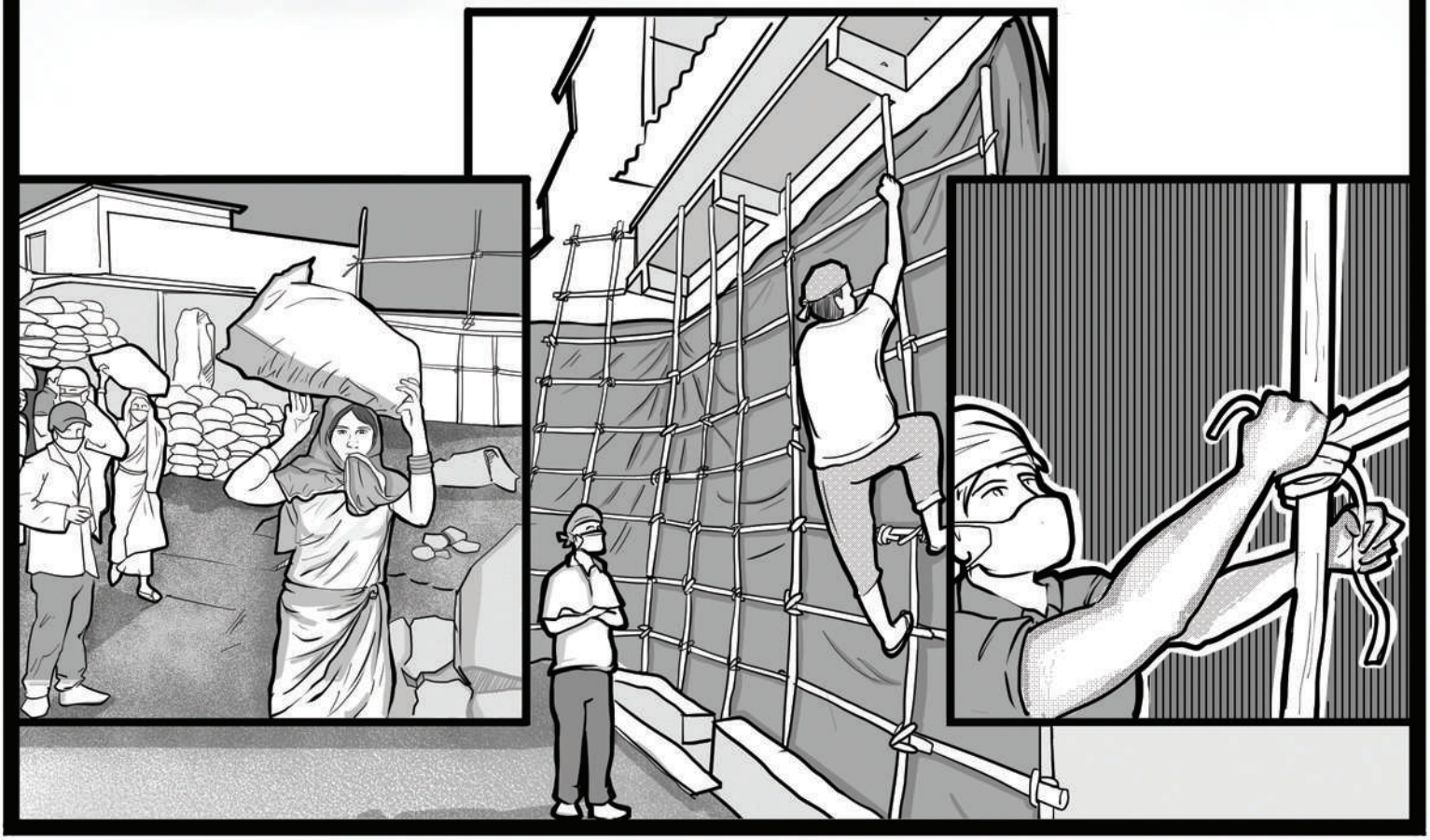
VITHAL BHASKAR CHAWL

A GRAPHIC NOVEL

#8 -BREAKING GROUND



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#8

THE WORK ON VITHAL BHASKAR BEGAN IN FULL SWING, ONCE THE DEMOLITION OF THE OLD CHAWL WAS COMPLETED AND THE RUBBLE CLEARED

HOW IS THE WORK COMING ALONG RAKESH BHAI?

GOOD GOOD... WE ARE CLEARING UP NOW.

DON'T DISCARD IT..... WE NEED TO USE THE RUBBLE LATER. PILE IT UP.

THE WHOLE SITE WAS ENCLOSED IN A TARPAULIN SHEET AND BAMBOO TO AVOID DAMAGE TO THE NEIGHBOURING HOUSES.

THE GARBAGE WAS CLEARED AND THE RUBBLE PILED UP FOR FUTURE USE

I'LL MAKE THE BOYS START WITH THE LINE DORI

SHALL WE BEGIN?

LET'S START BY MARKING THE COLUMNS FOR EXCAVATION.

SOUND'S GOOD!

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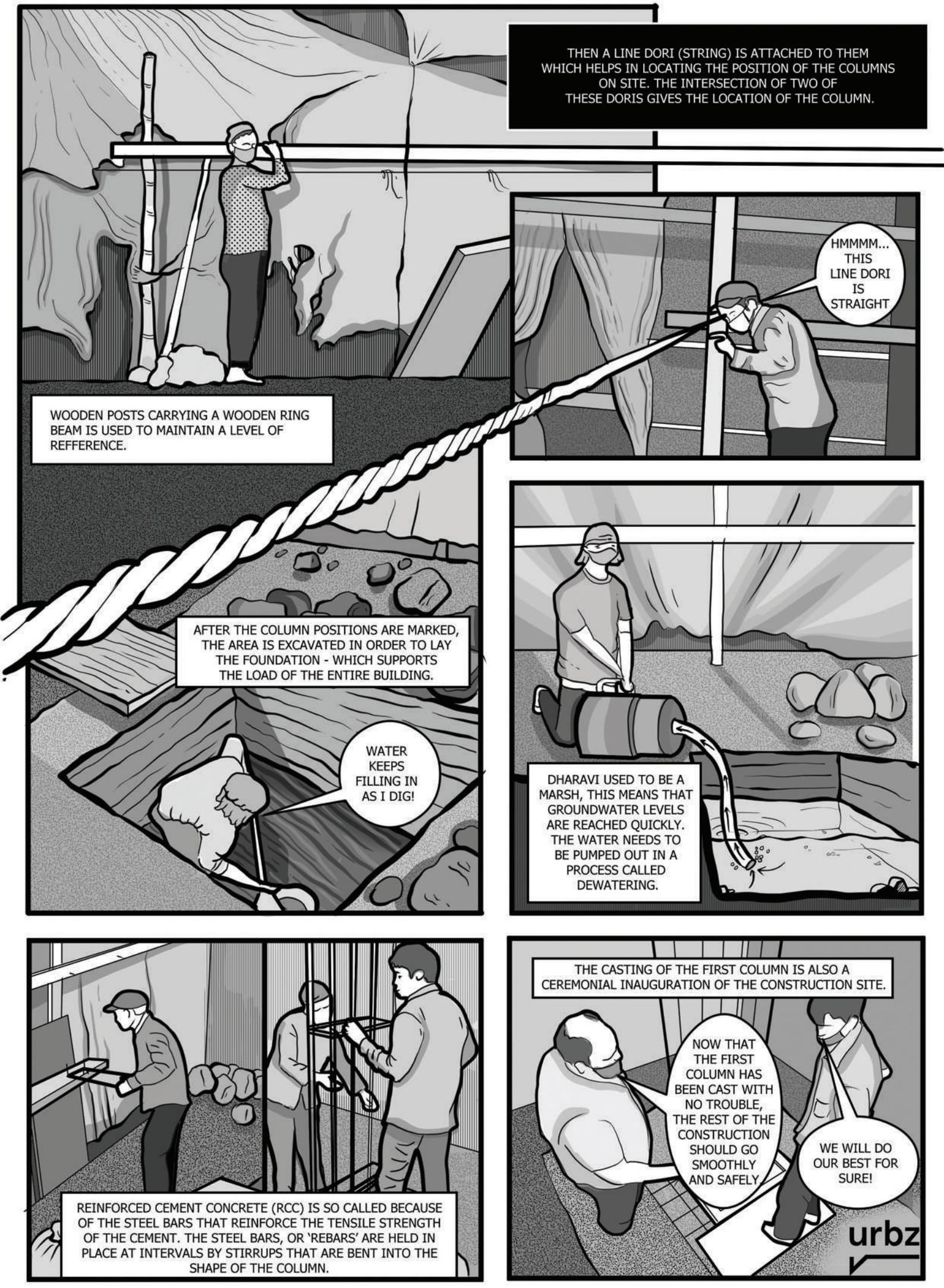
THEN A LINE DORI (STRING) IS ATTACHED TO THEM WHICH HELPS IN LOCATING THE POSITION OF THE COLUMNS ON SITE. THE INTERSECTION OF TWO OF THESE DORIS GIVES THE LOCATION OF THE COLUMN.
HMMMM... THIS LINE DORI IS STRAIGHT
WOODEN POSTS CARRYING A WOODEN RING BEAM IS USED TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF REFFERENCE.
AFTER THE COLUMN POSITIONS ARE MARKED, THE AREA IS EXCAVATED IN ORDER TO LAY THE FOUNDATION - WHICH SUPPORTS THE LOAD OF THE ENTIRE BUILDING.
WATER KEEPS FILLING IN AS I DIG!
DHARAVI USED TO BE A MARSH, THIS MEANS THAT GROUNDWATER LEVELS ARE REACHED QUICKLY. THE WATER NEEDS TO BE PUMPED OUT IN A PROCESS CALLED DEWATERING.
REINFORCED CEMENT CONCRETE (RCC) IS SO CALLED BECAUSE OF THE STEEL BARS THAT REINFORCE THE TENSILE STRENGTH OF THE CEMENT. THE STEEL BARS, OR 'REBARS' ARE HELD IN PLACE AT INTERVALS BY STIRRUPS THAT ARE BENT INTO THE SHAPE OF THE COLUMN.
THE CASTING OF THE FIRST COLUMN IS ALSO A CEREMONIAL INAUGURATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE.
NOW THAT THE FIRST COLUMN HAS BEEN CAST WITH NO TROUBLE, THE REST OF THE CONSTRUCTION SHOULD GO SMOOTHLY AND SAFELY
WE WILL DO OUR BEST FOR SURE!
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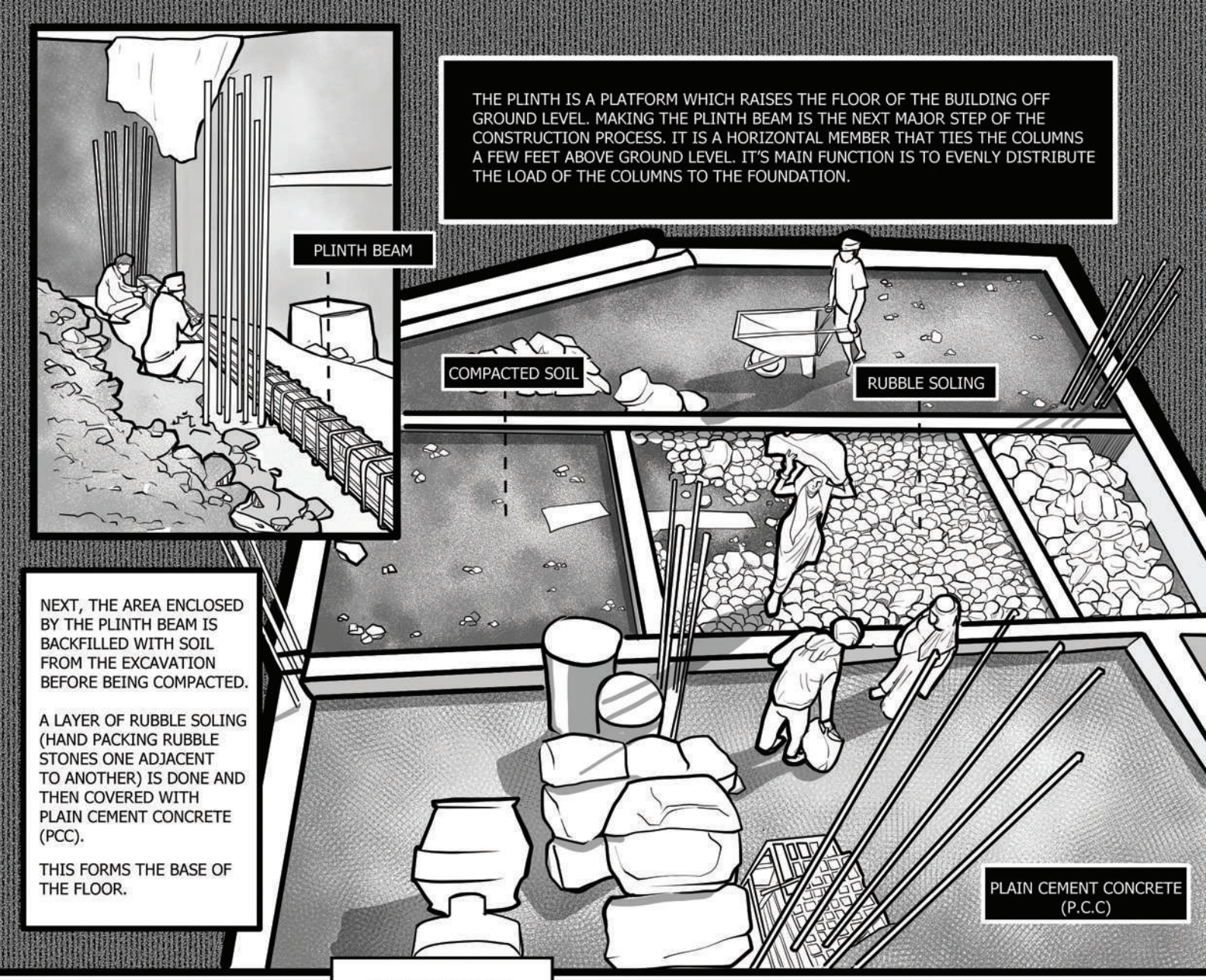
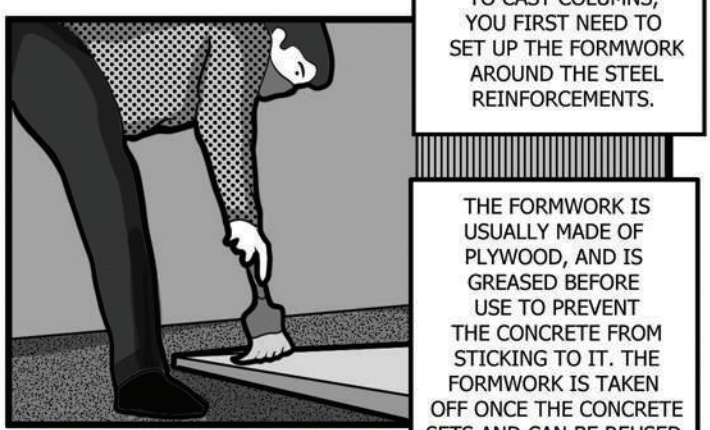
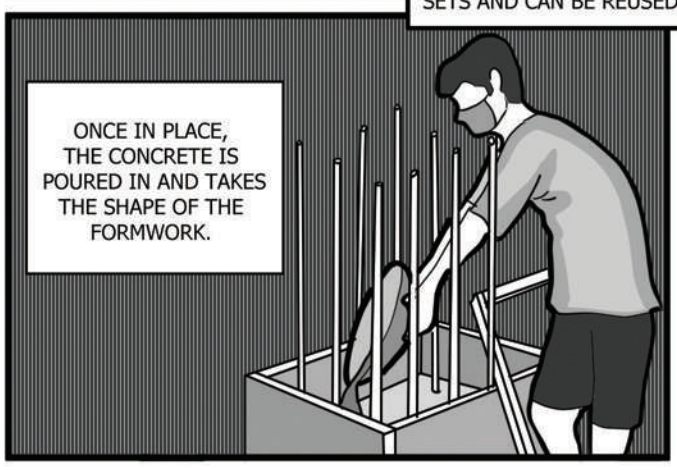
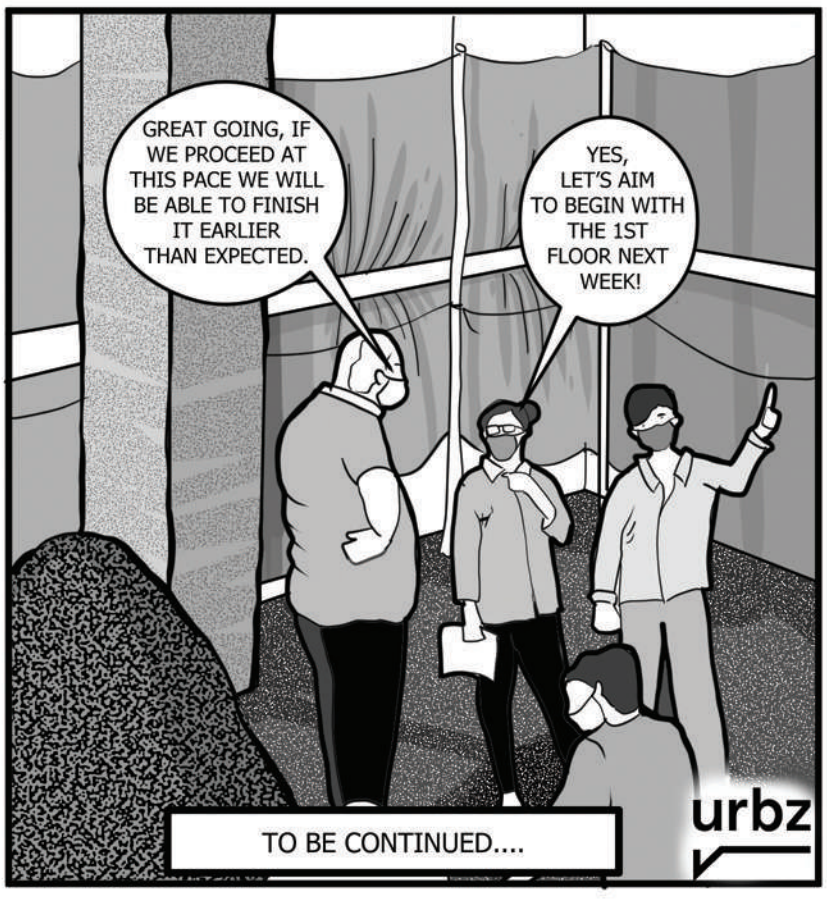

THE PLINTH IS A PLATFORM WHICH RAISES THE FLOOR OF THE BUILDING OFF GROUND LEVEL. MAKING THE PLINTH BEAM IS THE NEXT MAJOR STEP OF THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS. IT IS A HORIZONTAL MEMBER THAT TIES THE COLUMNS A FEW FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL. IT'S MAIN FUNCTION IS TO EVENLY DISTRIBUTE THE LOAD OF THE COLUMNS TO THE FOUNDATION.
PLINTH BEAM
COMPACTED SOIL
RUBBLE SOLING
NEXT, THE AREA ENCLOSED BY THE PLINTH BEAM IS BACKFILLED WITH SOIL FROM THE EXCAVATION BEFORE BEING COMPACTED.
A LAYER OF RUBBLE SOLING (HAND PACKING RUBBLE STONES ONE ADJACENT TO ANOTHER) IS DONE AND THEN COVERED WITH PLAIN CEMENT CONCRETE (PCC).
THIS FORMS THE BASE OF THE FLOOR.
PLAIN CEMENT CONCRETE (P.C.C)


TO CAST COLUMNS, YOU FIRST NEED TO SET UP THE FORMWORK AROUND THE STEEL REINFORCEMENTS.
THE FORMWORK IS USUALLY MADE OF PLYWOOD, AND IS GREASED BEFORE USE TO PREVENT THE CONCRETE FROM STICKING TO IT. THE FORMWORK IS TAKEN OFF ONCE THE CONCRETE SETS AND CAN BE REUSED.


ONCE IN PLACE, THE CONCRETE IS POURED IN AND TAKES THE SHAPE OF THE FORMWORK.


GREAT GOING, IF WE PROCEED AT THIS PACE WE WILL BE ABLE TO FINISH IT EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.
YES, LET'S AIM TO BEGIN WITH THE 1ST FLOOR NEXT WEEK!
TO BE CONTINUED....
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