

World Housing Encyclopedia

A Resource on Construction in Earthquake Regions



an initiative of
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and
International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE)

HOUSING REPORT **Unconfined masonry**

Report#	197
Last Updated	01/26/2016
Country	Cuba
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Important

This encyclopedia contains information contributed by various earthquake engineering professionals around the world. All opinions, findings, conclusions & recommendations

expressed herein are those of the various participants, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, the Engineering Information Foundation, John A, Martin & Associates, Inc. or the participant's organizations.

General Information

Building Type:	Unconfined masonry
Country:	Cuba
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Last Updated:	01/26/2016
Regions Where Found:	Santiago de Cuba
Summary:	Unreinforced fired brick masonry, cement mortar (timber flooring, timber or steel beams and columns, tie courses (bricks aligned perpendicular to the plane of the wall))
Length of time practiced:	76-100 years
Still Practiced:	Yes
In practice as of:	Mainly before 1985/1990
Building Occupancy:	Single dwelling
Typical number of stories:	1-2
Terrain-Flat:	
Terrain-Sloped:	
Comments:	

Features

Plan Shape	Rectangular, solidL-shapeH-shapeU- or C-shape
Additional comments on	

plan shape	
Typical plan length (meters)	
Typical plan width (meters)	
Typical story height (meters)	
Type of Structural System	Masonry: Unreinforced Masonry Walls: Brick masonry in mud/lime mortar
Additional comments on structural system	Gravity: Unreinforced masonry walls; the loads from the roof are transferred to the walls and to the foundations; there is generally no proper connection between the walls; no reinforcement or bands are used Lateral: Unreinforced masonry walls; the walls have a very low resistance to out-of-plane forces; in most cases, there is no proper connection between the roof and the walls
Gravity load-bearing & lateral load-resisting systems	
Typical wall densities in direction 1	>20%
Typical wall densities in direction 2	>20%
Additional comments on typical wall densities	
Wall Openings	
Is it typical for buildings of this type to have common walls with adjacent buildings?	
Modifications of buildings	
Type of Foundation	Shallow Foundation: Rubble stone, fieldstone strip footing
Additional comments on foundation	
Type of Floor System	Other floor system
Additional comments on floor system	Wood planks or beams that support clay or zinc tiles

Type of Roof System	Wooden structure with light roof covering
Additional comments on roof system	Wood planks or beams that support clay or zinc tiles
Additional comments section 2	



Building Materials and Construction Process

Description of Building Materials

Structural Element	Building Material (s)	Comment (s)
Wall/Frame		
Foundations		
Floors		
Roof		
Other		

Design Process

Who is involved with the design process?	Owner
Roles of those involved in the design process	
Expertise of those involved in the design	

process

Construction Process

Who typically builds this construction type?

Other

Roles of those involved in the building process

Expertise of those involved in building process

Construction process and phasing

Construction issues

Building Codes and Standards

Is this construction type address by codes/standards?

No

Applicable codes or standards

Process for building code enforcement

Building Permits and Development Control Rules

Are building permits required?

Is this typically informal construction?

Is this construction typically authorized as per development control rules?

Additional comments on building permits and development control rules

Building Maintenance and Condition

Typical problems

associated with this type of construction	
Who typically maintains buildings of this type?	Other
Additional comments on maintenance and building condition	

Construction Economics

Unit construction cost	60 CUC/m2
Labor requirements	
Additional comments section 3	

Socio-Economic Issues

Patterns of occupancy	
Number of inhabitants in a typical building of this construction type during the day	<5
Number of inhabitants in a typical building of this construction type during the evening/night	5-10
Additional comments on number of inhabitants	
Economic level of inhabitants	Low-income class (poor)
Additional comments on economic level of inhabitants	Low
Typical Source of Financing	Other
Additional comments on financing	
Type of Ownership	Other
Additional comments on	

ownership

Is earthquake insurance for this construction type typically available?

No

What does earthquake insurance typically cover/cost

Are premium discounts or higher coverages available for seismically strengthened buildings or new buildings built to incorporate seismically resistant features?

Additional comments on premium discounts

Additional comments section 4

Earthquakes

Past Earthquakes in the country which affected buildings of this type

Year	Earthquake Epicenter

Past Earthquakes

Damage patterns observed in past earthquakes for this construction type

Some damage was observed during moderate earthquake; main damage patterns consisted of long cracks in the walls.

Additional comments on earthquake damage patterns

Structural and Architectural Features for Seismic Resistance

The main reference publication used in developing the statements used in this table is FEMA 310 “Handbook for the Seismic Evaluation of Buildings-A Pre-standard”, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C., 1998.

The total width of door and window openings in a wall is: For brick masonry construction in cement mortar : less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the distance between the adjacent cross walls; For adobe masonry, stone masonry and brick masonry in mud mortar: less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the distance between the adjacent cross walls; For precast concrete wall structures: less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of a perimeter wall.

Structural/Architectural Feature	Statement	Seismic Resistance
Lateral load path	The structure contains a complete load path for seismic force effects from any horizontal direction that serves to transfer inertial forces from the building to the foundation.	
Building Configuration-Vertical	The building is regular with regards to the elevation. (Specify in 5.4.1)	
Building Configuration-Horizontal	The building is regular with regards to the plan. (Specify in 5.4.2)	
Roof Construction	The roof diaphragm is considered to be rigid and it is expected that the roof structure will maintain its integrity, i.e. shape and form, during an earthquake of intensity expected in this area.	
Floor Construction	The floor diaphragm(s) are considered to be rigid and it is expected that the floor structure(s) will maintain its integrity during an earthquake of intensity expected in this area.	
Foundation Performance	There is no evidence of excessive foundation movement (e.g. settlement) that would affect the integrity or	

performance of the structure in an earthquake.

Wall and Frame Structures-Redundancy	The number of lines of walls or frames in each principal direction is greater than or equal to 2.	
Wall Proportions	Height-to-thickness ratio of the shear walls at each floor level is: Less than 25 (concrete walls); Less than 30 (reinforced masonry walls); Less than 13 (unreinforced masonry walls);	
Foundation-Wall Connection	Vertical load-bearing elements (columns, walls) are attached to the foundations; concrete columns and walls are doveled into the foundation.	
Wall-Roof Connections	Exterior walls are anchored for out-of-plane seismic effects at each diaphragm level with metal anchors or straps.	
Wall Openings		
Quality of Building Materials	Quality of building materials is considered to be adequate per the requirements of national codes and standards (an estimate).	
Quality of Workmanship	Quality of workmanship (based on visual inspection of a few typical buildings) is considered to be good (per local construction standards).	
Maintenance	Buildings of this type are generally well maintained and there are no visible signs of	

deterioration of building elements (concrete, steel, timber).

Building Irregularities

Additional comments on structural and architectural features for seismic resistance	
Vertical irregularities typically found in this construction type	Other
Horizontal irregularities typically found in this construction type	Other
Seismic deficiency in walls	Exterior walls are not anchored for out-of-plane seismic effects at each diaphragm level with metal anchors or straps. The total width of door and windows openings in walls is more than half of the distance between the adjacent cross walls; the roof diaphragm is not considered to be rigid and it is not expected that the roof structure will maintain its integrity.
Earthquake-resilient features in walls	
Seismic deficiency in frames	
Earthquake-resilient features in frame	
Seismic deficiency in roof and floors	
Earthquake resilient features in roof and floors	
Seismic deficiency in foundation	Vertical load-bearing walls are not attached to the foundations.
Earthquake-resilient features in foundation	

Seismic Vulnerability Rating

For information about how seismic vulnerability ratings were selected see the [Seismic](#)

[Vulnerability Guidelines](#)

	High vulnerability		Medium vulnerability		Low vulnerability	
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Seismic vulnerability class		-				

Retrofit Information

Description of Seismic Strengthening Provisions

Structural Deficiency	Seismic Strengthening

Additional comments on seismic strengthening provisions

Has seismic strengthening described in the above table been performed?

Was the work done as a mitigation effort on an undamaged building or as a repair following earthquake damages?

Was the construction inspected in the same manner as new construction?

Who performed the construction: a contractor or owner/user? Was an architect or engineer involved?

What has been the performance of retrofitted buildings of this type in subsequent earthquakes?

Additional comments

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