



LearnBIØN

Design and Build with Compressed Earth Blocks

BIØN – Building Impact Zero Network is a group of partners active in low environmental impact building techniques with positive social impact. Our aim is to share knowledge, practices and experiences in order to contribute to built environments and our communities.

The Learn BIØN project aims at building and sharing knowledge across borders and involves 7 partners from 5 European countries. As part of this network and as its coordinator, Oficinas do Convento – Culture, Art and Communication (OC) will organize the first workshop of this 3-year project.

More info at: www.bi0n.eu or www.oficinasdoconvento.com

_ what?

Design and Build with Compressed Earth Blocks (CEB) in a real context, prototyping 1:1 for the local community in a public space. Right now, several proposals are being analysed to fit the needs of Montemor-o-Novo citizens. Until the end of January the program will be defined and fixed.

Why CEB? CEB reply contemporary needs and standards. These are regular shaped prefabricated bricks which behave as a regular fired brick in a building site context but with all the advantages of raw earth material. The workshop will be a four-week training. A balance between theory and practice will approach in detail the material and the masonry techniques to build with CEB. The most important topics covered by this training are: CEB production chain, from mater to brick; Building with CEB - its principles, types of masonry, types of mortar; CEB structures and details, arches, vaults and domes; CEB finishings, types of coating, maintenance.

_ who?

OC is a non-profit NGO for Development and UNESCO Center based in Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal, since 1996. It develops artistic activity intertwining Visual, Sound Arts, Design, Heritage, through artistic promotion, training,

production and dissemination.

The OC team is transdisciplinary: designers, architects, artists, artisans, project managers and engineers work in dialog with master builders and local community. OC has experience in research and training in different materials and techniques, from fired earth (handmade brick, tiles) to raw earth (CEB production, rammed earth, adobe) building a bridge between the vernacular and the contemporary.

_ where?

Montemor-o-Novo (MoN) is a Portuguese small town in Alentejo, a low developed region, with an increasingly aged population and low density. It is located in the axe connecting Lisbon (1h30m), Évora (30min) and Badajoz, Spain (2h30m).

The town is rich in associations and cooperatives that develop cultural and social activities, which translates in a rich calendar of opportunities. The landscape is at the same time exquisite and quaint marked by a castle, several convents, lime washed traditional houses mainly in rammed earth, olive and cork trees. You will find the basic main facilities of a small town. MoN has a young night life during the weekends and holidays, including music shows, theater and marionettes, as well as art festivals all year long. Low development and investment on the region

has resulted in high unemployment rate, especially for the young population, which translates into the arising of local NEET (young person not in education, employment, or training).

As OC believes in Local Action, it aims to engage the local population around the city and nearby villages.

_ when?

The workshop will take place from April 20 until May 20, 2017.

Working days are from Monday to Friday. During the weekends there is a parallel program of lectures and field trips.

The program is divided in 4 weeks of 40 working hours each:

Week #1: CEB production chain, from mater to brick;

Week #2: Building with CEB, principles, foundations, types of masonry, types of mortar; Week #3: CEB structures and details, arches, vaults and domes; Week #4: CEB finishings, types of coating, maintenance.

Even though the program has a theoretical framework, the major focus is a hands-on approach to CEB building practices.

_ food and accomodation

There is a communal kitchen where you can cook your own meals.

Lunch is included in the participation fee and will be held at Cantina do Mambo, a community kitchen project at Oficinas do Convento. The meals are vegetarian, mainly organic and from local produced ingredients.

Breakfast and dinner, however, are not included. As soon as we have the final participants list, we will devise different solutions to help you get better organized.

There are several restaurants and canteens in town. Breakfast costs around 2-5€; Main meals range from 6€ to 15€ on average.

Accommodation will be at the OC dormitory (shared).

If you wish, you may bring your own tent. In case you are looking for more comfort, the town has a couple of guesthouses. Get in contact with us for more info.

_ how to arrive

The city is called Montemor-o-Novo. It is 1h15min southeast of Lisbon and 20min west of Évora.

Closer airport: Lisbon.

Arriving from the airport to Montemor-o-Novo by bus: Take the metro (2€) to "Jardim Zoológico" (blue line) or taxi (10-15€) to "Sete Rios - Rede Expresso" bus station. Take the bus (12-15€) to "Montemor-o-Novo". Rede-expressos website: www.rede-expressos.pt

Predicted buses from lisbon – departure>arrival times: 7:00>8:15; 8:30>9:40; 10:30>11:45; 11:45>13:00; 13:00>14:15; 14:15>16:20; 15:00>16:15; 16:00>17:15; 17:00>18:15

Arriving to Oficinas do Convento: when in Montemor-o-Novo bus station, turn left until getting to the church of São Francisco - it will be at your right. Oficinas do Convento is beside the church, inside the old convent, entering at your left.

_ fees

Entire course: 700€ (discount* - 400€)

Week modules: 250€ (discount* - 180€)

Discount fees: * students and unemployed under status proof. 10% dicount fee to OC associates.

Volunteers: 2 volunteer scholarships. Contact us for info.

Fee includes accommodation, lunch, educational printouts, use of tools and insurance.

Payment details:

name: OFICINAS DO CONVENTO-ASSOC.CULTU.DE ARTE E COMUNIC.

IBAN: PT50004563904013048881658

BIC/SWIFT: CCCMPTPL

address: Convento de S. Francisco, Carreira de S. Francisco, 7050-160 Montemor-o-Novo

_ application

Complete the online application form. Email motivation letter, CV and status proof (max 5MB) to:

Email - oc@oficinasdoconvento.com

Online - Go to the form webpage

Post or Hand delivery – Oficinas do Convento, Convento de São Francisco, Carreira de São Francisco, 7050-160 Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal (Mon to Fri 9:30 – 13:00)
In case of over registration, selection of participants will be based on motivation letter and CV.

_ calendar

- **application deadline:** March 17
- **participant's selection announcement:** March 24
- **payment deadline:** March 31
- **date of preliminary meeting:** April 20
- **workshop inauguration:** April 21

_ contact person

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