THE BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITIES OF THE FUTURE: LOW ENERGY, ZERO OR PLUS -WHAT's NEXT ?



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Abstract:

With the recent development of extreme temperatures on the US West coast, Europe and elsewhere, it seems a discussion is due as to how we build our buildings in response to this. But: Do we question all new ideas thoroughly enough?

It's important to question whether the correct response to climate change is more insulation. Higher average global temperatures should lead to the opposite. In spite of this, in Northern Europe we now insulate our buildings so that they become thermoses. Overheating has been recorded in many of them.

Instead of loading more and more insulation onto the envelope, a more moderate approach could be tried with fair insulation around the majority of the envelope and in addition inside it a crisis space, a minor highly insulated space that is safe within each dwelling.













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