

Iron was used sparingly, as nails for carpentry and for display on doors. Some hinges were wrought from iron and windows were barred with iron rods. Occasionally brass was used for decorative purposes.



Detail of the main door of the Eastern Fort

Mud brick and stone were the principal materials for walls. Mud bricks had a clay and silt content of 35-45%, which provided the cohesive element. Mud mortar was used between the bricks and stone and also for floors and roofs. It was also used as a render on the outside of walls and was sometimes reinforced with straw.

**Sarooj**, a cementitious material that sets hard when mixed with water, was used for important buildings. A special natural red earth, **teen hamra** had to be found. This was mixed with animal dung and water and left to ferment for a few days. It was then made into flat cakes and dried in the sun. When the cakes were hard they were stacked in layers in a pit with palm fronds between the layers and