



Yurts: Living in the Round

By Becky Kemery

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Yurts: Living in the Round journeys from Central Asia to modern America and reveals the history, evolution, and contemporary benefits of yurt living. One of the oldest forms of indigenous shelter still in use today, yurts have exploded into the twenty-first century as a multi-faceted, thoroughly modern, utterly versatile, and immensely popular modern structure whose possibilities are still being explored. Kemery introduces the innovators who redesigned the yurt and took it from back country trekking and campground uses to modern permanent homes and offices. *Yurts: Living in the Round* shows how to build, insulate, ventilate, and transport a yurt, plus shares invaluable information on everything from foundations and heating to building codes and floor plans. Inspiring and imaginative photographs plus an extensive resource section offer all the information needed to take the next step. Explore the benefits of circular living, in locations as diverse as the mountains of France, a retreat center in Chile, a bed and breakfast in Georgia, and many more!

Yurts reveals:

Which kind of yurt to buy

Where to find a yurt, find a builder, or get plans to do it yourself

Floor plans for a variety of yurts

Case studies and personal stories of yurt dwellers

Ideas on combining yurts with outbuildings or satellite yurts

Plus, an extensive resource section and index!

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Editorial Review

Review

Want to know what it is like to live in a yurt? Than Becky Kemery's delightfully-illustrated and well-researched book is for you. The typical yurt is a portable, tent-like round structure distinguished by unique roof construction. Long spans achieved without intermediate supports create airy spaces that impart a sense of openness and connection. A hole or skylight in the center of the roof invites the sun in and the occupants' gaze skyward.

The yurt dwelling experience is described beginning with ancient, nomadic Turkic and Mongolian tribes in central Asia - the origin of these distinctive shelters. The Turkic tribes refer to their round homes as an uy and the Mongolians call theirs a ger. Out of necessity and custom, portable yurts were, and still are, made from locally available wood and wool felt and usually sized to fit on the backs of pack animals. Yurts are more than a means of shelter for Mongolian and some Turkic tribes. They are considered sacred places and express the world views of people living in close connection with the cycles of life.

Some contemporary renditions of yurts have evolved into permanent structures. The tapered wall yurt pioneered by Bill Coperthwaite and the frame panel yurt designed by David Raitt are made of wood and set on permanent foundations. Plentiful color photos in *Yurts: Living in the Round* describe these unique structures and help tell the stories of their creators.

Even the modern fabric yurt can last many years and be used as permanent shelter. Author Becky Kemery shares her personal experiences of yurt living as well as practical considerations she has learned from others. She gives suggestions on choosing, buying, setting up, insuring, and maintaining a fabric yurt. A complete resource guide offers information on yurt companies, financing, plans, as well as homesteading and sustainable living.

More than a how-to guide, *Yurts: Living in the Round* documents intangible benefits of yurt living. The welcoming embrace of the yurt's open, round space gives a sense of well-being and wholeness. People are naturally brought together in a circle which fosters connection and equality. "Yurts are my favorite form of shelter," wrote the author. "They use the earth's resources wisely and usually leave a small footprint. They are affordable and accessible. I also think they make fabulous spiritual and creative spaces." (Cherie Peacock *Out There Monthly* 2007-11-02)

From the Inside Flap

Yurts inspire a sacred connection between people and their environment, between living and nature, between humankind and the forces that shape the world in which we live.

Yurts: Living in the Round takes you on a journey, starting with nomads in Central Asia who still use the yurt today as their ancestors did in ancient times and ending with modern-day innovators who redesigned yurts (previously only used in the backcountry and at campgrounds) for use as modern permanent homes and offices.

Yurts also offers advice on every aspect of setting up modern fabric yurts-from foundations and heating to

building codes, bear proofing, and interior design. Photographs throughout book rouse your imagination, and the extensive resource section gives you the information you need to take the first step toward realizing your own yurt dreams.

It is possible to meet our shelter needs without draining natural and personal resources. Yurts can help you reenvision your understanding of home from that of a market commodity to a concept of sacred space in which you can nourish your soul and find your place in the world. Whether or not you actually move into a round space, the concept and philosophy of living in the round will enrich your understanding of shelter and all its possibilities.

BECKY KEMERY encountered her first yurt at a retreat center in the early 1990s. Since then, she has lived in four different yurts in three states, through both harsh winters and scorching summers, in community situations and solo.

When Becky gives advice through the pages of this book, it is as an insider, someone who has made mistakes and knows the potential pitfalls as well as the sheer joy of living in a beautiful round space. Having purchased yurts from different companies and then set them up, she knows the importance of clear instructions and customer service from a good company. Becky's sources of heat have ranged from propane heaters to wood stoves and radiant heat from hot springs. She has lived with a cob (adobe) floor and has built and insulated her own yurt deck.

Becky currently lives on a permaculture-based homestead in the mountains of northern Idaho in a setting surrounded by herb and vegetable gardens. Moose and wild turkeys pay regular visits, and she enjoys the occasional moonlit serenade by coyote chorales through the walls of her forest green yurt.

In addition to writing, Becky also works as a union tradeshow carpenter and workshop caterer. In 2002, she founded the North Idaho Public Forum on Sustainability (PFOS), which sponsors monthly forums on topics relating to sustainability, and she started the Sustainable Living Collection, which includes books, videos, and journals, at her local library. Her articles on natural building can be found online at www.alternativemagazine.com and www.hopedance.org. Her yurt Web site is www.yurtinfo.org.

About the Author

BECKY KEMERY encountered her first yurt at a retreat center in the early 1990s. Since then, she has lived in four different yurts in three states, through both harsh winters and scorching summers, in community situations and solo. When Becky gives advice through the pages of this book, it is as an insider, someone who has made mistakes and knows the potential pitfalls as well as the sheer joy of living in a beautiful round space. Having purchased yurts from different companies and then set them up, she knows the importance of clear instructions and customer service from a good company. Becky's sources of heat have ranged from propane heaters to wood stoves and radiant heat from hot springs. She has lived with a cob (adobe) floor and has built and insulated her own yurt deck. Becky currently lives on a permaculture-based homestead in the mountains of northern Idaho in a setting surrounded by herb and vegetable gardens. Moose and wild turkeys pay regular visits, and she enjoys the occasional moonlit serenade by coyote chorales through the walls of her forest green yurt. In addition to writing, Becky also works as a union tradeshow carpenter and workshop caterer. In 2002, she founded the North Idaho Public Forum on Sustainability (PFOS), which sponsors monthly forums on topics relating to sustainability, and she started the Sustainable Living Collection, which includes books, videos, and journals, at her local library. Her articles on natural building can be found online

at www.alternativesmagazine.com and www.hopedance.org. Her yurt Web site is www.yurtinfo.org.

Users Review

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