Abstract

Premature failure of buildings due to moisture is an issue of both public and commercial dimensions. Most of today’s building damages can be linked to moisture. Moisture also plays a significant role in health problems related to indoor climate. Building physics is despite this rarely discussed seriously during the building design phase. Possible reasons include unclear responsibilities; short-term economic focus; a fragmented building process; and lack of proper training and competence. This report describes a method for managing moisture issues in the early stages of the building process. The method aims to provide the client and other key stakeholders with knowledge of the physical performance of various technical solutions prior to making strategic decisions. A case study demonstrates that a focus on risk-driven scenarios can deliver several positive results. Other conclusions are that the design phase generally has to be extended and that building physics should play a major role in the design phase. The number of experts responsible for different parts of the design should, however, be kept to a minimum.