# MOST RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS TO IMPROVE RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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# Abstract

Urban areas play a crucial role in global energy demand and in policies to mitigate climate change. Energy use in residential buildings is one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in cities. Spain has more than 25.8 million dwellings, of which around 9.3 million are more than 50 years old. Of these, 16.4% are in a poor or deficient state of conservation (INE, Population and Housing Census 2011). This situation of obsolescence and poor conservation of the building stock requires a major structural, functional and energy refurbishment. As a research hypothesis, it is proposed that the current Spanish building stock has a great potential for energy savings and CO2 reduction and that with an appropriate selection of interventions aimed at refurbishment it is possible to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and make them more sustainable. The main objective proposed is to identify the architectural, design and building system or installation factors that are most relevant for improving the energy efficiency of existing residential buildings in Spain. A large database with georeferenced observations of housing energy certificates is used for this purpose. The certificates correspond to individual dwellings located in blocks of buildings in the city of Barcelona (C2 climate zone according to the CTE). From these certificates, information on energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as well as the technical characteristics of the envelope and heating/cooling systems, can be obtained for each dwelling. The dataset contains information on energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with their rating (energy letter); in addition to the characteristics of the buildings such as the surfaces and transmittances of the envelope (opaque and glazed enclosures), the climate zone, type of dwelling, year and building code, heating and air-conditioning installations, percentage of windows according to orientation, etc. Using a linear regression model, the influence of each housing characteristic on energy consumption and CO₂ emissions can be estimated. The interpretation of the regression coefficients allows determining to what extent energy consumption can be reduced, for example by improving the envelope (opaque or glazed), systems/installations, thermal bridges, among other aspects. The linear regression analysis has shown promising results due to its reasonable

64 CITE 2022

accuracy for model estimation, and the relative simplicity of its application and interpretation compared to other methods (Fumo et al., 2015).

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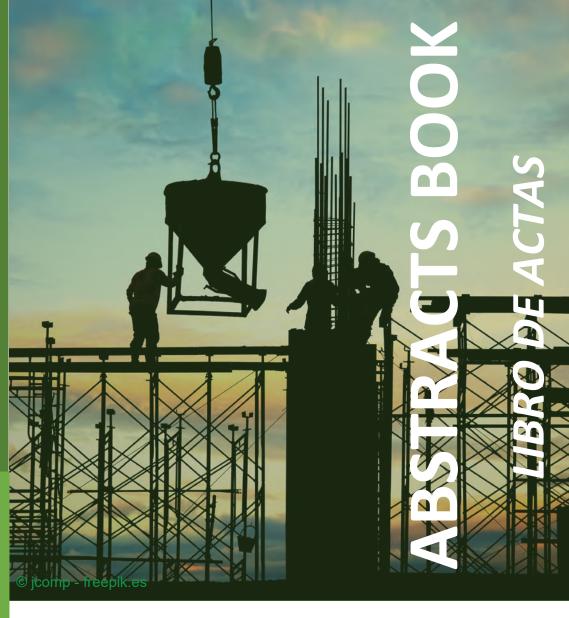
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65 CITE 2022

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A REVIEW OF VERTICAL GREENERY SYSTEMS (VGS) CLASSIFICATIONS AND THEIR FUNCTION	62
Mitra Manouchehri, Mercedes Valiente López, Joaquin Santiago López	
DEVELOPMENT OF A RECYCLED GYPSUM PLASTER WITH PLASTIC AGGREGATE	63
Manuel Alejandro Pedreño-Rojas, María Jesús Morales-Conde, María Isabel Romero-Gómez	
MOST RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS TO IMPROVE RESIDENTIAL ENERGY	64
<b>EFFICIENCY</b>	
Raúl-Tomás Mora-García, María-Francisca Céspedes-López, Raúl Pérez-Sánchez, Juan-Carlos Pérez-Sánchez	
AQUACULTURE FOR GREEN BUILDING ENVELOPES AND ENERGY EFFICIENT FACADES	66
Somayeh Ebrahimi, María del Mar Barbero Barrera	
IMPACT OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES OF MAPPING AND PROJECTIONS IN THE URBAN NIGHTSCAPE	67
Nubi León Martínez, Mercedes Valiente López, Ma. Carmen Sanz Contreras	
Building Technology	69
STATISTICAL STUDY OF MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF PLASTER EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS	70
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL	70
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS  Marta Rodríguez Aybar, Álvaro Pérez Raposo, Cesar Porras Amores, Mª Esther Moreno	70 73
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS  Marta Rodríguez Aybar, Álvaro Pérez Raposo, Cesar Porras Amores, Mª Esther Moreno Fernandez  APPLICATION OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS TOOL IN BUILDING	
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS  Marta Rodríguez Aybar, Álvaro Pérez Raposo, Cesar Porras Amores, Mª Esther Moreno Fernandez  APPLICATION OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS TOOL IN BUILDING ENVIRONMENT	
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS  Marta Rodríguez Aybar, Álvaro Pérez Raposo, Cesar Porras Amores, Mª Esther Moreno Fernandez  APPLICATION OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS TOOL IN BUILDING ENVIRONMENT  Arrate Hernández-Arizaga, Ana Picallo-Pérez, José María Sala-Lizarraga	73
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS  Marta Rodríguez Aybar, Álvaro Pérez Raposo, Cesar Porras Amores, Mª Esther Moreno Fernandez  APPLICATION OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS TOOL IN BUILDING ENVIRONMENT  Arrate Hernández-Arizaga, Ana Picallo-Pérez, José María Sala-Lizarraga  AQUA LOW-TECH. ASSEMBLIES FOR DEVELOPMENT	73
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS  Marta Rodríguez Aybar, Álvaro Pérez Raposo, Cesar Porras Amores, Mª Esther Moreno Fernandez  APPLICATION OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS TOOL IN BUILDING ENVIRONMENT  Arrate Hernández-Arizaga, Ana Picallo-Pérez, José María Sala-Lizarraga  AQUA LOW-TECH. ASSEMBLIES FOR DEVELOPMENT  Alba Ojero Revenga	73
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS  Marta Rodríguez Aybar, Álvaro Pérez Raposo, Cesar Porras Amores, Mª Esther Moreno Fernandez  APPLICATION OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS TOOL IN BUILDING ENVIRONMENT  Arrate Hernández-Arizaga, Ana Picallo-Pérez, José María Sala-Lizarraga  AQUA LOW-TECH. ASSEMBLIES FOR DEVELOPMENT  Alba Ojero Revenga  CONNECTIONS IN COMPOSITE WOOD-COLD FORMED STEEL FLOORS	73
EMPLOYING NEW WASTE MATERIALS FROM DISCARDED TENNIS & PADEL TENNIS BALLS  Marta Rodríguez Aybar, Álvaro Pérez Raposo, Cesar Porras Amores, Mª Esther Moreno Fernandez  APPLICATION OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS TOOL IN BUILDING ENVIRONMENT  Arrate Hernández-Arizaga, Ana Picallo-Pérez, José María Sala-Lizarraga  AQUA LOW-TECH. ASSEMBLIES FOR DEVELOPMENT  Alba Ojero Revenga  CONNECTIONS IN COMPOSITE WOOD-COLD FORMED STEEL FLOORS  Sergio Santana-Almeida, Borja Cruz, Joaquín Antuña  LOW COST SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE BUILDING THROUGH CONTAINER	73 75

Sergio Santana-Almeida, Borja Cruz, Joaquín Antuña