

ACTIVITIES BEYOND MUDBRICKS



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Abstract:

In recent years there has been a large interest about earth buildings with much data being shared online as well as discussed in academic institutions. However, when considering mudbrick construction and the restoration of heritage mudbrick buildings, it is not enough to have knowledge only about the bricks and how to lay them.

In order to create a mudbrick building that is strong and safe yet still maintains its traditional appearance and integrity, there needs to be a collective effort from stakeholders, including professionals, architects, archaeologists, engineers, builders and craftsmen of mudbrick to combine their knowledge and experiences in a pool of standards and information. Such a ‘how-to’ manual on mudbrick and earth construction/restoration will ensure the work being done on site will be of quality and for safety.

The use of mudbricks involves mainly the middle section in the construction project. There are the footings down below and the roof at the top. All aspects are important and require correct information, materials and methodology. Incorrect or insufficient parts will lead to problems and failure.

The specific parts of building components that are relevant to mudbrick constructions in Cyprus are:

1. Foundations
2. Floor
3. Walls
4. Doors and windows
5. Roof
6. External and internal finishing

When considering these components, the activities need to go beyond just the making and laying of mudbricks. Activities have to encompass wider topics, such as why the problems and failures occur in this type of earth construction. It is well known that water penetration is the main cause of deterioration with adobe dwellings. Three of the above building components will be considered in this presentation. Correct methodologies will be explained that can prevent problems during construction, as well as for repairing water damaged dwellings. These three areas are the foundations, the installation of joinery (doors and windows) and the roof eaves.

Key words: #adobe foundations, #adobe joinery, #adobe roof