

DISCUSSION OF "Investigations on the Peruvian Earthquake of May 31, 1970" by J Kuroiwa, E Deza, and J Jaén, paper 47, Session 2A: Recent Destructive Earthquakes

by
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The last words in the paper by Berg and Husid,⁽¹⁾ "...and adobe is and will remain the principal construction material in Peru," imply two groups of grave problems: existing adobe dwellings and new adobe dwellings, in Peru and in many other countries. For both there should be merit in the use of exterior reinforcement as describes by Tso, Pollner, and Heidebrecht⁽²⁾ for masonry walls, where it has proved very effective. One would use expanded metal or welded wire fabric in externally applied limecement mortar.

For new dwellings the recommendations by Evans⁽³⁾ on foundations seem applicable. Bamboc reinforcement, as tested by Ricardo Yamashiro and collaborators of Peru in soil-cement structural members, deserves attention.

Unless existing adobe houses are adequately reinforced they constitute inevitable death traps. Obviously measures to be taken should be simple and inexpensive. With almost the same restrictions these remarks apply to new dwellings. The foregoing suggestions apparently comply with such restrictions.

Have measures as these been contemplated? Do the authors consider that they could be implemented?

REFERENCES

1. G V Berg and R Husid, "Structural Behavior in the 1970 Peru Earthquake," Fifth World Conf Earthq Engrg, Rome, Italy, 1973, paper 48.
2. W K Tso, E Pollner, and A C Heidebrecht, "Cyclic Loading of Externally Reinforced Masonry Walls," Fifth World Conf Earthq Engrg, Rome, Italy, 1973, paper 144.
3. F W Evans, "Earthquake Engineering for the Smaller Dwelling," Fifth World Conf Earthq Engrg, Rome, Italy, 1973, paper 382.

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