

WOODLESS CONSTRUCTION

Woodless construction using unstabilised earth brick vaults and domes was introduced in 1980 by Development Workshop in Niger, mainly as an alternative to using timber and branches in the building in the villages of the Sahel, Africa. Since then a number of buildings have been built in some countries.

The techniques use earth and sundries' Mud brick is made without a press and without additives, using a wooden or metal mould. The unstabilized bricks are affordable and easy to produce and with care in construction and detailing, coupled with attention to maintenance of the traditional earth renders, the resulting building have proved themselves durable and show the unstabilised earth structures to be strong and resistant.

*John Norton,
Development Workshop*



A Dome being built in Mali as woodless construction

HOUSING

A coalition of Housing finance Institutions has been established in Asia with Government Housing Bank, Thailand, Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd., India, Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, Korea and National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, Philippines. The coalition is extending activities in China, Vietnam and Mongolia. Its two major areas are (a) creating a methodology for limit between the formal and informal sector (b) Developing an Action Research Programme for project formulation for effective delivery and finance of low income shelter projects.

MAIN STREET, USA

The Main Street project of the National Trust for Historic preservation has become one of the most successful national redevelopment programmes. Its objective is to develop a comprehensive revitalization strategy that would stimulate economic development in this context of historic preservation. It is now working in hundreds of cities and towns of all sizes. Its success is tailored to local needs and opportunities in four broad areas :

- (1) Design.
- (2) Organization
- (3) Promotion
- (4) Economic Restructuring.

The National Main Street Centre, Washington D.C. leads as the nation's clearing house for information, technical advice, research and advocacy on preservation based commercial revitalization activity.

SURVEY OF ARCHITECTURAL VALUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT (SAVE)

The Danish method for mapping and registration of towns and buildings was developed by the Danish Ministry of the Environment during the past three years. The objective was to produce a quick and resource-saving method which within a fixed period could :

- map the architectural qualities of the towns' historical structures.

- provide a simple architectural evaluation of the individual buildings which are part of the structure.

The idea behind the mapping of the urban relationships and registration of the individual buildings, is to provide a simple complete picture of the architectural qualities which are a distinctive characteristic of the locality.

Interplan, Copenhagen

