

**Building Affordable, Durable and Desirable Earthen Houses  
Construction with Materials Derived from Locally Available Natural and Biological  
Resources**

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# Propositions

accompanying the dissertation

## Building Affordable, Durable And Desirable Earthen Houses

Construction with materials derived from locally available natural and biological resources

by

Yask KULSHRESHTHA

1. The major difference between a biological stabiliser and a chemical stabiliser is that the latter has a bad reputation (this thesis).
2. People who think building with earth is not suitable for Netherlands due to lack of historical usage, should avoid consuming coffee.
3. Mixing cow-dung with soil is a win-win situation – the water resistance is improved and the pungent smell is gone (this thesis).
4. When life gives you mud, compress it!
5. When productivity is low, consider using fun social activities with supervisors (like lunch dates at fancy cafes) as a reward system for meeting deadlines.
6. Publishing an academic article should not cost you half your annual salary.
7. Low societal image is the main barrier towards widespread acceptance of earth houses in India (this thesis).
8. We are all unintentionally part of a future Netflix documentary on “How academic publication practices in the 21<sup>st</sup> century killed the spirit of research”.
9. “It is important to draw wisdom from many different places. If we take it from one place, it becomes rigid and stale” – Iroh, Avatar the Last Airbender (S2 E9).
10. Communication of scientific research through YouTube has more impact (especially for earthen construction) than publishing scientific articles (this thesis).
11. Judging the performance of earthen houses based on lab tests, is like judging a marathon runner based on their 100m race speed.

These propositions are regarded as opposable and defensible, and have been approved as such by the promoters Prof. dr. H.M. Jonkers and Dr. P.J. Vardon, and co-promoter Dr. N.J. Amorim Mota.