Kerpic08 - Learning from earthen architecture in climate change International Conference Cyprus International University, Lefkoşa / Northern Cyprus 4-5 September 2008

Paper code: 68

A Straw Bale Building in Güneşköy Ecovillage-An Experiment in Ecological and Inclusive Design Process

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ABSTRACT

Güneşköy ecovillage is to be an experimental human settlement which aims to find ways of life in harmony with nature. Our straw bale building, built as part of UNDP- GEF supported Project: 'Using Vegetable Oils as Tractor Fuel', now houses the oil press. A range of natural materials were tested for use at every stage. Except for waterproofing, all our targets were fulfilled. The building has a reciprocal timber frame load bearing structure, with strawbales as wall infill, sealed with a covering of earth plaster. Members and volunteers of Güneşköy participated during the whole design and construction process. This anonymous product of around 30 people from different fields was led by Prof. Dr. Ali Gökmen. This paper explains the design and construction process of the building.

KEY WORDS :

Straw bale, ecological design, reciprocal frame, inclusive design process, ecovillage, Güneşköy