

Sitting Cool on Earth



Matthieu J. Pedergrana, Burcu Kındır
Yaşar Üniversitesi, Architecture Department,
Üniversite Caddesi No:37-39 Bornova, İzmir, Turkey
Association of Natural Building Materials and Methods
(DYMD), Urla, İzmir, Türkiye
matthieu.pedergrana@yasar.edu.tr

ABSTRACT

Rammed earth is probably one of the most well-known contemporary earthen construction techniques, chosen by architects and self-builders alike for its distinctive appearance, strength, and apparent simplicity of implementation. Numerous buildings around the world have been constructed using this technique, some of them lasting for hundreds of years without modern additives, relying instead on the knowledge and experience of past master builders. At the same time, impressive contemporary constructions continue to challenge current academic frameworks and contribute to new narratives around rammed earth.

Today, rammed earth is used not only for walls or floors, but also as a teaching tool, a medium for producing design objects, and a means of raising awareness about earthen construction. Companies such as Mono Earth, for example, have produced interior and exterior furniture using colourful local clays to emphasize the layered character of the material, while other projects have treated rammed-earth walls themselves as objects of attraction.

This communication presents a collaborative project developed by the principal author, instructor at Yaşar University, the Natural Building Materials and Methods Association (DYMD), Okil Natural Building Materials, and İzmir Planning Agency (İZPA), for the exhibition entitled “İki Çizgi Arasında: Geleceğin İzmir’ine Bugünden Bir Bakış” (*Between Two Lines: A Glimpse into the İzmir of the Future from Today*).

The exhibition provided an excuse for exploring the versatility of rammed earth and its potential as a temporary construction material. Beyond the construction process and the aesthetic qualities of the final result — a modular and reusable bench whose material can ultimately be reintegrated into the earth — the project also opens a discussion on the possible use of non-stabilized rammed-earth elements as temporary climatic objects.

Through their thermal mass, such elements may contribute to thermal comfort by storing and releasing heat, suggesting a potential role for rammed earth as a passive cooling or heating device in temporary or semi-permanent spatial applications.

KEY WORDS:

Rammed-Earth, Furniture, Workshop, Thermal Comfort, Personal Climate