

Sustainable Architecture Sources and Learning Resources



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ABSTRACT

As we pose the question: Why do schools of architecture in countries with rich earthen architecture background, are starting to consider in their plans of study, earthen building technologies?, we tend to reflect upon the modern meaning of sustainable building which comprises both architecture as a unit or complex and the urban scope. People involved in the training of future architects are starting to consider this learning approach as valid in an increasing way since it allows students to acknowledge the value of vernacular solutions to housing and urban planning, that is to say, to consider vernacular architecture as a valid reference for contemporary design. Within this frame, earthen architecture acquires additional value for many fundamental reasons. Building with raw earth is convincing markets, clients and designers. Unfortunately, it doesn't convince anymore, rural communities; paradoxically, the people that throughout centuries have created it, corrected it, improved it, dwelled it and transmitted it as intangible knowledge. Still in a phase of having to deal with cultural assets such as status and a wrongly understood progress and modernity, local communities, which should be the natural main stakeholders, have retreated. I now pose the problem in this paper, earthen contemporary architecture may be benefiting private investors, clients with weekend villas and architecture designers but if it doesn't convince local communities anymore as they relate it with poverty and old fashion, shouldn't this be as well our commitment in preparing future architects and urban designers?

Keywords: Earthen architecture, design, local communities, training students.