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Mortarless Bricks: The Wavering Walls of Globalization

By G.Brigaldino

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Reflections on Social Organization – Information (i.e. economic or political) and knowledge management skills are essential tools for embarking on and staying on board a course of sustainable development. Today these tools are controlled politically and used strategically by those who have the means and access to the material fruits of globalization, seen as an incoherent and hierarchical form of capitalist reproduction.

Article at:

<http://www.newtopiamagazine.net/content/issue14/features/mortarlessbricks.php>

As a social scientist and specialist in international cooperation, Glenn Brigaldino's writing focusses on international affairs. He is a member of Canadian e-book authors and also a contributing writer to the online venture newtopiamagazine.net. Several of his e-books can be found at:
<http://www.ebookad.com/results.php3?PHPSESSID=bc5ec9d3b366ab3e49f6d25a8c491646&criteria=Author&sterm=brigaldino>

Environmentally-Friendly "Earth Homes"

By Lady Camelot

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What are "Earth Homes?" Earth homes are houses that are basically constructed from the earth. Some earth homes are built from adobe, mud, straw or even underground as an earth-sheltered home. Environmentally friendly, earth homes are easy to warm and cool and extremely energy efficient.

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Adobe Earth homes are houses constructed from bricks comprised of tightly compacted earth, clay and straw. Adobe earth homes can be naturally waterproofed by using fermented cactus juice!

Earth sheltered earth homes are houses that are constructed underground – or at least mostly beneath the ground surface. Surrounding soil is a superb and natural insulation which makes these homes cheap to heat and cool. Usually installed in a well-drained hillside, earth sheltered homes have a skylight window that can fill the home with natural sunlight. Although costs may run a bit higher than conventional home construction, earth sheltered homes are a good, long-term investment as lowered maintenance and energy savings make up the difference.

Straw Bale earth homes are making a comeback as well. Straw bale earth homes are obviously constructed of straw and grass, are energy efficient, and can cut material building costs by as much as fifty percent.

Earth homes, such as Cob Houses are built from clay-type lumps of soil, sand and straw. Similar to the adobe homes, except cob earth homes do not use bricks or blocks. Cob homes have walls that are sculpted into smooth forms. Again, very energy efficient, cob homes are well-suited for the very cold climates and deserts.

Rammed earth homes may have over 18-inch, thick walls that are made from a combination of dirt, sand, cement and water. Energy conservative, rammed earth homes have the appearance of bungalow-style charm and help keep the house warm in winter and cool in the summer. Additionally, rammed earth homes may last hundreds of years.

Why build an earth home? Earth homes conserve energy, and in most cases are easier to maintain and can endure for years to come. An excellent site to visit on earth homes: www.hobbit homes.ca This particular site even has a recipe for building your own "cob" earth home, and other projects as well.

As we embark on a strange, new age and global warming continuously on the rise, doesn't it make sense to construct your new custom home as an earth home?

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Lady Camelot serves as the Public Relations' Director for HolisticJunction.com and is the published author of "Windows to the Soul." She has had several poems published in esteemed anthologies, is a freelance writer, artist and more recently has had her literature inducted into the Ellis Island Library in tribute to the events of 911.



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