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Moss-Grown Concrete for Green Urban Development

Mangesh Jadhav

Department of Civil Engineering
JSPM's Rajarshi Shahu College of Engineering,Pune–411033 Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, India

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I.Abstract: This study investigates the potential of moss-growingconcrete as an innovative and environmentally sustainable construction material that combines the structural integrity of traditional concrete with the ecological advantages of living moss. Concrete plays a vital role in modern infrastructure; however, its production significantly contributes to environmental degradation due to high energy consumption and substantial carbon dioxide emissions during cement manufacturing. As concerns about climate change, pollution, and resource depletion continue to rise, the need for eco-friendly building materials has become increasingly urgent. In this context, bio-integrated or moss concrete emerges as a promising solution, offering the ability to naturally absorb carbon dioxide, reduce atmospheric pollutants, and improve thermal insulation without compromising strength and durability. Moss, a resilient organism capable of thriving in harsh and diverse environmental conditions, is introduced into concrete matrices of different grades such as M35 and M40 to examine its growth behavior and its influence on the mechanical and environmental performance of the material. This integration creates a dynamic, living façade that adapts to changing environmental conditions over time while enhancing the aesthetic appeal of structures. Furthermore, moss concrete supports urban biodiversity, contributes to temperature regulation, and improves air quality, making it highly suitable for sustainable urban development. By reducing the carbon footprint and incorporating natural elements into built environments, this material fosters a harmonious relationship between nature and infrastructure. The findings of this research aim to encourage the adoption of moss concrete in the construction industry and contribute to the advancement of sustainable and green building practices for future development.

Keywords: Moss growing concrete, Sustainable construction,Eco-friendlymaterials, Aesthetic design, Biodiversity, Thermal properties.

Fig 1. Moss concrete cube

1. Introduction

The concrete industryposes a significant challenge in the modern pursuit of ecologicallyresponsible and sustainable construction practices. Because of its large energy consumption and huge carbon emissions related to the cement manufacturing process, traditional concrete production is known for having a significant negative impact on the environment. The need for alternative building materials that combine durability,utility,and ecological responsibility is growing as the world gets more serious about combating climate change.

Through the addition of moss to the concrete matrix, this studyinvestigates a new direction in the search for environmentallyfriendlybuildingmaterials. With its hardiness and capacityto flourish in a varietyof conditions, moss presents a special chance to convert regular concrete into a more visually beautiful and environmentally friendly substitute. Not only can the incorporation of moss into concrete solve environmental issues, but it also offers a chance to rethink how urban infrastructure interacts with the natural world. Through utilizing moss's capacity for regeneration, we hope to further the creation of a sustainable construction material that not only reduces carbon emissions but also improves the aesthetic and ecological qualities of concrete structures.

This introduction lays out the main goals and importance of the research, gives an overview of the difficulties associatedwith producingconcretetheold-fashioned way, and setsthe stageforinvestigating moss concrete as a substitute. In the parts that follow, we will explore the mechanical, thermal, and ecological properties of moss concrete in greater detail provide a visually ppealing and environmentally friendly building material for the future.

1.1. Moss and its history

Moss, are silient and old bryophyte,has been important to Earth'seco logical history.Moss has been around for more than 400 million years, and over that time, it has adapted to a varietyof habitats and flourished, leaving a lasting impact on both human culture and ecosystems. This succinct examination of moss's evolutionary history illuminates its historical significance and lays the ground work for its inventive use in modern construction moss concrete in particular.
The unique characteristics of moss have sparked interestin cutting-edge uses in the modern era,especially in the building sector. Emerging technologies such as moss Concrete demonstrates how moss has evolved from a botanical curiosity to a potential contributorto sustainable practices. Researchers and architects are investigating how to use moss natural properties to improve the aesthetics and environmental performance of concrete constructions.

2. Case study

investing the use of moss integrated concrete in architectura design this section provides in-depth examplesofhowcombiningconventionalconcretewithlivingmossdeliversvisual appealand biological advantages it examines specific architectural constructions where moss concrete has been employed detailing its functional applications encountered obstacles and the results achieved in practice.
Case Study1:One Central Park, Sydney green facade Location: Sydney, Australia
Architects: Jean Nouve land PTW Architects Completion Year: 2014 Materials
Used: Moss concrete panels,the green wall system.
Fig 2. One central park fascade

Sydney one central park is a mixed-use households and rental complex that has achieved international recognition for its futuristic green facade construct the building integrates moss concrete and different green technologies to create a long lasting urban habitat covering over half of the exterior surfaces of its three towers the facade features a wide range of plant species including moss.

The design of One Central Park blends visual beauty with practical environmental benefits. Moss concrete panels were installed on the lower sections of the building façade, as moss can thrive in shaded, moisture-rich environments. These panels are connected to the building's irrigation system to ensure a steady supply of water essential for moss growth. The inclusion of moss concrete not only enhances thermal insulation and air purification but also supports the project's broader sustainability goals. By filtering air pollutants and providing natural insulation, the moss-covered surfaces help reduce the building's overall carbon footprint. Moreover, the green façade absorbs heat, thereby cooling the surrounding environment and mitigating urban heat island effects. The distinctive moss-clad exterior has contributedtoOne Central Park'sreputationasamodelofeco-friendlyarchitecture,admiredbyresidents and visitors alike. Maintaining healthy moss growth across different light and moisture zones proved challenging, requiring adjustments in watering and nutrient management to achieve consistent results during the project.

Case Study 2:BoscoVerticale,Milan Moss concrete Pathway Location: Milan, Italy
Architects: Stefano Boeri Architetti Completion Year: 2014
Used: Moss concrete,traditional concrete,various plant species
The Bosco Verticale, also known as the Vertical Forest, comprises two green skyscrapers in Milan renowned for their extensive incorporation of trees, shrubs, and various plant species. The project aimed to create a self-sustaining ecosystem within an urban environment to improve air quality and strengthen residents' connection with nature. Moss-infused concrete was utilized for the pathways and portions of the lower facades to complement the overall greening concept. Its porous nature supports water retention and facilitates natural mossgrowth with verylittle maintenance.The moss-lined paths not onlyenhanced the aesthetic harmony with the surrounding vegetation but also contributed to ecological sustainability by managing storm water and reducing pressure on the city's drainage system. Additionally, the moss concrete helps moderate the local micro climate, lowering ambient temperatures and decreasing the need for artificial cooling, which in turn reduces energy usage.These walkways have thus become an integral feature of the architectural design, offering both residents and visitors an engaging and nature-rich experience.
the primary challenge faced during the project was ensuring the structural stability of moss concrete while promoting healthy moss growth after several months of monitoring the team identified specific sections that required reinforcement to mitigate erosion-related deterioration this process led to a deeper understanding of how moss concrete performs in areas with frequent use future applications of this material will need to balance both functional durability and aesthetic requirements

Fig 2.1 BoscoVerticale,Milan

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Collection of materials: The process of creating moss concrete requires a careful blending of conventional concrete ingredients with the addition of moss.This section offers asuccinct summary of the essential ingredients used to make moss concrete, taking into account both environmental and structural variables.
The first step is the collection of materials for concrete mixes of M-40,M-25,andM-50 grades,which are

Cement: Concrete I smade with either regular Portland Cement (OPC) or alternative environmentally cement formulas. Sustainability and its effect on the environment may be taken into account.

Aggregates: Sand and gravel are examples of fine and coarse aggregates that give the concrete its structural integrity. The strength and workability of the concrete are largely dependent on the size and gradation of the particles.

Water: Potable, clean water is essential to the cement hydration process. To get the right strength and longevity out of the concrete, the water-to-cement ratio must be carefully considered.

Concrete Mix: Use right proportion of sand, Aggregate (fine&Course), water. To get desired strength

Grades	RatiosofMix
M-35	**1:1.78:2.6**
M-40	**1:1.89:3.18**

Table 1 Concrete grades

3.2 Cube casting: Preparing concrete cubes is a key procedure for determining the compressive strength ofconcrete, which is essentialto evaluate the safetyand durabilityof structuralelements. Which process must be carried out systematically to achieve precise and dependable testing outcomes.

3.2 Curing of cubes: making concrete cubes is a key procedure for calculation of the compressive strength of concrete which is important to get idea about the safety and durability of structural components the process must be carried out systematically to achieve precise and dependable testing outcomes.

3.3 Moss collection : Collecting moss for moss concrete involves more than just grabbing a handful from the nearest patch.

3.4 Blending of moss: Blending moss with buttermilk for moss concrete holds potential, but its effectiveness and practicality require further research and testing. More established methods might offer greater reliability and control, especially for larger projects or long-term applications.

3.5 Applying moss paste to cubes: Applying moss paste to cubes for research or testing in the moss requires a precise and careful methodology to ensure accurate and reliable results.

3.6 Growing moss on cubes: Growing moss on concrete cubes for research or testing in moss requires both meticulous preparation and ongoing care

3.7 Concrete cube procedure

C. Cube moulds

1. Standard Cube Mould size 150mm*150mm 150mm

2. Cube moulds should be non absorbent, non reactive and metal moulds to be used (Cast iron).

3. Cube moulds with extended base plates ate mandatory requirement.

4. Tamping rod shall be (16±0.5 mm dia and 600±2 mm) long with a rounded working end and shall be made of mild steel.

B.Apaareatus

1. Cube mold (150x150x150mm)

2. Tamping rod/bar

3. Weighing machine

C. Procedure

1. Fill the mould with concrete in 50 mm layers using the tamping bar, compact the concrete with no fewer than 35 tamps for a each of the three layers in a 150 mm mould.

2. The slump of the sample should be 80-100mm.

3. After tamping of each layer, tap the sides of the mould with the hit hammer until large air
- cease to appear on the surface and the holes left by the tamping bar are closed.

4. Store the cube moulds at room temperature and free from the vibration.

5. Demould cube

D.Curing

1. Clean the Curing tank and fill with water tested for construction purpose.

2. The cubes should be removed from the moulds after 24 hours after casting Place the 1 day, 3 days, 7 days, 28 days Cubes separately in designated Tanks.

3. Cubes should be immersed in water always

4. Check that the water temperature is controlled at 27: 3° C and the cubes are covered by water

5. Monitor the temperature of the water and make record of it."

Fig 3.1 Cement mixing

Fig 3.2 Curing of cubes

3.8 Tests on moss specimens: Testing moss grown concrete specimens in volves the evaluating a various properties related to both the concrete and the moss layer,which include a durability and the Thermal insulation, using a Metallurgical thermometer.

3.9 Moss collection: Collecting moss for moss concrete involves more than just grabbing handful Moss patch.

3.10 Blending of moss: Blending moss with buttermilk for moss concrete holds potential, but its effectiveness and practicalityrequire furtherresearch andtesting. More established methods might offer greater reliability and control, especially for larger projects or long-term applications.

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4 The process of growing moss on concrete cubes:

4.1 Collection of moss: The common types of moss species for concrete façade varies on following in objects such as local climate conditions moisture levels and required aesthetic appeal.

1. **Springy Turf Moss:** It is a popular garden moss that is easy to cultivate and has a lush,greenin look.

2. **Spoon-laved surace:-** With its unusual spoon-like leaf structure this moss thrives on rock and concrete surface

3. **Spoon-leaved Moss:** With its unusual spoon like leaf structure,this moss thrives on rock and concrete

4. **Pincushion Moss:** This moss grows in cushion-like bunches and requires very littlee care.

5. **Fern Moss:** This moss has a fern-like structure and is also quite easy to cultivate.

6. **Silver Moss:** This is another resilient moss that thrives on hard surfaces such as concrete.

Springy turf moss ,also known as cushion moss or sheet moss,can be used as a component in moss concrete or green concrete. Moss concrete is a sustainable building material that incorporates live moss into the concrete mixture. It offers various environmental benefits, including improved air quality, thermal insulation, and aesthetic appeal.

4.1 Blending of moss:

Place two to three cups of fresh moss in a blender to prepare the moss mixture. Next, pour in an equals amount of a moist dairy ingredient such as yogurt, buttermilk, or condensed milk.Add one and two of table spoons of sugar to the blend. Adjust the consistency by adding a little waterifitbecomes toothick, or more moss if it turns out too thin.

4.2 Applying moss to concrete: Once you have allowed your slurry to sit for two days,you can use onto your concrete surface using a thick paint brush. Now clean your desired concrete surface and coat the surface with a layer of moss slurry using at hick paint brush.As soon as you have applied the slurry evenly, you will want to mist it using your misting bottle.For best results,use filtered water or collecte drain water.

4.3 Maintain moist condition: Spreading the moss slurry layer to the concrete,sprinkle use a spray bottle regularly. Keep it damp, but do not drench it. The mould will grow over the layer, but this is not a cause for concern.The moss will develop within four to six weeks Be cautious not to over water your moss slurry, since too much water might wash away the spores in the combination, leaving it in effective None the less,you should continue to sprinkle your slurry regularly.Try to keep it mildly wet.

5. Analysing the growth of moss

5.1 Analysing the growth of moss: There are several ways to analyse the growth of moss on concr
-ete cubes, hased on your objectives and available resources. Here are some recommendations

1. **Coverage:**Determine how much of the cube's surface is covered in moss regularly. Keep track of the cover increase rate over time.

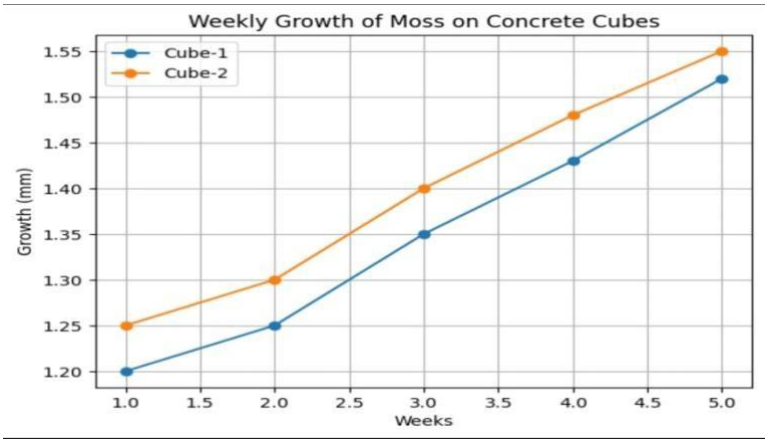
2. **Colour and texture:** Pay attention to variations in the moss's colour and texture, as these could be signs of stress or medical problems.

3. **Species identification:** Determine which species of most are present, as their development rates and needs differ

The best approaches will vary depending on your objectives, resources, and desired level of detail. A basic place to start is with visual inspection, further insights can be gained by quantitative and environmental monitoring. Advanced methods like DNA analysis and microscopy call for specific tools and knowledge. Recall that studying moss growth is a continuous process, and deriving valid results requires collecting data consistently over an extended period. We measured the growth of moss on cubes by using vernier calipers.

Table 2 Growth of Moss on concrete cube

S.NO	1 st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week	5th week	Averge Growth
Cube-1	1.20 mm	1.25 mm	1.35 mm	1.43 mm	1.52 mm	1.35 mm
Cube-2	1.25 mm	1.30 mm	1.40 mm	1.48 mm	1.55 mm	1.40 mm

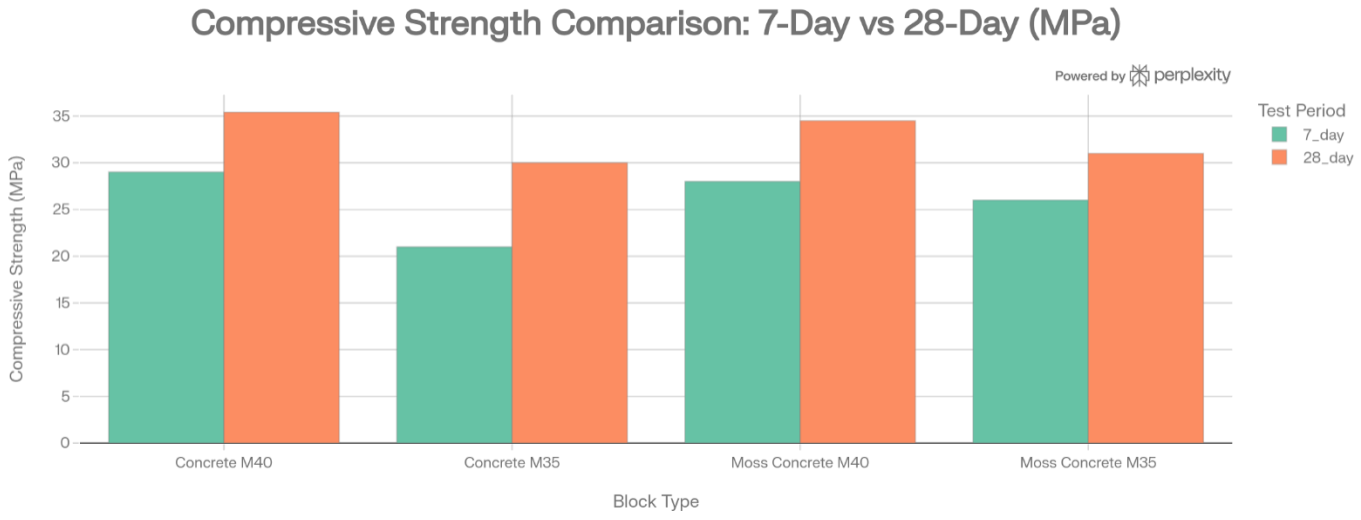


1. **Moss concrete weekly growth graph**

6 Compressive test

Observation table:

Block Type	Grade	7 day strength	28 day strength
Concrete	M 40	29	43Kn/m
	M 35	21.6	37 Kn/m
Moss concrete	M40	26.8	41 Kn/m
	M 35	21	35 Kn/m



2. Moss concrete and traditional concrte compressive strength comparison graph

7. Evaluating the temperature of moss concrete cubes

Thetemperature ofconcrete cubescan indeed impact the environment in several ways, dependingon the context and specific situation. Here's a breakdown of the potential effects:

- **Urban Heat Island Effect**: Structures and pavement that have large areas of heated on crete can cause the urban heat island effect. This phenomenon raises city temperatures relative to outlying areas when heat is absorbed rather than reflected. Elevated temperatures have the potential to degrade air quality,increase energy consumption for cooling, and have an adverse effect on people's comfort and health.

- **Fire Resistance**: During fires, elevated temperatures have the potential to deteriorate concrete, lower its strength, and cause structural collapse. It is essential to comprehend concrete's temperature resistance when it comes to building fire safety.

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Carbondioxide,in particular, is released in large quantities during the manufacture of concrete. A positive feedback loop might be created by rising temperatures brought on by climate change, which would drive these emissions even more.

We may promote the sustainable and responsible use of concrete cubes in buildings by being aware of the environmental effects that they have when it comes to temperature and by thinking through mitigating solutions.

Hence,using moss concrete cubes rather than regular cubes will help manage the heat & reduce carbon emissions from the cubes.

When we tested the temperature of plain concrete and moss-grown concrete cubes, we found that the temperature was lower on the moss-grown surface than it was on the plain concrete surface. The test is conducted both indoors and outdoors.

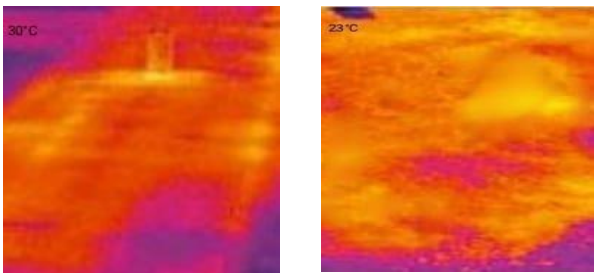
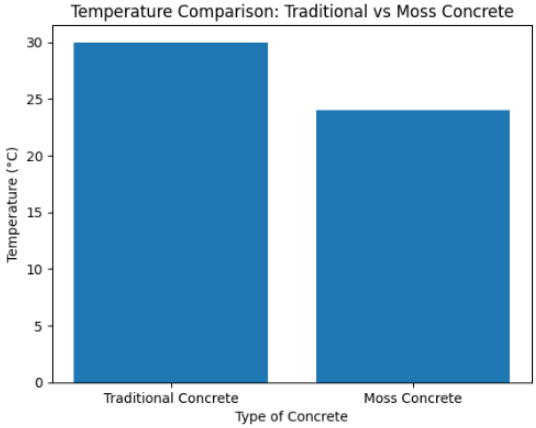


Fig 7.1 Temprature difference between moss concrete and traditional concrete

Graph 2 Temprature variance



7. Potential health benefits

The potential health benefits of moss concrete on humans are still being studied, but preliminary information reveals both positive and negative possibilities.

Improved Air Quality: Moss may remove pollutants and dust from the air, potentially improving in door and outdoor air quality for building occupants.However, further research is required to confirm this effect in large-scale applications.

Reduced Stress & Improved Mental Health: Research indicates that exposure to nature and greenery can reduce stress, increase relaxation, and improve mental well-being. Moss walls and green roofs incorporate this natural element into manmade surroundings, which could benefit residents.

Reduced Noise Pollution: moss can absorb sound waves, potentially leading to quieter settings and better noise reduction in structures.

9. Practical Applications of Moss Concrete

the practical use of moss concrete involves blending moss with the concrete mix to enhance its performance and add additional functional advantages this new idea create a different range of applications in architecture and landscape design.

1. **Green Walls and Facades:** Moss concrete can be used to create living green walls and facades, with the concrete designed to encourage moss growth. These vertical gardens have various advantages, including improved air quality, thermal insulation, and aesthetic appeal. Moss acts as a natural filter, collecting pollutants from the air while reducing noise levels.

2. **Pavements and walkways:** moss concrete can be utilized to build living green walls and building facades where the concrete composition supports moss growth such vertical gardens offer multiple advantage like better air quality environment thermal insulation and aesthetic view the moss play role as a natural purifier by reducing carbondioxide and helping to reduce noise levels.

3. **Noise Barriers & Sound wall:** moss concrete can be applied in building sound barriers or acoustic walls along highways rail lines and other noisy environments the moss layer serves as a natural sound absorber minimizing noise transmission and fostering a more peaceful surrounding.

4. **Urban Land scaping:** Moss concrete may be used for a wide range of urban landscaping projects, including parks, gardens, and public spaces. It provides vegetation, enhances beauty, and helps the city's overall environmental sustainability.

Conclusion:

In summary, moss-infused concrete emerges as a sustainable and innovative construction material with a wide range of advantages, including better temperature control, increased structural durability, and positive effects on human well-being. Based on an extensive analysis of existing studies and experimental evidence, this research highlights its potential to reduce urban heat island effects, improve the resilience of built environments, and minimize the health risks associated with traditional building materials.

Temperature Regulation: Findings indicate that moss-based concrete provides superior thermal insulation compared to standard concrete. This improvement may lead to lower energy consumption and greater indoor comfort for occupants. Nevertheless, additional studies are necessary to evaluate its performance across various climates and building designs. Refining the selection of moss species and optimizing their growth conditions may further enhance its thermal efficiency.

Lower Health Risks: The assessment did not identify any direct harmful health impacts associated with moss concrete. On the contrary, its ability to support better air quality, reduce stress, and promote mental well-being—aligned with biophilic design concepts—indicates potential health advantages. Still, further investigation is needed to thoroughly examine any risks related to allergens, mold formation, or increased humidity levels.

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