

Home Improvement

they all tell me
these onlookers whose comments I do not invite
that it would have been easier
y mucho más barato
if I would have torn down the old house
si la hubiera arrasado

what they don't realize
these people who must say something
is that I have built this house as I have built my life
by small and clumsy additions, a few major undertakings
much reflection and some consideration
—though not always useful—
and many costly mistakes

they don't understand
these people
that we can never begin again
as we once began
that there is no starting over
que no se puede empezar de nuevo

they don't understand
that we build our lives by accretion
that our past is the foundation
we lay with our living

and that the errors and expense of our experience
are ours alone to live with