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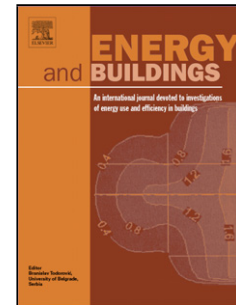
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<AT>Techno-economical Analysis based on a Parametric Computational Evaluation for decision process on envelope technologies and configurations evaluation for decision process of envelope technologies and configurations

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<ABS-HEAD>Highlights ► Envelope refurbishment can strongly influence the energy saving in existing buildings. ► Different technologies can provide suitable results by the energy point of view. ► A multi-criteria analysis allows to correlate energy, environmental and economic issues. ► Parametric analyses compare insulation levels and transparent envelope configurations. ► Synoptic diagrams synthesize embodied and running energy vs costs to define the most suitable technological solutions in representative climate contexts.

<ABS-HEAD>Abstract

<ABS-P>Energy saving is crucial for existing buildings which is present a huge potential of improvement by a strong energy retrofitting. Often, the existing envelope components are not adequately insulated and deep refurbishment is required to comply current regulations to improve energy efficiency and address Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) goals. The strategies to enhance buildings energy performance involve heating and cooling demands strongly dependent by envelope quality (i.e. insulation, thermal mass, internal gain storage capacity and solar heat gains exploitation). Commonly, the suggested main retrofit interventions on envelope are glazed surfaces replacement, Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) reduction and thermal transmittance (U value) improvement by additional insulation layers or even components replacement. However, it is worthy to note that the resulting thickness of the external envelope and the payback time of the interventions are important supports for decision-making. The environmental issue related to CO₂ emissions during the operational phase of the building is encompassed into the standard energy certification of the asset and the conversion factors to define fuels' impacts are available and updated. However, the calculation excludes the environmental impact due to energy used for materials' production and few official information sources provide accredited values, e.g. the Environmental Product Declaration (EPC). Going towards a Zero Energy Building, which reduces its environmental impact during the running phase, embodied energy claims an increasing weight. Thus, materials and components with low embodied energy should be favoured and endorsed. For this reason, the most influential rating systems worldwide available for building sustainability assessment (e.g. LEED, BREEAM, etc.)

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