

A REVIEW OF ASSESSMENT METHODS OF PASSIVE THERMAL PERFORMANCE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

This paper outlines and depicts three categories of assessment methods of passive thermal performance and perception. These methods are interrelated as subjective perception of comfort and the physical -thermal performance of building structures and elements. They all aim at providing a positive thermal environment which achieves human comfort. The first category is seen as an initiative perceptual assessment which defines human comfort, its criteria and scales. Whilst the second one -categorized by the author as thermo-physical -are methods which combine the effects of the thermal variables of the environment, on human comfort, into a single index. The third category is the quantitative assessment and evaluation of thermal performance of building structures and elements which include pre-building stages, i.e. planning and design, analytical prediction and experimental methods.

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