

**ABSTRACT: by Lisa Morey with Adobe Building Systems, LLC**

Reinforced and stabilized adobe brick building experience in New Zealand

Given New Zealand's rainy climate and earthquake susceptible location, it may surprise you to learn that it is one of the world's leading areas for earth building. In a 2001 NZ Building News Magazine, it states that approximately 1% of new homes were built of earth; this includes adobe brick, straw bale, and rammed earth. The Earth Building Association of New Zealand believes today that number is growing.

So how does New Zealand overcome some of its difficult climatic circumstances to build a high standard earth home? Three well developed earth building code books have been written called the New Zealand Standards for Earth Building. One can even build an earth home without the use of an engineer if the design complies with the code book.

The second reason that New Zealand has become a premier location for beautiful and sustainable adobe brick homes is the New Zealand mindset. New Zealanders are natural craftsmen and earth-building caters well to the "DIY", or do-it-yourself mentality. Armed with materials and a weekend workshop, a novice builder can create an affordable dream home.

The paper will examine our patent-pending adobe brick types which accommodates reinforced concrete columns within the wall, bond-beam techniques, installation of services, as well as our unique simple and safe scaffolding technique.

If high quality earth buildings can be built in New Zealand using unskilled labor, similar homes can be built throughout the world – especially in regions that need sustainable housing the most. The presentation will show photos of our experience of over 50 major constructions in New Zealand, Fiji and Afghanistan.



Photo taken of our three steel molds which cast different shaped bricks for our construction purposes.