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# Renovation 4th Edition: Completely Revised And Updated



## Synopsis

When it comes to home renovation, there's no substitute for experience. *Renovation 4th Edition* contains the collective wisdom of hundreds of contractors, architects and tradespeople who shared their first-hand experience with Mike Litchfield as he interviewed and photographed them on job sites across North America. As a founding editor of "Fine Homebuilding" magazine, the author of 12 acclaimed books, and a home renovator himself, Litchfield was able to record lifetimes of practical, field-tested solutions and trade secrets from the cream of the crop--the pros that other pros admire. Both first-time renovators and professionals who want to supplement their knowledge of specific trades will find *Renovation 4th Edition* invaluable. R4 reflects the new realities of planning carefully, spending wisely, maximizing space and building durably. Its 614 pages contain extensively revised chapters on planning; doors, windows and skylights; electrical wiring; and energy conservation. Its illustrations are crisp and informative. And its 1000+ photos were selected from more than 40,000 that the author has taken over the years. This classic work covers renovation from start to finish surfaces. Best of all, R4 is written in a down-to-earth conversational style that is clear and easy to understand. Litchfield has a sharp wit and a dry sense of humor that makes this book not only useful, but great fun to read.

## Book Information

Paperback: 624 pages

Publisher: Taunton Press; 4th ed. edition (December 31, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1600854974

ISBN-13: 978-1600854972

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.1 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 123 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,163 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Carpentry #37 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Design & Construction #52 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Construction

## Customer Reviews

"a masterpiece" "-- Library Journal" "Hands down, the best home renovation book...written in a

down-to-earth conversational style that's comprehensive, practical and easy to understand." "--This Old House" "Simply the best book we've seen on the subject." "--Toronto Star" "The most comprehensive single volume on home renovation ever." "--Popular Science"

Michael Litchfield, a founding editor of "Fine Homebuilding" magazine, has been renovating homes or writing about them for almost 40 years. He was one of the first technical journalists to go to job sites to gather information from tradespeople. Litchfield's recent title, "In-laws, Outlaws and Granny Flats" was named one of the "10 Best Design Books for 2011."

I inherited the 2nd edition of this book from my father, and found it to be one of the most comprehensive books I've read on home renovation. I still find that 'job specific' books are required when I'm working on a particular task (eg plumbing, wiring, drywall books when I'm doing respectively plumbing, wiring, or drywall), but for getting the 'big picture' the Renovation book is a winner. The 1st and 2nd editions were published by Prentice Hall, and the 3rd and 4th by Taunton Press (the Fine Woodworking / Fine Homebuilding folks). My 2nd edition was published in 1990, and I recently bought this 4th edition as my 2nd edition is now 25 years old. Since other reviewers have already covered the benefits of this book, I'm instead going to review some of the differences I've found between the 2nd and 4th revisions. The 4th edition definitely has a more modern Taunton Press style (same for the very similar 3rd edition judging from the Look Inside preview). The pictures are in color instead of black & white, there are 'Pro Tip' sidebars everywhere, and the font is slightly larger and easier to read. Naturally, the content has also been updated to reflect some of the latest technologies now available: Pex plumbing, laminate flooring, laser tools, etc. Overall, the 4th edition is a nicer looking book, however, that seems to have come at the cost of some useful content. Comparing the two, I find the 2nd edition not only has more content but also more detail in general. For example, Chapter 9, Masonry, has an entire section on using concrete block. That material is completely missing in this 4th edition, in fact, you won't even find concrete block in the index. Same for the discussion of Post & Beam, Balloon, and Platform framing in Chapter 8--no mention at all in the 4th edition. Might be an issue for those with (much) older houses. In the 2nd edition, Chapter 14 was titled 'Cooling and Heating' and covered vent fans, whole house fans, thermostats, furnaces, heat pumps, and even briefly mentioned solar. That entire chapter is now titled 'Energy Conservation and Air Quality', and basically just discusses the latest insulation techniques that were found in Chapter 13 'Conserving Energy' in the 2nd edition. All the HVAC, furnace, fan stuff is gone. On the bright side, the new 4th edition Chapter 13 'Kitchens and Baths'

has a comprehensive section on building and installing cabinets. Taunton Press strikes again. The 2nd edition also has seven appendixes including a useful overview of dealing with contractors, architects, and banks; other appendixes include complete detailed instructions for building a set of stairs, a deck, and a fence. That, and much more, is all missing from the 4th edition. Judging from the Look Inside preview of the 3rd edition, this 4th edition is very similar but is more up-to-date and has more content, making this edition the one to get for the latest materials, tools and techniques. However, if you still have a copy of the earlier Prentice Hall editions, don't consider these Taunton Press editions a direct replacement. There is still plenty of useful content and detail in those earlier editions that is now gone from these latter two editions, particularly if you're renovating an older house. I took a star off for that, because I now need bookshelf space for both books. However, I'm still quite happy with my purchase of this 4th edition for its up-to-date coverage of the latest building materials and techniques.

i wanted to write a review because i was truly impressed and inspired by this book well worth every single penny this book is easy to understand for all levels but is deep deep deep very informative lots of tips by pros with lots of pictures, I SIMPLY CANT SAY ENOUGH everything covered in home building AND THEN SOME! 611 pages very heavy book LOVING IT!!!! thanks to the author/editors and always thank you !!!!!

This is a great item, it was reasonably priced, it was delivered on time, arrived in great condition! Thoroughly satisfied!

I tried to find something it didn't cover! Each section is clearly marked and color coded. I guess if you just wanted to buy just one resource- this would be it.

What makes a good reference book? When you look up what you want to know and you find it quickly. What makes a great reference book? When you find yourself reading the book for fun. Best DIY book I have read in years.

Great reference book!

This book provides a stellar foundation for home renovation. I feel this book will become a constant passenger in my truck as I work on purchasing and flipping houses. this book covers the foundation,

the roof, and everything in between...

veru informative and useful for diyers

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