

John Berg: Building for People study

John Bergs conducted a workplace survey in The Netherlands looking at perceptions of quality and productivity.

At the time of the survey about 35% of those taking part were dissatisfied with the quality of their workplace and 20% suffered from health problems linked to Sick Building syndrome i.e. nose and throat complaints, irritated eyes and headaches. Workers also complained of dry, stuffy air and noise.

The study also referenced other studies which showed that dissatisfaction with workplace and building related health complaints reduce productivity and increase sick leave. The average productivity loss amounts to 12% in these conditions but individually can reach 30%. Berg acknowledges that productivity is measured in many ways.

Taking other research, plants have shown that they can help with building related health problems. Berg also found that plants helped with concentration and therefore productivity for workers who look at a computer screen for more than four hours a day.

