

Design principles of atrium buildings for the tropics

Synopsis:

Although atrium buildings are commonly found in modern public and commercial architecture in the world, there is little understanding about its design implications for environmental control for the tropics. From a simple climate modifier to provide light and ventilation in deep spaces or courtyards in traditional buildings of the past, the atrium is presently used as a glamorous architectural feature for purely aesthetic effects. Such attitude towards atrium design has serious financial implications on the energy loads of a building. This book contains an appraisal of atrium buildings in the tropics and sets out a guideline for the use of such element within the perspective of an energy conscious attitude.

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