

## Infill Walls and Partitions

Definitions  
Behavior  
Reinforcement



## Examples of Masonry Vaulting



Venice Biennale, Foster + Partners

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Venice Biennale, Foster + Partners



## Examples of Masonry Vaulting



Rwanda Droneport, Foster + Partners

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Rwanda Droneport, Foster + Partners

## Twisted Brick Shell Concept Library

HCCH Studio

Zhejiang, China - 2023



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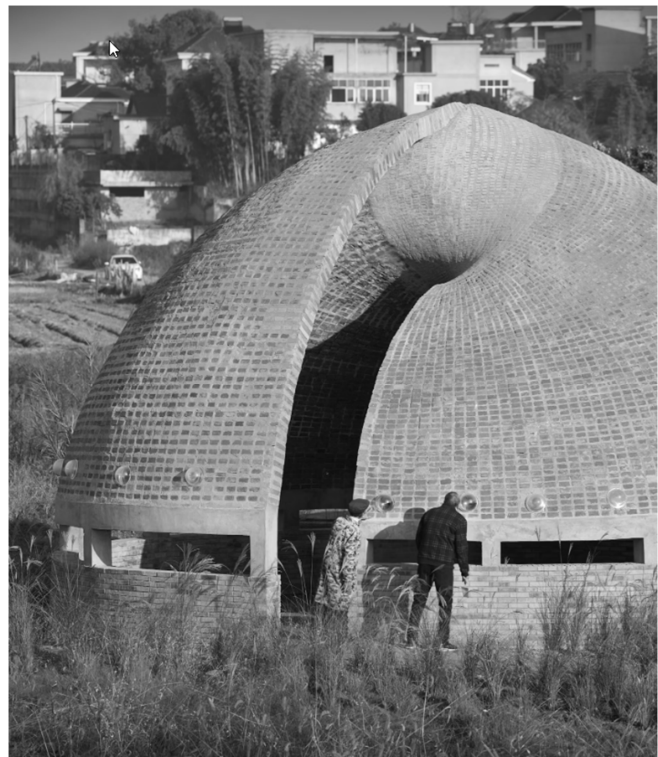
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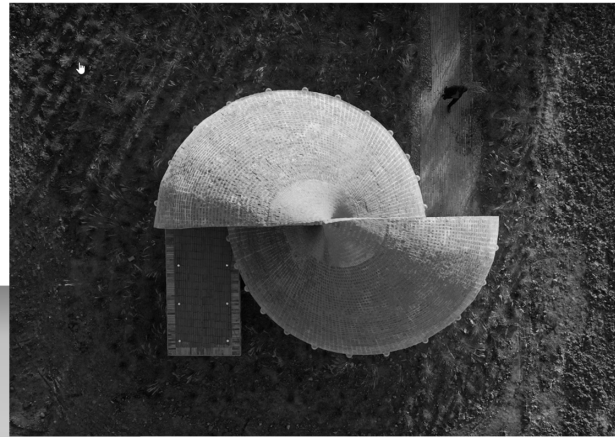
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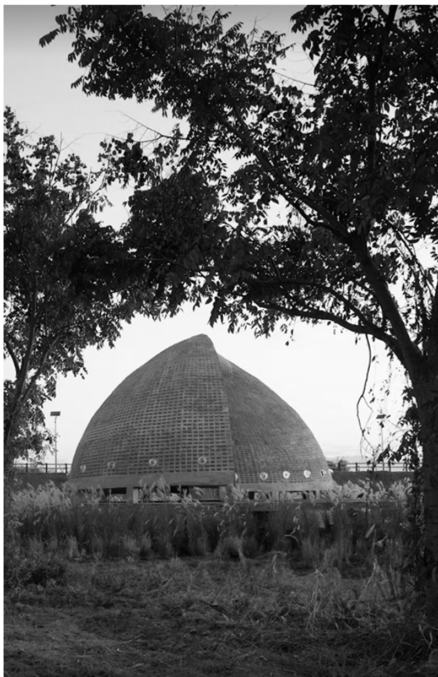
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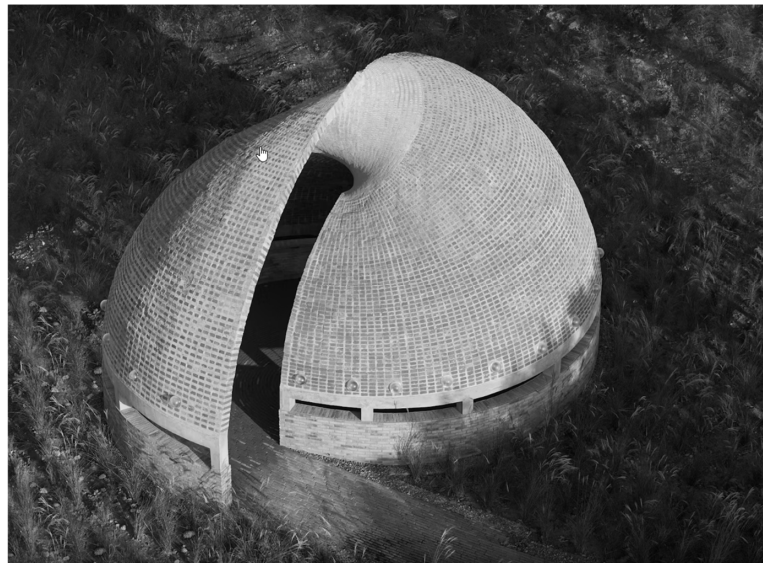
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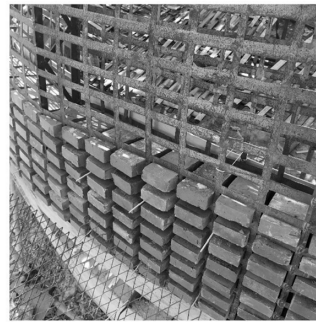
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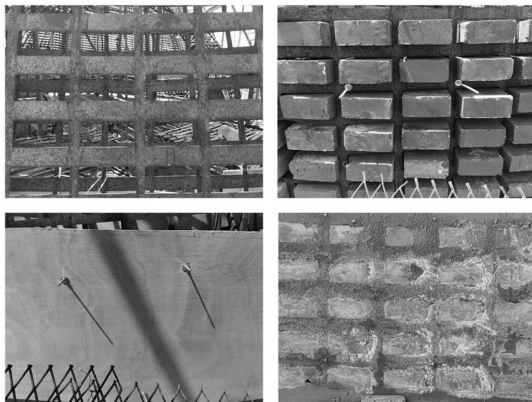
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# Types of Infill Walls



## Infill Walls

- Interior partitions
- Exterior non-supporting walls
- Barriers to fire or sound ✓
- Screen walls
- Non-loadbearing
- Empirical design
- Single story
- Usually empirically designed
- $h/t$  of 36

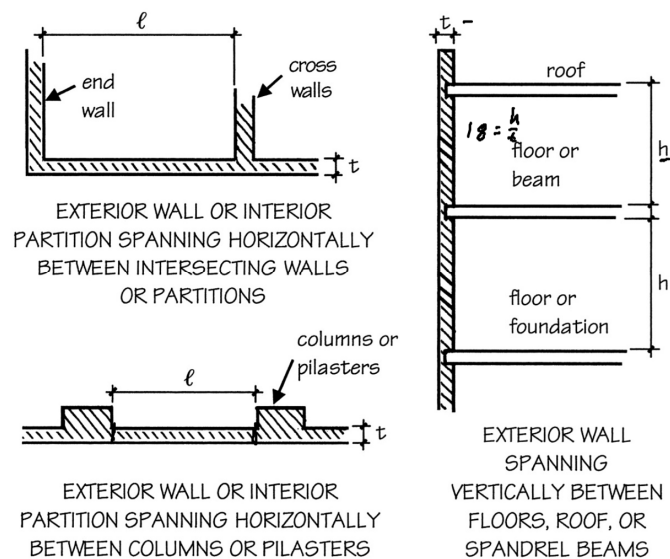
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## Infill Walls

$h/t$  ratios



Empirical Span-to-Thickness Ratios for Lateral Support of Masonry Walls

Wall or Element	Maximum Unsupported Height or Length to Nominal Thickness ( $l/t$ or $h/t$ )
Non-bearing walls	
Exterior walls	18 —
Interior partitions	36 —

(Based on requirements of the MSJC Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures ACI 530/ASCE 5/TMS 402, and International Building Code 2003)

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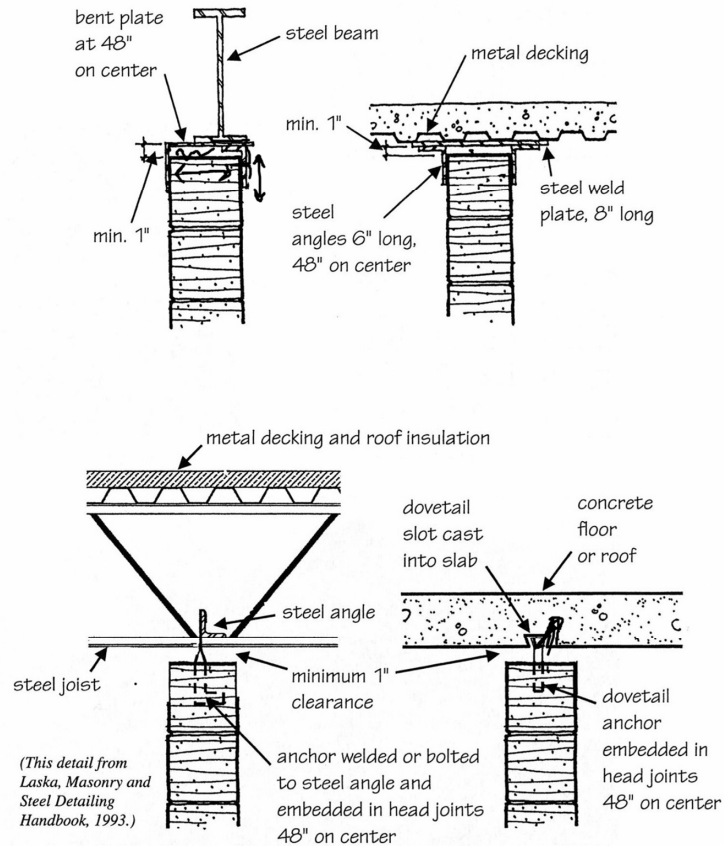
# Infill Walls

Must be separated from slabs and columns

Spaces and/or movement joints are used

Spaces must accommodate deflection and story drift

Must be designed to carry out of plane loads – earthquake or wind



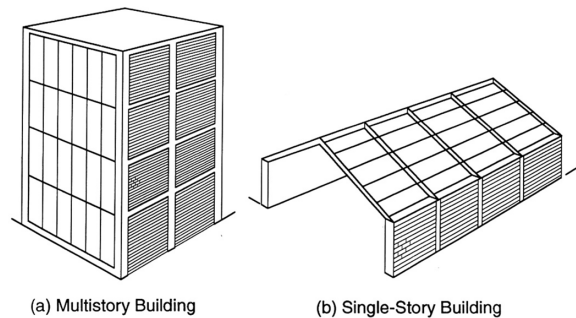
# Infill Walls

Can be designed as infill between slabs and columns

Either single or multi-story

When built snuggly against structure they stiffen the frame (carry shear loads from frame). Frame and wall can act as a composite system.

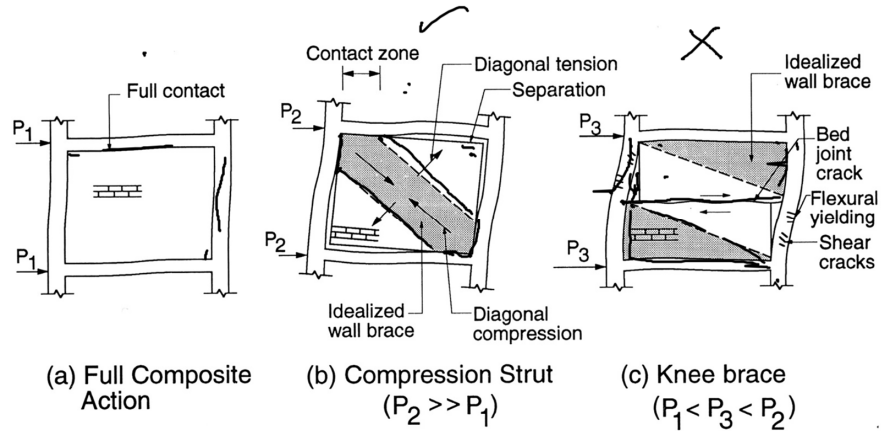
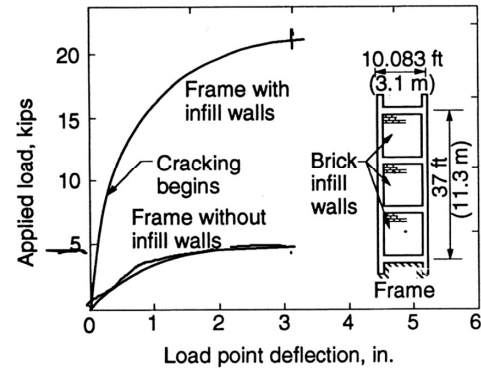
Thermal expansion loads need also be considered.



# Infill Walls

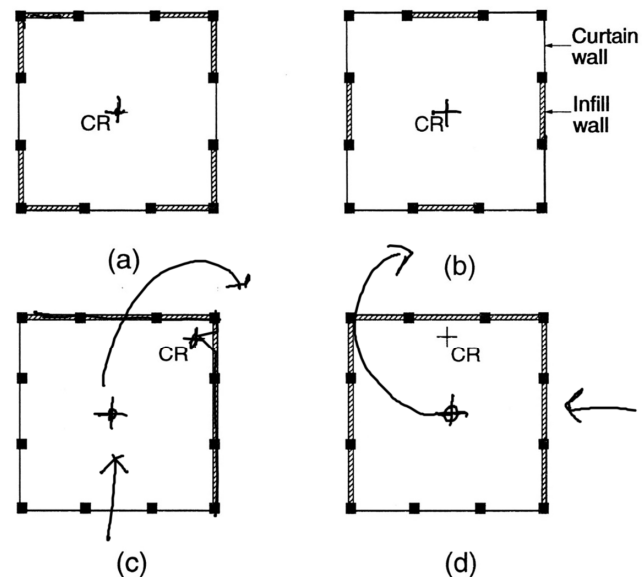
## Composite interaction

- Area of contact
- Interfaces
- Level of lateral load
- Degree of bond / anchorage
- Geometric and stiffness characteristics
- Compressive truss (diagonal) action
- Final failure in shear



# Infill Walls

The arrangement of infill walls can lead to torsional loads when not symmetrically placed.





# Infill Walls

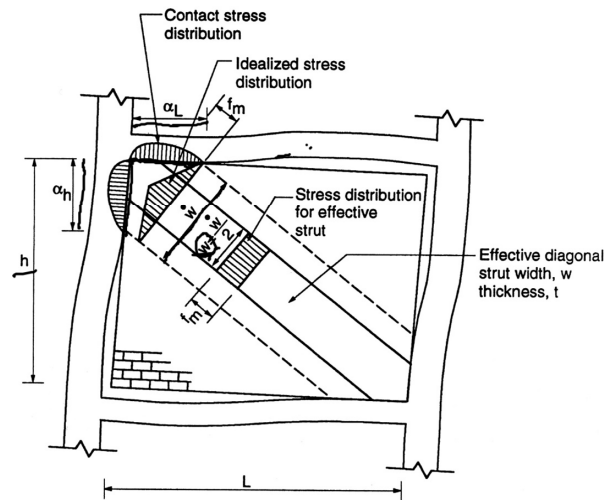
Diagonal strut action

$w \approx L/4$  to  $L/3$

Force in strut:

$$\alpha_h = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt[4]{\frac{4 E_f I_c h}{E_m t \sin 2\theta}} \quad \text{FRAME}$$

$$\alpha_L = \pi \sqrt[4]{\frac{4 E_f I_b L}{E_m t \sin 2\theta}} \quad \text{WALL}$$



where:  $E_m, E_f$  = elastic moduli of the masonry wall and frame material, respectively

$t, h, L$  = thickness, height, and length of the infill wall, respectively

$I_c, I_b$  = moments of inertia of the column and the beam of the frame, respectively

$\theta = \tan^{-1} (h/L)$

$$w = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\alpha_h^2 + \alpha_L^2}$$

## Infill Walls - example

Determine the increase in stiffness of the frame with the added infill wall

Given:

Infill wall:

Thickness  $t = 5 \frac{5}{8}$ "

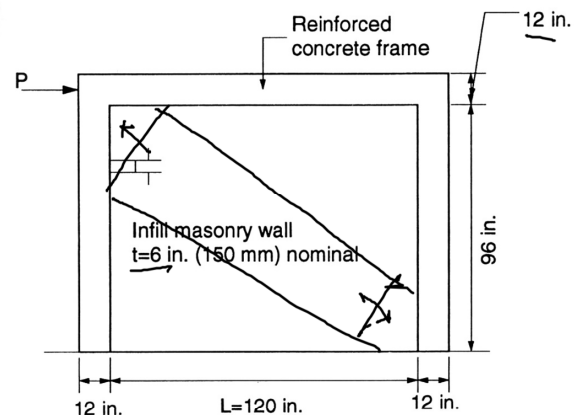
$E_w = 2000$  ksi

Frame:

Areas of members:  $A_b = A_c = 144$  in<sup>2</sup>

Moment of Inertia:  $I_b = I_c = 1728$  in<sup>4</sup>

$E_f = 3000$  ksi



(a) Reinforced Concrete Frame and Masonry Infill Wall

Find:

Width of diagonal strut

Deflection of the frame with and without the wall

# Infill Walls - example

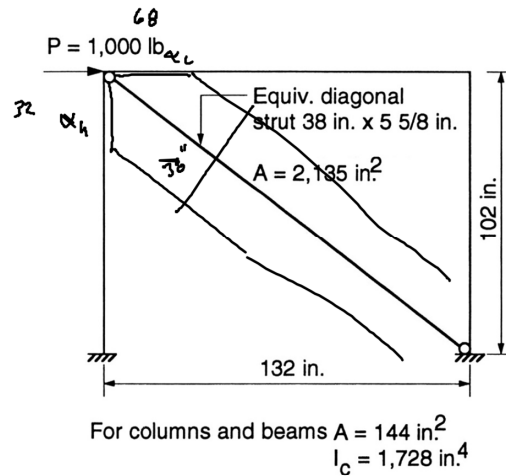
Determine the increase in stiffness of the frame with the added infill wall

$$\alpha_h = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt[4]{\frac{E_f I_c h}{2 E_m t \sin 77.3^\circ}} = 32.7 \text{ in.}$$

$$\alpha_L = \pi \sqrt[4]{\frac{E_f I_b L}{E_m t \sin 77.3^\circ}} = 68.5 \text{ in.}$$

$$w = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\alpha_h^2 + \alpha_L^2} = 38 \text{ in.}^*$$

$$\text{Area of diagonal strut, } A_d = 38 \times 5.625 = 213.8 \text{ in.}^2$$



Equivalent Strut Model

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{h}{L} = 38.65^\circ$$

# Infill Walls - example

Determine the increase in stiffness of the frame with the added infill wall

Deflection of frame without wall:

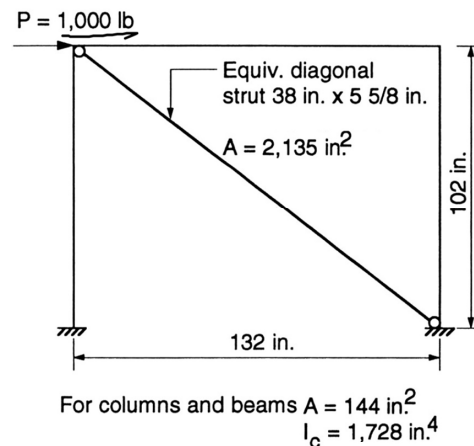
$$\Delta_{\text{horiz}} = 0.013 \text{ in. (0.33 mm) due to 1000 lb lateral force}$$

$$\therefore \text{stiffness, } k = \frac{P}{\Delta} = \frac{1000}{1.3 \times 10^{-2}} = 77000 \text{ lb/in.} = 77 \text{ kips/in.}$$

Deflection of frame with wall:

$$\Delta_{\text{horiz}} = 0.0002 \text{ in. due to 1000 lb lateral force}$$

$$\therefore \text{stiffness, } k = \frac{P}{\Delta} = \frac{1000}{0.0002} = 5 \times 10^6 \text{ lb/in.} = 5000 \text{ kips/in.}$$



Equivalent Strut Model

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{h}{L} = 38.65^\circ$$



# Mortar Mixing

