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## Effect of Wall Insulation on Energy Performance of Healthcare Buildings (Case Study Inpatient Rooms in Egyptian Liver Hospital)

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# Effect of Wall Insulation on Energy Performance of Healthcare Buildings Case Study Inpatient Rooms in Egyptian Liver Hospital

## تأثير عزل الحوائط على أداء الطاقة بمباني الرعاية الصحية دراسة حالة فراغات الإقامة بمستشفى الكبد المصري

Shymaa E. Elnahas, Ahmed E. El-Maadawy and Lamis S. El-Gazawi

### KEYWORDS:

*Inpatient rooms, Wall Insulation, Energy Efficiency in Hospitals*

*الملخص العربي:-* أصبحت مفاهيم التصميم المستدام والمباني الخضراء غير المستهلكة للطاقة منتشرة عالمياً، وأصبح التوجه العام للدولة هو توفير الطاقة في المباني، فالمباني التي تحقق الاستدامة هي الحل الأمثل لتحقيق كفاءة الطاقة في مباني الرعاية الصحية المستهلكة بصورة كبيرة للطاقة وفقاً لتقارير وزارة الكهرباء والطاقة المصرية، وذلك لتحقيق أفضل بينات استشفاء. حيث يهدف البحث لدراسة تأثير عزل الحوائط الخارجية لفراغات الإقامة لتحقيق كفاءة الطاقة في مباني الرعاية الصحية، حيث تختبر الدراسة تأثير الحوائط الخارجية لفراغات الإقامة بمبني مستشفى الكبد المصري على تحسين أداء الطاقة داخل المبنى باستخدام برامج المحاكاة (Autodesk Revit and Green Building Studio)، فتظهر الدراسة مدى تأثير مواد البناء والعزل على أداء الطاقة داخل المبنى، يوصى بالبحث باستخدام الحوائط المزودة بالمعزولة من الطوب واستخدام تشطيبات خارجية كالرخام والجرانيت المعزولة بمواد عزل حراري لتساهم في تقليل استهلاك الطاقة بالمبنى.

*Abstract—* Green building and sustainable design are worldwide concepts in architecture. Also, the general trends of the state are focus on energy conservation in buildings, so sustainable buildings are the best choice to achieve energy efficiency in healthcare buildings which greatly use energy according to reports from the Egyptian ministry of electricity and energy. This paper reports on a research that utilized simulation techniques for identifying the most efficient material for external wall of inpatient spaces. This research aims to study the impact of external wall material of inpatient rooms on

achieving energy efficiency in healthcare buildings. The research examines the impact of wall materials of inpatient spaces in Egyptian liver hospital to improve the performance of energy by using simulation programs Autodesk Revit and Green Building Studio. Results demonstrated that properties of building walls effect on building energy use. Use of insulated double wall from burn clay block in inpatient spaces of Egyptian liver hospital reduced energy use intensity from [797 to 771] MJ/sm/yr and saved 42000 Egyptian pound per year. The study results of this paper demonstrated the need for insulation of external wall for inpatient spaces to save energy in healthcare buildings.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

After the problem of energy that faces the world, there has been a general trend to save energy. According to the report of the Egyptian ministry,

healthcare buildings are one of the most intensive energy use buildings (1). Heat loss or gain from building envelope has a major share in waste of energy, so it is essential to save energy by selecting the proper thermal properties of building walls that play a major role in determining the energy consumption patterns and comfort conditions in enclosed spaces. Strategies of installing insulation in wall achieve energy saving and high performance healing environments, so it's an environmental friendly strategy which has the ability to reduce environmental impact and carbon dioxide concentration (2). This research aims to find out the potential of reducing energy consumption of buildings through the proper selection of wall construction materials and wall surface material. The research examines the effect of the thermal properties of various wall combinations of inpatient rooms on the annual required energy for heating and cooling in healthcare buildings. The research focuses on arriving to the most efficient wall building materials and the most efficient finishing material having a significant effect on the amount of energy consumed by buildings. It is worth mentioning that many previous studies have confirmed the benefits of improving the envelope thermal properties on the consumed energy of buildings. Fang et al. 2014 (3) investigated the effect of wall insulation on the thermal performance of two types of constructed test rooms in China on the hot climate in Chongqing. They concluded that the well-insulated room reduces the required cooling energy by up to 23% compared with the other un-insulated normally constructed room. Thormark (2006) (4) reported that improving the thermal insulation of the building envelope will considerably reduce the energy required to operate the building. Mishra et al. (2012) (5) estimated the optimum thickness of wall insulation materials to reduce the energy consumption of buildings in India in Dehradun which climatic condition is moderate cool winters, warm summers, rainy monsoons and a balmy spring taking into consideration the cost of insulation and energy over the life time of the building. The results of the simulation study carried out by Yoshimi et al (2011) (6) concluded that covering the external walls with vegetation results in reducing the heat gain and loss and consequently lowering the required heating and cooling loads of buildings. Almujaheed et al. (2013) (7) examined the thermal performance of real test walls with three different combinations in the arid climate of Riyadh City with the aim of finding out the effect of wall materials on a building thermal behavior. In all studies, there is strong consensus that appropriate treatment of the building envelope is imperative in attaining both comfortable living and working environments, as well as reducing the energy consumption.

### 1.1. The Problem

Healthcare buildings consume considerable amount of energy. In the same time, most of external wall of inpatient spaces which represent the most significant part of external surfaces of these buildings are not insulated, so they have a major share in waste of energy in these buildings.

### 1.2. The Aim of Research

This research aims to examine the effect of wall material and insulation wall strategies of inpatient rooms on improving the energy performance of healthcare buildings by using simulation programs to reach an ideal healing environment.

### 1.3. Energy Efficiency in healthcare buildings


A healthcare building aims to provide best healing environments for patients. The challenge is to reduce energy use without effecting negatively on healing environments quality. Energy efficiency not only saves energy but also enhances the other design goals important to healthcare facilities to contribute to an environmentally conscious building design, and improve the bottom-line performance of the healthcare facility.

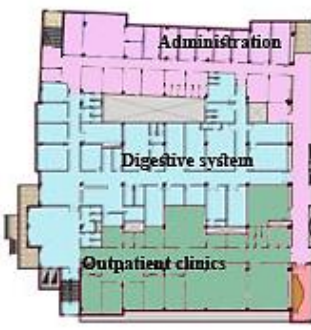
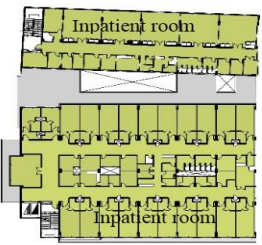
## II. METHODOLOGY

The study's methodology based on simulation research strategy which tries to recreate some aspect of the physical environment in one of a variety mode, from a digital simulation software to real scale conditions imitation (8). This study investigates the energy performance and cooling loads of Egyptian Liver Hospital with design alternatives of inpatient spaces wall materials by using digital building performance simulation software.


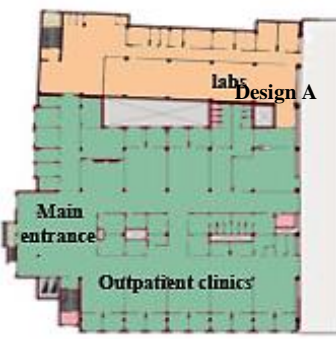
### 2-1 Case study design

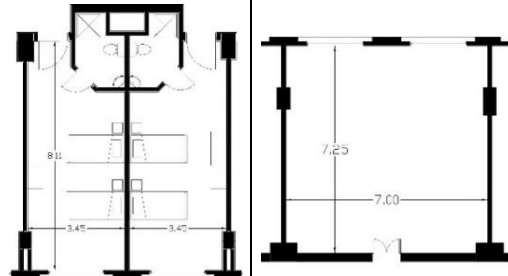
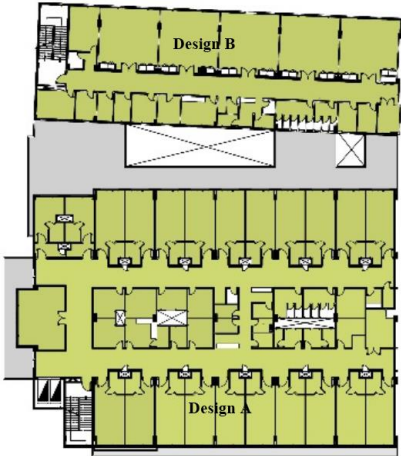


Site	 <p>Figure 2: Satalite Map for Egyptian Liver Hospital (Goole Earth 2016)</p>	
	<p>Located 20 km from Mansoura city and 45 km from Damietta</p>	
Basic information	<p>✓ Project overview</p> <p>Egyptian liver hospital provides medical care for liver patients', liver Hospital building consists of two phases, first phase was built and operated. The second phase is not yet completed.</p>	
	✓ Site area	15454 m2
	floor area	5756 m2
	✓ Type	Liver hospital
	Owner	Association of liver patient care
	<p>✓ Case study description</p> <p>First phase consists of basement and four floors. Ground floor and first includes radiology administration, operations, intensive care digestive system and emergency. Third and fourth floor include inpatient spaces.</p>	

	<p>Administration <span style="color: #FF69B4;">■</span></p> <p>Digestive system <span style="color: #6495ED;">■</span></p> <p>Outpatient clinics <span style="color: #3CB371;">■</span></p>
<p>Figure 5: First floor (9)</p>	
	<p>Inpatient room <span style="color: #9ACD32;">■</span></p>
<p>Figure 6: Second floor and Third floor (9)</p>	

### 2.2 Inpatient rooms parameters

Basic information		<p>Pharmacy <span style="color: #FFD700;">■</span></p> <p>Service <span style="color: #FF6347;">■</span></p> <p>kitchen <span style="color: #FFD700;">■</span></p>
	<p>Figure 3: Basement floor (9)</p>	
Basic information		<p>Labs <span style="color: #FF8C00;">■</span></p> <p>Outpatient clinics <span style="color: #3CB371;">■</span></p>
	<p>Figure 4: Ground floor (9)</p>	

	<p>Design A</p> <p>Design B</p>
	
<p>Figure 7: Inpatient units' plan design</p>	

There are two models of inpatient spaces. Inpatient rooms with design A is in second floor and third

floor which half of them take the north-east orientation, and the other group take the south-west orientation. Its width 3.45 m and the depth 8.11m with 3.85m height. Inpatient spaces with design B also located in second and third floor, and they take the south west orientation. Its width is 7 m, and its depth is 7.25 m. Inpatient spaces with design A and B have the same external wall material which consist of .25 m of burnt clay brick with .02 m cement, and the external surface material finish is off white plastic paints. floor structure consists of .30 m of reinforced concrete slab and finish surface of material is vinyl sheets. Window glazing consists of .006 m single pane glass with .78 heat gain coefficient. WWR value is 25 %. Inpatient space achieves thermal comfort by using central mechanical HVAC system.

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Ceiling	Structure	.02m Vinyl sheets	
		.02 m mortar	
		.06 m sand	
		30cm reinforced concrete	
	Ceiling for third floor		
	Thickness	.5 m	
	Resistance	0.63(m <sup>2</sup> . k/W)	
	Thermal mass	62.02 KJ/k	
	Structure	.02 m Mosaic tile	
		.03 m mortar	
		.06 m sand	
		.07 m mortar	
		.02m damp proofing	
		.30 m reinforced concrete	
		Gypsum board sheets and titles .60*.60 m	
Ceiling for second floor			
Thickness	.40 m		
Resistance	0.52 (m <sup>2</sup> . k/W)		
Thermal mass	47.7 KJ/k		
Structure	.20 m Vinyl sheets		
	.02 m mortar		
	.06 m sand		
	.30 m reinforced concrete		
	Gypsum board sheets and titles. 60*.60 m		

2.3 Simulation domains

Simulation of energy consumption of Egyptian Liver Hospital are conducted using alternatives of external wall material and external finish material for inpatient spaces in this hospital. In Egypt, common external wall materials are concrete blocks and common burnt brick. It is used either with or without cement plaster as an external finishing surface. The external walls of buildings are usually made of 200mm concrete blocks or 25 cm of common burnt brick or 20 cm of hollow blocks whereas internal walls are made of 100mm, 120mm or 150mm concrete blocks or common brick. Thermal insulation is not usually used as part of the walls construction materials due to its high initial cost in addition to the lack of awareness of its benefits in reducing the heating and cooling energy requirements. For increasing the thermal resistance of external wall materials, some improvements make on the wall material. This includes making double wall with various thicknesses and installing insulation material. Simulation domains of wall material type, thermal insulation and external finish of external walls of inpatient room of case study are described as shown in figure 8.

TABLE 1  
PARAMETERS OF INPATIENT ROOMS ENVELOPE MATERIAL FOR EGYPTIAN LIVER HOSPITAL.

External envelope materials		
Exterior wall	Thickness	.30 m
	Resistance	.54(m <sup>2</sup> . k/W)
	Thermal mass	36.88 KJ/k
	structure	.005 m plastic paint
		.02 m mortar
		.25 m burnt clay brick
.02 m mortar		
	0.005 m plastic paint	
window	Window size	25% WWR
	Glazing	Single glass
	SHG	.78
	Shading	Without shading device
floor	Thickness	.40 m
	Resistance	0.52 (m <sup>2</sup> . k/W)
	Thermal mass	47.7 KJ/k



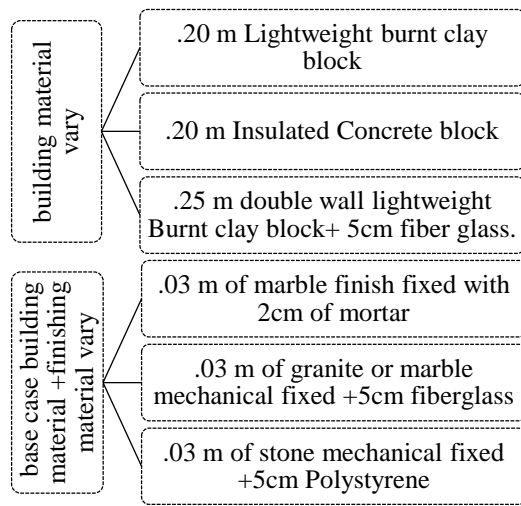


Figure 8: Domain matrix.

TABLE 2  
SIMULATION DOMAINS PROPERTIES.

External wall properties			
	Structure	Th m	K W/m. K
Case 1	plastic paint	.005	.51
	Mortar	.02	.72
	Light weight burnt clay block	.20	.27
	Mortar	.02	.72
Case 2	plastic paint	.005	.51
	Mortar	.02	.72
	Insulated Concrete block	.20	.17
	Mortar	.02	.72
Case 3	plastic paint	.005	.51
	Mortar	.02	.72
	Light weight burnt clay block	.10	.27
	fiber glass insulation	.05	.019
	Light weight burnt clay block	.10	.27
Case 4	Mortar	.02	.72
	plastic paint	.005	.51
	marble	.03	2.9
	Mortar	.02	.72
	Common brick	.25	.54
Case 5	Mortar	.02	.72
	plaster	.005	.51
	Marble or granite	.03	2.9
	Fiberglass insulation	.05	.019
Case 6	Common brick	.25	.54
	Mortar	.02	.72
	plaster	.005	.51
	limestone	.03	2.9
	Polystyrene - Expanded	.05	.035
Case 6	Bitumen	.005	.016
	Common brick	.25	.54
	Mortar	.02	.72
	plaster	.005	.51

Note ; (k) donated to Thermal Conductivity (W/m. k) which defined as the property of a material to conduct heat. (10)

TABLE3  
EXTERNAL WALL INSTALLING.

External wall	
Base case	<p>burnt clay brick mortar cement plaster Burnt clay brick</p>
Case 1	<p>lightweight clay block mortar cement plaster lightweight burnt clay block</p>
Case 2	<p>Insulated concrete block Insulated concrete block</p>
Case 3	<p>Light weight clay block mortar cement Thermal insulation fiberglass plaster Insulated double wall</p>
Case 4	<p>25 cm of common brick 2 cm of mortar 3cm of marble Marble cladding</p>
Case 5	<p>25 cm of common brick 5 cm of fiberglass 3cm of marble Granite cladding</p>
Case 6	<p>25 cm of common brick 5 cm of polystyrene 3cm of stone Stone cladding</p>

The following table provide details about the assumptions used during energy analysis for healthcare building. These assumptions are based on ASHRAE standards.

TABLE 4  
ASSUMPTIONS USED DURING SIMULATION PROCESS.

Parameter	Value
Occupancy Schedule	Health
People/100 sq. M.	10
People Sensible Heat Gain (W/person)	73
People Latent Heat Gain (W/person)	59
Lighting Load Density (W/sq. M.)	12.9
Equipment Load Density (W/sq. M.)	12.7
Infiltration Flow (ACH)	0.1
Outside Air (ventilation air) Flow Per Person (liters per second)	13
Outside Air (ventilation air) Flow Per Area (cubic meters per hour per square meter)	3.7
Unoccupied Cooling Set Point (C)	29.4

2.4. Simulation software

The research examines energy performance and annual carbon emission of tested hospital along alternative wall material of inpatient spaces in this hospital. Energy simulation required detailed data of building type, location, thermal properties of model project phase and HVAC system. The study depends on Building Information Modeling (BIM) and energy-analysis software to simulate it. These are Revit Autodesk and Green Building Studio software. Revit® BIM software is specifically built for Building, Information and Modeling (BIM), and Green Building Studio is energy-analysis software. Revit software includes features for architectural design, MEP, structural engineering and construction. Revit is a single software application that supports a BIM workflow from concept to construction. Revit is used to design models with precision, optimize performance and collaborate more effectively (11). Green Building Studio enables architects and designers to perform whole-building analysis and optimize energy consumption. It works toward carbon-neutral building designs earlier in the process. Cloud-based energy-efficiency software helps teams achieve sustainable building designs faster and more accurately with powerful energy- and carbon-analysis tools. (12). This simulation study is done under these building performance factors.

TABLE 5  
BUILDING PERFORMANCE FACTORS.

building performance factors	
location	Al Mansoura, Egypt
Weather station	1247177
Outdoor temperature	Max 41 °c min 3 °c
Floor area	5.760
Exterior wall area	2.533
Average lighting power	13.02
People	576
Exterior window ratio	.25
Electrical cost	.84 p

III. RESULTS

Improving thermal properties of external wall can help to solve problem of energy consumption and reduce of cooling loads and carbon emission. the choice of wall material which was enhanced by insulation is depend on an accurate result of digital simulation of these cases and its impact on energy performance of tested hospital. Total energy use intensity values expressed in (MJ/sm/yr). Annual electricity use expressed in kwh, and fuel use expressed in MJ and energy cost expressed in pound.

3. 1. Base case

- Parameters of base case

TABLE 6  
PROPERTIES OF EXTERNAL WALL FOR BASE CASE.

Properties of inpatient room external wall material			
External wall	Thickness (m)	0.30	
	Resistance (m². k/W)	0.54	
	Structure	.005m plaster	
		.02Mortar	
		.25 m common brick	
		.02 m Mortar	
.005 m plaster			

TABLE 7  
ENERGY ANALYSIS RESULTS FOR BASE CASE.

Energy Analysis Results		
Energy use intensity	Electricity EUI (kwh/ sm /yr.)	177
	Fuel EUI (MJ/sm/yr)	161
	Total EUI (MJ/sm/yr)	797
Life cycle energy use	Life cycle Electricity Use (million kwh)	30
	Life cycle Fuel Use (million MJ)	27
	Life cycle energy cost	
Annual carbon emissions	Electricity use (metric tons /yr)	236
	Fuel use (metric tons /yr)	46
	Net co2(metric tons /yr)	282

continued on the next page

TABLE 7: continued

Annual energy use	Electricity Use (million kwh)	1
	Fuel Use (million MJ)	.9
<p>Electricity Use 20% Fuel Use 80%</p>		
Energy Use Fuel	HVAC (million MJ)	.74
	Domestic Hot water (million MJ)	.19
<p>HVAC 21% Domestic Hot water 79%</p>		
Energy Use Electricity	HVAC (million kwh)	.40
	Lighting (million kwh)	.30
	Misc. equipment (million kwh)	.30
<p>HVAC 30% Lighting 40% Misc. equipment 30%</p>		

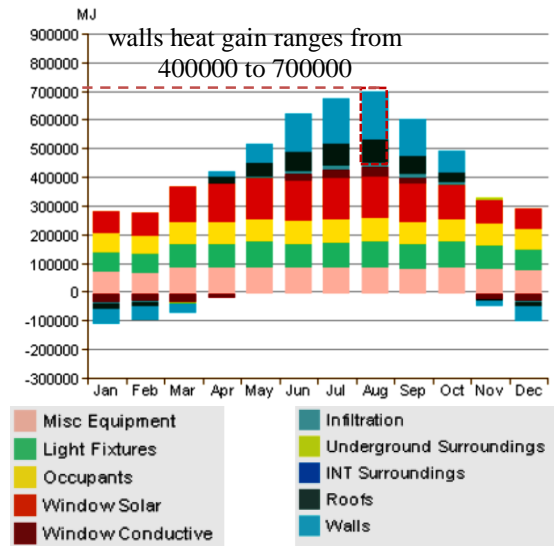


Figure 10: Case 1 monthly cooling loads.

The largest cumulative cooling loads occur in August, with the greatest contribution from walls which heat gains ranges from -400000 to 700000. Therefore, we should improve the wall thermal properties by reducing their thermal conductivity and investing in improvements to the wall insulation that can achieve more energy saving. Energy simulation parameters were selected to focus on studying the performance associated thermal transmittance through external walls of inpatient rooms in hospital. The largest value of monthly heating loads and monthly cooling load largest value is walls, so walls material and its thermal properties have effective impact on energy consumption of this building as shown in this chart in figure 11 that discusses electricity consumption which has the large value in August with the greatest contribution from walls in this month.

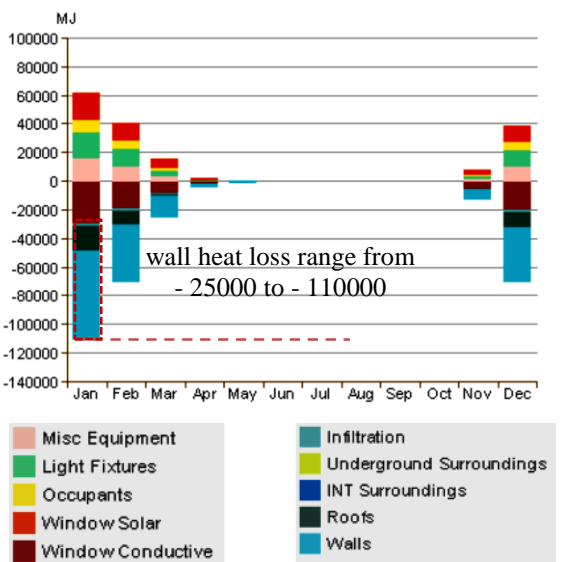


Figure 9: Case 1 monthly heating loads.

The largest negative value for January is walls as shown in figure 9. Therefore, heat loss from conduction through walls represents the largest single monthly demand for heat in January. However, Miscellaneous Equipment (which includes plug loads, computers, office equipment, and so on) reduces the demand for heat, as we notice the demand of wall heat loss range from -25000 to -110000 MJ, so it is needed to examine another alternatives of wall materials to determine the material which achieve energy efficiency in this hospital.

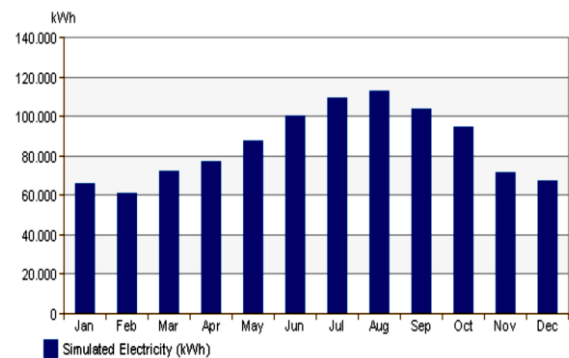


Figure 11: Base case Monthly Electricity use.

This chart displays the hospital estimated electricity usage by month. As the building uses air conditioning, electricity usage increases during the hotter months of the year.



TABLE 8  
Energy analysis results

1) cases		2) Base	3) External wall material			4) External finish material		
		0	5) 1	6) 2	7) 3	8) 4	9) 5	10) 6
Description		.25 m burnt clay brick.	.20 m lightweight burnt clay block.	.20 m Insulated Concrete block.	.25 m double wall LW burnt clay block +5cm fiberglass.	.03 m of marble finish fixed with .02 m of mortar.	.03 m of marble or granite mechanical fixed + fiberglass.	.03 m of stone mechanical fixed +.05 m Polystyrene.
Energy use intensity	Electricity EUI(kwh/sm/yr)	177	175	175	175	176	177	177
	Fuel EUI (MJ/sm/yr)	161	150	146	141	155	143	145
	Total EUI (MJ/sm/yr)	797	779	775	771	789	778	780
Life cycle energy use	Sensitivity analysis	0 %	2.25%	2.76%	3.26%	1.03%	2.38%	2.13%
	Life cycle(Kwh) Electricity Use	30.664	30.250	30.205	30.213	30.305	30.246	30.250
	Life cycle (MJ) Fuel Use	27.902	25.893	25,173	24.271	26.666	24.443	24.773
	Life cycle energy cost (Million p)	32.270	31.453	31.245	31.042	31.678	31.110	31.190
Annual energy Use	Electricity Use (million kwh)	1.022	1.008	1.006	1.007	1.010	1.008	1.008
	Fuel Use (million MJ)	.930	.863	.839	.809	.889	.814	.826
	Annual energy cost (Million p)	1.076	1.048	1.041	1.034	1.055	1.037	1.039
Energy Use Fuel	HVAC (million MJ)	.7373	.671	.647	.617	.697	.624	.635
	Domestic Hot water (million)	.193	.192	.192	.192	.191	.191	.190
Energy Use Electricity	HVAC (million kwh)	.409	.399	.399	.399	.401	.401	.401
	Lighting (million kwh)	.305	.304	.303	.303	.303	.302	.301
	Misc equipment (million kwh)	.302	.300	.299	.299	.300	.298	.299
Net Co2 (metric tons/yr)		282	276	273	272	274	273	274

Notes: Electrical cost .84 Egyptian Pound      Conversions: 1.0 Kwh=3.6 MJ3413 BTU

- Case 0: .25 m of common brick with plastic finish, thermal resistance 0.54 m2. k/W
- Case 1: .20 m lightweight burnt clay block with plastic finish, thermal resistance 0.54 m2. k/W
- Case 2: .20 m Insulated Concrete block with plastic finish, thermal resistance 1.25 m2. k/W
- Case 3: .25 m double wall LW burnt clay block+.05 m fiberglass, thermal resistance 3.44 m2. k/W
- Case 4: Base case + .03 m of marble finish fixed with .02 m of mortar, thermal resistance 3.44 m2. k/W.
- Case 5: Base case + .03 m of marble mechanical fixed +.05 m fiberglass, thermal resistance 3.22 m2. k/W.
- Case 6: Base case + .03cm of stone mechanical fixed +.05 m Polystyrene, thermal resistance 3.20 m2. k/W

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TABLE 8: CONTINUED

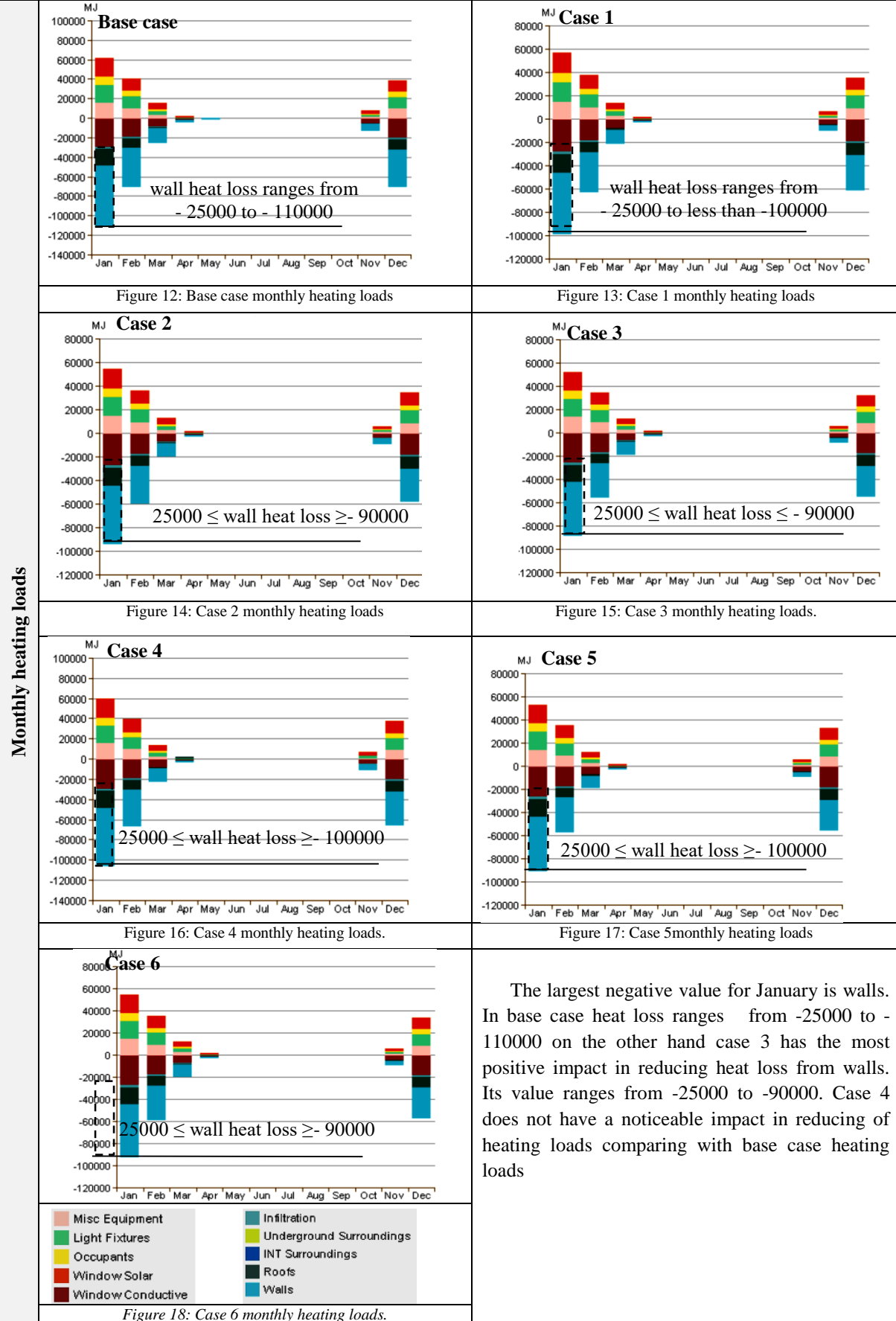
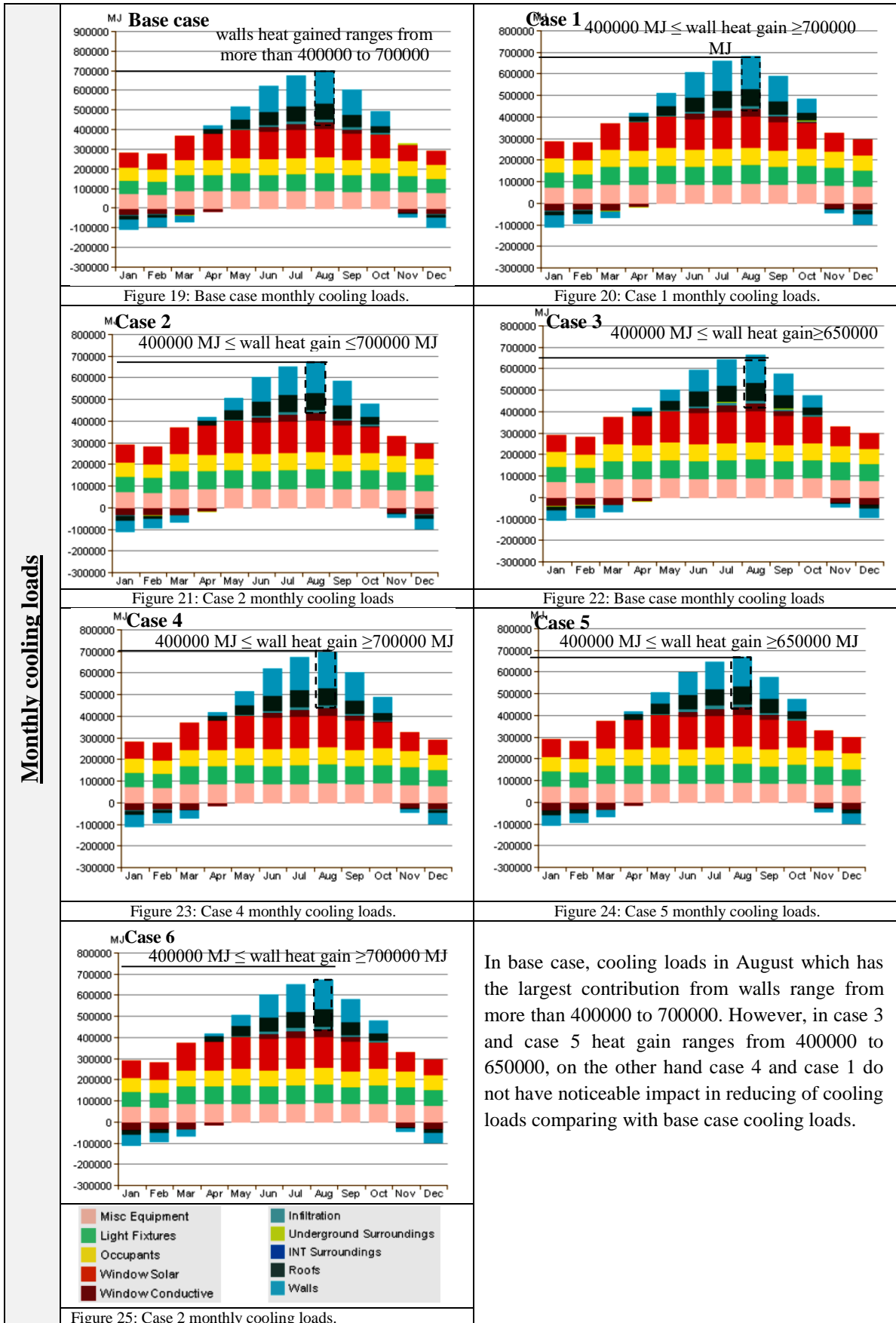


TABLE 9  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MONTHLY COOLING LOADS.



In base case, cooling loads in August which has the largest contribution from walls range from more than 400000 to 700000. However, in case 3 and case 5 heat gain ranges from 400000 to 650000, on the other hand case 4 and case 1 do not have noticeable impact in reducing of cooling loads comparing with base case cooling loads.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

**i. Impact of external wall insulation on Total energy use intensity**

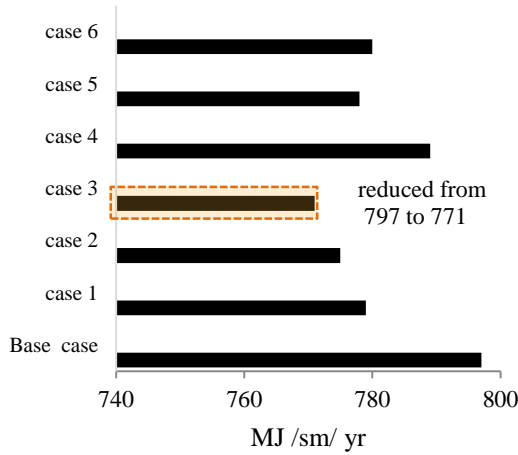


Figure 26: Total energy use intensity.

Case 3 and case 2 have less value of total energy use intensity, on the other hand case 4 doesn't have a noticeable impact in energy performance due to its thermal conductivity and resistance.

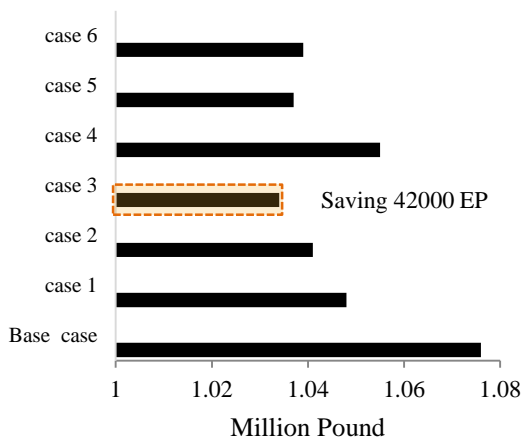


Figure 27: Total annual energy cost.

- i. Impact of external wall insulation on annual energy cost
- ii. Case 3 has the least cost of annual energy cost. It reduced costs from 1.76 to 1.34 million pound achieving 42000 Egyptian pound saving.
- iii. Annual carbon emissions

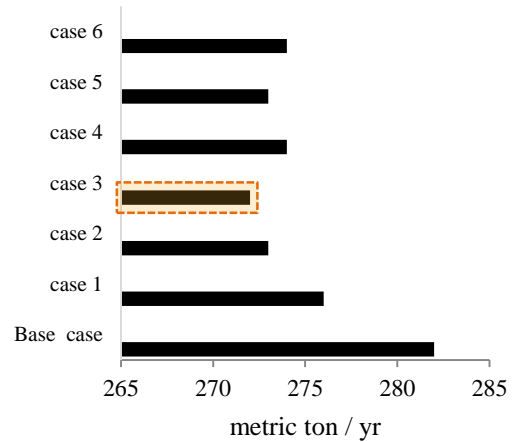


Figure 28: Annual carbon emissions.

Case 1 has the largest value of net co<sup>2</sup> on the other hand case 2, case 3 and case 5 have the minimum value. Case 1 has maximum carbon emission and it is due to high energy use, and on the other hand case 3 have the minimum value of net co<sup>2</sup> and it is due to energy use. In case 4, case 5 and case 6, they consume energy more than case 1, but they have carbon emissions less than other cases and close to cases 2 and case 3 as their finishing surface materials consist of natural materials which do not consume a lot of energy in their production comparing with the energy consumed to produce the rest of building material (13).

**V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This research presents a detailed simulation – based study of mutual impacts done by different wall material of external wall on energy performance for one of critical building type. Results of this study demonstrated that thermal properties of wall building materials have a significant role in determining the thermal behavior of buildings. Use of double wall from Lightweight Burnt clay block enhanced with fiber glass was found to be the most efficient among alternatives as it reduced energy use intensity in this hospital from 797 to 771 MJ/sm/yr and reduced annual energy cost to save 42000 per year. Using of marble finish fixed with mortar without thermal insulation does not have a noticeable impact on reducing building energy use, however use of marble or granite enhanced with thermal insulation have a positive impact on reducing energy use from 797 to 778 MJ/sm/yr and saved 39000 per year. So, using of digital simulation software is a good tool to compare wall material impact on energy performance and shows the ability to improve energy performance in building. The research proves that using of insulated wall for inpatient spaces of healthcare building instead of uninsulated walls reduce building energy use and reduce cooling loads.

This research recommended to:

- Using wall insulation techniques to improve energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions

•Using double insulated walls because they have high value of resistance from concrete and common brick.

Using marble or stone which fixed mechanical with thermal insulation having also a positive effect on energy efficiency of tasted building and have less carbon emission comparing with other building materials.

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