

# Constructing Seismic Resistant Masonry Houses in Indonesia

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Second Edition



WORLD SEISMIC SAFETY INITIATIVE

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#### PREFACE

Throughout the centuries, earthquakes have taken a high toll of human lives and caused property losses. Earthquakes do not kill people but the collapse of man made buildings does.

Until today, human beings cannot prevent earthquakes, however, human beings can try to reduce the impact by designing and constructing earthquake resistant buildings. Almost all of Indonesia is earthquake pone.

Currently people all over Indonesia build half brick masonry or concrete block houses. Masonry houses have become a new culture. Many of those masonry houses are built without confinement in the form of reinforced concrete beams and columns and in almost all past earthquakes, masonry houses without confinement generally were heavily damaged or collapsed. Half brick thick masonry wall houses without confinement is not recommended for earthquake prone areas.

Houses recommended to be built are half brick thick masonry wall with confinement in the form of foundation beam, practical columns and ring beam. Past earthquakes showed that such type of houses are earthquake resistant provided that they are built properly.

This guideline tries to explain in a simple way the principles of constructing half brick thick confined masonry houses.

This guideline contains the basic and elementary principles concerning how to lay bricks, how to prepare concrete mix, how to bend reinforcing bars, detailing of joints and other basic things already forgotten by local artisans, construction workers and by most engineers all over Indonesia.

The methods and details recommended in this guideline are basic and are minimum requirements for constructing earthquake resistant masonry houses.

Materials for this guideline are taken from ref 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 28, 30 and 35.

It is hoped that this guideline is useful for the common people in earthquake prone areas and for stakeholders involved in reducing the impact of future earthquakes.

Jakarta, April 2005

Teddy Boen & Associates











































## **13. PLUMBNESS OF BRICK LAYING AND COLUMNS**

Walls and columns must be plumb and can be done using plumb lines and pins (cord & plumb bob). Corners of walls must be perpendicular.

























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