

# Efficient Heat Energy and Embodied Energy of Compressed Earth Block House in East Java

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**Abstract:** Affordable houses using a compressed earth block wall there is still not found in East Java Indonesia. In general, affordable houses using building materials from the red brick wall. Compressed earth block is a brick with earth raw material that is not burned, so the material is local materials and low embodied energy materials.

This study provides an overview of the arrangement of compressed earth block wall that can influence the efficiency of heat energy in the building and can also be applied to embodied energy walls. Sample used was an affordable house type 36.

Problems in the study found from the right wall to produce the optimum heat energy and embodied energy in the building.

The method used is a simulation and optimization of the wall conditions to the overheated and embodied energy into the building. Simulations of heat energy used the ArchiPak program. Optimization was done against embodied energy and overheated that was the result. Variable of form of wall used is a condition on arrangement of block which form a wall. These conditions form a thick or thin wall with air cavity or without air cavities in it.

The result of research is a form of arrangement of the compressed earth blocks in wall that have a thick and heat energy efficient. The arrangement of the block consists of the following layers: outer 1 cm stucco; 5 cm block; 1 cm stucco; 5 cm block and in 1 cm stucco. The layers form a thick wall with a total of 13 cm.

**Keywords:** compressed earth block; local material; embodied energy materials; overheated; arrangement of blocks; cavity wall.

## 1. Introduction

Affordable houses are currently being built in Indonesia. This is done to realize the government's program of low-cost housing program. There are some simple buildings as built by the government for the middle-class namely of 21, 27 and 36 m<sup>2</sup>. The house currently use a red brick wall. The material in the concept of sustainable design is a building material that has a high energy production or called high embodied energy. The concept of sustainable design according to Amatruda (2004) advocated: the building have a low Embodied energy of building materials, comfortable building conditions, using local building material and without any pollution in the production process.

One of the walls of the building materials are low Embodied energy and has not been applied in the modest building in Indonesia is compressed earth block. This material is processed without the use of combustion such as the red brick, so it does not require firewood from the forest. Compressed earth block is also a local building material, because the raw material clays can use materials that come from around the site.

This study conducted a study of compressed earth block wall that has energy efficient heat energy and embodied energy. This will make the building as sustainable buildings. Problems arising in this study are: how the concept of wall construction design that can reduce heat energy and embodied energy in buildings.

## 2. Method of research

The purpose of this study found to shape wall that efficient embodied energy and heat energy. Heat energy is the amount of overheated on the building for a year. While embodied energy is the amount of energy from the process of producing the type of wall construction. Energy efficient is optimization of heat energy and embodied energy of each building with walls of different shapes. Here's mindset research in Figure 1.

The model used is a simple building type 36 compressed earth block walled. As the variable is the shape of a wall that consists of 7 types of walls. There are 2 groups of the massive and cavity walls. Both groups have thick walls that different.

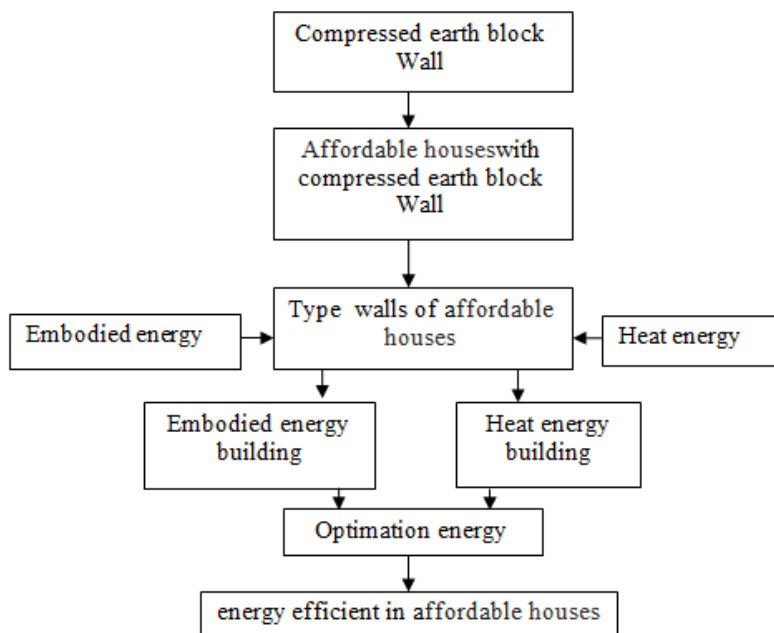


Fig.1: Mindset of research

Heat energy is calculated by using the program Archipak while embodied energy calculation using the multiplication between the volume or area of the embodied energy value per unit. Different types of walls will produce heat energy and embodied energy is different in buildings. Optimization is done to get the buildings have the type of wall that can produce heat energy and embodied energy relatively low. The selected wall is type wall can produce optimum energy.

## 3. Discussion

### 3.1 Model building

The building that would become the model is the type of simple building with compressed earth block walled. Type of building is in great demand by middle and low income group is building with 36 m<sup>2</sup> area. Therefore appropriate building type to be a model in this study is the building type 36 m<sup>2</sup>. (see Fig. 2).

In Indonesia the heat is a major problem, so for case study the research use the city with a hot climate conditions, mainly the city of Surabaya. The city located in Latitude -7.2 and has temperature 27 – 33<sup>0</sup>C.

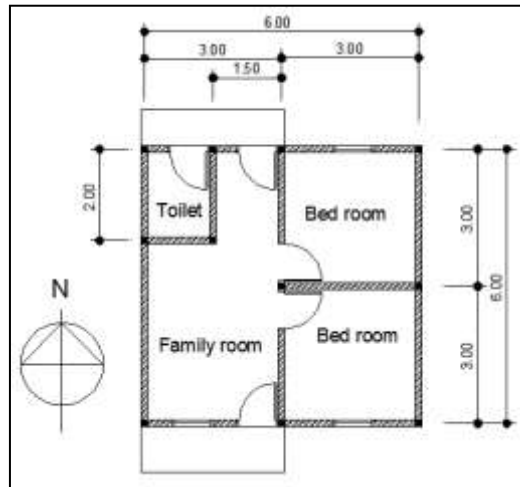


Fig. 2: Plan of building 36 types

Based on observation to the thermal energy of the most influential factors of the wall are: thickness, type of material and color of the walls (Adamson.1993). Wall thickness and certain conditions will produce minimal heat energy in the building. Therefore, the wall thickness and condition were variables into the study.

### 3.2 Wall Variables

In general, wall variables can be divided into 2 groups. Group 1 is the thickness of the wall that has massive form. Group 2 is the wall have air cavity inside. Variabel used to study in groups 1 and 2 is measured based on the wall thickness and the dimensions of the block. The block dimensions are used accordance to the market with the standard 11 x 21 x 5 cm. Block wall with compressed earth block coated with 1 cm thick stucco mortar. This is done in order to avoid interference from the weather wall. Variants wall thickness can be seen Table 1.

TABLE I: Shape and wall thickness

No.	Sampel code	Shape	thickness (cm)
1	SB1		13
2	SB2		19
3	SB3		24
4	SB4		25
5	SBU1		13
6	SBU2		17
7	SBU3		19

### 3.3 The heat energy

It is important in determining the heat energy in the building in relation to the wall is a U-value. U-value difference caused by the shape of the wall. The walls have a U-value is different because the shape of the wall. The results of calculations with using program Archipak obtained the results the U-value from each group (fig.3). At pictures show that the U-value of the wall SB1 until the wall SBU1 has a U-Value which is relatively high when compared with wall to SBU2 and SBU3 wall. SB1 wall to wall SBU1 is a massive wall. While SBU2

wall to wall SBU3 is a wall that has a cavity of air. This suggests that the U-Value which is owned by the massive walls are higher than the wall with air cavity.

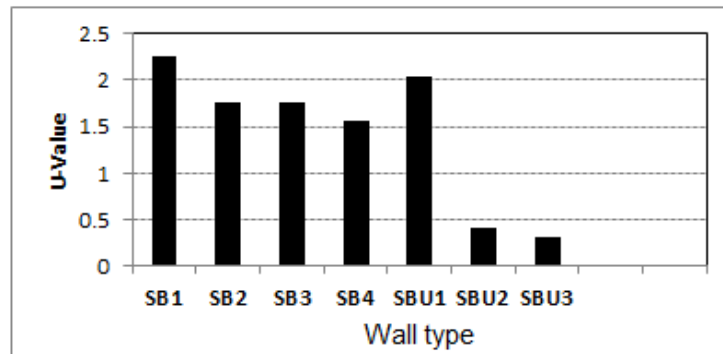


Fig. 3: U-Value of typewall

In figure 3 the highest U-Value is on the SB1 wall with the massive wall, the thickness wall is 13 cm (including thick stucco). While the SB4 wall is the massive wall which has a low U-Value with 25 cm thick. Generally it can be observed that the highest U-Value is on the wall which has a relatively thin thickness, while the lower the U-Value contained in the air cavity wall with relatively thick wall. Air cavity determine the value of the U-Value in this case, because the air can lower the U-Value. Also the air can block the hot air.

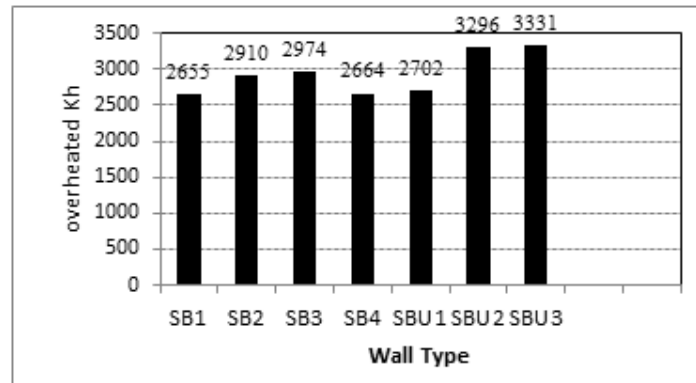


Fig. 4: Overheated in the buildings on the appropriate type of wall construction

Conditions of heat in the room besides the temperature is overheated. The amount of overheated determined also by the condition of the building wall. In this study overheated on buildings is calculated for 1 year. Figure 4 shows the overheated condition due to the use of the type of wall. SBU2 wall and SBU3 wall have the same overheated value. The overheated owned by these walls is the highest overheated value. SB1, SB4 and SBU1 walls have almost the same relative value as well, but their overheated is the lowest value. SB2 and SB3 wall has overheated relative value almost same. From these conditions showed a tendency that walls with air cavity have relatively high overheated when compared with the massive walls. High value overheated is not always owned by thin walls.

Overheated condition at the SBU2 wall and SBU3 wall showed improvement (Fig. 4). While the overheated condition on SB1 to SB3 walls also increases. This shows that there is a relationship enhancement overheated on the wall with air cavity, the thicker walls have the higher overheated. These conditions also occur in the massive wall, but the increase is limited to a certain wall conditions.

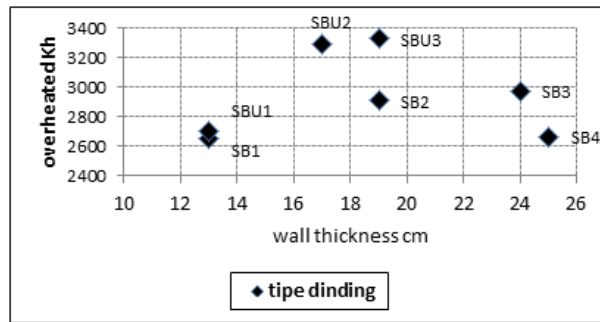


Fig. 5: The relationship between overheated with thick walls

### 3.4 Embodied Energy

Each building materials require energy to produce the building materials. The energy is called Embodied energy of building materials. Each Embodied energy of building materials have different buildings. This is due to the basic materials and methods of construction material manufacturing process is different. Here Embodied energy of each of the building elements used in building the sample (Table 2).

TABLE II: Embodied energy of building elements

Building element	Embodied energy
Compressed Earth Block	750 MJ/m <sup>3</sup>
Stone fondation	235,18 MJ/m
Clay roof	251 MJ/m <sup>2</sup>
Floor plastered	5250 MJ/m <sup>3</sup>
Window/door	388 MJ/m <sup>3</sup>

Sourc : Lawson Buildings, Materials, Energy and the Environment (1996)

Based on the calculation of area and volume elements of the building it can be seen embodied energy of building elements in the building. Embodied energy totalis the amount of building elements embodied energy in buildings. Embodied energy per area is embodied energy total compared with the building area. This needs to be done to compare values between embodied energy efficiency in buildings. So it can be known which buildings are more efficient with its embodied energy.

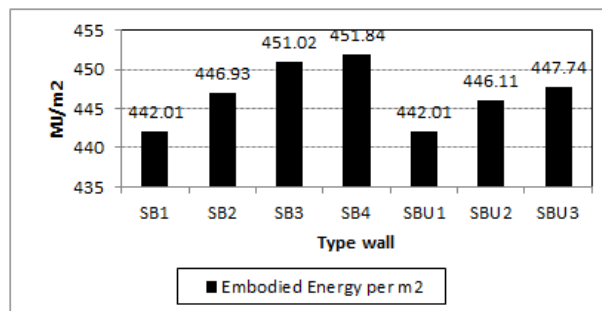


Fig. 6: Embodied Energy perm<sup>2</sup> of all types of wall

Fig. 6 shows a building with thick wall sand massive has embodied energy relatively high. This is demonstrated by building walled SB3 and SB4. While the lowest embodied energy is the buildings use SBU1 and SB1 walls. The walls are a massive and thin wall.

### 3.5 Optimization

To find the wall that have embodied energy and heat energy most optimum sought by optimization of the entire wall with variable heat energy and embodied energy. Here the position of each wall of the embodied energy and its heat energy (fig.7).

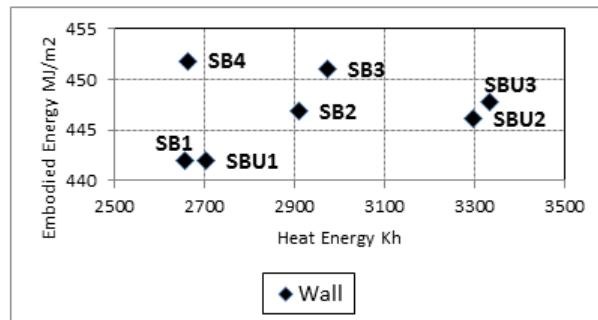


Fig. 7: Position embodied energy and heat energy on the walls type

Fig. 7 shows that the walls with the air cavity have a relatively high heat energy. This is evidenced by the SBU2 and SBU3 wall. Meanwhile, the massive walls mainly SB1 to SB4 have relatively lower heat energy. The walls that have low embodied energy and low heat energy are SBU1 and SB1 wall. Both of these walls are a massive wall. The walls have the same thickness but differ in the arrangement of blocks.

#### 4. Conclusions

Energy efficient walls were to the massive wall, in this study are SB1 and SBU1 walls. During this time opinions stating that the air cavity that lies between the walls will help decrease the heat energy in the building. In this research cavity walls have more energy than massive walls.

The walls of the building in the tropics do not need to use a thick wall. Although the wall produces a low overheat, the Walls still produce high embodied energy.

The result of this study was the concept for handling problems at walls of affordable house that energy efficient. The uniqueness of this study was the use of building materials that have never been used in a affordable house in Indonesia.

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Wayne Nelson, Compressed Earth Blocks, Construction and Environment Resources Habitat for Humanity International, www.habitat.org, wayne\_d.\_nelson@habitat.org, 23 agust 2006