

AN INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL BUILDING

JULY 3-9, 2020



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[THEHAPPYLLAMAS.COM/DIGITAL](https://thehappyllamas.com/digital)



OVERVIEW

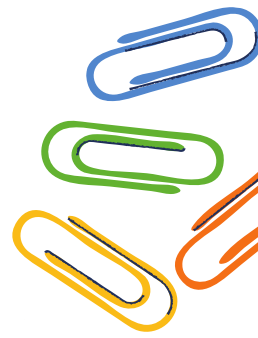
Is nature trying to send us a message? Is the latest COVID -19 pandemic an outcome of our actions? This could be debatable – but what isn't is the need to relook at the way architects or future architects see their profession. Being part of an industry that contributes to 40% of carbon emissions, it is a collective responsibility as architects to shoulder some responsibility, to sit up and take note of the impact on the planet.

India is at the wake of a new era as the country rushes towards an idea of modernity and development. There is little or no thought given to the material used in question – embodied energy, origin, industrial processing, and health impacts are never considered. Most often cost, aesthetics, speed of construction carries are given priority. This model of construction is unsustainable and will have dangerous implications on the environment.

It is therefore an urgent need to investigate sustainable, low-energy solutions for new constructions. In the present scenario, earthen architecture plays a vital role in providing a viable solution that responds to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mud as a material has been used as a construction material in India for thousands of years. The richness of the traditional know-how in ancient India extends into the mud structures varying across different landscapes from palaces to quaint mud dwellings. These are great examples of sustainability through simplicity. Mud construction is now seeing a revival in the construction sector today through its earth warriors and natural builders and as a result, there are an increasing number of contemporary mud structures being built that act as the catalysts for change.

COURSE SCHEDULE



Teaching Tools:

The course will be an online virtual course that will cover all the basics of building with mud including the various techniques of earthen construction with case studies around the world while being informed by the traditional vernacular of the country. The course will include interactive sessions with earth builders around the world to understand the versatility of the material and to gain a worldwide perspective of the material. It will encourage hands on participation from the students through design charrettes on virtual platforms and easy DIY sessions. The exercises will be supported by live demos, presentations, videos and additional reading material.

Project Outcome:

A clear and comprehensive understanding of the following:

- Earthen construction with an international and contemporary perspective
- Different construction techniques using mud
- Benefits of natural building
- Embodied energy and life cycle analysis
- Sustainability along the 3 verticals of environment, socio-cultural and socio-economic.

Day 1 2 hours

Introduction & summary of the course

Ice breaker sessions, introduction of participants

Day 2 2 hours

Life cycle analysis and sustainability wheel

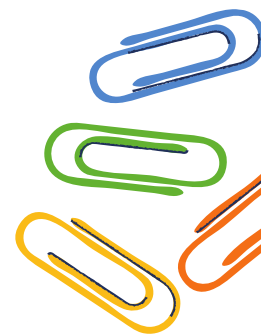
Exercise - Case study Analysis - life cycle & WOS of select projects

Day 3 2 hours

Contemporary innovations to traditional techniques (prefabricated and poured earth)

Exercise I - Case study Analysis II - Life cycle of materials

COURSE SCHEDULE



Day 4
2 hours

Introduction to Earthen construction around the world - techniques and know how

Exercise - Design charette

Day 5
2 hours

Hands on session with Mud

Exercise - Design charette (materiality and area programme)

Day 6
2 hours

Building with Earth (do's and dont's)

Exercise - Design detailing

Day 7
12 hours

Guest Lecture & Summary of the course

Design presentation of participant projects in pre-defined format

7 DAY COURSE

14 hours

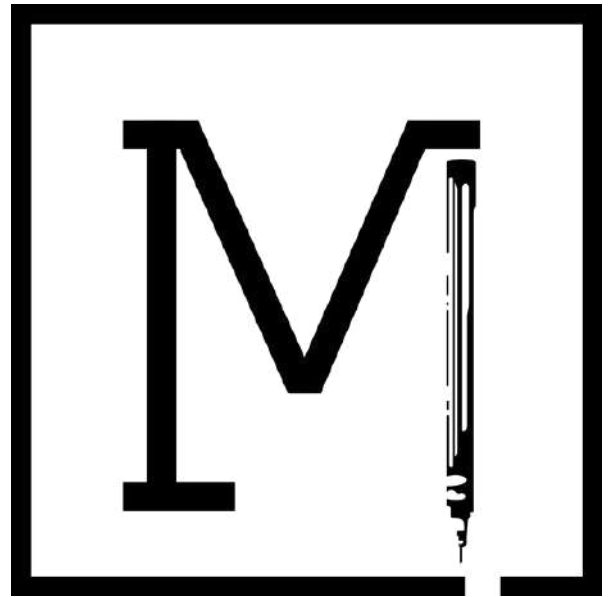
Early Bird (till June 25) **INR 3,500**
Normal Price (till July 3) **INR 4,000**

All sessions will be conducted on Zoom

MODULE CURATOR

MASONS INK STUDIO

Masons Ink Studio is an all-encompassing design and construction firm with a special focus on sustainable architecture and Heritage Conservation. Their designs have thrived on strong principles of ecological sensitivity and minimising the impact on the environment. Known for their commitment to excellence, Masons Ink has won many accolades including the Deccan Herald Changemakers of 2020.



They have worked on a wide range of projects across multiple sectors and typologies ranging from large urban master plans to private residences. They believe that knowledge transfer plays a huge role in their responsibility as architects and so they conduct hands-on training courses and workshops for masons, professionals and students of architecture on sustainability and heritage conservation. This course is curated by the principal architect trained and specialised in earthen construction and sustainable habitats from CRAterre – the UNESCO chair of earthen construction, building culture and sustainable development.

MODERATOR

ANKIT B

Ankit B is an educator. With a will to educate today's youth about the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of sustainability, Ankit started The Happy Llamas. Ankit has worked in India and Brasil with brands like Amazon, Nike, FIFA, Olympics (IOC), among others. Ankit will be moderating the sessions on all days of the course.



ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



SHIMOLI SHAH

Architect

Participant - Introduction to Natural Building (May 2020)

To begin with, I'd like to say that I am so happy the workshop turned out to be so interactive. Even though we had a group of people from different years of experiences, Rosie managed to make us all a part of the discussions. She made the sessions very interactive and fun. To attend an online workshop and still get to have group projects, talks, Q&A sessions, soil testings, etc, it was absolute fun and very well organised. It was a very involved one week long workshop. Honestly, I love hands on work hence I was a little skeptical about attending an online course but I am so happy that I did.



SADHYA BHATNAGAR

Architect

Participant - Introduction to Natural Building (May 2020)

The 7 day long course on Natural Building has been a great experience where I gained an in-depth knowledge about natural building materials and techniques. The study material was well put and presented and so were the illustrations and accompanying explanations. It was great to learn from someone who has quite extensively studied as well as continuously practised with these materials and techniques. The course was kept pretty interactive and at no point did it turn boring. Rosie has been a patient mentor with concise yet well explained material and other insights into whatever we were learning. Overall amazing experience, and a 10 on 10!



H EL ENE FERRAT

3rd Year, ENSAL ( cole d'architecture de Lyon), Lyon

Participant - Introduction to Natural Building (May 2020)

I was really happy to be a part of the digital course on Natural Building. The presentations were interesting and it was so cool to work in groups and communicate with other participants. It was pretty dynamic and particularly for me, it was the best way to work on my English and get a glimpse of the Indian Architecture. Overall, a 10 on 10!



MITHALI RAO

Architect

Participant - Introduction to Natural Building (May 2020)

The online format was pretty new to me but I think that the fact that there was a small ice breaker session was pretty cool. The details in formatting the sessions were well thought out. Rosie was hands on, answered all our queries and was basically a great facilitator! Also the fact that she was available for discussion even offline and was so enthusiastic about sharing added information on the Whatsapp group was really appreciated! Although I had already attended a few other hands-on workshops on mud architecture before, even then I got to learn a bunch of things like the VerSus wheel. One could clearly see all the planning and work that went into putting the course together and it was totally worth it. Overall, I had a great experience.