Concrete

Concrete was introduced as a facade material in multi-storey buildings from the 1930s onwards and has been widely used as such since the 1960s.

Heavy load-bearing exterior walls of situ-cast concrete were used experimentally in residential buildings in the 1930s.

They were also used in the many isolated experiments of the postwar period, where new methods were used to increase the size and cost-effectiveness of residential accommodation and thus address the high demand and lack of (skilled) labour. During this period, virtually every formwork/casting method appropriate to the conditions for internal, load-bearing walls was tested out.

Heavy load-bearing exterior walls, at facades and constructed of prefabricated concrete elements, were also used experimentally in multi-storey housing during the 1950s, though to a lesser extent, and they are rarely seen after that period.

In contrast, heavy load-bearing exterior walls used at gables were dominant features and were included as transverse, load-bearing walls constructed of prefabricated concrete elements.

Such exterior walls can, as with facades, be constructed of sandwich elements or elements that are subsequently clad – usually with a brick facing of one half-brick thickness.

