In the Maya world, communal labor plays an integral role in creating social coherence, a sense of community. Building a house is one such communal task. It unites neighbors, friends, and extended family members towards a singular goal, and thereby forges and maintains community bonds. In this talk, I demonstrate these deep-seated connections between house-building, communities, and social change in the Maya region, and I tell this story in three acts: Act I) commoner house-building and the Classic-period political collapse (Central Petén, ca. 850-1000 CE); Act II) indigenous house-building and the reducción (Yucatan, 16th and 17th centuries CE); Act III) indigenous house-building and industrialized economies (Chiapas, 20th century CE).