International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR)
ISSN: 2319-7064
SJIF (2022): 7.942

Green Skyscrapers: A Comprehensive Approach to Integrate Greenery and Bioclimatic Design in High-Rise Mixed-Use Buildings

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Abstract: ***Urbanization has led to challenges such as resource strain and environmental degradation, prompting the need for innovative solutions. High-rise mixed-use developments offer a way to maximize land use efficiency, but traditional designs often neglect green spaces, leading to energy inefficiency and a lack of connection with nature. This paper discusses the role of plants, integration of plants and bioclimatic design principles in addressing urban challenges. This study explores the integration of plants and bioclimatic design principles in high-rise mixed-use developments. This paper also explains the fundamental principles and design considerations for high-rise buildings, focusing on structural systems, earthquake resistance, and wind load effects. In conclusion, integrating plants and bioclimatic design principles in high-rise mixed-use developments is important for creating sustainable and livable urban environments. By prioritizing green spaces and sustainable design practices, developers can contribute to a greener skyline and a more sustainable future.***

Keywords: high-rise buildings, bioclimatic design, green spaces, sustainability, urban development

1. Introduction

Urbanization has brought about a multitude of challenges, including resource depletion and environmental degradation. In response, high-rise mixed-use developments have emerged as a promising solution to optimize land use efficiency. However, conventional high-rise designs often neglect the incorporation of green spaces, resulting in a disconnection from nature and heightened energy consumption. To address these challenges, integrating plants and bioclimatic design principles into high-rise buildings has emerged as a critical strategy to promote sustainability and enhance the urban environment. Bioclimatic design is centered on constructing buildings that seamlessly blend with the local climate, leveraging natural elements for heating, cooling, and lighting. Through the integration of green roofs, green walls, biofilters, and indoor plants, high-rise structures can achieve improved energy efficiency, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and enhance air quality. Numerous studies have underscored the benefits of incorporating plants into urban settings. For instance, research by Li et al. (2017) has demonstrated that green roofs can significantly reduce energy consumption for heating and cooling, while also enhancing air quality and biodiversity. Similarly, findings by Yang et al. (2018) have highlighted the capacity of green walls to improve thermal comfort and diminish the urban heat island effect. Beyond environmental advantages, integrating plants into high-rise buildings can positively impact human health and well-being. Studies have shown that exposure to green spaces can lower stress levels, enhance mood, and boost cognitive function (Bratman et al., 2012). By integrating green spaces within high-rise structures, developers can contribute to the overall health and well-being of urban inhabitants. The integration of plants and bioclimatic design principles into high-rise mixed-use developments is important for fostering sustainable, healthy, and livable urban environments. By prioritizing the integration of green spaces and sustainable design practices, developers can play a pivotal role in creating a greener skyline and ensuring a more sustainable future for urban communities.

Integrating bioclimatic principles in high-rise structures, with a focus on plant integration and bioclimatic design, involves designing buildings that are responsive to the local climate and environment. This approach seeks to enhance the comfort of occupants, reduce energy consumption, and minimize the building's impact on the environment. Here's a more detailed exploration:

- Passive Design Strategies: Bioclimatic design emphasizes passive strategies to reduce reliance on mechanical heating and cooling. This includes optimizing building orientation to maximize natural light and ventilation, and designing shading devices to minimize solar heat gain in hot climates.
- Plant Integration: Incorporating plants into high-rise buildings can have several benefits. Green roofs and walls can provide insulation, reducing the need for heating and cooling. They also absorb carbon dioxide, improve air quality, and create habitats for biodiversity. Properly designed green spaces can also reduce the urban heat island effect, where cities are significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas.

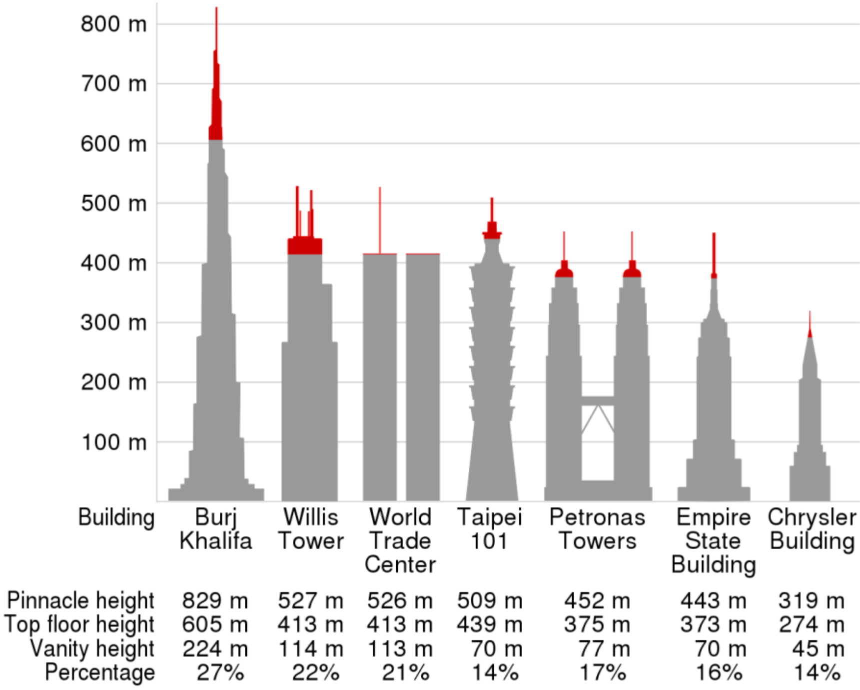

Figure 1: Comparison of high rise structures in height (credit: cmglee, Kryostat, Донор)

- Natural Ventilation: Bioclimatic design emphasizes natural ventilation strategies to reduce the need for mechanical cooling. This includes designing buildings with cross-ventilation, using stack ventilation to draw in cool air and expel warm air, and incorporating atria or courtyards to facilitate airflow.
- Thermal Mass: High-rise buildings can utilize thermal mass, such as concrete or masonry, to absorb and store heat during the day and release it at night, helping to regulate indoor temperatures.
- Energy-Efficient Systems: Bioclimatic design integrates energy-efficient systems such as solar panels, wind turbines, and geothermal heating and cooling systems to further reduce energy consumption and reliance on non-renewable resources.

These principles should be considered from the initial design stages to ensure that high-rise buildings are not only efficient but also harmonious with their surroundings.

2. Basic Considerations for High-Rise Buildings

Table 1: Shows factors to be considered for planning in high rise buildings

Planning Consideration	Description
Planning Module	Space needed for living, varying by culture and economic class.
Span	Distance from core to exterior wall, important for interior planning.
Ceiling Height	Varies for commercial, office, residential, and hotel functions.
Floor-to-Floor Height	Influenced by ceiling height, structural depth, and mechanical distribution space.
Depth of Structural Floor System	Varies based on floor load requirements and framing system.
Elevator System	Considerations include waiting interval, size, speed, and capacity for mixed-use projects.
Core Planning	Involves perimeter, interior, and core zones, with different arrangements like central and split cores.

Table 2: Shows factors influencing high rise building design

Design Consideration	Description
Cultural, Political, and Social Aspects	Consideration of the city's cultural, political, and social aspects to ensure the building fits well within its context.
Relationship with the City	Establishing a strong relationship with the city, considering its character and urban fabric.
Master Plan and Site Selection	Adhering to the master plan and selecting an appropriate site, considering factors like traffic impact, accessibility, and view blockage.
Sustainability	Incorporating sustainable design principles such as energy efficiency, water conservation, use of eco-friendly materials, and indoor environmental quality.
Safety and Security Issues	Designing for safety and security, considering aspects like natural disasters, terrorism, indoor air quality, hazardous materials, and fire safety.
Technology	Staying informed about technological advancements and limitations, and integrating new technologies into the design where appropriate.

Table 3: Shows types of structural systems

Structural System Consideration	Description
Frame (Rigid Frame) Systems	Utilize rigid frames for lateral load resistance.
Braced Frame and Shear Walled Frame Systems	Use braced frames or shear walls for lateral stability.
Outrigger-Belt Truss Systems	Incorporate outriggers and belt trusses for enhanced stiffness and stability.
Framed Tube Systems	Consists of closely spaced exterior columns connected by spandrel beams, forming a rigid tube.
Braced (Exterior Braced) Systems	Employ exterior bracing to resist lateral loads.
Bundled Tube Systems	Feature several interconnected tubes to increase stiffness and strength.

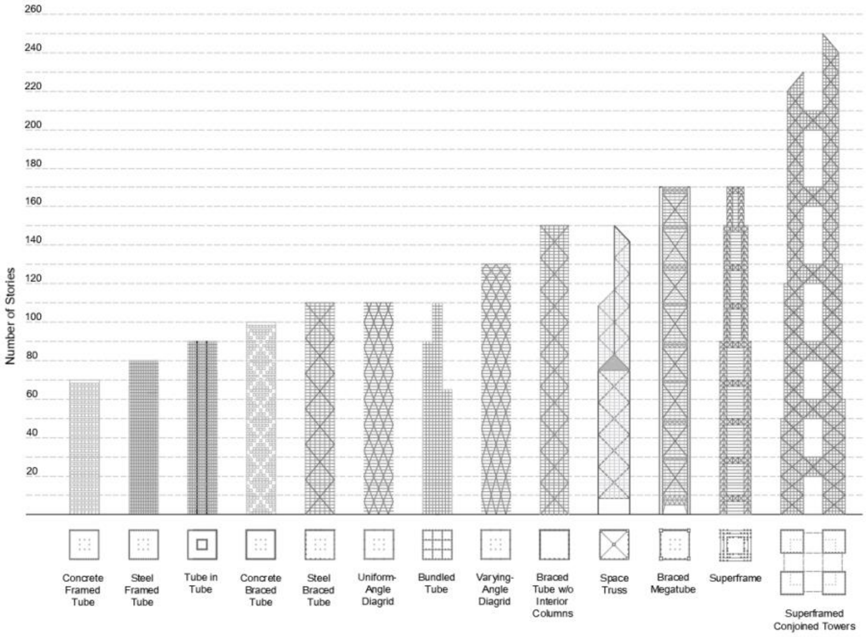

Figure 2: Shows exterior structural systems

Table 4: Shows earthquake design considerations

Earthquake Consideration	Description
Nature of Earthquake	Earth's outer layer consists of plates in constant motion, causing continental drift, mountains, volcanoes, and earthquakes. Richter scale measures earthquake energy logarithmically. Energy dissipated causes horizontal and vertical forces on buildings.
Action of Seismic Loads on the Building	Horizontal and vertical acceleration of subsoil due to an earthquake causes building vibration. Equivalent loads act on building's center of gravity. Building height increases flexural effect. Damage depends on motion rate and displacement.
Role of Subsoil	Natural rock is best for earthquake resistance. Sandy soils saturated with water and backfilled land are critical. Liquefaction can occur, causing building tilting or subsidence.
Foundations Design for Earthquake	Deep foundations show better seismic resistance than shallow ones. Base isolation technique reduces vibrations. Floating foundations can attenuate resonance action but carry subsidence risk.
Height of the Building	High-rise buildings are more susceptible to damage from strong remote earthquakes than weak nearby ones. Symmetry in layout, rigidity, and mass distribution enhance seismic response.
Symmetry of the High-Rise Building	Symmetric layouts, rigidity, and mass distribution improve seismic response. Asymmetric layouts are more prone to torsion.
Shape of the High-Rise Building	Buildings with parts of different heights connected can experience torsional stresses. Soft-storey effect can lead to collapse during an earthquake.

Table 5: Shows wind load considerations

Wind load Consideration	Description
Symmetry of the High-Rise Building	Symmetric layouts, rigidity, and mass distribution improve seismic response. Asymmetric layouts are more prone to torsion.
Shape of the High-Rise Building	Buildings with parts of different heights connected can experience torsional stresses. Soft-storey effect can lead to collapse during an earthquake.
Nature of Wind	Wind is air motion created by temperature differences. It moves three-dimensionally, with horizontal motion greater than vertical. Wind effects within the surface boundary layer are of concern in engineering.
Wind Effects on High Rise Buildings	Wind drift, the movement of a building due to wind, should be limited. Wind loads increase with building height. Innovations in design and materials make high-rise buildings more vulnerable to deflection and swaying.
Variation of Wind Speed with Height	Wind speed increases from zero at ground level to a maximum at a certain height. Higher design pressures are specified at higher elevations in most building codes.

Turbulent and Dynamic Nature of Wind	Wind transfers energy to objects, creating gustiness or turbulence. Wind speed includes a mean speed component increasing with height and a turbulent speed fluctuation.
Vortex-Shedding Phenomenon	Vortices shed alternately from either side of a building at higher wind speeds, causing structural vibrations in the across-wind direction. This phenomenon is known as vortex-shedding.
Cladding Pressures	Cladding design is important for wind resistance. Wind forces can cause glass breakage, leading to property damage and pedestrian risks. Factors affecting glass breakage include solar radiation, mullion details, and glass tempering.

Table 6: Shows service systems considerations

Topic	Details
Installation of Service Systems	Air conditioning, ventilation, lighting, and fire alarms are typically installed between load-bearing ceilings and suspended false ceilings. Small-scale electrical installations are housed in trucking in screed flooring, with cables routed beneath the floor. False floors are common in modern buildings, allowing for easy cable rerouting due to evolving office and communications technology. Fire protection in false floor constructions is important, with the attention required for flexible partition wall connections.
Energy and Water Supply	High-rise buildings require specialized technical service components due to increased height and utility demand. Planning for energy, water, and air supply in high-rises is complex, with pressure stages and technical service centres necessary.
Ventilation and Air-Conditioning	Systems must allow for flexible area division to accommodate changing room usage. Various systems are available depending on building purpose; for example, Deutsche Bank's headquarters utilizes a two-channel high-pressure system. Common requirements include continuous air renewal, minimum outside air flow per person, draft minimization, and segment shutdown capability.
Sanitation	Pressure stages are needed for sanitation, with smaller pumps used for efficiency. Sanitary dispensing points should be isolated for soundproofing, and internal heat loads can be used for water heating. Height does not affect flow rate, as matter winds its way down pipes rather than falling straight down.
Control Systems	Modern control systems utilize intelligent digital controllers for energy management and system optimization. Functions include temperature reduction optimization, water heating integration, and external blinds operation.

Table 7: Shows firefighting considerations

Topic	Details
Fire Fighting	Fire poses significant risks for high-rise buildings, necessitating effective firefighting measures.
Firefighter Accessibility	Quick emergency personnel access is important, with service elevators facilitating rapid building entry.
Occupant Evacuation	High-rise evacuation presents challenges, with occupants needing information, mechanical assistance, and designated safe zones.
Areas of Refuge	Strategically placed refuge areas allow controlled evacuation, typically equipped with fire-rated exits, ventilation, and connections to various stairwells.
Fire Extinguishers	Hand-operated extinguishers must be accessible and familiar to occupants, with trained teams available on each floor.
Fire-Fighting Water	Effective firefighting requires adequate water supply, typically provided via wet risers and wall hydrants on each floor. Booster systems may be necessary for high buildings to increase water pressure.
Sprinklers	Automatic sprinkler systems are vital for fire control, with full building coverage necessary for effectiveness. Proper installation, inspection, and maintenance are important, with compliance to relevant standards and regulations essential.

3. Bioclimatic Skyscraper Design Principles

Bioclimatic architecture emphasizes the connection with nature, designing buildings that consider climate and environmental conditions to enhance thermal comfort. This approach seeks perfect harmony between design and natural elements like the sun, wind, rain, and vegetation, aiming to optimize resource use. Key principles of bioclimatic architecture include considering the weather, hydrography, and ecosystems of the building's environment to maximize performance with minimal impact. It also prioritizes the efficient use of construction materials, favoring those with low energy content over high-energy materials. Additionally, bioclimatic design focuses on reducing energy consumption for heating, cooling, lighting, and equipment, supplementing the remainder of energy needs with renewable sources. The overall goal is to minimize the building's energy balance throughout its lifecycle, from design and construction to use and eventual decommissioning.

Ken Yeang has developed bioclimatic principles into design solutions for skyscrapers, implementing these principles in various ways:

- Service Core Positions: The placement of the core affects both the structural design and thermal performance. Yeang identifies two core types - central core and double-sided core. In the tropics, a double core with cores on the east and west sides of the building is preferable, providing a buffer zone against solar gain.
- Lift Lobbies, Stairways, and Toilet Positions: Locating these elements on the periphery of the building allows for natural ventilation and external views, reducing the need for mechanical ventilation and artificial lighting.
- Building Orientation: To minimize air conditioning load, the longest elevation of the building should face the direction of least solar irradiation.
- Window Openings: Windows should be positioned on elevations with the least solar radiation, with solar shading on the elevations receiving the most solar gain.
- Deep Recesses: Deep recesses can provide shading to sides of the building receiving the most heat, or they can

be used to create flexible spaces like skycourts or balconies.

- Building Plan: The building plan should incorporate local culture and work styles, allowing for air movement and sunlight penetration. Ground floors in tropical areas should be naturally ventilated and open to the street.
- Planting and Landscaping: Plants should be strategically used not just for aesthetics but also for their cooling effects and environmental benefits, such as absorbing carbon dioxide and generating oxygen.
- Solar Shading: Essential for all glazing facing the sun, particularly in tropical regions where it is required year-round.
- Natural Ventilation: Good air circulation is important for comfort, which can be enhanced by features like cross ventilation, wind scoops, side vents, skycourts, atriums, and transitional spaces.

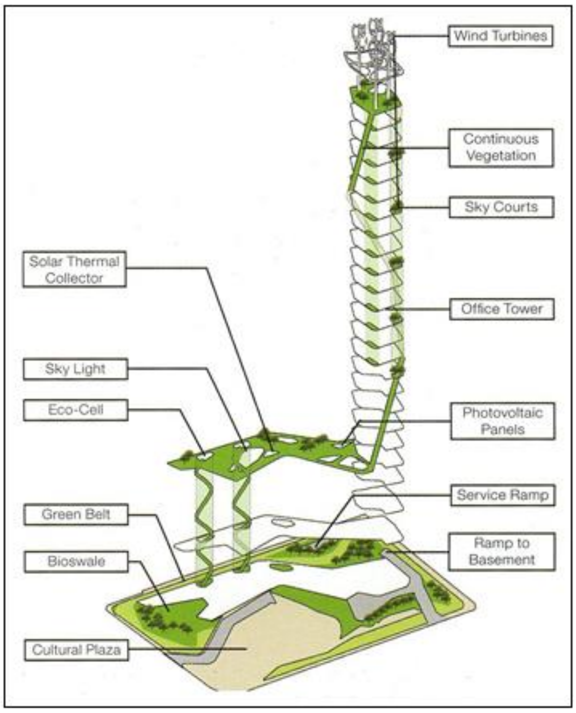

Figure 3: shows conceptual understanding of Ken Yeang principles

1.1 Green Roofs: Green Outer

Incorporating green plants into skyscrapers offers various design possibilities, with options both for the exterior and interior. For the exterior, greenery can be integrated on roofs and outer vertical walls, while for the interior, options include living walls, biofilters, or potted plants placed in atriums or indoor rooms, creating pockets of green within these vertical cities. An aerial view of most urban areas reveals swathes of asphalt, black tar, and gravel-ballasted rooftops. These conventional roofs absorb a significant amount of solar energy, resulting in high roof temperatures. Green rooftops, on the other hand, offer a solution to this issue. They have become increasingly appealing to homeowners, businesses, and cities as a way to promote environmentalism while addressing the problems associated with traditional roofs. Green roofs supplement traditional vegetation without disrupting urban infrastructure, transforming neglected spaces into useful areas. The term "green roof" is used to describe an approach to urban design that utilizes living materials to enhance the urban environment's livability, efficiency, and sustainability. Other terms for this approach include eco roofs and vegetated roofs. Green Roof Technology (GRT) is the system used to implement green roofs on buildings.

Green roofs replace the vegetated footprint that was lost during construction. Rooftop gardens aim to reduce heat gain into buildings and modify ambient conditions through the photosynthesis and evapotranspiration of plants. Studies suggest that rooftop gardens can effectively cool down the immediate ambient environment by 1.5 degrees Celsius. Surface temperature readings from rooftop gardens are generally lower than those recorded on barren concrete rooftops, indicating improved thermal insulation in the presence of plants. High relative humidity (RH) at rooftop gardens is also observed due to the presence of plants, emphasizing the importance of ensuring adequate natural ventilation to prevent discomfort due to high humidity. Green roofs are constructed using components that have the strength to bear the added weight, seal the roof against water, water vapor, and roots, retain enough moisture for plant survival during low precipitation periods, and provide a suitable substrate material to support the plants. They offer numerous hydrological, atmospheric, thermal, and social benefits for the building, people, and the environment, while also protecting the underlying components against ultraviolet and thermal degradation.

(Photo Credit: https://ekagroup.com, https://medium.com)

Figure 4: showing green roofs and walls (Photo Credit: WOHA / Patrick Bingham-Hall)

1.2 Green Wall: Green Outer

The green facade is an outer wall that can be freestanding or part of a building, partially or completely covered with vegetation, and in some cases, soil or an inorganic growing medium. They are also referred to as living walls, biowalls, or vertical gardens. The vegetation for a green facade is always attached to outside walls, but in some cases, it can also be used indoors. Cities can be cooler and quieter through shading, evaporative transpiration, and the absorption of sound by green walls. There are two main categories of green walls: green facades and living walls. Green facades consist of climbing plants growing either directly on a wall or in specially designed supporting structures. The plant shoot system grows up the side of the building while being rooted to the ground. In contrast, living walls consist of modular panels often made of polypropylene plastic containers, geotextiles, irrigation systems, a growing medium, and vegetation. Patrick Blanc, a French botanist, invented a vertical garden that relies on an innovative way to grow plant walls without soil. The garden walls are lightweight and can be installed outdoors or indoors in any climatic environment. For indoors, some type of artificial lighting is required, while watering and fertilization are automated. The walls act as a phonic and thermal isolation system, as well as an air purification device. About 150 plant species are growing at Quai Branly, where the wall is composed of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sheet on a metal frame. The sheet serves as a waterproof layer, provides rigidity, and prevents roots from penetrating the drywall-and-stud assembly beyond, says Jean-Luc Gouallec, a botanist and consultant for the wall's designer, of Patrick Blanc. The plants grow in a layer of acrylic felt stapled to the PVC. An automated drip irrigation system supplies water and periodic fertilization. Maintenance, primarily trimming of overgrown plants, is conducted about three times a year, says Gouallec. However, the Aquaquest project uses rainwater collected from the roof and stored in an underground cistern to irrigate the living wall, as well as to flush toilets and refill freshwater fish tanks.

Figure 5: EDITT Tower / T. R. Hamzah & Yeang. Image Courtesy of T. R. Hamzah & Yeang and One Central Park / Ateliers Jean Nouvel. Image © Murray Fredericks

4. Conclusion

The increasing demand for sky-high buildings in growing cities necessitates a shift towards integrating nature into the built environment. While there are significant benefits to incorporating plants into building design, including technological advancements to support this integration, progress in this area has been slow due to limited awareness and knowledge among the public. To maximize the benefits, it's important to consider building orientation and climatic conditions during the design phase. Overcoming technological limitations and increasing options for plant integration can lead to a significantly improved environment and a better future for generations to come. In conclusion, the integration of plants and bioclimatic design principles in high-rise mixed-use developments is important for creating sustainable and livable urban environments. These elements, when incorporated from the initial stages of design, can significantly improve energy efficiency, air quality, and overall well-being for occupants. The use of green roofs, green walls, biofilters, and indoor plants not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of high-rise buildings but also contributes to a healthier and more sustainable urban ecosystem. Additionally, bioclimatic design principles such as passive design strategies, natural ventilation, and energy-efficient systems play a vital role in reducing energy consumption and minimizing the environmental impact of high-rise buildings. By prioritizing green spaces and sustainable design practices, developers can contribute to a greener skyline and a more sustainable future for urban communities.

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