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**ASTM earthen building standards**

Revisions and updates are nearly complete for a widely-recognized international standard that will address adobe, cob, rammed earth, pressed earth block, and more. Addressing issues such as the pros and cons of using cement, basic details of seismic reinforcement, and moisture durability, this standard should be completed and published in 2009. After that, it will be translated as needed and distributed worldwide, promulgating the much-needed advances in earthen building technology, particularly with regard to earthquake safety.

**Bruce King** is the founder of the Ecological Building Network, a registered engineer with 30 years of experience in construction, and the author of *Buildings of Earth and Straw*, *Making Better Concrete*, *Design of Straw Bale Buildings*, and dozens of papers and articles for conferences and journals. He is currently launching the *Building After Oil* project to develop a zero-carbon palette of construction materials.



Thanks,  
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