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Life Cycle Assessment (PocketArchitecture)



Synopsis

Life Cycle Assessment addresses the dynamic and dialectic of building and ecology, presenting the key theories and techniques surrounding the use of life cycle assessment data and methods. Architects and construction professionals must assume greater responsibility in helping building owners to understand the implications of making material, manufacturing, and assemblage decisions and therefore design to accommodate more ecological building. Life Cycle Assessment is a guide for architects, engineers, and builders, presenting the principles and art of performing life cycle impact assessments of materials and whole buildings, including the need to define meaningful goals and objectives and critically evaluate analysis assumptions. As part of the PocketArchitecture Series, the book includes both fundamentals and advanced topics. The book is primarily focused on arming the design and construction professional with the tools necessary to make design decisions regarding life cycle, reuse, and sustainability. As such, the book is a practical text on the concepts and applications of life cycle techniques and environmental impact evaluation in architecture and is presented in language and depth appropriate for building industry professionals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Assistant professor of architecture Kathrina Simonen writes on the practice of life cycle assessment, authoring the handbook that she herself sought while wrestling with pressing questions of building, environment and quantification. Simonen positions LCA as an emerging

discipline, contextualizes LCA within its strengths, weaknesses and limitations, and dispels for the architect any attempt to idealize the practice. She translates what oft appears as a confounding method with concise and accessible language, case studies, didactic diagrams, and the aplomb to continuously remind us where methods require refinement, debate and consensus. An architect who has intuitively uttered the phrase 'embodied environmental impacts' in relation to a building, component or material - one who has desired a way of knowing environmental impacts more fully - will find herein a thorough discussion of the topic and description of the method. Simonen's handbook is timely and necessary as the building industry self-organizes to adopt environmental assessment methods pervasively and proactively for design decision making. - Billie Faircloth, KieranTimberlake 'Professor Simonen expertly bridges the gap between the practices of building design and life cycle assessment and her book is another testament to that. It gives comprehensive guidance to understanding and implementing LCA from a uniquely US architect's perspective.' - Frances Yang, Structures and Sustainability Specialist, Arup

Kathrina Simonen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at the University of Washington. Licensed as both an Architect and Structural Engineer, her research agenda stems from unresolved questions originated during over 15 years of professional practice. Her research topics include life cycle assessment (LCA) and practice innovations such as prefabrication, digital manufacturing, and alternative project delivery models. She is founding director of the Carbon Leadership Forum, an industry/academic research collaborative focused on linking the science of life cycle assessment to industry best practices in order to help enable quantifiable reduction of the environmental impact of the built environment.

Excellent introduction to LCA, especially helpful to a novice like me. Simonen's writing is clear, straightforward, easy to understand. I have a new appreciation of the revolution in thinking LCA represents and how it supports the evolution of a people centered, planet saving economy

Clear and Concise overview of a very important topic. We need to fully understand the impact of our built environment on Global Warming in order to make buildings part of a portfolio of strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change. Life Cycle Assessment is an important tool for measuring impact, and this book is an important contribution toward the evolution of the life cycle assessment discipline.

A wonderful brief book on the incredibly complex process of LCA. Would definitely recommend to anyone interested in LCA regardless of existing knowledge. This book can teach you all you need to know to communicate and understand what is going on in the world of LCA.

this is perhaps the best summary of LCA I've read. Kathrina takes a very complex subject and explains it in plain English, simply and clearly. It's written by an architect for architects to read. Definitely worth the price if you need a very good 101-401 summary in a thin, easy to read pocket book format.

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