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Complete Masonry: Building Techniques, Decorative Concrete, Tools And Materials (Sunset)



Synopsis

Combining basic-to-advanced instruction and exciting projects, this complete guide shows how to build paths, patios, and walls using all manner of masonry, including brick, stone, tile, and concrete. It helps readers plan structures, choose materials, and select the right tools for the job. Projects include building an outdoor barbecue, casting stepping-stones, and using updated concrete decorating techniques such as acid staining, resurfacing, stamping, and tinting. Step-by-step instructions take readers through every phase of the building process with clear, easy-to-understand text and 200 how-to photos. Includes complete materials lists and information on maintenance and repair. Even more comprehensive than the ultra-successful Walks, Walls & Patio Floors!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sunset has published several books on this subject, 3 of them called "Complete Masonry" with different subtitles and a basic one, possibly others. This is the only one that I've actually gone through cover to cover and it is superb. I have the Black and Decker flavor of Complete Masonry too and this one is far better at 1/2 the price. The projects described are quite a bit more appealing than the B&D's plain cookie cutter boring wall and walkway offerings. More importantly this book offers better techniques of design that can be applied to your own unique design. Another of my favorites on the subject of concrete that is also applicable to walls, walkways, flooring or whatever else you wish to conjure is a book called "Concrete Countertops: Design, Form, and Finishes for the New Kitchen and Bath" It actually offers much more than what the title leads you to believe and suggests

concrete as a very versatile replacement for standard brick and tile uses of the past.

I bought Sunset's "Complete Masonry" because I am thinking about using concrete for my next kitchen counter top. I had heard on a radio home improvement program that concrete kitchen counters are popular in some other countries. Complete Masonry has one chapter on concrete counter tops, but the example they give is an outdoor barbecue, not a kitchen. The techniques can be adapted to a kitchen, but it's not the same as having illustrations of specifically what I want to do. Other than that, Complete Masonry has lots of information for the home gardener or handy person. You get pictures and details for laying out and construction of walks, stairs, patios, walls, ponds, rock gardens and all kinds of decorative and imaginative masonry work around the home. It's aimed at the home improvement market, not for the professional mason, although a professional might get some creative ideas from its illustrations. Complete Masonry starts with very basic teaching such as "what is a shovel" and works up to include all the details you would need to construct the projects in the book. Like a lot of Sunset books it's full of ideas and examples of very elaborate projects, though the projects appear to have been done by skilled professionals. Even so, with a little practice you could probably finish any of the projects if you have a little construction skill and are willing to do the work. It's a good idea book, and a practical how-to home improvement book.

This is a very well done book, and I enjoyed it very much. It has nice projects that you really can do by yourself. The pictures are wonderful, and full of great ideas and details. The instructions are so clear, so anybody can understand easily.

Not a lot about masonry, but a lot about outdoor stone / brick landscaping in warm climates. The pictures can give you ideas about landscape projects.

The title is a bit of a misnomer, it should be "Complete accessory &/or decorative masonry techniques". For what it is, its' descriptions are good & pictured. Informative & a good read with illustrations to match!

Heavy on decorative techniques light on the building techniques. Reads more like a landscape architect book than a builders book. I was expecting more application to homes instead of landscaping. I guess I should have known when part of the title was decorative concrete. I think part

of it should be at least some structural references.. meh

good samples, easy to understand

love this book lots of great pictures and instructions on how-to

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