

Masonry course at IIT-Gn

The undergraduate-level course on confined masonry will be mandatory in the freshman year

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IIT Gandhinagar has introduced an undergraduate-level course on confined masonry. The course will be part of the civil engineering course and will be mandatory in the freshman year. Dr Svetlana Brzev who is a visiting faculty at IIT-Gn from British Columbia Institute of Technology in Canada said, "As per the 2011 census, close to 90 per cent houses are masonry buildings. There is a lot that needs to be done in this area." Interestingly, Brzev came here to understand masonry. She says, "This country has rich history in masonry so I came here to understand the seismic design for masonry. Coming back here to teach masonry is like coming a full circle."

Currently, there is a graduate-level course on masonry at IIT Kanpur and another graduate level course on historic masonry at IIT-Madras. IIT Gandhinagar also has a graduate-level course on masonry. This will be the first 14-week course in the country dedicated only to confined masonry.

Confined masonry uses the same basic ma-



Svetlana Brzev of the British Columbia Institute of Technology will be teaching the course

terials like concrete and brick that are found in other masonry construction. However the construction and usage is different. Brzev says, "This is a very modern way of dealing with masonry. These constructions are sturdier to earthquakes." She gives the example of Latin America where there is a huge use of confined masonry.