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Passive Strategies for Building Healthy Schools

The past few years have seen a tendency for the global economy to turn down. The latest Ministry of Health of Ukraine research shows a decrease in schoolchildren health in the country.

Therefore, a new approach is used in order to improve the environment in school construction. The Passive Strategies basic fundamentals are a wise interaction with power of nature. Broadly speaking, this approach uses earth, air, water and sun to provide healthy conditions at minimal costs without violating the harmony with nature.

Basically, a few parts are involved to Passive Strategies.

Firstly, it is necessary to understand the nature constraints of the site and work with them. One of the most cost-effective passive strategies is to use the site itself, when possible, to achieve sustainable benefits. It is always better to take the time to understand the natural constraints of your site and work with them than to fight against them. It is important to take into consideration how water will flow onto and off the site, the direction of the prevailing winds, and the path of the sun throughout the year.

Secondly, there are ways to use daylight and natural ventilation. Providing sufficient daylight to classrooms has become a commonplace strategy that is widely believed to enhance student performance and well-being. However, getting delighting right is not so easy. There are problems with light spill and glare. Fortunately, there are many options available today in terms of controlling the kind of lighting that is desirable in class-rooms, such as: vertical fins mounted on the exterior to control sunlight, specialty glass to provide diffuse light, integrated daylight sensors and translucent wall panels. The use of operable windows to provide natural ventilation in classrooms is a passive strategy that is gaining greater acceptance, particularly in climates with dramatically different seasons like Ukraine. To actually save energy, control systems turn off the mechanical ventilation when the windows have been opened.

Finally the new flooring solutions are recommended - biobased linoleum and carpet tile which offer significant benefits in environments such as noise reduction in classrooms and corridors, underfoot comfort for teachers standing for long periods, ease of replacement for damaged areas and slip resistance. In addition carpet keeps airborne dust and particles from floating up into the breathing zone by temporarily catching dust at the surface until it can be properly removed by vacuuming.

In conclusion, by implementing these strategies, students and teachers will be able to enjoy the benefits of a health atmosphere in the school.