

A low-angle photograph of a woman looking up at a circular opening in a mud-brick wall. She is wearing a green jacket and a white headscarf. Her right arm is raised, touching the top of the opening. The wall is made of thick, textured mud bricks. The sky is visible through the opening.

Programme of the International Workshop

Feb 26th - Mar 2nd 2018
E s f a h k - I r a n

Improvising with Earth

Building Vaults without Mould

We are pleased to announce that the first module of Iranian earthen architecture international workshops of “**Esfahk Mud Center**” is going to be held from **February 26th to March 2nd 2018** in the **historic village** of Esfahk, one of several desert-climate villages in **Iran**.

The workshop is scheduled to present Iranian vernacular architecture generally and especially earthen architecture traditional techniques about building vaults. This includes practicing the techniques by building four specific vault types which are **built without any mould with adobe**. Building of the vaults is going to be led by two old skillful masons who have built so many vaults in the village by their own.



پژوهشکده معماری خاک اصفهک
ESFAHK MUD CENTER



Objectives

- To offer hands-on experience building with adobe technique
- To transfer knowledge of traditional adobe technique especially in building vaults
- To give participants a vision about structures with adobe
- To experience local Iranian village lifestyle

Participants

We invite anyone who is interested in earth construction and curious about Iranian vernacular architecture specifically to participate. All skill levels are welcome to participate (e.g. engineers, architects, technicians, supervisors, students, laymen). Architects and students are particularly encouraged to attend. All attendees will be given chance to have active hands-on experience in construction.

Fee

Workshop and the tour: 649 euros

The tour includes transfer from Tehran to Esfahk by flight and car, accommodation for six nights and all six days meals. (Transfer from Tehran to Esfahk will happen a day before the workshop starts.)

We will all stay in renovated local mud houses in shared rooms. Each room is for 3 to maximum 6 persons. Bathrooms and kitchen is shared, as well. You can visit pictures of houses on Esfahk website.

Meals are mostly local dishes and all Iranian cuisine made by locals. We have also some options for vegetarians.

For participants who need to get visa, we will provide you with invitation letters. We can also provide you visa by paying extra fee.

We have also an offer to join another tour to spend an extra week to visit more of Iran.

Why earth?

Earth is the oldest material which has been used in a lot of Iranian architecture master pieces and it is used locally as the main material for a wide range of villages' construction especially in desert climate area.

About "Esfahk Mud Center"

"Esfahk Mud Center" was founded to study Iranian earthen architecture more intensely than before by focusing on vernacular and fading-away techniques which now just remain in the hands of old experienced masons. The center aims also to upgrade and optimize the existing techniques to adapt them for new construction needs. In other words, we started with our unknown wealth of mud and adobe techniques and are going towards new generation of earth construction based on the traditional knowledge. Therefore, we are all on our way in the road of learning!

About “Esfahk Village”

Esfahk is a historical village located 35 km east of Tabas, south Khorasan in Iran. The village was damaged in a terrible earthquake that happened on 15 September 1978. By the death of more than 80 inhabitants in the wake of falling adobe arches and walls it gradually was abandoned. The incidence of severe aftershocks continued for a long time in addition to bitter memories of the loss of family members caused the place to be deserted. Following the reconstruction efforts that began immediately after the earthquake in Tabas, survivors settled in houses in the western part of the historic zone. As time passed and with the construction of the new village, inhabitants moved to new houses which were constructed in a style quite different from vernacular housing patterns. After being abandoned the erosion and destruction process of the historic parts intensified. These damages were mainly recognized in scouring of walls and roofs along with the destruction of arches and domes. The unique landscape of the village, along with all the sweet memories of past time in the village which despite the passage of many years still remains were some of the factors which established the idea of restoration to the historic village. Surveying the village, delimitation of the buildings and zoning of passages were the first actions which were taken with the help of the village administration and some of the young villagers in 2012-2013. Following a visit of Faramarz Parsi (one of the restoration specialists) which took place in early 2014, reconstruction process picked up. As a result, these actions have led into the participation of Esfahk inhabitants in reconstruction process and nowadays restoration works are still in progress in Esfahk. (© Esfahk Website)

In this process, the old building of school which had received a little damage in the earthquake, has been renovated and it now welcomes enthusiasts as a research center for mud and earth architecture.



Registration

Please contact us by email and let us know if you are enthusiastic to accompany us in the workshop. Send us a brief motivation letter and your CV. If you may need any further information, don't hesitate to contact us.




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The image shows a workshop or construction site. On the left is a large, textured wall made of mud or clay. To the right, there is a large stack of rectangular bricks, arranged in a staggered pattern. The ground is sandy and uneven. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The text "Workshop Schedule ►" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Workshop Schedule ►

Day 1 - Feb 26th

7:30-8:30	breakfast
9:00-11:00	A stroll over the village and visiting different kind of adobe constructions
11:00-11:15	break
11:15-12:15	seminar
12:30-13:30	lunch
14:30-15:45	building walls with adobe (for the base of vaults)
15:45-16:00	break
16:00-17:00	building walls with adobe
17:00-17:30	accessories clean-up
17:00-19:00	time for taking shower (bathrooms are limited, they have to be used in turn)
19:00-20:00	seminar*
20:30-21:30	dinner
21:30- ?	Having fun**!

Day 2 - Feb 27th

7:30-8:30	breakfast
9:00-10:45	building walls
10:45-11:00	break
11:00-12:15	finalize building walls
12:30-13:30	lunch
14:30-15:45	starting to building vaults
15:45-16:00	break
16:00-17:00	building vaults
17:00-17:30	accessories clean-up
17:00-19:00	time for taking shower
19:00-20:00	seminar
20:30-21:30	dinner
21:30- ?	Having fun!

Day 3 - Feb 28th

7:30-8:30	breakfast
9:00-10:45	building vaults
10:45-11:00	break
11:00-12:15	building vaults
12:30-13:30	lunch
14:30-15:45	building vaults
15:45-16:00	break
16:00-17:00	building vaults
17:00-17:30	accessories clean-up
17:00-19:00	time for taking shower
19:00-20:00	seminar
20:30-21:30	dinner
21:30- ?	Having fun!

Day 4 - Mar 1st

7:30-8:30	breakfast
9:00-10:45	building vaults
10:45-11:00	break
11:00-12:15	finalize building vaults
12:30-13:30	lunch
14:30-15:45	destroying vaults
15:45-16:00	break
16:00-16:30	discussion about conclusions
16:30-17:30	Clean-up
17:00-19:00	time for taking shower
19:00-20:00	seminar
20:30-21:30	dinner
21:30- ?	Having fun!

Day 5 - Mar 2nd

excursion to a nearby desert or village

*We have still three open spaces for seminars. **We welcome your proposals** for a lecture on relevant topic to share with us your previous experiences in vernacular partnership in any area of the world.
**We have some plans for nights, like observing stars in the observatory or having live music while sitting around bonfire, etc. However, plans are open and anyone who prefers not to join is free.



We look forward to hearing from you!
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