

Sublette County Library, Pinedale, WY

**SIREWALL**  
Mission: to positively impact the environment and people's health, via the built environment, for now and for the future.



## SIREWALL RETROSPECTIVE: Reflecting Back, Moving Forward

With numerous accolades from such award-winning projects such as the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, architects around the world are considering insulated rammed earth and SIREWALL® for their most stunning, innovative and ecological projects. The best known 'Starchitects' are willing to take chances, but they prefer to be on the cutting edge, not the bleeding edge of technology.

SIREWALL is not a new twist on an ancient approach to building; it is actually the product of almost two decades of research & development. Having "SIRE'd" a following of green building enthusiasts, SIREWALL Founder and President of Terra Firma Builders Meror Krayenhoff is definitely the grandfather in the realm of insulated rammed earth. Keeping track of thousands who have taken the SIREWALL Introduction to Insulated Rammed Earth Course is quite a task, but the momentum of projects springing up in the Pacific Northwest and across the world is an encouraging sign that Meror has inspired a true movement in the built environment.

Concerned that insulated rammed earth may not be tried and tested? The following chronology outlines that this green building technology is ready for the mainstream through the SIREWALL System.

### SIREWALL firsts:

- 1992 Invention of insulated rammed earth by Meror Krayenhoff of SIREWALL
- 1993 First Code-approved insulated rammed earth project in the world
- 1994 First curved insulated rammed earth in the world
- 1995 First fully buried (underground house) insulated rammed earth in the world
- 1997 First two storey, curving insulated rammed earth in the world, creation of the SIREWALL System
- 2005 First commercial SIREWALL building in the world (Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Center)
- 2007 First commercial SIREWALL buildings in USA and CHINA
- 2008 World Intellectual Property Office approves the novelty, utility, and marketability of all 86 claims toward patent on the SIREWALL System

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In 2009, SIREWALL's team now has broad experience and global scope of understanding as to what works for insulated rammed earth for various commercial and residential applications. Specific skills on the SIREWALL Team include four Architects, one Project Manager (PEng), two Technologists, two Master Earth Masons each with seventeen years of insulated rammed earth experience, nine highly trained SIREWALL Project Managers, one commercial concrete gangforming expert and many labourers and apprentices.

SIREWALL builds on a foundation of knowledge acquired through seventeen years and almost \$2 million in Research & Development. Using the SIREWALL System and collaborating with world-class architects, the team expects to be building to 45' tall within the year and is working on plans for ten storey structures.

With SIREWALL's Founding Licensee, Terra Firma Builders, and new partners working within greater Vancouver, southern Ontario, Washington, Utah and China, over 50 SIREWALL projects have been completed, many of them award-winning icons representing a beautiful legacy for the built environment.

Architects can be confident that SIREWALL will be customized to suit your project aspirations and meet your goals. The team's proven track record and integrated design approach will work collaboratively to bring ideas to life.



SIREWALL Licensees



## SIREWALL UPDATES

### Sublette County Library: First Commercial SIREWALL Project in the USA

Phase II of the Sublette County Library in Pinedale, Wyoming was unveiled at the end of May. This project blends beautifully into its natural surroundings and will become a gift for generations to come.

Joss Krayenhoff of Terra Firma Builders, a SIREWALL Project Manager, worked with Carney Architects under extreme cold (minus 35F) and built with a team of enthusiastic local laborers for this, the first commercial SIREWALL project constructed in the United States. The results, according to the Library's architects, are exceptional:

**“When we set out to do rammed earth for this important public building in Pinedale, we knew there was no room for experimental or exotic construction, or any system whose performance we could not count on... It [SIREWALL] has succeeded beyond our best expectations and has become the talk of the town...”**

John Carney, Founding Principal of Carney Architects, FAIA.

For more information on this project, see: [www.carneyarchitects.com/projects/public/subl-libr/#](http://www.carneyarchitects.com/projects/public/subl-libr/#)

### Insulated Rammed Earth Course

More than ever before, it is imperative to transform the built environment. Green building's time is now and constructing a new economy requires a different approach to building. Join us and get inspired to transform the built environment. Held over two days on beautiful Salt Spring Island, BC, participants in SIREWALL's hands-on Introduction to Insulated Rammed Earth Course will get introduced to SIREWALL including:

- Touring multiple SIREWALL homes – being inside is so different than looking at pictures
- Exploring aspects of design and engineering for the best use this new material

- Making rammed earth samples to take home – a hands-on experience that includes choosing the soil at the pit and analyzing soil blends
- Engaging in 'deep green' conversations; a contextual construct to assess green alternatives
- Comparing applications around the rammed earth world, what works and what does not work
- Learning how to participate in moving this technology forward and how can you make a difference

**Two 2009 Course Dates Left:** July 18 & 19, Sept 12 & 13

**Register Today:** [office@sirewall.com](mailto:office@sirewall.com) T: 1.250.537.9355

### SIREWALL Licensee Profile

In each issue of The Dirt, we will profile a SIREWALL Licensee who is transforming the built environment.

Bradley O. Mimplitz, principal architect and president of Park City Architecture (PcA) and EarthWall Builders, Inc. has been providing discerning clientele outstanding architecture for over 10 years and is now proud to be a partner in the SIREWALL family. Bradley has been a regional proponent and leader in alternative construction and sustainable building for many years; and so we say he is a “natural” at sustainable architecture.

It wasn't until being introduced to SIREWALL in early 2008 that Brad and his design team felt that the cure to many issues plaguing the construction industry needed more than good design alone. The solution requires careful planning, a design-build approach that encompasses the climatic conditions, specific amenities and topography of the site as well as the needs of its users to provide them with healthy, strong and functional buildings.

**Utah-based SIREWALL Project in-the-works:**

[www.parkcityarchitect.com/portfolio.php/in-the-works/](http://www.parkcityarchitect.com/portfolio.php/in-the-works/)

**Contact EarthWall Builders:** [info@parkcityarchitect.com](mailto:info@parkcityarchitect.com)