



EARTH USA 2011

Sep 30, Oct 1 & 2, 2011 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Title:

DOES CEB STACK UP FOR US HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AFFILIATES?

Abstract:

Cleveland County Habitat for Humanity and The University of Oklahoma College of Architecture are partnering on a project to design, build, test, and document a house constructed primarily of compressed earth block (CEB) that meets CCHFH's goal to provide simple, decent, healthy and affordable housing that is certifiably sustainable and universally assessable. The overall project is articulated in a separate paper submitted to this conference.

This paper will focus on one team goal; to design a system whereby Habitat for Humanity Affiliates across the US could use CEB technology to provide affordable housing that is more resistant to wind damage and more sustainable than those built with conventional technologies. We think that with Habitat's model that generates abundant volunteer labor, we can design a system whereby affiliates can produce homes that meet their requirements for both low initial cost and low life cycle cost while at the same time achieving a high level certification under either LEED for Homes or the National Green Building Standard.

We will articulate our initial strategies for dealing with design, CEB production, and construction using common Habitat methods and schedules, coordination with plumbing and electrical contractors, quality control, maintenance requirements, public perception and building official acceptance. The presentation will include slides and data from our activities as we work on this project. Our team's main goals in presenting this paper at this conference are to update everyone on our results to date and to get feedback from the earth building community to improve our strategies.