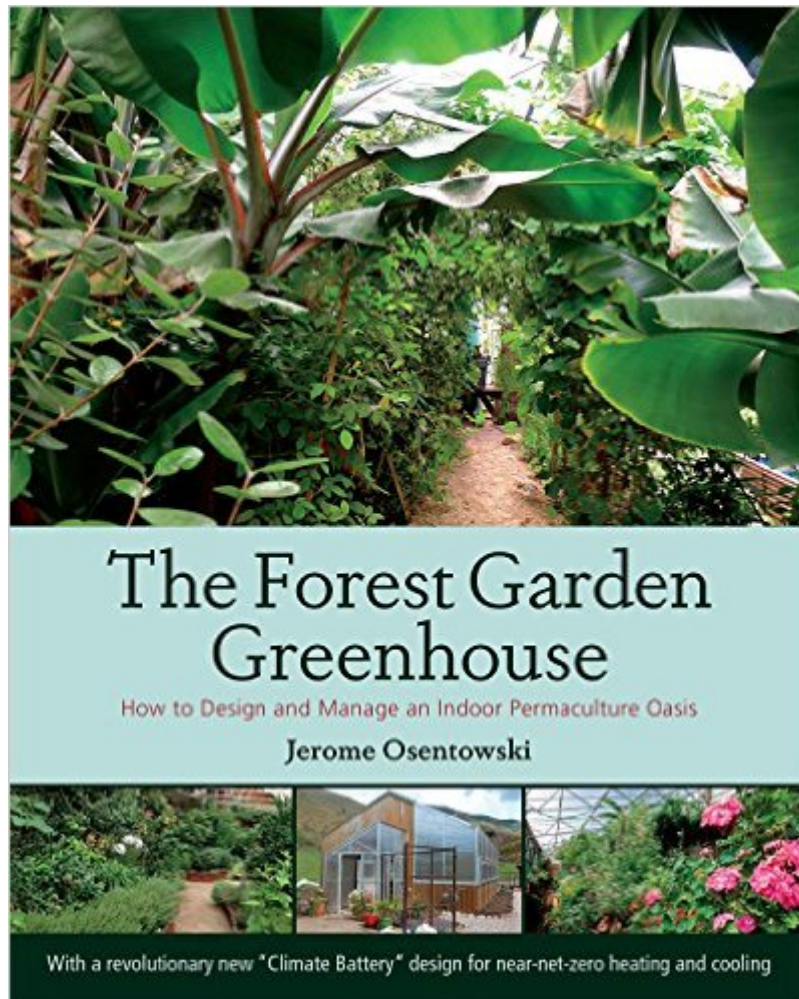


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# The Forest Garden Greenhouse: How To Design And Manage An Indoor Permaculture Oasis



## 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

I've built and used high tunnels (unheated), a glass faced insulated greenhouse with wood stove, and single-wall and double wall insulated high tunnels with climate batteries. Largest structure I've built was single wall high tunnel, 8'x30' with 140ft of 3" draintile climate battery, 36" depth. After reading the first 71 pages, ( still reading feverishly ), I've filled a notebook page with single line bullet points of "ah" moments that list improvements and understanding of many details of their performance that I want to further investigate and improve. This is after reading the summary part, not the chapters dedicated to those topics, so it would not surprise me to use the notebook up by the time I'm done with the book, giving me years of new things to try to improve production and lower inputs in accord with permaculture principles outlined in the book. Very accessible, and I think it helps establish common ground in a confusing field for discussing, comparing, and developing hoop and greenhouse structures. I've previously read Elliot Coleman, and "the Solar Greenhouse Handbook", and find the examples and metaphors very accessible. This is the distilled wisdom of a very experienced greenhouse grower and builder, with lots of technical detail to share, but also good at providing a framework for discussing the good and bad qualities of a greenhouse. My only complaint is that it's not quite fair to list the price of a greenhouse of this size (Phoenix) as \$7,000 without accounting for the hours to build it, which even at 3 dollars an hour probably represent a bigger investment than the cash.

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