

Modeling Tall Building Spaces to Achieve a Climate-Friendly Architectural Concept

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ABSTRACT

This study attempted to analyze the effective components of sustainable architecture in the design of high-rise buildings to reduce energy consumption in Tabriz so that it can deal with the effect of the above-mentioned models on reducing fossil fuels consumption and environment sustainability. The following table shows sustainability models in the design of high-rise buildings in cold and dry climate and the effect of these models on reducing fossil fuels consumption for heating buildings. This study, first, discussed the issue of sustainable architecture and its principles. Then, the climatic design strategies of high-rise buildings in accordance with the cold and mountainous climate of Tabriz city, and the impact of these strategies on reducing fossil fuel consumption will be studied and analyzed. The aim of this study is to explain the design models of large buildings consistent with the cold and mountainous climate of Tabriz to reduce energy consumption.

KEYWORDS

Sustainability; Climate; Energy consumption; High-Rise buildings.

1. Introduction

Considering the statistics related to the high rate of urbanization all over the world, especially in developing countries as well as Iran, it could be estimated that, in the next 20 years, about 60% of the world's population will live in cities.

This number in Iran has been predicted to be 70%. The addition of each household to the urban population has different consequences, the most important of which is the provision of housing [1]. The issue of high-rise buildings is also at the beginning of a great transformation. Today, the crisis of housing quality has overcome the issue of quantity crisis, which is due to the adoption of policies to solve the problem of housing like constructing buildings "as fast as possible", "as small as possible", and "as cheap as possible", that are high on the agenda [2].

On the other hand, in our country, energy consumption in buildings amounts to 40% of total consumed energy. For the meantime, among the components of energy consumption in the building, the heating systems of buildings that mainly use fossil fuels, are among the major consumers of energy, so that 70% percent of natural gas consumed in buildings is spent on heating [3]. Also, in large cities, 30% percent of air pollution is generated from buildings. So, our environment is being harmed and is moving in an unpleasant direction [4].

On sustainable development and, of course, sustainable architecture, it has become clear that every building must interact with its natural environment. The controversial and considerable part of this issue is how to establish the interaction and also the type of measures considered. Given the cold and dry climate Tabriz, designing buildings should be done in a way that we can use natural energies to the maximum, and thus we can direct the criteria of a building towards sustainability [5].

Hypothesis: there is a feature in sustainable architecture that has led to reduced energy consumption in massive buildings.

Research question: How and using what strategies will architectures reduce energy consumption in high-rise buildings?

2. Material and Methods

To create a cohesive foundation, data in this quantitative research has been gathered based on library study and field research and this study deals with analyzing effective components of sustainable architecture in designing high-rise buildings to reduce energy consumption in Tabriz.

Sustainable architecture

Today, the issue of sustainable development is considered to be one of the most fascinating and common discussions at the international level. The extensive and scholarly discussion on this topic led to the opening of The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This conference was later called Rio Summit in which a resolution was issued to offer strategies for the sustainable development of countries around the world [5]. This is the most important definition of sustainable design presented at the Rio Summit: sustainable design is a kind of design that aims to fill the current needs without damaging the resources of future generations. In sustainable design, the socioeconomical sustainability should be considered just like the degree of energy consumption and the environmental effect of buildings and cities [6].

The principles of sustainable architecture

To achieve sustainable development, the following strategies and principles should be observed:

1. Using and sustaining the consumption of renewable resources (sun and wind).
2. Optimizing the use of resources and minimizing the use of natural resources in a proportion that is less than their natural growth.
3. Minimum production of waste and pollution that can be absorbed on a scale and capacity ranging from the environment to world.
4. Providing basic human and Social needs and creating a healthy environment for future generations [7].

Housing

The great land of Iran is one of the few countries that has provided a unique type of architectural culture to the world architecture during its history. Important cultural and geographical features of Iran have made for a great variety in its architecture [8]. The formation of housing is subject to cultural, climatic, economical, and subsistence factors and conditions [9].

Studying the history of housing, it could be found out that human beings have inevitably adapted themselves and their living space to climatic and cultural conditions. It could be found out that three important factors constituting the primary man-made shelters include the climate in which they lived, the type of material that they had access to, and predicting and developing methods to prevent dangers that might threaten them [10].

In the second meeting on human housing which took place in Istanbul, favourable housing has been defined as follows: desirable shelter does not simply mean a roof over the head of each person, rather it means desirable comfort, desirable space, physical access and greater security, ownership security, stability, construct durability, proper lightening, ventilation, and heating system as well as proper basic infrastructures such as water supply, hygiene, good environmental quality, and suitable place in terms of work and basic facilities all of which need to be provided according to the people's affordability [11].

Climatic design

The term 'implementing climatic design' is used to refer to specific construction techniques the aim of which is to reduce heating and cooling costs using natural energy flows to create comfort conditions in buildings. Climatic design is a method that is used to reduce the overall energy costs of a building and creates better comfort conditions for buildings [12].

Table 1. The table of literature review in order of historical sequence

Author(s)	The title of research work	Results
Hariri, Rezai et al. [13]	The national Building regulations of Iran. Discussion 19Lowering Energy Consumption	In addition to the location of building, it is necessary to observe other factors such as the installation of controlled entrances, the use of rough textures and dark colors to cover the exterior surface of buildings and reducing the area of opening surfaces.
Pourdeyhami, S. [14]	Construction in Accordance with Climate	The formation and direction of building shell should be in such a way that it can absorb maximum radiation in winter.
Nagizadeh, M. [15]	The qualitative features of desirable building (the basics of design the ways to achieve it)	Desirable and proper housing must have these characteristics: the possibility of interacting with environment: buildings should be designed so that the need for artificial regulators of environmental conditions be reduced to the minimum.

Tabriz climate

Tabriz is the center of Eastern Azerbaijan province which is located at approximately 46 degrees 25 minutes east longitude, 38 degrees 2 minutes north latitude from Greenwich Meridian. The elevation of Tabriz is 1340 m [17]. Among the climatic characteristics of Tabriz, we can refer to its bitter and long winters, and for several months of the year, the earth is covered with ice and snow. Rainfall is low in summer due to mountain range in western Iran, which, as a barrier, prevents Mediterranean air from entering Iran and retains moisture in its hillside. Rainfall in winters is mostly in the form of snow, and in general, in the region, short spring separates winter and summer from each other. Examining temperature information in Tabriz, it could be found that 62%

of the time the weather is cold and very cold, and 17% of the time the weather is hot and basically the weather is not very hot, and 21% of the time the weather is mild [18]. Figure 1 shows the range of need for shade and sun in different months of the year in Tabriz. This figure supports that buildings in Tabriz need shade in the hours of the day in the months of June, July, August, and September, and need sun in the other months of the year.

Climatic design measures for high-rise buildings in Tabriz to reduce energy consumption

Climatic design measures for housing in cold climate includes the following: 1) Landscape design arrangements; 2) Building design arrangements; 3) Building shell design arrangements; 4) Mechanical heating system.

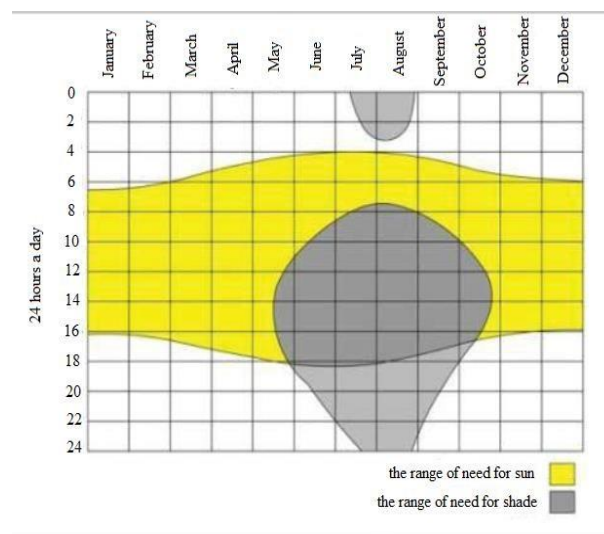


Figure 1. The calendar of need for shade and sun

Landscape design arrangements

Landscaping using trees and plants can reduce energy consumption for heating and cooling. In this method, by the shading of trees, the ability of trees to direct the flow of air as well as by the evaporation of plants, inactive and cooling can be created. Using careful landscaping and design ideas, we can be influential in the optimization of energy consumption and energy storage, especially at the height of summer and winter. Studies on the analysis of the energy consumption of households suggest that landscaping helped reduce energy consumption by 25% for heating, and by 50% for cooling [19]. Landscape design measures in winter and summer have been shown in Table 3.

Table 2. Landscape design measures in winter and summer [19].

Landscape design measures	Description
Using plants for protecting against winter wind	Evergreen trees in the northern and eastern sides of the building slow down the wind and create a layer of thermal insulation
Using plants to create shade in summer	Trees that shed their leaves, reduce indoor temperature in summer and increase it in winter on the south and southwest fronts of the building.

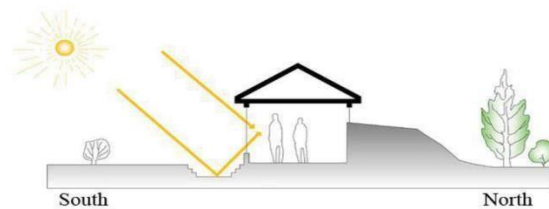


Figure 2. More coverage of building by land

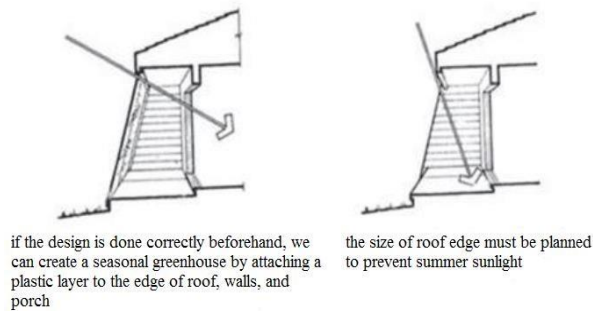


Figure 3. Semi-protected areas outside the building - preventing summer sunlight and keeping sun heat in winter

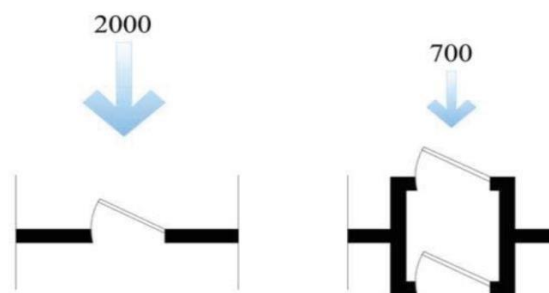


Figure 4. The numbers indicate that the amount of cubic feet of air entering the building is the result of opening the door once

Building shell design arrangements

Shell is also an efficient component in design and faces three general methods with buildings shells to achieve proper design with climatic principles:

1. Shell as the separator of building from the outside climatic conditions through thermal resistance (insulation).
2. Shell as thermal mass (delaying the conduction of heat through the body of the building)
3. Shell as the storage and distributor of heat in the building [22].

Using double-glazed windows

Windows are more vulnerable to unwanted heat transfer than any other element in the building shell. The thermal resistance of normal glass is much less than that of insulated walls. The thermal resistance of double-glazed windows is 1.2 times that of single-glazed windows [12]. Double-glazed windows help to reduce energy consumption by 37%.

The insulation of exterior walls of the building and the proper design of openings

To achieve the goals of sustainable architecture and the design of building's shells with the climatic approach, observing the following points can be effective:

1. The direction of the building is one of the serious issues for using sunlight in winter in cold and mountainous climates. To reduce energy consumption, the design based on inactive system is influential [23].
2. Using double-glazed or multiple-glazed walls with an empty space between two shells, is a method to avoid heat loss [23].
3. Using proper materials with high capacity and thermal insulation is one of the solutions that can be used to prevent outer cold air [23].
4. Maintaining heat by placing thermal insulation on the exterior shell of the building.
5. To prevent evaporative freezing in the building shell in cold and mountainous climate, vapor barrier needs to be installed in the warm side of the building shell insulation [24].
6. Minimizing the number and area of openings and using materials with lower heat transfer coefficient for window frames.
7. Using night insulation for windows (night insulation is a thick screen that is pulled into the interior wall of windows during the night to prevent heat dissipation). Thick screens help reduce heat transfer by 4 to 8 percent, thus reducing energy consumption [25].

Using the space under sloping roof as a storage space between indoor and outdoor air

The attic floor must be well insulated to prevent heat loss from the attic and also to prevent roof heating which melts snow. Due to the heat absorption from the south side of sloping roof, the temperature of this room is also increased which causes snow to melt on the north side of the roof and also creates an ice dam. This room should be properly ventilated to prevent this as well as perspiration. The protrusion of roof edge and holes under the arch are suitable for ventilation and for keeping attic space cool [12]. The thermal insulation of roof reduces heat loss by 26%, and so cuts down fossil fuels consumption.

Mechanical heating system

Underfloor heating system saves energy by 25% to 30% compared with conventional heating systems like radiator, or fan coil. The reasons for this are extremely large radiation levels (equal to the area of heated space), low water temperature circulating in underfloor heating system (between 35% to 50% °C), low heat exchange between floor and cold walls, even distribution of heat throughout the surface and space, and avoiding problems with radiator including its blackness, clogging, decay and finally problems related to repairing and maintaining it. Using this thermal method, warm weather in the environment will be very desirable and uniform because hot air is lighter than cold air and heat is always transferred from bottom to top. Thus, it would be better to heat the ambient air from lower level (floor) [29].

3. Data Analysis and Conclusion

Thus, today, considering the air pollution in cities and environmental issues resulting from using non-renewable energy resources, the design of highrise buildings should be reconsidered. Given the data mentioned in Table 6, it could be found that by observing sustainability models in the design of towering buildings in cold climate, we can:

- Do modeling for high-rise spaces to achieve climate-friendly architectural concepts
- Save energy for heating spaces by 66%

- Save energy for cooling spaces by 37.5%.

Suggestions

The following suggestion are, thus, provided in addition to those mentioned in the above table, to re-examine high-rise buildings design and to save more energy in consuming fossil fuels for heating buildings in winter:

1. Using domestic, accessible, environmentally-friendly materials
2. Designing a narrow and elongated form of the building along the east-west axis
3. Designing openings in the southern facade of the building to use sunlight in winter
4. Blocking and insulating the windward and cold side of building in winter, and using coniferous trees against cold winds
5. Minimizing openings in eastern and western sides
6. Using south porches as canopies against sunlight in summer
7. Working out the depth of canopy given the angle of radiation of the sun in winter and summer
8. Using greenhouse space in the southern side of building
9. Locating main spaces like bedroom, living room, and dining room in the southern side

The presence of corridors in the northern side of the building as the intermediate space between main indoor and outdoor spaces.

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