

Yemen Video Collection

Haram—Yemen, The Hidden Half speaks

(2003) 52 minutes/subtitled

Produced at the request of the Yemeni Women's National Committee, the video offers a surprising look at women's lives and gender roles in contemporary Yemen. Resisting the roles prescribed for them by brothers, husbands and fathers, these powerful women speak eloquently about breaking social taboos and fighting for economic independence and self-sufficiency. Provides an important perspective on women in the developing world and is an exhilarating demonstration of how change is possible and how it often begins one family at a time.

The Architecture of Mud

Documentary Educational Resources (1998)

44 minutes, color

This video shows the viewer firsthand the process of creating the special mudbrick structure of Yemen. Most of the video consists of interviews with the local people. Therefore, most of the video is in Arabic with English subtitles, with the exception of some narration done in English. The video begins with an interview being done with a Yemenese mason on building in his country. Next, the workers show the different types of molds for mudbricks, as well as how both the molds and mudbricks are made. The video then covers the creation of walls in these buildings, and the best type of mud to use for the process. The next step of the process of creating a building is putting on the roof. Mud plaster is used for this and is sloped so water runs off the roof. A Yemeni also explains how to restore a roof with limestone when it starts to wear away. The process of creating this waterproofing material is covered in great detail and is shown step-by-step. After going through all of the building steps, the video then shows the viewer some of the extravagant buildings that have been created using this method, including a house over 350 years old. The last topic covered in the video is how today's generations have changed the practices in building. Cement was recently introduced, and now some people have turned to this building material over mudbricks, although cement is more expensive. Several Yemeni men discuss their thoughts on the issue and how their building practices have changed over the years. This video does a great job showing the viewer step-by-step a very traditional building method in many Middle Eastern countries, and how it is evolving to meet the demands of the modern day.
