STATIC COOLING - PASSIVE VERSUS ACTIVE MEASURES
A Paradigm Shift In Air-Conditioning
COLD HARD FACTS OR JUST A BUNCH OF HOT AIR

by

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ABSTRACT

Air conditioning has become synonymous with office buildings. Indeed it is this very system, together with other building services such as electric lighting and lifts, that spawned the birth and evolution of the office building type.

The increased thermal loads of today's working environments, coupled with unsuitable climatic conditions, necessitates the installation of air conditioned facilities for a comfortable working space. Air conditioning has certainly become a pre-requisite for office buildings.

The dissertation looks at the development of air conditioning systems and how it has adapted to the changing needs of the office environment. New critical concerns like global warming and desire for improved humane spaces have topped the agenda in design and selection of air condition systems. Technical concepts and designs have evolved considerably to match the revised needs since the simple utilitarian priorities of the early models.

This study limits the scope of investigation to office buildings. It highlights the new shift in emphasis from active to passive measures, specifically the concept of static cooling, and puts forth the advantages and limitations this new system would have in the local context.

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