, geo-solar, and other types of earth battery technology', but others have done it more efficiently and with less re-do's... I think most are looking for more technical details.

Outstanding book  
A do it yourself manual  
Has permaculture, plants data and different glass house features. Including subsoil heating and air to ground humidity transfer dirt cheap

I absolutely love this book. It is a Bible and a must have for any gardener. I only wish I lived close enough to see Jerome's greenhouses firsthand and meet the man himself. A truly inspiring read and one I will be keeping and referring back to for years to come. So impressive and achievable!

'Climate Battery' is essentially actively moving interior solar-heated air through subsoil tubing 5x hourly... that said, there is a bit more to the concept, as well as CRMPI-specific approaches... lots of detail to be gleaned from the case studies, no doubt much to improve upon and/or adapt to local needs and resources... buy the book, totally worth it =)

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