

# OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

## PRESS RELEASE

### Rammed earth - building material for the future

**A lecture by Martin Rauch, Lehm Ton Erde, Schlins / Austria, on 25 January 2024 at the Oskar von Miller Forum and via livestream at [www.ovmf.de](http://www.ovmf.de)**

Earth building is a millennia-old construction method, one third of humanity still lives in earthen dwellings. With the advent of industrialisation, earth building was gradually replaced worldwide. As part of the discussion and search for sustainable building methods, earth building is being rediscovered. Rethinking everything from tools to architecture, earth building is becoming the champion of sustainable construction.

The key question is: How can we achieve the necessary turnaround in construction? Martin Rauch will use lighthouse projects to demonstrate the potential and his vision of modern earth building.

Lehm Ton Erde focuses on pushing the boundaries of rammed earth construction with high quality design and craftsmanship. As masters of in-situ rammed earth construction, LTE has driven innovation and is now a world leader in the production of prefabricated rammed earth buildings.

LTE's rammed earth walls can be used as load bearing walls, facade cladding or interior cladding. They are the only building material that is fully cradle to cradle.

Lecture in German

### About

Martin Rauch, founder and managing director of Lehm Ton Erde (LTE) in Schlins, Austria, is internationally recognised as a leading expert in the field of rammed earth construction. He founded the company in 1984 as a sole proprietorship for ceramics and earthen building, and established Lehm Ton Erde Baukunst in 1999. In over three decades of theoretical and practical research, Martin Rauch has succeeded in significantly developing traditional rammed earth techniques and integrating them into modern architecture. He has received numerous awards, including the 2011 Holcim Award - Morocco, the 2021 New European Bauhaus Prize and the 2022 Global Award for Sustainable Architecture. Since 2010 Honorary Professor of the UNESCO Chair in Earthen Architecture, Building Cultures and Sustainable Development. Honorary Doctor of the University of Lichtenstein since 2023

### Clay Earth

A focus on the most sustainable building processes and materials means that LTE works with unstabilised rammed earth - unstabilised means that no cement, lime or chemical binders are added to the clay mixture, making the product 100% recyclable. This method ensures that the water used in production is free of toxic chemicals, the rammed earth can passively regulate moisture and the finished walls can be produced without expansion or cold joints. The

enormous thermal mass of rammed earth walls also acts as a thermal battery, an optimal heat sink for passive temperature regulation.

In more than 35 years of working with earth, Rauch and LTE have completed over 100 projects worldwide, published three books and led the industry in rammed earth innovation. With the near completion of the ERDEN factory, a new factory and headquarters for the production of prefabricated rammed earth products, LTE will be the world's leading manufacturer of prefabricated earth products.

The current team consists of 40 employees from a variety of backgrounds including design, craftsmanship, construction, education.