

Zeitschrift: IABSE reports = Rapports AIPC = IVBH Berichte
Band: 77 (1998)

Artikel: Saving of sacral stained-glass window against moisture condensation
Autor: Grzeszczyk, Wieslaw / Witczak, Sebastian
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-58270>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 06.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

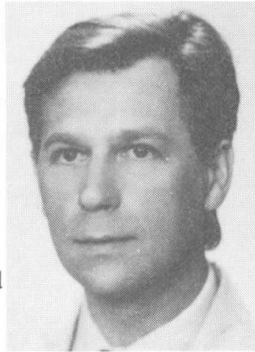


Saving of Sacral Stained-Glass Window against Moisture Condensation

Wieslaw GRZESZCZYK

Civil Eng.
Techn. Univ. of Opole
Opole, Poland

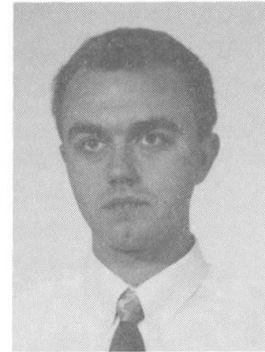
Wieslaw Grzeszczyk, born 1950, received his civil engineering degree from the Technical University of Wroclaw in 1973 and PhD in 1982. He is currently lecturer of Building Physics at the Technical University of Opole.



Sebastian WITCZAK

Civil Eng.
Techn. Univ. of Opole
Opole, Poland

Sebastian Witczak, born 1972, received his civil engineering degree from the Technical University of Opole in 1996. He is currently lecturer of Building Physics at the Technical University of Opole



Summary:

This paper presents the analysis of possibilities of preserving historical stained-glass windows and historical windows from negative effects connected with the condensation of moisture. There were two models examined of this protection with inside and outside ventilation of the cavity between the original and protective glazing. It was proved that using additional window at the outside of the existing one or moving the existing protected window to the inside increases temperature on the protected window. It was found that in the case of the fixed protected window - the first solution - the outside ventilation is more effective. However, in the second solution with the protected window from the inside, the inside ventilation is more effective - the surface condensation does not take place on the protected window.

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of moisture condensation on the inside surfaces of transparent partitions and the problems connected with this issue is not anything new. However, recently the researches relating to this damaging process have been very significant considering the intensity of the inconvenient consequence, particularly in monumental and sacral buildings. The negative effects of that phenomenon are created principally by the influence of the aggressive pollution of the environment; including very polluted atmosphere, particularly in cities, agglomerations and industry regions. The aggressive pollution which is dissolved in the water from rainfall and which exist in the air causes, that the moisture which is condensed on the surface of transparent building partitions has a destructive and aggressive impact. It is confirmed by numerous observations in historical buildings, particularly in shape of destruction and corrosion of window-frames, frosting of windows and stained-glass windows, damp patches mainly under windows and so on.

Because of that a lot of researches relating to moisture condensation on the surfaces of windows and stained-glass windows in historical and sacral building were carried out in Western Europe [1,2,3]. These researches included the recognition of that phenomenon and the description of the ways of protecting windows by using ventilated spaces from the outside or from the inside of the existing partition. The clear choice of the proper way of inside or outside ventilation is not made because there are different opinions on this subject [3,4]. Therefore, for example the outside

ventilation of the cavity between transparent partitions has been chosen in England while in Holland and Germany the inside ventilation appears to be more effective [1].

2. Model of Transparent Partition with Ventilated Spaces

The issue of ventilation of the cavity between two-layer of a transparent building partition can be described as two different models of ventilation. The acceptable models of different are shown on the fig. 1.

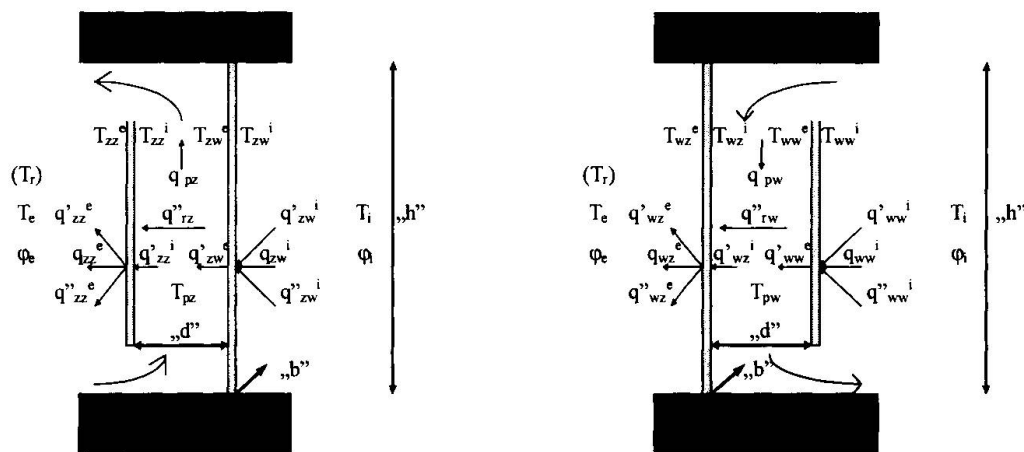


Fig. 1 The transparent two-layer partition with outside and inside ventilation, where:

- q, q', q'' - total / convection / radiation heat flux density [W/m^2],
- q_{pz}, q_{pw} - heat flux density; the result of warming or cooling the air in the space between layers [W/m^2],
- T_i, T_e, T_r - the inside and outside air temperature, environmental radiation temperature [$^{\circ}\text{C}$],
- T - the temperature of surface of the layer [$^{\circ}\text{C}$],
- ϕ_i, ϕ_e - inside and outside air humidity [%].

In the situation, in which the protected window is undetachable and the additional window is placed in its inside or outside (the first solution) the outside ventilation is most favourable. In this way the temperature on the surface of the protected window is higher than when the inside ventilation is used; also the dimension of moisture condensation on the protected window is slighter. This fact was confirmed in our own researches [5]. The additional protected window causes that the temperature on the surface of the protected window is higher. In this way, the surface moisture condensation can be fragmentary reduced.

In the researches made in Western Europe there were applied other approaches (the second solution) to the inside ventilation of the cavity. In this instance of inside ventilation the protected window was moved to the inside and the additional window replaced it [1].

In this case, on the basis of our own researches, it was confirmed that the inside ventilation of the cavity is more favourable than outside ventilation. Though the quantity of condensed moisture is always greater than in the case of outside ventilation, the surface condensation occurs on the additional window and the process of destruction of the protected window is stopped.