Description of Work

- Researched and presented on efficient, sustainable, economic, and elegant roof designs for a small-scale structure which will serve as an exhibition hall and will be built in October (Beijing)
  - *Rammed earth: a method of construction made entirely of natural resources such as soil, rocks, and dirt which is then “rammed” or made compact by forcing the materials into a mold layer by layer*
- Experimented with various types of earth combinations to find more durable, efficient structural compositions (Macha, Beijing)
- Constructed rammed earth models to give to villagers to exhibit how rammed earth architecture proves to be a practical, aesthetic, and ecological alternative to modern concrete construction practices (Macha)
- Created rammed earth models for the Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture’s “Back to Earth” exhibition which will take place in September (Beijing)
In the Field

Rammed earth models we (the volunteers) built to give to the villagers as souvenirs (Macha Village)

Tools and materials used to construct the rammed earth models
Most Rewarding Aspect

- Spending time with the local villagers and learning their customs, dances, and traditions
- Being immersed in a different culture

Macha Village, Gansu Province
Rammed Earth Models

The ability to use layers of varied soil and differing colors allows for an aesthetic alternative to concrete construction. While villagers prefer more modern methods of construction that use concrete to display their wealth, the volunteers sought to exhibit not only the environmental benefits but also the elegance of rammed earth architecture.

Different patterned rammed earth created to show the imaginative capabilities of earth architecture for the “Back to Earth” exhibition.
Impact

- Back to Earth exhibition- created rammed earth models for display and to give away
- Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China)- served as a volunteer in Macha village in Gansu Province
- Exhibition Hall built by October- researched and presented on potential designs for a small-scale structure that the office must build by October

Rammed earth pieces for the “Back to Earth exhibition”
Opportunity to Travel
My Experience

Cultural awareness- learned some of the local dances and music of the Macha villagers
Got to travel to various parts of China- Xi’an, Gansu Province, and Hong Kong
Experienced everyday life and activities in both rural and urban China
Academic Impact

- Further pronounced interest in architecture- will continue to pursue Architecture & Engineering certificate
- Considering pursuing career in design or architecture in the future
- Learned about the practice of rammed earth architecture and its many advantages
- Experienced a “true” China and its traditions, people, and food as opposed to simply reading or learning about Chinese culture
- Observed construction projects
- Practiced Chinese speaking