

Masonry – brick

It has been a (legal) requirement to use brick walls in the basements of multi-storey housing in Copenhagen and larger towns since the mid-1800s. Towards the end of the century, this requirement was extended to apply to main partitions as well.

Internal brick walls did not disappear until the building work of the 1970s.

Internal brick walls are always supported, i.e. built right from the base (foundation) and of solid masonry.

Inside the building they form house-high slices supported by the storey partitions and thus act as stabilising elements.

Longitudinal load-bearing (main) partitions are sometimes separated in layers by beams, which in early construction are laid on continuous plates (as in exterior walls) and later on smaller pieces of wood as pressure distributors. Main partitions in higher buildings are of one-brick thickness in normal floors and 1½-brick thickness in basements.

Transverse non-load-bearing walls are supported by beams within the storey partitions and thus have floor-intersecting beams lying along each side. The exception to this is stairwell walls, which against the stairs are supported only by main and mid-landings, and which therefore have a thicker dimension – preferably three-quarter-brick thickness. Transverse walls of shorter lengths are of half-brick or three-quarter-brick masonry.

Door cavities are closed over using wall boards as well as (relieving) arches, or possibly iron beams in the case of larger openings.

Transverse, load-bearing walls of brick appear experimentally in individual buildings in the 1930s. Walls of this type are used more often in postwar construction and in the 1960s as an alternative to concrete.

