

## **USE OF ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY BUILDING AND FINISHING MATERIALS**

### **Choosing the building materials following ecological and economical criteria**

As growing numbers of people are environment conscious, the main purpose of this material is to assist in the choice of building materials following two criteria – ecological and economical. In the first chapters, the principles of ecological construction and ecological materials are explained, comparing the main building materials from ecological point of view. The benefits of eco-building are assessed, as well as the building regulations concerning environmental impact.

A special chapter describes impact of the physical properties of the materials on the micro climate of the building. Conditions of the main elements creating the micro climate – air contents, temperature, noise levels - are discussed.

The chapter on the choice of building materials for the construction frame characterises the key materials – wood, concrete, ceramics, glass and their products. Technical data provided on the most widespread building materials in Latvia, their advantages, possible drawbacks or problems, as well as the possible application is described. Additionally information is given on construction solutions for building elements (windows, doors, roof). As to heat insulation, this paper describes types, advantages and problems of the most common heating insulation materials, comparative assessment of their environmental impact. In similar way, information is structured on finishing and interior materials.

The chapter on non-traditional materials provides information on application of straw, clay, linen and non-traditional use of wood.

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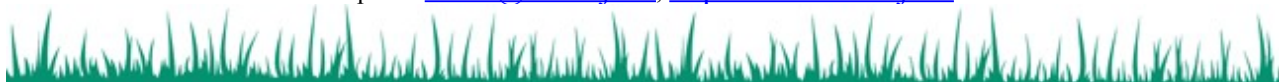
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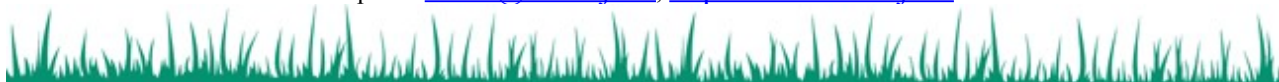
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