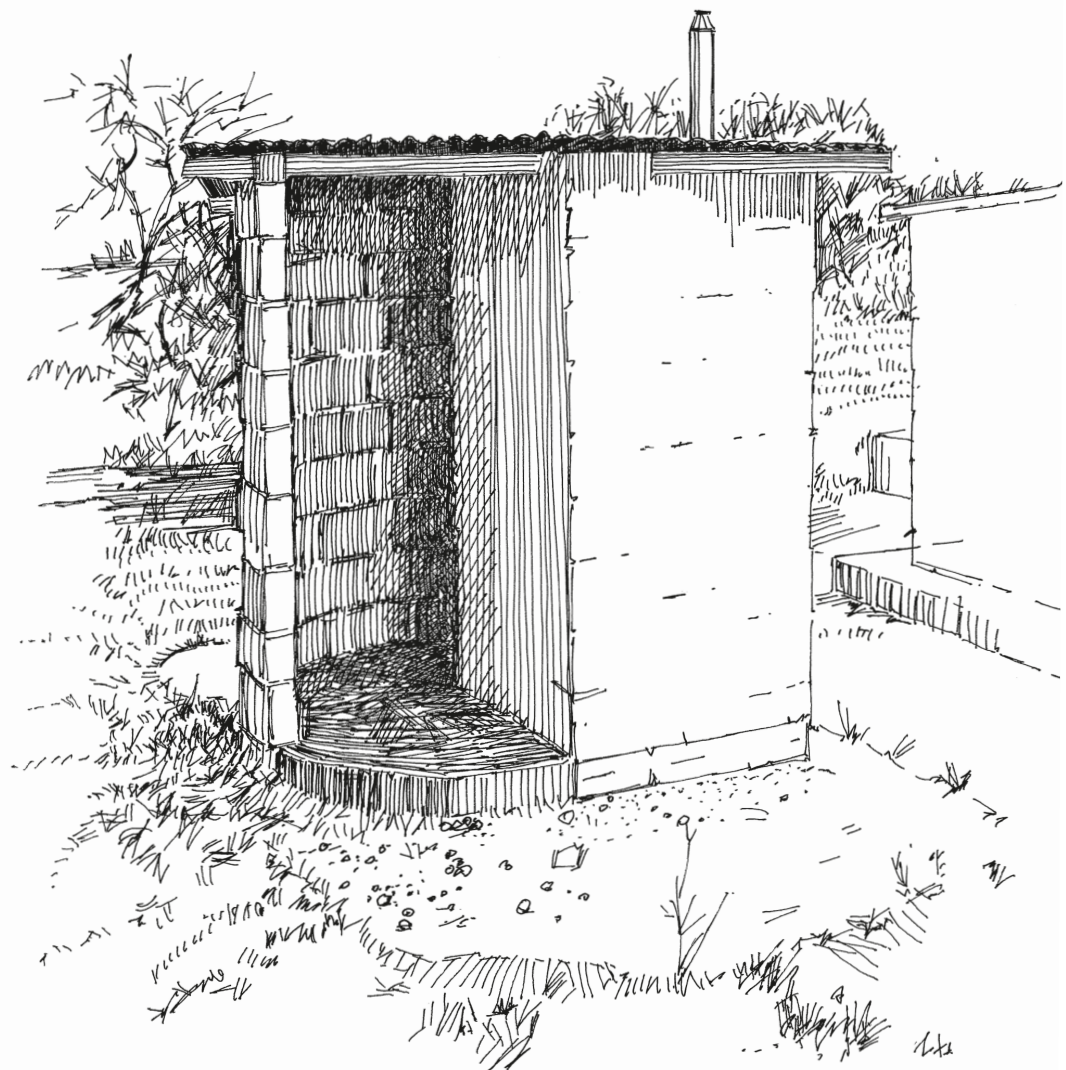


# Spiral VIP latrines

Ventilated, improved pit latrines (VIP latrines) work in part because they are dark inside (see WEDC Poster 15). Keeping a conventional latrine superstructure permanently dark can be very difficult, particularly if it is used by children.

Children and casual users will be unaware of the need for darkness inside and may leave the door open. One way of overcoming this is to build the superstructure in the form of a spiral.

A door can be fitted if required but it is not necessary. Sufficient light will be reflected around the walls of the spiral to allow users to see what they are doing.



One of the main disadvantages of VIP latrines is that they have to be dark to work effectively. Children (and some adults) may be afraid – not necessarily because of the darkness – but because they may not be able to see if vectors such as rats, snakes or scorpions are hiding in the latrine.

