Contents

Introduction · xi

- The Evolution of Earth Building · 3
- 2 The Beginning: Design and Materials · 37
- 3 The Architectural Plan · 57
- 4 Preparing to Build · 75
- 5 Foundations · 85
- 6 The Essential Soil · 95
- 7 The Art of Form Building · 115
- 8 Soil Preparation and Compaction · 139
- 9 Doors, Windows, Niches, and Fireplaces · 159
- 10 Bond Beams and Basic Engineering Principles · 175
- II Insulated Walls and Mechanical Systems · 189
- 12 Roofs and Floors, or After the Wall · 203
- 13 The House in the Garden · 215

Appendix I: How to Identify Soils · 234

Appendix 2: Restoring the Chew Kee Store · 244

Glossary · 248

Suggested Reading · 251

Bibliography · 252

Index · 254