

## Book Reviews

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*Hazardous Building Materials: A Guide to the Selection of Alternatives*, by S.R. Cornwell and C.G. Mand (Eds.), Associated Book Publishers, Hampshire, Great Britain, 1986, ISBN 0-419-13730-0, 140 pages, \$6.95.

Being aware of concerns (in North America at least) about the potential detrimental affect of formaldehyde (from panelling and insulation) and asbestos, I opened the book with a great deal of expectation. For me (a chemical engineer) at least, those expectations were unfilled. The discussion of material hazards was limited to 37 pages and many of those pages were devoted to an irrelevant (in my estimation) discussion of the hazards of metals, i.e. copper, chromium, zinc and iron, which the book admits present little, if few hazards. That is a comforting statement, but of little use. I would have suggested (liked) much more time spent on asbestos.

The greatest fraction of the book would be of interest to the civil (construction) engineer with data on "building data sheets" intended for "use" by those involved in the design, construction, maintenance and alteration of buildings. Data for each building sheet includes: technical requirements, decay and degradation factors, guidance notes, alternatives, technical comments, health comments and cost.

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*Hazardous and Industrial Solid Waste Testing*, by J.K. Petros, Jr., W.J. Lacy and R.A. Conway, ASTM, Philadelphia, PA, 1986, ISBN 0-8031-0430-8, 372 pages, \$52.00.

This volume is the fourth in a series of special technical publications sponsored by ASTM's Committee on waste disposal. Like the three previous volumes, this one covers a wide range of topics on solid and hazardous waste management and is "intended" to provide even greater insight into a number of waste characterization methods and to present state-of-the-art information on land treatment and disposal, incineration and risk assessment "technology" with a special emphasis on ongoing U.S. EPA sponsored research.

This volume contains 20 peer-reviewed papers in the following areas:

- Analysis and Characterization of Waste — 10 papers
- Risk Assessment/Biological Test Methods — 5 papers
- Land Treatment and Disposal Test Methods — 5 papers
- Incineration — 4 papers