



Photo courtesy of Martin Hammer

& Builders Without Borders For the last 10 years Ecological Building Network (EBNet) has been developing and publishing earthen building standards to help create affordable, appropriate, earthquake-safe housing. These earthen homes can be built as part of a planned community, or in response to natural disasters. In either case, earthen homes use readily available materials and local labor to build safe housing quickly and cheaply. Now EBNet has been asked to adapt those standards for safe housing in Haiti, before the rainy season.

### **Haiti Relief Fast Facts:**

- The Haiti earthquake killed 200,000 and left even more homeless
- Haitians have preferred to build with concrete, but the concrete they make is of poor quality and fails easily
- Haitians have easy access to concrete rubble and native bamboos in the riverbeds, materials ideally suited to building earthen structures to high standards
- EBNet has been asked to show the Haitians how to build new buildings using the plentiful rubble and bamboo, using the EBNet earthen standard as a baseline
- Our goal: to work with local engineers, NGO's and Haitian government to share the standards and get safe housing built quickly and safely
- EBNet was selected as a finalist in the [Haitian Government's 'Building Back Better Communities'](#) competition, and has already begun laying the groundwork for building model schools and homes

### **Now is the time to help**

The next step, now that the BBBC program seems to be going forward, is for us to work together with a number of partner NGO's, including Architects Without Borders and Kleiwerks. In addition, we are collaborating with Green Microfinance Global, Ltd.<sup>TM</sup> on housing and schools with the Peasants Association of Fondwa, Haiti.

