Abstract

Almost any kind of activity that man indulges in, has some consequences on our planet, the environment. Architecture, during its construction and its lifespan, consumes large amount of resources and energy whereas technology is classed by many as the root cause of global problems. Architecture is closely linked to technology, architecture is constantly talked about in its relationship with the building process and the servicing of it during its life time. Both architecture and technology have impacts on our fragile environment, and this becomes a base for these two to be brought together and discussed. There is a search for a symbiotic relationship between these two through an ecologically conscious approach. Symbiosis is not reached when both are considered as separate entities; one must not be an after-thought, both must be mutually supportive and inter-influencing each other. Symbiosis is enhanced by the creative nature of man.

This dissertation first starts by looking at the revolution of technology, the green issue and the concept of sustainability; how they affect architecture and have revolutionised architectural practice. The tenets of eco-design provide a flexible framework for doing design, bearing in mind that the framework will change with time. In the ‘integration of technology in architecture’ technological devices that addresses these tenets, are discussed. ‘The quest for a technofix aesthetic’ examines the concern of aesthetics that derives out of the real issue - the environmental issue. Case studies are employed to show the variety of creative eco-conscious designs which emerge from a parallel, or ideally symbiotic approach to architecture and technology.