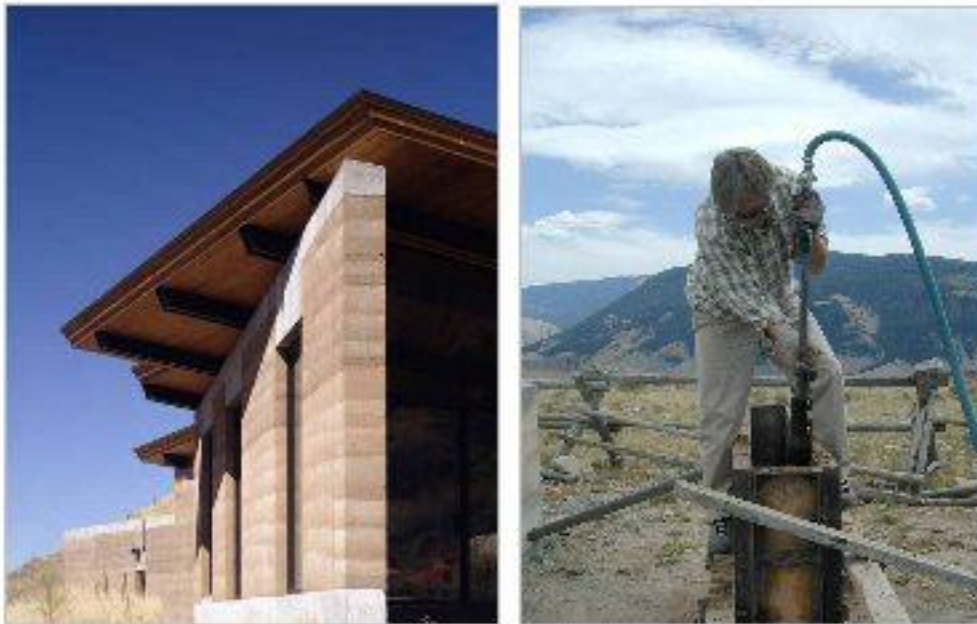


Buckminster Fuller 'Idea Index' Features EarthWall

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Buckminster Fuller 'Idea Index' Features Wyoming Architects Ward + Blake's rammed earth process in exclusive database



The TK Pad,

the first residence built using the seismically-stable EarthWall method.

September 15, 2008 – Jackson, Wyoming – Ward + Blake Architects' patented "seismically stable" rammed earth construction has been included in the 'Idea Index' of the 2008 Buckminster Fuller Challenge, an annual international design competition seeking solutions with significant potential to solve humanity's most pressing problems in the shortest possible time while enhancing the Earth's ecological integrity. From footwear for the poor fashioned from recycled tires to a vertical greenhouse designed to provide food crops for urban centers, the entries in the Challenge were innovative and wide-ranging.

Jackson architects Tom Ward and Mitch Blake submitted the firm's patented EarthWall process, a new approach to the traditional rammed earth building method that creates naturally eco-friendly structures that are resistant to earthquakes. "Fifty percent of the world's population lives in earthen houses, many of them in seismically active parts of the world," says Ward. "This strong, low-tech method could allow for the rebuilding of

structures in areas ravaged by earthquakes—or even for replacing existing structures to prevent future damage—without resorting to expensive, culturally foreign building systems. The aspect that is most exciting to me is the potential for the worldwide application of EarthWall. Perhaps if the process is one day adopted in Third World countries, it will save not only homes from collapsing—but lives as well.”

Ward + Blake’s submission is included in the Buckminster Fuller Challenge Idea Index, an interactive, searchable database of entries. The Challenge winner, John Todd, designed a blueprint for a post-coal era and carbon-neutral economy for the coal land regions of Appalachia. To view the index, visit

<http://bfi.org/sites/bfi.org/modules/civicism/extern/url.php?u=18099&qid=224522>;

Ward + Blake’s idea can be viewed on page 5 under “Seismically Stable Rammed Earth.”

Ward + Blake’s use of a “New West” architectural vocabulary epitomizes the growing Western Modernism movement. The firm’s residential and commercial designs capture the authentic independent spirit of the West while taking regional design in a fresh and modern direction. The firm is known for its award-winning eco-friendly innovations. For additional information, visit www.wardblakearchitects.com, or call 307-733-6867.

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