

**PRODUCTION OF GOOD QUALITY BRICKS
EMPLOYING NEW KILN TECHNOLOGY**

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A new kiln technology introduced to Sri Lanka has aroused much interest here and abroad. An archless Hoffmann type kiln also described as a Bull's Trench kiln with a fixed chimney has been constructed as a prototype. A new semi-mechanised moulding technique has also been introduced.

The kiln designed for continuous operation has high thermal insulation and fuel efficiency. Trials have shown that the firing of bricks could be well regulated to give a fired strength of 5 N/mm² as compared to the low strength (1.5 N/mm² average) in common bricks. Another important feature is that the bricks are of standard size.

Out of the many advantages of the new technology, cost reduction in brick burning and construction is of primary importance. Firewood consumption is low due to high thermal insulation of the kiln and excess heat generated in firing is utilised in pre-heating of bricks to be fired. Minimisation of size and shape defects in bricks will ensure better bonding with a lesser quantity of mortar. High strength of bricks will make it possible to use these bricks in load bearing walls thus limiting the construction of a concrete frame-work to structure where it is absolutely necessary.

The multiple advantages brought about to the manufacturing and construction industries will favour the adoption of this new intermediate technology in major brick producing areas of Sri Lanka.