Thermal Performance and Carbon Reduction Potentials of Hempcrete Walls for Knockdown Houses of the National Housing Authority (NHA) of Thailand

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https://www.thestudioparkthailand.com/traditional-thai-house-ruen-kaew/



TRADITIONAL THAI HOUSES







https://www.data4risk.com/extreme-heat-waves-in-april-2023-in-asia-and-europe/





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Same Bullet and a second





Urban Heat Island

Not enough green area Not enough water retention Too many concrete pavement Too many cars Too many air-conditioners





ที่มา: ณัฏฐา ตระกูลไทย และอรรจน์ เศรษฐบุตร (2559). ผลกระทบจาก ภาวะอากาศเปลี่ยนแปลงต่อการใช้พลังงานอาคารในเขตร้อนชื้น



Medium/high-income housing (150 – 500 k USD)

MODERN THAI HOUSES



NHA Low-income housing (10 k USD)





https://www.pd.co.th/en/article/detail/716/stilthouse-season-ii-modern-thai-style-concept

TYPICAL HOUSE: ENERGY USE INDEX

	House Orientation (kWh/y)				Average	FIII	Electric
Base Case	North	South	East	West	Consumption (kWh/y)	(kWh/m2.y)*	Bill/month** (Bath)
Normal house	12,669	12,733	12,833	13,078	12,828.25	78.70	5,954.45
Elder & WFH house	15,564	15,686	15,814	16,008	15,768.00	96.74	7,318.98

*Energy use intensity (EUI), Interior floor area approx. 163 m²

** 5.57 Baht/Unit





Elder & WFH house- Annual Energy Overview

Normal house – Annual Energy Overview

ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

Case	Proposed items				
Propose 1	Roof insulation				
Propose 2	Improve wall performance				
Propose 3	Shading at Front Façade				
Propose 4	mprove glass performance				
Propose 5	Tree Shading				
Propose 6	PU Foam in Windows Frame				
Propose 7	Solar cell for shading				
Propose 8	Daylight sensor				
Propose 9	Hot water from CDU				
Propose 10	Combined Option XX + XX + XX				















ENERGY SAVING

Case	Proposed items		Annual Consumption (kWh/y)	EUI (kWh/m2.y)*	Electric Bill/month** (Bath)	Energy Saving (%)
Basecase	Normal SENA house		16,008	98	7,430	-
Propose 1	Roof insulation					
- Propose 1.1	[Add] 3 inch fiberglass insulation under concrete roof tile		15,383	94	7,140	3.90%
Propose 2	Improve wall performance					
- Propose 2.1	[Add] 10 cm Single light weights block wall at all exterior wall		15,439	95	7,166	3.55%
Propose 3	Shading at Front Façade					
- Propose 3.1	[Add] Shading at Front Façade_Option 1		15,508	95	7,198	3.12%
Propose 4	Improve glass performance					
- Basecase	[Basecase] 6 mm_Ocean green float glass, SHGC 0.6	~ 300-500	16,008	98	-	0.00%
- Propose 4.1	[Add] 6 mm_SolarTAG PLUS_CS135	~ 800-1000	15,228	93	7,068	4.87%
- Propose 4.2	[Add] 6 mm_SolarTAG PLUS_CS214	~ 800-1000	14,311	88	6,643	10.60%
- Propose 4.3	[Add] 12.76 mm_Lamitag Solartag-TBL-120 6+0.76+6	TBC	14,925	91	6,928	6.77%
- Propose 4.4	[Add] XX mm_Th-Low-e double glazing e=0.1 on surface 2	TBC	14,286	87	6,631	10.76%
- Propose 4.5	[Add] ~ 6 mm_Low-e Laminate 3+3	~ 1500-1700	14,897	91	6,915	6.94%
- Propose 4.6	[Add] 31.52 mm_6+1.52+6+12A+6 (Insulated Low-E)	~ 5000-5500	13,658	84	6,340	14.68%
Propose 5	Indel Tree on South and West foods		15.060	0.9	7 409	0.20%
- Propose 5.1	PLI Foam in Windows Framo		15,960	90	7,400	0.30%
- Propose 6.1	[Add] PU Foam in Aluminum Windows Frame		15,956	98	7,406	0.32%
Propose 7	Solar cell for shading					
- Propose 7.1	[Add] Solar cell 5 kW (For Shading)		15,841	97	7,353	1.04%
Propose 8	Daylight sensor					
- Propose 8.1	[Add] Daylight sensor 1.Dining room and 2.living room		15,458	95	7,175	3.44%
Propose 9	Hot water from CDU					
- Propose 9.1	[Add] Hot water for CDU		15,873	97	7,368	0.84%
Propose 10	Combined Option					
- Propose 10	Combined Option: 1.1+2.1+3.1+4.5+7.1+8.1+9.1		12,197	75	5,661	23.81%
	2					

*Energy use intensity (EUI), Interior floor area approx. 163 m² ** 5.57 Baht/Unit

Electric bill saving /year (baht) 21,227.27

CONSTRUCTION COST

Materials	Proposed items	% Saving	Area (m²)	Material Cost (baht/m ²)	Labor cost (baht/m ²)	Total cost (baht/m ²)	Total cost (baht)
Propose case							
Insulation	3 inch fiberglass insulation under concrete roof tile	3.5-4%	160	200	-	200	32,000
	3 inch fiberglass insulation on fl.2 Ceiling (Optional)	0.5-3%	97	150	-	150	14,550
Exterior wall	10 cm Light weights block at all exterior wall	3-3.5%	210	240	60	300	63,000
Shading	Shading at Front Façade	2.5-3%	50	577	94	671	33,550
Glass	6 mm_Low-e Laminate 3+3 at AC Room windows and door (Guardian)	6-7%	66	1,500	-	1,500	98,715
Daylight sensor 1.Dining room and 2.living room (~ 3,000 Lighting control baht/room)		3-3.5%	2	3,000	-	3,000	6,000
Propose case cost							
Base case							
Exterior wall	10 cm Precast concrete	3-3.5%	210	300	-	300	63,000
Glass	6 mm_Green float glass	6-7%	66	500	-	500	32,905

Base case cost 95,905.00

137,360.00

Net increasing cost

NET ZERO: OPERATIONAL ENERGY

- Energy Saving
 - 20-24% by better envelope
 - 50% by better envelope +3 kW Solar PV
 - 100% by better envelope + 8 kW Solar PV
- Construction Cost: 4.5% or 150,000 THB (PV excluded)
 - Energy saving = 16,000 21,000 THB/year
 - Payback = 7 years
- For TYPICAL house + 3kW Solar PV
 - Sell back to grid: 2-4 kWh/day (150-300 THB/month)
- For WFH house + 3 kW Solar PV
 - Need to buy 2-14 kWh/day



Embodied Carbon Calculator



Lifetime CO₂ emissions of 3 building types (30 years): Thailand



The emission per occupant from single house is the highest. However, the emission per unit area is the highest in office building as it is normally used in the daytime when the outside air is hot and the building needs air-conditioning.

Lifetime CO₂ emissions of 3 building types (30 years): Thailand



43% of carbon emission from a house comes from building materials (Embodied carbon). For condominium and office buildings, it is only 15% and 10%.

Project Knockdown House

National Housing Authority (NHA)

Low-cost – 15 k USD, 36-sq.m., Tropical Design 4 Regions of Thailand, Energy Saving Low-carbon (Embodied + Operation)











Eight envelope options

- 1. Red brick wall + single clear glass + no insulation (Base case)
- 2. Change clear glass to tinted glass (SHGC = 0.5)
- 3. Change red brick to concrete blocks (U-value up to 4.2 W/m2.C)
- 4. Change red bricks to autoclaved aerated concrete (U-value down to 1.2 W/m2.C).
- 5. Change red bricks to precast concrete
- 6. Change red bricks to fiber cement board with 3" foam insulation
- 7. Add 3" foam insulation on the ceiling
- 8. Combined options: 2 + 6 + 7







Energy Use Index (EUI) in kWh/m².year of the NHA Knockdown Houses Designed with Eight Energy Saving Options for 4 Regions of Thailand

Option 8: tinted glass with 3" foam insulation in exterior walls and 3" foam insulation in ceiling is the best in all 4 climates of Thailand.



Embodied Carbon (TonCO₂eq) of the three designs (one-story, one and a half story, and two-story houses using 8 options



Combined Embodied and 30-year Operational Carbon (TonCO₂eq)



Forecasted CO₂ intensity of electricity generation worldwide from 2000 to 2050, by region (in grams of carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour)

CARBON SINK & LOW-EMBODIED MATERIALS



CROSS LAMINATED TIMBER

BUBBLE DECK





Project Hempcrete House









Hempcrete Hemphurd 80% sized 8mm Cement 20%

Hemp insulation Hemphurd 98% lime 2%

Hempcrete Hemphurd 20% Lime Cement

Hempcrete Hemphurd 10% Lime Cement









Hempcrete & Hemp lime

Hemp clay brick

In situ Hemp



Energy Simulation using Energy Plus





Items	Туре	Base case (Normal Design)	Proposed upgrade items				
	Poof insulation		Fiberglass insulation 3 inch above 2nd-floor ceiling				
1		No roof insulation	Aluminium Foil insulation under roof tile				
	inoundation .		Bubble foil insulation under roof tile				
			PU Foam 1 inch under metal sheet roof				
		Tunnel / Precast	Lightweight block 10 cm.				
2 Exte	Exterior Wall	concrete	Tunnel or Precast concrete 10 cm				
3	Façade shading	No Façade shading	Existing design small shading at the ceter of front façade				
4	Glass	Clear glass 5 mm	Tinted - Ocean Green 6 mm. (กระจกเขียวตัดแสง)				
5	Tree shading	No tree shading	Tree shading for font façade				
6	Framing	No PU foam	PU foam inside door and window frame				
7	PV for Shading	No PV	Solar rooftop (3kW) as shaded for the roof				
8	Daylight Sensor	No Daylight Sensor	Day light sensor in Living and dining room				
9	Exterior Lighting	Normal Ligting fixtues	Solar cell lighting for lighting at front of house (Normal operate 18.00 - 06.00)				
10	Roof color	Dark color	Light roof color				



Interior & Exterior Wall	Wall Thickness (m)	K-Value (W/m.°C)	Density (kg/m ³)	EUI (kWh/m ² /year)	% Saving
Precast Concrete wall	0.1	1.44	2400	80.2	-
Aerated concrete blocks	0.1	0.18	620	75.3	6.1%
Hempcrete block	0.1	0.10	1000	75.8	5.4%

SUMMARY

- Traditional house design V.S. Climate change & Urban Heat.
- Net-zero energy house (better envelope + renewable energy).
- Embodied carbon plays a more import role in net zero.
- Use of low-carbon materials (wood based).
- Hempcrete has a potential to reduce both embodied & operational carbon.
- More research on suitable ingredients for hempcrete blocks (ratios of hemp hurds & binders – lime or cement to maintain strength while reducing thermal conductivity & density)