

REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

MINISTÈRE DÉLEGUE À LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

STATION D'EXPERIMENTATION DES EQUIPEMENTS

SOLAIRES EN MILIEU SAHARIEN  
SEES/MS



## **DE L'ENERGIE ET DE L'EAU**



### **LE 1<sup>ER</sup> SEMINAIRE SUR LA CONTRIBUTION DE L'ENERGIE SOLAIRE ET EOLIENNE DANS LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**

**Sous le haut patronage de Monsieur  
Le Ministre Délégué Chargé de la Recherche Scientifique**

**ALGERIE, Adrar 30- 31 octobre 2001**

*Avec la participation de :*

#### **LA WILAYA D'ADRAR**



الخطوط الجوية الجزائرية  
**AIR ALGERIE**



**TOTAL ENERGIE**



MESURELEC



**TECHNOR  
AGRIFOR  
Cabinet HAMDI**

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## **SOMMAIRE**

### **Avant propos**

### **Thème A : GISEMENT SOLAIRE**

Le réseau de mesure du rayonnement de l’O.N.M.

A. Chaabane

1

Etude spatio-temporelle de l’insolation en Algérie.

M. Houari & M. Tahraoui

2

Extraction des radiations solaires au sol à partir des images Météosat

A.Razagui & Bachari N. E.

10

### **Thème B : VALORISATION**

Expérimentation d’un système de poursuite solaire « Auresolar »

B. Barkat & , Azoui B., Chara K, Bouali A, Achour M.R. et Achi K

15

Modélisation d’une cellule solaire en couche mince de structure P.I.N à base de Silicium amorphe Hydrogène (à-Si :H)

B. Ben Mir & M. S. Aida

21

Optimisation économique et énergétique d’une enceinte thermique à double vitrage en vue d’une amélioration des performances d’un capteur

M. Benosmane & A. Zerga and B. Benyoucef.

29

Vieillissement des chauffe-eau solaires en milieu saharien

M. Boukar & A. Harmim

39

Modélisation d’un système de stockage d’énergie photovoltaïque appliquée au site d’Adrar

B. Chikh Bled & B. Benyoucef

49

Adaptation du moteur DC au générateur PV dans un système de pompage PV

S. Diaf & A. Hadi Arab

55

Etude expérimentale d’un chauffe-eau solaire autostockeur pour la production de l’eau chaude

M. Gahgah & A. Abdi

61

Simulation et expérimentation d’un distillateur solaire Hot-Box couplé à un insolateur plan

A. Harmim & M. Boukar

67

Contribution des traitements thermiques à l’amélioration des performances photovoltaïque des cellules solaires au Silicium semicristallin

Mouhoub & B. Mahmoudi.

73

Détermination de la longueur de diffusion des porteurs minoritaires dans les photopiles au silicium polycristallén sous illumination constante

E. Nanema & A. Wereme, G. Sissoko

79

Contribution à la conception d'un convertisseur pour le pompage à base de transistors bipolaires N. Ourabia & A. Malek et K.Messaitfa	87
Optimisation d'un tandem mécanique de cellules solaires ( AlGaAs/GaAs)(SnO <sub>2</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub> /Si) R. Zerdoum & A. Gueddim.	93
Utilisation des fibres optiques pour le transport de l'énergie solaire concentrée en vue d'un application dans les fours solaires. Zerga & M. Benosman & B. Benyoucef	101
<b>THEME C : IMPLICATION DE L'ENERGIE SOLAIRE ET EOLIENNE EN MILIEU SAHARIEN</b>	
Optimisation d'un système de pompage par aérogénérateur. K. Ameur & Guerri	109
La réfrigération solaire en milieu rural et désertique. D. Diaf & A. Malek	115
Performance evaluation of hybrid (wind/solar/diesel) power systems. M.A. Elhadidy & S. M. Shaahid.	119
Banc d'essais de systèmes de pompage photovoltaïque. Hadj Arab & A. Hamidat, M. Belhamel, F. Chenlo et M. Alonso	127
Douze années d'expériences de pompage solaire à travers le sud-ouest de l'ALGERIE. K. Messaïfa	133
Prince et applications de l'énergie éolienne pour le pompage de l'eau par éolienne multiples. M. Semmar	147
<b>CONFERENCES</b>	
Les énergies renouvelables, une nouvelle tendance vers de nouveaux horizons ! A Boudghene Stambouli & F. Dadouche	155
Contribution à la faisabilité d'une industrie solaire en ALGERIE. A. Malek.	163
Fuel cells, alternative to standard sources of Energy. E. Traversa & Boudghene Stambouli	171
<b>POSTERS</b>	
Concentration du rayonnement solaire Y. Attaf	179

Optimisations d'un bâtiment et de son conditionnement d'air. Belaribi M & B. Benyoucef	183
Comportement thermique d'un écran solaire – cas d'un bâtiment au sud Algérien B. Belgaid	185
Mise au point d'une nouvelle méthodologie pour le dimensionnement des systèmes photovoltaïque en Algérie M. Benghanem & M. Mellit <sup>(1)</sup> et A. Hadj Arab	187
Contribution à l'étude du stockage thermique par chaleur latente S.Benayamina, M. Makhlouf & A. Khalfi.	193
Etalonnage et calibrage des chaînes de mesure radiométrique Chaabane A.	199
L'énergie solaire et l'énergie géothermique dans un processus de conditionnement Benzaoui L. Merabti, M. Saighi, & Bouabdallah	203
Optimisation d'Orientation et d'Inclinaison d'un capteur solaire plan pour les jours de beau temps K.Dhif, A. Otmani & A.EL Akrmi.	205
La performance des systèmes de chauffe-eau solaires domestiques utilisant un capteur stockeur K. Dhif A. Otmani & A.EL Akrmi	231
Intérêt économique de l'exploitation de l'électricité solaire pour le pompage d'eau d'irrigation dans la région de Ouargla Djafour & M.S. Aida.	215
Programme de calcul d'un éclairage domestique photovoltaïque M. Haddadi, A. Malek & M.S. Ait Cheikh	221
De l'estimation du potentiel énergétique éolien Application au pompage N. Kasbadji Merzouk & M. Merzouk.	227
Caractérisation énergétique des sites ventées à l'aide d'un modèle numérique N. Kasbadji Merzouk , H. Daaou et S. Haddouche.	233
Optimisation des cellules solaires GaAs et Si Kenzai & M. Bouaouina.	239
Systèmes hybride (éolien solaire) pour l'alimentation électrique sans interruption d'une charge à usage domestique D.Koussa , M.Alem & M.Behamel	241
Comparaison des sorties du modèle wasp avec les données enregistrées sur un mat à kssar challala M. Laouisset & R.Bengabou	247

The role of the energy conscious building renovation in the development of the saharian housing estates in Algeria A. Mansouri	249
Evaluation de l'Apport Quantitatif des Inclinaisons Optimales d'un Système de Pompage Photovoltaïques K. Messaïfa	255
Production d'électricité au moyen d'un système hybride (Eolien -Photovoltaïque -Diesel) S.Moussa, A. Kaabeche , M.Belhamel & K.Benfarhat	273
Evaluation de gisement solaire à partir des images de satellite méteosat 7 M. T. Nakes & A. Mokhnache & M. S. Aida.	281
Méthode de calcul de la capacité énergétique de stockage d'un système climatique à partir du gisement solaire A. Otmani & A.EL Akrmi & K. Dhif	287
Influence de la mouillabilité du vitrage sur les propriétés thermooptiques d'un distillateur solaire N. Ouazen & A. Benzaoui	295
Testes et évaluation des performances d'un capteur solaire à liquide S. Saouli	301
Optimisation de la composition de l'aluminium de la cellule frontale d'une cellule solaire Tandem à haut rendement $Ga_{0,2}Al_{0,8}As - GaAlAs - GaAs$ , à trois sorties. S Semaoui & R. Zerdoum	305
Modélisation informatique d'un système de séchage solaire N.Benaouda & M. Belhamel	311
Modélisation de l'évaporation en film–Application au séchage E. H. Mezaache, S. Oudjedi & M. Daguenet.	321
Amélioration du spectre du signal de sortie d'un pont monophasé par l'application des signaux de commande en PWM, générés par la méthode triangulo-sinusoidale, décalés de $\pi$ S. Chikhi & F. Chikhi.	327
Gisement Solaire du Site d'Adrar pour l'An 2000 Khelif & K. Hadri	331
Unité de Distillation de $10^3$ m <sup>2</sup> de Surface en Silico-Calcaire Khelif.	341
Modélisation de la batterie au Plombe-Acide d'un système photovoltaïque N. Achaïbou & A. Malek.	345
Performance of pv water pumping system in Sahara climate conditions. Hamidat, B. Benyoucef, & T. Hartani	351
Dimensionnement de systèmes photovoltaïques à l'aide d'une modélisation stochastique de l'irradiation solaire M.Y. Bouroubi & A. Mefti.	361



# THE ROLE OF THE ENERGY-CONSCIOUS BUILDING RENOVATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAHARIAN HOUSING ESTATES IN ALGERIA

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## ABSTRACT

Buildings and the Built environment have a considerable ecological issue. Buildings consume in construction and use some 50% of the energy used in UK, where built environments are also associated with about half the Carbon dioxide emission. But a building rarely occur in isolation, it must be viewed in its entirely as an interface between the interior atmosphere and the outer physical and climatic environment. The researchers at the CNRS and the Grenoble energy institute have estimated that, given a planed policy, all the housing built, in France, since 1975 and half that built earlier could be adapted to harness new forms of energy by 1985. The methods envisaged involve renovating the large subsidized housing complexes. According to this hypothesis, 20% of the energy-needs of 1,4 million apartments and 75% of 2,4 million for the individual housing could be ensured by solar energy. This hypothesis envisages new form of renovation which aims to improve the habitability, the energy saving and rent/heating reduction.

In 1998, a non-accomplished research work has been sketched at the Research unity of Batna University. The focus of this research work was the improvement of the energy performance of the research unity building, by integrating photovoltaic elements in addition to a passive solar system ( i.e. greenhouse ) (fig.02 & fig.03). This work allowed us to take the problem of energy conscious renovation in its whole context as a concept. In this:

How can the energy conscious based building renovation improve the ecological development process of the Algerian housing estates in the Sahara?

And what is its economical issue upon the energy consumption in construction and use of the built environment?

## 1 PREAMBLE

Housing is one of the basic human needs. Unfortunately, its situation is deteriorated in Algeria. This is not only due to the low priority given to housing development by the government in its development programmes, but also to other factors, among them: rapid urbanization which is a consequence of rural-urban migration, industrial expansion at an accelerated rate and a high population growth rate of 3,2%. The untimely deterioration of the apartment-blocks related to the bad quality of construction techniques and materials, allows us to ask a question about their future. The wish for standardization and for quickness of construction with minimum cost has produced a disaster in large high structures. The use of new technologies and materials has not been adequately tested and understood. Many were dangerous to health ( i.e. : asbestos, cavity foam insulation,...) (fig. 01).

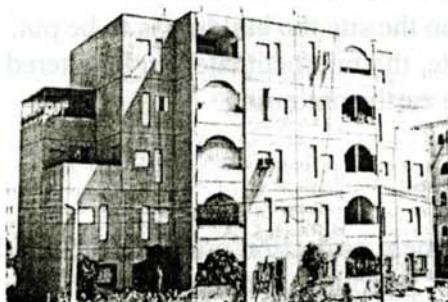


Fig.1: Apartment block.



Recent propositions propound the idea of renovating these threatened housing estates, with unusual open spaces, composed of apartment-blocks built with prefabricated components, where there is not only a loss of traditional elements but also one of the bioclimatic values, usually respected in vernacular Architecture.

## 2 THE ENERGY-CONSCIOUS RENOVATION:

The concept of renovation is generally related to many definitions. Hugh Prince specifies that: "Old buildings can be arranged to be of use to new functions and their appearance can be ameliorated by substituting the old parts; That is the Restoration. The old buildings can be protected and maintained in good repair; that is the preservation". Renovation can be seen as being the process including the maintenance and the treatment of an existing building in order to stop or to slacken the future deterioration. At an energy-conscious scale, renovation focus will be one of building treatment in order to ameliorate its energy efficiency and to create new built environment.

## 3 A SKETCHED STRATEGY

The energy-conscious renovation of buildings is mainly based upon a succession of phases. From the macro scale to the micro one, the process of bioclimatic renovation interacts with different scales and variables.

### 3.1 – The micro-urban scale:

At a micro-urban scale, bioclimatic renovation is related to many concepts that mainly share the action on the microclimate:

Urban Renewal as a general concept of urban design. It is defined by Chris Couch as being: "The physical change, or change in the use or intensity of use of land and buildings, that is the inevitable outcome of the action of economic and social forces upon urban areas". In the energy conscious based urban renewal, energy efficiency principles will be carried out and managed along of the users participation in order to put into motion new building renewal and to transform positively the built environment.

Sustainability: A sustainable environment is one whose processes of construction and use could be continued forever. Energy efficiency will be further boosted when the buildings and urban spaces are resilient, able to adapt to different uses over time, rather than being wastefully torn down and rebuilt each time human aspirations change.

At a regional scale, every site has its own unique climate that is the result of local features modifying the regional climate. The factors affecting microclimate include: topography, surface characteristics (vegetation) and local obstructions (buildings, ...). The use of micro-climatic effects to improve local conditions is an important aspect of passive Architectural design. This can be achieved in 02 ways:

The correct choice of where on the site the building is to be put.

Having chosen the precise site, the microclimate can be altered mainly by the influence of vegetation and to some extent earth contouring.

### 3.2 - The building scale:

In front of the environment protection problem, the building sector is often accused because of its excessive use of petroleum products, whereas the building industry could be

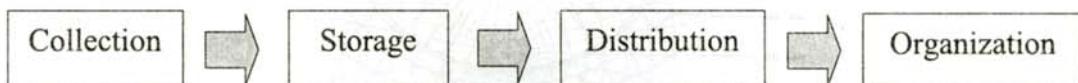


a fertile area for putting ecological ideas into practice. In term of energy efficiency, 02 factors are important:

Minimizing the external energy needed to construct and use the building.

Maximizing the use of ambient -particularly solar- energy, rather than having to import it all from the outside.

These factors can be applied through energy collection techniques as well as through the positive building transformation (fig.02 & fig.03). In general, the use of solar energy is based upon the following scheme:



*Fig.02: The research unity building.*



*Fig.03: The integration of a new (the greenhouse). Architectural element*

Passive solar design measures minimize the use of mechanical systems and non-renewable fuels. The best time to incorporate passive solar systems is early in the design process, or when the addition is first conceived. Any renovation or addition to a building envelope offers opportunities for integration of passive methods. According to Nicolas & Vave, passive solar systems can be classified into 03 main models:

**Sun-space model:** characterized by a direct and instantaneous heat gain (ex. Glass wall).

**Sun-mass-space model:** characterized by a progressive heat gain (thermal inertia concept) based upon a dynamical study of the Architectural form, an energy-based space organization and precise-dimensioned technical systems (ex. Trombe Wall, drum Wall,...).

**Sun-collection-storage-space model:** characterized by a heat gain storage/distribution by the use of collection and storage heat systems.

In arid zones, the energy-conscious renovation (building is viewed as an interface between the inside and the outside) will apply heating and cooling techniques based upon natural physical phenomenon, which will interact with other Architectural variables, i.e.: *form, appearance, and aesthetics*. These techniques are based on many principles including:

**Thermal inertia:** The exterior climatic factors influence upon the building mass does not occur simultaneously. Maximizing the wall thermal insulation by minimizing the solar heat gain factor (SHF) can be achieved through the correct choice of materials added to exterior walls (façades) in addition to the efficient calculation of their dimensions.

**Morphological analysis (Form factor):** By modifying the building form, we can reduce the loss of energy and minimize mechanical energy consumption.

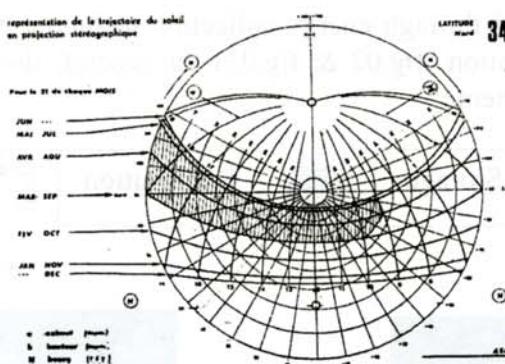
$$R=S/V$$

R: Form factor.

S: Surface, V: volume



**The sun factor:** In arid climates, the sun represents the main heating source (fig.04). the energy-conscious renovation should take into account the importance of shading especially from adjacent buildings.



**Fig.04 :Stereographic projection of the sun trajectory in the 21<sup>st</sup> day of every month, during the year (Biskra).**

**Openings:** Openings play many functions related to natural ventilation, day lighting and view. Many solutions can be applied to equilibrate these conflicting functions and reduce the heat gain (ex. Shading devices, mashrabia, ...). Using transparent insulation materials (TIM), the passive use of solar energy at transparent areas can be improved, and can also be extended to the opaque part of the building.

**Air movement:** We can ensure natural air movement by the application of 02 possible principles. Firstly, the air movement by differential pressure principle (the wind factor) from high pressure zone to low pressure one (Clastrum, wind escape). Secondly, the air movement by convection principle (the sun factor), which allows us to ensure its movement using a continuous heat source (the sun) (ex. The courtyard).

**The humidity factor (cooling by evaporation):** Water has been used for cooling interior spaces. The latent heat of evaporation allows water to evaporate by contact of its exterior surface. As a result, its temperature will be minimized (fountains, Salsabil).

**Vegetation:** 02 vegetation models can be used. Firstly, The building within garden model, in which vegetation will protect the building. Secondly, the garden within building model, where vegetation will be integrated with other Architectural elements in order to ameliorate the interior micro-climate.

#### 4 ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Justifying decision to make changes that improve the energy performance or reduce the environmental impacts of a built environment requires close attention to the economics of the situation. There are several key economic analysis methods that allows us to make decisions and evaluate the building operating performance (OP), among them:

##### Life-Cycle Costing (LCC):

LCC analyzes building changes to include amortized system costs, maintenance and insurance costs, replacement costs, energy costs, and other significant costs over the assumed life of the measure. It combines all costs into a net annual cost and then reduces these annual costs to a net total cost, usually the Net Present Value.



### Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA):

LCA is used to analyze the impacts of a single product, for example a type of paint or a variety of concrete, for its energy and environmental impacts. It is useful for understanding choices between products from an environmental point of view.

<b>Life cycle analysis parameters</b>
<b>General study parameters:</b>
<b>Type of analysis:</b> national, regional,..
<b>Treatment of inflation:</b> constant or current Dinars.
<b>Base date:</b> the dates to which all future costs are discounted.
<b>Service date:</b> the date at which the building will be renovated or system put into service.
<b>Study period:</b> usually the life of the building or product.
<b>Discount rate:</b> the investor's opportunity cost or the minimum acceptable return.
<b>Applicable tax rates:</b> for private sector analyses.
<b>Other important costs:</b>
<b>Annual operating costs.</b>
<b>Non-annually recurring costs.</b>
<b>Energy costs.</b>

### **5 CONCLUSION -Towards an ecological development policy :-**

Through this short essay, we have tried to sketch the general outlines related to the concept of energy-conscious renovation as an ecological approach. Because of the importance of the built patrimony in Algeria, especially housing estates in the Sahara, any future green policy could not neglect the necessity to ecologically review this patrimony. A new vision concerning the bioclimatic renovation of these housing estates should be established according to their different scales (urban, micro-urban, building). A new generation of researches is very useful and should take into account the following points:

The study of the energy-conscious renovation feasibility.

The researches should be focused on the establishment of practical renovation solutions related to the building form, openings, shading devices, ...

The best choice and use of new materials that may be applied to improve walls thermal inertia.

The establishment of a specific energy-conscious renovation rules, to be applied in future housing estates renovation processes.



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