



Figure 9. Stone in random rubble masonry is only used for making boundary walls.



Figure 10. In many cases, people have used cheap corrugated tin sheets to make additions to their reconstructed houses.

The nature of the material and construction system employed varies according to economic group. The lower economic groups tend to use tin, ferro-cement, thatch and stone, while higher economic groups use brick and concrete blocks. In many cases, walls are constructed using hybrid materials such as stone and brick. Tin sheets are mainly used for roofing because they are perceived as earthquake-safe due to their light weight, although these get oven-hot during daytime causing health problems.

Ironically, many of these extensions, regardless of economic groups, are vulnerable to damage during earthquakes due to poor construction practices, such as hybrid constructions built using incompatible materials and poor masonry, poor corner joints between walls, absence of lintel bands and inadequate foundations. The reinforced