Contents

chapter one History and Evolution of Earth Construction 1

Examples of Earth Architecture 9

WESTERN UNITED STATES 9
EASTERN UNITED STATES 30
MEXICO AND LATIN AMERICA 31
EUROPE 35
AFRICA 40
THE MIDDLE EAST 43

chapter three Soil Selection 47

OCCURRENCE 47
CHARACTERISTICS 48
PROPORTIONS 50
PARTICLE SIZE 54
CLAY TYPES 55
TEMPERING 56
SUMMARY 58

chapter four

Adobe Brick Manufacturing

SEQUENCE OF MANUFACTURE 59 LEVELS OF PRODUCTION 67 STABILIZATION 74 BRICK TESTING 77 SUMMARY 82

chapter five

Adobe Brick Wall Construction

BASIC DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS BOND BEAMS 85 VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT 87 STABILIZED BRICK WALLS 87 88 MORTARS **OPENINGS** 89 89 FRAMES LINTELS 90 92 ARCHES QUANTITY CALCULATIONS FOR MATERIALS LABOR PRODUCTION QUANTITIES SUMMARY

chapter six

Rammed Earth Wall Construction

SOILS FOUNDATIONS 100 100 FORMS FILLING AND COMPACTION 104 WALL DESIGN 105 BOND AND COLLAR BEAMS ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENT 106 OPENINGS 107 108 LINTELS FRAME ANCHORS 108 SILLS 109 109 TYPICAL WALL SECTION PUDDLED MUD WALLS SUMMARY 112

window and Door Detailing 113

DOOR JAMBS 113
DOOR HEADS 114
DOOR SILLS 115
WINDOW JAMBS 115
WINDOW HEADS 115
WINDOW SILLS 116

CUSTOM OR JOB-FABRICATED UNITS 116 FASTENING ANCHORS FOR EXISTING WALLS 116 SUMMARY 117

chapter eight Earth Wall Finishes

NATURAL MUD SURFACES 119 NATURAL TEXTURED BRICK WALLS 121 MUD PLASTER 123 FINISHES 124 LATHING FOR MUD PLASTER 125 STABILIZED MUD PLASTER 125 CEMENT STUCCO FOR EXTERIOR WALLS 126 LATHING 126 ANCHOR OR SCRATCH COAT 128 BROWN COAT 129 COLOR COAT 131 INTERIOR GYPSUM PLASTER LATHING 132 BROWN COAT 133 FINISH COAT 133 PAINTS AND SEALERS 134 SUMMARY 135

> chapter nine Foundations

REQUIREMENTS 137 **GRAVEL FOUNDATIONS** 138

> chapter ten Floor and Roof Structures 141

FLOOR SYSTEMS 141 ROOF STRUCTURES 145 146 ROOF INSULATION VAULTS AND DOMES 147 SUMMARY 152

> chapter eleven Insulation and Thermal Mass Values

"U" VALUES FOR EARTH WALLS 154 EFFECTIVE U VALUES 155 THERMAL MASS STUDY 158 DOUBLE WALL CONSTRUCTION 159

Contents

APPLIED INSULATION 160
EMBODIED ENERGY IN BUILDING MATERIALS 162
SUMMARY 163

Mechanical Considerations 165

PLUMBING 165
HEATING SYSTEMS 166
AIR CONDITIONING 168
ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS 169
SUMMARY 170

Structural Engineering for Earth Buildings 171

MATERIAL PROPERTIES OF ADOBE
RAMMED EARTH PROPERTIES 174
DESIGN FOR VERTICAL LOADS 174
COLUMNS 176
LATERAL LOADS 177
DESIGN FOR EARTHQUAKE LOADS 178
ROOF STRUCTURES 181
SUMMARY 184

Repair and Renovation of Earth Buildings 185

STABILIZATION 186
RENOVATION 188
RESTORATION 188
SUMMARY 190

Chapter fifteen Building Codes for Earth Construction 195

CURRENT BUILDING CODES 195
SUGGESTED CODE MODEL FOR EARTH CONSTRUCTION 196
SUMMARY 205

New Mexico Building Code for Adobe 1983 207

Excerpts from 1982 Edition of Uniform Building Code 211

Index 213