

2011 International Conference on Green Buildings and Sustainable Cities

## Brief discussion of green buildings

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### Abstract

With the development of social, people have an increasing requirement for living environment. Green buildings and sustainable urban development are the urgent task in many Chinese cities. However, under the restriction of decision-making, planning, development and management, green buildings face the growing problem. The most prominent problem is not its economic rationality, but the lacking of moral foundation and technology combination. These three parts should be organic unity which composing the integrated concept of green buildings.

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## **1. Moral basis of green building**

### *1.1. Significance of green buildings*

The conflicts of contemporary social remind us obviously that human are the world's largest contradictions maker. After the unlimited expansion of Cities, the huge hidden danger was buried in the future of mankind. The problem is not to enrich the modern city, but how to regulate it. This elicited a question, how human to treat the world which creation by their hands. Since the 1970s' oil crisis, to the famous Club of Rome report' "The Limits to Growth", then to the current "low carbon" concept, we gradually aware that human beings must learn to restrain themselves' infinite endless desire in the process of development, otherwise they would bear a merciless counteraction from nature. As a result, the idea of green buildings began to sprout, and the theory and practice of green building and sustainable cities development become popular.

### *1.2. Content of green buildings*

The widely cited definition of sustainability is began from 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development report entitled "The Future of Mankind". The so-called "sustainable development" is "meeting the current needs of development, on the basis of undamaging the future of human societal economic interests." This long-term point of view is very meaningful and worth further consideration. For the architecture industry, the green and sustainable development mainly refers to that, when considering environmental, urban and architectural issues, it should be taken into account which is the short-term interests of contemporary and the long-term interests of the entire human race; it should be considering one region's local interests and the whole world as a whole, sharing the limited earth resources with future people on this planet in a fairly and reasonable manner. The wasting of resources and the environmental pollution should be also eliminate in the maximize degree. As Lawrence said in the "Sustainable Seattle", "which means the sustainability is that making a happiness life more than survive, so if we really want to sustainable development, consumption must be reduce." The over-consumption of resources and environment is equivalent to doing harmful to human beings themselves.

### *1.3. Architect's responsibility*

Obviously, the emergence of sustainable ideology not only means that the re-understanding for the relationship between mankind and environment, ecological, but also means that the development and re-deepen the contemporary cultural and moral ideas. Only in this way, would it be the ultimate concern on human society based on the long-term and overall interests. This makes green buildings and sustainable cites different from any kind of other construction genre in the past. Also in this sense, we can even say that green building is another revolution since modern architecture has been. In those years, modern architecture has firstly researched the social economic as the basic condition in building development, taking social progress and human equality as a sublime goal of architecture and pursuit. Now, green building will take the interaction and the balance between human society and nature as the starting point of development, and define mankind themselves as a part of natural, to re-think and delimit man and man-made environment in the world position. In this way, the architect shoulder greater responsibility on the human when engaging in building design work.

## **2. Economic rationality of green building**

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