A Comparison of Chinese Constructions and U.S. Constructions From a Sustainability Angle

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Introduction

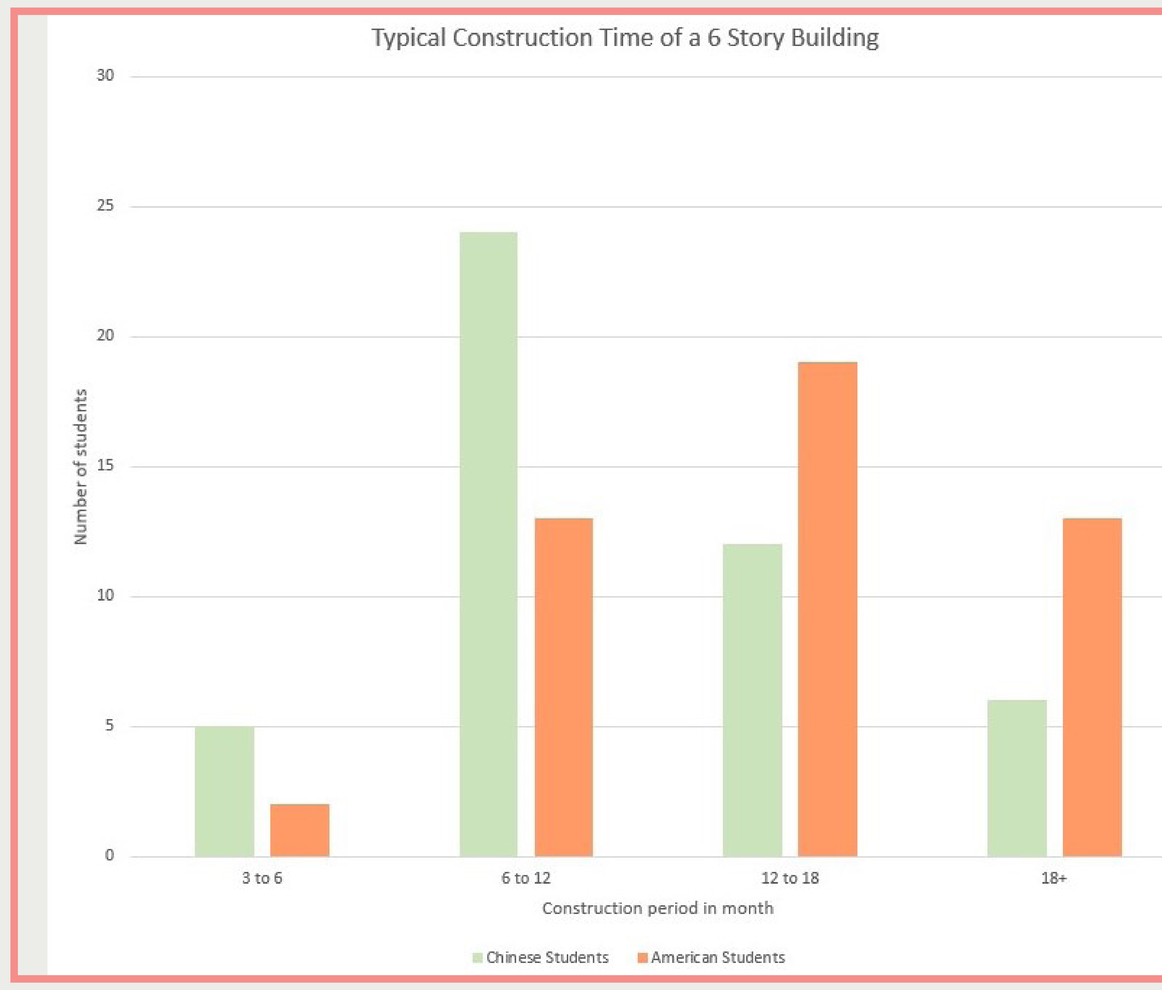
China is one of the fastest growing developing countries in the world. The exponential economic growth has resulted in the massive growth of the construction industries in China. Urbanization is the main migration pattern. The cities are growing rapidly; which demands new constructions to build the infrasturucture. New commercial buildings, shopping centers, and shopping districts, most of them under three years old, already starting to look aged. This is different from the construction qualities in America. This study will be aiming to examine the differences between the Chinese constructions and the U.S. constructions from the economic, environmental, and social standpoint. This is a rarely studied area and with this study, people can learn on some of the factors that caused the differences in the appearances of the buildings and provide ideas for correction.

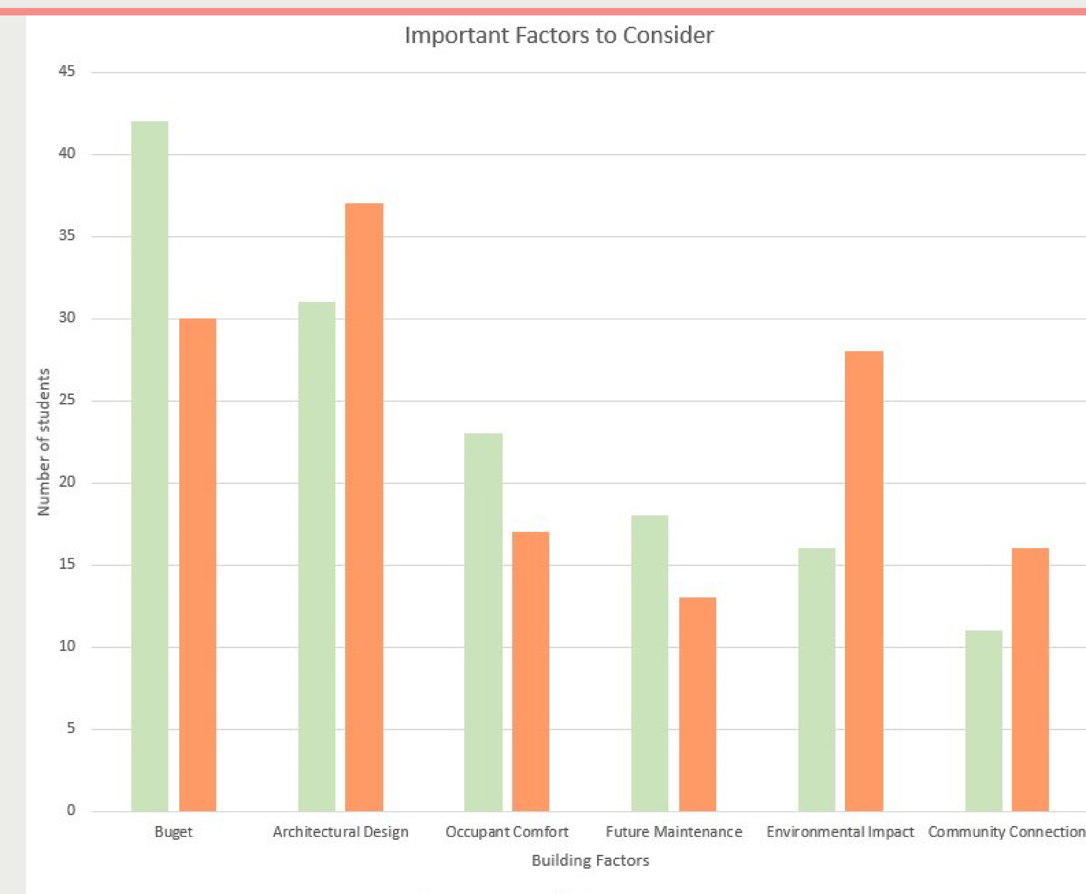
Downtown Shenyang

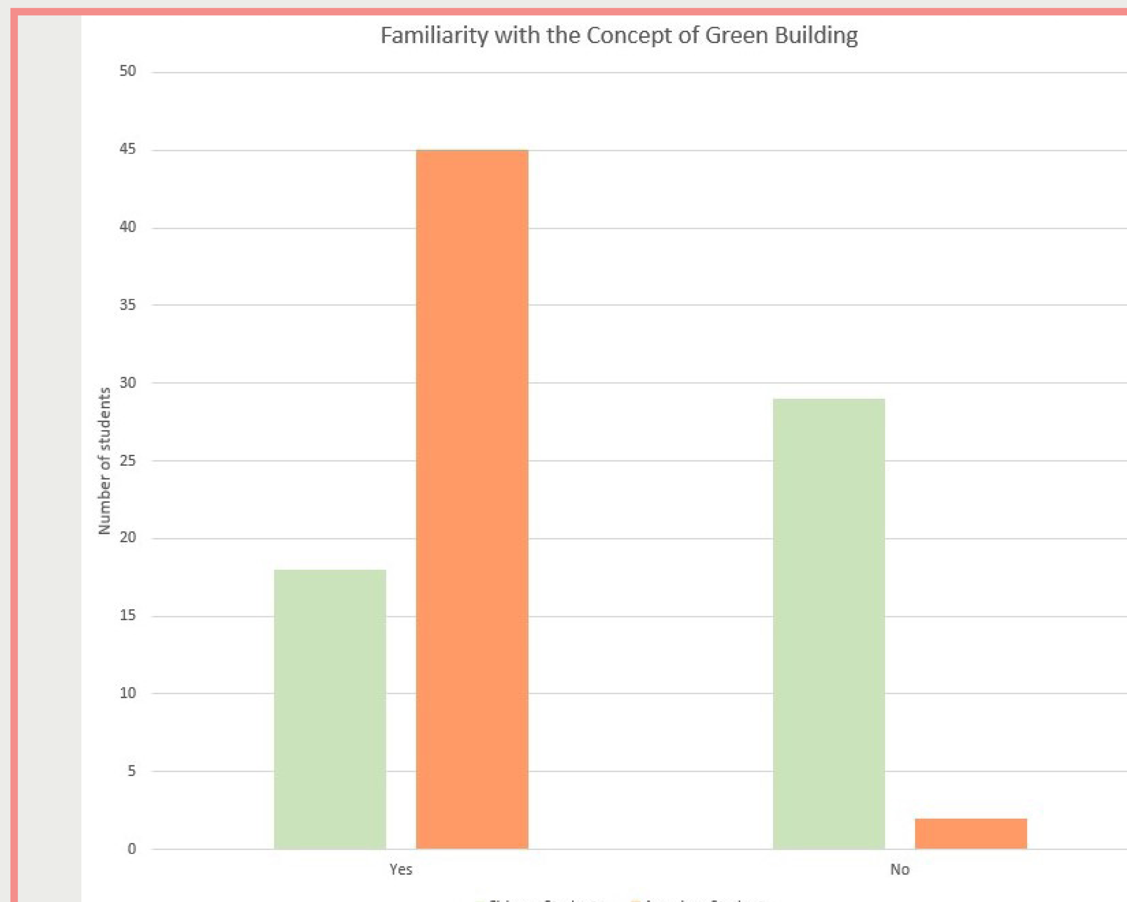
Downtown Sandiego

Method

This study will be conducted through a mixed method through literature reviews, online questionnaires, and interviews where both qualitative and quantitative approaches will be utilized. The literature reviews will help the study by providing a background for research and address the question that this study will be focusing on answering. The online questionnaire will be sent out to architecture students from China and the U.S. to compare the differences in their knowledge about construction with the notion of sustainability. There will also be an interview with a professional in China.







Results

The result if this study shows that there are several factors contributing to the differences between that lead to the construction differences between the two regions. First of all, the construction period for Chinese buildings is much shorter than in America. A shorter construction period means a reduced labor cost and the quality of construction will be affected. Base on the interview, we learn that for a similar sized project, the America ones will cost a lot more. Secondly, although China has been making great contributions in pushing the use of green energy, the building industry has not changed much. There is little concern for the environmental impact of the constructions from the results of the questionnaire. Lastly, the social component to the building design is often neglected in both regions, however, the U.S. still shows a higher concern over this factor. Those differences are mainly due to the different interests and building standards that the two countries have. There are distinct markets and policies that these two places have.

Discussion

This study concludes that there are many components contributing to the difference in the construction of the Chinese and America industries. We cannot examine this issue from a single point of interest. For the scale of this study, it is insufficient to address all of the issues in depth. Future studies can focus on finding the cause to questions such as, why is there a big difference in interest, how to bring the market potential of sustainable buildings to China, and what are the factors that stop the construction companies from being environmentally friendly, etc. As the Chinese market continues to grow, problems in the building industry will be worse if not corrected. This study can help to provide a different view of its construction industry and a new approach to tackle the problems.

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