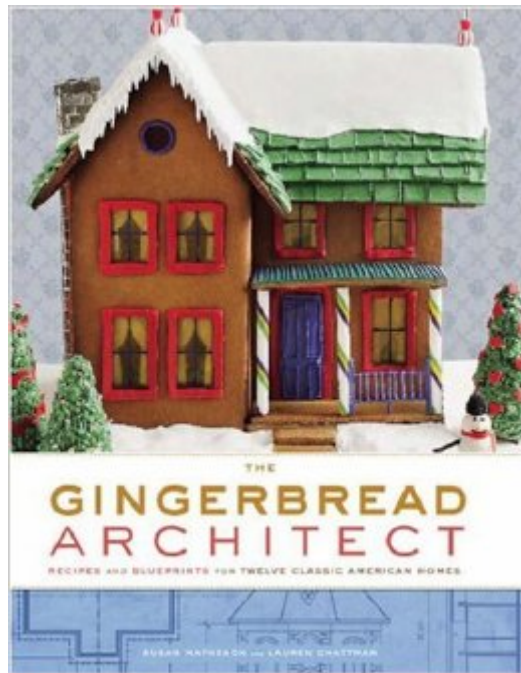


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# The Gingerbread Architect: Recipes And Blueprints For Twelve Classic American Homes



## Synopsis

What happens when an architect who is also an avid baker gets together with a house-obsessed pastry chef? Twelve classic American homes rendered in gingerbread. Are you dreaming of a colonial Christmas? Here's your chance to build a traditional Cape Cod house in freshly baked gingerbread, complete with breath-mint pinnacles, Twizzler shingles, and a brick-red fruit-leather chimney. Prefer nineteenth-century New York elegance? Why not whip up an urban brownstone, embellished with crushed butterscotch windows, Tootsie Roll staircase posts, and a front courtyard tiled in mini Chiclets. Is the Santa Fe look more your style? Try a gingerbread pueblo, landscaped with rock-candy cacti and turbinado-sugar sand. Here to guide you through every step of building your gingerbread dream house is *The Gingerbread Architect*, created by New York's and London-based architect Susan Matheson and professional baker Lauren Chattman. Featuring detailed blueprints and elevations of the houses alongside baking directions and essential construction notes, this modern guide to the traditional holiday craft of creating gingerbread houses has projects for bakers of all levels, from novice to advanced. For each house, Matheson and Chattman provide historical context and descriptions of prominent architectural features, demonstrating how to execute those characteristics in gingerbread and candy. Detailed instructions cover everything from baking and assembling the walls to piping icing and landscaping the yard. And to help match gingerbread houses to bakers' "and their little helpers" each house has a difficulty rating, ranging from one gingerbread man to four. With full-color photographs of the finished houses, tips on the construction schedule, baking and candy resource guides, a glossary of architectural terms, and instructions for lighting the houses from within, *The Gingerbread Architect* is the complete guide to the ultimate family holiday baking project "for anyone with a keen eye and a sweet tooth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My latest book acquisition arrived today and I am so excited. Last year we designed and built a gingerbread house using the instructions from "The Professional Pastry Chef" and it was much more complicated than I had anticipated. Not hard, just complicated. Planning a design for even a simple A-frame house was very tedious, making sure everything would line up and the roof would overhang and everything. Then decorating: what candy to buy, how to use it effectively. It came out cute, but doing it again was daunting. I'm not blown away by any of the designs I see in "The Gingerbread Architect", but I am impressed by their thoroughness. They've planned out the steps, day by day, into reasonable chunks of work; they list exactly the ingredients and candies you need to recreate their designs; they have templates for exactly the pieces you need to cut out, to scale; they list alternate ideas and decor, how to adapt the style, and pitfalls they had with certain designs or decor choices. And I was impressed with some of their creative use of materials, particularly decorating with upside down ice cream cones for trees and green rice krispy treats for shrubberies. All in all, I feel a lot more sanguine about tackling this holiday craft with this book in hand.--Well, it is Christmas day and I'm still not done with this project. Where on earth do you buy hard candies these days? The recipes for the dough and the icing were similar to others I've used (Bo Frieberg) and the directions were easy to follow. I had a snafu with the pattern pieces; I had absolutely no idea that 400% larger was so big, and neither did the folks at Kinkos. With the size of the Kinkos bill, I think the pattern pages could have been laid out more efficiently.

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