KEEP WATER AWAY
Build the floor up, or dig a ditch above.

ALTERNATE LAYERS OF BAGS & WIRE
Stagger bags like bricks.

CURVE CORNERS, pin with rebar, or add piers.

STIFFEN THE TOP of square plans with a connected bond beam of metal, wood, or concrete. Top circles with a single tube of earth & cement.

BRACE STRAIGHT WALLS every 10-12’ / 3-4 m with intersecting Walls or buttresses.

SEPARATE OPENINGS at least 36” / 1m from corners, 30” / 0.8m from other openings, 18” / 0.5m from piers.

COVER BAG WALLS. Use earth plaster under roof overhangs or in dry climates. On exposed walls use a protective topcoat, embed tile or pebbles in earth plaster, or use cement plaster on sandy earthbag fill. Mesh, like fishnet, will strengthen both walls and plaster. Cover temporary walls with tarps to last more than 1or 2 months in full sun.

Buildings don’t have to be expensive to be strong. Earthbag buildings can be earthquake, hurricane, and tsunami resistant. Photos of existing buildings and detailed information about building techniques are at www.earthbagbuilding.com, with links to plans for housing and shelters. 3-2-2010