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Renovation 4th Edition: Completely Revised And Updated



Synopsis

When it comes to home renovation, there's no substitute for experience. Renovation 4th Edition contains the collective wisdom of hundreds of contractors, architects and tradespeople who shared their first-hand experience with Mike Litchfield as he interviewed and photographed them on job sites across North America. As a founding editor of "Fine Homebuilding" magazine, the author of 12 acclaimed books, and a home renovator himself, Litchfield was able to record lifetimes of practical, field-tested solutions and trade secrets from the cream of the crop--the pros that other pros admire. Both first-time renovators and professionals who want to supplement their knowledge of specific trades will find Renovation 4th Edition invaluable. R4 reflects the new realities of planning carefully, spending wisely, maximizing space and building durably. Its 614 pages contain extensively revised chapters on planning; doors, windows and skylights; electrical wiring; and energy conservation. Its illustrations are crisp and informative. And its 1000+ photos were selected from more than 40,000 that the author has taken over the years. This classic work covers renovation from start to finish surfaces. Best of all, R4 is written in a down-to-earth conversational style that is clear and easy to understand. Litchfield has a sharp wit and a dry sense of humor that makes this book not only useful, but great fun to read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I inherited the 2nd edition of this book from my father, and found it to be one of the most

comprehensive books I've read on home renovation. I still find that 'job specific' books are required when I'm working on a particular task (eg plumbing, wiring, drywall books when I'm doing respectively plumbing, wiring, or drywall), but for getting the 'big picture' the Renovation book is a winner. The 1st and 2nd editions were published by Prentice Hall, and the 3rd and 4th by Taunton Press (the Fine Woodworking / Fine Homebuilding folks). My 2nd edition was published in 1990, and I recently bought this 4th edition as my 2nd edition is now 25 years old. Since other reviewers have already covered the benefits of this book, I'm instead going to review some of the differences I've found between the 2nd and 4th revisions. The 4th edition definitely has a more modern Taunton Press style (same for the very similar 3rd edition judging from the Look Inside preview). The pictures are in color instead of black & white, there are 'Pro Tip' sidebars everywhere, and the font is slightly larger and easier to read. Naturally, the content has also been updated to reflect some of the latest technologies now available: Pex plumbing, laminate flooring, laser tools, etc. Overall, the 4th edition is a nicer looking book, however, that seems to have come at the cost of some useful content. Comparing the two, I find the 2nd edition not only has more content but also more detail in general. For example, Chapter 9, Masonry, has an entire section on using concrete block. That material is completely missing in this 4th edition, in fact, you won't even find concrete block in the index. Same for the discussion of Post & Beam, Balloon, and Platform framing in Chapter 8--no mention at all in the 4th edition.

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