



Adobe Wall Construction - Syllabus

Course description:

This course covers the fundamentals of building earthen walls using adobe bricks. We begin the wall building process by laying a first course of adobes onto the foundation wall. We continue course by course to the top of the wall ending with the installation of a wood bond beam. We define key concepts and correct building procedures of a typical load-bearing adobe block wall. We also examine different methods of installing window and door openings into the wall.

Topics include:

- overview of common adobe wall thicknesses
- thermal storage and heat transmission properties of adobe walls - R-values and U-values
- basic seismic considerations when building with adobe
- constructing and setting up speed leads
- mixing earthen mortar
- applying mortar to the wall
- correct block coursing, leveling and plumbing
- cutting adobe blocks
- constructing and installing anchor blocks and rough bucks
- constructing and installing lintels
- constructing and installing wood bond beams
- scaffolding and high wall strategies
- insulation techniques for adobe walls