

# RAMMED EARTH

- Rammed earth technology has been around for thousands of years.  
The Great Wall of China is rammed earth.  
European castles are rammed earth, faced with stone.  
The cores of pyramids in Mexico are rammed earth.
- Properly constructed rammed earth walls are unaffected by rain, wind, fire or termites.
- Rammed earth walls are generally 18 to 24 inches thick.
- Rammed earth walls are made of earth compacted layer upon layer within forms.
- Rammed earth walls can be stuccoed, plastered, or left bare to expose the soft, rhythmic layers of earth, like sediment lines in sandstone.
- Rammed earth can be used in any style building with any kind of roof.
- Properly designed, a rammed earth structure will store the sun's heat each winter and block it each summer, yielding energy savings year after year.
- The cost of building a rammed earth home is comparable to the cost of building any fine custom home, varying according to personal design choices.

## **QUENTIN BRANCH, pioneer rammed earth builder**



### **RAMMED EARTH Solar Homes Inc.**

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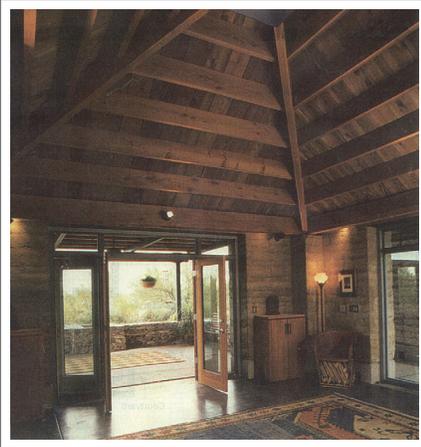
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[www.rammedearthhomes.com](http://www.rammedearthhomes.com)

In 1976, organic farmer and physics instructor Quentin Branch, began experimenting with rammed earth. During construction of about 50 homes, he refined the tools and technology to mechanize the process of building thick, strong walls. After making a new-materials presentation to the Pima County Building Department to set standards for inspecting rammed earth construction, Branch founded *Rammed Earth Solar Homes Inc.* Since then, he and his long-term crew members have built walls for more than 200 structures, including modest to elaborate personal residences, business complexes, patio walls and public art projects.

A student from one of Quentin's *Rammit Yourself* workshops recently referred to him as a "holistic builder." His knowledge of the land, his scientific background and his nearly 30 years of building experience come together seamlessly in service to his clients.

In addition to building homes, Quentin provides consultation to those considering purchasing a lot or designing a home, offering advice on home placement, top-soil reservation, water harvesting, garden location and layout, pesticide avoidance, and home design. He also leads *Rammit Yourself* workshops.



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