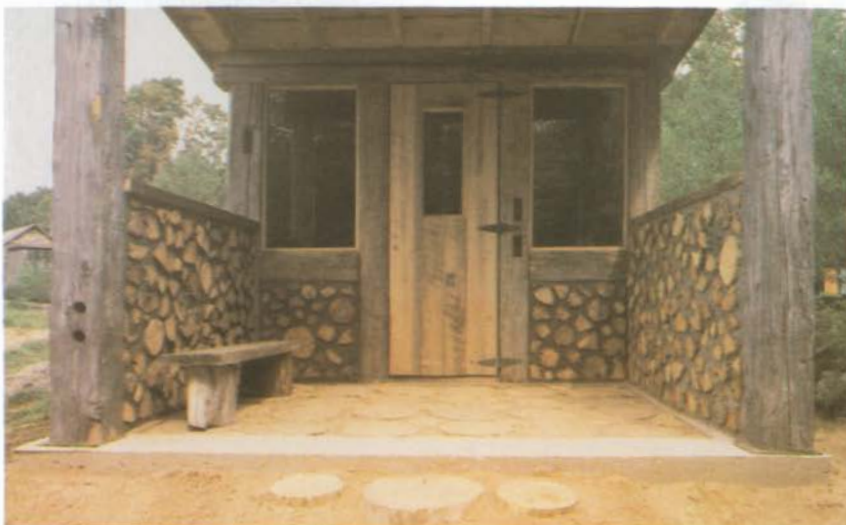
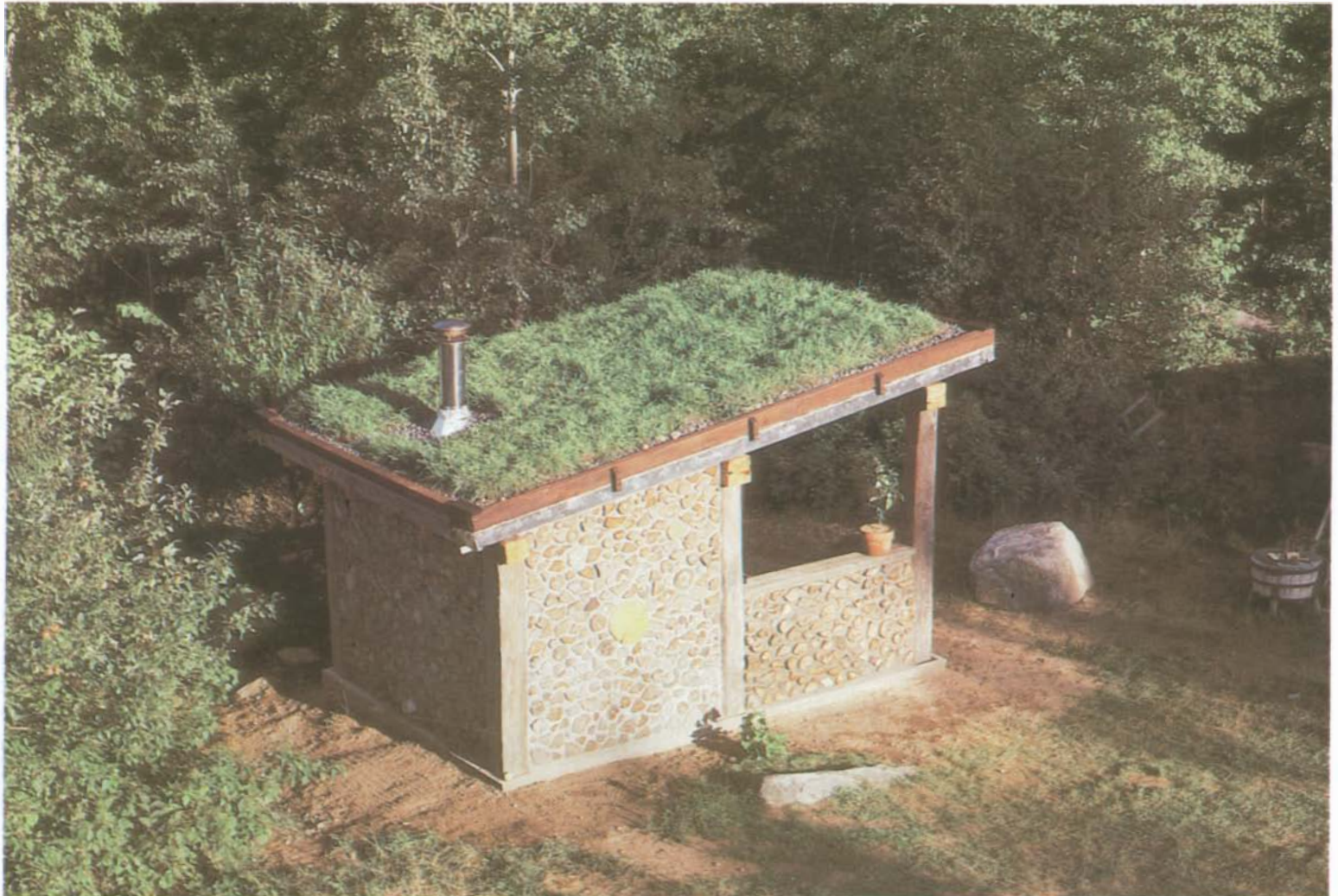


Cordwood Masonry Sauna

Text and photos by Robert L. Roy

Taking a cue from the beaver, I built my sauna of very short logs (8 in.) called "log ends." I laid them up widthwise in a wall, like a cord of firewood, and held them in place with mortar (lower right photo). For the cordwood I was lucky to find a load of 75-year-old split-rail cedar fencing. The cedar had finished shrinking decades ago, and I eliminated mortar shrinkage by adding sawdust

to the mix. This got rid of the worst problem in cordwood construction: gaps and cracks. Fiberglass is used as a thermal break in the mortar joints (at right). I capped the sauna with a sod roof (below) to keep the heat in. A structure of 8-in. by 8-in. timbers holds it all up (lower left photo). It works beautifully and cost me, including a \$50 used stove, \$930 plus 240 hours of work.



Robert L. Roy is the author of Cordwood Masonry Houses: A Practical Guide for the Owner-Builder, Sterling Publishing Co., 1980.