

Modern View on an Ancient Hammam in Tamnougalt, Morocco A preliminary view on Tadelakt as protective plaster for earth



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ABSTRACT

The various and efficient use of new building materials in the past decades whitewashes the general lack of ecological production and the missing of eco-friendly disposal, respectively the capability of recycling. This traces us back to the original, natural building materials and makes them become contemporary and modern again. But, nevertheless, the use of earth building units or earth plasters in wet areas is a challenge up to now. This argues for more scientific research with the focus on this kind of ancient architecture, which demonstrates the use of building materials under climatically extreme conditions like increased humidity and high temperature. Illuminating could be the study of the ancient hammams (steam bathes). By reference to one of the oldest Moroccan hammams in Kasbah Tamnougalt (south of Atlas, close to the Sahara), this article presents the capability to protect earth building units by compressed, hydrophobized lime plasters (tadelakt). The article gives an overview of the general state of affairs in the field of the hammam culture and of the previous and announced research results of the project.

Keywords: Tadelakt, hammam, wellness, sauna, lime plaster.