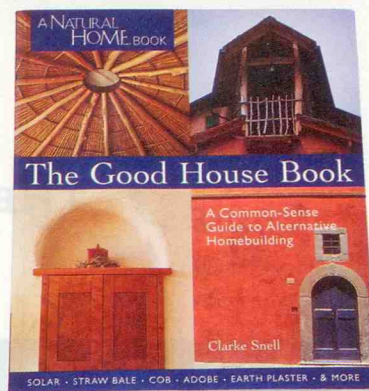




**◀ LIGHT FANTASTIC**  
 Measuring 15.75"H by 42"W by 20"D, this six-light Havana fixture from Corbett Lighting boasts a hand-woven shade made from sustainable abaca fibers. A two-light matching sconce also is available. Find the lighting at Valley Light Gallery in Scottsdale, (480) 948-5030. To learn of other retailers, visit [corbett-lighting.com](http://corbett-lighting.com).

## ECO-ARTISTRY ▶

Reminiscent of a still-life painting, these niceties from VivaTerra are eco-conscious. The Pieced Teak Branch Mirror's frame is made of parts of tree branches salvaged from a furniture factory. The Recycled Jewel-Tone Bottle Vases are just that—frosted-glass vessels in vivid hues created from recycled bottle glass. The gold vase is 7"H; brown is 14.5"H; and red is 18"H. Available separately or in sets of three from [vivaterra.com](http://vivaterra.com).



## ☀ WORDS OF WISDOM

Clarke Snell poses the philosophical question "What is a good house?" in *The Good House Book: A Common-Sense Guide to Alternative Homebuilding* (Lark Books/A Natural Home Book).

Snell explores the house-and-human relationship by pointing out that while housing is vital to one's existence, our modern-day construction has lost a connection to nature.

In this highly readable do-it-yourself handbook, Snell guides his audience through a detailed explanation of alternative materials and structures. Some of the latest trends are in straw-bale insulation, cordwood construction and recycled plastics. He dissects these complex subjects through a variety of diagrams and photographs, and also historical insights.

The book is peppered with helpful tips and innovations, such as post-industrial recycled denim, which can now be utilized for insulation in place of the traditional Fiberglas.

Snell also believes that "There's simply no excuse for not orienting a building to make the best possible use of the sun." He advises homeowners in desert climates to build houses that face north.

The book includes a detailed resource guide with Internet and other references broken down by each chapter's subject.

—Lindsay Norman

