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**Title:**

Sustainable development of traditional earth houses in China

**Abstract:**

Earth as a building material has had a long history in China. Many traditional buildings in rural area in China were made of earth. Traditional earth buildings not only possess the essential characters of local architectural culture but also reponse friendly with the environment. However, the quality of the most earth houses in rural area in China is low. Comparing with the old traditional earth buildings, earth houses built in recent twenty years have changed a lot to meet higher living standard. Without any technique support, the spontaneous changes brought by local villagers in earth construction may lead to potential problems. In this paper, the spontaneous changes of the earth houses are discussed based on the field study, besides, the unreasonable construction, bad space layout and structural hidden danger in consequence are also analysed. Finally, a project about creating a new prototype of earth house for the migrants along the upper reaches of the Yangtze River is briefly described as an approach for regenerating the traditional earth houses with the concept of sustainable development.