

# ULTIMATE 400 SQ FT HOME FORTRESS

• FOR ONLY \$4000 •





# **Ultimate 400 sq ft Home Fortress**

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# Building Supplies List

As designed, this fortress is 408 square feet, divided in different areas: dining + living

+ kitchen – 205 sq. ft., bedroom – 130 sq. ft., and bathroom – 73 sq. ft.

The fortress will include three connected domes as follows:

- The bigger dome will be 17' 88" tall and its inner diameter will be 18' 5".
- The second dome will be 15' 10" high, and will be connected to the bigger dome through a hallway 9' 20" high.
- The third dome will be 12' 20" high, and will be connected to the bigger dome through a hallway 9' 20" high.

You'll find below a supply list along with some links and current prices so that you can get what you need. Adapt this list according to any modifications in size or amenities that you make.

## REQUIRED BUILDING MATERIALS

- 1100 standard polypropylene bags (15" x 27") - price: \$0.30 per empty bag (\$300 for 1000 pieces), or \$3.50 per piece for filled bags ([www.nmdirtbags.com](http://www.nmdirtbags.com))
- Material for filling the bags if you buy them empty (each bag could be filled with 50 kg of composite - earth, sand or gravel ([www.nmdirtbags.com](http://www.nmdirtbags.com)))
- Pressure-treated lumber (2x4) - pieces of 2" x 4" x 16' - current price per piece: \$7.5-\$8 ([www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com))
- Pressure-treated lumber (2x6) - 2-3 pieces of 2" x 6" x 8' boards for the door frame - current price per piece: \$12 ([www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com))
- Barbed wire - approximately 3500" (2 ½ packs of 1320") – current overall price: \$170 ([www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com))
- Plastering to cover 2600 sq ft. of walls

- Round skylight windows of 12.5" diameter – current price: \$22 each ([www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com))
- One wooden door – 8.5' height – current price: starting from \$100
- Door frame anchors – current price: \$0.04 – \$0.08 each ([www.alibaba.com](http://www.alibaba.com)) Or you may use pieces of wood with threaded rod screwed into them)
- Stainless steel insulated stove pipe (to use as vent) – price: \$35 each (<http://www.longbottomandhardsaw.com>)
- Silicone sealant – price: \$4 ([www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com))
- Ball of string – 190' length roll – current price: \$5 ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

Most of these materials, with the exception of the bags, are fairly easy to find used (check sites such as [freecycle.com](http://freecycle.com) and [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org)) so you could significantly reduce your cost to build your fortress if you go that route.

In theory, if you find and repurpose the building materials for free and dig your own composite material to fill the bags, you could build this fortress, exactly as designed, for about \$350. The cost will raise up to \$4000 if you'll buy all building materials that you need.

## REQUIRED TOOLS

- Tape line
- Water Level
- Tamper
- Metal plate
- Plastering tools



# ANNEX

Print and use the following plans and figures in order to build your 300 ft earth bag house.

The following plans relate to:

**Plan 1 – Front view**

**Plan 2 – Front view plan**

**Plan 3 – Back view**

**Plan 4 – Back view plan Plan**

**5 – View from above**

**Plan 6 – Ground floor plan**

**Plan 7 – Side view 1**

**Plan 8 – Side view 1 plan**

**Plan 9 – Side view 2**

**Plan 10 –Side view 2 plan**

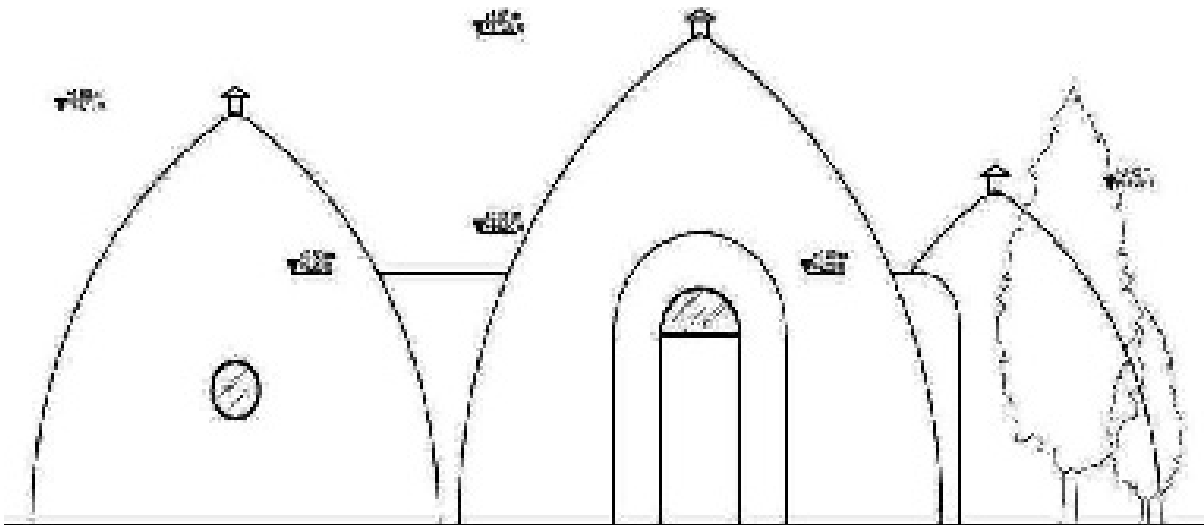
Also, print and use the pictures with brief Step-by-step instructions in order to see the basic techniques that you need to follow when building your house.

Keep in mind to apply these techniques depicted in Step-by-step instructions to the exact measures of the dome that you are actually building.

## Plan 1 - FRONT VIEW



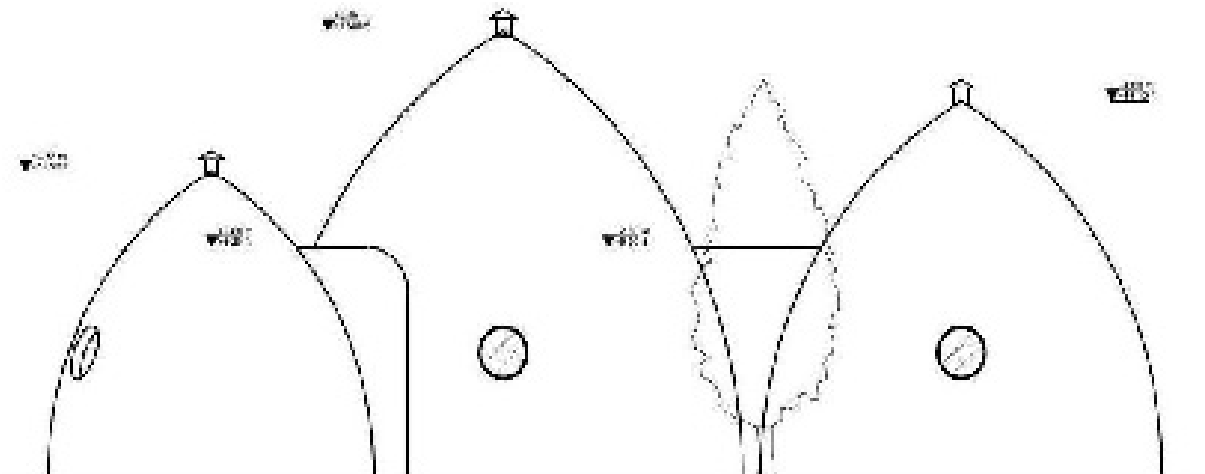
## Plan 2 - FRONT VIEW PLAN



### Plan 3 - BACK VIEW



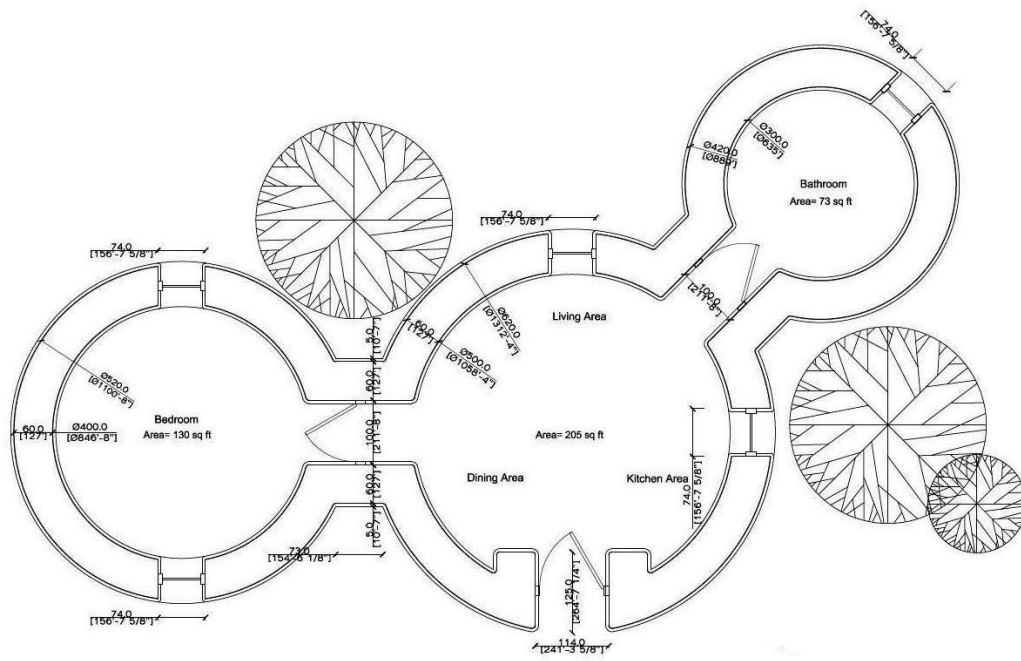
### Plan 4 - BACK VIEW PLAN



### Plan 5 – VIEW FROM ABOVE



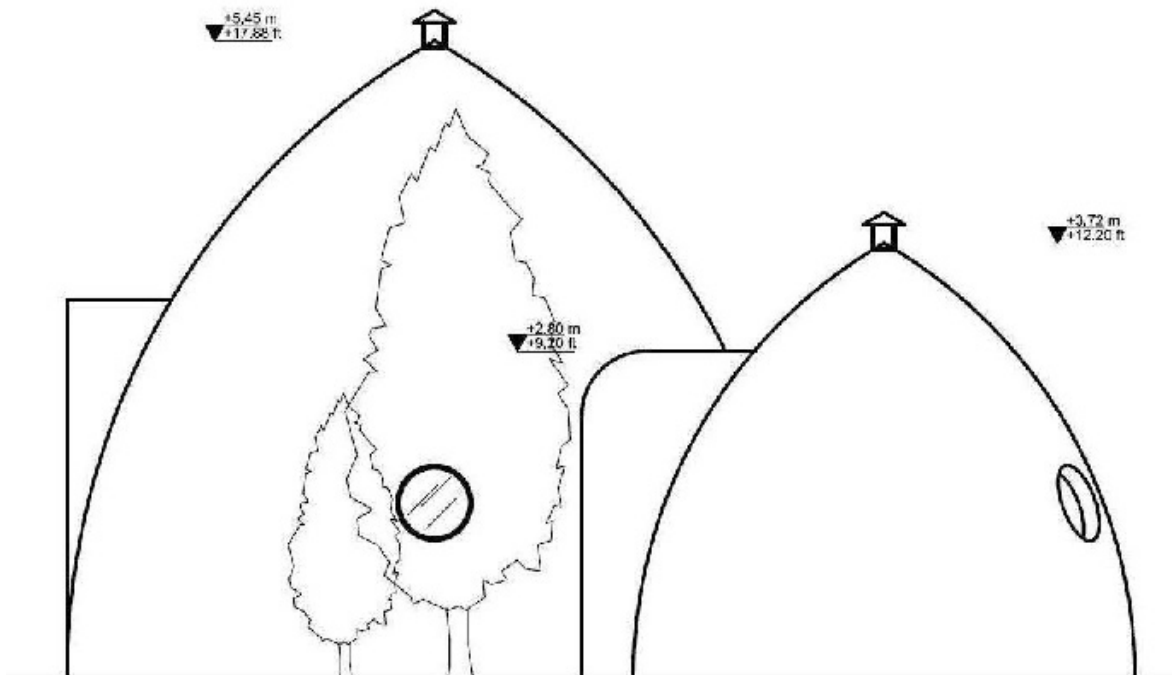
### Plan 6 – GROUND FLOOR PLAN



## Plan 7 – SIDE VIEW 1



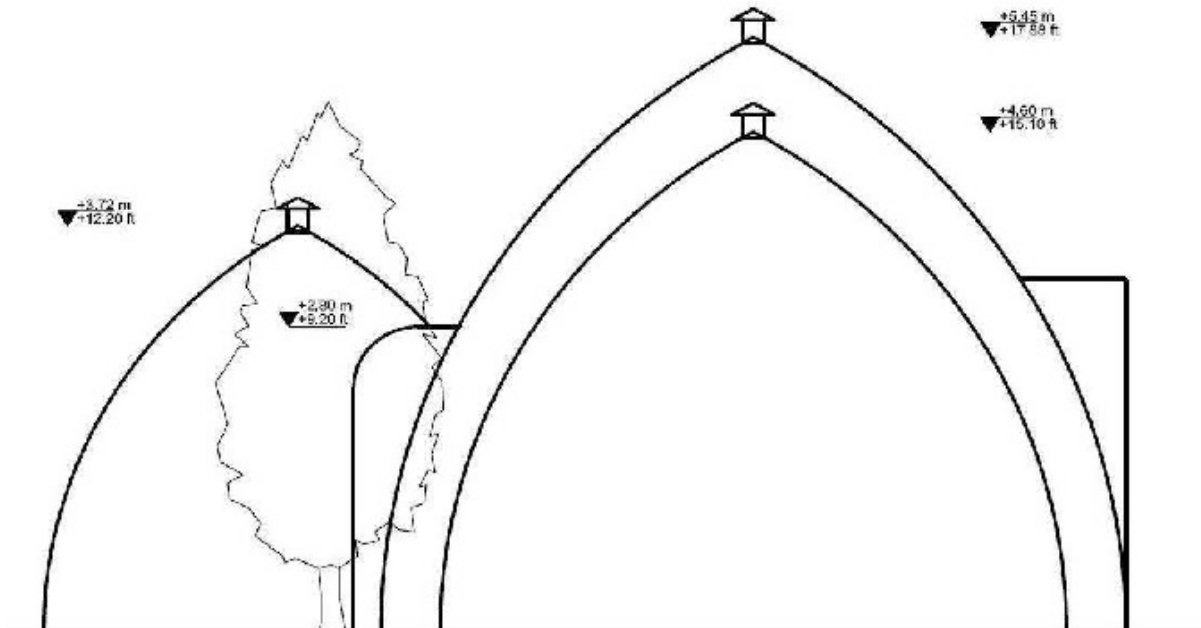
## Plan 8 – SIDE VIEW PLAN 1



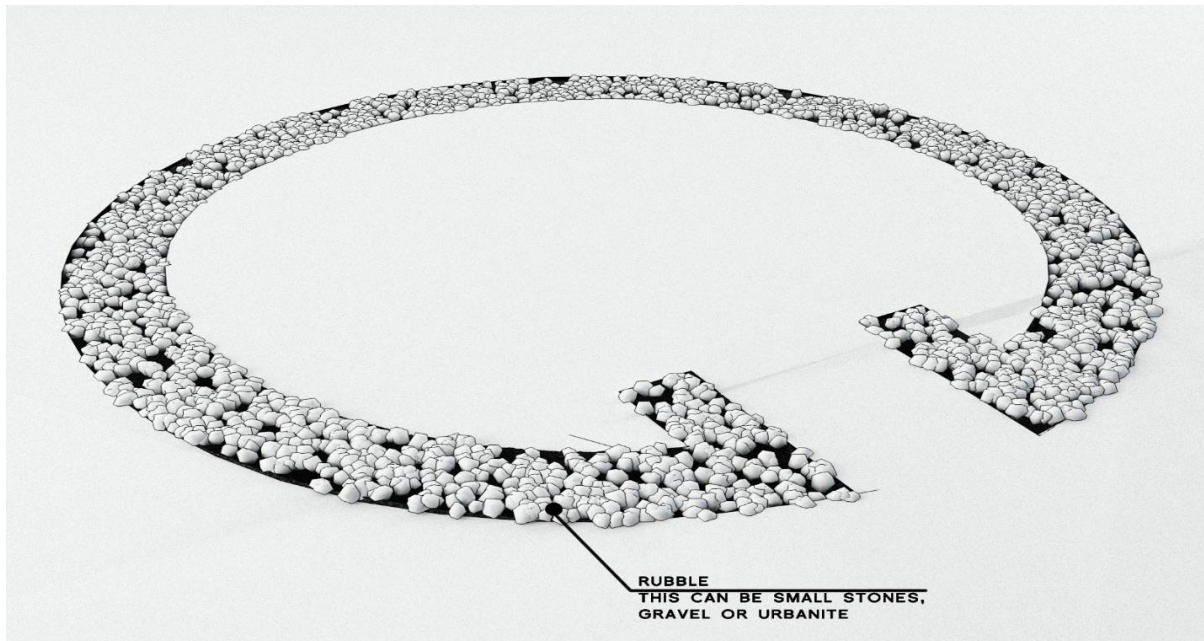
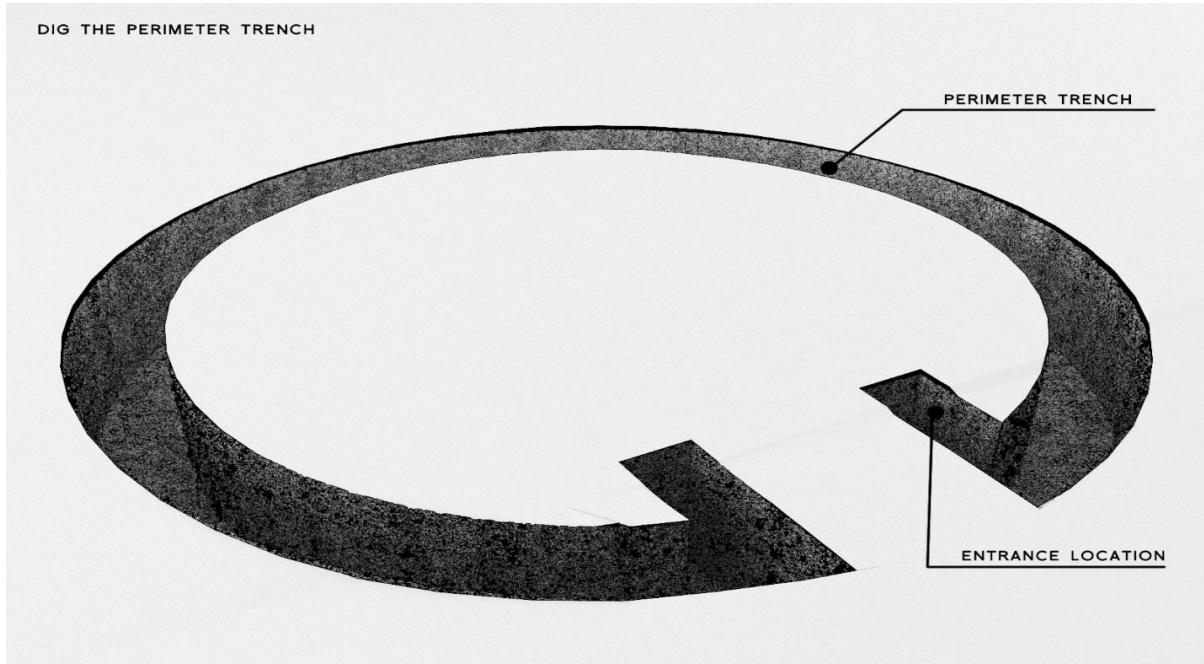
## Plan 9 - SIDE VIEW 2



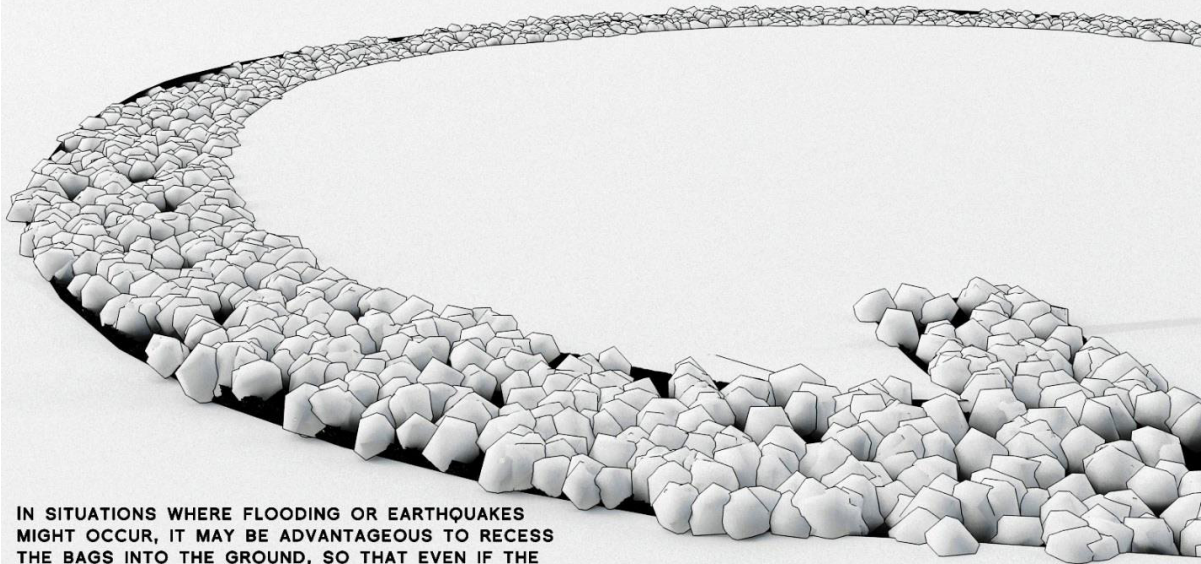
## Plan 10 – SIDE VIEW 2 PLAN



## STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

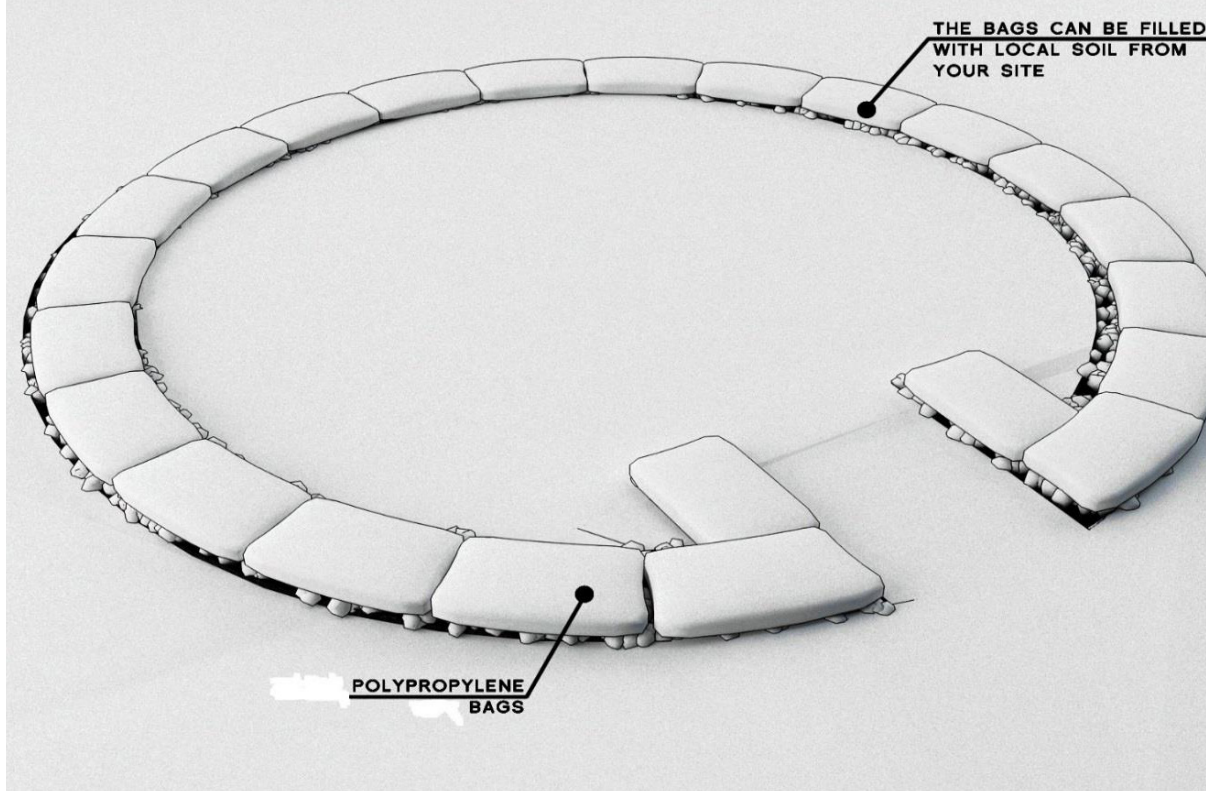


**FILL THE TRENCH WITH COBBLES**



IN SITUATIONS WHERE FLOODING OR EARTHQUAKES MIGHT OCCUR, IT MAY BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO RECESS THE BAGS INTO THE GROUND, SO THAT EVEN IF THE SOIL SURROUNDING THE DOME IS UNDERMINED, THE DOME ITSELF WOULD LIKELY NOT BE AFFECTED.

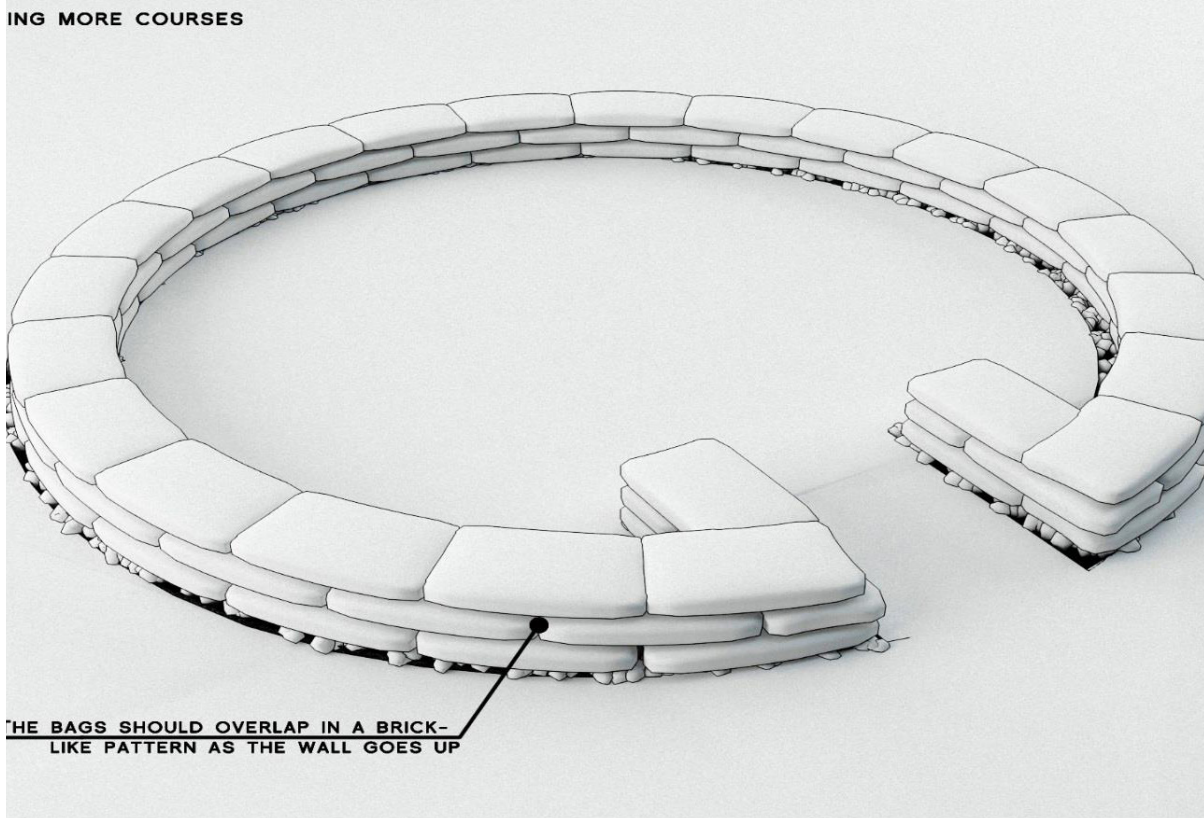
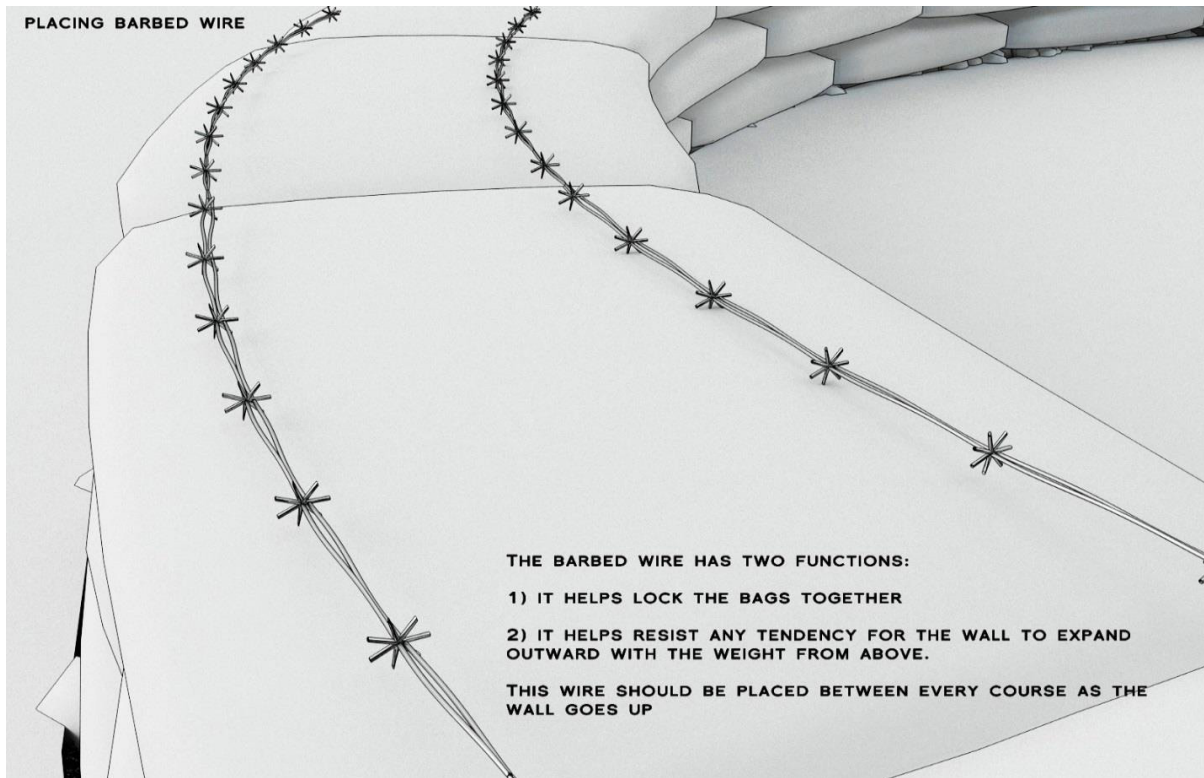
**LAYING THE BAGS**



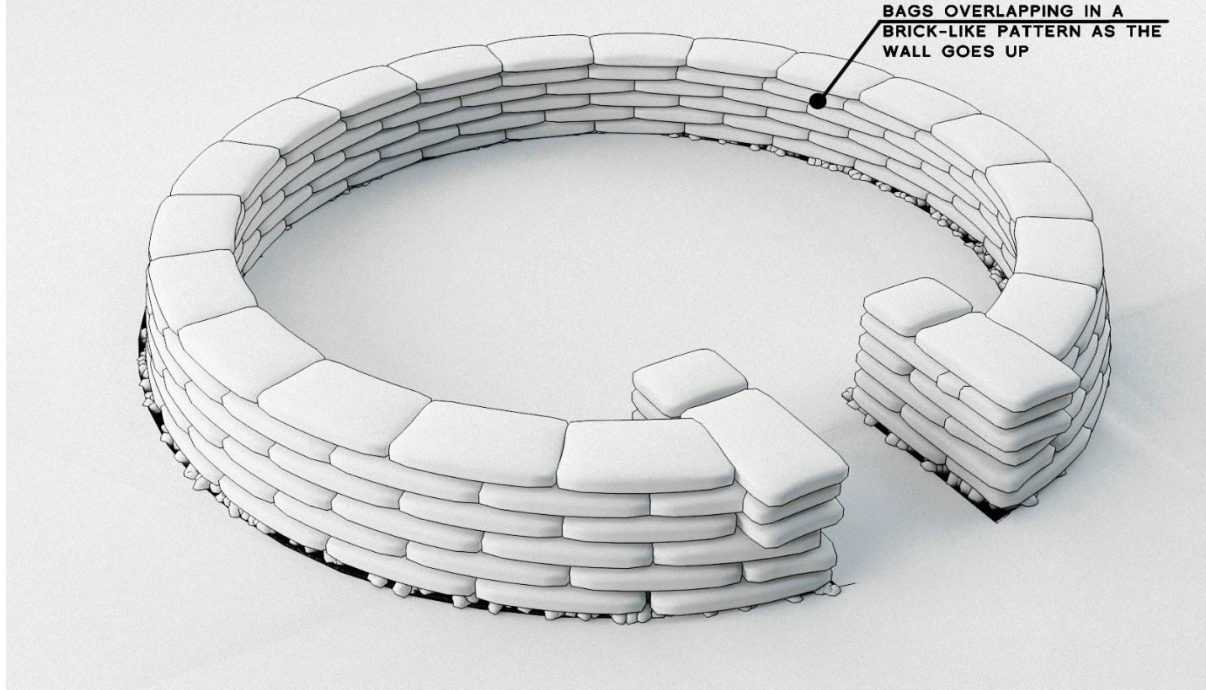
THE BAGS CAN BE FILLED WITH LOCAL SOIL FROM YOUR SITE

POLYPROPYLENE BAGS

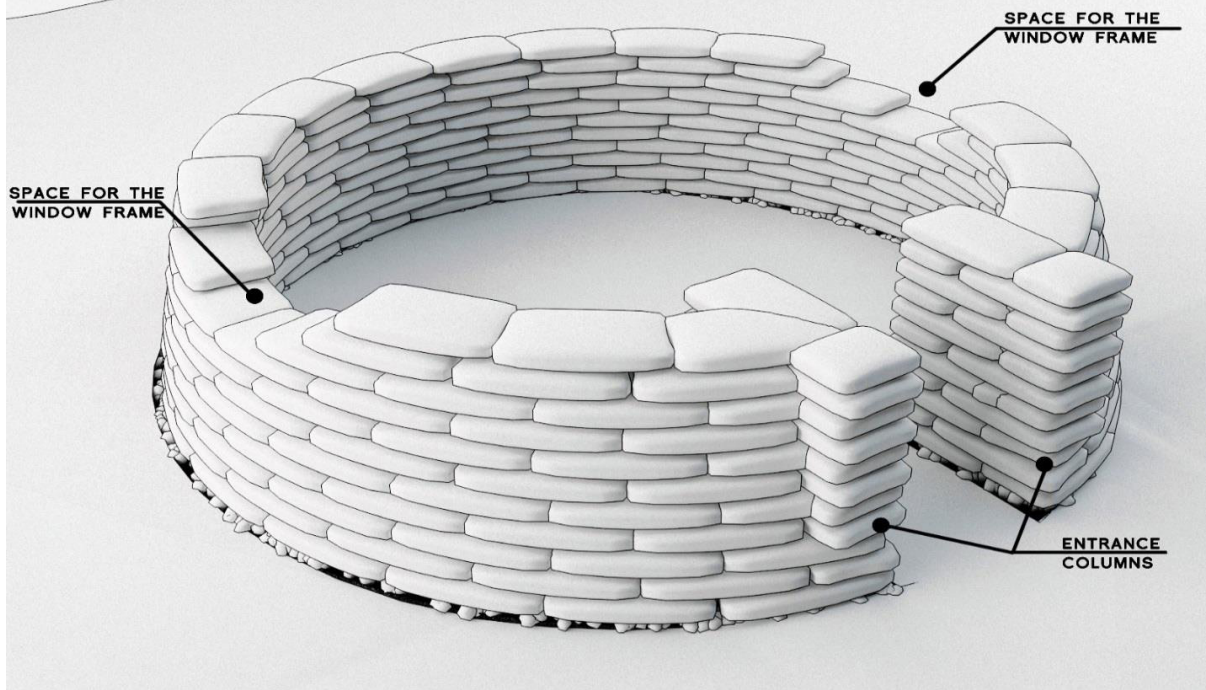


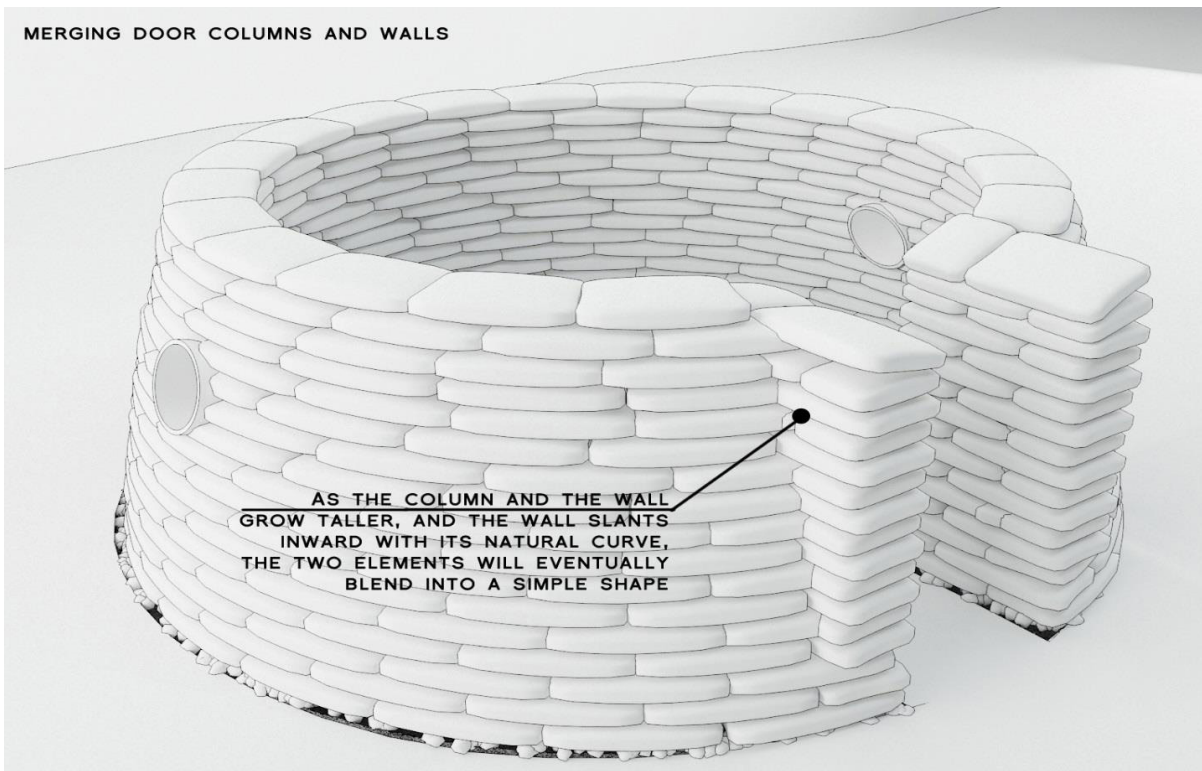
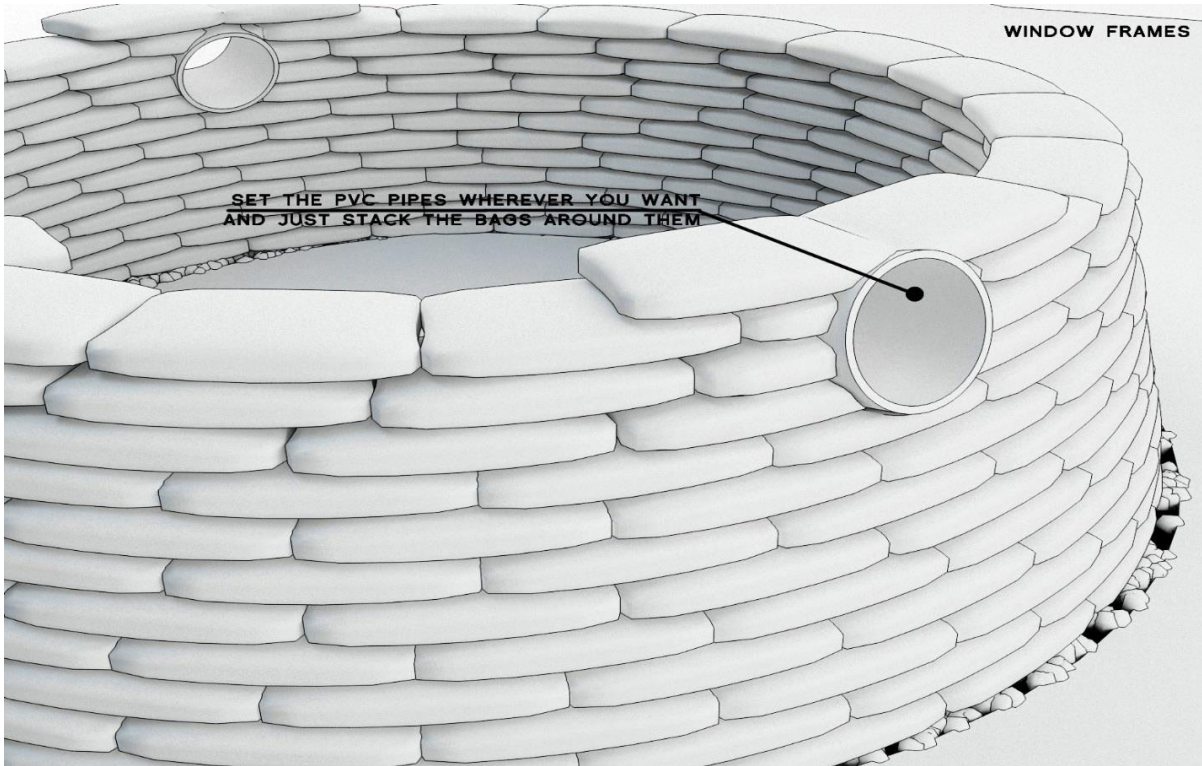


**ADDING MORE COURSES**



**DOOR AND WINDOWS POSITIONS**





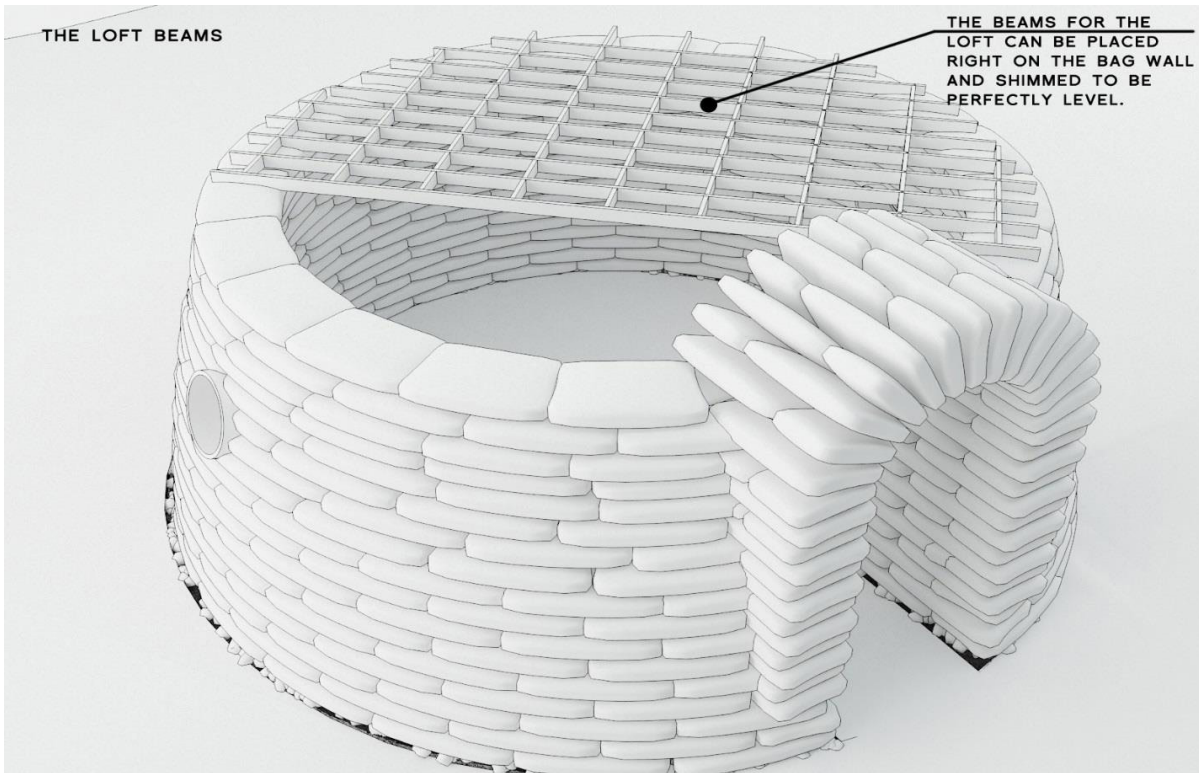
### THE ARCH FORM

THE FORM FOR THE ARCH WAS MADE WITH TWO PIECES OF PLYWOOD CUT TO THE RIGHT SHAPE. THE FORM CAN BE USED OVER AND OVER FOR ANY ARCH OF THIS SIZE. THE BAGS ARE PLACED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY RADIATE OUTWARD, AND SHOULD BE TAMPED INTO PLACE.



### THE LOFT BEAMS

THE BEAMS FOR THE LOFT CAN BE PLACED RIGHT ON THE BAG WALL AND SHIMMED TO BE PERFECTLY LEVEL.

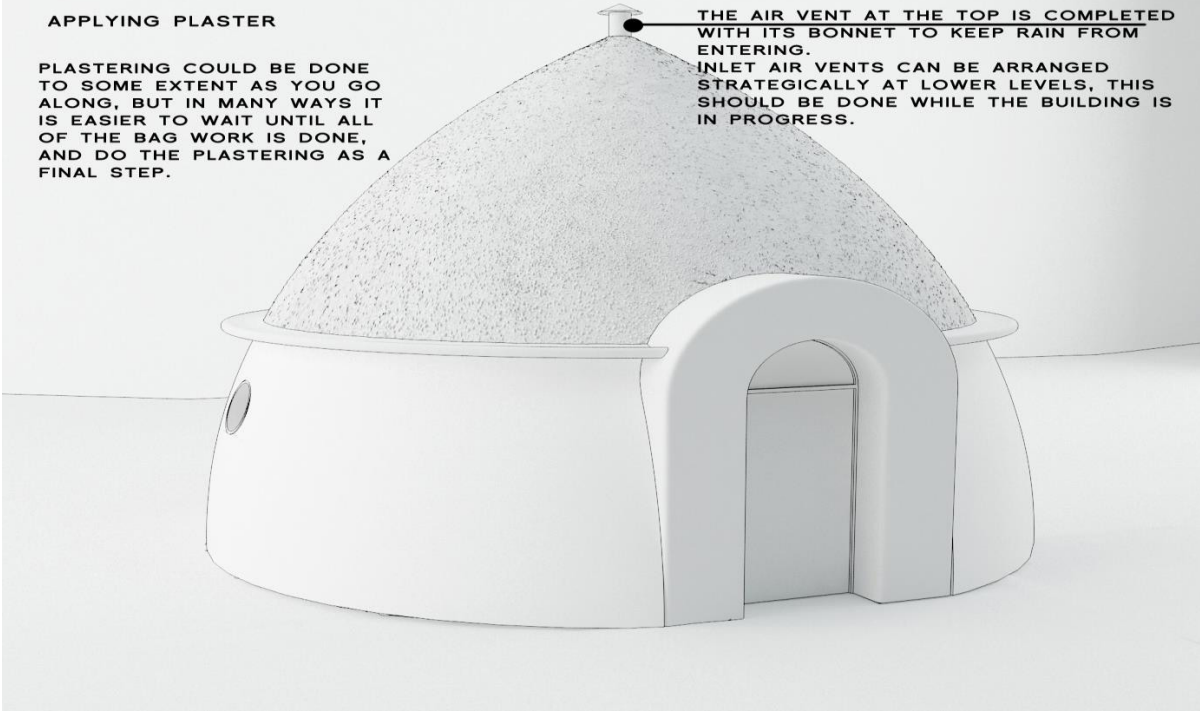


#### APPLYING PLASTER

PLASTERING COULD BE DONE TO SOME EXTENT AS YOU GO ALONG, BUT IN MANY WAYS IT IS EASIER TO WAIT UNTIL ALL OF THE BAG WORK IS DONE, AND DO THE PLASTERING AS A FINAL STEP.

THE AIR VENT AT THE TOP IS COMPLETED WITH ITS BONNET TO KEEP RAIN FROM ENTERING.

INLET AIR VENTS CAN BE ARRANGED STRATEGICALLY AT LOWER LEVELS, THIS SHOULD BE DONE WHILE THE BUILDING IS IN PROGRESS.



#### FINISHING THE FIRST PLASTER COAT

PLASTERING IS AN ACTIVITY WHERE HELP IS ALWAYS WELCOME. IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH EXPERIENCE TO BE ABLE TO DO IT.

