

Development of an environmental suitability index for wall materials used in Sri Lanka

This study seeks to develop an index which estimates the environmental suitability of selected wall materials. The wall materials studied are, brickwork with one-side cement: sand plastering, cement block-work without plastering, and “cabook” with one side cement: sand plastering. The environmental suitability is estimated in terms of embodied energy, life cycle cost and reusability. Calculations based on these three parameters help to rank the materials according to their environmental suitability.

Such an index will help professionals like architects to carry out their work with best consideration for environmental suitability in selecting wall materials. More research along these lines on other building materials is necessary to develop a comprehensive system of evaluating the environmental suitability of Sri Lankan building products.