

Bamboo, a remarkably fast growing plant that thrives in a range of different climates including Australia, SE Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and even Antarctica, is one of the most versatile and sustainable building materials available today. While being extremely strong (bamboo has a higher tensile strength than steel per weight), bamboo's beauty provides an aesthetically pleasing finish to the eye.

In many parts of the world, particularly in tropical climates where giant bamboos grow as forests, there is a tradition of using bamboo for constructing buildings, bridges, and other structures. As wood becomes more scarce bamboo construction will hold more and more value outside of the tropical climates where the benefits of its use have been known for millennia. Being such an extremely fast growing grass means that harvesting takes place every 3-5 years as opposed to more than 25 years for softwoods and over 50 years for many hardwoods.

Workshop participants will learn all the basics of bamboo construction. The course consists of short blocks theory balanced by ample hands-on practical training. Over the course of the weekend we will construct a shade structure that will serve as a sheltered space for parked motorbikes. Participants will learn how to construct a spaced bamboo column using 2D Cartesian geometry on the ground to form a truss template. Coupling and prestressing of bamboo elements using bamboo dowels, lifting of truss, and roof thatching will also be covered in this workshop. Suitable for anyone with an interest in this exciting natural building technique and recommended for permaculture designers, natural builders, conventional builders, owner-builders, aid workers, and anyone else looking to expand their skills in creating safe and comfortable habitats for future generations. **Freshmen welcome, NO bamboo experience required.**

Dates: Saturday 11 February - Sunday 12 February 2012

Workshop hours are 08.00 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 17.30

Where: On our jungle hillside property in the hills above Sri Thanu village, Koh Phangan, Surat Thani 84280, THAILAND. Email us at phanganearthworks@gmail.com for a map and directions, or call Julien 083 393 90 21, or Hubert 086 281 63 08.

Price: THB 4'500 (€ 105) with a discounted early-bird price of THB 3'700 (€ 88) for registrations and full payments prior to 30 November 2011. The number of participants is limited to 25 people, first come first served.

Teacher: Mark Emery graduated from the University of New South Wales Faculty of Built Environment with honors in Landscape Architecture. After graduation, Mark continued his professional career working for leading urban design offices in Sydney. After a couple of years in front of a computer screen, he followed his heart and left for Colombia to study spanish and bamboo architecture from local craftsmen. It was there that Mark met the German bamboo constructor and soon to be mentor Jörg Stamm.

With a fusion of landscape artististry, horticultural craftsmanship, and architectural reciprocity, Mark aspires to elevate the perceived value of bamboo in all tiers of society by realizing outstanding examples of bamboo architecture and construction throughout the world.

Mark has built a number of bamboo structures, from a 60-meter long bamboo bridge for Six Senses Soneva Kiri on Koh Kood, Thailand, to an Australian salad bar featuring a living wall and closed recycling system. For a more detailed bio, images, and links, please visit our website.

