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Terracotta products for maintaining sustainability in architectural and construction methodologies.

[1]Ar.Anup Gaikwad, [2]Ar.Seema Malani

[1]Assistant Professor, [2]Principal
[1]Batchlor of Design
[1]Deccan College of Interior Design, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India.

Abstract : The term Terra-cotta comes from the Italian dictionary meaning "Baked-earth." It is made of a course, porous type of clay. Terracotta's distinct qualities make it a highly sought-after material in the architectural world. It has the advantages of environmental protection, energy saving, moisture proof, provides good thermal and acoustic insulation, air permeability. Products of terracotta also offers sustainability, low maintenance, resistant to ultraviolet radiation and flexible design with low maintenance. Its valuable properties make it favored choice for architects and builders.
Terracotta's valuable properties make it favored choice for architects and builders alike. Whether it is the warm hues of terracotta facades, the traditional charm of roofing tiles, or the inviting ambience of terracotta flooring, healthy barrier of terracotta brick and jaalis this versatile material adds a touch of elegance to any architectural design.
In a world in which energy, environmental and financial difficulties cannot be ignored. Terracotta makes sense for architectural & construction purposes. Terracotta products steps up as an environmentally sustainable option as it is not only a natural material, but one which contributes to and benefits the overall sustainability of the building. This research paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of the utilization of terracotta products for sustainable construction.

***Index Terms* - terracotta, sustainability, depletion, emissions, efficient.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The term Terra-cotta comes from the Italian dictionary meaning "Baked-earth." It is made from a course, porous type of clay. This is first shaped, then fired until hard. In the ancient world, it was left to harden in the hot sun; later, it was baked in primitive ovens created in the ashes of open fires or special ovens known as kilns. Once fired the clay assumes a brownish orange colour ranging from an earthy ochre to red.

1.1 Historical use of terracotta in architecture and construction

Terracotta has been used in Indian architecture and construction for centuries. Its historical use in the country can be traced back to various periods, and it has played a significant role in the creation of both utilitarian and decorative elements. In ancient India, terracotta was used to create bricks for construction. The Harappan civilization (around 3300–1300 BCE) is known for its advanced urban planning, and terracotta bricks were an essential building material in their structures. During the Maurya (322–185 BCE) and Gupta (320–550 CE) periods, terracotta continued to be used for bricks, but there was also an increased use of terracotta for creating decorative elements such as sculptures and relief panels. The use of terracotta became more pronounced in the construction of temples and other religious structures. The Bhitargaon temple in Uttar Pradesh, dating back to the Gupta period, is an example of early terracotta temple architecture. Terracotta continued to be a popular material during the medieval period, especially in regions like Bengal. Temples and mosques in Bengal often featured terracotta plaques depicting scenes from Hindu epics, daily life, and floral motifs. Examples include the terracotta temples in Bishnupur, West Bengal. The use of terracotta tiles for flooring and decorative elements in the Mughal structures is notable. With the arrival of European colonizers, there was an influence on architectural styles. The use of terracotta tiles and elements persisted, and colonial-era buildings often featured terracotta embellishments. In the 19th and 20th centuries, there was a revival of interest in traditional building materials, including terracotta. Architects and builders began incorporating terracotta in a more deliberate manner, blending traditional techniques with modern designs. Today, terracotta is still used in contemporary Indian architecture. Modern architects appreciate its versatility, sustainability, and the aesthetic appeal it adds to structures. Terracotta tiles, panels, and sculptures continue to be utilized for both functional and decorative purposes. Overall, the use of terracotta in Indian architecture has evolved over the centuries, adapting to different styles and periods while maintaining its connection to the rich cultural and artistic traditions of the country.

1.2 Necessity of study - Concerns about the effects of development on the environment, resource depletion, and current sustainability issues are widespread.

The construction industry is one of the largest contributors to global environmental issues, such as greenhouse gas emissions, resource depletion, waste generation, and biodiversity loss. This sector is by far the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, accounting for a staggering 37% of global emissions. The construction industry faces several contemporary challenges related to sustainability, as the sector plays a significant role in resource consumption, environmental impact, and overall sustainability.

Construction industry is one of the highly energy-intensive sectors in the India. According to Global Alliance for Building and Construction estimates, India’s total building floor area would be around 57.6 Billion m2 by 2050 from 15.8 Billion in 2015. This growth would also spur the demand for basic conventional construction materials like cement, steel, bricks, glass, etc. Studies suggest that demand for cement and steel in India would reach up to 1,360 MT and 755 MT by 2050, from 328 MT and 99 MT in 2019, respectively. Energy consumption and carbon emissions in the built environment are largely born out of the use of electricity and building materials. Traditional construction materials, such as concrete and steel, have high environmental costs in terms of extraction, manufacturing, and transportation. The reliance on fossil fuels for machinery and transportation contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint of construction projects. The production of cement, a key component in concrete, is a major source of carbon dioxide emissions. The construction industry is a major consumer of raw materials such as sand, gravel, timber, and minerals. Over extraction of these resources can lead to deforestation, habitat destruction, and soil erosion, impacting ecosystems and biodiversity. Construction projects can disrupt natural habitats, leading to the displacement of wildlife and changes in local ecosystems. This can have long-term consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Construction generates a substantial amount of waste, including construction and demolition debris. Improper disposal of waste materials can contribute to land pollution, and the energy-intensive nature of some materials exacerbates environmental impacts. The use of certain construction materials, such as asphalt and concrete, can contribute to the urban heat island effect by absorbing and retaining heat. This can result in higher temperatures in urban areas compared to surrounding natural areas.

To address these concerns, there is a growing emphasis on adopting sustainable practices in the construction industry. This includes green building certification, circular economy principles, use of innovative material, energy efficient design, taking regulatory measures. Sustainable construction practices can lead to more resilient and environmentally friendly built environments, contributing to the overall well-being of society and the planet.

II. FORMULATION AND PRODUCTION

2.1 Material composition of terracotta

a) Clay - The primary component of terracotta is clay, which is a type of fine-grained soil composed of minerals (kaolinite, illite, and montmorillonite) organic materials, and water. Different types of clay can be used, and the specific clay composition affects the properties of the final terracotta product.

b) Silica - Silica, often in the form of sand, is sometimes added to the clay mixture. Silica helps enhance the structural integrity and firing properties of terracotta. It helps in reducing shrinkage during the firing process.

c) Iron oxide - The presence of iron oxide gives terracotta its characteristic reddish-brown color. The amount of iron oxide can vary, affecting the final color of the terracotta product.

d) Feldspar - Feldspar is a mineral that is occasionally added to the clay mixture to improve the firing process and provide certain properties to the finished terracotta product.

e) Additives - Depending on the specific requirements of the terracotta product, manufacturers may introduce additives or colorants to achieve desired characteristics. These additives can include pigments for color, stabilizers, and other substances.

f) Minerals - Depending on the source of the clay, other minerals may be present in smaller amounts, contributing to the overall composition and appearance of the terracotta.

g) Water - Water is used in the clay preparation process to make it pliable and suitable for shaping. The water content influences the workability of the clay.

2.2 Manufacturing processes of terracotta products and their influence on product quality.

a) Clay selection - The type and quality of clay selected for terracotta production directly affect the final product. Well-prepared and refined clay ensures uniformity, strength, and durability. Proper clay preparation minimizes impurities and ensures a consistent composition, enhancing the strength and aesthetic appeal of the terracotta.

b) Clay is extraction - The clay is extracted from natural deposits and then processed to remove impurities. It is mixed with water to create a workable consistency. Proper preparation ensures uniformity and improves the clay's plasticity, making it easier to shape. The extracted clay is then processed to remove impurities and achieve a consistent composition. This may involve crushing, grinding, and screening the clay to ensure it has the right particle size and uniformity.

c) Forming - The prepared clay is shaped into the desired form. There are several methods for forming terracotta products, including:

i Extrusion - Clay is forced through a die to create a continuous shape, such as pipes or tiles.

ii. Pressing - Clay is pressed into molds to create specific shapes.

iii. Hand molding - Skilled artisans may shape clay by hand for more intricate or customized designs.

The forming process can influence both structural and aesthetic characteristics.

d) Drying - The formed terracotta pieces are allowed to air dry or are placed in controlled drying chambers. This step is crucial to remove excess moisture and prevent cracking during firing. Proper drying is crucial to remove excess moisture. Inadequate drying can lead to defects in the final product, affecting its strength and appearance.

e) The firing temperature and duration - The firing temperature and duration determine the vitrification level, strength, and color of the terracotta. Higher firing temperatures generally result in stronger and more durable terracotta, but excessive temperatures can lead to warping or bloating. Controlled firing is essential for achieving the desired physical and mechanical properties.

f) Glazing - Glazing can enhance the aesthetic appeal and provide additional protection. Glazing influences the color, texture, and surface finish of terracotta. It can also enhance resistance to environmental factors, such as staining or moisture absorption.

g) Cooling - The cooling process affects the prevention of thermal shock and cracks in the terracotta. Gradual cooling helps prevent rapid temperature changes, reducing the risk of thermal stress-induced cracks and improving overall product integrity.
h) Quality control - The finished terracotta products undergo thorough quality control checks to ensure they meet the required standards in terms of size, shape, strength, and aesthetic appearance. Rigorous quality control checks help identify and rectify defects, ensuring that only high-quality terracotta products reach the market. This contributes to the reliability and performance of the material in construction.
i) Incorporate of technology - The use of modern technology and automation can improve efficiency and consistency. Automation can enhance precision and reduce variations in the manufacturing process. This leads to more uniform terracotta products with predictable properties.
j) Environmental conditions - Factors such as humidity, temperature, and air circulation during various stages of production can impact the drying and firing processes, affecting the final product's quality.

III. STRENGTH, LOAD BEARING CAPABILITIES AND SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

3.1 Strength of terracotta products

a) Compressive strength - Strength Terracotta typically exhibits good compressive strength. Compressive strength refers to the material's ability to withstand axial loads or forces that tend to squeeze or crush it. Terracotta's compressive strength is important in applications where it supports loads or bears weight, such as in columns or load-bearing walls.
b) Tensile strength - While terracotta is not as strong in tension as it is in compression, it still possesses a certain degree of tensile strength. Tensile strength is the ability of a material to withstand forces that try to pull it apart. In construction, tensile strength may be relevant in situations where terracotta elements experience bending or stretching forces.
c) Flexural strength - Terracotta's flexural strength is crucial in scenarios where the material needs to resist bending or flexing loads. This property is particularly important in architectural elements like terracotta tiles, panels, or decorative facades.

3.2 Load bearing capabilities terracotta products

a) Structural load bearing - Terracotta is often used in load-bearing applications, such as in the construction of columns, load-bearing walls, and structural elements. Its compressive strength is a key factor in determining its ability to bear vertical loads.
b) Architectural load bearing - Terracotta is also used in architectural elements that contribute to the aesthetics of a structure while still bearing some load. Examples include decorative facades, cladding, or ornamental elements that may have both structural and aesthetic roles.
c) Design consideration - Engineers and architects need to consider the specific load-bearing requirements of a structure and choose the appropriate terracotta product with the necessary strength characteristics. Additionally, proper design and construction practices, including the use of support structures and connections, play a role in ensuring the load-bearing capabilities of terracotta elements

3.3. The sustainability features of terracotta products

a) Natural and renewable source - Terracotta is made from clay, a natural and abundant resource. The extraction of clay is generally less environmentally impactful compared to some other construction materials.
b) Energy efficient - The firing process used in terracotta production typically requires lower temperatures compared to other ceramics and other building materials like concrete or metals and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Some manufacturers are adopting more energy-efficient kiln technologies or using renewable energy sources to mitigate these emissions.
c) Longevity and Durability - Terracotta is known for its durability and resistance to wear and tear. Products made from terracotta can have a long lifespan, reducing the need for frequent replacements and minimizing resource consumption. Longevity and durability lowering the overall environmental impact associated with production, transportation, and disposal.
d) Thermal insulation - Terracotta is a relatively poor conductor of heat, which means it has low thermal conductivity. In some cases, this can contribute to energy efficiency by reducing the need for additional cooling systems in buildings.
e) Porosity/Moisture regulation - Terracotta is a porous material, allowing it to absorb and release moisture. This property can be beneficial in regulating humidity levels within the building, contributing to the overall comfort of the indoor environment
f) Recyclability - Terracotta products are often recyclable. Broken or discarded terracotta items can be crushed and reused in the production process, contributing to a circular economy, and reducing the demand for new raw materials.
g) Biodegradability - Terracotta is a natural material that can decompose over time. While it may not biodegrade as quickly as some organic materials, its eventual breakdown is generally not harmful to the environment.
h) Low toxicity - Terracotta products typically do not contain harmful chemicals or additives. The use of natural clay and traditional firing methods contributes to low toxicity, both during production and throughout the life of the product.
i) Reducing maintenance cost - Terracotta's durability translates into lower maintenance costs over time. Buildings or structures made with terracotta may require less frequent repairs or replacements, leading to long-term cost savings.
j) Versatility and adaptability - Terracotta can be molded into various shapes and forms, providing versatility in design and construction. This adaptability allows for the creation of innovative and sustainable architectural solutions.
k) Local sourcing production and economic impact - As terracotta is often sourced locally, reducing transportation-related carbon emissions. Additionally, traditional artisanal methods of production are still employed in many places, supporting local economies, and preserving cultural practices.
l) Cultural and aesthetic value - Terracotta is frequently used to showcase artistic and cultural traditions. The sustainability of cultural assets and the maintenance of a link to regional customs are enhanced by the preservation and promotion of these artisanal skills.

IV. LIFE CYCLE ASSESMENT (LCA - TERRACOTTA)

The life cycle of terracotta products involves several stages, from raw material extraction to disposal or recycling
a) Raw material extraction - Terracotta is a type of fired clay, and its production starts with the extraction of clay from natural deposits. This process involves mining or excavation.
b) Processing and manufacturing - Once the clay is extracted, it undergoes processing to remove impurities and achieve the desired consistency. It is then shaped into the desired forms, such as bricks, tiles, or architectural elements. The shaping process may involve molding or extrusion. After shaping, the terracotta products are fired in kilns at high temperatures to harden them. This firing process is a crucial step that gives terracotta its strength and durability.
Some terracotta products are glazed to give them a smoother finish, enhance their aesthetic appeal, and provide additional protection. Glazing involves applying a liquid mixture of minerals to the surface of the product, which is then fired again in the kiln.
c) Packaging and distribution - Once the final firing is complete, the terracotta products are inspected for quality and then packaged for distribution. The finished terracotta products are transported to construction sites or distribution centers.
d) Application - Terracotta products are used in construction for various purposes, such as cladding, roofing, flooring, and architectural ornamentation. During this stage, the energy and environmental impact depend on the specific application and construction techniques.
e) Maintenance - Terracotta products, once installed, require minimal maintenance. Regular cleaning and occasional repairs may be necessary to ensure longevity.
f) End of life - At the end of a building's life or when terracotta elements are replaced, there are different possibilities for disposal. Recycling: Terracotta products can be crushed and recycled into new clay products. Reuse: Salvaged terracotta elements may be reused in other construction projects.
g) Landfill - If not recycled or reused, terracotta products may end up in landfills. Terracotta is generally inert and does not pose environmental hazards. However, responsible disposal practices, such as recycling or reuse, can minimize the environmental impact.

V. ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATIONS AND DESIGN PLIABILITY

5.1 Architectural utilization of terracotta

a) Cladding and facades - Terracotta tiles or panels can be used as cladding for exterior facades. They provide a natural, warm look and visually appealing with durable exterior finish to buildings. Terracotta rainscreen systems allow for better insulation and moisture management, improving the overall energy efficiency of the building. It can be incorporated into modern curtain wall systems, rainscreen cladding, and other facade technologies.
Terracotta is relatively low maintenance compared to other cladding materials. It does not require painting or coating, reducing the need for chemical treatments over its lifespan.
b) Roof tiles - Terracotta roof tiles are a classic choice for roofing. Terracotta is a durable material that can withstand harsh weather conditions, including UV exposure, extreme temperatures, and heavy rain.
Terracotta tiles have natural insulating properties. They can help regulate temperature by absorbing heat during the day and releasing it slowly at night, contributing to energy efficiency in buildings. The production process is often less energy-intensive compared to some other roofing materials like concrete or metal.
c) Flooring and wall coverings - Terracotta tiles are versatile and can be used for both flooring and wall coverings. They are suitable for both indoor and outdoor spaces, providing a cohesive and timeless look. Terracotta tiles can be used for interior flooring, especially in areas with high foot traffic. They are resistant to wear and tear.
Terracotta has natural thermal mass properties, which means it can absorb and store heat. This makes it an excellent choice for flooring in areas with warm climates. Glazed terracotta tiles are easy to clean and can add a touch of elegance to modern interiors. The production process tends to be less energy-intensive compared to other types of tiles.
d) Sunshades and louvers - Terracotta sunshades and louvers can be incorporated into the design to provide shade and reduce solar heat gain. This helps in enhancing energy efficiency and creating a comfortable environment.
e) Prefabricated terracotta panels - Prefabricated terracotta panels are available in various sizes and shapes, making them easy to install. These panels can be used for quick and efficient construction, especially in large projects.
f) Terracotta bricks walls - Terracotta bricks can be used for both interior and exterior walls, providing a rustic and warm appearance. These bricks are known for their thermal mass, helping to regulate temperature and reduce energy consumption.
g) Terracotta jali - Terracotta jali Incorporate terracotta jali elements in the exterior facades of buildings. They can be used to add a traditional and artistic touch to modern structures. They can act as screens to allow air circulation while providing shade and privacy. Use terracotta jali to control natural light entering a space. The latticed pattern can create interesting shadows and patterns, enhancing the visual appeal.
h) Fireplace - Terracotta tiles can be used to construct or decorate fireplace surrounds, adding a touch of warmth and character to the space. The heat-resistant properties of terracotta make it a practical choice for fireplace applications.
i) Ceiling tiles - Terracotta ceiling tiles can add a unique and charming element to interior spaces. These tiles can be used in both residential and commercial settings, providing a visually appealing alternative to conventional ceiling materials
j) Integrated with other material - Terracotta can be used in conjunction with other materials like glass, steel, or concrete to create a modern and visually interesting architectural composition.
k) Decorative element - Terracotta can be molded into various decorative elements such as columns, friezes, and ornaments. These decorative pieces add character and uniqueness to the architecture.
l) Pottery, décor, and lighting fixtures - Terracotta is often used to create pottery and decorative items that can be placed throughout the interior for aesthetic purposes. Vases, figurines, and other decor items made from terracotta contribute to a cohesive design theme. Terracotta can be molded into various shapes to create unique lighting fixtures, adding a touch of artistic flair to interior spaces.

5.2 Design flexibility and customization options.

a) Colour variety - It comes in a wide range of natural earth tones, including red, brown, orange, and tan. Manufacturers can also produce custom colors through the addition of pigments during the manufacturing process. Glazing techniques can further enhance the color palette, providing glossy or matte finishes in various shades. This allows architects to choose a color palette that complements the overall design of the building.

b) Surface finishes - Terracotta can be finished in various ways to achieve different textures. Common finishes include smooth, glazed, or textured surfaces. The choice of finish can add depth and character to the architectural design. Surface textures can be smooth, rough, or have intricate patterns, allowing for a wide range of aesthetic expressions.

c) Shape and size - Terracotta products are available in a multitude of shapes and sizes. This includes standard bricks, tiles, panels, and decorative elements such as cornices and friezes. Custom molds can be created to produce unique shapes and sizes, enabling architects and designers to realize their specific vision.

d) Installation Techniques - The installation of terracotta allows for various techniques, including standard bricklaying, panel systems, and rainscreen applications. This flexibility facilitates different design approaches and construction methods.

e) Integration with other material - Terracotta can be seamlessly integrated with other building materials, such as glass, steel, or concrete, to create a visually appealing and harmonious design. The combination of terracotta with other materials allows for a blend of traditional and modern aesthetics.

f) Adaptability to modern trends - While terracotta has a rich history in traditional architecture, it has also evolved to meet modern design trends. Contemporary architects often use terracotta in innovative ways, blending its classic appeal with modern aesthetics.

VI. CASE STUDIES

6.1 Case study 1 - Tarang Pavilion Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

Architects - The Grid Architects, Area - 3000 Square feet

The recently finished Tarang Pavilion in Gandhinagar, India, is an example of how The Grid Architects uses creativity and thoughtfulness to create built environments that are both aesthetically pleasing and mindful of the surrounding natural environment. This pavilion, which has the appearance of a vaulted sculpture, will encourage meaningful dialogue that bridges the past, present, and future.

The project mostly sources locally, emphasizing low-embodied energy materials, to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings. Natural stone, terracotta tiles, and a method of spanning without the use of steel, shuttering, or auxiliary structures - which are often employed to support the weight of an arch during construction - are among the main elements used. To further encourage sustainable building practices, the project also emphasizes upskilling the masons. One of India's biggest terracotta tile arch vault buildings is currently Tarang. The form of its rising arching interiors, which is based on a biophilic design concept, is wonderfully personal and familiar. To solve the urgent problem of sustainable construction, the design demonstrates a creative and methodical approach that results in a built environment that is visually stunning, culturally diverse, and environmentally beneficial. By utilizing conventional building methods devoid of software or electronic instruments, Tarang honors the craftsmanship of the labourers. The pavilion was expertly created by the talented craftspeople. Artisans in Bhuj, Gujarat, with whom the design team worked in close collaboration. By utilizing regionally available materials such as Kotah stone, sandstone, and terracotta brick tile, the architects made sure the structure complemented the local aesthetics.

The Tarang Pavilion demonstrates a strong dedication to environmental awareness and sustainability. The project drastically lowers its carbon footprint by using locally sourced materials and conventional construction methods. The best thermal efficiency is ensured using sandstone and terracotta brick tile, which encourages natural ventilation and lowers the requirement for artificial cooling. Numerous advantages that are both environmentally friendly and people-centric are provided by Tarang's design. The structure is a benefit to society since it upholds inclusive design ideals and encourages sustainability.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 1 and 2:
(picturehttps://www.archdaily.com/1002007/tarang-pavilion-the-grid-architects/647dc04643e45a2aca890513-tarang-pavilion-the-grid-architects-photo)

6.1 Case study 2 - Terracotta Restaurant, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

Architects - The Grid Architects, Area - 2700 Square feet

With a modest budget, the 2,700 square foot project was transformed into a restaurant with a tasteful fusion of the traditional and the modern. The primary building material used in the design of the restaurant is clay, which is soft, pliable, and moldable. These materials are also reasonably priced and organic. Restaurants offer amazing visual qualities as well as significant craft value. The next challenge was to use local labor and raw materials from the area—raw bricks, clay, terracotta, raw wood—to create a straightforward but striking modern space. For sustainability, terracotta walls and cladding make perfect sense. Terracotta is used in designed elements to create an earthy atmosphere.

The use of perforated terracotta pendants creates soft pools of light. The stunning quality of light and the play of shadows in this wall mural/lighting installation made of terracotta bowls draw the eye. Unglazed earthenware appears as installations, lamps, and

ceramics. Fired bricks are used for the walls and columns, and rustic ceramic tiles with a sienna-hued finish cover the floors. These tiles mimic the natural aging of the Corten steel screens.
Labor and craftsmen as well as supplies obtained from within a 50-kilometer radius. Terracotta earthenware without glaze is utilized. This project demonstrates the use of sustainability using low-cost, naturally occurring clay terracotta goods and local material and labor procurement.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 1 and 2:
(https://thegrid-arch.com/project-terracotta/)

VII. CHALLEGES, TECHNOLOGIES ADVANCEMENT AND PROSPECT OF TERRACOTTA

7.1 Challenges

a) This cost factor can be a significant challenge, especially for large-scale construction projects.
b) Installation complexity - Installing terracotta products may require specialized skills and expertise. The complexity of installation can contribute to higher labor costs and potential delays in construction projects.
c) Durability concern - While terracotta is generally durable, its long-term performance can be affected by exposure to harsh weather conditions, particularly freeze-thaw cycles. Proper maintenance and protection measures may be necessary to ensure durability.

7.2 Technological advancement

a) Reinforcement technology
i) Fiber reinforcement - Introducing fibers such as glass or carbon into the terracotta mix can enhance its tensile strength, making it more resistant to cracking and structural failures.
b) Nano technology additives
i) Nanomaterials - Incorporating nanomaterials, such as nano-silica or nano-clay, into the terracotta mixture can enhance its mechanical properties, durability, and resistance to weathering.
c) Advance manufacturing techniques
i) 3D printing - Utilizing 3D printing technology allows for intricate and customized terracotta designs, improving its aesthetic appeal while maintaining structural integrity.
ii) Extrusion technology - Using extrusion methods to create complex terracotta shapes can enhance its versatility in construction.
d) Surface treatments
i) Coatings - Applying advanced coatings like hydrophobic or self-cleaning coatings can improve terracotta's resistance to water, pollutants, and staining, enhancing its durability.
e) Mix design optimization
i) Additives and admixtures - Incorporating modern additives and admixtures, such as superplasticizers, can improve workability, setting time, and overall performance of terracotta.
ii) Geopolymerization - Exploring geopolymerization processes instead of traditional firing methods can reduce energy consumption and environmental impact while enhancing the material's properties.

7.3 Future Prospects

a) Sustainability and green building practice - As sustainability becomes a more critical consideration in construction, the eco-friendly and its sustainable properties of terracotta could contribute to practice.
b) Innovative Manufacturing - Advancements in manufacturing processes, such as digital fabrication technologies, may enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of producing terracotta components. This could lead to wider adoption in construction projects.
c) Market demand and supply chain - The overall demand for terracotta products and the development of efficient supply chains will play a crucial role in its prospects. Economic factors, such as production costs and availability of raw materials, will influence its competitiveness.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research conducted on terracotta products for sustaining architectural and construction methodologies underscores the significant potential of this ancient material in contemporary sustainability practices. Through an exploration of its properties, applications, and environmental impacts, several key insights have emerged.

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