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Nanomaterials for smart buildings

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Abstract

Due to increasing population and the upcoming problems in the world, humans have discovered new technologies and new materials in order to program daily life. One of man's serious concerns has been how to build constructions and manage buildings since the beginning of the human history. Some of these problems are resource limitations, increasing pollution and economic challenges. Therefore, talking about smart buildings which are dynamic and capable of repairing themselves is one of the most important sessions between architects and energy experts. Architecture and building technology on the basis of nanobuilding structures and nanomaterials are going through some significant changes and developments. Nanotechnology is one of the most important outcomes of the twenty-first century key technologies while its economic impacts are also recognized. New materials are being discovered and developed every day as a result of investigating ways to achieve molecular and atomic precision in engineering of material. These new materials present new opportunities to solve problems like heat absorbing windows, energy coating and etc... [1]. Thus using nanotechnology could avoid wasting of energy and it could be seriously useful for saving resources. Then it could decrease pollution. Moreover, because of dynamic and smart nature of nanomaterials, they are very good alternatives in order to save money. Therefore, studying how to use nanomaterials in construction styles is increasing by researchers all over the world day by day.

Keywords: nanomaterial, architecture, natural resources, environment friendly

I. INTRODUCTION

Nanoarchitecture will allow designs to interact better with the human senses. Experiencing this type of architecture is closer to nature and less forced than many of the designs we are experiencing today. In architecture and the construction industry, nanotechnology has potential that are already usable today, specially the coating of surfaces to lend them functional characteristics such as increased tensile strength, self-cleaning capacity, fire resistance, and others. Additives based on nanomaterials make common materials lighter, more permeable, and more resistant to wear. Nanomaterials are not only extremely useful for roofs and facades; but they also expand design possibilities for ecologically oriented architects. [3]. By merging both nanotechnology and architecture, the advent of nanotechnology will give architects renewed freedom that we don't experience today. It is interesting to think of architecture as a growing environment that evolves according to different respective codes. Nanoarchitecture could treat such codes or rules as a way to optimize intended functions and aesthetics. A

rchitecture would then be more of a dynamic entity, morphing to occur as per needs.

II. NANOMATERIALS FOR SAVING ENERGY IN ARCHITECTURE

Smart buildings concerning biodegradable features and nanobuilding facilities are recurrent architectural aspects of space design. Designers should be capable of new architectural innovation as nanomaterials during design process. The nanohouse is a new type of ultra-energy efficient house exploiting the new materials being developed by nanotechnology. HydroHouse uses natural air flow and seawater to cool and make the greenhouse humid. Seawater is evaporated at the facades of the greenhouse; as air passes into the greenhouse, it increases the humidity. But the smart part is in the structural columns, which also serves as supports for the growing racks. When it rains, fresh rainwater is allowed to trickle down from the roof, within the cylindrical columns.

In architecture and the construction industry, nanotechnology is capable of leading the building structure and architecture to an optimum level, for instance the coating of surfaces to lend them functional characteristics such as increased tensile strength, self-cleaning capacity, fire resistance and many other capacities. Nanomaterials are not only useful for some partial requirements like roof and facades; they also expand some design possibilities both for sustainable design strategies and architects. Nanotechnology on the near horizon, may take building enclosure materials (coating, panels and insulations) to a maximum capacity of performance in terms of energy, light, security and intelligence. Even these first steps into the world of nanotechnology could significantly improve the nature of building structure and efficiency and the way your buildings relate to environment. The development of carbon nanotubes and other breakthrough materials could affect building design and performance. Brief definitions of nanotechnology, nanobuildings, smart buildings, nanomaterials are the main approaches of this technology. [1]

III. NANOMATERIALS PROMOTE GREEN ARCHITECTURE

Nanomaterials are prepared by clean energy and they can promote green architecture. Nanomaterials could work as a living skin which is not only green in terms of its functions but also in terms of its component. Nanoconstruction materials are intelligent and of a versatile material system which adapt to structural loads and provide opportunities to develop self-sensing capabilities in the materi-

alto achieve energy efficiencies and environmental comfort. This can be achieved by integrating the design process constraints with opportunities from emerging material and construction systems. This strategy enables each phase of the material system development to account for critical downstream design constraints, construction scenarios and efficiencies needed for possible self-sustaining system, stating this as a adaptive material system for the building envelope to optimize material use and to integrate additional functions such as self-sustaining energy production and climate control. [2].

In the other hand, nano living systems are seriously designed for public awareness to reduce energy consumption. Nano house design was expected to become the most efficient house design in electricity consumption to solve the problem of energy consumption. The sustainable nano living concept has been studied in recent years. These nano materials are basically made of carbon atoms. Some factors such as significant amount of carbon output is also being studied to know how much exhaust carbon these nano houses produce and how much this exhaust carbon affects environment. Then an living system study results indicated that the nano house exhaust carbon is still realistic even has small effect on environment sustainability. These are biomimetic nano materials, in other words solutions that are produced by studying and imitating the models in nature or being inspired by them: There are many products that have been produced after the feature of animals, plants or even organs and the way they function. [4]

IV. NANOMATERIAL IN SERVICE OF ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Nano material can make construction more economic because they are ten times lighter but hundred times stronger than regular materials. They focus on energy saving, productivity and protection. For example, carbon nanotubes and other nano material could so radically transform our material palette that paper-thin sheets might hold up entire buildings, forcing us to completely rethink the relationship between structure and skin. A material that acts like a piece of paper in many ways, but one that brings with it so many new and exciting possibilities is graphene. It will, without doubt, have a multitude of impacts upon the built environment. And significant among those will be on the evolution of surface. Carbon nanotubes - sheets of graphite just one atom thick, are already the building blocks for hundred of applications, used to reinforce concrete and deliver medication to individual cells.

Nano composites, which combine new nano materials with more traditional ones such as steel, concrete, glass, and plastics, can be many times stronger than standard materials. Already on the market is a nano composite steel that is three times stronger than conventional steel. In the near term, nano composite reinforcement of steel, concrete, glass, and plastics will dramatically improve the performance, durability and strength-to-weight ratio of these materials. Before long, nano-reinforced glass might be used for both structure and enclosure. Nano tube structural panels could make some opportunities to create transparent load bearing curtain walls free of columns and beams. Quantum dots make walls and ceilings light up or change color with the flip of a switch, and nano sensors in building components

creates smart environments that constantly adapt to their environment and users. Already, this new science of the small particle has brought self-cleaning windows, smog-eating concrete, and toxin-sniffing nano sensors to the market.

About three hundred nano engineered products are commercially available in the world. But these off-the-shelf advances offer only a taste of what's incubating in the world's nano tech lab today. The work is underway on nano composites as thin as glass, yet capable of supporting entire buildings, and photo synthetic coating that can make any building surface a source of free energy. These remarkable effects are achievable because matter behaves differently at the nano scale, where the laws of quantum physics take hold. In this quantum world, objects can change color, shape, and phase much more easily than at the macro scale. Fundamental properties like strength, surface-to-mass ratio, conductivity and elasticity can be engineered to create dramatically different materials which have real economic concerns.

(1) Acknowledgment

Nano materials make opportunities to have smart buildings. Traditionally, the design and construction of building envelope involves the use of multiple layers of different materials to achieve a wide array of functionalities, including strength, light filtering, thermal insulation, sound insulation, weather resistance and architectural appearance. However, this layering approach introduces inefficiencies and also creates a number of joint and interface, which ultimately act as weak links in the building envelope causing durability problems. [5]. Surely new materials and fields of use will bring new forms and functions to designs and there will be new dimensions in human structure environment relations. Architects who have come to be familiar with nano technology use products and systems that are lighter but stronger, environment friendly and those that can clean both themselves and the air, and so can design more sustainable buildings. In future, steel or bricks will not be used in buildings. And this will provide many different design opportunities for the architects and designers. The conception and the practice of architecture will change. Nano technology's "wonder materials" have the potential to revolutionize how and what we build. Privacy, sustainability and security are just a few of the issues that will be profoundly affected by nano technology. As threats from terrorism and even from natural forces like hurricanes rise, we will utilize the strength of nanotubes to make our buildings more secure. The design and construction of buildings will incorporate rich network of interacting, intelligent objects, from light-sensitive, photometric window to smart appliances. Buildings will not be static but will change constantly as their components continuously interact with users and each other. These dynamic environments will be almost organic in their ability to respond to change. Therefore with these new materials architects and design dynamic buildings which are more beneficial.

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