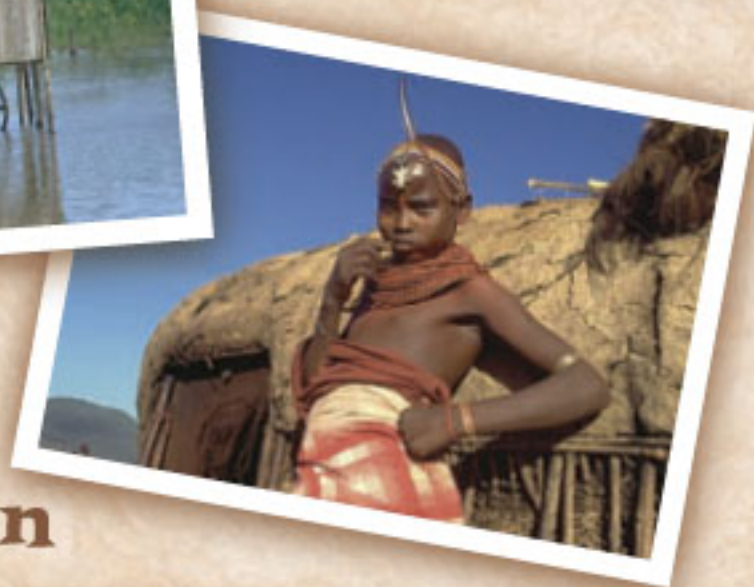


# Imagine a House

A Journey to  
Fascinating Houses  
Around the World



**Angela  
Gustafson**



Sleeping under a  
goat skin tent?



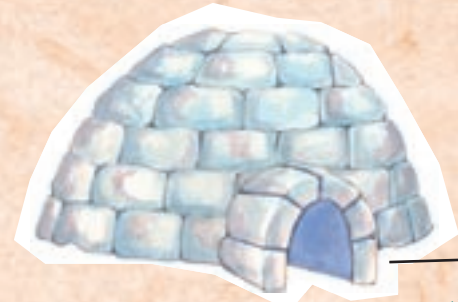
Eating  
dinner  
in a  
beehive?



Floating  
on an  
island  
of



Hopping on  
a boat to cross  
the street?



Crawling through a tunnel of snow?



Painting pictures  
on outside walls?



Climbing a  
ladder to  
the front door?

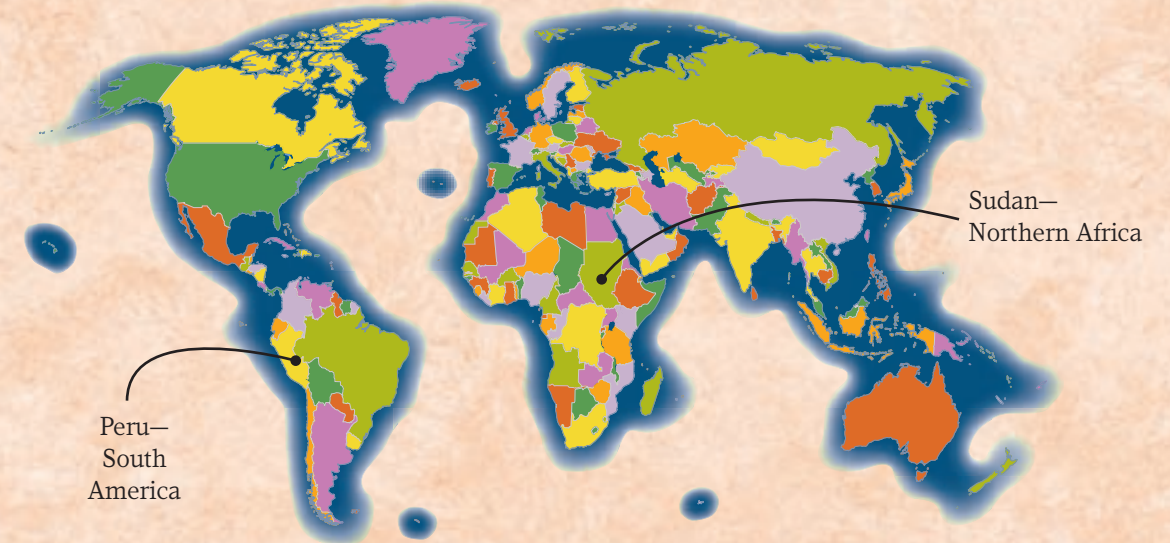
All over the world, especially in cities, you can see T-shirts and jeans, fast food chains, streets full of cars, places to shop, shiny new buildings and big fancy houses. But most of the world isn't so modern. Away from the bustle, where tradition runs deep, families build houses with simple materials yet amazing results! Turn the pages and see for yourself.



# Round Houses— Rondavels

South America and Africa

**F**rom high in the mountains to low on the grasslands, circles beat squares as the house shape of choice. Cold, rugged places can be chock full of rocks. Grasses and mud are used where it's warm. Look on the ground to see what's around. There are pluses to building with materials nearby. Boards limit shape, but clay and stones don't. Shingles cost money, but grass grows for free.



A Quero Indian boy outside his round stone house—Andes Mountains, Peru

The Quero Indians of Peru live and work at three levels of the Andes Mountains. This is the highest level. They raise sheep, llamas and alpacas since it is too cold to grow crops. The land is rugged and almost all travel is by horseback. Houses are built of stone, the only material around. Amazingly, they don't use mortar. They fit stones so tightly together that no spaces or gaps remain.

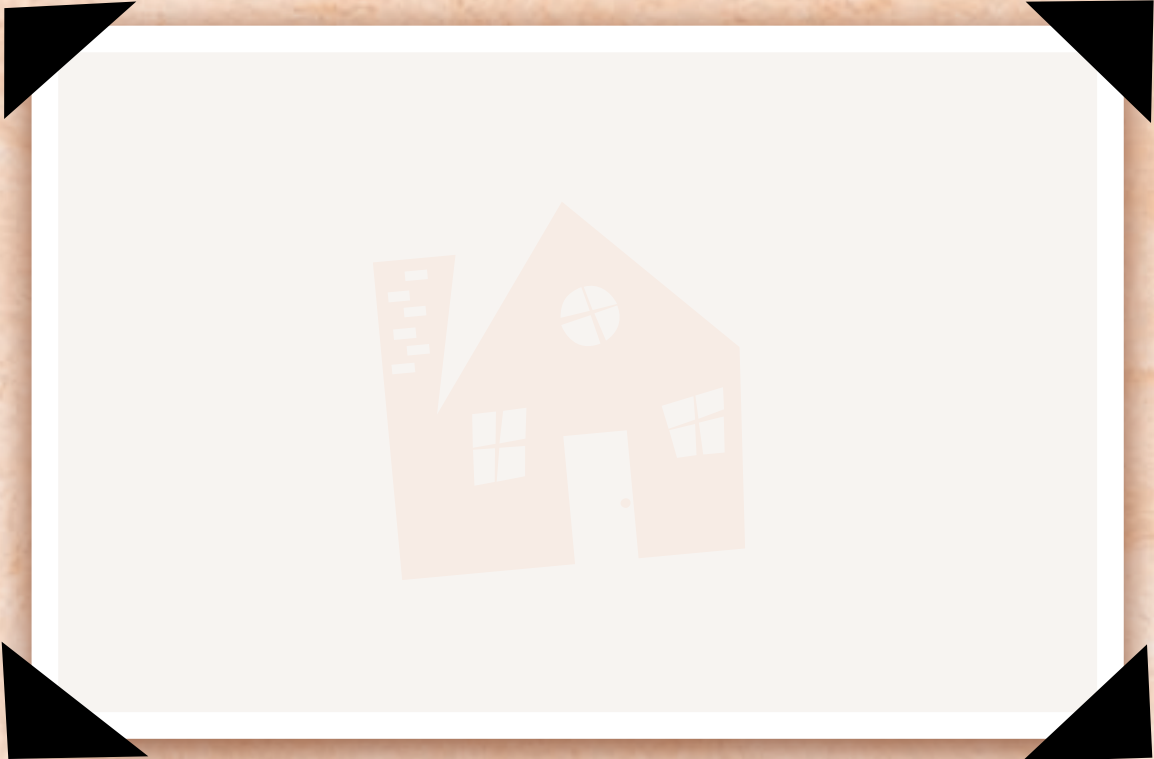


A young artist hard at work outside his house—southern Sudan

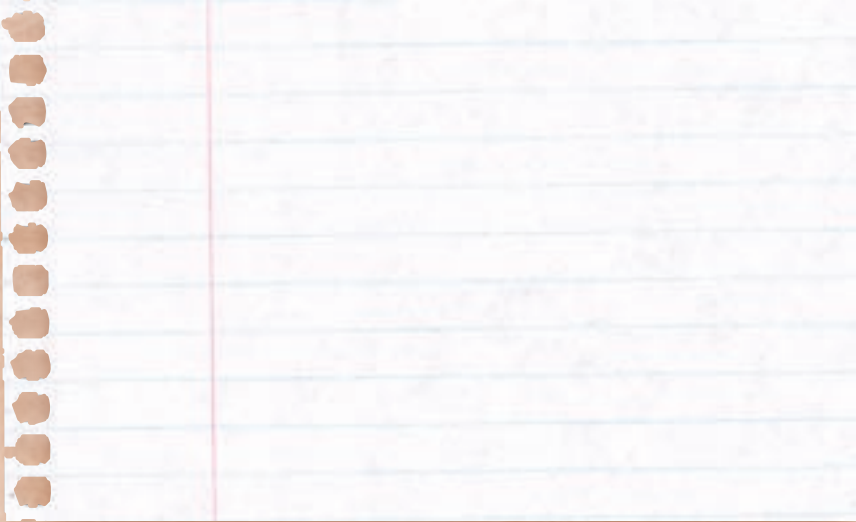
Circular houses in many parts of Africa are built in clusters close to fields. Frames are built using natural materials, such as: mud, clay, cow dung, grass, wood, sticks, or a mix. Roofs are usually thatched with bundles of grass or reeds, spread out in layers.



# My House



Place a drawing or photo of your house above. Be an author and write your own description below.



If you've picked this book up from a library, good for you!  
You can still complete this page by grabbing an adult to help  
you make a photocopy. Take it home and enjoy!

# Creative Team

Thank you to the brilliant photographers, illustrators  
and designers who brought this book to life!

**Victor Englebert** dreamed of being an explorer as a kid in Belgium. Through photography, writing and extreme guts, the dream became reality. He's traveled to the world's wild places in search of indigenous peoples and has documented the experiences in umpteen books and magazines, including 17 of his own.

**David Farr** took his first printing and photography classes in eighth grade. He loved both subjects—even the smelly printing inks and photo chemicals. In more than 25 years of work, he has designed hundreds of books and made photographs for himself, his family, and publications. His work includes art direction and design for *The Family Handyman*, a national home-improvement magazine.

**Matt Kania** loves maps and, as a kid, dreamed of making them. In school he studied geography and cartography and today makes maps for a living. Matt's favorite part about drawing maps is studying the places they represent. Many of the maps he creates can be found in books, magazines, videos, websites, and in public places like museums and schools.

**Amy Learn**, a Minneapolis College of Art and Design grad, grew up in a 100-year-old Iowa farmhouse like the one she illustrated for this book. As a kid, she pondered, "Will I be a cartoonist or a zookeeper?" Cartoonist won! She plans to bring her pictures to life in the world of animation.

**Matt Mills**, a Minneapolis College of Art and Design grad, hails from Kansas City, MO. Some of his family builds and some of his family draws. Matt can do both! So after hours of house illustration for this book, he's planning to design and build his own house to enjoy with his wife and a big slobbery dog.



**Richard Nowitz** has been traveling the world with camera in hand for over 25 years. He is often sent on special assignments as a photographer for *National Geographic Kids* magazine. He has added magic to countless magazines and books with his photos, including a number of Insight Travel Guides.

**Jan Reynolds** is an author, photographer and adventurer who just can't get far enough away from it all. Her favorite thing is to escape to an extreme environment and hang out with the locals to learn about their culture. Check out [www.janreynolds.com](http://www.janreynolds.com) to see if Jan is out bungee jumping with Tibetan monks.

**Sean Sprague** is a 55-year-old photojournalist who has been traveling the world since he was 18. He works primarily with agencies that provide aid to people around the world. With Sean's photos and words, these agencies can spread excitement about their projects. Through his work, he has traveled to over 100 countries!

**Stephen Trimble** started taking pictures as a kid and hasn't stopped. He is biology student turned park ranger, turned award-winning photographer and writer. He's published 18 books, and when not traveling, writes from the attic of his 1915 house, built atop a hill at the base of the Rocky Mountains in Salt Lake City.

**Nik Wheeler** dreamed of being a professional soccer and cricket player as a kid. Little did he know he'd become a well-known photographer with travels to more than 100 countries. He and his family live in a wood California house, and visit their 600-year-old stone house in France. Its walls are over three feet thick!

Thank you to family and friends for your long show of support and enthusiasm.

And to The Loft Literary Center, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Kristen Maija Peterson, my reviewers, my editor, and the many others I've met as a result of this project...for their education, insights and encouragement.



## Think About It!

### Discussion Questions

- \* How would you define the word “house”? What do you think is essential for any house?
- \* Which house in this book do you like best? Why?
- \* What materials are used to build these houses? Why?
- \* Who built the houses in this book? Who built your house? If your family had to build your own house, would it be different?
- \* Describe a climate different from your own. What styles of houses might be built there?
- \* Where has your family (parents/grandparents/great-grandparents/and beyond) lived? What did/do their houses look like?
- \* Three different house styles come from one country in this book. What country is it?
- \* Compare and contrast living in the city versus living in the country. How are house styles similar and different?
- \* What would you imagine the insides of these houses to look like...the kitchen, bedrooms, furniture, etc.?
- \* How does the land surrounding these houses compare with the land outside of yours? Is there a grass yard? Sidewalks?
- \* What different factors determine the style of house someone lives in?

## Do It!

### Activity Ideas

- ✓ Find the dictionary definition of “house.” Write your own definition.
- ✓ Draw the house you live in.
- ✓ Take photographs of the house you live in and of other houses in your community.
- ✓ Compare and contrast your house with a house in the book. Create two columns with the headings: **Similar** and **Different**. Create a list under each, thinking of everything you can such as: building materials, decoration, families, environment, culture, and what the house sits on.
- ✓ Create a timeline for the houses you have lived in. Include location, dates, photos and/or drawings, and your comments.
- ✓ Many of the houses in this book are built according to tradition. Generally, these skills are passed down from generation to generation. Discover a special skill of a parent, grandparent, or someone else close to you. Have that person teach you the skill and keep it a tradition!
- ✓ Pick out one house from the book. Come up with 10 questions about the house and see if you can locate the answers using other resources.
- ✓ Pick out a house style not featured in this book. Do your own research and report on it.
- ✓ Build a model house of your choice with readily available materials (i.e., mud, sticks, ice, popsicle sticks, cotton, etc.). Be creative!
- ✓ If you lived in Luxor, Egypt how would you paint the front of your house?
- ✓ Review the “Creative Team” on page 31. Do any of their careers seem interesting to you? What kind of work would you like to do in the future?

## Check ‘Em Out!

Due to space, only a few of the unique house styles around the world fit into this book. Here are several more you might want to look into...

1. Alpine houses—Switzerland
2. Arctic homes raised above the ground—Canada and Greenland
3. Barrel-vaulted houses—Thira, Greece
4. Caribbean painted timber houses
5. Cave houses—Gaudix, Spain and central Tunisia
6. Cottages with thatched roofs—England
7. Dogon villages—Mali
8. Clay huts—Cameroon
9. High-rise apartment buildings—large cities around the world
10. Painted adobe houses—Navrongo-Saboro region, Ghana
11. Log houses—Siberia, Canada and northern regions
12. Monasteries & temples where monks live and worship—mostly Asia
13. Open-sided houses—South Pacific
14. Ndebele painted houses—South Africa
15. Screen houses—Japan
16. Siberian tents made in summer from birch tree bark—Russia
17. Treehouses—Indonesia and Papua New Guinea
18. Trulli houses—Apulia, Italy
19. Tufa-cone houses—Cappadocia, Turkey
20. Gers and yurts—Mongolia and Kazakhstan (Central Asia)