

Traditional Mud Brick Making and Laying in Cyprus



Ismail Cemal
Kıbrıs, Büyükkonuk
delcraft2000@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

Traditional mud brick construction is a cheap and easy form of making all kinds of shelters, either for humans, animals or storage. The energy used to produce the mud brick comes from the sun and manpower. Mud brick has many positive qualities such as load bearing, insulation, fire resistant and forgiving, meaning that if you make a mistake you can correct it by remaking it. Mud brick construction also has the cleanest ecological footprint as it returns to the earth from where it came. The materials used to make mud bricks are available all over Cyprus. This includes clay soil, chopped straw and water. It is most economical to use readily available materials rather than transport soil in from distant areas. The clay content of soil varies from region to region, as does the colour, which is dependent on minerals such as iron oxide. The colour does not affect the strength of the brick. As there is a lot of farming in Cyprus, local supplies of straw can readily be found. Old straw which is unsuitable for animals is better for mixing and cheaper, if not free. The only other requirements are a wooden mould, a shovel and a wheelbarrow. A mixing trough for the mud is desirable but not necessary.

Keywords: Mud brick, traditional, making, laying, Cyprus.