

The use of adobe in rural houses in the states of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro: studying and rescuing the use of vernacular earth techniques in the nowadays Brazilian Rural Architecture.

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This research objective evaluate the physical conditions of adobe and its construction technologies in three centenarie farms of the Paraíba Valley, in the state of São Paulo, as well as on three farms in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The overall objectives are to show that in spite of Brazil beinga relatively young country, the use of adobe in constructions, combined with other materials and systems with earth technology, or not, took place intensively during the XVIII and XIX centuries. Despite, it appears in these six secular farm houses, sometimes in good and sometimes in bad conditions of maintenance.

Are there any possibilities to re-introduce in the Rural Architecture these colonial construction technologies?

Based on this investigation, this presentation shows the constructive systems of six rural properties, verifying their state of conservation, the constructive interferences in the buildings along time, the changes in the original constructions, the revitalization, and the abandon that causes many other problems linked to these situations.

It also observes the thermal comfort and the correct maintenance, aspects, which can at least, be considered as reference to the reproduction and employment of adobe as a renewable material, at low cost, environmental friendly buildings and also sustainable.

Adobe is certainly a constructive system that unite part of the Brazilian constructive memory. So, the intention is to make possible re-utilization in centenaries houses in rural properties, as a way to rebuilt the fragments of the constructive identity that are almost lost.

Key-words: adobe, farm houses, sustainable material, constructive identity.