Guide book for building earthquake-resistant houses in confined masonry

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Guide book for building earthquake-resistant houses in confined masonry

Guide book for technical training for earthquake-resistant construction of one to two-storey buildings in confined masonry

GUIDE BOOK FOR BUILDERS
masons - steel trades - carpenters

COMPETENCE CENTER FOR RECONSTRUCTION - CCR

SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION
HUMANITARIAN AID - SDC/HA

EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
EERI

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Revised version, August 2015

Technical team
Architects CCR, CSA (Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit)
Nadia Carlevaro (EERI), Guillaume Roux-Fouillet

Illustrations
Architects CCR (Competence Center for Reconstruction, Haïti)
Guillaume Roux-Fouillet, Tom Schacher, Nadia Carlevaro
Martin Siegrist, Dorothée Hasnas

Review team
Tom Schacher - architect CSA, EERI
Svetlana Brzev, Tim Hart - Confined Masonry Network, EERI
Marjorie Greene, Maggie Ortiz - EERI
Andrew Charleson, World Housing Encyclopedia

Published by
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC
Humanitarian Aid - HA
Sägenstrasse 77, Köniz
3003 Bern - Switzerland
and
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute - EERI
449 14th Street, Suite 220
Oakland, California, USA, 94612-1934

Revised version, August 2015

Table of contents

Introduction **09**

1 The mason's world **11**
Mason's tools 1 12
Mason's tools 2 13
Formwork tools 14
Steel reinforcement tools 15
Quality of materials 16
Storage of building materials on site 17
Construction site protection 18

2 Confined masonry for two-storey houses **19**
Confining elements (ties) 20
A strong house 21
Shape of the house 22
Shear walls 23
Seismic gap 24
Vertical continuity of walls 25

3 Finding an adequate location **27**
Site selection: where to build 28
Flood related hazards 29
Building on a slope 30

4 Layout **31**
Site preparation 32
Tracing a right angle (3 : 4 : 5) 33
Layout 34

5 Stone foundation **35**
Excavation 36
Foundation dimensions 37
Special foundations 38
Stepped foundations 39
Stone masonry construction 40
Reinforced concrete strip footing 41
Curing and ground floor 42
Placing sewage pipes 43

6 Reinforced Concrete Ties **45**
Types of steel rebars 46
Steel bar diameters 47
Stirrups 48
Alternate stirrup positions 49
Stirrup spacing 50
Lap length 51
Tie-beam : T-connection 52
Tie-beam : L-connection 53
Tie-beam to Tie-column connection 54
Protection of rebar ends 55

7 Formwork **57**
Formwork for Ties 58
Vertical formwork 59
Horizontal formwork 60
Spacers - 1 61
Spacers - 2 62

8 Concrete **63**
Concrete mix (1 : 2 : 3) 64
Mixing concrete 65
Concrete test 66
Slump test 67
Pouring concrete : Tie-Columns 68
Pouring concrete : Tie-Beams 69
Curing the concrete elements 70
Ensure good quality concrete 71

9 Bricks & Blocks **73**
Which clay bricks to use 74
Brick test 75
Which concrete blocks to use 76
Block test 77
Concrete mix for blocks (1 : 4 : 3) 78
Making the blocks 79

10 Masonry walls **81**
Cement mortar mix (1 : 5) 82
Cement-lime mortars 83
Masonry wall heights 84
Masonry bonds 85
Toothing 86
Toothing options 87
Dowels 88
Preparing the masonry units 89
Good masonry practice - 1 90
Good masonry practice - 2 91

11 Seismic reinforcement **93**
Vertical reinforcement (V) 94
Horizontal reinforcement (H) 95
Adding vertical bands 96
Adding horizontal bands 97
Sill band and lintel band 98
Connect seismic band to tie-column 99
Size of openings 100
Door reinforcement (V) 101
Small window reinforcement (V) 102
Large window reinforcement (V) 103
Small window reinforcement (H) 104
Large window reinforcement (H) 105

12 Slab **107**
Placing of slab reinforcement 108
Hollow block slab : formwork 109
Hollow block slab : main reinforcement 110
Hollow block slab : secondary rebars 111
Hollow block slab : positioning pipes - 1 112
Hollow block slab : positioning pipes - 2 113
Hollow block slab : pouring concrete 114
Full concrete slab 115

13 Light roof **117**
Roof shape 118
Gable wall 119
Roof structure - Trusses 120
Cyclones 121
Fastening of the veranda framing 122
Fastening of the roof structure 123
Bracing 124

14 Future extensions **125**
Preparation 126
Add anchor bars 127
Place reinforcement 128
Extension of the structure 129

15 Retaining walls **131**
Where to build with retaining walls 132
Rule 1 - Wall footing 133
Rule 2 - Slope of the wall (5 : 1) 134
Rule 3 - Dimensions of the wall 135
Rule 4 - Placing the stones 136
Rule 5 - Through-stones (or bands) 137
Rule 6 - Drainage 138
Retaining wall - Confining elements 139

16 Construction drawings **141**
Reading plans 142
Reading sections 143
Plan dimensions 144
Section dimensions 145

INTRODUCTION

This Guide is intended for the training of professional masons in confined masonry. It can be used as a building guide at construction sites or as a training resource. It is presented in a simple manner and explains in a step-by-step sequence how to build a one or two-storey confined masonry house.

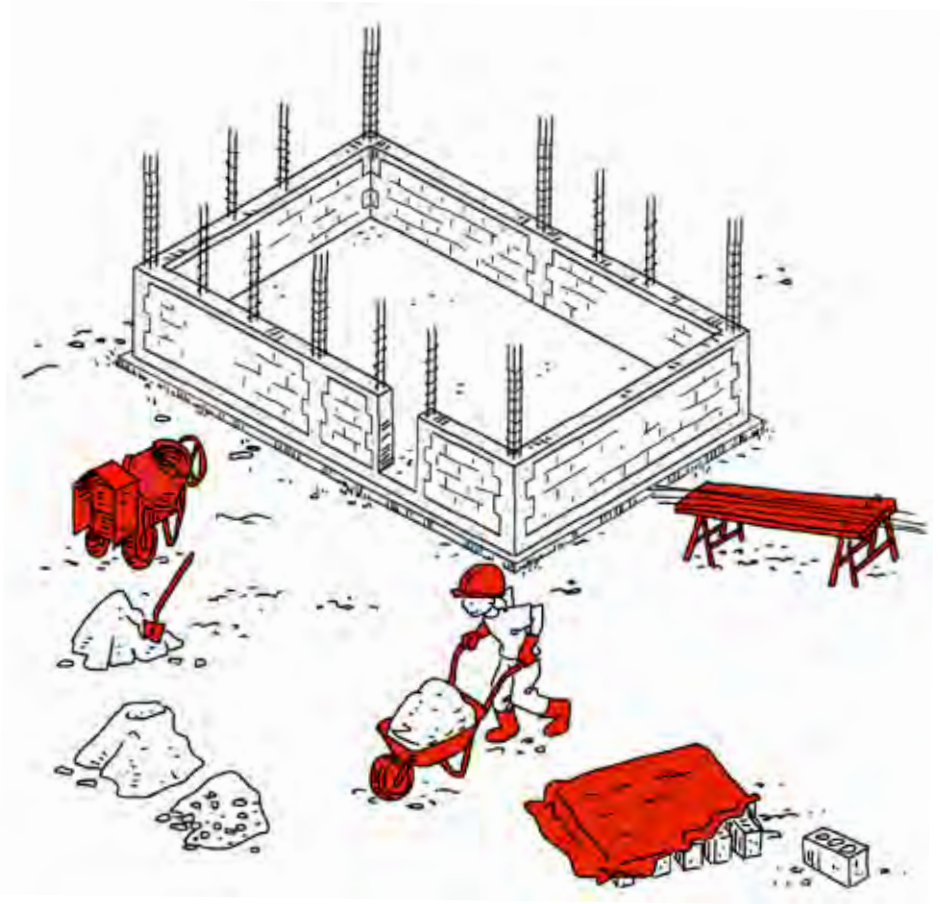
The Guide was developed for masons working in developing countries. The recommendations are intended to be conservative (on the safe side) and to ensure life safety of the occupants of the house.

This Guide needs to be adapted in consideration of the type and quality of locally available materials and local capacities. The technical recommendations contained in the Guide should be in compliance with local construction codes and other regulations (when available).

Illustrations included in the Guide may be adapted to suit the local culture and perceptions and to ensure good acceptance. The text may be translated into a local language which the masons are able to read and understand.

While the authors have tried to be as accurate as possible, they cannot be held responsible for construction that might be based on the material presented in this guide. The authors and their organizations disclaim any and all responsibility for the accuracy of any of the material included in the guide.

THE MASON'S WORLD



Mason's tools 1

guide book

tape measure

straight edge

level

pencil

plumb line

string

nail

chalk line

aluminium screed

machete

screen (05, 03)

trowel

float

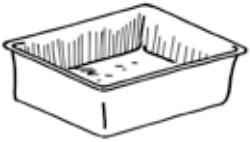
hammer

chisel

club hammer

Mason's tools 2

bucket



mixing box

cone for slump test

big brush

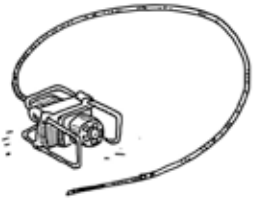
transparent water hose 10 -20 m

pickaxe

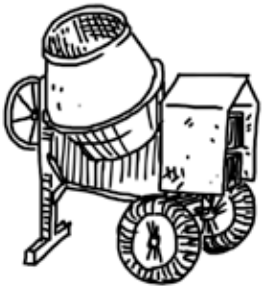
shovel

rammer

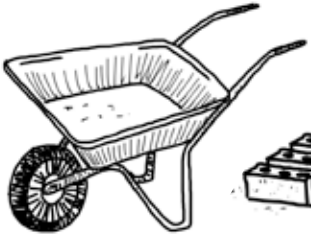
grinder



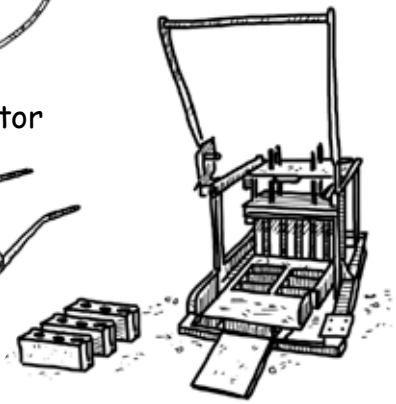
needle vibrator



concrete mixer



wheelbarrow



vibrating block/brick press

Formwork tools

guide book

tape measure

straight edge

level

pencil

plumb line

string

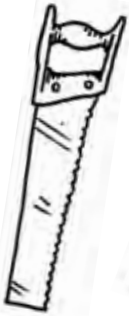
nail

hammer

chisel

crowbar

axe



saw

plane

Steel reinforcement tools

guide book

tape measure

straight edge

level

pencil

chalk

plumb line

string nail

wire twister or pincer

pliers

tin snips

hammer

chisel

plastic pipes of different diameters

hacksaw

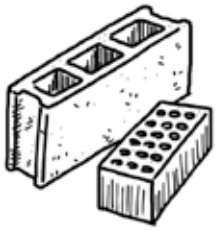
rebar bender

chain bolt cutter

Quality of materials

The quality of materials is essential to ensure safe construction !

Water :
clean and non-salty



Blocks & bricks : (ch. 9)
minimal size and strength

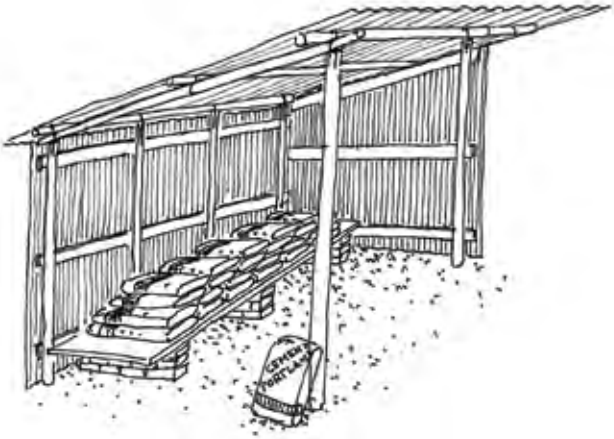
Sand :
river sand,
washed and dry

Cement :
portland cement,
new and dry bags

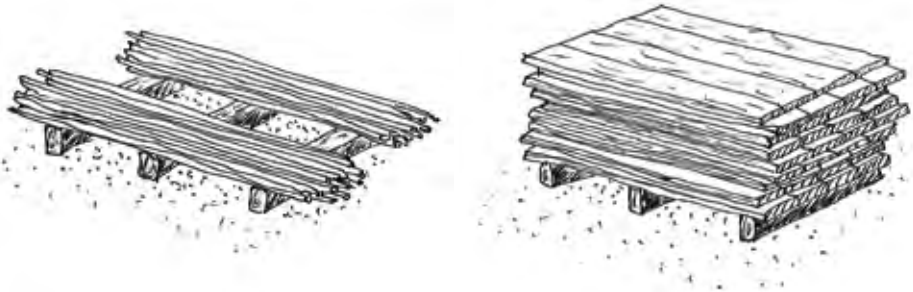
Gravel :
crushed or round,
from hard rock and clean,
well-graded, max size 18-20 mm

Steel bars :
standard size,
ribbed steel, grade 60
new and not corroded

Storage of building materials on site



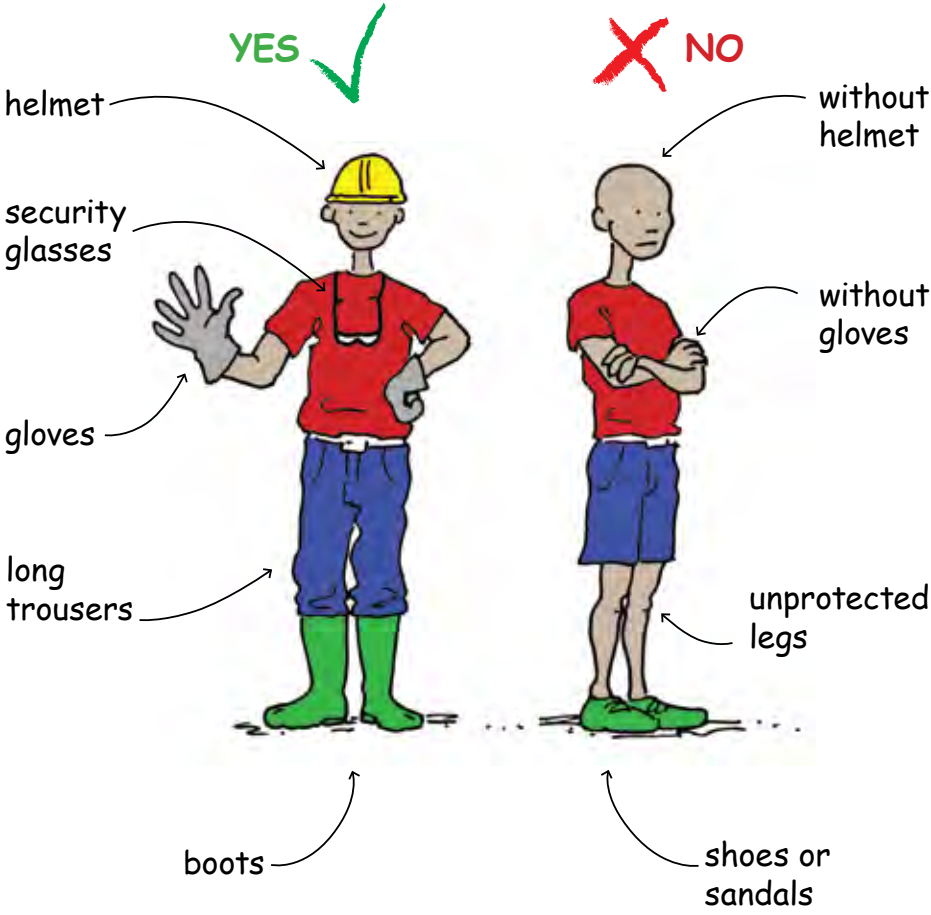
Store cement bags away from the sun
and protected from humidity.
Do not place on the ground !



Store wood and steel bars in a dry environment.
Do not place on the ground !

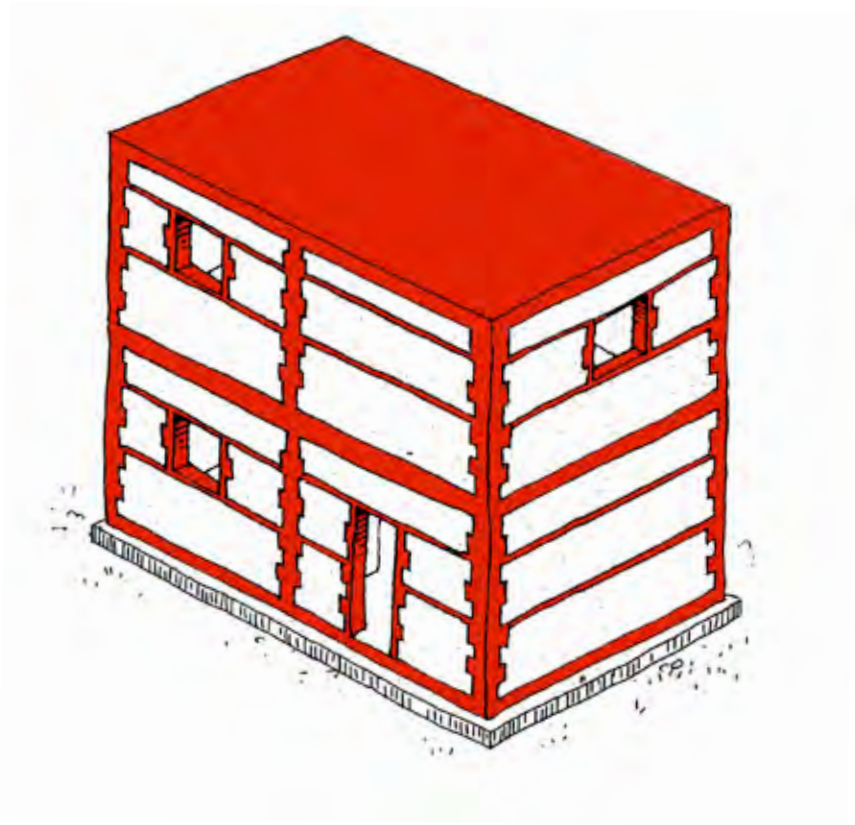
Construction site protection

Do not forget that health and security concerns everybody, starting with oneself !



If people are injured on a construction site, wash the wound with clean water and soap and go to a doctor !

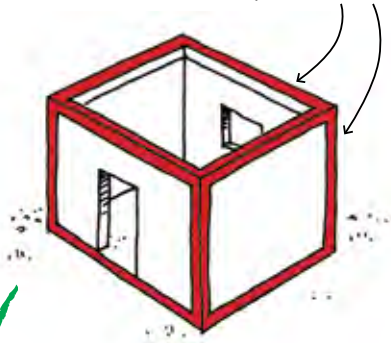
CONFINED MASONRY FOR TWO-STOREY HOUSES



Confining elements (ties)

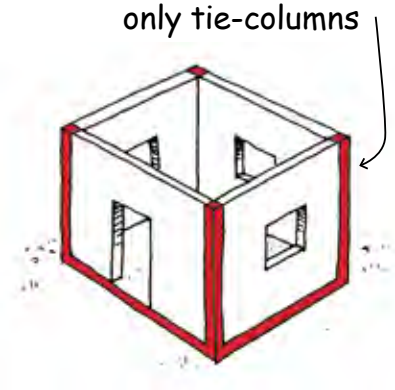
Confining the walls is like holding a pile of books together with a string: they can still move but they will not fall apart.

Horizontal ties (tie-beam) and vertical ties (tie-column).

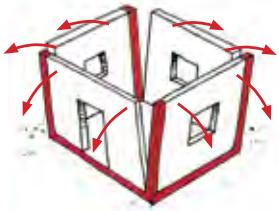


YES

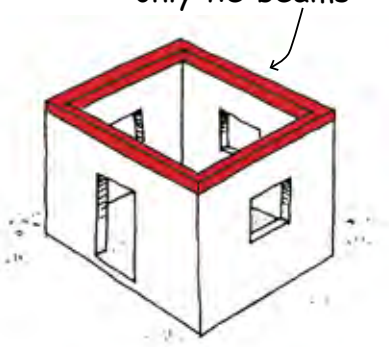
only tie-columns



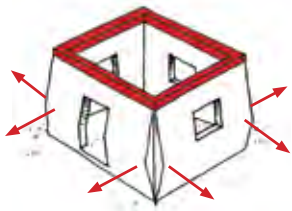
NO



only tie-beams



NO

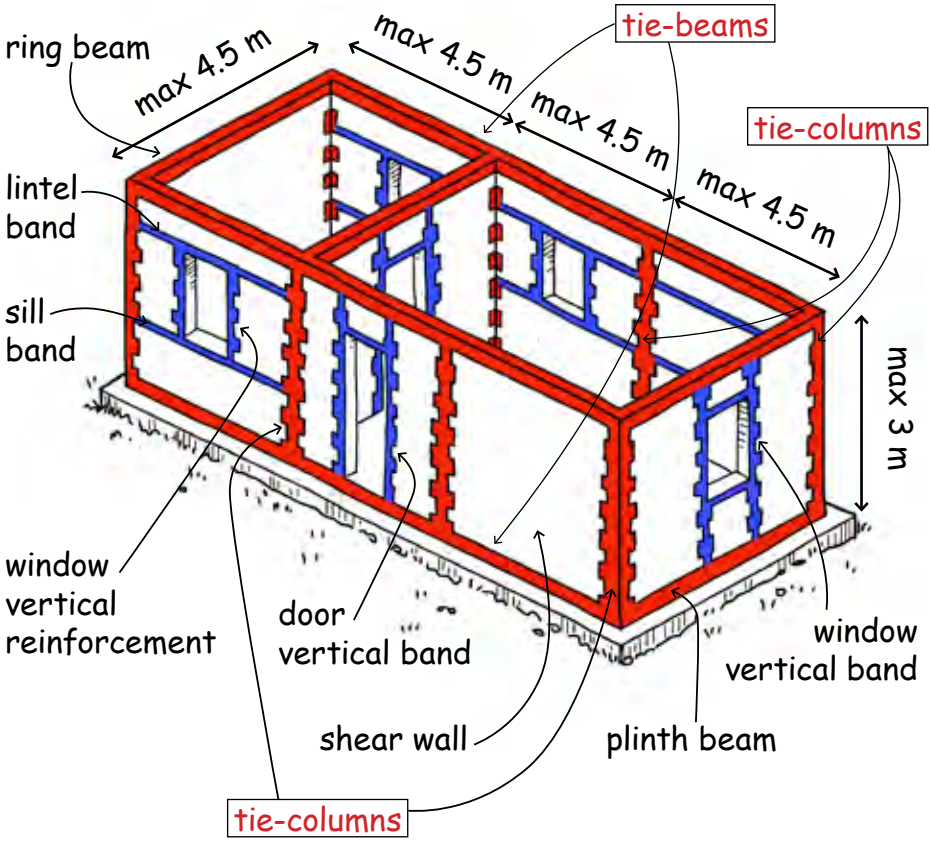


A strong house

All walls and openings should be confined to ensure stability during an earthquake !

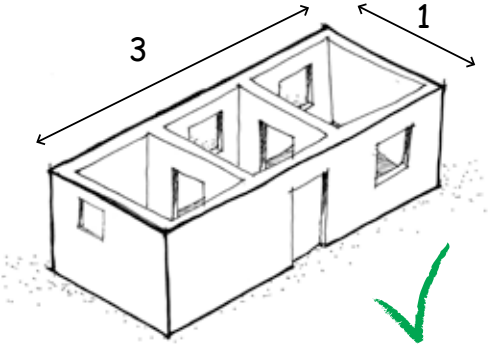
Confining elements : (chapters 6-8)
tie-column and tie-beams (plinth beam and ring beam)

Anchoring bands and opening reinforcement : (chapter 11)
seismic bands (lintel & sill bands) and vertical reinforcement

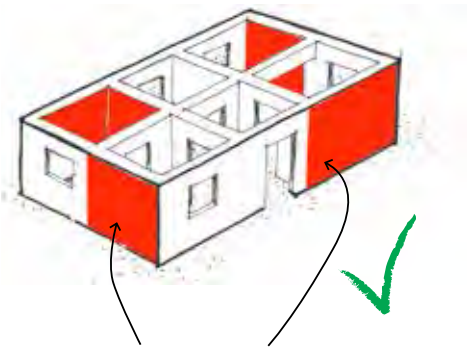


Shape of the house

YES, THIS IS CORRECT !

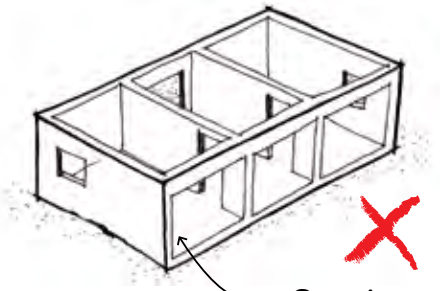


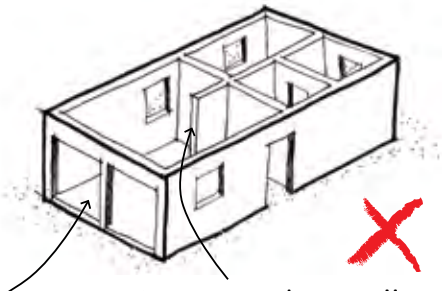
Maximum ratio 1 to 3.



Each facade must have at least one tied wall without openings = shear walls.

NO, THIS IS NOT CORRECT !



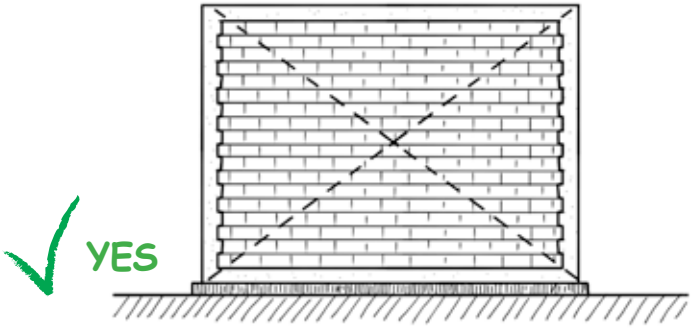


Openings are too big.

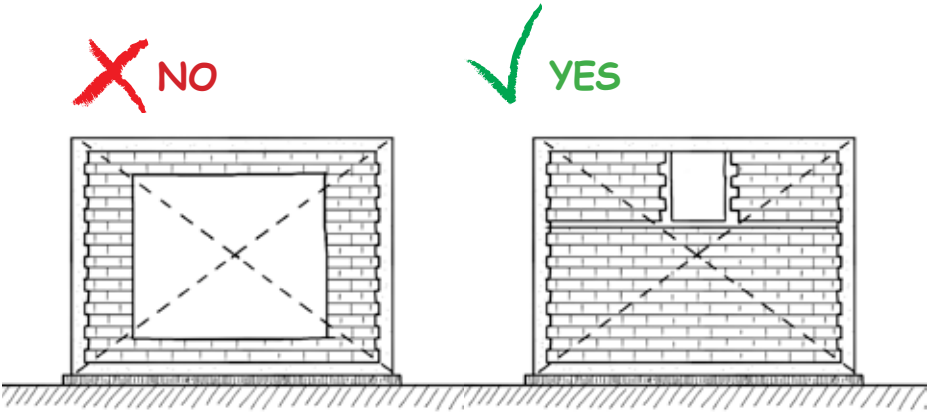
Free standing wall without any tie.

Shear walls

Shear walls are walls without windows or
with a small window outside of the diagonals of the wall !



Full shear wall



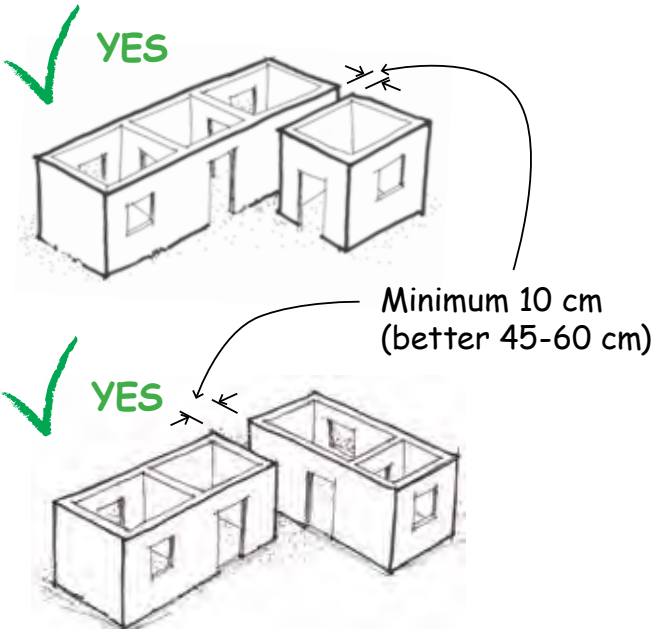
Opening is too big:
Not a shear wall !

Opening is small and
outside the diagonals:
It is a shear wall !

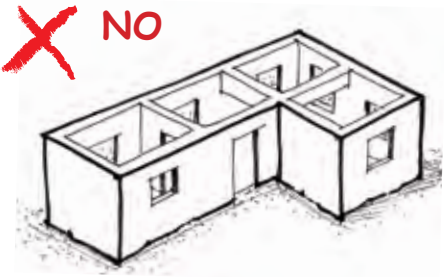
Seismic gap

Avoid complex shapes by creating seismic gaps.

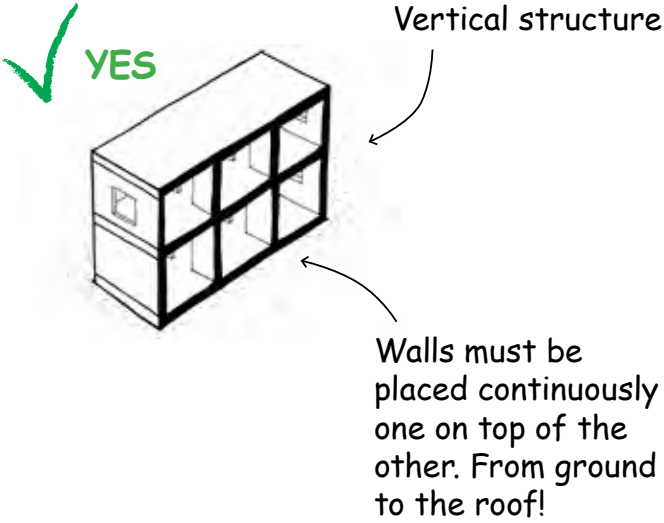
Simple shape : BETTER

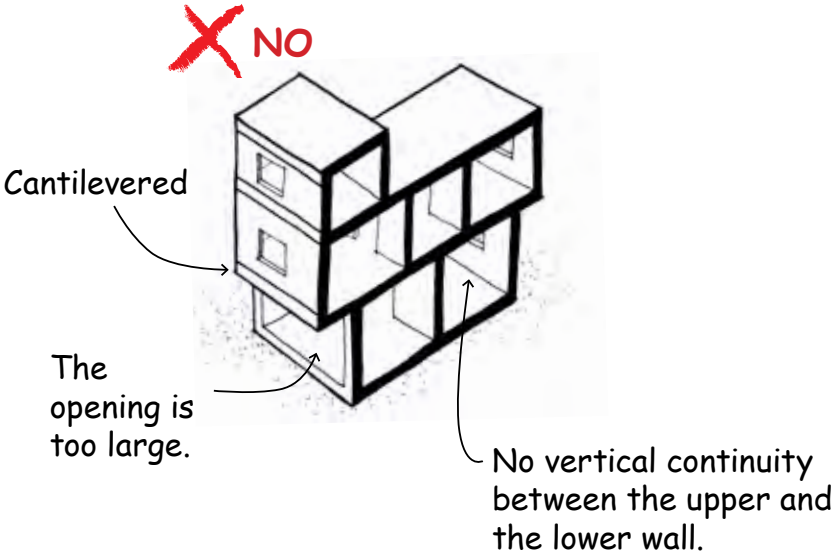


Complex shape : WORSE



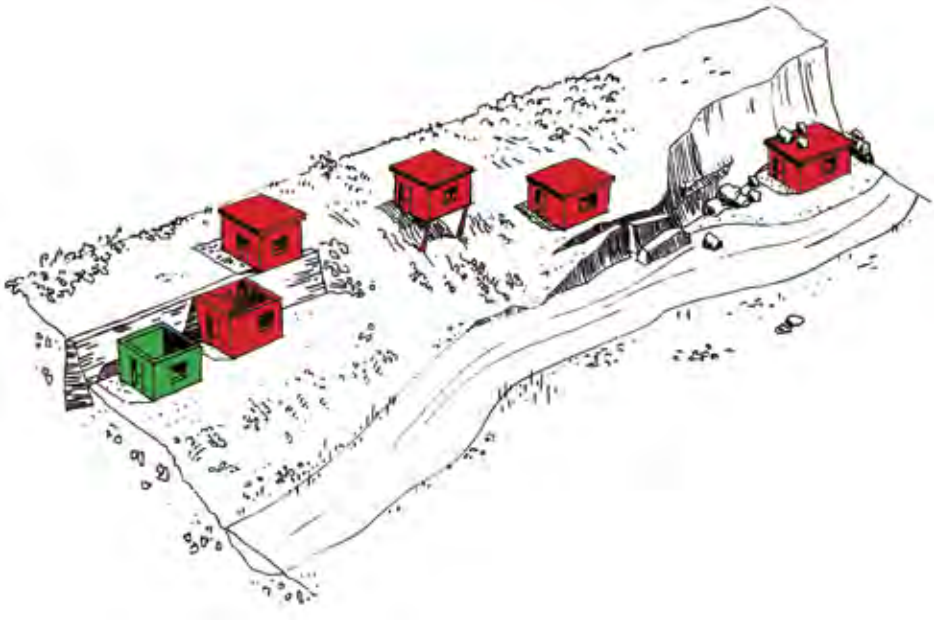
Vertical continuity of walls



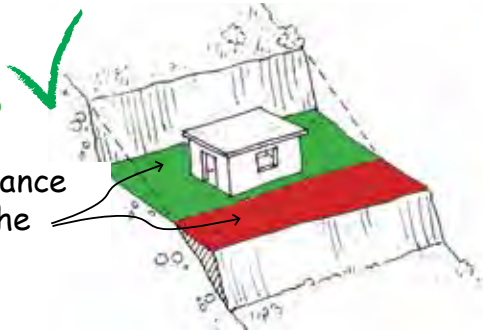


FINDING AN ADEQUATE LOCATION

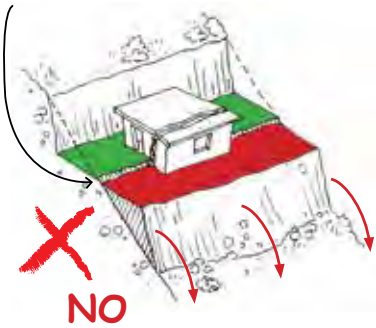
3



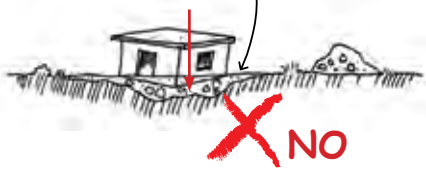
Site selection: where to build



Don't build on embankments.

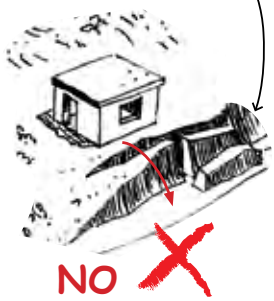


Don't build on fresh embankments.



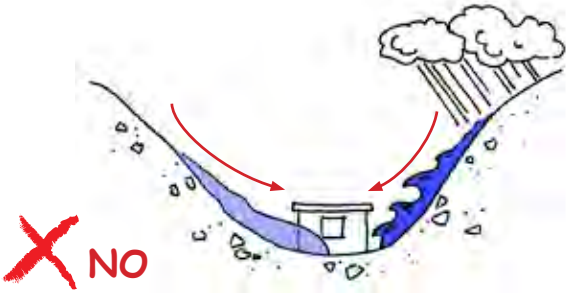
Don't build on stilts.

Don't build too close to a cliff.

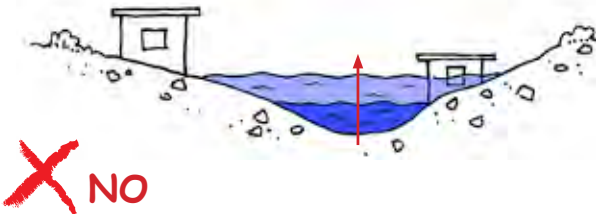


Don't build at the foot of a cliff.

Flood related hazards



Don't build at the bottom of a canyon.

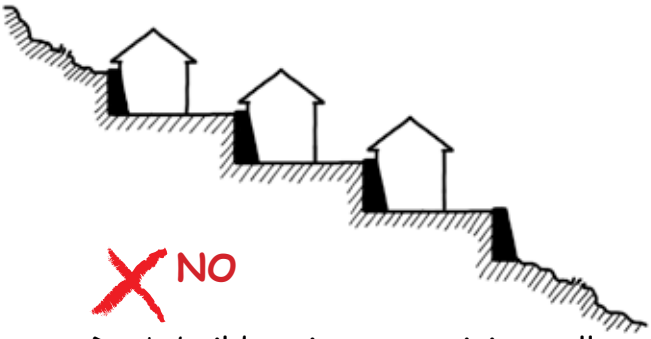


Don't build near a river.

Don't build near the ocean
(due to tsunami hazard).

Building on a slope

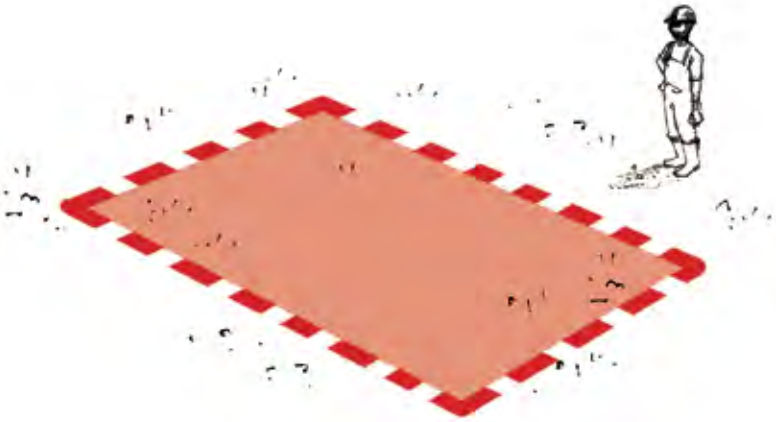
Build between retaining walls.



Don't build against a retaining wall.

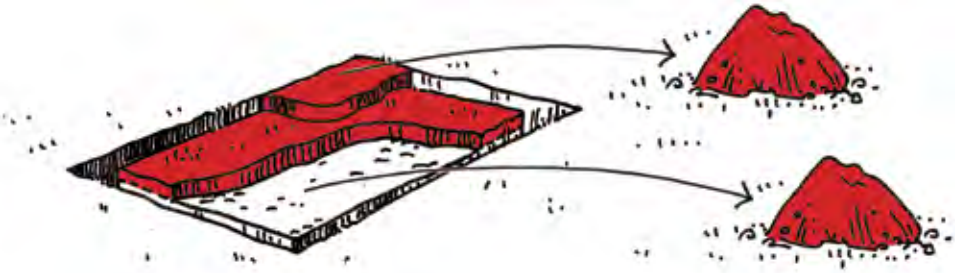
Don't build on top of a retaining wall.

LAYOUT

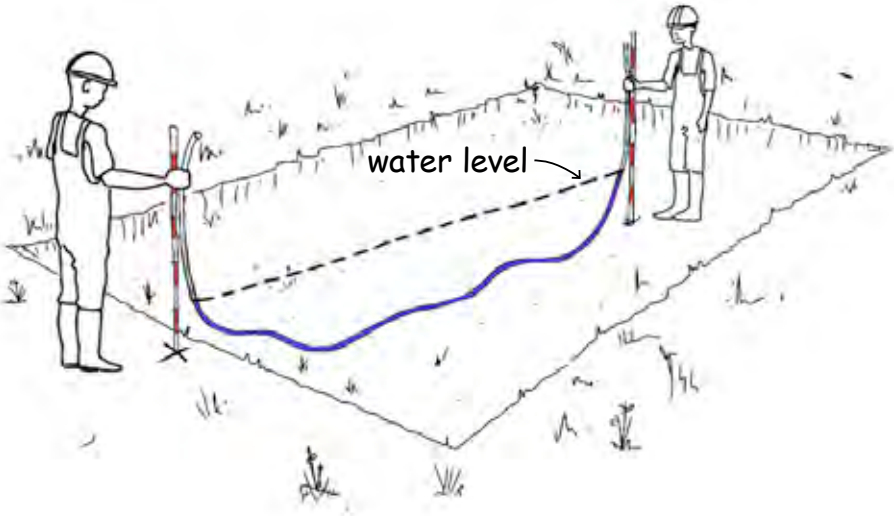


Site preparation

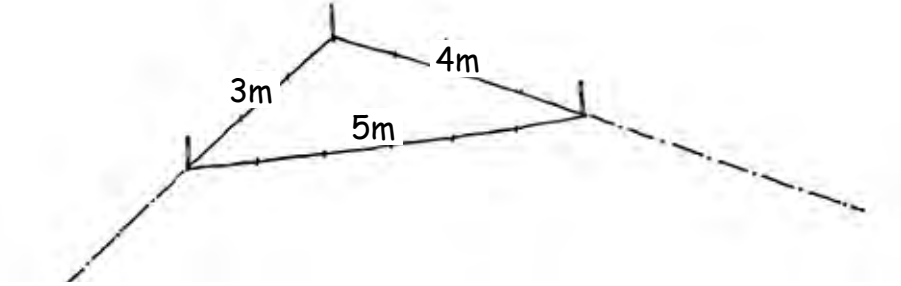
Remove the topsoil and the excavated material, and place it in 2 (or more) different heaps, away from the excavated area.

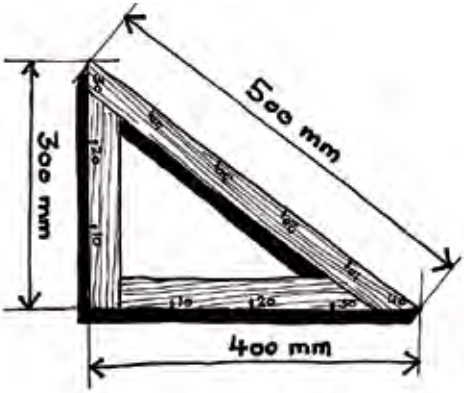


Check whether the ground is level by using a transparent hose filled with water.

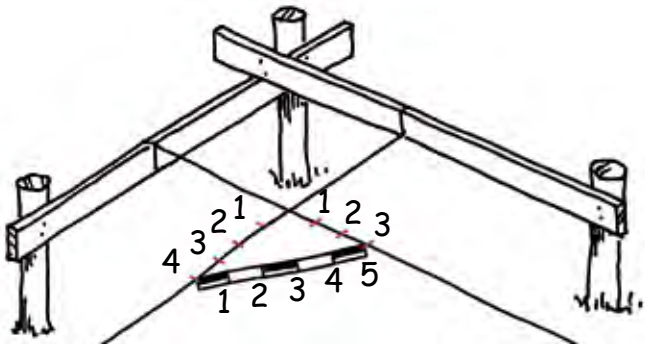


Tracing a right angle (3 : 4 : 5)

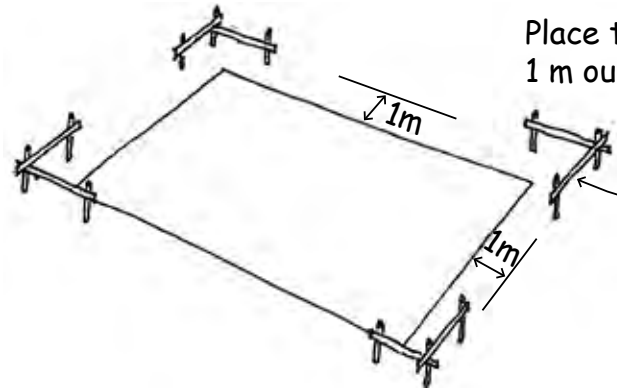




3	4	5
30 cm	40 cm	50 cm
60 cm	80 cm	100 cm
90 cm	120 cm	150 cm
1,5 m	2 m	2,5 m
2,1 m	2,8 m	3,5 m
3 m	4 m	5 m
3 ft	4 ft	5 ft
6 ft	8 ft	10 ft
9 ft	12 ft	15 ft



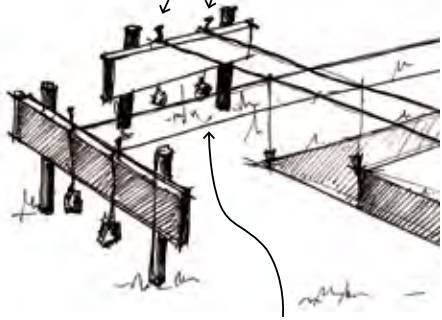
Layout



Place the batter boards
1 m outside the trenches.

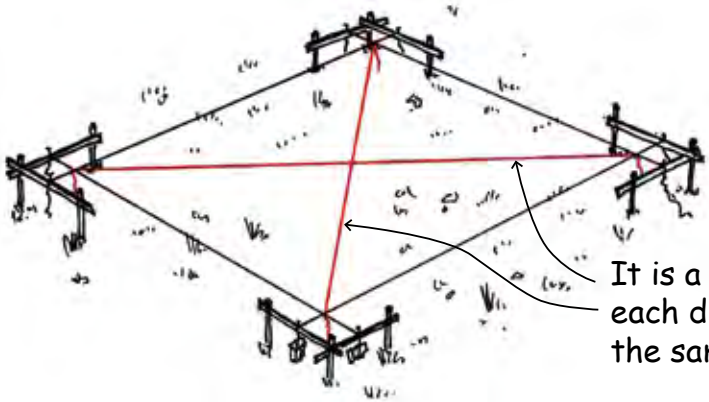
batter board

nail



Drive in nails in order
to pull strings.

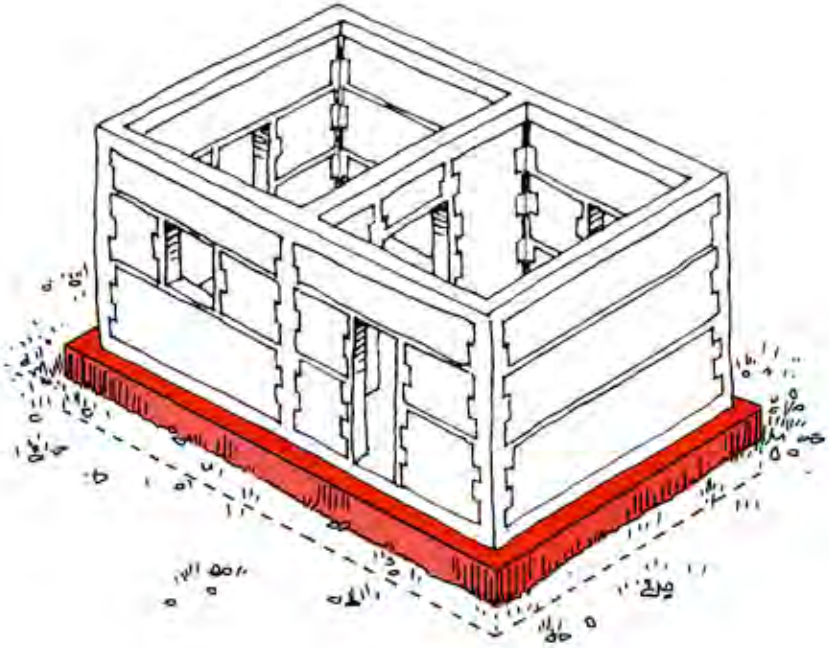
Marking strings



It is a rectangle if
each diagonal is of
the same length.

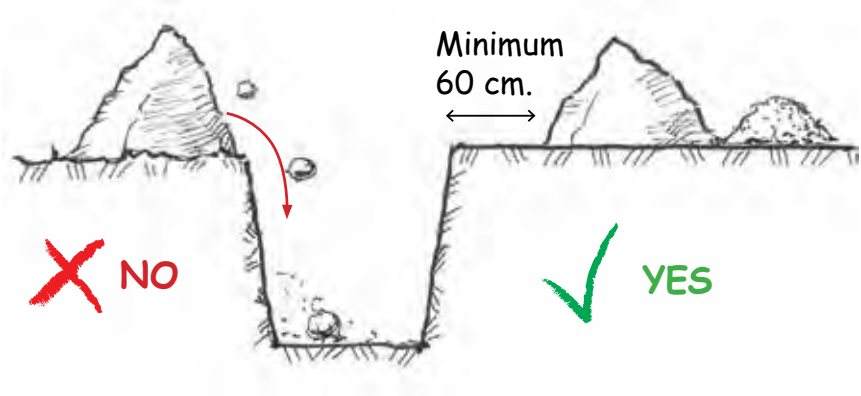
STONE FOUNDATION

5

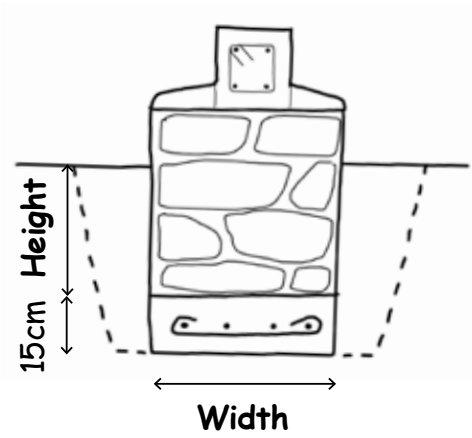


Excavation

Place the soil you have dug up to a minimum of
60 cm away from the trenches,
to avoid its falling back into the excavation.



**WARNING : dig until you find firm soil
and then build the foundation with the proper width !!!**



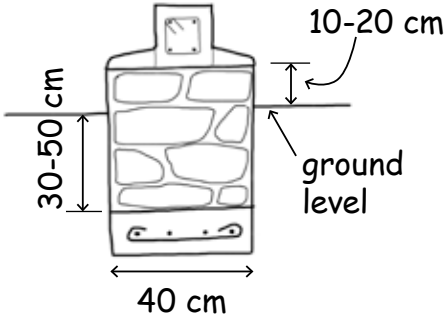
Foundation height :

hard soil :	min 30 cm
rammed soil :	min 50 cm
soft soil :	min 80 cm

Foundation width :

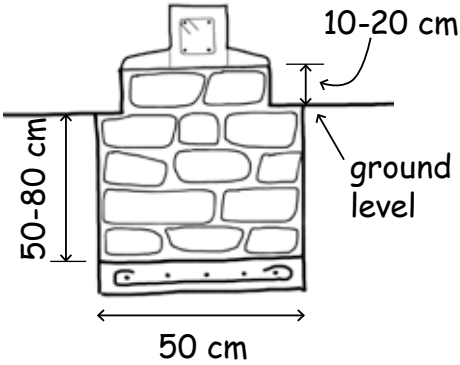
hard soil :	40 cm
rammed soil :	60 cm
soft soil :	70 cm

Foundation dimensions



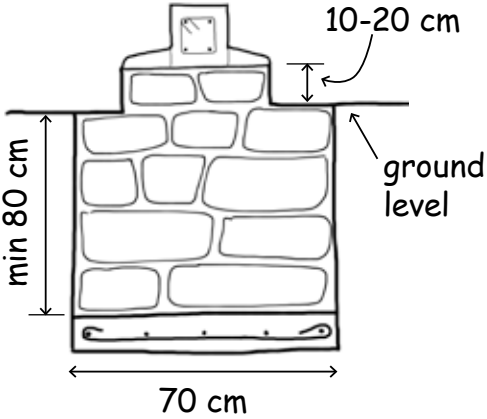
Hard soil

height :	30-50 cm
width :	40 cm
strip footing :	40 cm



Rammed soil

height :	50-80 cm
width :	50 cm
strip footing :	50 cm



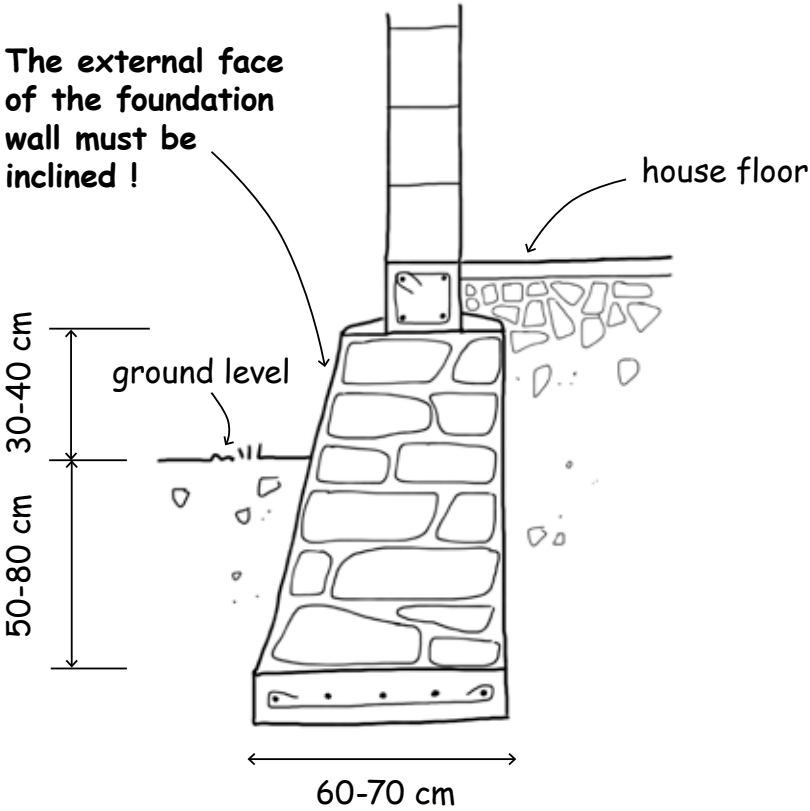
Soft soil

height :	min 80 cm
width :	70 cm
strip footing :	70 cm

Warning !
height above the ground :
maximum 20 cm !

Special foundations

If the part above ground is higher than 20 cm,
then the foundation acts as a retaining wall.
Do not exceed 40 cm above the ground !



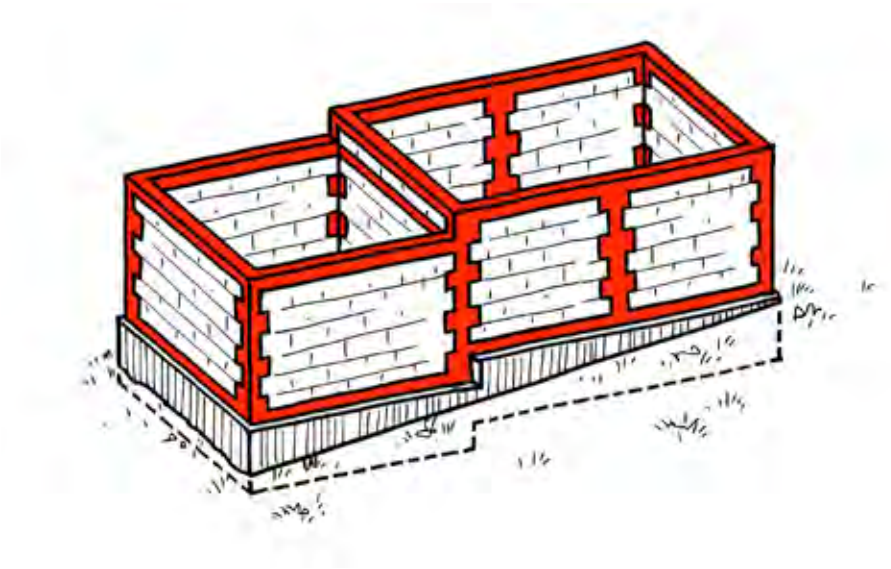
Foundation height :
rammed soil : min 50 cm
soft soil : min 80 cm

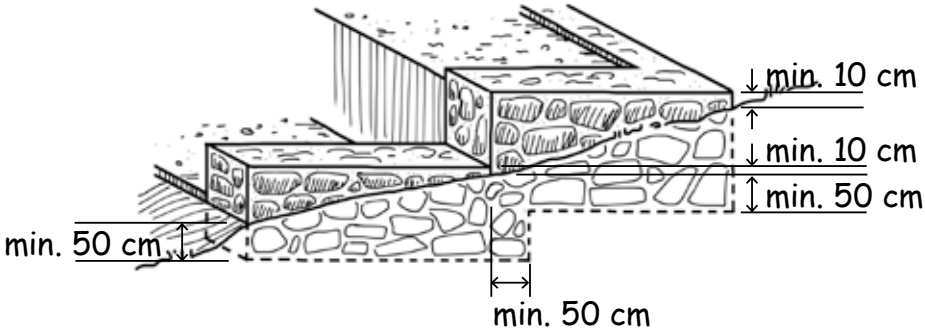
Foundation width :
rammed soil : min 60 cm
soft soil : min 70 cm

Avoid building in a flood-prone area !

Stepped foundations

If you build on a slope, the foundation must be stepped,
keeping the bottom of the trench always horizontal !



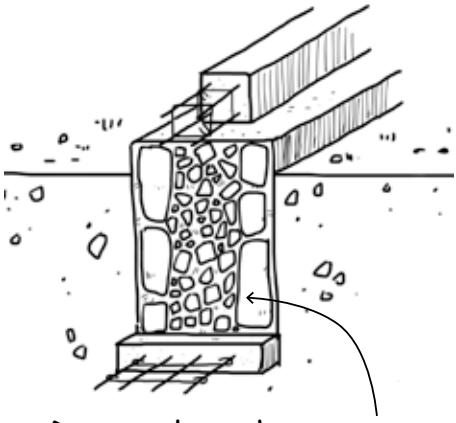


Avoid building parallel to the slope !

Stone masonry construction

Place all the stones in a horizontal position !

YES

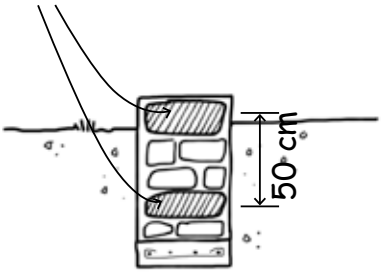


Do not place the stones in a vertical position !

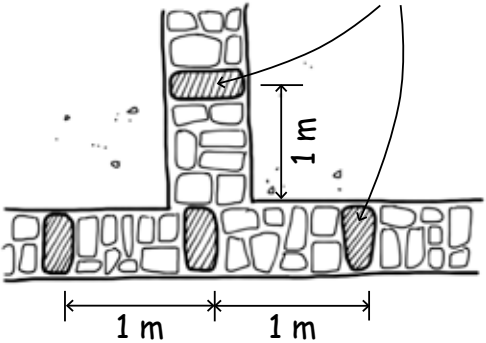
NO

Place through-stones :
Horizontally : at least every **1 m**
Vertically : at least every **50 cm**

Place through-stones **in section** :

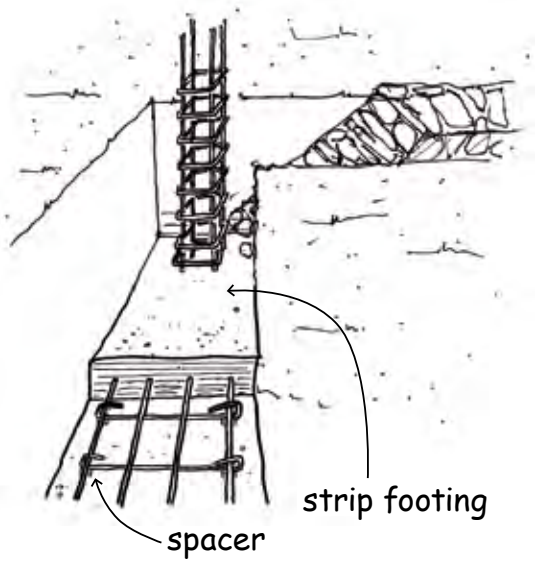


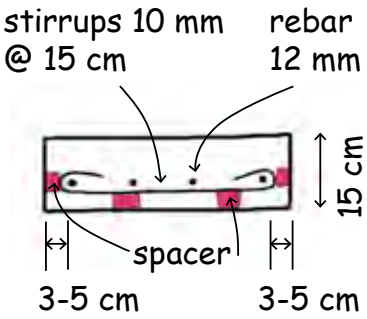
Place through-stones **in plan** :



Reinforced concrete strip footing

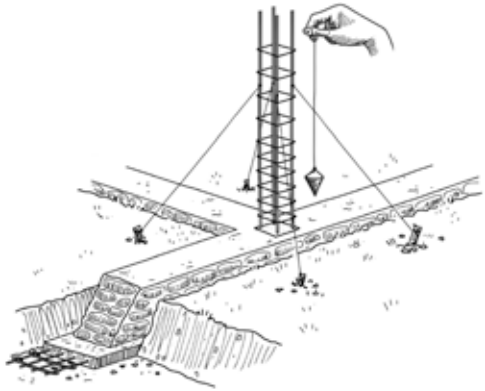
A strip footing is a must for soft soil conditions !
It is also recommended for other soil conditions.



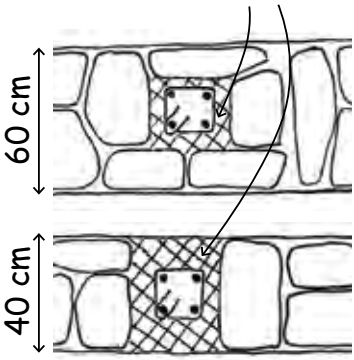


Strip footing :
Width 40 cm = 4 rebars
Width 50 cm = 4 rebars
Width 70 cm = 5 rebars

Before pouring the concrete, make sure the reinforcement is perfectly vertical !



Leave a space around the reinforcement for the concrete.

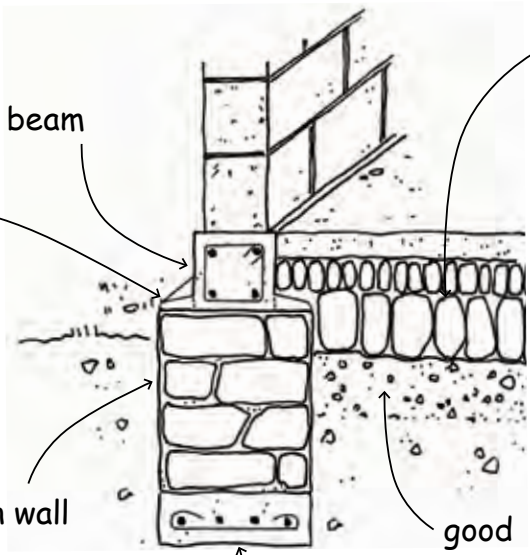


Curing and ground floor

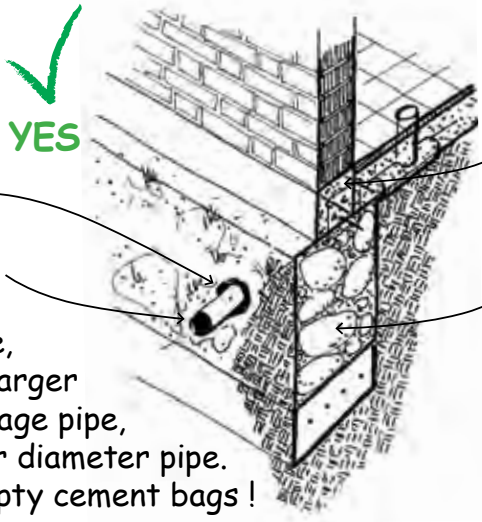
Cure the foundation walls !
Wet every day,
for the three first days !

Always interrupt
foundation work
on a sloped line.

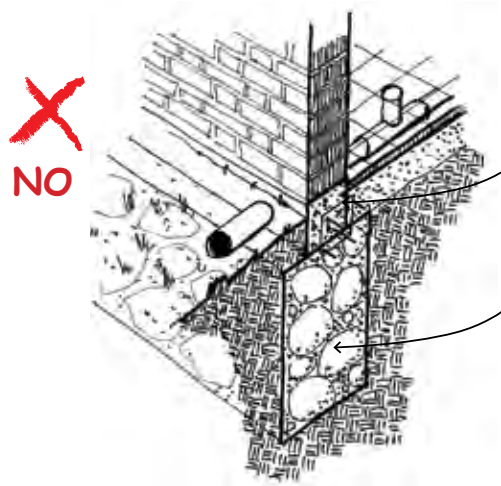
Build a "drainage bed" to avoid moisture coming in !



Placing sewage pipes

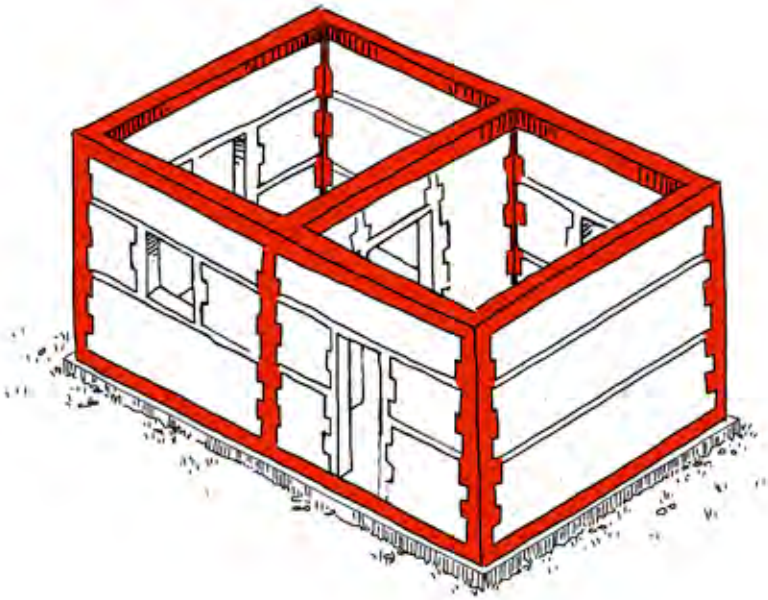


The pipe must go through the foundation, under the plinth beam !



Do not go through the plinth beam !

Reinforced Concrete Ties

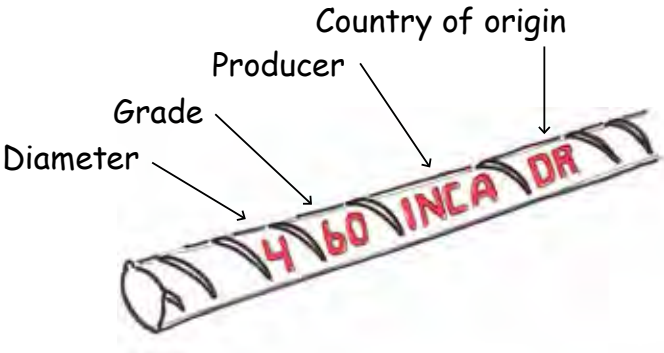


Types of steel rebars

Use ribbed steel for all rebars.
Only stirrups can be made of smooth steel.

For confined masonry **Grade 60** should be used !
Always use **standard rebars** (not sub-standard) !

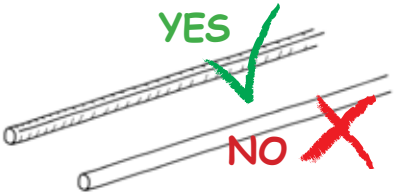
Strength indication are written on the rebar :



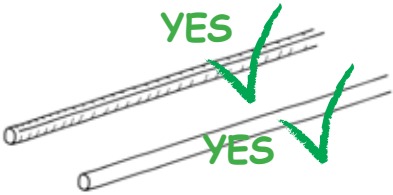
Do not use second hand rebars !

Steel bar diameters

For rebars :



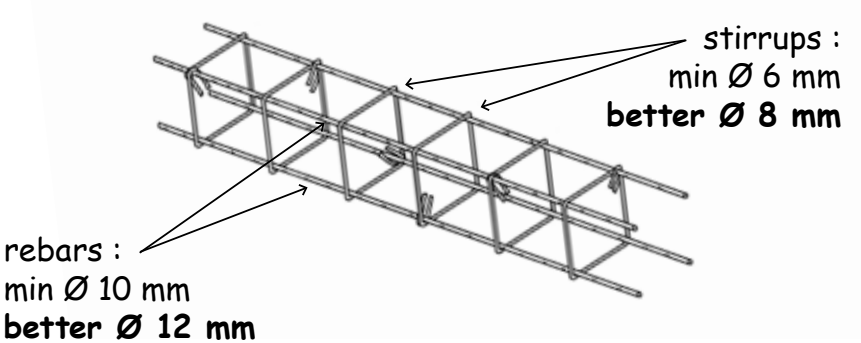
For stirrups:



Rebars diameters (imperial and metric) :

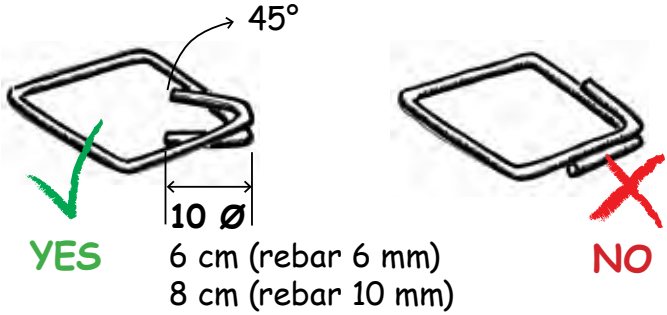
imperial	inch	metric	rebars	stirrups
#6	3/4 in.	19 mm	✗	✗
#5	5/8 in.	16 mm	✗	✗
#4	1/2 in.	12 mm	✓	✗
#3	3/8 in.	10 mm	✓	✗
-	1/3 in.	8 mm	✗	✓
#2	1/4 in.	6 mm	✗	✓

Rebar dimensions for vertical and horizontal ties :

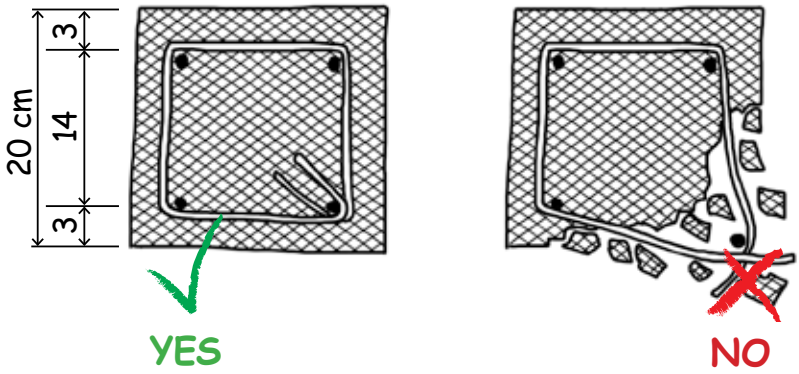


Stirrups

Bend stirrup ends at 45° !

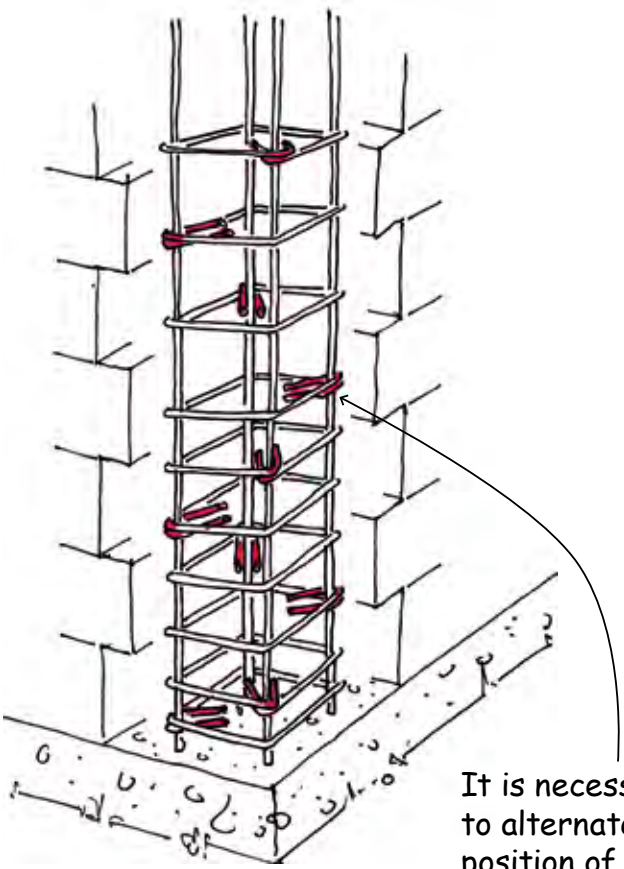


If stirrups are not bent at 45°,
they will open during an earthquake !



Possible stirrup types :

Alternate stirrup positions



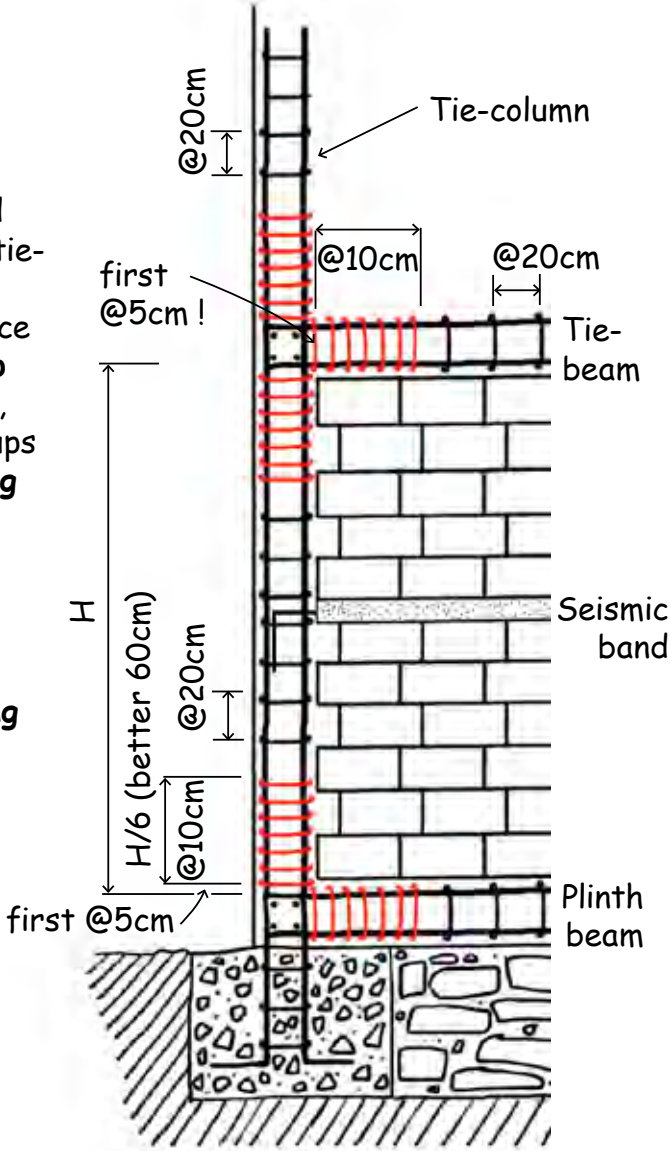
It is necessary to alternate position of stirrup hooks !!

Stirrup spacing

Rules for stirrup spacing:

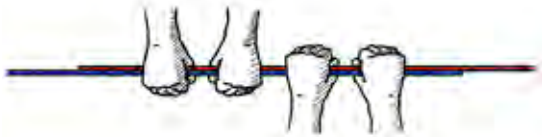
1. At the top and bottom of each tie-column and ends of tie-beams place the **first stirrup at 5 cm spacing**, then place stirrups **at 10 cm spacing** over a **length of H/6** (better 60cm).

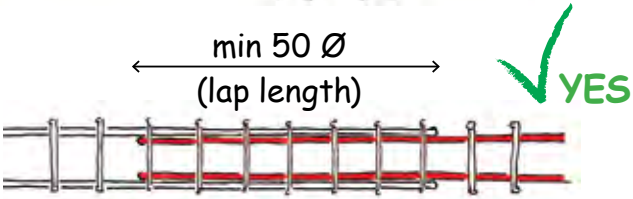
2. Place stirrups **at 20 cm spacing** elsewhere.



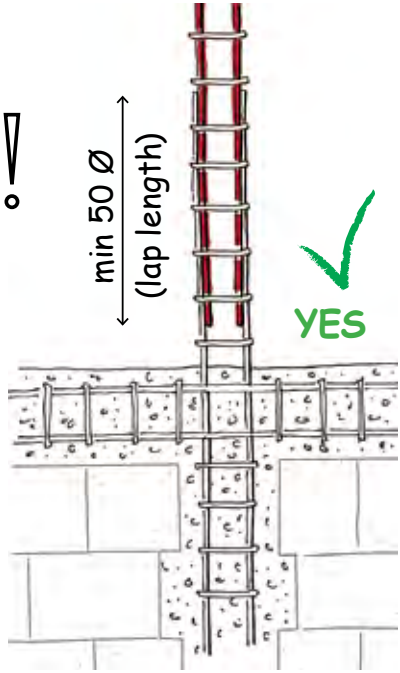
Lap length

The concrete keeps the rebars together like tight fists :
the more fists we have (longer overlap)
the stronger the connection !





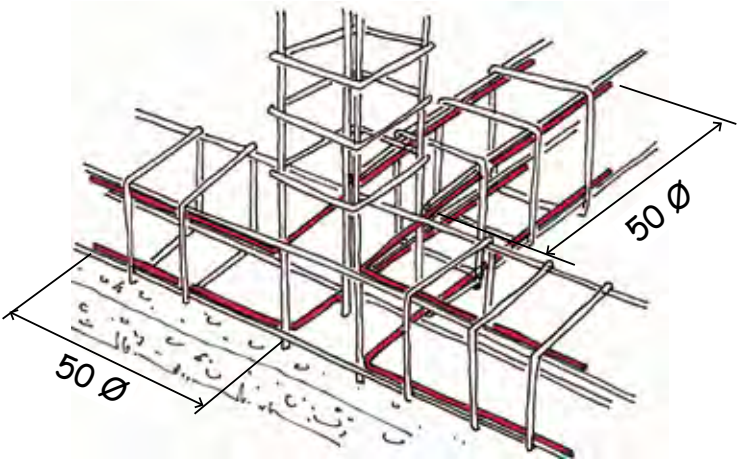
Tie wires only hold the rebars in place. They don't add strength to the connections !



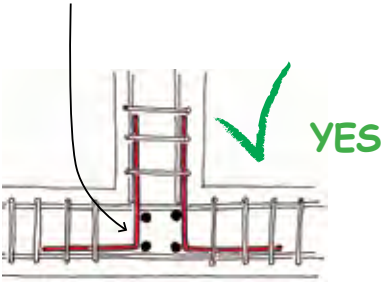
Lap length :
(overlapping)
50 x Ø
(50 times the diameter)

for 10 mm rebar = 50 cm
for 12 mm rebar = 60 cm

Tie-beam : T-connection



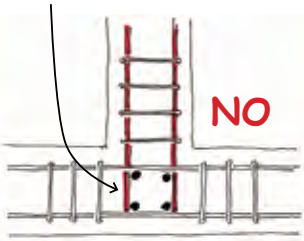
<u>Always</u> :
extend hooked bars from the inside to the outside !



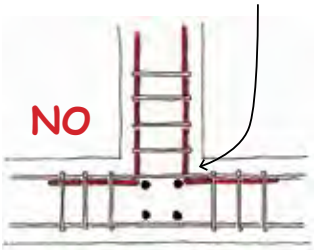
Lap length :
(overlapping)
50 x Ø
(50 times the diameter)

for 10 mm rebar = 50 cm
for 12 mm rebar = 60 cm

Connection with straight bars.

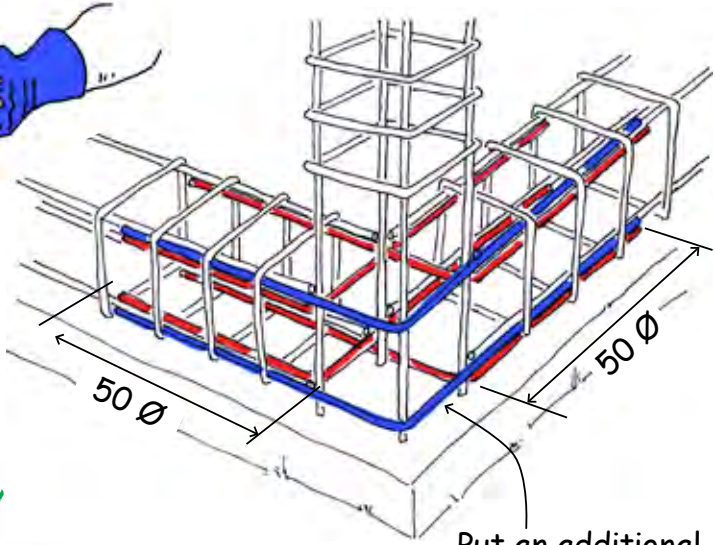


Connection around the inner corner.

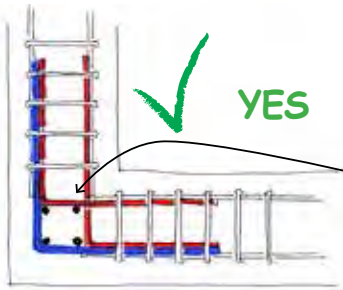


Tie-beam : L-connection

Rebars must cross like the fingers of a hand !

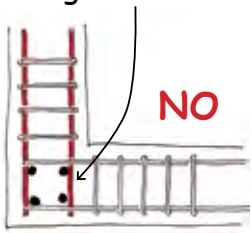


Put an additional rebar around the outer corner.

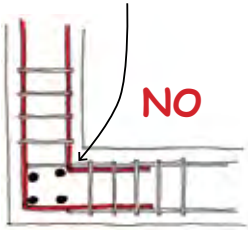


Extend hooked bars from the inside to the outside !

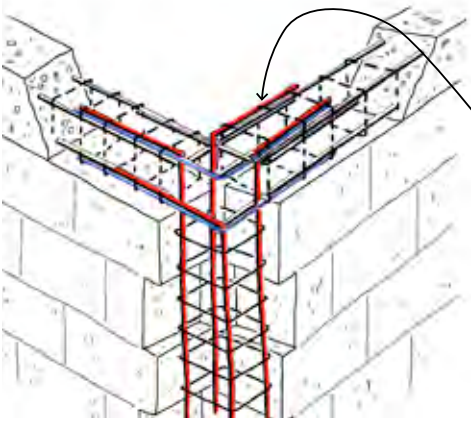
Connection with straight bars.



Hooked bars from inside to inside.



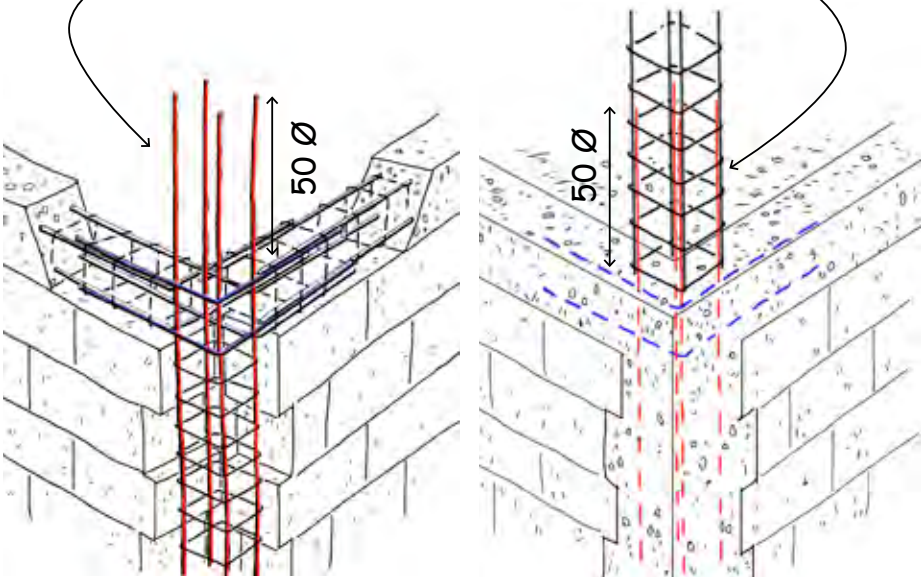
Tie-beam to Tie-column connection



If the wall ends here, bend the vertical rebars into the tie-beam.

One-storey building

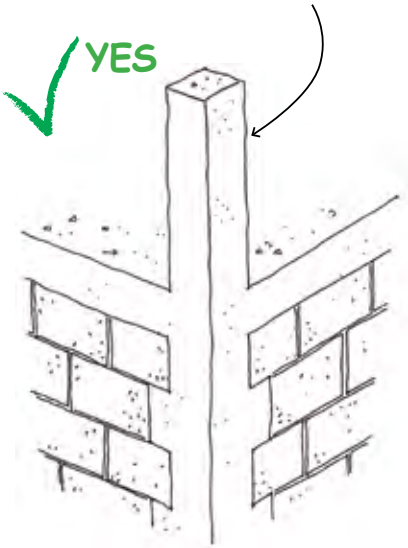
If the wall continues, add vertical rebars with an 50 Ø overlapp.



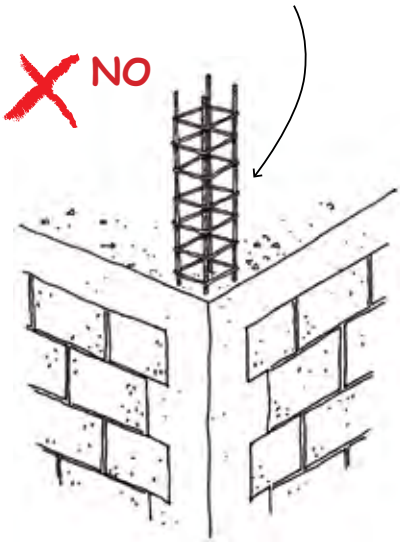
Two-storey building

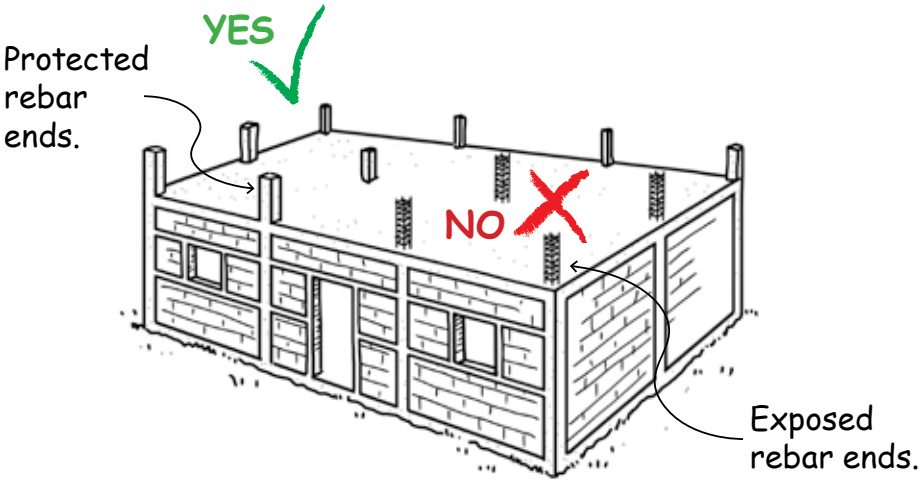
Protection of rebar ends

Protect rebar ends with lean concrete.

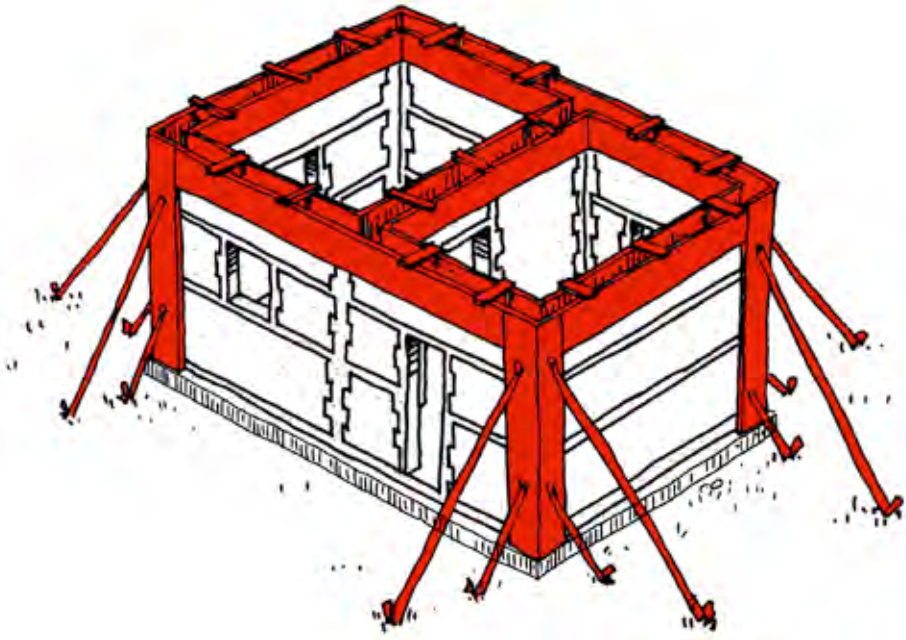


Exposed rebar ends will rust and cannot be reused.





FORMWORK

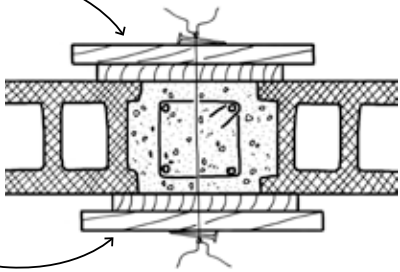


Formwork for Ties

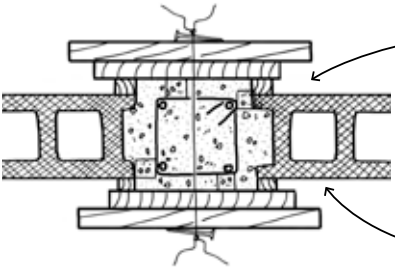
Block walls :

20cm wall thickness :
place formwork boards
on both sides.

Tie = 20x20cm



Tie = 20x20cm

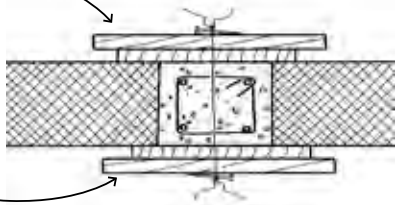


15cm wall thickness:
Place a 1 inch board
under the formwork
board.

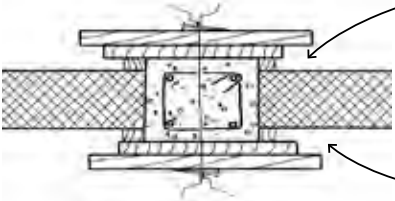
Brick walls :

15-24cm wall thickness :
place formwork boards
on both sides.

Tie = 20x20cm
min 15x20cm



Tie = 15x20cm

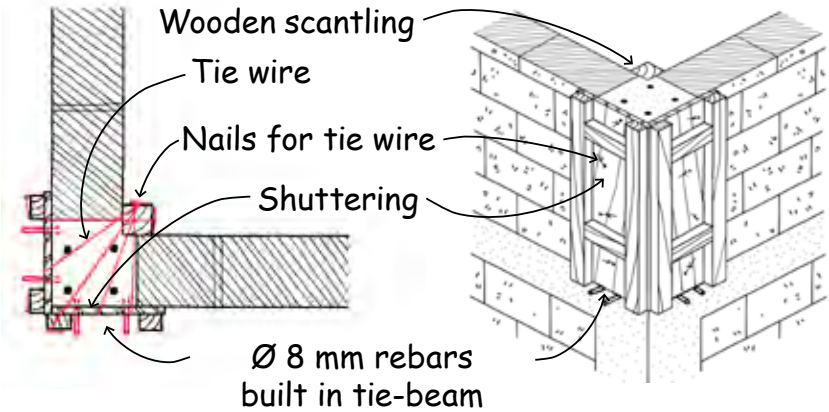


15cm wall thickness:
Place a 1 inch board
under the formwork
board.

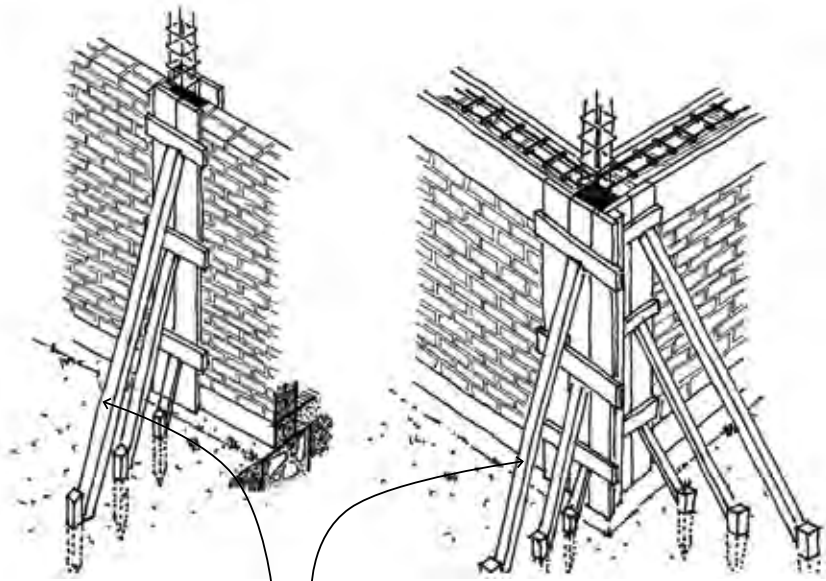
Sizes of tie-columns and tie-beams :
20 x 20 cm recommended / 15 x 20 cm minimum !

Vertical formwork

Vertical formwork at upper floor level :

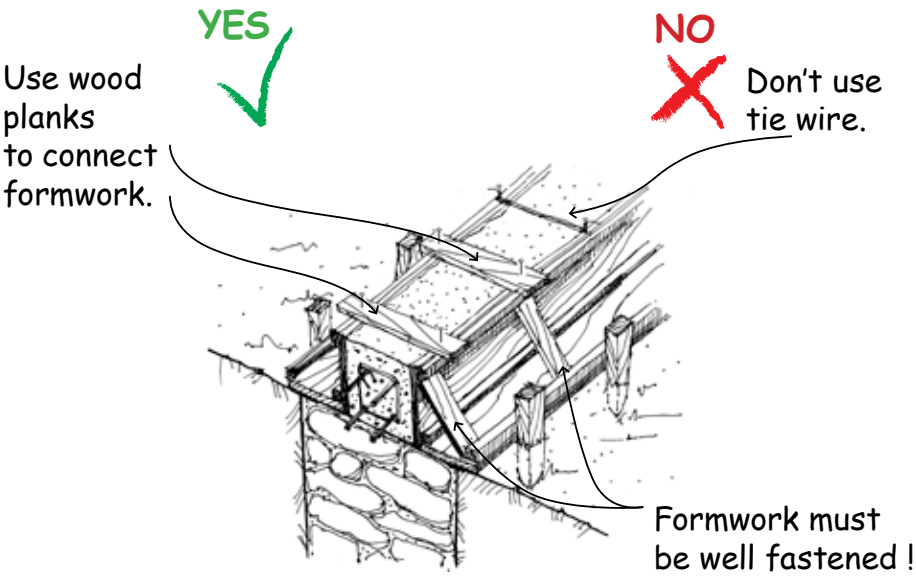


Vertical formwork at ground floor level :

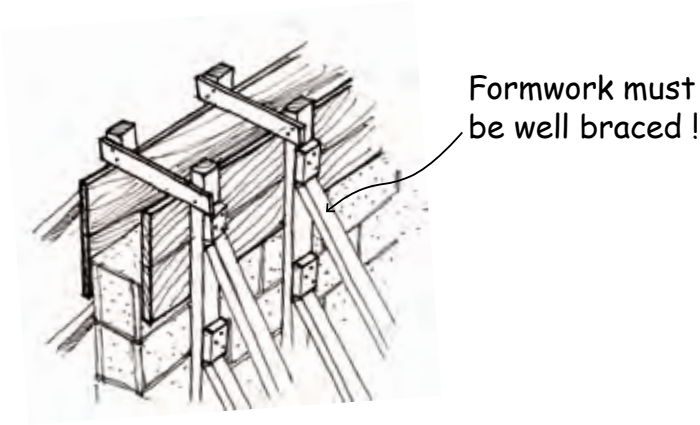


Formwork must be well braced !

Horizontal formwork



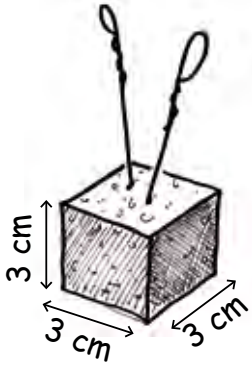
To be able to reuse the formwork, use small nailed planks. Do not use tie wire. !

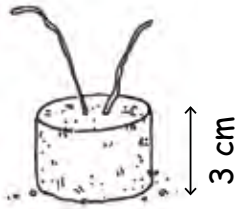


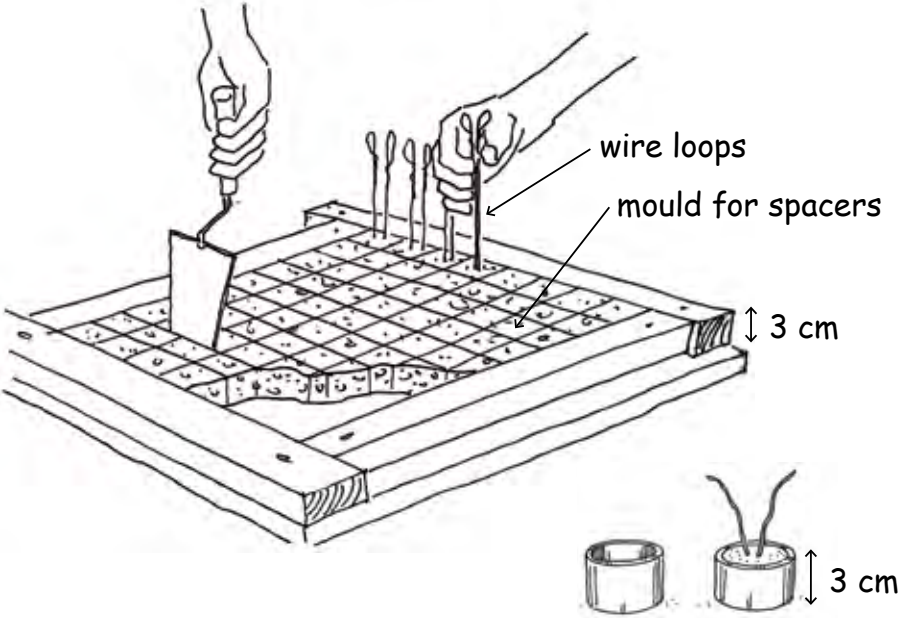
Spacers - 1

Spacers are very important : they ensure that the rebars remain in the right place and are well covered by concrete.

Don't use stones to fix the rebars, use spacers instead !

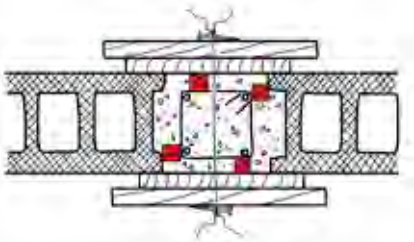






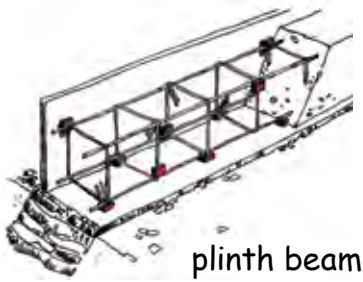
Spacers - 2

Add spacers on all sides
to avoid rebars touching the formwork.

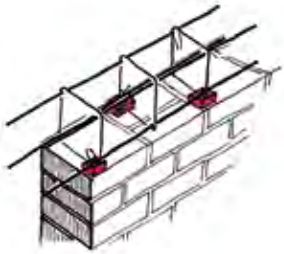


tie-column

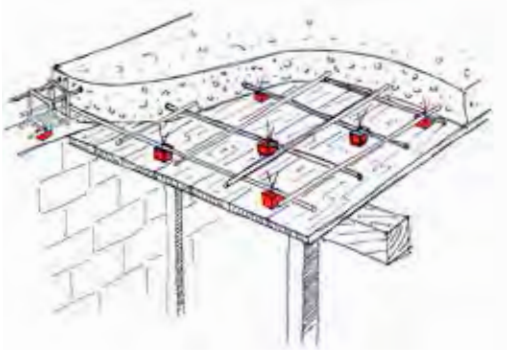
Alternate the position of the spacers around the stirrups !



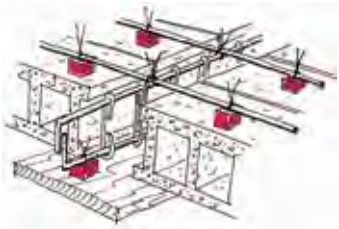
plinth beam



tie-beam

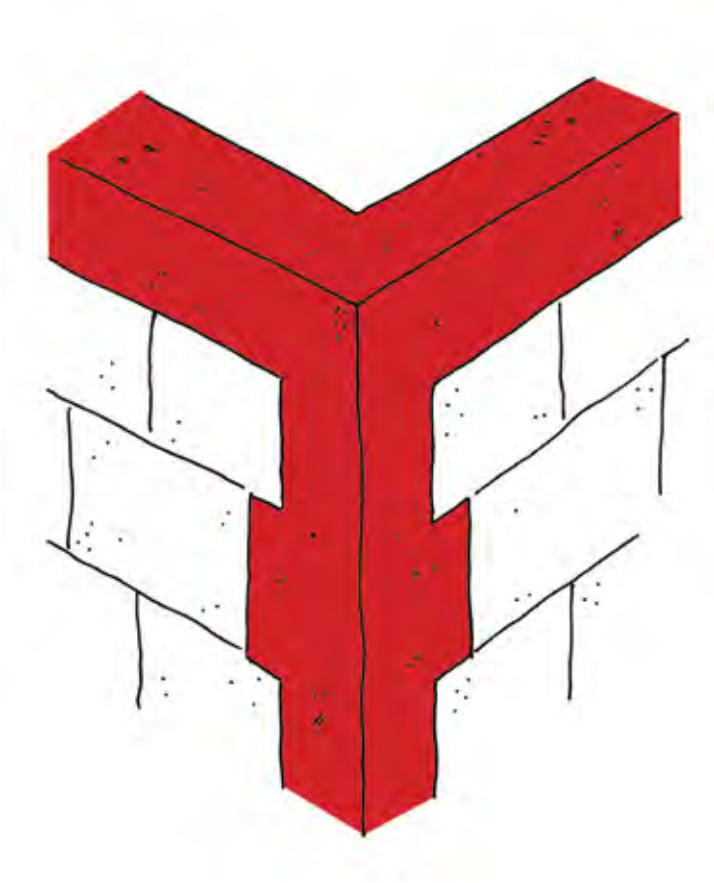


reinforced concrete slab



joist and pan slab

CONCRETE



Concrete mix (1 : 2 : 3)

1 part cement

3 parts gravel (max. 18mm)

2 parts clean sand (washed and dry)

3/4 part clean water

Table of various concrete mixes (by volume) :

	Cement	Sand	Gravel	Strength
minimum →	1	2	4	200 kg/m3
preferred →	1	2	3	250 kg/m3 ✓
	1.5	2	3	350 kg/m3

Peferred mix = (1 : 2 : 3) = 250 kg/m3 !

Note :

Concrete should have a minimum amount of 300 kg of cement per cubic metre. The values taken into account in this manual are lower (min. 200 kg/m3), to allow for a concrete not made properly by untrained workforce.

Mixing concrete

Mixing the conrete by hand :

1. Make a pile with the gravel, the sand and the cement but without water!

2. Mix the pile without water and move it twice with a shovel.

3. Add the water and mix again. **Add the water only at the end !**

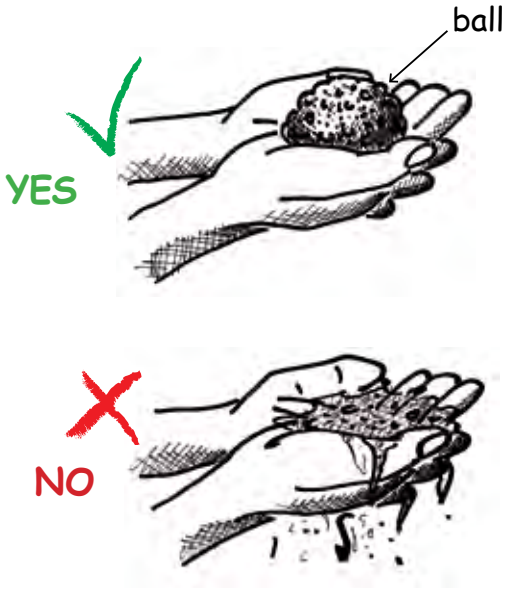
Mixing with a concrete mixer :

1. Add 1/2 water and cement, mix 1 minute.
2. Add agregate, mix 1 minute.
3. Add rest of water slowly, mix 3-4 min.

Always use the concrete within 90 min after mixing !!!

Concrete test

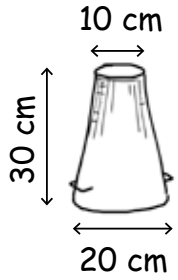
QUICK TEST :
Take a handful of concrete.
If the concrete leaks through
your fingers, it is too wet !



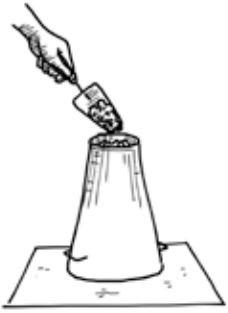
Concrete must be **used in less than 90 min.**
Never "refresh" dried concrete by adding water !
Don't mix too much concrete at a time !

Slump test

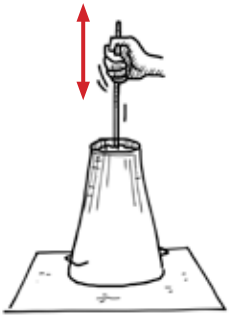
Use a standard steel cone :



SLUMP TEST PROCEDURE :

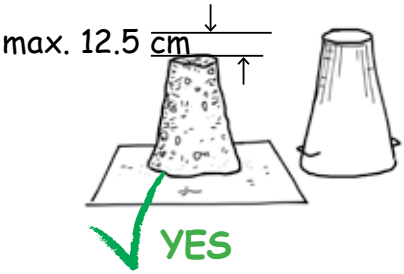


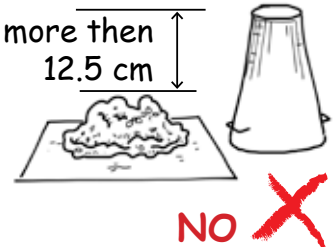
1. Fill cone in 3 equal layers.



2. Tamp down each layer 25 times with a rod (rebar).

3. Lift the cone vertically and place next to the slump.

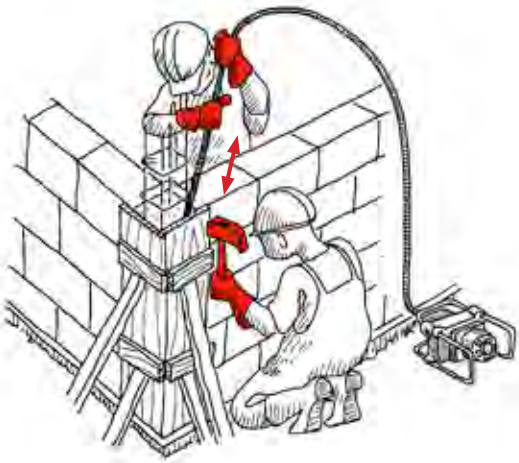




Result : the difference between slump and cone should be **less then 12.5cm !**

Pouring concrete : Tie-Columns

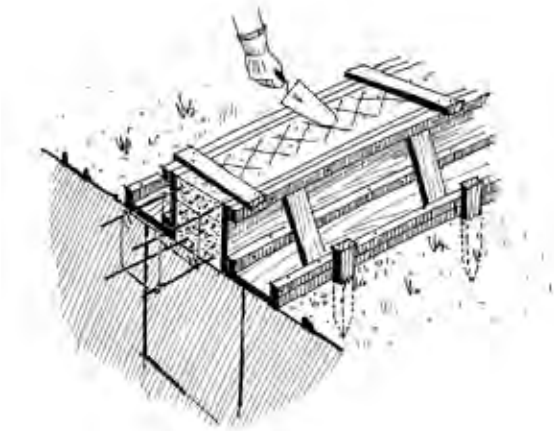
Never add water to make the concrete
more liquid and "flow down better" !



Use a stick (or rebar) and a hammer to help the concrete
flow down, to compact it and avoid air pockets.
Use a mechanical vibrator if one is available !

Pouring concrete : Tie-Beams

Use a stick (or rebar) and a hammer to help the concrete flow down, to compact it and avoid air pockets.
Use a mechanical vibrator if one is available !



Roughen up the top surface of the plinth beam to increase bonding of the mortar for the wall

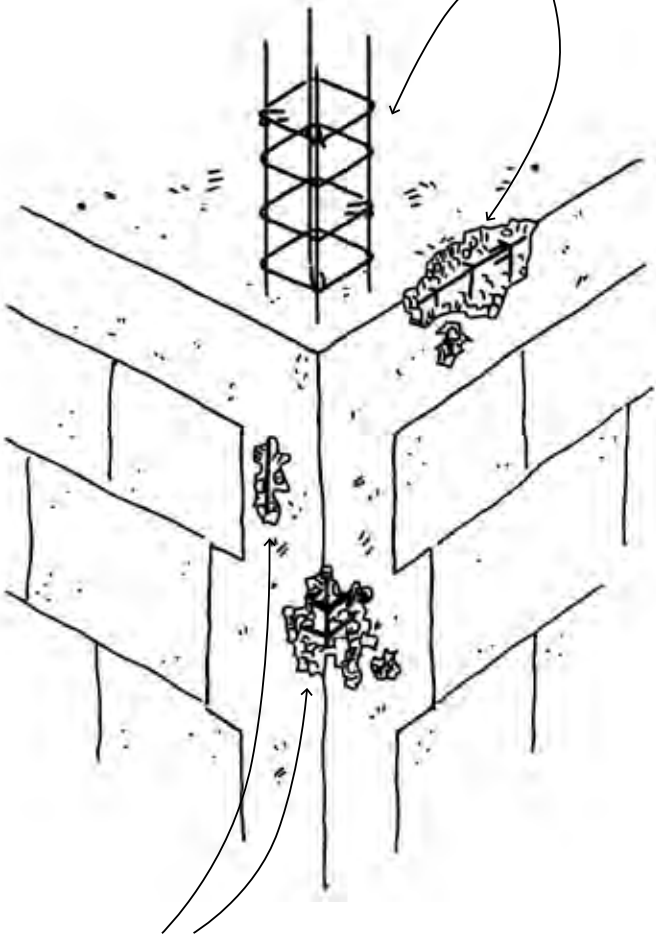
Curing the concrete elements

Concrete needs water to harden !

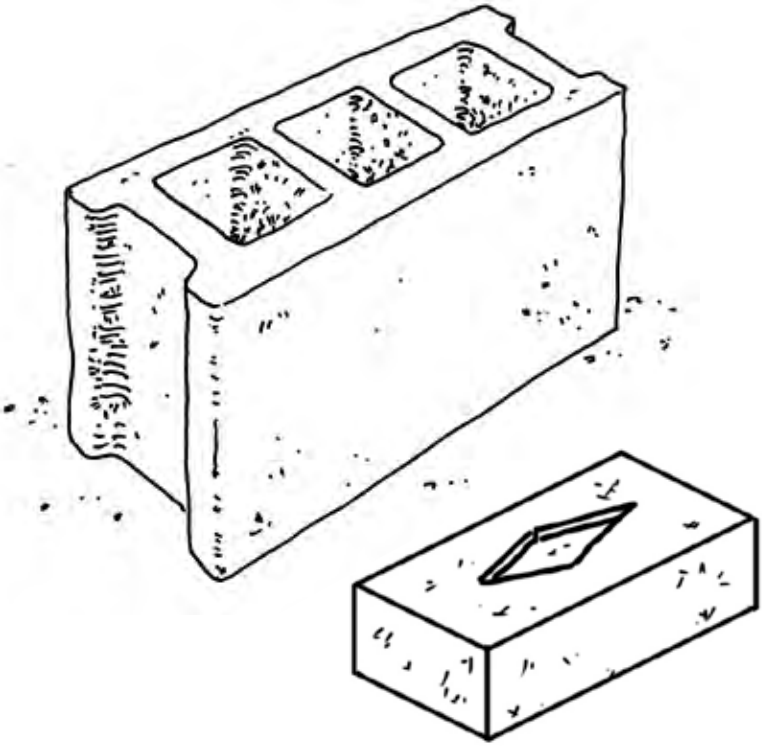
After placing concrete, cure the concrete by wetting the formwork 3 times a day for 3 days. Remove formwork only after three days !

After formwork is removed, cure the concrete for 7 days, and cover it with plastic sheets.

Ensure good quality concrete

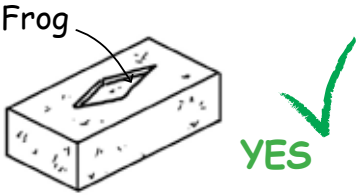


BRICKS & BLOCKS

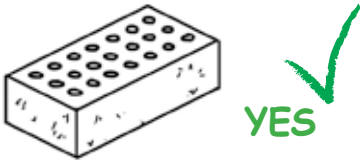


9

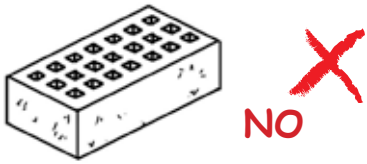
Which clay bricks to use



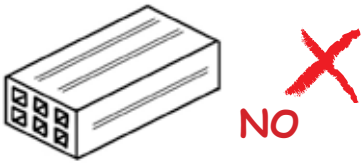
Best brick :
solid burnt clay brick
with frogs.



Good brick :
vertical holes less then
50% of surface area.

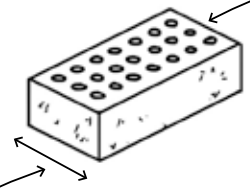


Bad brick :
vertical holes more then
50% of surface area.



Bad brick :
with horizontal holes
(cannot carry weight).

Solid bricks are better then multiperforated ones !



Vertical holes should
be less then 50%
of the horizontal
surface area !

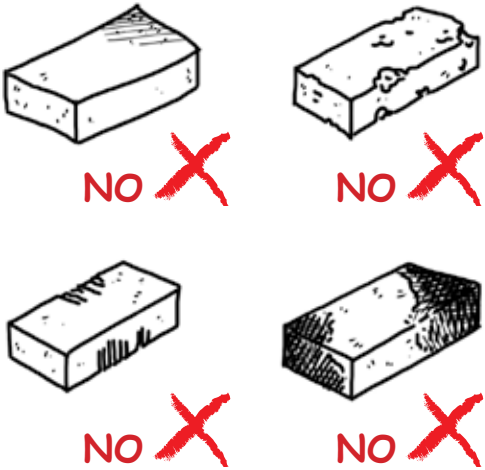
min 11 cm
(recommended 12.5-15cm)

Note : we recommend to use 10MPa bricks.

Brick test

Visual test :

1. regular in form
2. uniform colour
3. not warped
4. no visible flaws or lumps



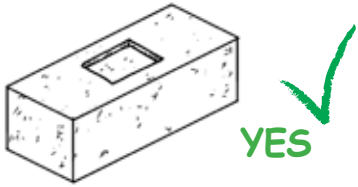
Physical test :

1. Bricks cannot be easily scratched by a knife.

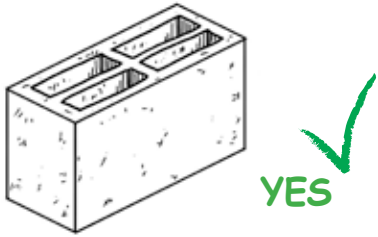
2. Resists the **"3 point test"** : Person standing on a brick spanning between two other bricks.

3. Bricks must give a ringing sound when struck against each other.

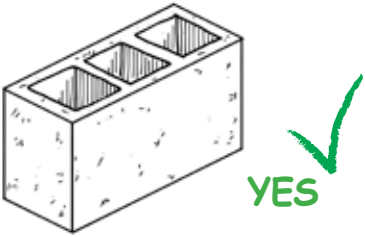
Which concrete blocks to use



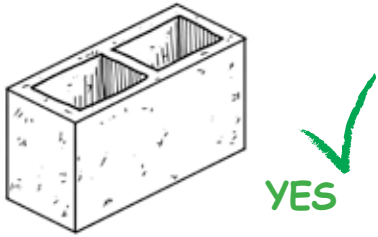
Best block :
15-20 cm thick,
solid block.



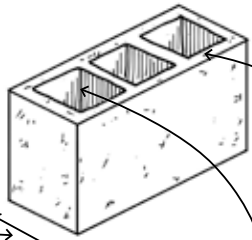
Best block :
15-20 cm thick,
with 4 holes.



Satisfactory block :
15-20 cm thick,
with 3 holes.



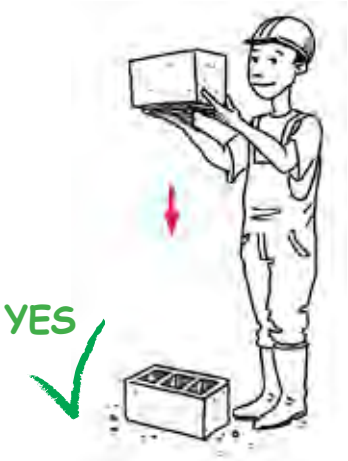
Only if excellent quality !
20 cm thick,
with 2 holes.



Note : we recommend to use 10MPa blocks.

Block test

Test blocks before buying them !



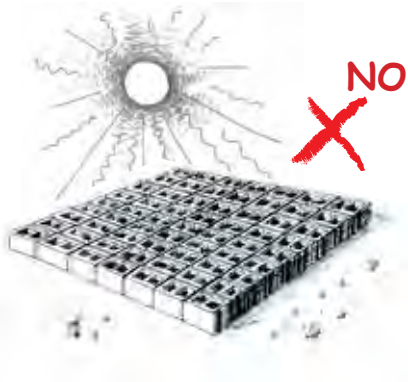
Drop 5 blocks from 1.5 m height on hard surface ! (concrete surface)

Acceptable quality :
(less than 1 broken)

Bad quality : don't buy !
(more than 1 broken)

Check if blocks were cured in the shade !

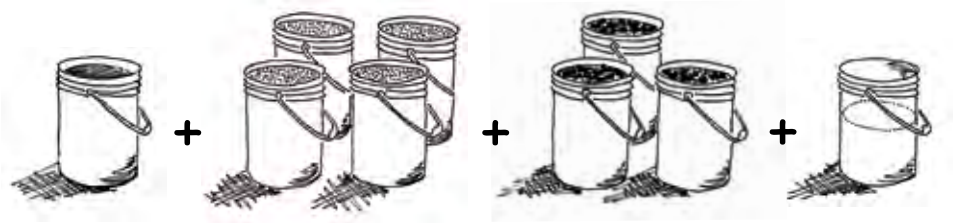
Stored in the shade : good.



Stored under plastic sheets : good !

Blocks that dry in the sun : very bad !

Concrete mix for blocks (1 : 4 : 3)



1 part cement	4 parts clean sand	3 parts gravel (8-10mm)	3/4 part clean water

Sand should be crushed, washed and dried.
Do not use sea beach sand !

1. Make a pile with the gravel, the sand and the cement but without water!

2. Mix the pile without water and move it twice with a shovel.

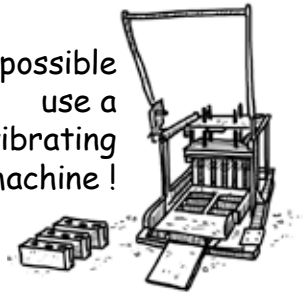
3. Add water and mix again !

Add water only at the end !

Making the blocks

Wait 8 days before using the blocks !

If possible use a vibrating machine !



Fill the molds with the mixture.

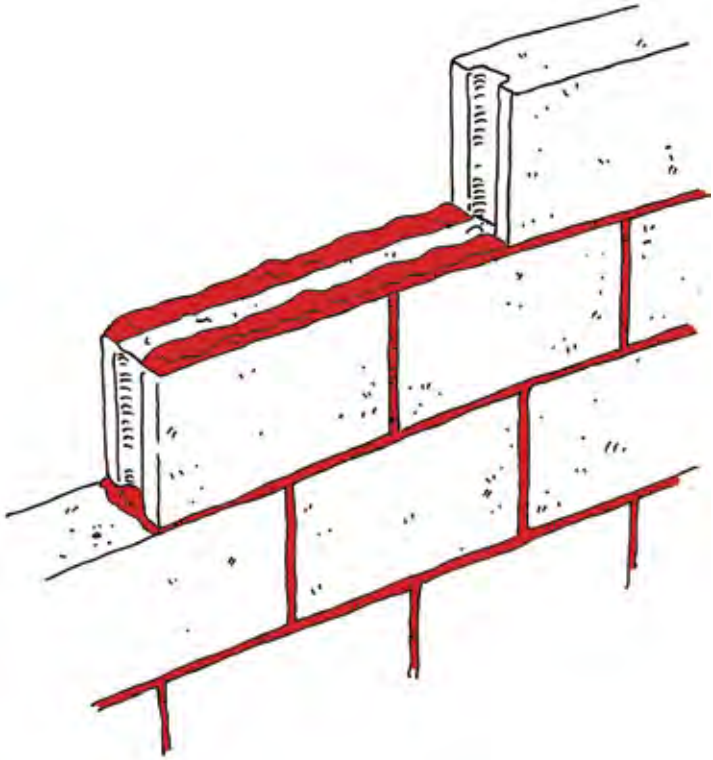
To compact the concrete, hit the mold with a shovel and a hammer.

Cover the blocks with plastic sheets immediately!

Cure the blocks 3 times a day for **minimum 7 days** and cover with plastic sheets.

Store the blocks in the shade.

MASONRY WALLS



10

Cement mortar mix (1 : 5)

Mix the mortar:

+

+

1 part
cement

5 parts
clean sand
(washed and dry)

3/4 part
clean water

Use 1:3 mix ratio
for 15cm or less wall thickness !

1. Make a pile with the sand and the cement but without water!

2. Mix the pile without water and move it twice with a shovel.

3. Add the water and mix again.

Add the water only at the end !

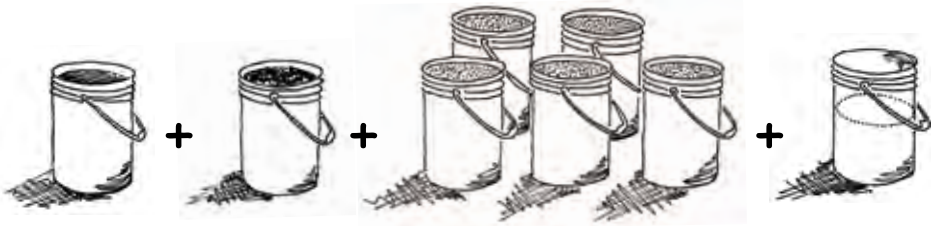
Cement-lime mortars

Cement-Lime mortar
has lower compressive strength than simple cement mortar
but offers a better workability, higher elasticity,
and it is more economical !

Recommended mortar mix proportions :

	Cement	Lime	Sand
	x	y	z
preferred →	1	0.5	4.5 ✓
	1	1	6
minimum →	1	2	9

Mix the mortar:

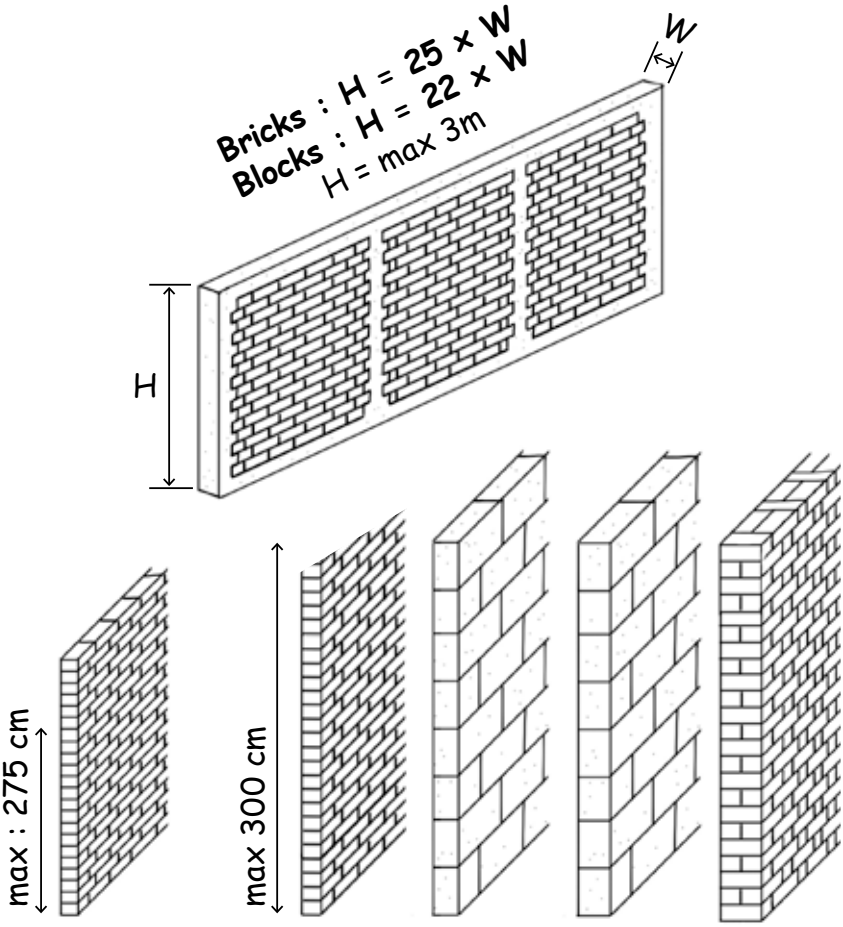


X parts cement + Y parts lime + Z parts clean sand + 3/4 part clean water

Masonry walls height

The Width of masonry unit defines the wall height.

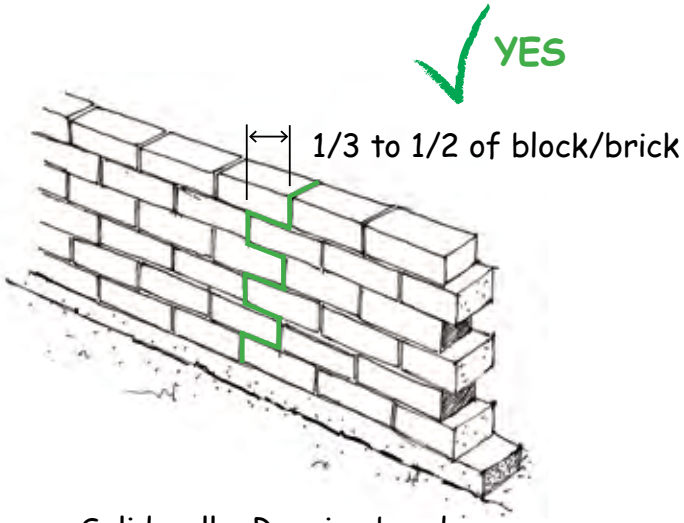
For bricks: Height smaller then 25 x wall Width
For blocks : Height max 22 x wall Width
Height = maximum 3m !



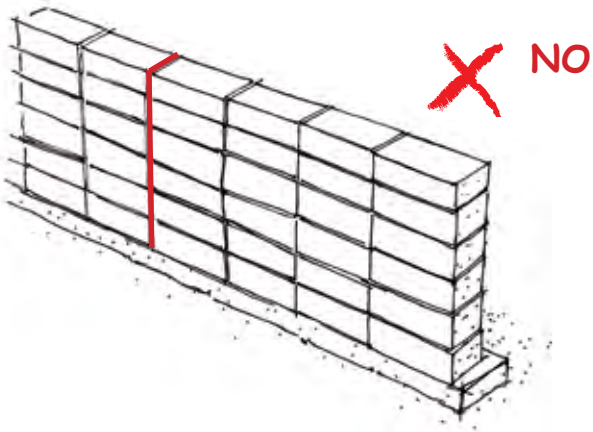
bricks
11cm

bricks/blocks
12.5cm / 15cm / 20 cm / 24 cm

Masonry bonds

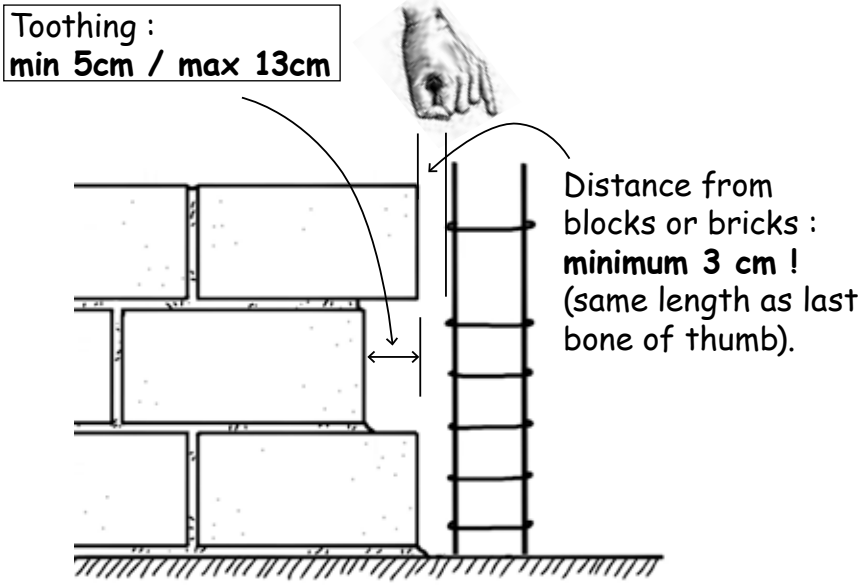


Solid wall = Running bond
vertical joints are not continous.

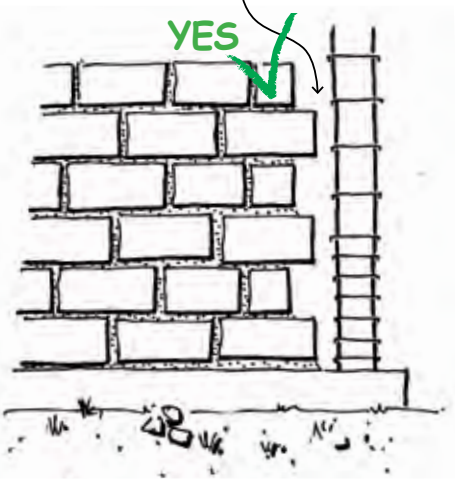


Weak wall = Stack bond
vertical joints are continuous.

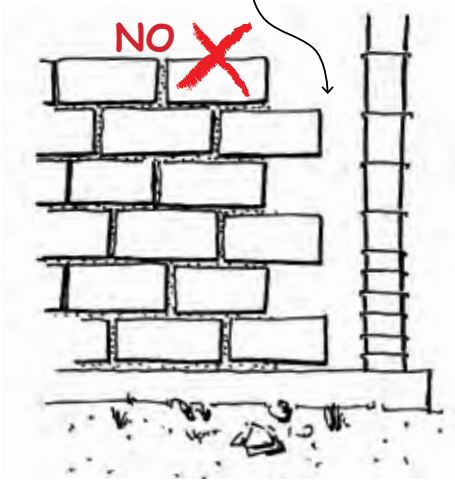
Toothing



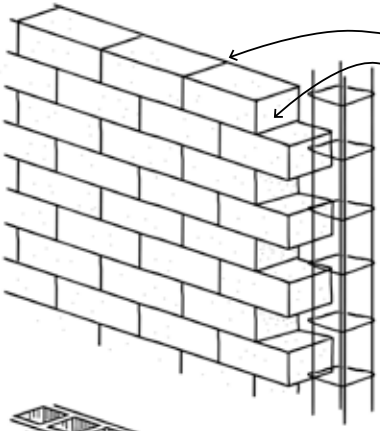
Toothing 1/3-1/4 of a block :
(max 1/2 of brick length)
GOOD !



Toothing 1/2 of a block :
(> 1/2 of brick length)
TOO BIG !



Toothing options

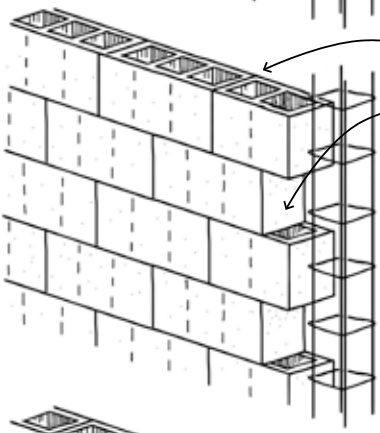


50% running bond

toothing

Clay bricks (23-24 cm):

50% running bond
(half of a brick)
Toothing = max 12 cm

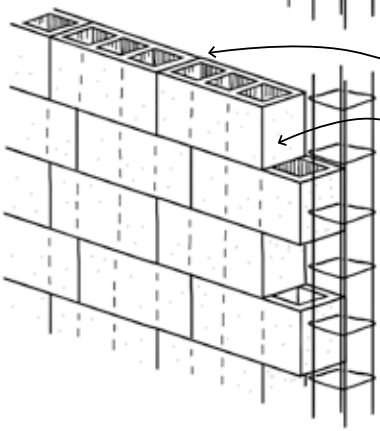


50% running bond

toothing

Concrete blocks (40 cm):

50% running bond
(half of a block)
Break 1/3 of last block!
Toothing = min 5 cm



33% running bond

toothing

Concrete blocks (40 cm):

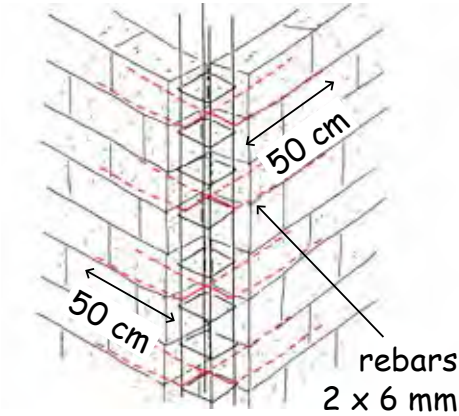
33% running bond
(1/3 - 2/3 of a block)
Toothing = max 13 cm

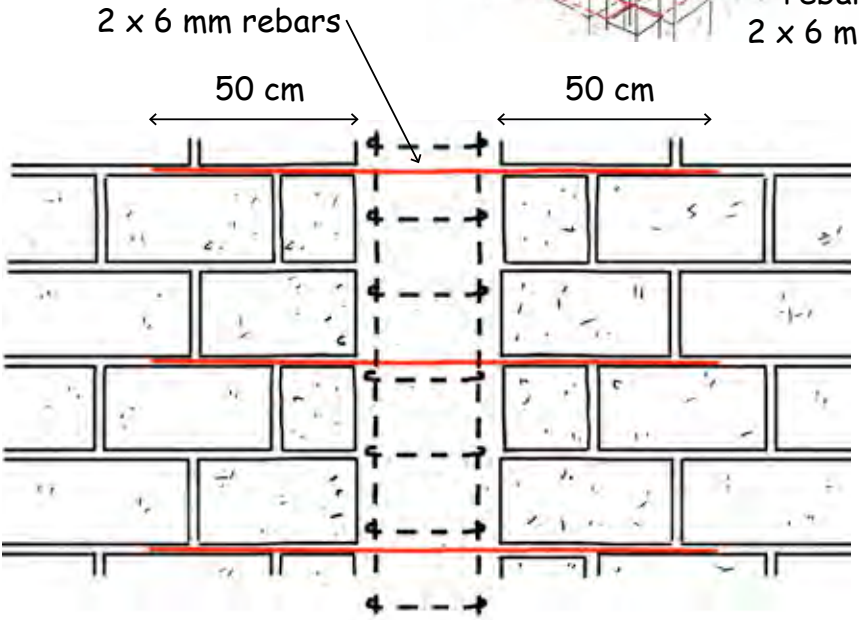
Dowels

Although toothing is the optimal method,
the use of dowels can be an alternative.

Dowels are 6mm rebars

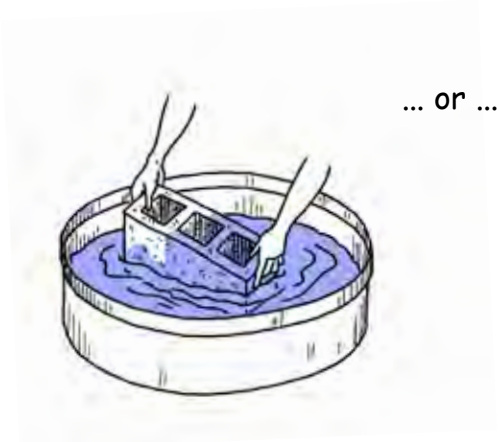
Place dowels :
-> **50 cm** within the bed joints of the wall
-> **place in pairs**
every 2 layers of blocks
every 4 layers of bricks



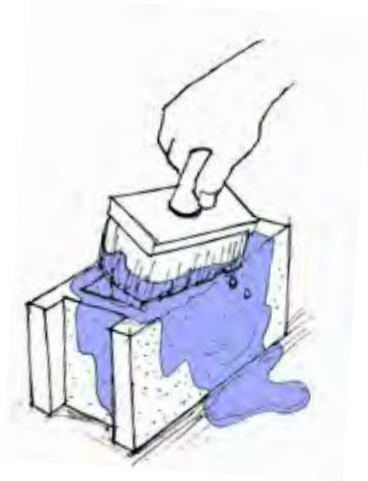


Note :
Dowels should be covered with enough mortar to protect them properly. **Test if dowels can be placed properly !**

Preparing the masonry units



... or ...



Soak the blocks in water for a while...

... water them with a brush before use.

... or ...

... water all blocks together.

Good masonry practice - 1

Use a plank as guide to ensure the wall is in plumb and straight.

Stack blocks one course at a time !

level string

plinth beam

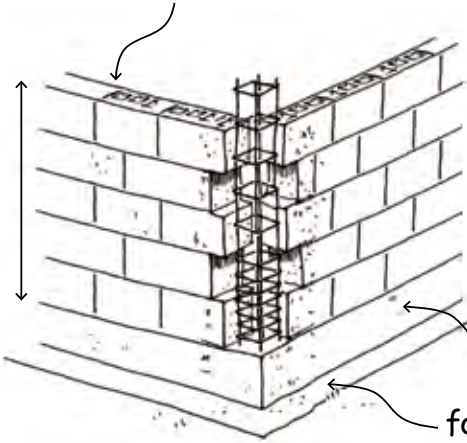
Cure the concrete with water before laying the blocks.

Important : fill vertical joints with mortar !

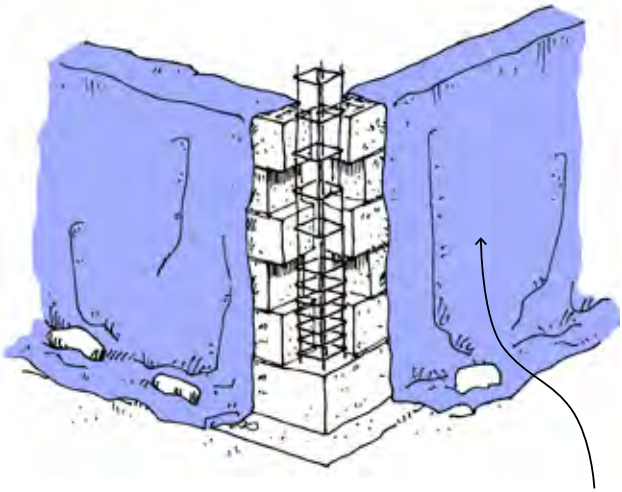
Joints : 10 - 15 mm = the width of the pinky finger !

Good masonry practice - 2

Don't build more then 6 courses of masonry per day !
And then add a seismic band if needed.

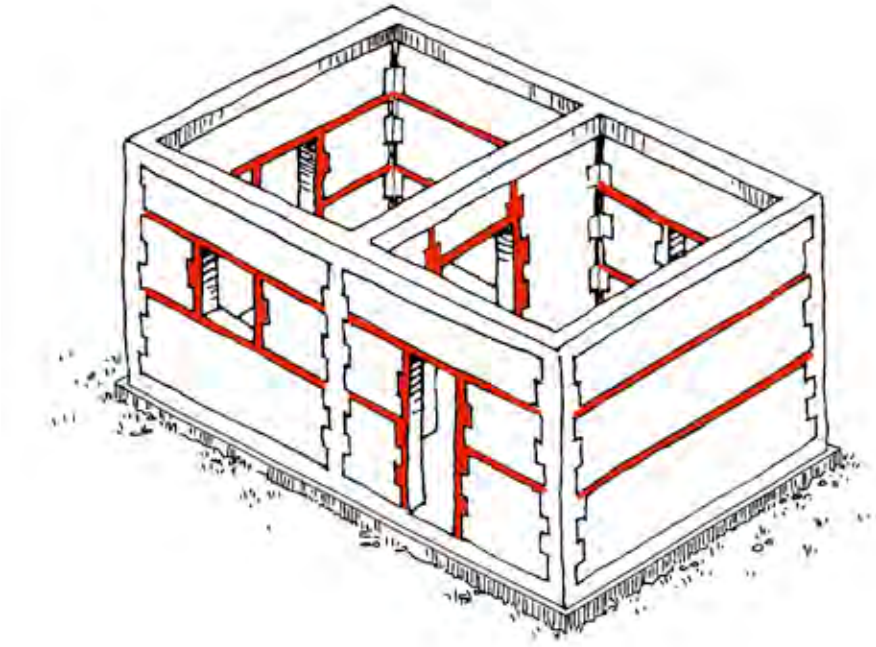


Protect the wall in warm weather:
mortar must not dry out in the sun!



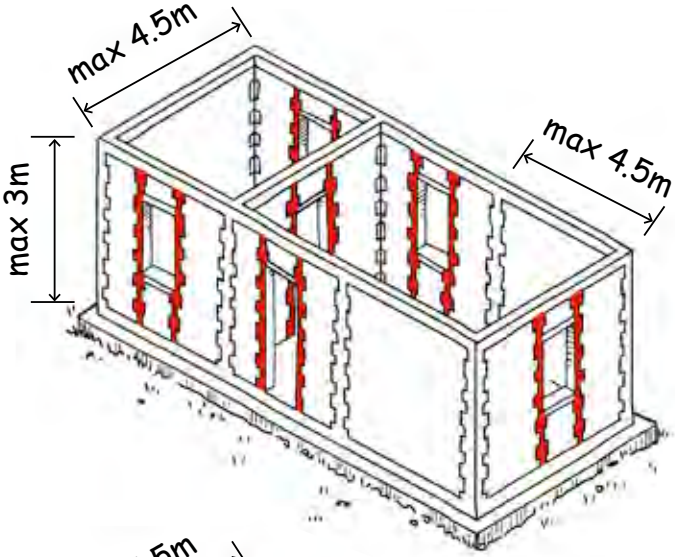
Keep wall moist by pouring water on them 3 times a day for 7 days and/or by covering them with a plastic sheet for 7 days.

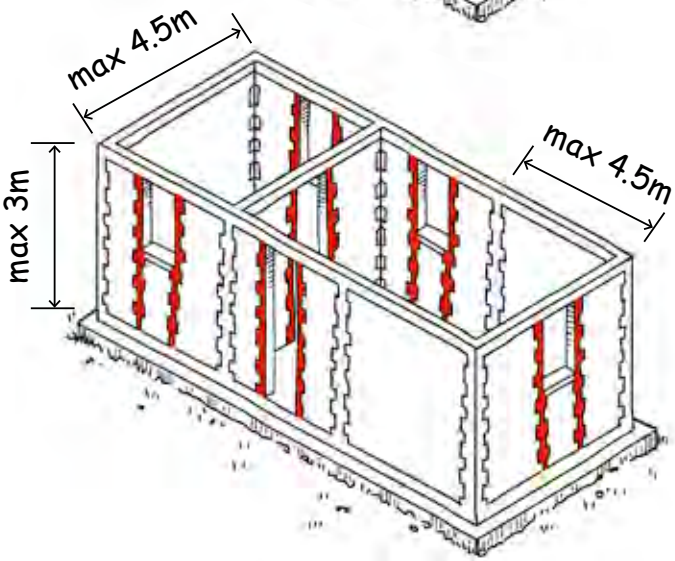
SEISMIC REINFORCEMENT



Vertical reinforcement (V)

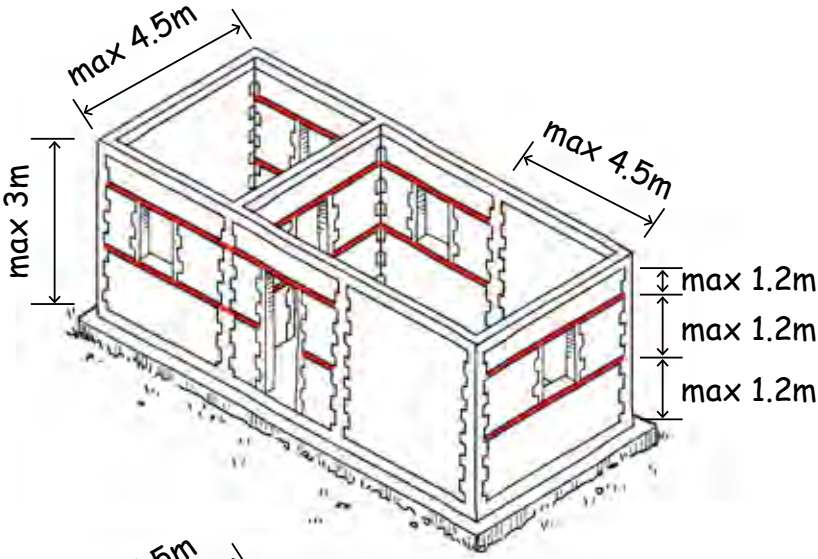
Place a vertical band on each side of every opening !
Add a horizontal reinforcement band above all openings !

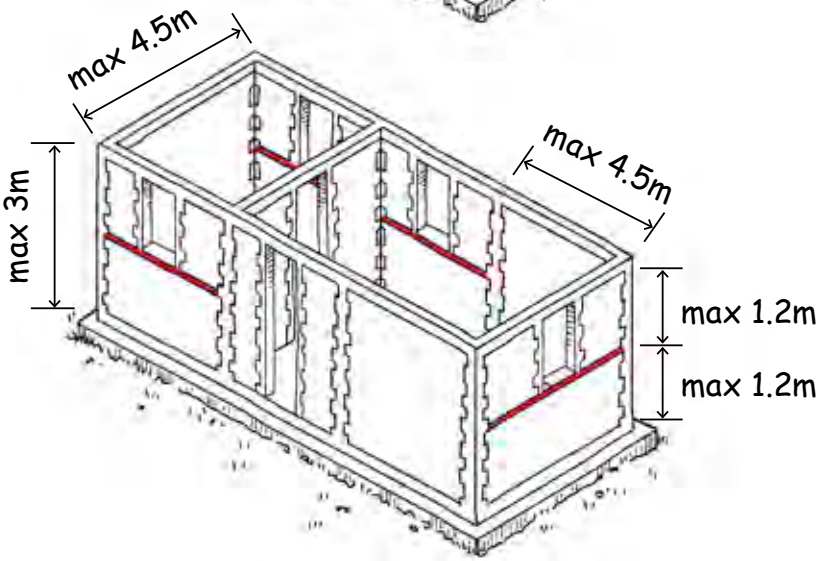




Horizontal reinforcement (H)

Place a seismic band below and above every opening !
Don't go higher than 6 courses of blocks, don't exceed 1.20m !

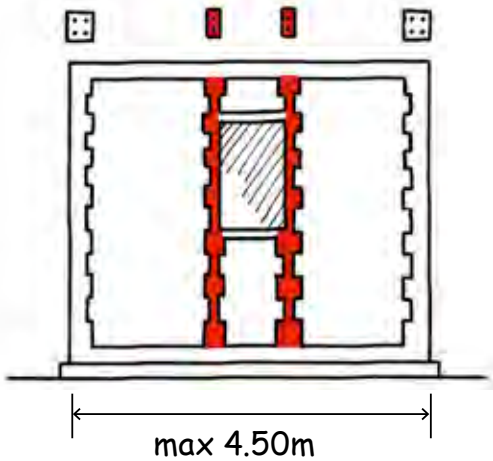




Adding vertical bands

Place vertical reinforcement on each side of every opening.

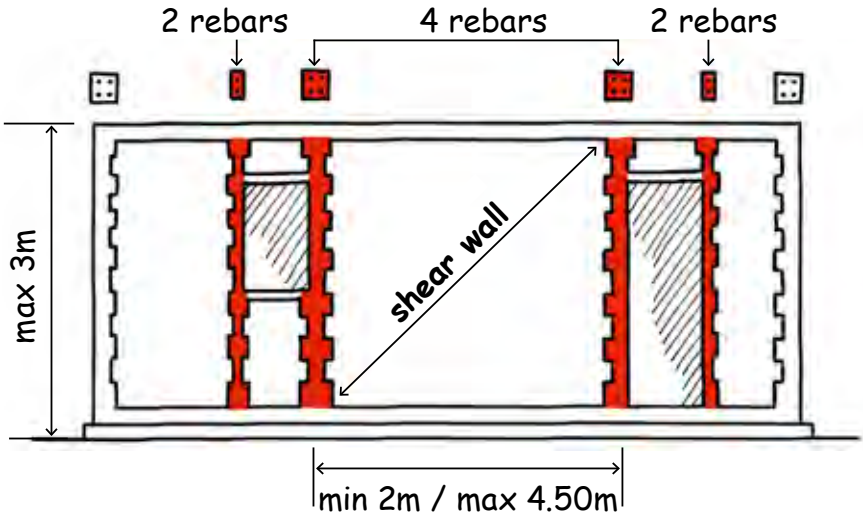
Vertical bands are "half tie-columns" : **add two rebars.**



Vertical bands :
(for openings)

Width : 10 cm
2 Rebars : 10 mm
Stirrups : 6 mm (@ 15cm)

If a wall between openings functions as shear wall, the vertical reinforcement is identical to a tie-column : **add four rebars** !



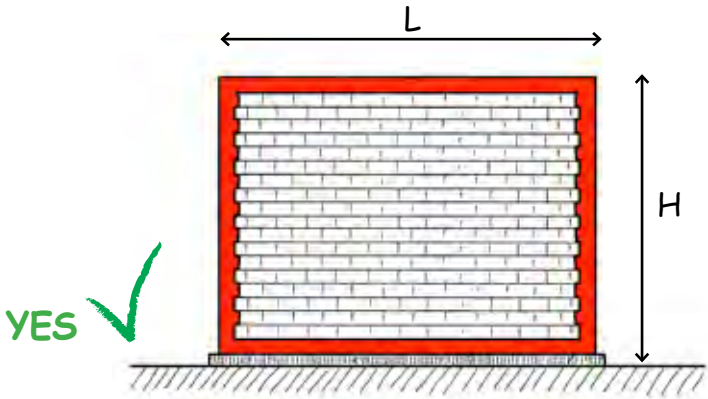
Adding horizontal bands

Add horizontal bands to the walls if :

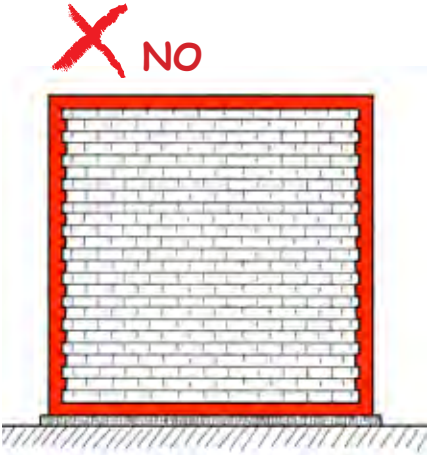
-> the quality of materials and construction is not ensured

-> if the Height is smaller than 1.5 of the Length

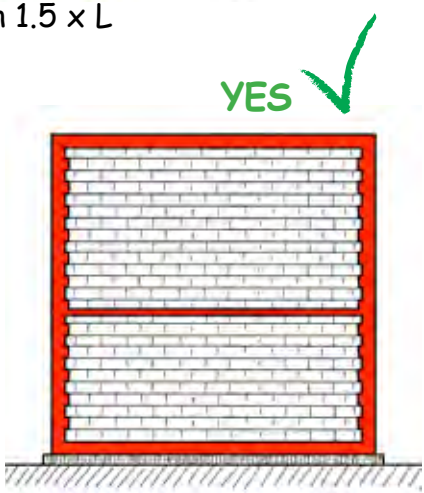
Rule :
H < 1.5 x L



H smaller than 1.5 x L

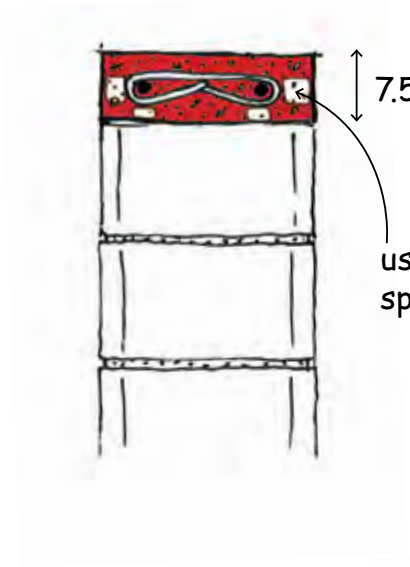


H = bigger than 1.5 x L
No seismic band



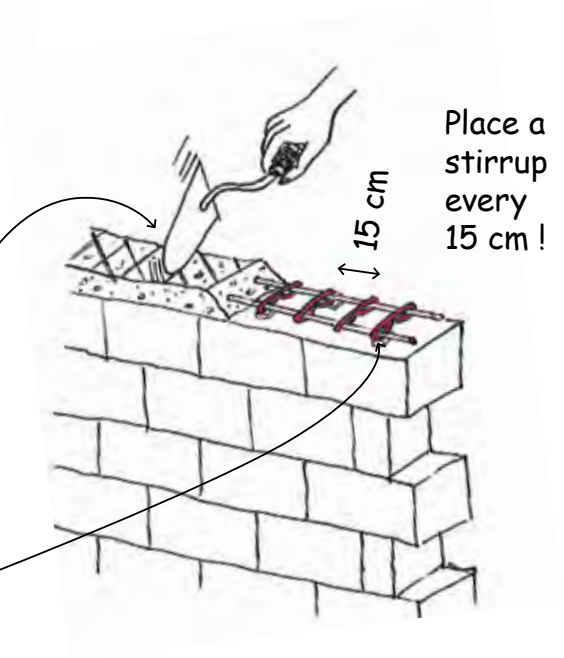
H = smaller than 1.5 x L
With seismic band

Sill band and lintel band

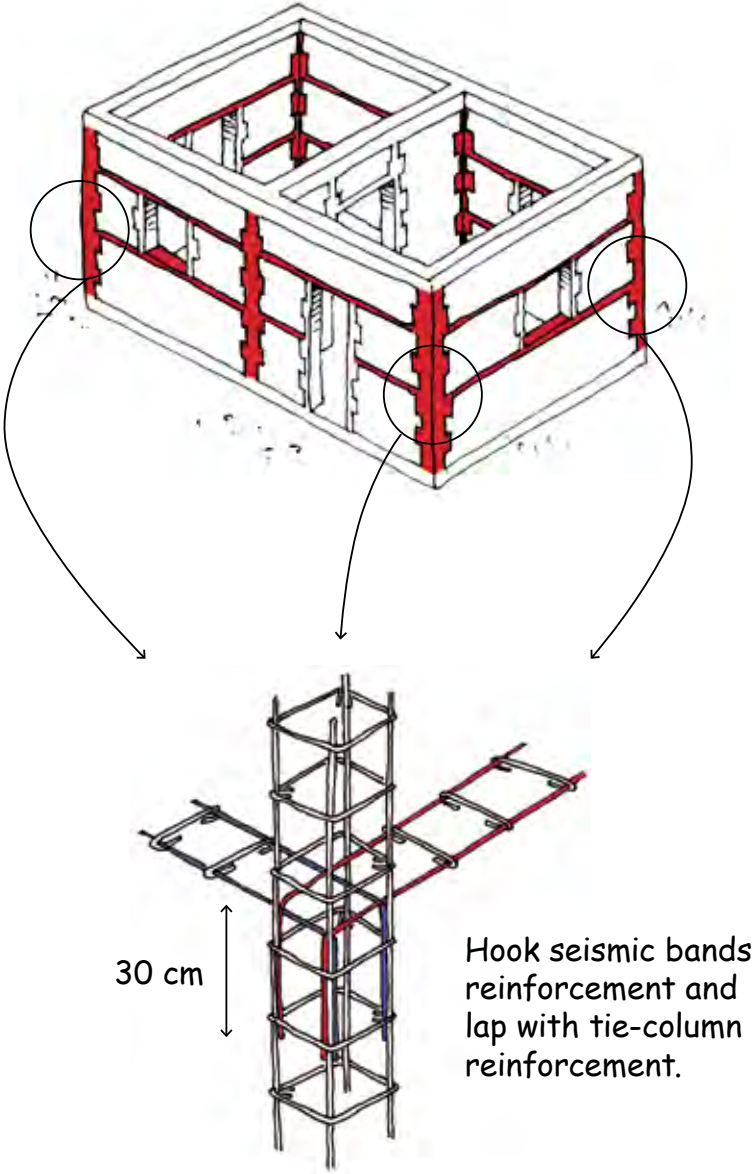


Seismic bands :

Height (bricks) 7.5 cm
Heights (blocks) 10 cm
2 Rebars : 10 mm
Stirrups : 6 mm @15 cm



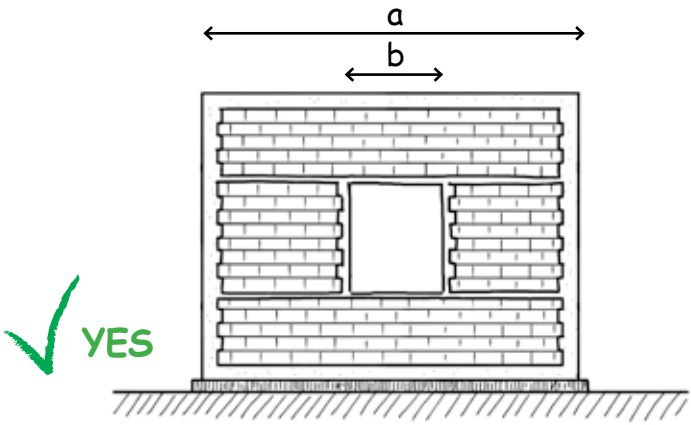
Connect seismic band to tie-column



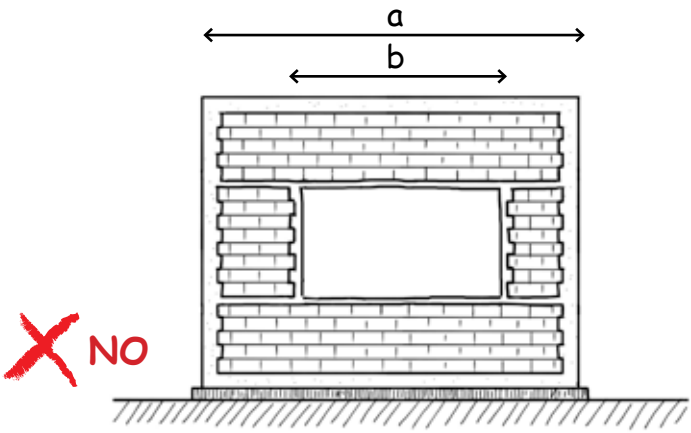
Size of openings

In walls that are not shear walls, the width of the openings should not exceed half of the length of the wall.

Rule :
b smaller than a/2



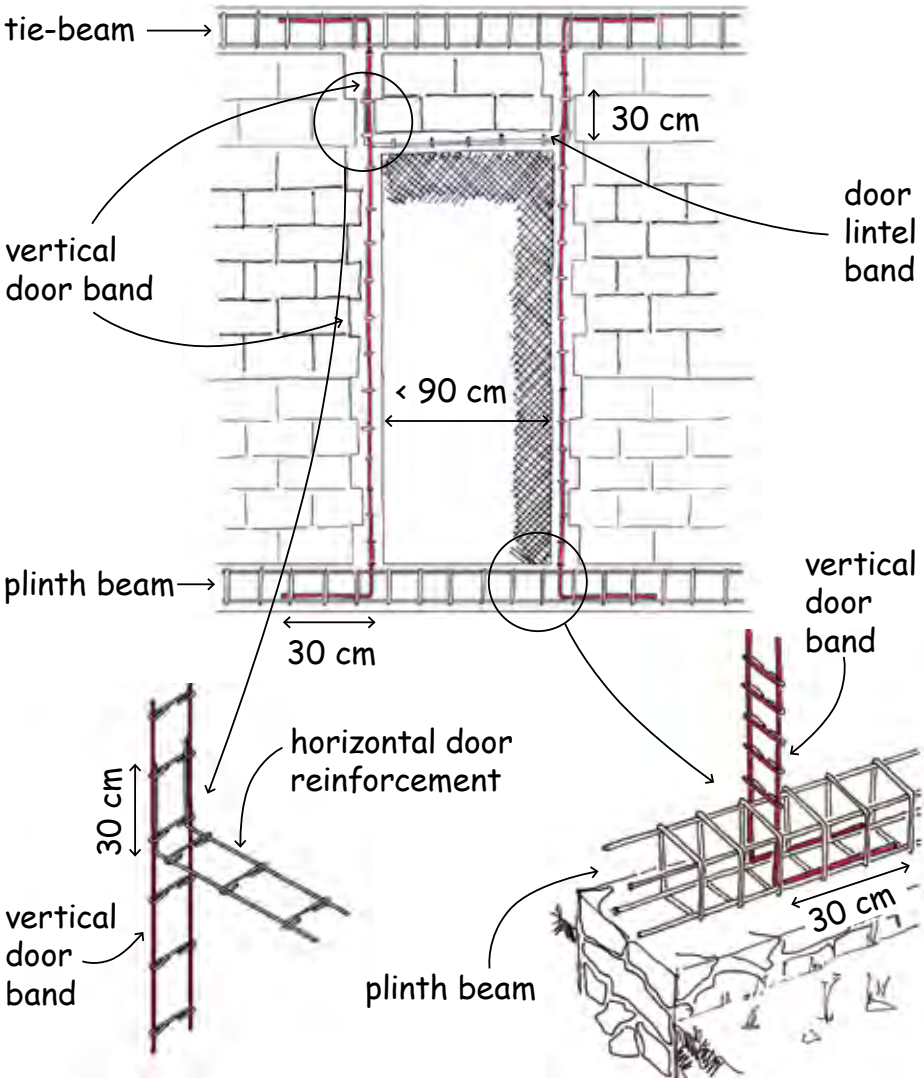
Correct: b smaller than a/2



Incorrect : b bigger than a/2

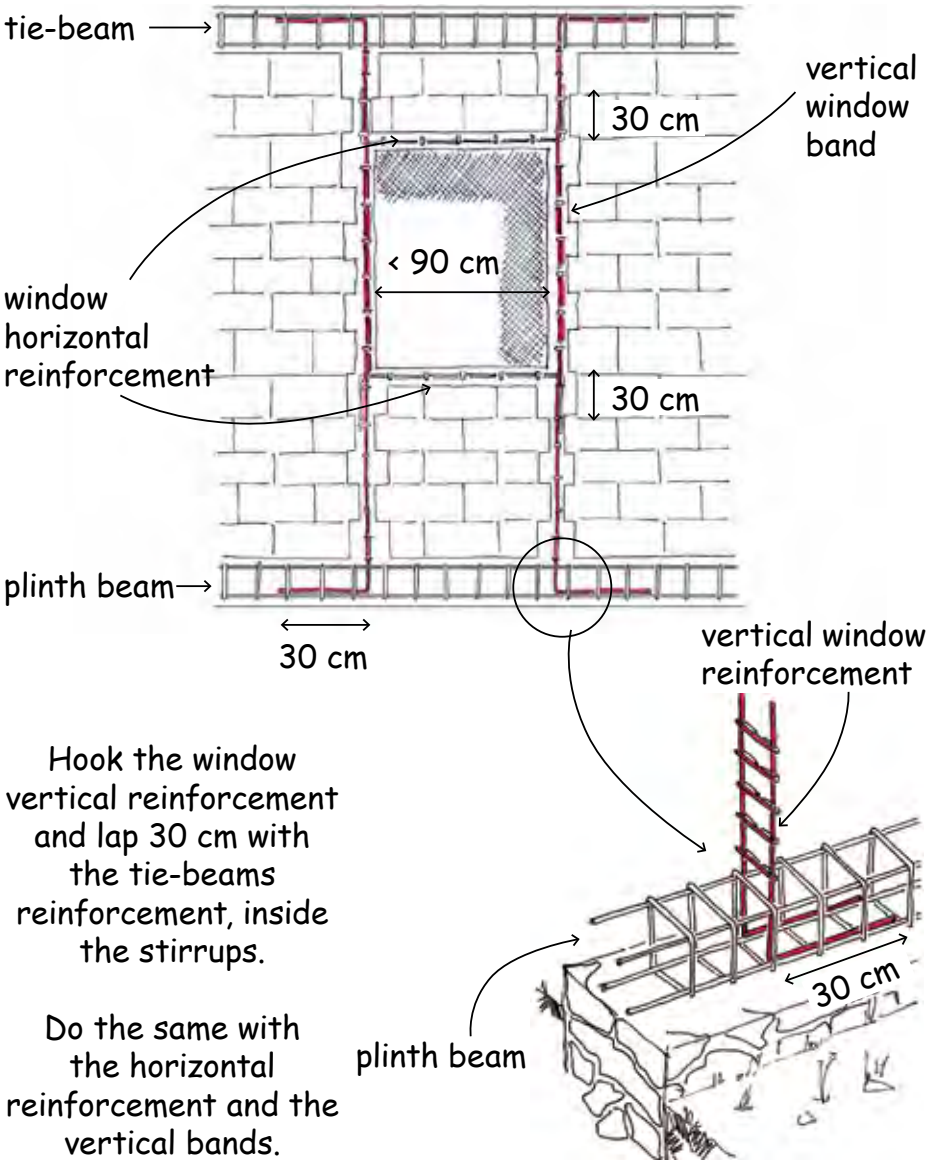
Door reinforcement (V)

Hook the door vertical reinforcement rebars and lap 30cm with the tie-beam rebars, under the stirrups. Do the same with lintel band and the vertical bands.



Small window reinforcement (V)

For windows smaller than 90 cm.

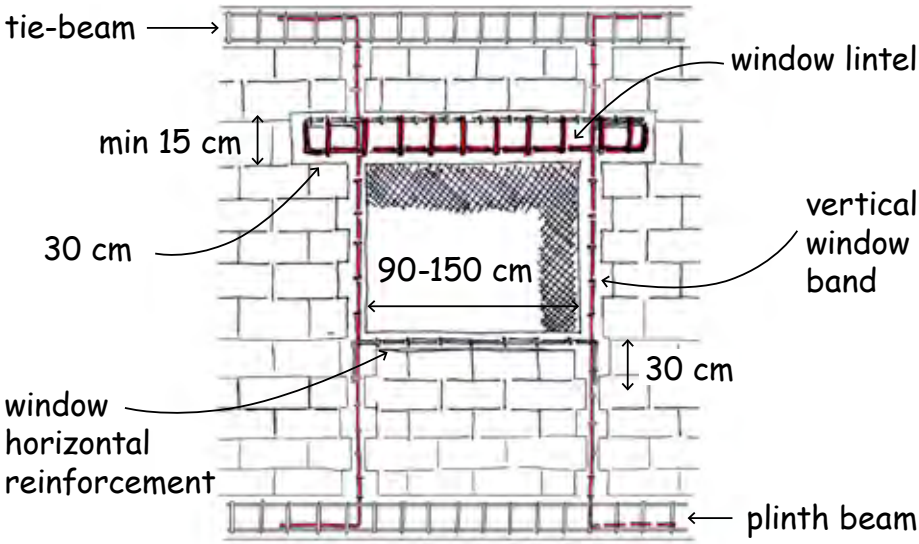


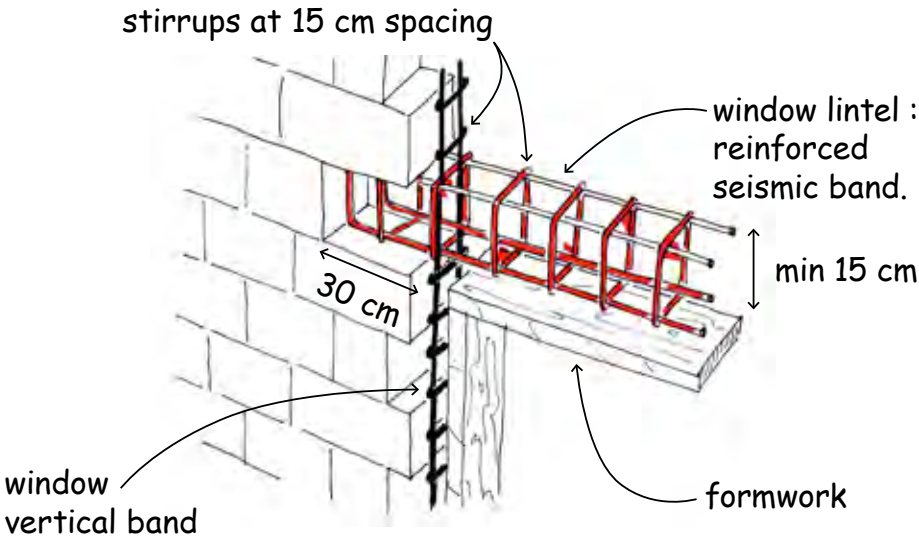
Hook the window vertical reinforcement and lap 30 cm with the tie-beams reinforcement, inside the stirrups.

Do the same with the horizontal reinforcement and the vertical bands.

Large window reinforcement (V)

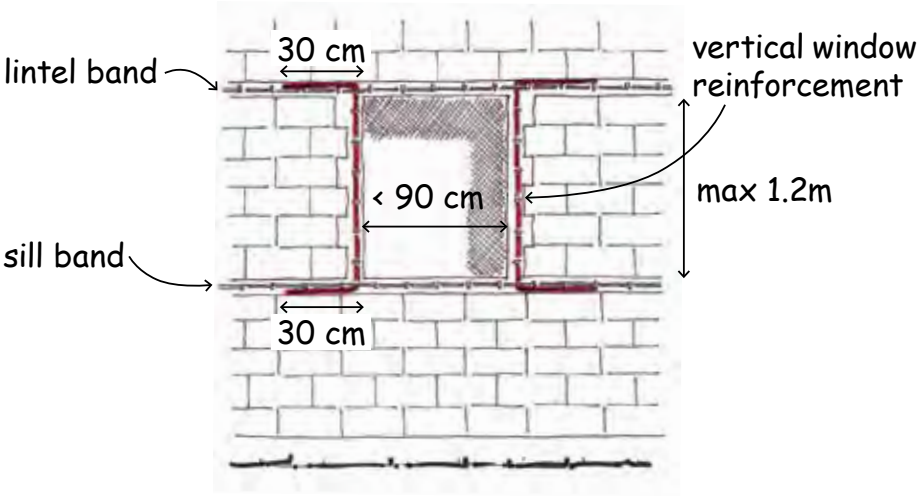
For windows larger than 90 cm.



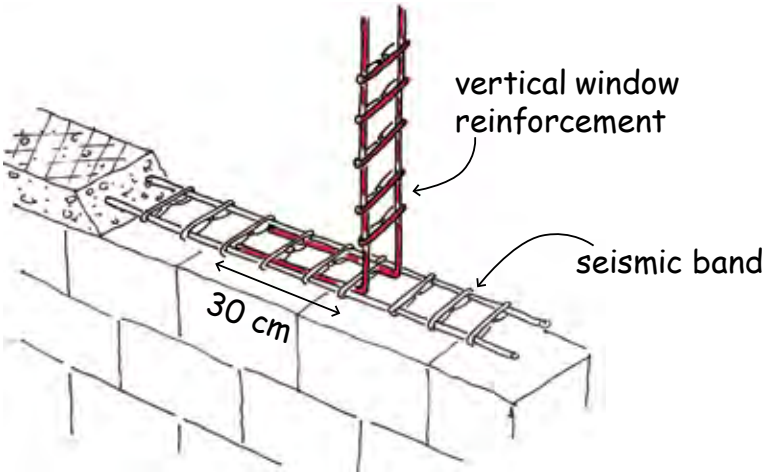


Small window reinforcement (H)

For windows smaller than 90 cm.

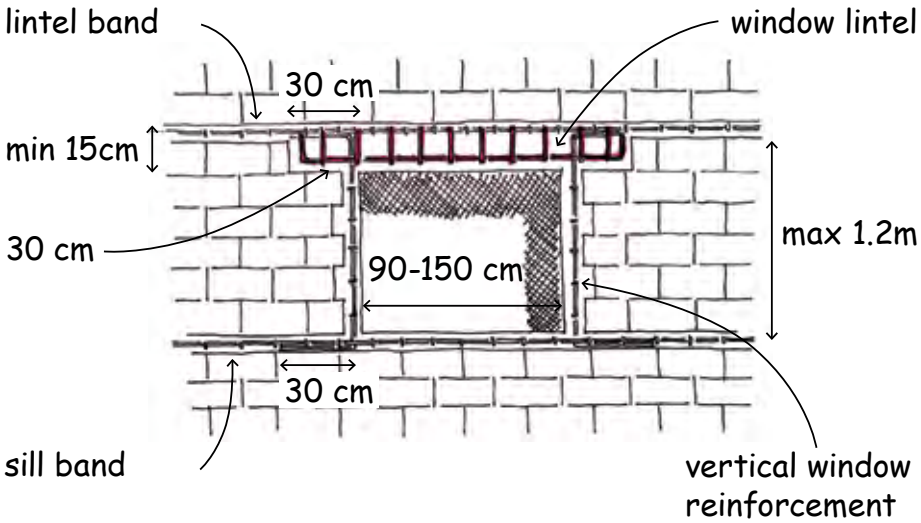


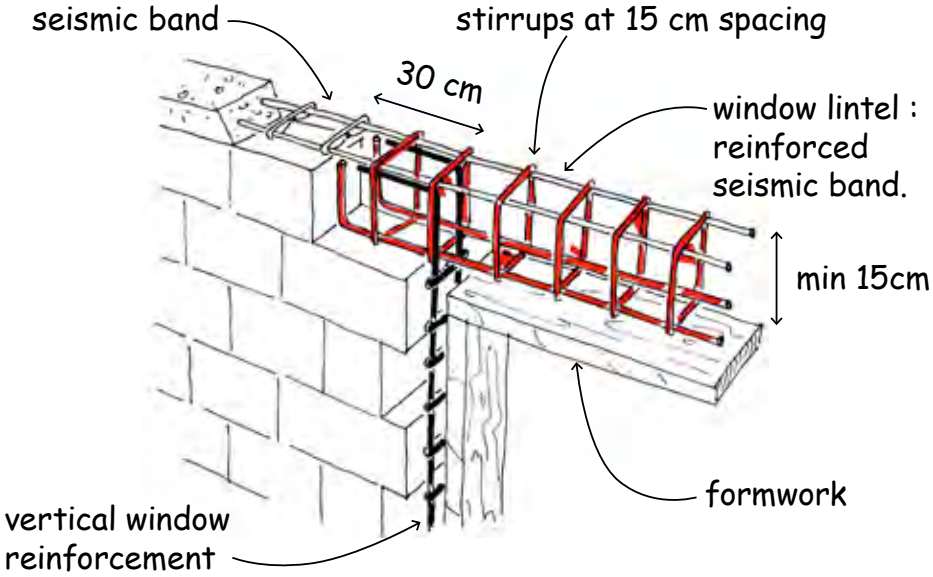
Hook the window reinforcement and lap 30 cm with the seismic band reinforcement, inside the stirrups.



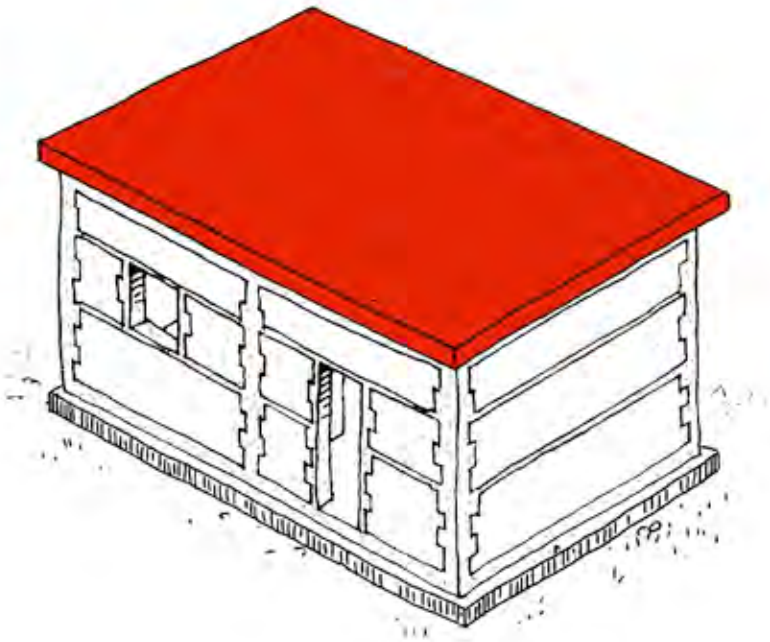
Large window reinforcement (H)

For windows larger than 90 cm.





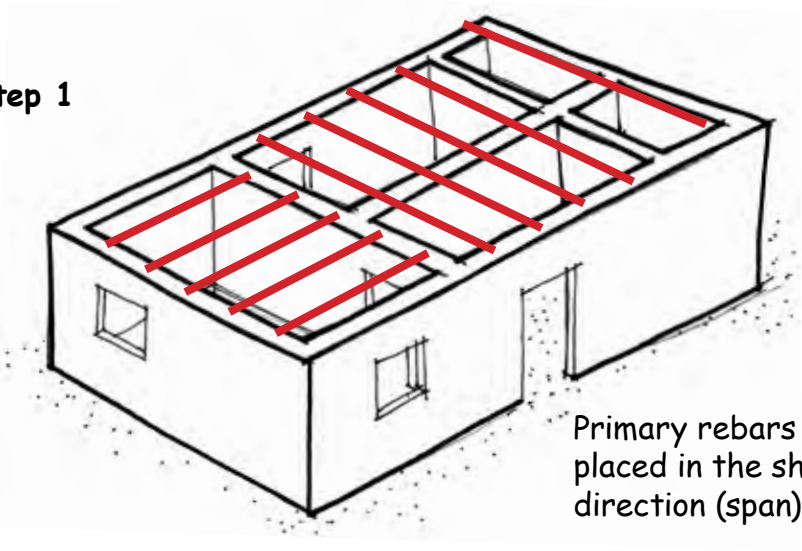
SLAB



Placing of slab reinforcement

Placement of primary rebars.

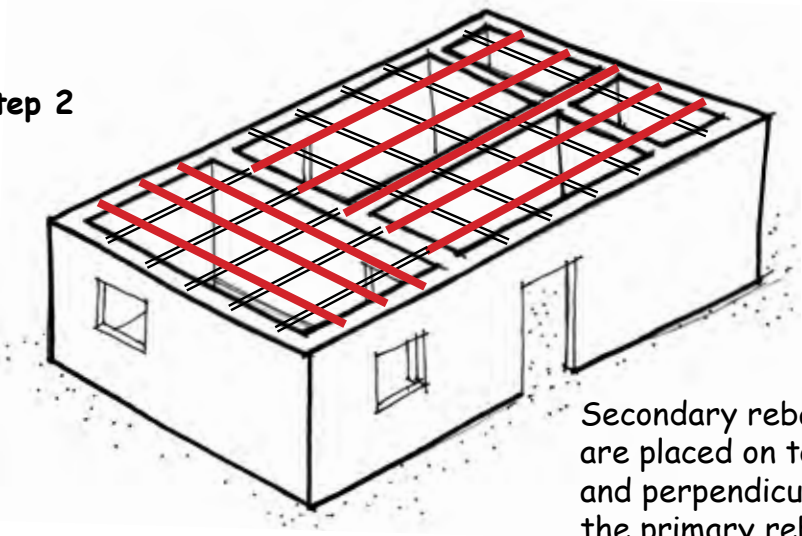
Step 1



Primary rebars are placed in the shorter direction (span).

Placement of secondary rebars.

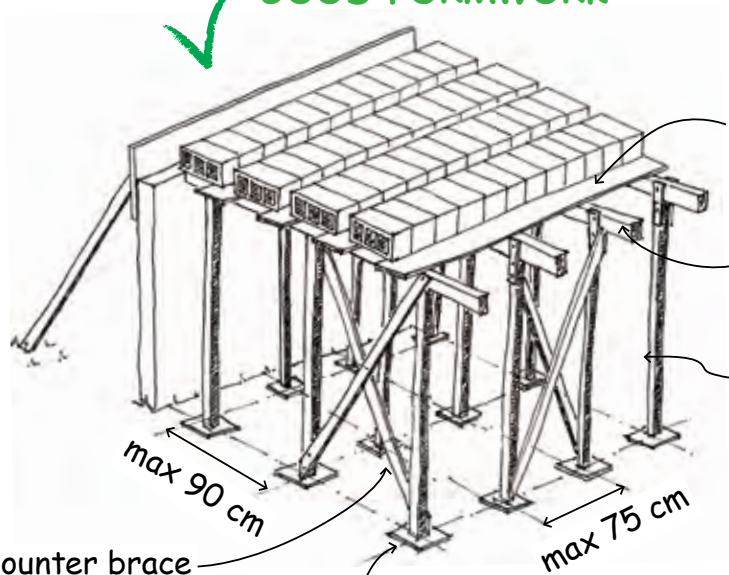
Step 2



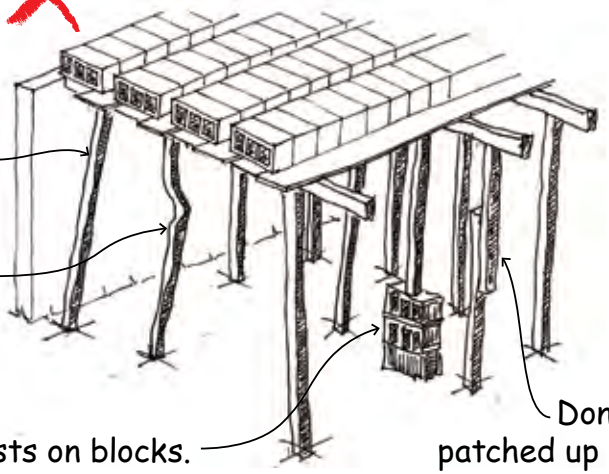
Secondary rebars are placed on top of and perpendicular to the primary rebars

Hollow block slab: formwork

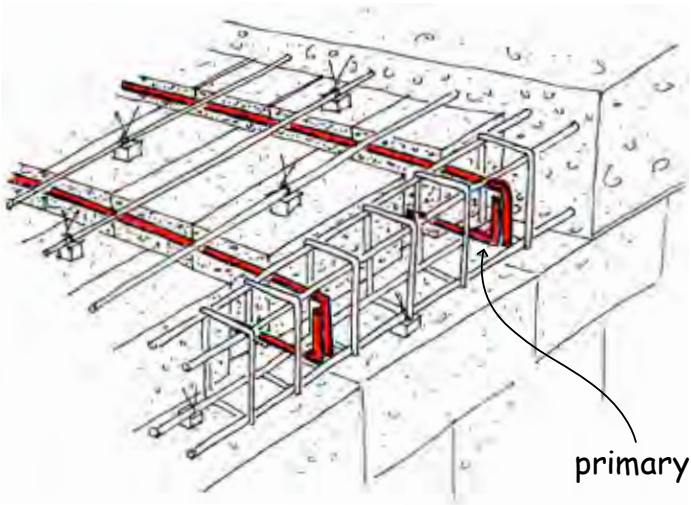
GOOD FORMWORK



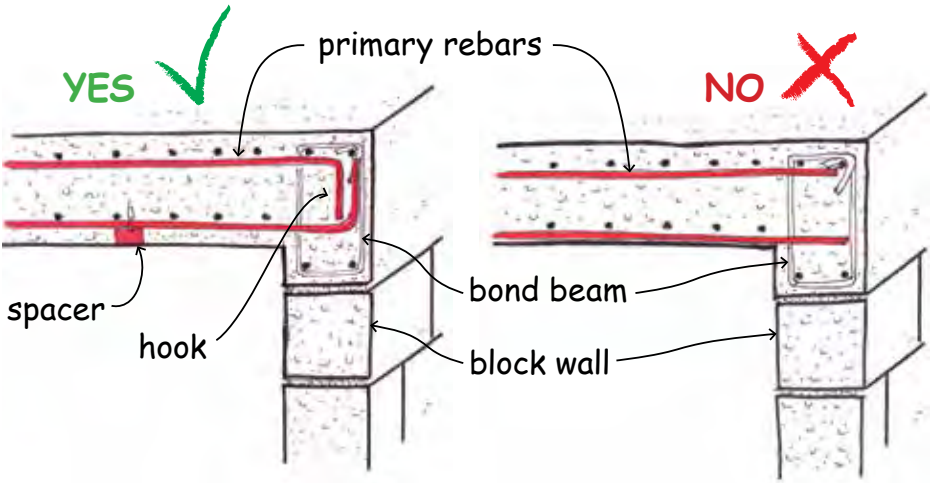
BAD FORMWORK



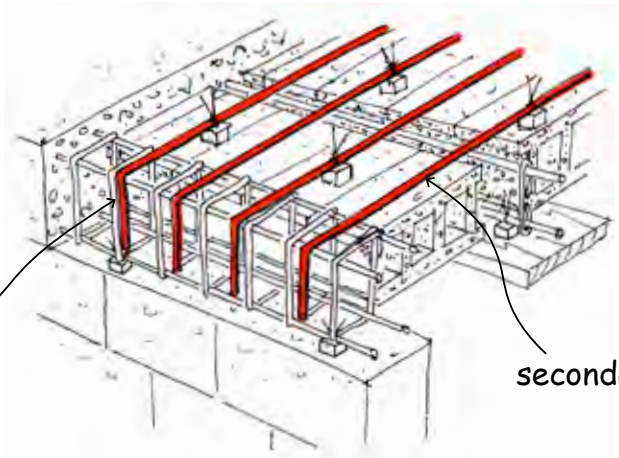
Hollow block slab: main reinforcement

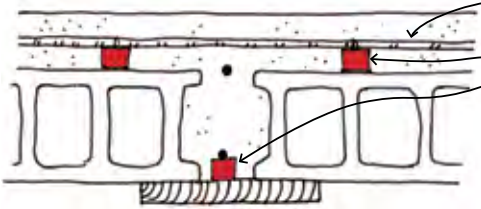


To ensure a good connection, it is important to insert the hooked slab rebars deep into the bond beam.

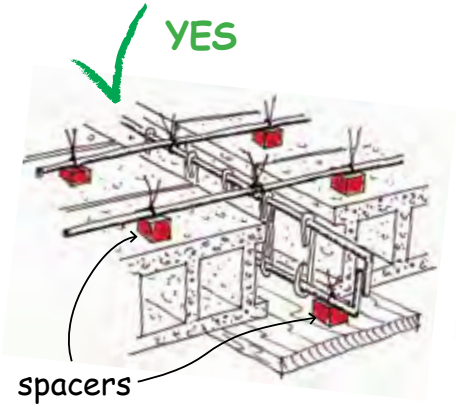


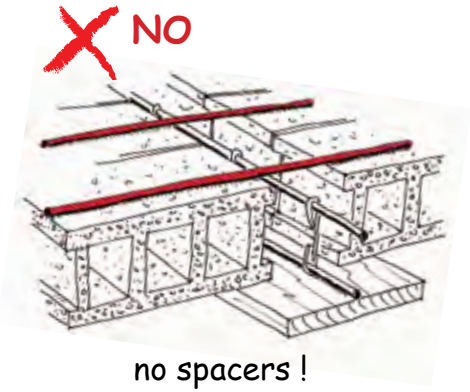
Hollow block slab: secondary rebars



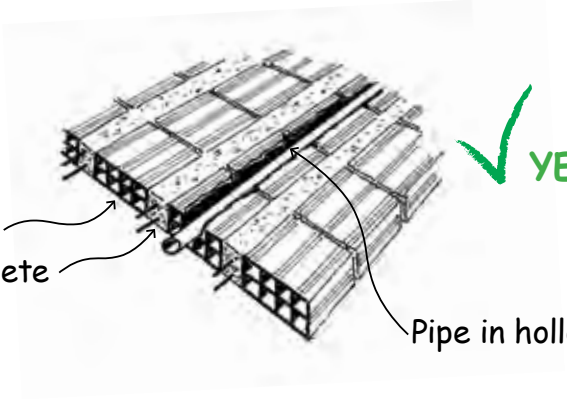


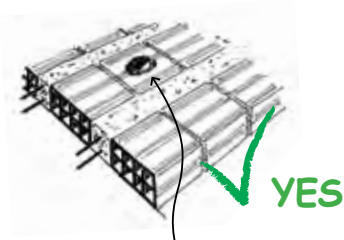
Secondary rebars must be placed in the middle of the concrete covering the hollow blocks with spacers.



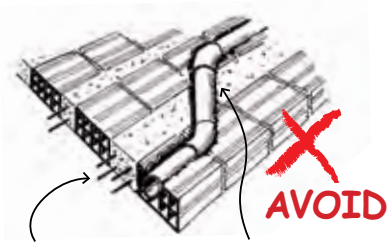


Hollow block slab: positioning pipes 1

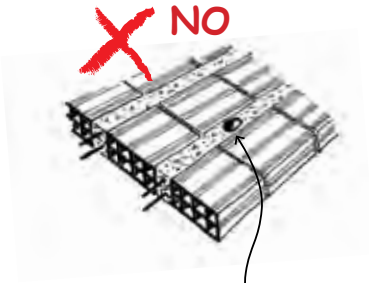




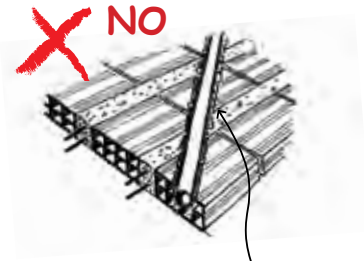
Drill through hollow blocks !



Pass pipes through the hollow blocks and cross concrete only in one spot. Reinforce joist with additional rebars.



Don't drill through concrete !

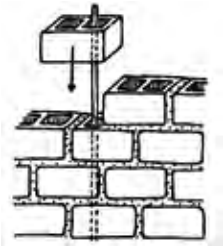


Don't cross concrete all the way !

Hollow block slab: positioning pipes 2

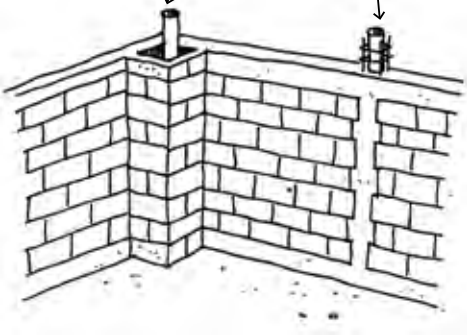
YES

Place pipes in block holes.



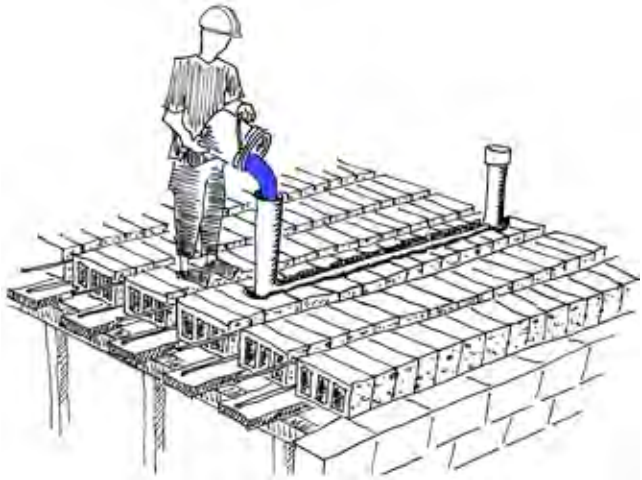
YES

Place pipes in service duct.



NO

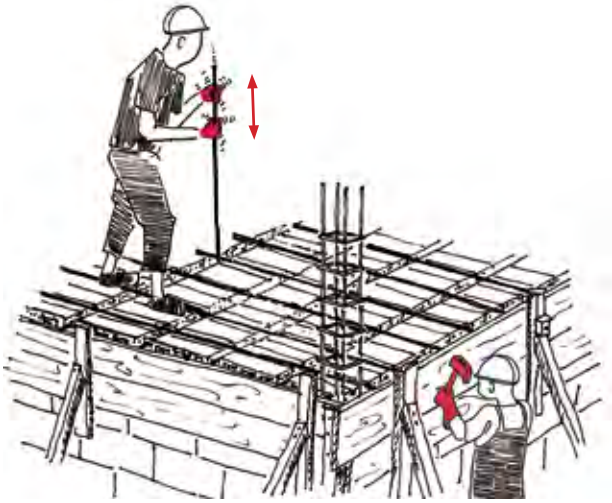
Don't place pipes in walls or in ties !



Test watertightness of the pipes before pouring concrete by filling them with water.

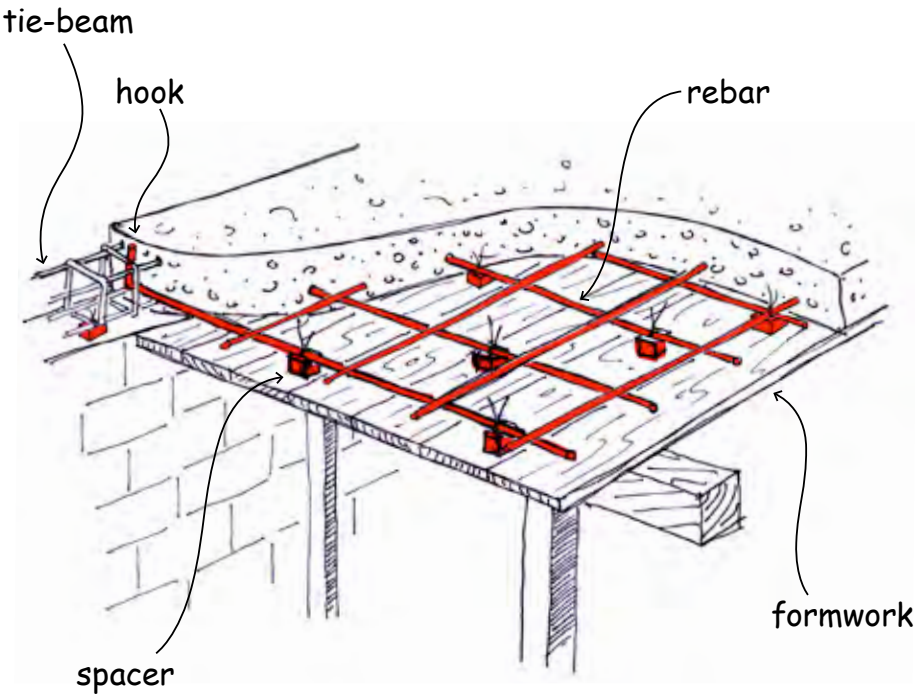
Hollow block slab: pouring concrete

Water the formwork before pouring concrete.



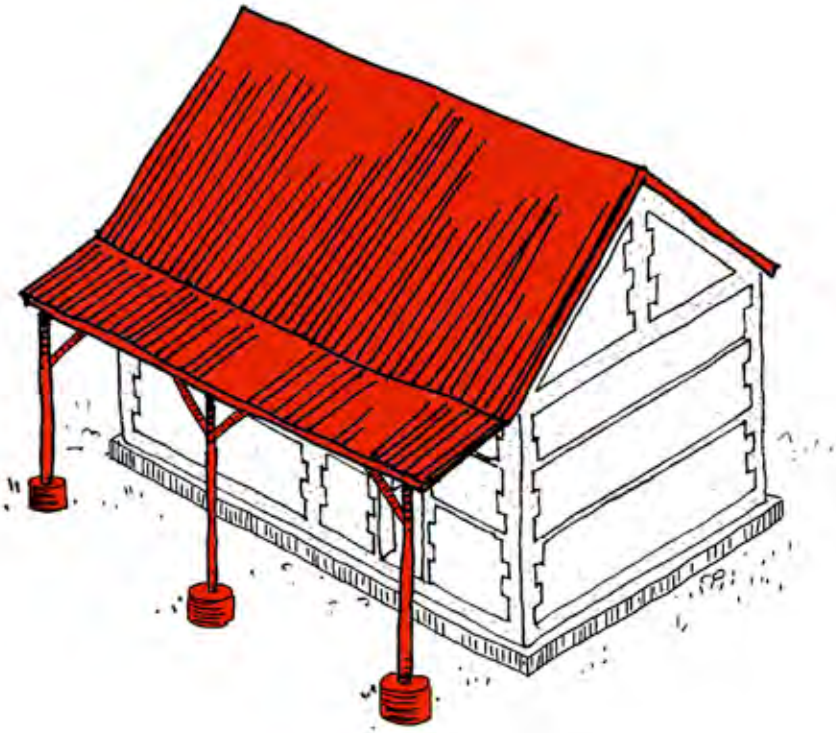
Use a stick (or rebar) and a hammer to compact the concrete and avoid air pockets.

Full concrete slab



Curing the concrete : create ponds with sand or mud and fill them with water for a week.

LIGHT ROOF



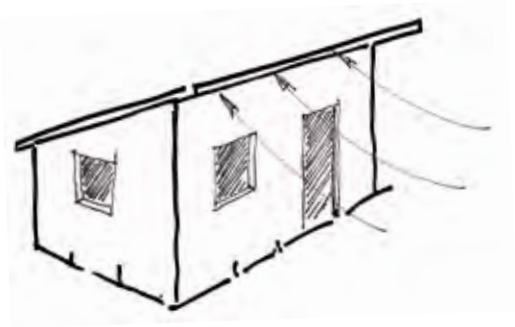
13

Roof shape

Good
YES

Better
YES

Better
YES

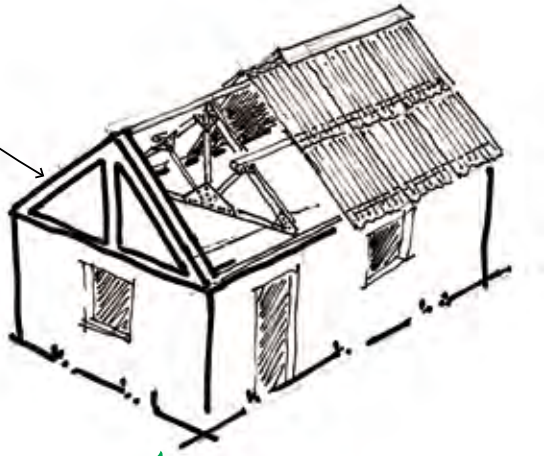


Not so good
AVOID

Gable wall

YES

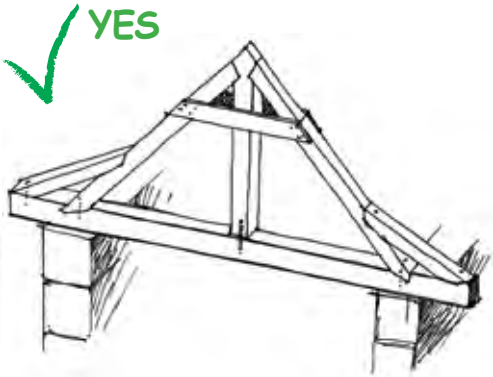
Concrete tie on top of the gable wall.



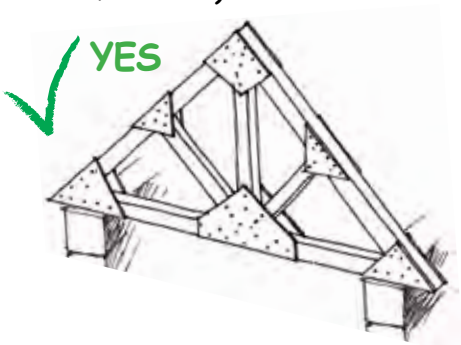
YES

Roof structure - Trusses

Building with planks :
AVOID
(not enough room for nails)



Building with solid timber :
GOOD

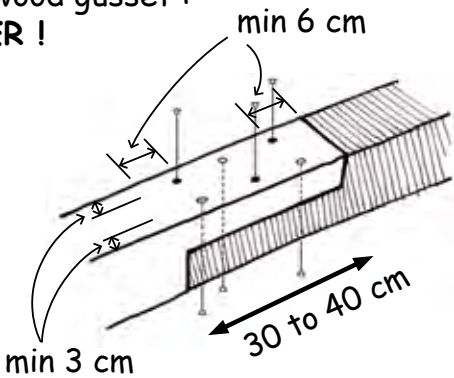


Building with plywood gusset :
BETTER !

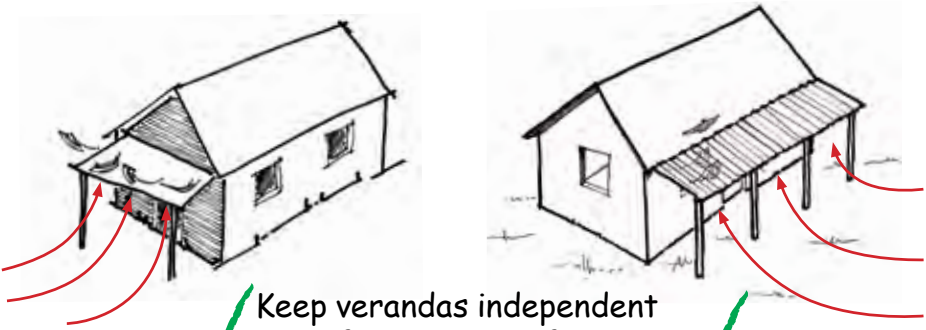
Timber connections :

Put at least
3 nails in each direction !

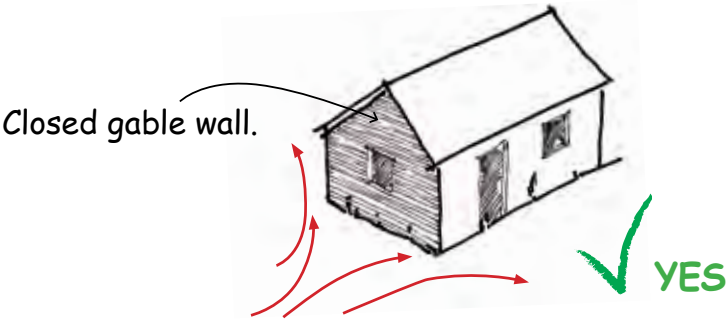
Nails length should be **twice the thickness** of the timber !



Cyclones



Keep verandas independent from main roof : cyclones may tear off the verandas.

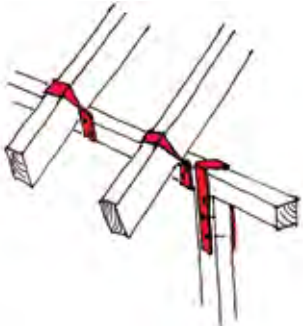


Opened gable wall.

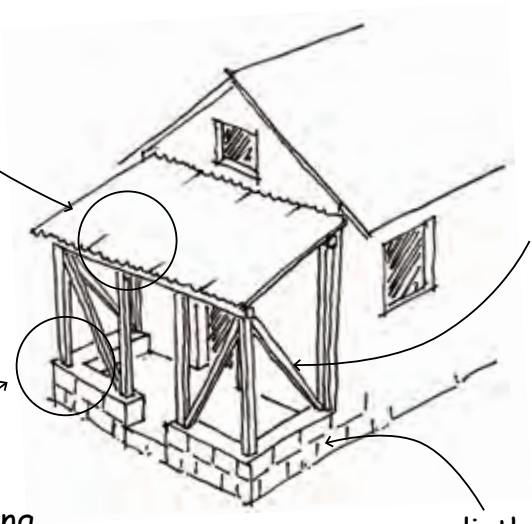
Main roof becoming veranda.

If a veranda is part of the main roof,
then a cyclone could tear off the whole roof.

Fastening of the veranda framing



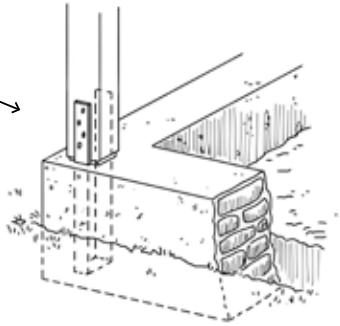
straps



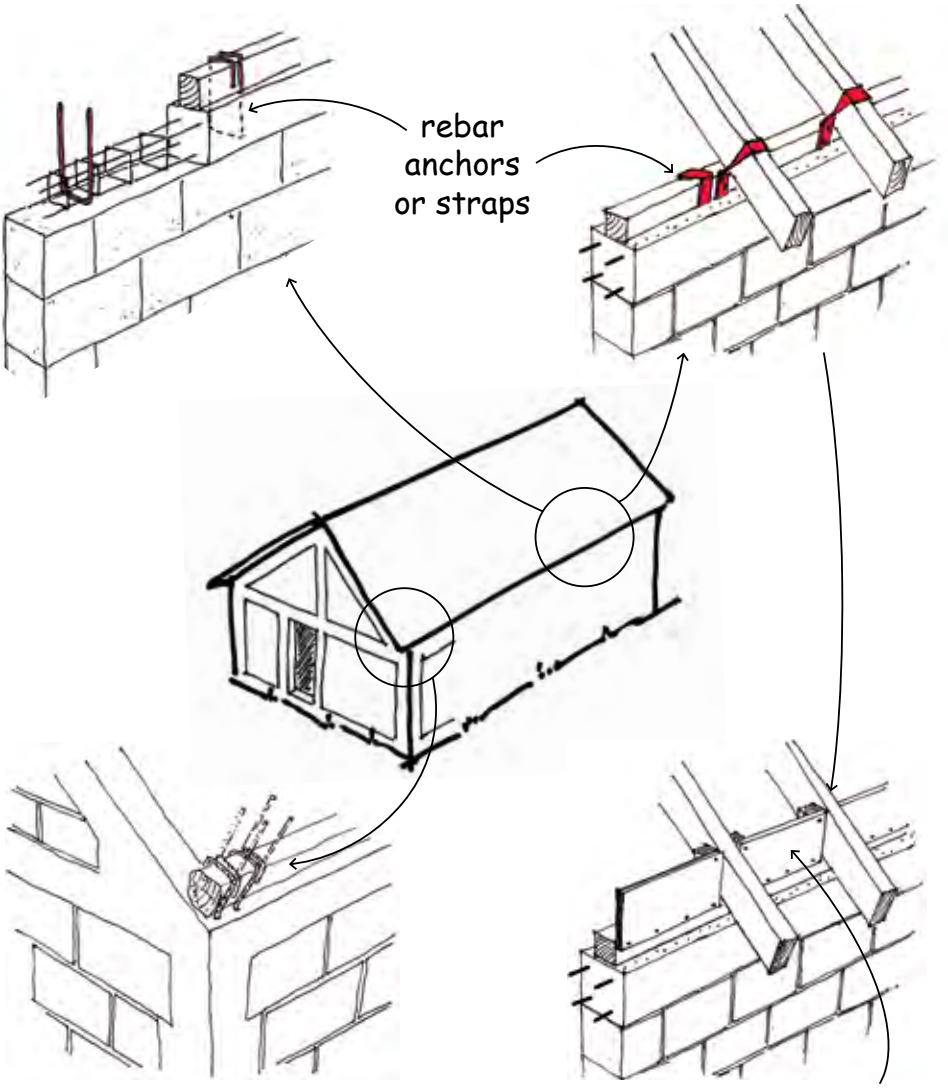
bracing

solid fastening

plinth < 40 cm



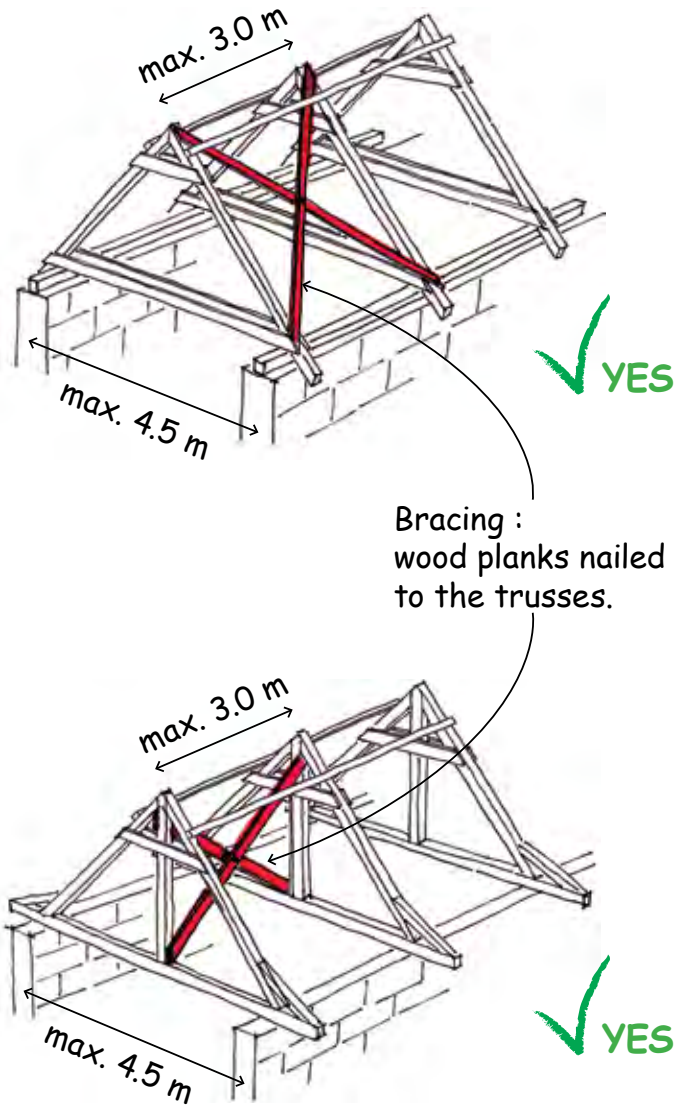
Fastening of the roof structure



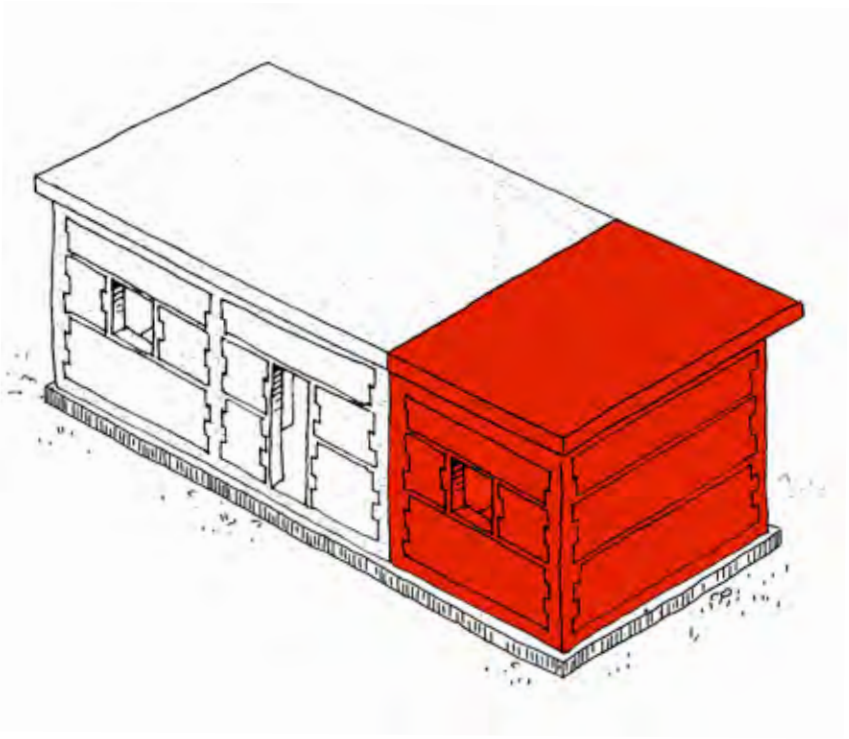
Solidly fasten the anchors or straps to the wood framing.

Close the spaces between trusses with a plank or a screen to avoid insects.

Bracing


max. 3.0 m
max. 4.5 m
YES
Bracing :
wood planks nailed
to the trusses.
max. 3.0 m
max. 4.5 m
YES

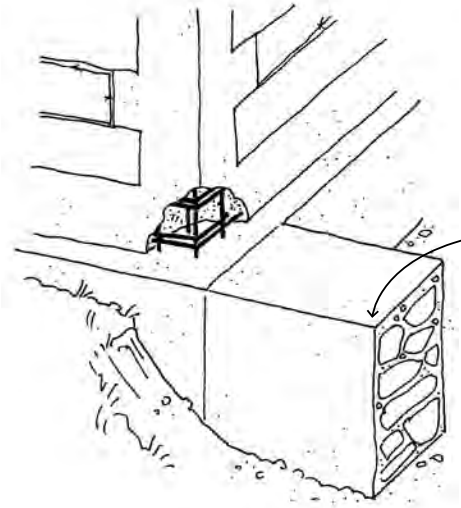
FUTURE EXTENSIONS



14

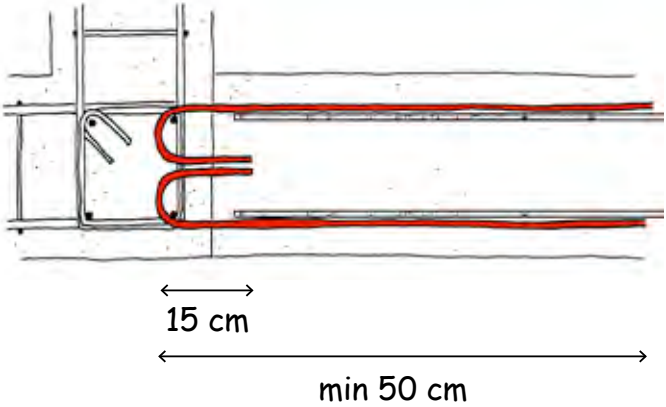
Preparation

Open all corners, all rebar connections.

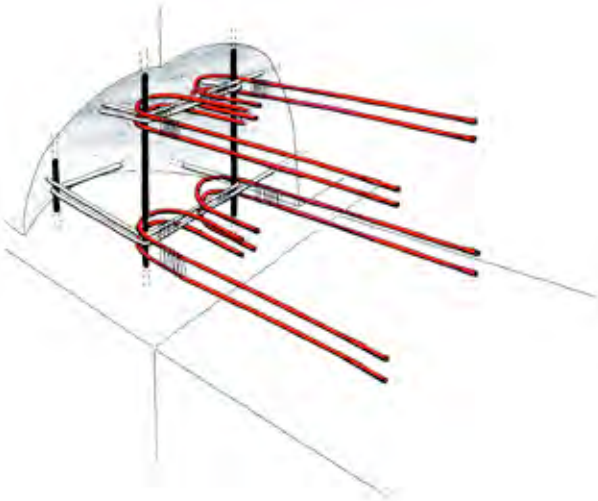


Build a new solid foundation for the new room.

Add anchor bars

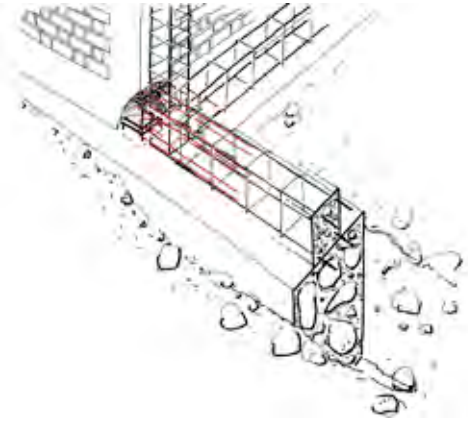


Add hooks : 10 mm rebars.



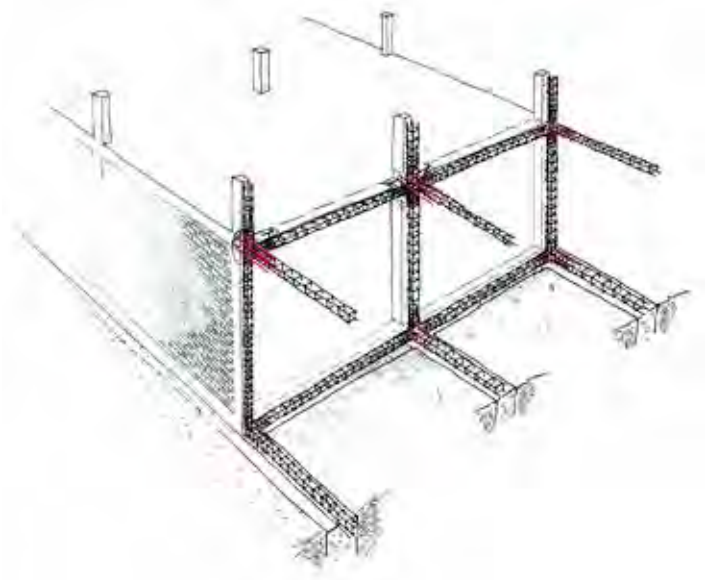
Place the hooks around the vertical rebars :
one on top and one under each stirrup.

Place reinforcement



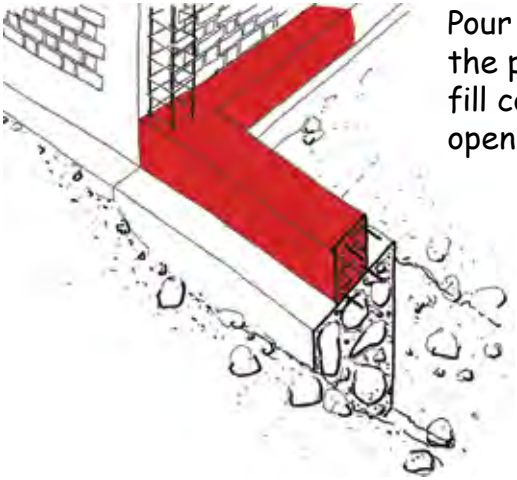
Connect the new plinth beam to the existing one with the hooks.

Place the 10 mm hooks and then place both the ring beams (tie-beams) and the tie-columns.



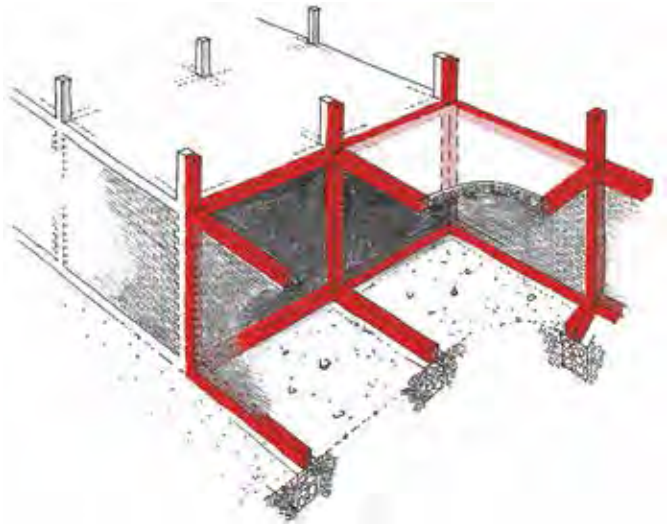
Connect each corner the same way !

Extension of the structure



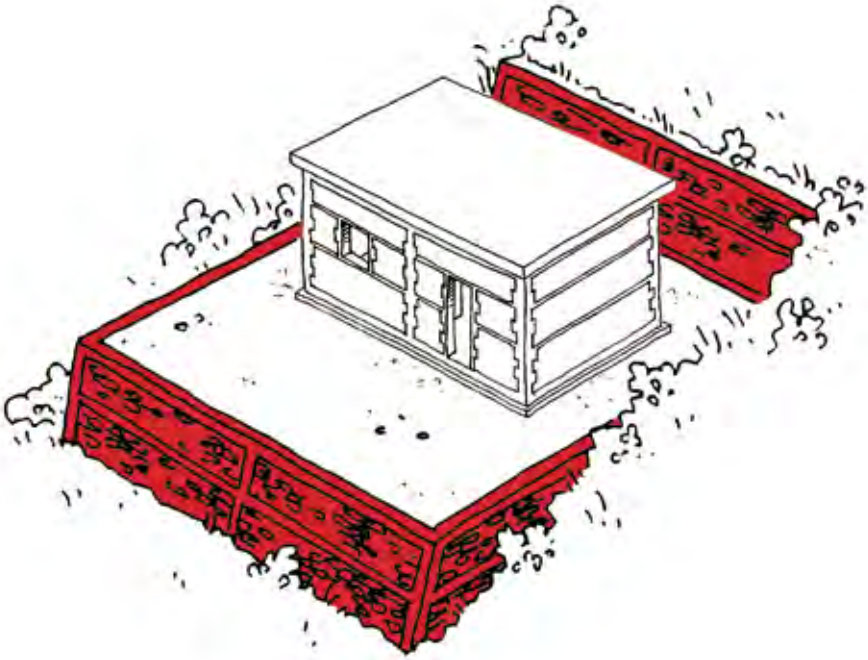
Pour concrete for the plinth beam and fill completely the opened corners.

Build the masonry walls first and only after pour the concrete for the tie columns.



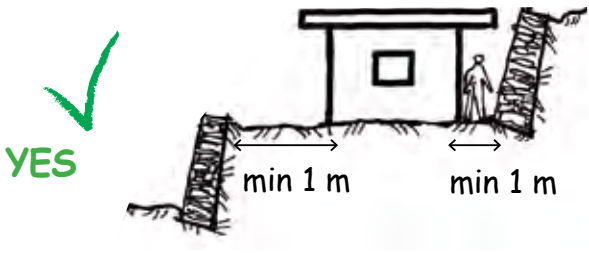
The walls and tie-elements for future extensions should align with the existing structure (existing tie-elements).

RETAINING WALLS



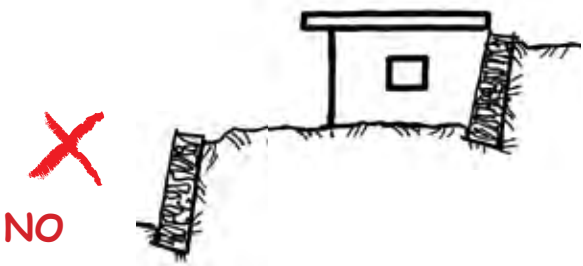
Where to build with retaining walls

A retaining wall doesn't support a house.
A retaining wall only holds back the ground !



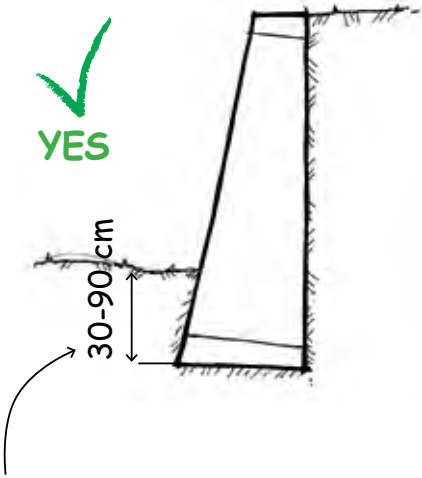
Don't built your house too close to a retaining wall.

Don't build your house on top of a retaining wall.

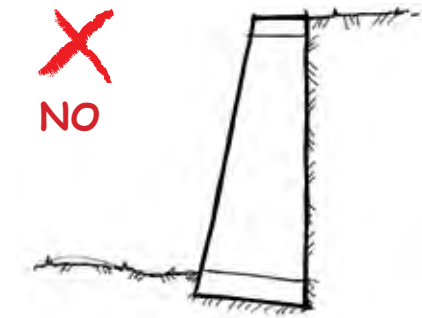


Don't build your house against a retaining wall.

Rule 1 - Wall footing



Height : bottom of wall to firm soil !	
- hard soil :	30 cm
- rammed soil :	30 cm - 60 cm
- soft soil :	60 cm - 90 cm



Rule 2 - Slope of the wall (5 : 1)

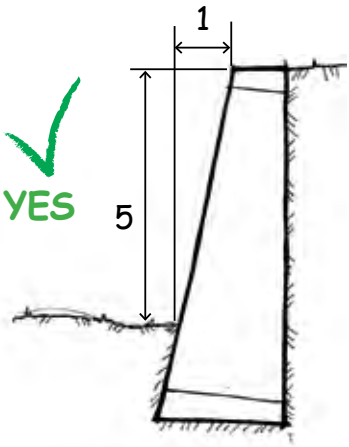
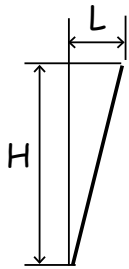
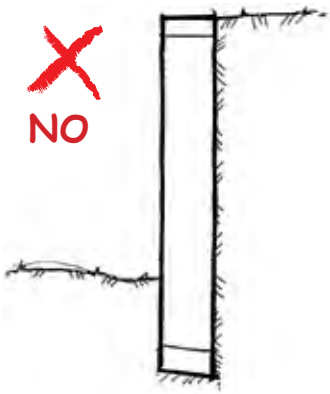


Chart
H : L = 5 : 1

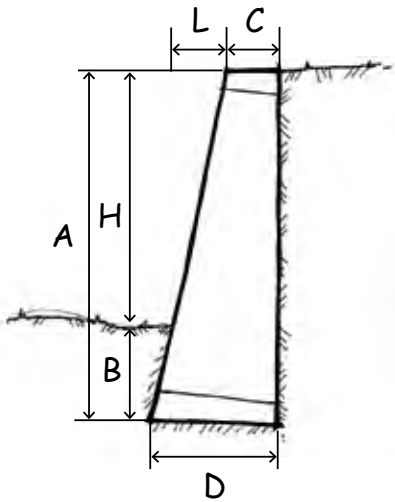


H	L
100	20
125	25
150	30
175	35
200	40
250	50

Slope 1:5
Every time you go up 5 cm, move back 1 cm !
Every time you go up 1 meter, move back 20 cm !



Rule 3 - Dimensions of the wall



Height above ground (H) :
H max = 2.50 m !

Top (C) : min 50cm !
50 cm : H ≤ 150 cm
55 cm : H > 150 < 250 cm
60 cm : H ≥ 250 cm

Total height (A) :
A = H + B
(-> B = 30-80 cm)

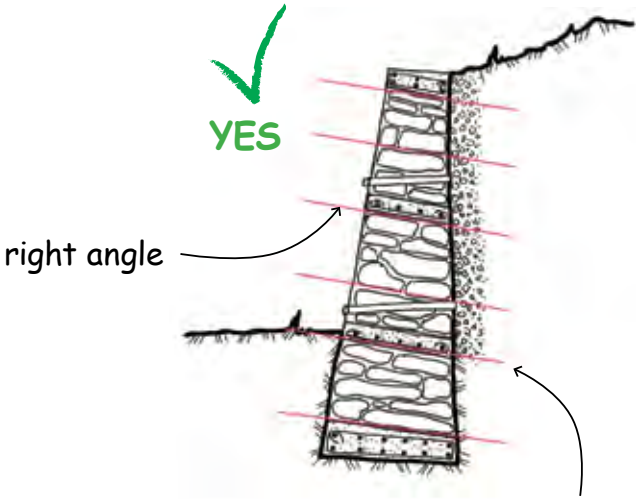
Wall base width (D) calculation :
The base of the wall (D) equals the total height (A) divided by 5, plus the top's width (C) :

$$D = A/5 + C$$

Table

H	C	B	A	D
100	50	30-80	130-180	75-85
125	50	30-80	155-205	80-90
150	50	30-80	180-230	85-95
175	55	30-80	205-255	95-100
200	55	30-80	230-280	100-110
250	60	30-80	280-330	115-125

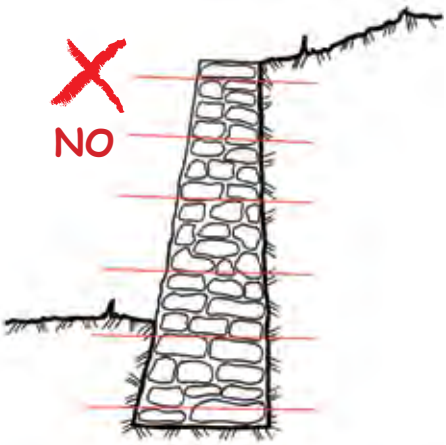
Rule 4 - Placing the stones



Place the stones on their flat faces
and tilt them towards the back.

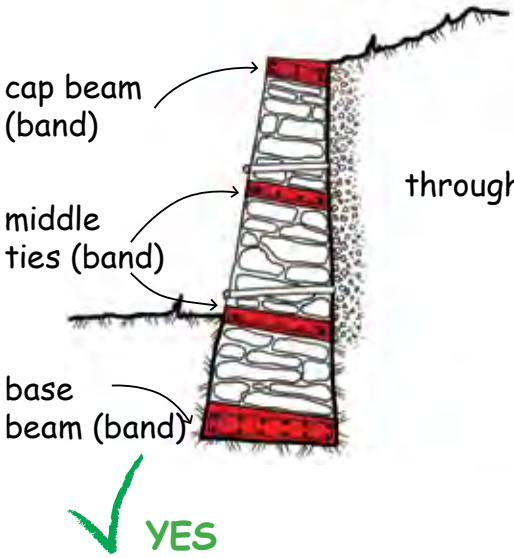
Place the stones at right angles to the wall's external face.

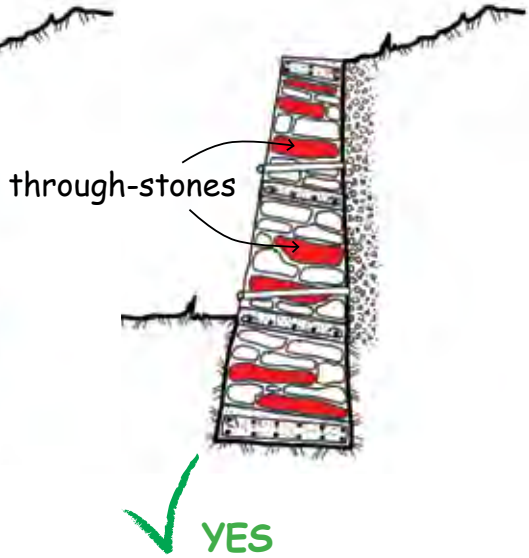
Don't place the stones
in vertical position !

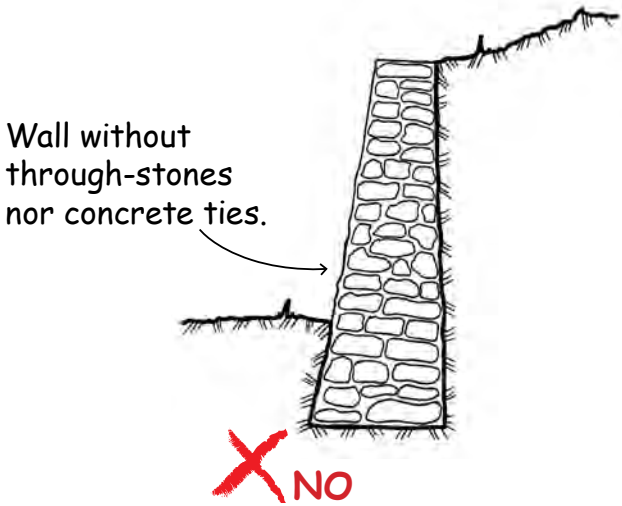


Don't place the stones
at grade !

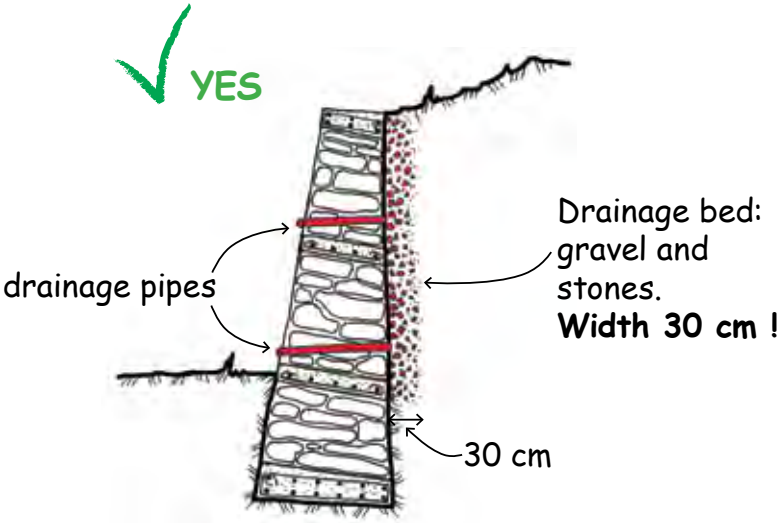
Rule 5 - Through-stones (or bands)



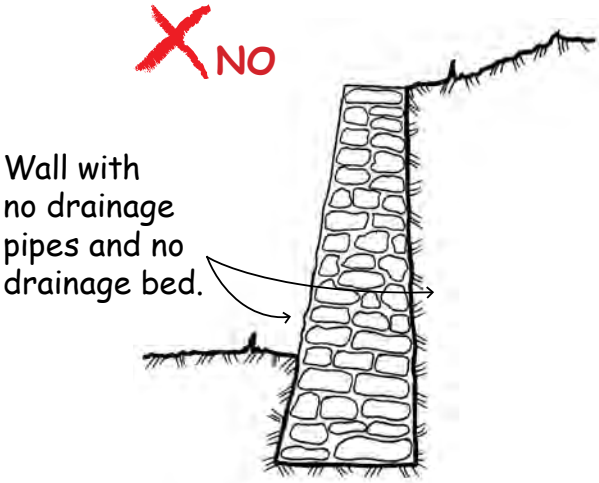




Rule 6 - Drainage

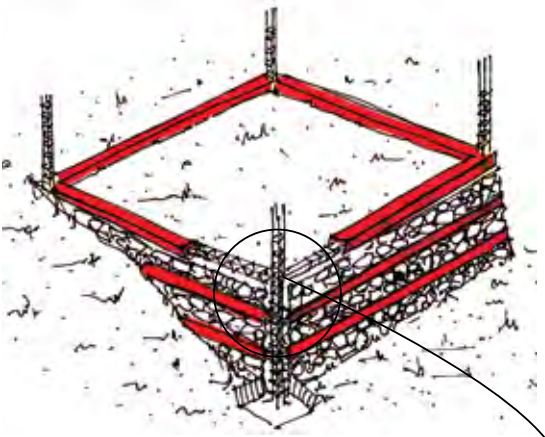


Place a drainage pipe every 1.50 m !
(vertically and horizontally)



Retaining wall - Confining elements

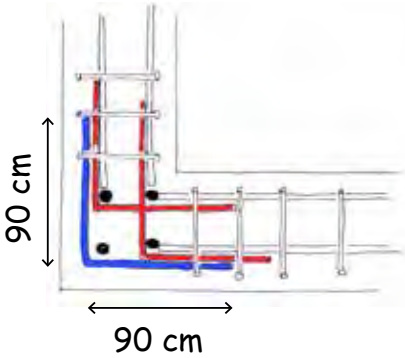
These recommendations are for building a house on retaining walls: **only if there is no other solution !**

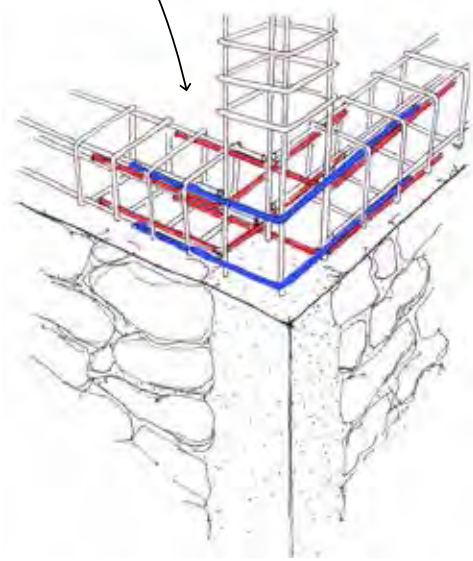


Tie-columns
Every 3 - 4.50 m

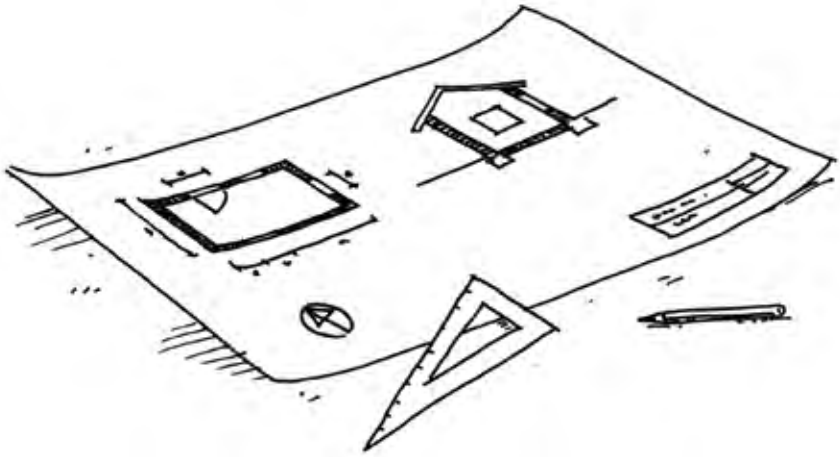
Tie-beams
Must go all around the foundation !
Every 1 m height
Add one at the top !

If possible : avoid building the house on retaining walls !!!

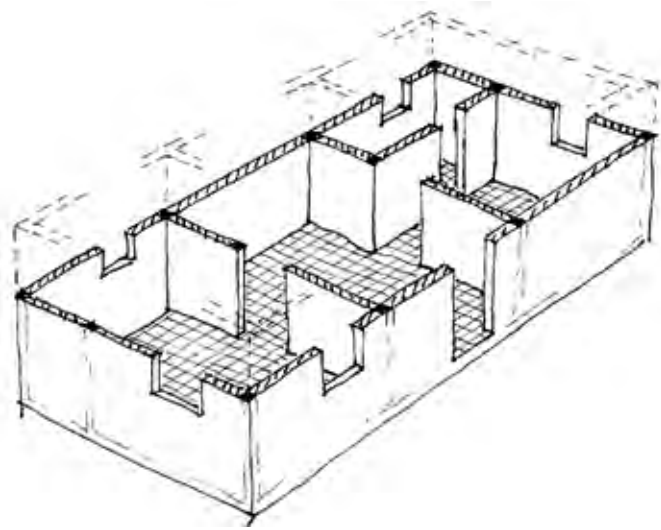




CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS

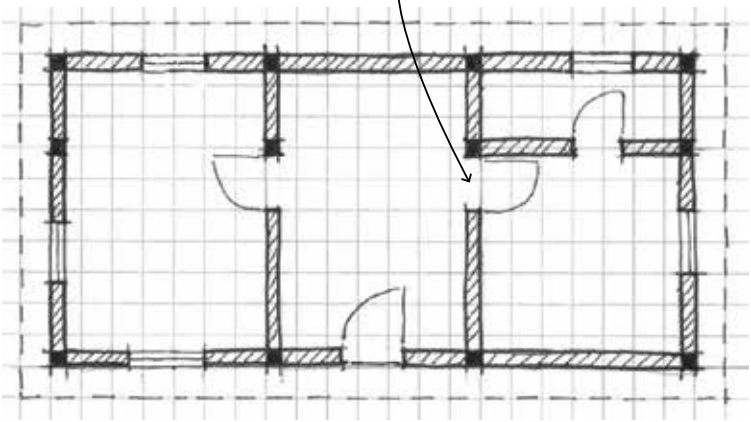


Reading plans



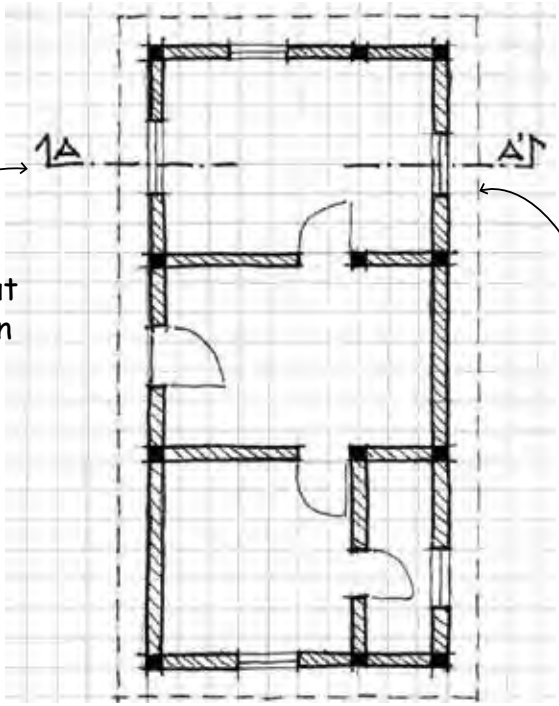
To draw a plan, cut the house at the window height.

Door symbol :
indicates the direction
of opening of the door.



House plan (seen from the top).

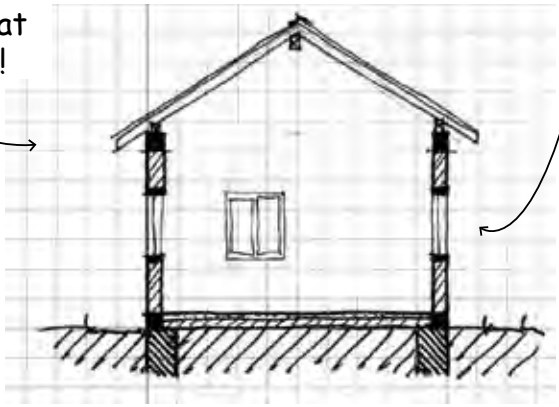
Reading sections



If you vertically cut the house on this line ...

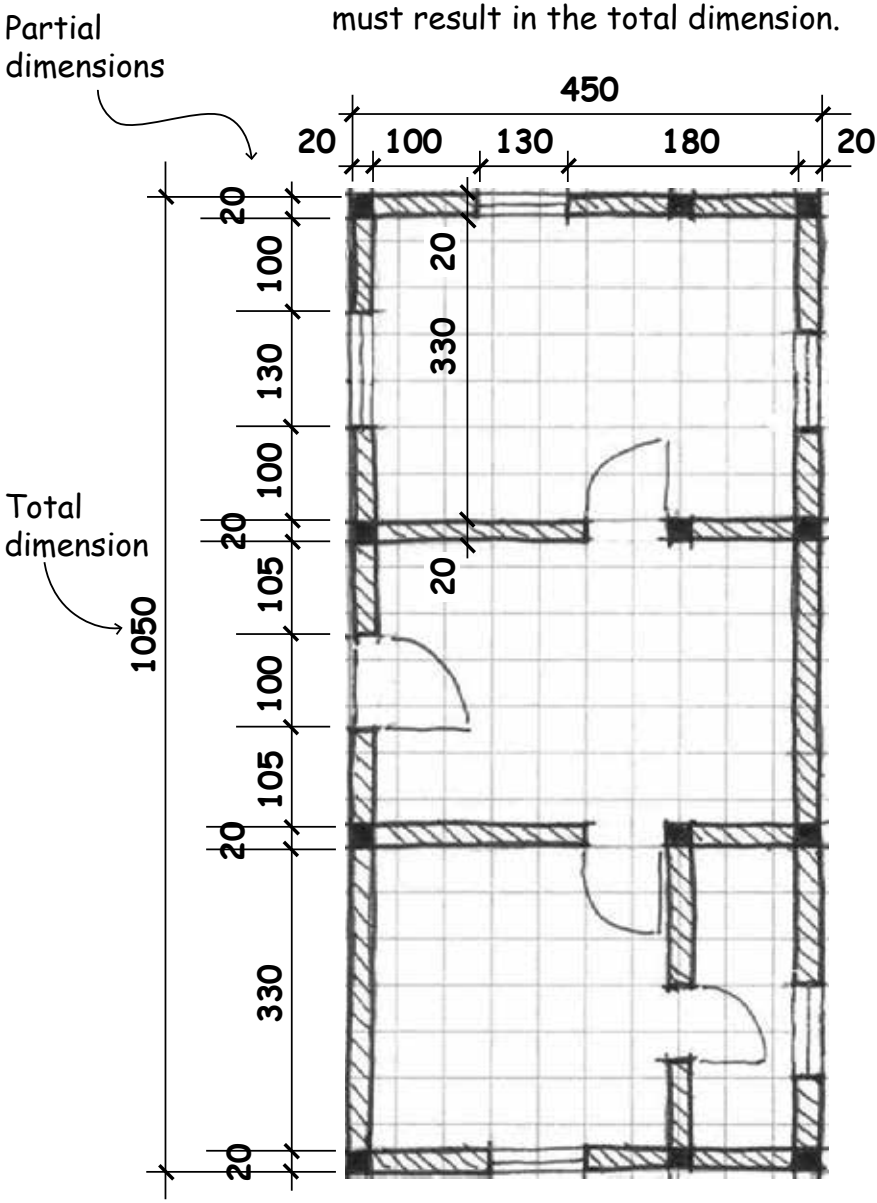
same window

... this is what you will see !

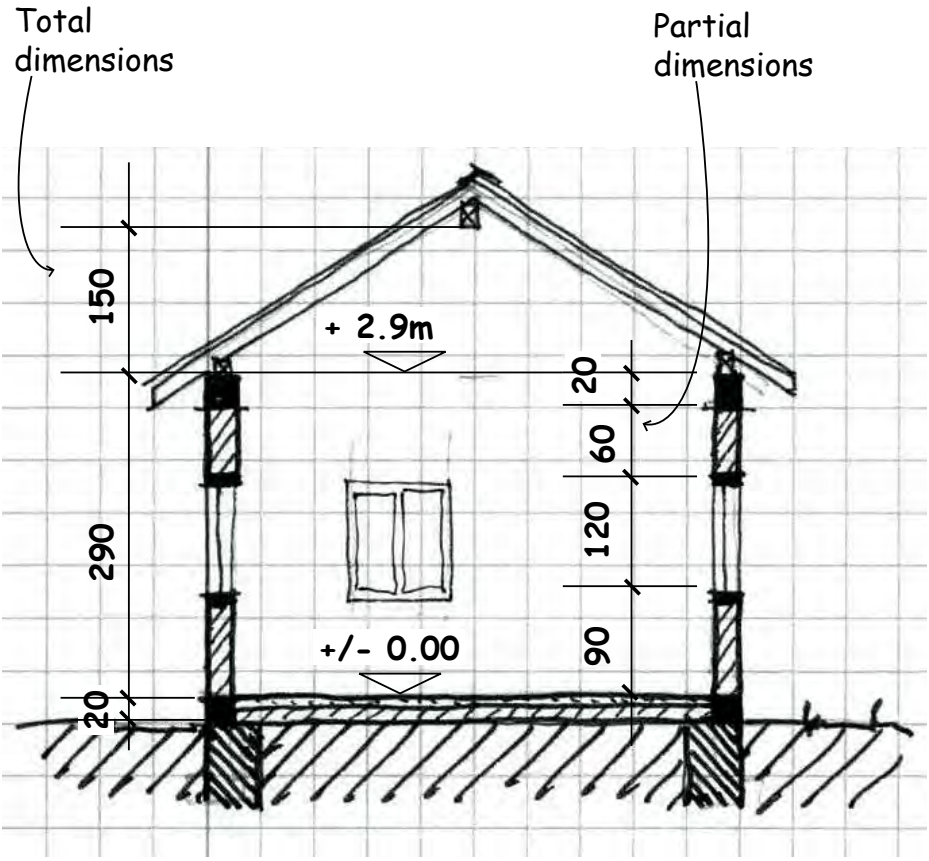


Plan dimensions

The sum of all partial dimensions must result in the total dimension.



Section dimensions



COPYRIGHT

This guidebook as well as its use (unless otherwise indicated) are protected by a license.
The author is the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

creative commons (Attribution - NonCommercial - ShareAlike)

Attribution - You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

NonCommercial - You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

ShareAlike - If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041, USA.

This Guide was originally developed by the Competence Center for Reconstruction of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) after the devastating January 2010 Haiti earthquake.

It was developed as a resource for the mason training programme related to confined masonry construction practice, which was launched as a response to the urgent need to establish an earthquake-resistant construction practice in Haïti. Its main purpose was to improve construction practices in areas where housing construction occurs without technical input.

This guide was used at construction sites and as a resource material for mason training programmes. It offered simple but essential advice on building safer houses using the confined masonry construction technology.

This version of the Guide was adapted by SDC together with members of the Confined Masonry Network of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) for use in various countries and regions of the world.

It is hoped that this resource that was first developed in Haiti will be useful in other countries facing the same challenges. The users may include local governmental and non-governmental organizations, international humanitarian and development agencies, and most importantly skilled and unskilled masons around the world.

Revised version, August 2015