

My name is Adam Ganson. I am the Executive Co-Director for Earth's Promise based out of Beersheba, Israel. The organization's goal is to develop neglected urban open spaces into urban food farms. The main community that works with us to develop urban food farms is the Ethiopian immigrant community in Beersheba. In our main urban farm called the Kalisher Urban Farm, a group from the Africa Studies Department at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev helped to renovate an outdoor kitchen at the Urban Farm. The outdoor kitchen's purpose is to provide a setting for cooking workshops at the Urban Farm. In addition we built a "Godjo", a rural Ethiopian home in order to display the proud culture of the Ethiopian immigrants. In both projects we used Earth building techniques.

Alan Middleton came to the Urban Farm to instruct our volunteers and the Ethiopian immigrants in Earth building. He taught the group how to build the structures formed from recycled materials and mix the "light straw" layer of the Earth building. Alan instructed the participants of the workshop how to make a good mixture based water clay, sand, and straw. Then he demonstrated how to properly apply the strong layer of "light straw".

Alan made the workshop interesting and succeeded to teach a group who spoke both Hebrew and Amharic. He was thorough in his understanding of the principles involved and passed the knowledge on in a way that every could understand and have a great time doing it. Alan's teaching skills provided knowledge to the participants and contributed to the field in a way that allowed the participants to continue Earth building into the future. Alan's knowledge base and practical know-how is a great resource for those who want to learn more about Earth building and to create their own projects with Earth building.

We at Earth's Promise believe highly in Alan's abilities and we have participated in a number of Earth building projects since his course.

Alan's knowledge of Earth building will surely lead to a more sustainable world and contribute to projects whose aim is to make the Earth more livable for our generation and generations ahead.

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