INVESTIGATION OF THE BUILDING PERFORMANCE WITH REFERENCE TO GLAZING PROPERTIES APPLICATION TO THE NEW PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AT THE BANDARANAYAKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SRI LANKA

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Engineering

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May 2013

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to investigate the energy and thermal performances of the airport passenger terminal buildings in Sri Lanka that use different glazing alternatives. In this regard, one of the passenger terminal buildings at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) was selected as the reference case.

Different glazing materials commercially available both in the local and overseas market were compared with a common glass material used in Sri Lanka as the base case to investigate the energy use and the thermal comfort conditions in the building. The computer software tool, DEROB-LTH (version 99.02) was used to evaluate the cooling energy use and thermal environment condition of the building. The cooling energy use was evaluated in terms of hourly, daily and monthly basis and the interior climate was evaluated in terms of the operative temperature.

The simulation results have shown a positive conclusion towards the feasibility of using double glazing units with advanced solar-control coatings and it further showed that the common glazing material used in the Sri Lankan building industry; the single-clear glazing is not feasible in terms of energy cost and indoor thermal performances. The study also supports that a single-pane heat-absorbing type solar-control configuration can give comparatively moderate results; better results than that for the single-clear glazing type in local climatic conditions.

Finally, an economic/cost-benefit analysis was performed in order to investigate the economic viability of applying the best performing, highly expensive, advanced solar-control glazing over the reference case; ordinary single-clear glazing, and it was found that this glazing is highly cost effective and worth paying for any grientation. However, it is noted that the initial capital cost of these advanced solar-control glass materials as well as the popularisation of this technology in the local scenario was identified as the major barrier for the development of this technology in Sribanka.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration of the candidate and supervisor	i
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Table of Content	iv
List of Figures	vii
List of Tables	х
List of Appendices	xi

1.	Intr	oduction	01
	1.1	Background	01
		1.1.1 Overview of energy use at passenger terminal buildings	02
		1.1.2 Energy saving potential at passenger terminal buildings	03
		1.1.3 Aspects of sustainable energy	06
	1.1	Problem statement Lactronic Theses & Dissertations	06
	1.3	Ain and objectives ib mrt ac lk	07
		1.3.1 Aim	07
		1.3.2 Objectives	07
	1.4	Outline of the Thesis	08
2.	Lite	erature survey	09
	2.1	History of the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA)	09
	2.2	Description of the passenger building	09
	2.3	The BIA development project	12
	2.4	Passenger occupation behaviour of BIA	13

2.7	r assenger occupation behaviour of Birk	15
2.4	Passenger carrying capacity of aircrafts	16
2.6	Sun path for Katunayake	17

3.	Gla	zing heat transfer theory	18
	3.1	Introduction	18
	3.2	Glazing heat transfer	18
		3.2.1Aspects of heat transfer	18
		3.2.2Solar energy transmittance	19
		3.2.2.1The solar spectrum	19
		3.2.2.2 Angular dependant properties of solar energy transmittance	21
		3.2.3Characteristics of glazing properties	22
		3.2.3.1Reflectance, Absorptance and Transmittance	22
		3.2.3.2Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)	22
		3.2.3.3 Shading Coefficient (SC)	23
	3.3	Glazing types	24
		3.3.1Coated glass	24
		3.3.1.1Reflective glass	24
		3.3.1.2 Low-emissivity coated glass	25
		3.3.2Homogeneous glass	26
		3.3.2.1 Clear glass Flectronic Theses & Dissertations	26
		3.3.2.2Heat-absorbing or tinted glass	26
	3.4	Benefits of daylighting	28
		3.4.1 Effects of natural light on building occupants	28
		3.4.2 Effects of natural light on building energy consumption	29
4	Met	hodology	31
	4 1	Introduction	31
	4.2	The simulation software	31
	4.3	The simulated lounge	32
		4.3.1Geometry of the simulated lounge	32
		4.3.2Description of building elements	34
		4.3.3Surface properties	37
	4.4	Internal loads	38
	4.5	Control set point for indoor air temperature	40
	4.6	Climatic data at BIA, Katunayake	41
		· · ·	

	4.7	Types of glazing	42
5.	Res	ults and Discussion	45
	5.1	Introduction	45
	5.2	Energy use	45
		5.2.1Hourly energy use	45
		5.2.1.1Hourly cooling load on minimum temperature day	46
		5.2.1.2Daily total cooling load on the minimum temperature day	52
		5.2.1.3Hourly cooling load on maximum temperature day	54
		5.2.1.4Daily total cooling load on the maximum temperature day	60
		5.2.2Daily energy use	62
		5.2.3Monthly energy use	66
	5.3	Indoor Climate	76
		5.3.1Transmission of solar radiation through glazing	76
		5.3.2Indoor temperatures	81
	5.4	5.3.2.1Hourly fluctuations of indoor temperature on maximum University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations Economic analysis of glazing products WWW.110.mrt.ac.lk	81 88
6.	Con	clusions	91
	6.1	Introduction	91
	6.2	Conclusion from the hourly fluctuations analysis	91
	6.3	Conclusion from the daily energy use analysis	93
	6.4	Conclusion from the monthly energy use analysis	93
	6.5	Conclusion from the hourly temperature fluctuations analysis	96
	6.6	Conclusion from the economic analysis of glazing products	97
7.	Rec	ommendation for future work	98

Reference list Appendix

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1	Linear type passenger building	09
Figure 2.2	Pier or finger type passenger building	10
Figure 2.3	Aerial view of the Bandaranaike International Airport	12
Figure2.4	Weekly schedule of departure & arrival flight movements	13
Figure 2.5	Weekly schedule of departure flight movements	15
Figure 2.6	Sun path diagram for the pier building at BIA, katunayake	17
Figure 3.1	Solar spectrum and the sensitivity of the human eye	19
Figure 3.2	The angle dependence of transmittance, reflectance and	21
	absorptance of clear float glazing for incidence angle θ	
Figure 3.3	Transmittance for ordinary clear float and some	25
	types of low-e coatings	
Figure 3.4	Spectral transmittance of 6mm thick heat-absorbing	27
	glass with various iron oxide contents for incidence	
Figure 4.1 Figure 4.2	radiation at normal radiation University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Dimensional view of the simulating lounge Electronic Theses & Dissertations Simulated lounge as drawn by DEROB-LTH software	33 34
Figure 4.3	Psychrometric chart giving modified comfort zones	40
Figure 5.1	Monthly average outdoor temperature (°C), 2011	46
Figure 5.2	Global solar radiation on a horizontal surface	47
	(W/m^2) on 17^{th} December, 2011	
Figure 5.3	Outdoor temperature (°C) on 17 th December, 2011	47
Figure 5.4	Relative humidity on 17 th December, 2011	48
Figure5.5	Primary transmission of solar radiation (kWh)	49
	through glass type A on 17 th December, 2011	
Figure 5.6	Daily total of primary transmission of solar	49
	radiation (kWh) on 17 th December, 2011	
Figure 5.7	Hourly cooling demand of lounge#8 at South-East	51
	17 th December, 2011	
Figure 5.8	Hourly cooling demand of lounge#12 at North-West	51

Page

Figure 5.9	Daily total cooling demand on 17 th December,	52
	2011 for two orientations	
Figure 5.10	Global solar radiation on a horizontal surface	54
	(W/m ²) on 2 nd June, 2011	
Figure 5.11	Outdoor temperature (°C) on 2 nd June, 2011	55
Figure 5.12	Relative humidity on 2 nd June, 2011	55
Figure 5.13	Primary transmission of solar radiation (kWh) through	56
	glass type A on 2 nd June, 2011	
Figure 5.14	Primary transmission of solar radiation (kWh) on	57
	2 nd June, 2011	
Figure 5.15	Hourly cooling demand of lounge#8 at South-East on	58
	2 nd June, 2011	
Figure 5.16	Hourly cooling demand of lounge#12 at North-West	59
	on 2 nd June, 2011	
Figure 5.17	Daily total cooling demand on 2 nd June, 2011 for	60
Figure 5.18	two orientations University of Moratuwa Sri Lanka Daily average outdoor temperature (°C) for March, June & Electronic Theses & Dissertations December, 2011 WWW.lib.mrt.ac.lk	62
Figure 5.19	Daily Global solar radiation on horizontal surface	63
	(kWh/m ² day) for March, June & December, 2011	
Figure 5.20	Daily cooling demand for glasses at South-East façade	64
	for March	
Figure 5.21	Daily cooling demand for glasses at North-West façade	64
	for March	
Figure 5.22	Monthly cooling demand (kWh/m ² month), South-East	66
	façade for March	
Figure 5.23	Monthly cooling demand (kWh/m ² month), North-West	67
	façade for March	
Figure 5.24	Monthly cooling demand (kWh/m ² month), South-East	67
	façade for June	
Figure 5.25	Monthly cooling demand (kWh/m ² month), N-W facade	68

Figure 5.26	Monthly cooling demand (kWh/m ² month), South-East	68
	façade for December	
Figure 5.27	Monthly cooling demand (kWh/m ² month), North-West	69
	façade for December	
Figure 5.28	Monthly cooling demand for all glasses, all months for	74
	South-East orientation	
Figure 5.29	Monthly cooling demand for all glasses, all months for	75
	North-West orientation	
Figure 5.30	The primary transmission of solar radiation	76
	(kWh/m ² month) through each glazing at South-East	
	orientation for March, June and December	
Figure 5.31	The primary transmission of solar radiation	77
	(kWh/m ² month) through each glazing at North-West	
	orientation for March, June and December	
Figure 5.32	Hourly glass inner surface temperature (°C)	81
Figure 5.33	for SE orientation on 02 nd June University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Hourly operative temperature (°C) Electronic Theses & Dissertations	82
Figure 5 3/	Max Min and average values of glass operative temp (°C)	8/
1 15uic 2.2+	for SE orientation on 02^{nd} June	0-
Figure 5 35	Max Min and average values of glass operative torus $\binom{9}{2}$	85
19guie 3.33	α and α verage values of grass operative temp (C)	03
	for SE orientation on 02^{-1} June	

LIST OF TABLES

	F	age
Table 2.1	Passenger seating capacity of lounges at pier building	11
Table 2.2	Weekly schedule of hourly departure flight movements	14
Table 2.3	Passenger carrying capacity of different air crafts	16
Table 4.1	Description of the building elements used in Derob-Lth program	36
Table 4.2	Surface properties of building elements of the modeled lounge	37
Table4.3	Total internal heat gain (W)	39
Table 4.4	Climate data for BIA, Katunayake	42
Table 4.5	Glazing alternatives and their optical properties	44
Table 5.1	Daily total cooling demand on 17 th December	54
Table 5.2	Daily total cooling demand on 2 nd June, 2011 for two orientations	61
Table 5.3	Primary transmission of solar radiation (kWh/m ² month)	73
Table 5.4	Monthly cooling energy use per unit glazing surface area	73
	for SE and NW orientations (kWh/m ² month)	
Table 5.5	Monthly cooling energy use per unit floor area for University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka,	74
Table 5.6	SE and NW orientations (kWh/m ² month) Electronic Theses & Dissertations The primary transmission of solar radiation (kWh/m ² month) www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	78
	through each glazing for March, June and December	0.0
Table 5.7	The primary transmission of solar radiation (kWh/m ² month)	80
	through each glazing for March, June and December	~ ~
Table 5.8	Maximum, minimum and average values of glass inner	85
	surface and operativetemperatures (°C) for South-East	
	orientation on 2 nd June	
Table 5.9	Maximum, minimum and average values of glass inner	87
	surface and operative temperatures (°C) for North-West	
	orientation on 2 nd June	
Table5.10	The economic analysis of glazing type-F versus type-A	89
Table 6.1	Impact of change in glazing type on cooling energy use	94
Table 6.2	Summary of the impact of change in glazing type on	
	cooling energy use	97

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Page
Appendix -A	Hourly cooling demands	102
Appendix -B	Daily cooling demands	106
Appendix -C	Glass inner surface temperatures	112
Appendix -D	Indoor operative temperatures	116
Appendix -E	Comparison of indoor temperatures	119
Appendix -F	Daily sunshine hours for the year, 2011	123
Appendix -G	Daily total solar radiation on a horizontal surface	124
Appendix -H	Comparison of monthly cooling demand	121
Appendix -I	Maximum & Minimum outdoor temperatures	127
Appendix -J	Global solar radiation on a horizontal surface	128
Appendix -K	Total day length & sunshine hours for the year, 2011	134
Appendix -L	Solar-spectral transmission & reflectance curves	135
	University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	