**First Earth**

Uncompromising Ecological Architecture

David Sheen

*First Earth* is about a massive paradigm shift for shelter—building healthy houses in the old ways, out of the very earth itself, and living together like in the old days, by recreating villages. An audiovisual manifesto filmed over four years on four continents, it proposes that earthen homes are the healthiest housing in the world; and that since it still takes a village to raise a healthy child, we must transform our suburban sprawl into eco-villages.

*First Earth* is not a how-to film, but a why-to film. It establishes the appropriateness of earthen building in every cultural context, under all socio-economic conditions, from third-world communities to first-world countryside, from Arabian deserts to American urban jungles. In the age of collapse and converging emergencies, the solution to many of our ills might just be getting back to basics, for material reasons and for spiritual reasons, both personal and political.


**About the Director**

In addition to authoring the scratch video *The Red Pill* (2003), David Sheen has been documenting, studying, designing, and building ecological housing since 2001. He apprenticed with Ianto Evans and Linda Smiley at the North American School of Natural Building, and at Michael Smith’s Emerald Earth. He also learned biomimicry, the study of nature’s design principles and its application to human habitats, with architect Eugene Tsui.

**Accolades**

“This evocative and beautiful documentary shows why building with earth works well structurally, compels the eye and heart, is healthier for builders and dwellers than most other construction methods, and feels good to live in.”

—Diana Leafe Christian, author of *Finding Community*