

Survey into Motives for Choosing Reinforced Concrete Over Loadbearing Masonry for Residential Buildings

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Abstract*:

Reinforced concrete framed structures are dominant in low-rise residential buildings in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In an attempt to understand why this is the case, a limited survey was conducted by personally interviewing the principals or Senior Staff of design offices in the Kingdom.

Any research into the reasons why people prefer or choose certain things when there are other alternatives available, requires care if it is to establish their particular reasons.

The broad choice of research methods open to us lay between the less reliable responses of a large sized postal enquiry (in which conventionally only perhaps 1 in 10 questionnaires would be returned), or, a personal response from interviewing a smaller sample. The latter method was chosen as a more effective approach.

Our "universe" design offices were selected in Al Kho- bar, Dammam, Jubail and Hofuf, all in the Eastern Region; together with a few in Riyadh. These we felt would represent our microcosm of the design professional population in Saudi Arabia. This choice consisted of 19 design offices' practices who were asked to cooperate with us and be interviewed.

Since interviewers can play a perceptible part or be a potential source of bias in the way people respond to questions, it was decided the questions should be framed to require as little prompting explanation or assistance as possible. The interviewer would freely explain matters if needed but would not go so far as to suggest his own leanings or views on matters of opinion, choice, or preference.

**Note that older issues of The Masonry Society Journal did not require abstracts. The excerpt above has been extracted from the introduction of the article by the Editors.*

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