

The rain water, the ground water or the humidity are destructive for the raw bricks. For this reason a waterproofing mortar is one of the best means to make the earthen buildings more durable.

The wooden beams which are put for strengthening the walls of earthen buildings are vulnerable to microorganisms, worms and insects.



FIG. 15

Humidity and ground water is coming from the body of the foundation. The uncovered raw bricks loose their strength. The wooden beams of the lintel and roof have been moth-eaten.

It is interesting to notice here that many earthen buildings collapsed slowly. The remaining parts did not move one in relation to the other, which means that during the collapse of the building there was no shock or any high acceleration of the particular parts. Some observers say that the buildings sat slowly on the ground.



FIG. 16

Collapsed two - storied earthen building

B i b l i o g r a p h y

- 1) Choremis, A. and A.Choremis - Spetsieris, (1981): Personal communication.
- 2) Orlandos, A., (1955): " The Ancient Greek Architecture. Part A, The Structural Materials by Ancient Greeks", p. 154.
- 3) Papaioannou, J., (1975): "The Residence in Greece, Governmental Activities", edited by the Technical Chamber of Greece.
- 4) Schefold, K., (1930): "Propyläen Kunst Geschichte".
- 5) Smith, W. and S.Tsivanopoulos, (1890): "Dictionary of the Greek and Roman antiquities", edited by E.Kofiniotis, p.1072.