Rammed earth is a really interesting construction technique that only uses natural raw materials like earth, sand, and stones.

Rammed earth has a lot of advantages including its capacity to store heat, it can be recycled and reused forever and it’s very economical.

It’s a very old technique that was used to make beautiful structures including the original 4000-year old Great Wall of China that was built solely of rammed earth (it was then covered by a layer of bricks to give it the appearance of a stone wall!!)
DESCRIPTION OF WORK

• Built small & large rammed earth models for the ‘Back to Earth’ exhibition the team in BUCEA was preparing for late September.

• Designed new rammed earth models to prove how this ancient construction method can be used to make modern, aesthetically-pleasing structures.

• Visited Macha with a team from BUCEA to establish a partnership with Hong Kong University and make Macha a learning site for social entrepreneurship and rammed earth construction.
IMPACT OF MY WORK

• I made a lot of models that will be shown in the ‘Back to Earth’ exhibition that will be the first exhibition about rammed earth architecture in China! This exhibition hopes to bring to China the advantages of rammed earth construction in which I fully believe!

• My models focused on using new designs that show how rammed earth construction can be used for modern buildings, with different earth compositions, color combinations and forms! I made collections on ‘Animal Fur’, ‘Chinese Landscape Painting’, ‘Yunnan Colors’, etc. These new designs made rammed earth architecture more appealing to villagers which still viewed this technique as ‘backward’.

• Participated in the establishment of the partnership between BUCEA and HKU also serving as an interpreter.
ACADEMIC & PERSONAL IMPACT

• I was not an Architecture or Civil Engineering major but this internship is more about the ideology of rammed earth construction than the physical architecture! It was very rewarding to work with a team of people who believe in the importance and sustainability advantages of natural resources over harmful industrial materials and construction methods!

• It made me more passionate about the use of natural resources and traditional learning for innovative technology and I still plan to work in the field of renewable energies and sustainable housing.

• Taught me a lot about ‘real life’ projects & working environments. My ‘business’ trip to Macha taught me how to sell social enterprises and make them appealing to newcomers.

• Made my right arm a lot stronger because there was A LOT of physical labor! :)

• I got to practice a lot of Chinese (and learnt a lot of vocabulary about rammed earth..!) and served as an interpreter on our trip to Macha which was really cool!
TRAVELED TO XINJIANG, JIANGSU AND GANSAU!
THANK YOU!