**PLASTERING**

There is the way to assembly and link the blocks between them, in all directions (horizontal, vertical, thickness of the wall). Good joining guarantees stability and solidify of the wall.

**DANGER**

The material used for base walls should be strong enough. In the case of thin walls, serving as support or partition, they should be resistant and protected against moisture penetration. Materials mostly used for base walls include mass earth, stones, burnt brick, cement blocks, landcrete blocks.

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- Good joining guarantees stability and solidify of the wall.

**SITE SELECTION AND BUILDING ORIENTATION**

Before constructing, it is necessary to think well about the choice of the site and the orientation of the building.

The durability of a building first of all depends on the context in which it is constructed. It is necessary to consider several factors before the construction, such as the nature of soil, the climate (rain, wind, sun…), the topography of the site, etc.

**DANGER**

The orientation of the building must guarantee good protection against rains, winds, direct solar exposition.

- Promotion should be made for the whole building periphery in order to drain the surface water far from the foundations and to avoid water concentrations which could further cause seepage.
- Take special care on the site, avoid hollow grounds, termite, root…
- Drainage of the site will always entail technical problems. Water stagnation at the base of a building will always entail technical problems.
- If the soil resistance is week, the foundation will have to be wider.
- The foundations should prevent moisture penetration into the building. Drainage of the site will offer good guarantees of durability. To improve this, we may add materials at the wall base and a capillary barrier at the top of the foundation.

**FOUNDATIONS AND BASEMENTS**

The foundations permit equal distribution of the weight of walls and roofs onto the ground. They should be strong, resistant to compression, and should ensure total wall stability. To achieve this function, they should be constructed on hard and good soil, in resistant, durable and quality materials.

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**GOOD BUILDING PRACTICES**

- **WALLS**
  - Earth block work permits to construct thin or thick walls, serving as support or partition.
  - Thin wall (with blocks)
  - Thick wall
  - Openings
  - Openings permit to illuminate and to ventilate the inside of the building. They represent weaknesses in the structure of the building. It is often from the openings that appear many cracks. Therefore it is necessary to look after their solidity.
  - Take special care on the site, avoid hollow grounds, termite, root…
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- **EARTH ARCHITECTURE**
  - Good masonry: they should be water resistant to some extent but also permeable enough to let water and masonry out from the wall, and finally should have good appearance compatible with the local environment.
  - Earth constructions must be protected with a good roofing, especially in the regions affected by heavy rain. The roofing is a safety for the earth constructions; it must allow the evacuation of rainwaters and protect the building from humidity.
  - The vibrations and shocks resulting from the manipulation of the doors and windows can cause some cracks in the walls. Therefore it is necessary to anchor well the joineries in the masonry. In the masonry around the windows, integrate some resistant blocks which will serve later to reinforce the frames anchorage.

- **ROOF**
  - The erf block roofs are more sensitive to water than the dipping roofs, and need a permanent maintenance. But because of their good thermal insulation, they are well adapted to hot and dry climates.
  - The earthen roofs with a minimum overlap of 20 cm (8”) is very efficient to evacuate the rainwater and protect the earth walls. The anchorage of the roofing into the wall is indispensable to reduce risks of distortion and slipping of the roofing under the pressure of strong winds.

- **PLASTERING**
  - A good plastering should have a good adhesion to the wall without causing any damage to it. It should be thick enough to absorb possible distortions of the wall without cracking, should be water resistant to some extent but also permeable enough to let water and masonry out from the wall, and finally should have good appearance compatible with the local environment.
  - The plastering permits to stave off the rain water and walls water due to the roof.