Ancient inventions used today

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At present we have a serious problem of global warming. We can start investing millions in research and still find nothing, our future is in many ways well forgotten past, so why not look back in our past and find our users there.

Windcatcher is an ancient architectural device used for many centuries to create natural ventilation and to cool air in buildings. Yet during his expedition Marco Polo mentioned that it was very cheap to build with the materials as mud or mud bricks, traditionally used in ancient Persia. It can easily ventilate our homes for free using laws of physics and it will not pollute the air. Windcatcher can save energy used by air conditioner and other air cooling devices. When coupled with thick adobe "ancient insulating material" that exhibits high heat transmission resistance qualities, the windcatcher is able to chill lower level spaces in houses in the middle of the day to frigid temperatures. Finally, in a windless environment or waterless house, a windcatcher functions as a solar chimney [1].

Another ancient device which we can use in modern days is the Yakhchal which is an ancient type of refrigerator. It doesn't use electricity or other type of energy that pollutes the atmosphere. In ancient times it was often used to store ice and food. It is a cone-shaped building about sixty feet high , the massive insulation and the continuous cooling waters that spiral down its side, kept the ice stored there in winter frozen throughout the summer. At present, with some modifications it could be used to cool vegetables, food or any other materials. It could successfully replace modern industrial refrigerators which use a lot of energy. Building it is much cheaper than buying an industrial refrigerator. Both windcatcher and Yakhchal don't consume energy or make any sort of damage to the environment.

Another ancient invention which can be used in agriculture is Qanat - water management system used to provide a reliable supply of water to human settlements and for irrigation. Combining with modern irrigation technologies it could be very efficient. Although a Qanat is expensive to construct, its long-term value to the community is substantial. The value of a Qanat is directly related to the quality, volume and regularity of the water flow. Much of the population of Iran and other arid countries in Asia and North Africa historically depended upon the water from Qanats. It releases into subterranean water in a manner that efficiently delivers large quantities of water to the surface without pumping or using any form of energy to supply it. It is a 100 % eco system of irrigation [2].

Sometimes answers to modern questions may be found in most unexpected places. Our future is in many ways well forgotten past. Our ancestors left us the knowledge to face the modern challenges. The responsibility for the current situation is on everyone of us so we must take it seriously and act quickly before it is not too late.

Bibliography:

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