



Energy and Comfort Modeling for the Net Zero Rocky Mountain Institute Headquarters

August 19, 2015

BUILDING ENERGY SIMULATION FORUM

Marc Brune, Ben Burnett, John Breshears

inspire interpret integrate

Project Visionary



Amory B. Lovins:

Oxford Don

MacArthur Fellow

Early green building theorist (Lovins Green Home, 1983)

Energy policy strategist (“The Soft Path” and others)

Founder, Rocky Mountain Institute (1982)

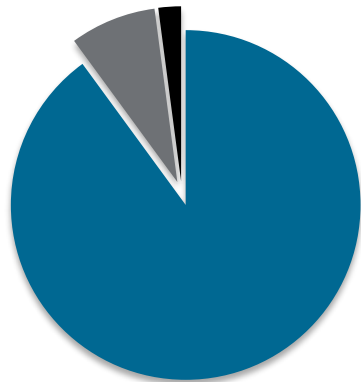
*"At Rocky Mountain Institute we are practitioners,
not theorists. We do solutions, not problems. We
do transformation, not incrementalism."*

- Amory Lovins, RMI

Project Goals

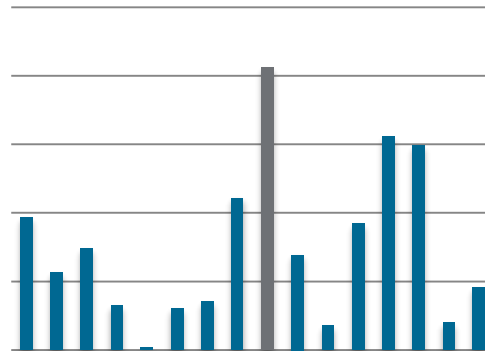
1. LEED Platinum
2. Living Building Challenge Petal Certification
 1. Net Zero Energy
 2. Site
 3. Health
 4. Equity
 5. Beauty
3. Passive House Air Tightness Standards
4. No Mechanical Systems
5. Architecture 2030 Challenge goals (exceeded)
6. Energy Star target score of 100

Project Replicability



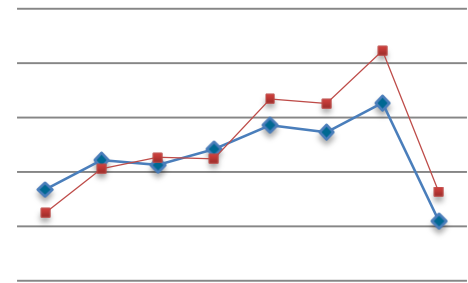
90%

of commercial buildings are under 25,000 SF



Offices

are the biggest use of commercial buildings under 25,000 SF

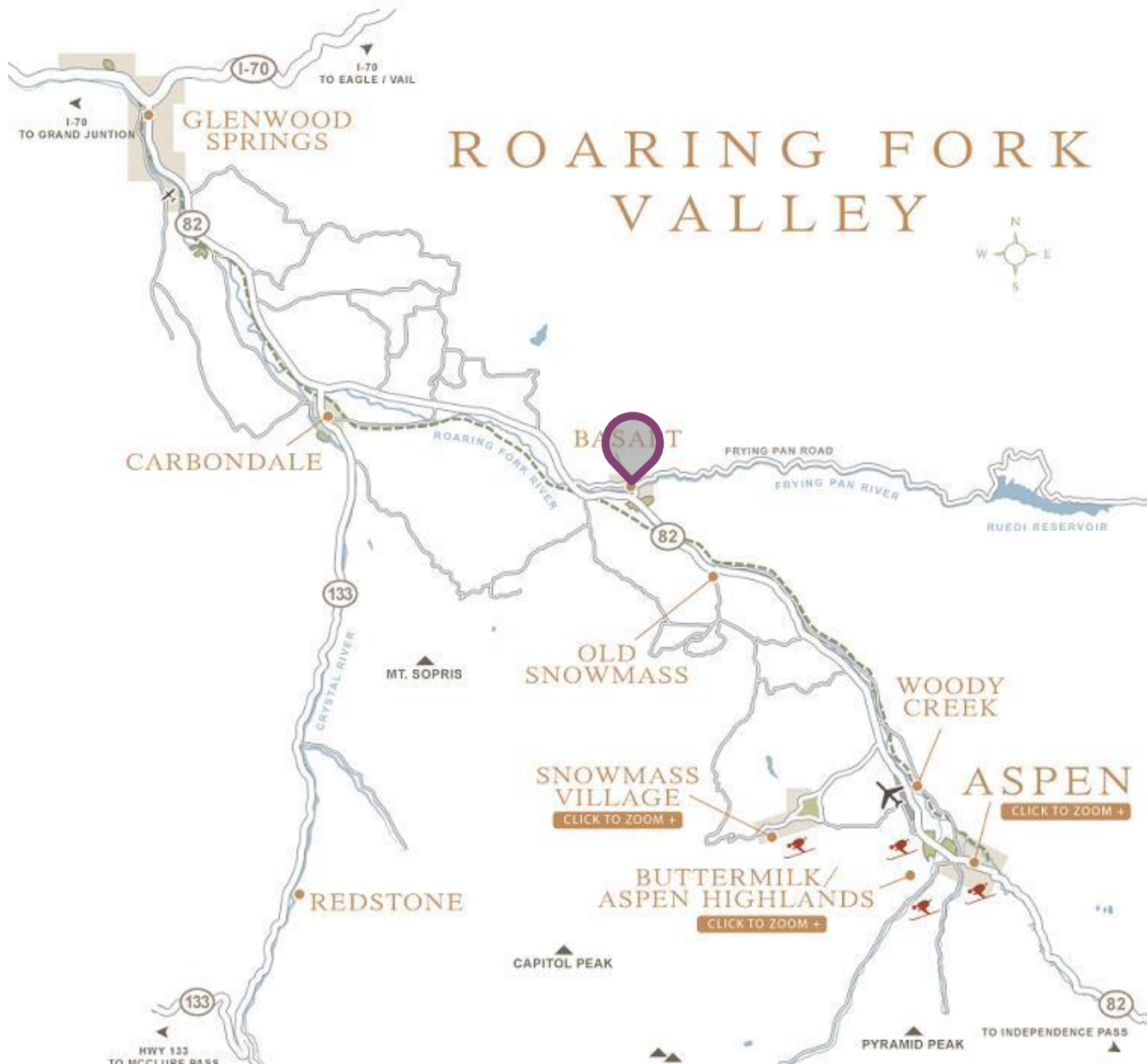


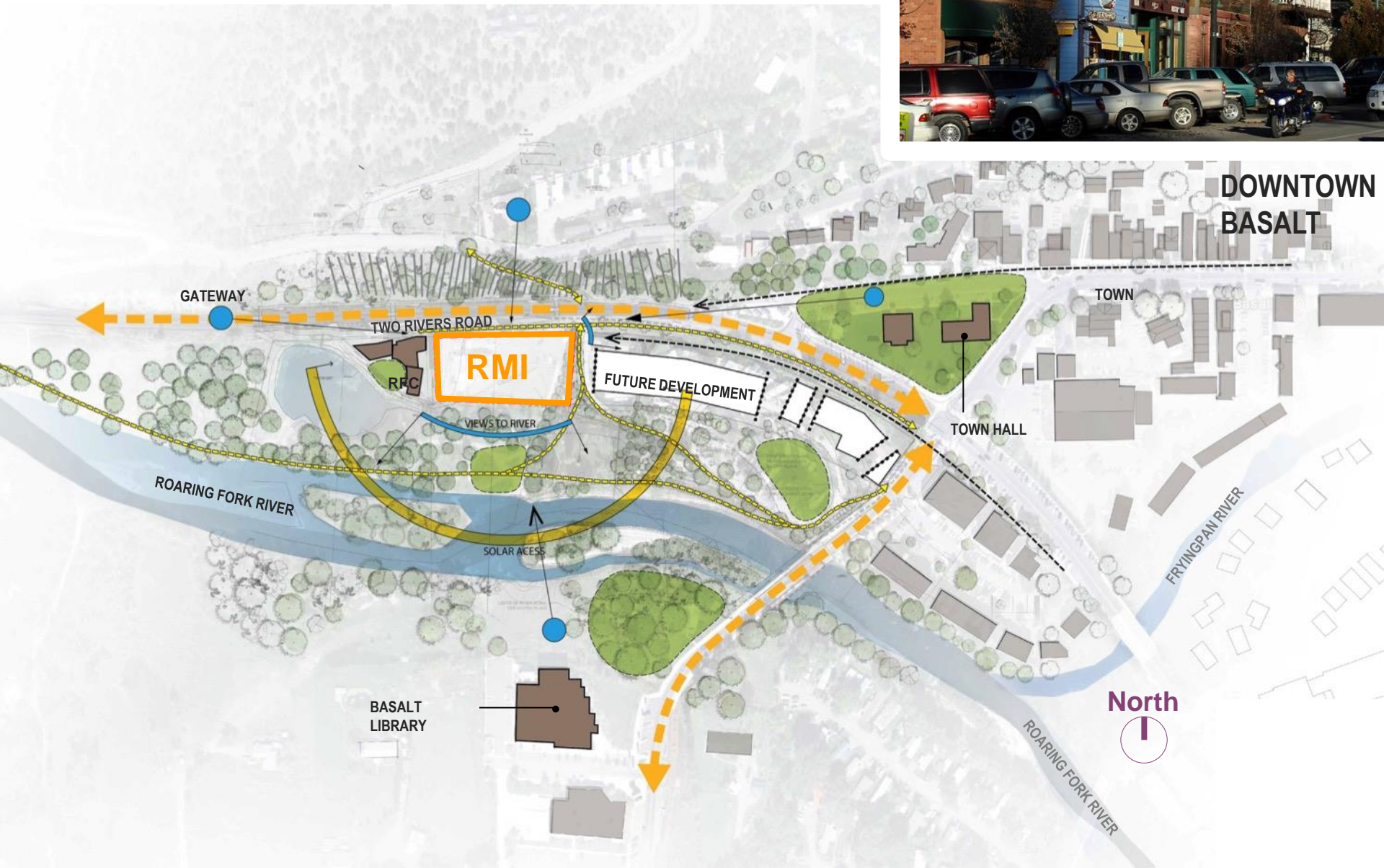
Half

of commercial buildings under 25,000 SF are owner occupied

By 2035, about three-fourths of U.S. floor space will be new or renovated.

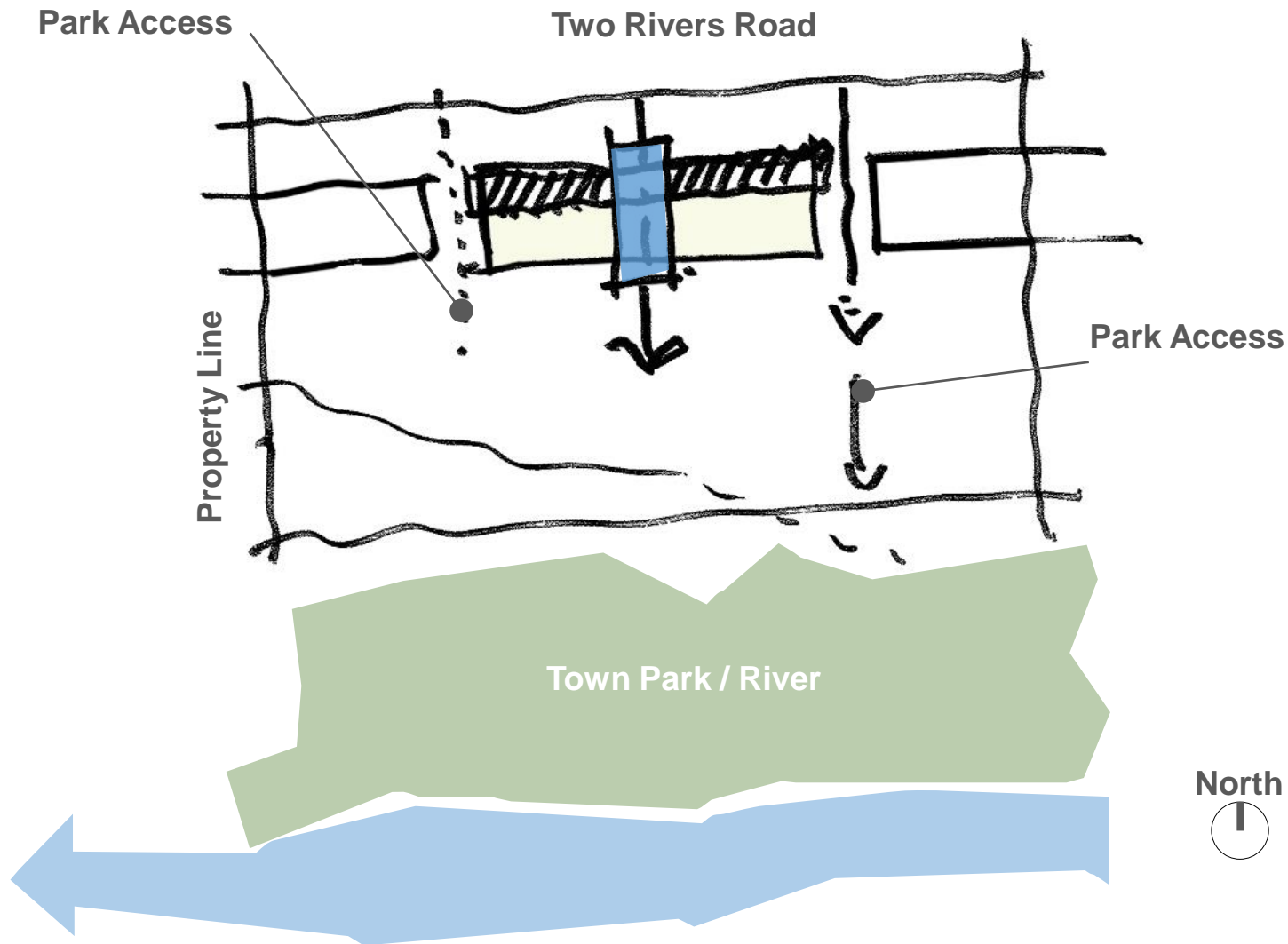






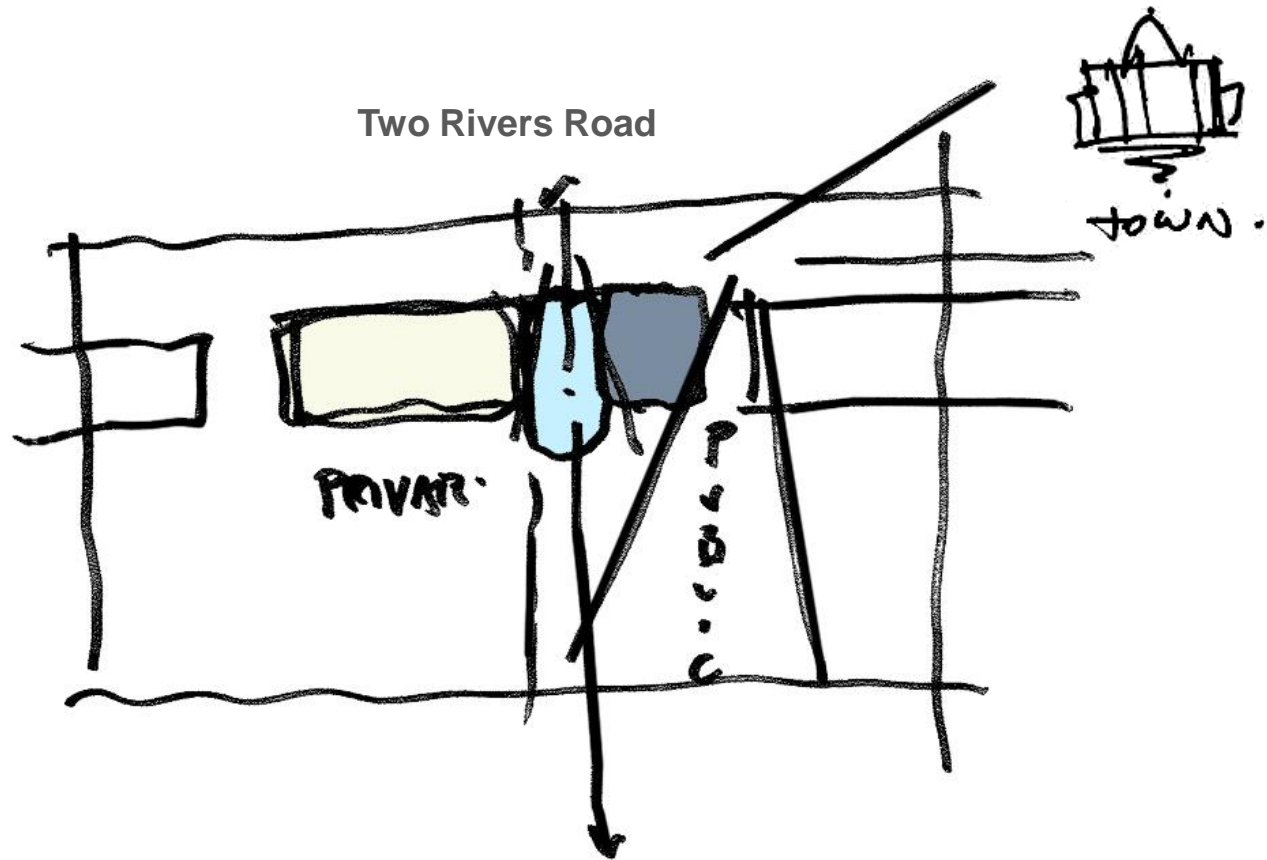
**DOWNTOWN
BASALT**

North
↑



Town Access

Two Rivers Road



View

North



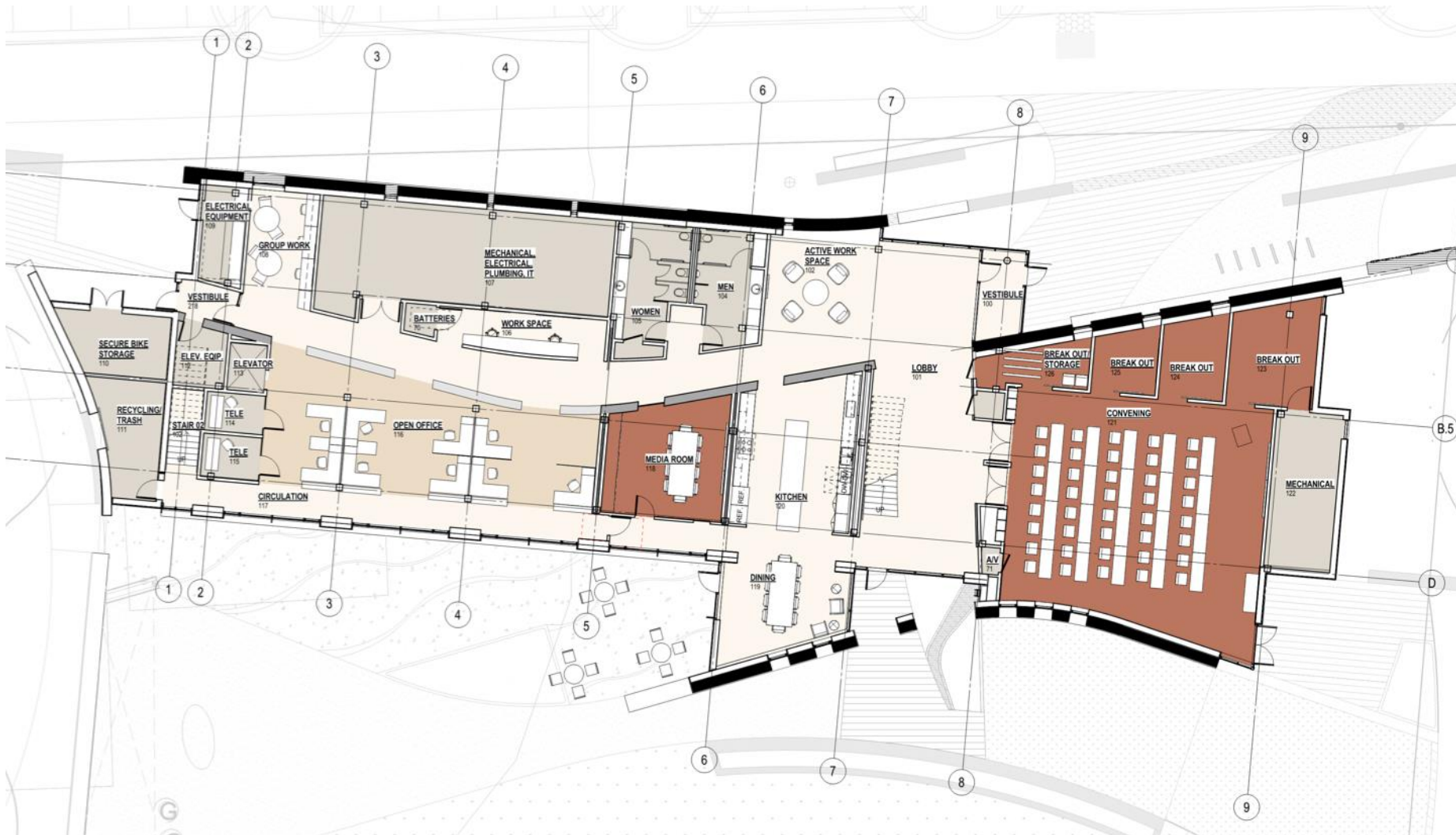


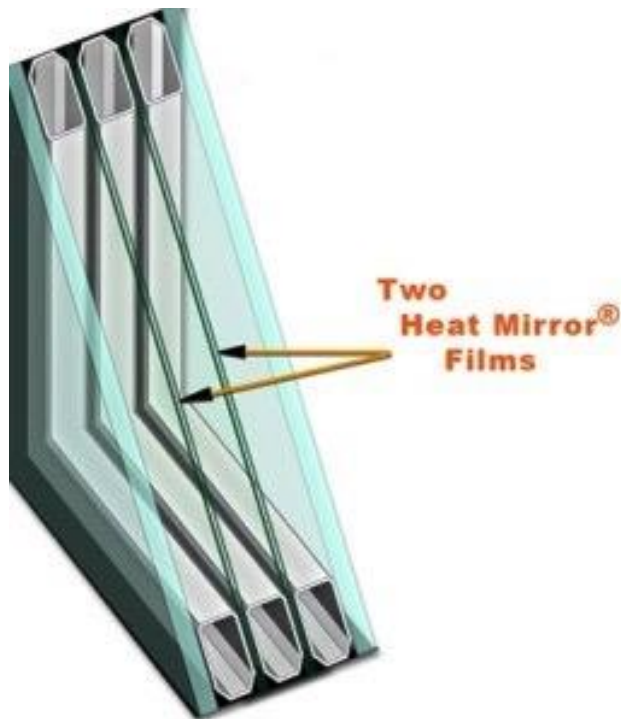
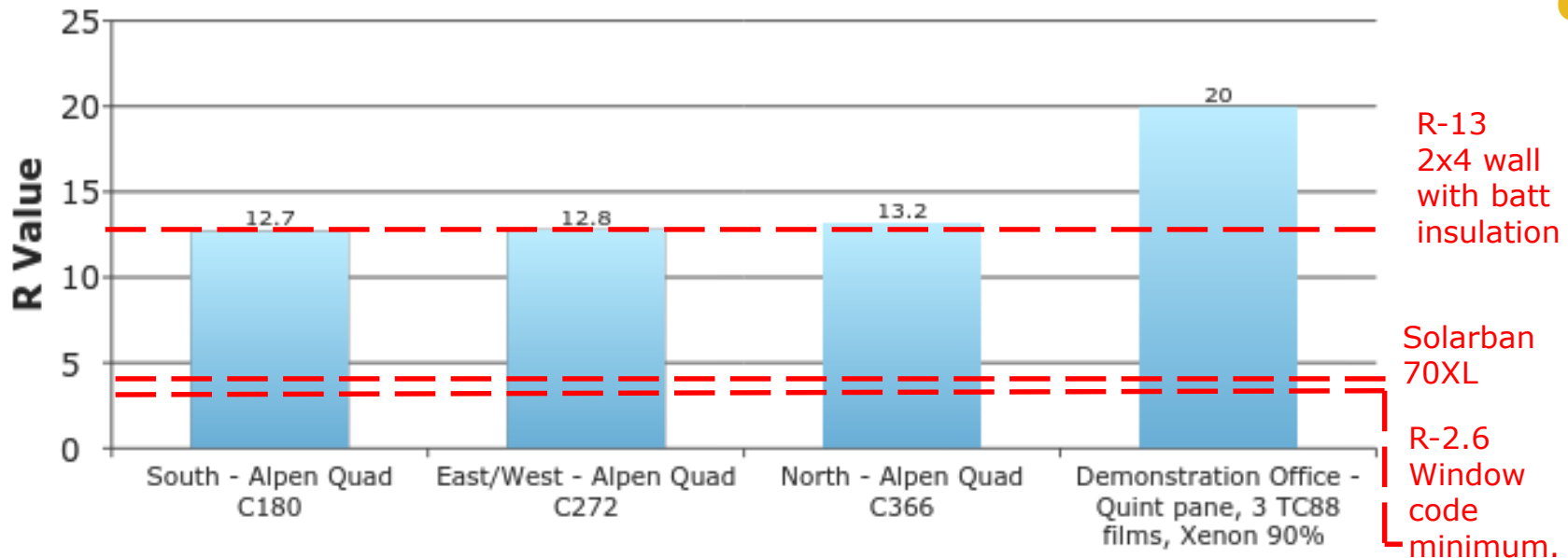


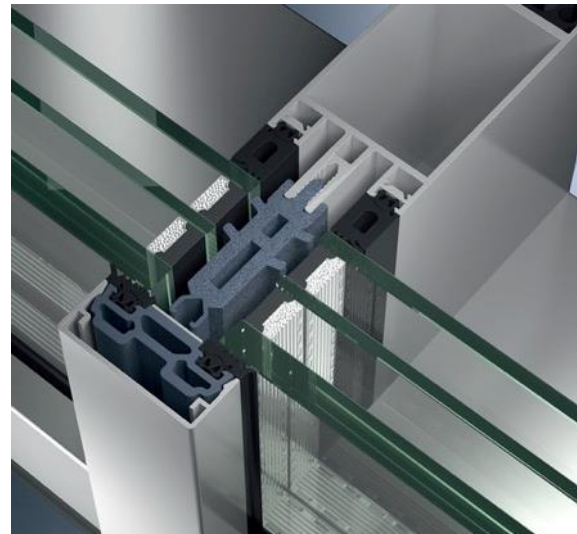
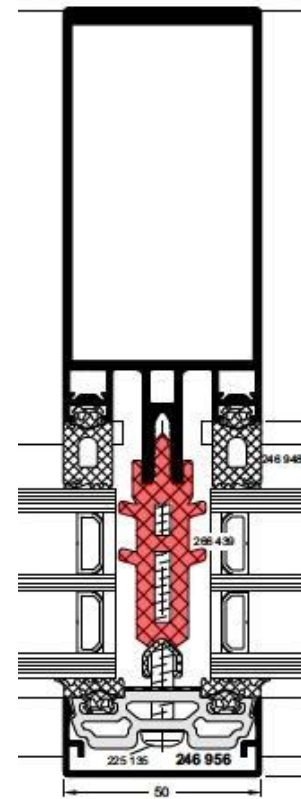
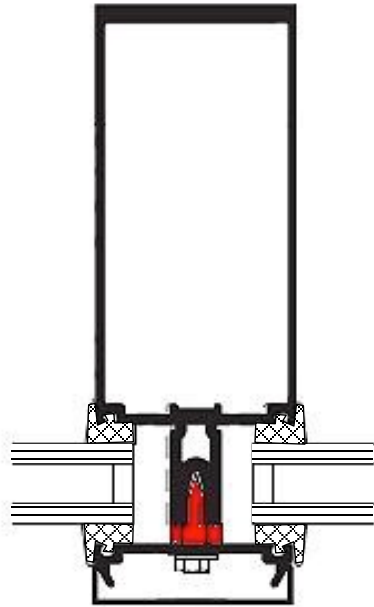
Image courtesy of ZGF Architects LLP

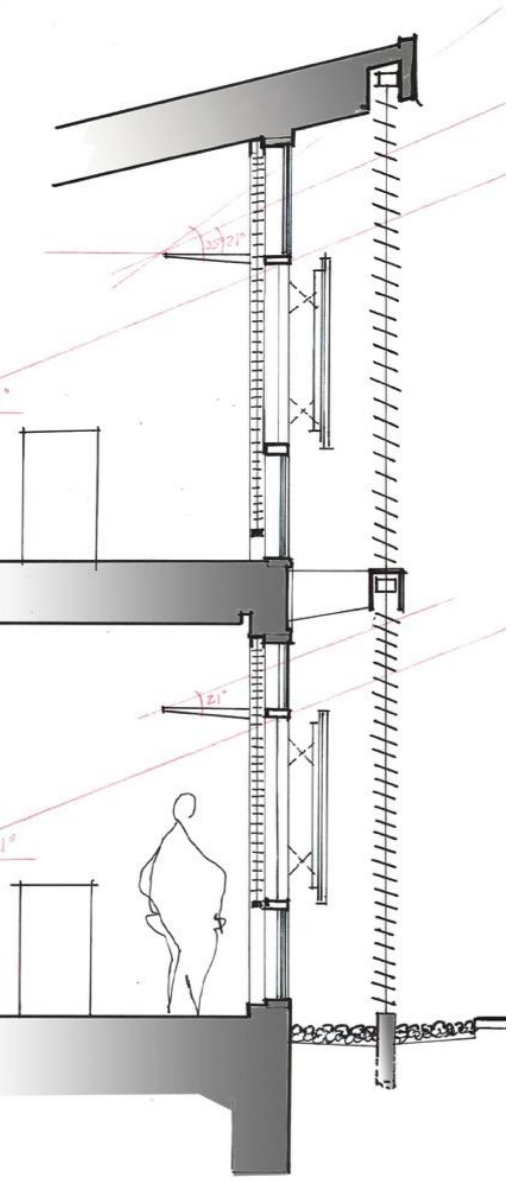


Image courtesy of ZGF Architects LLP

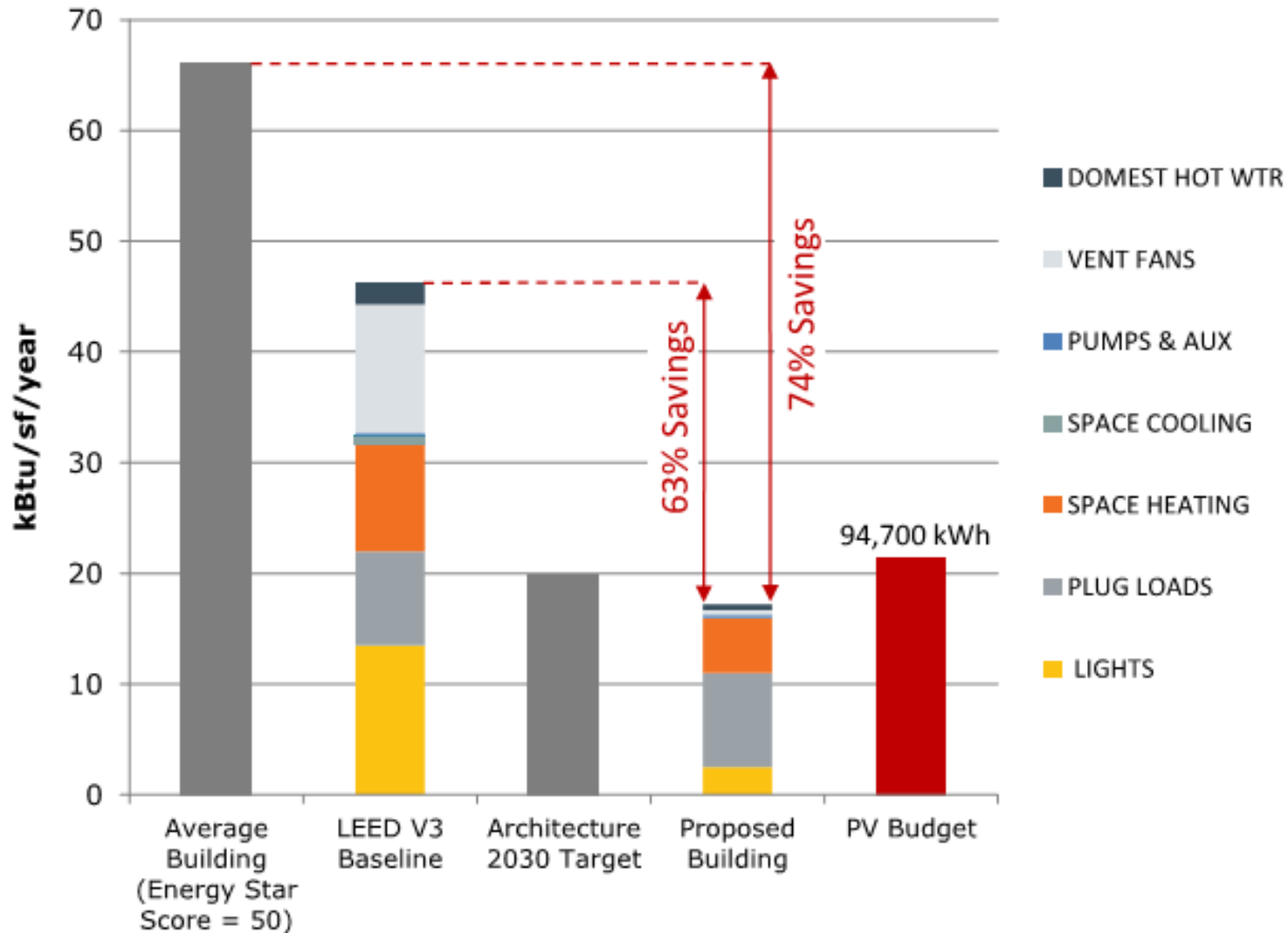




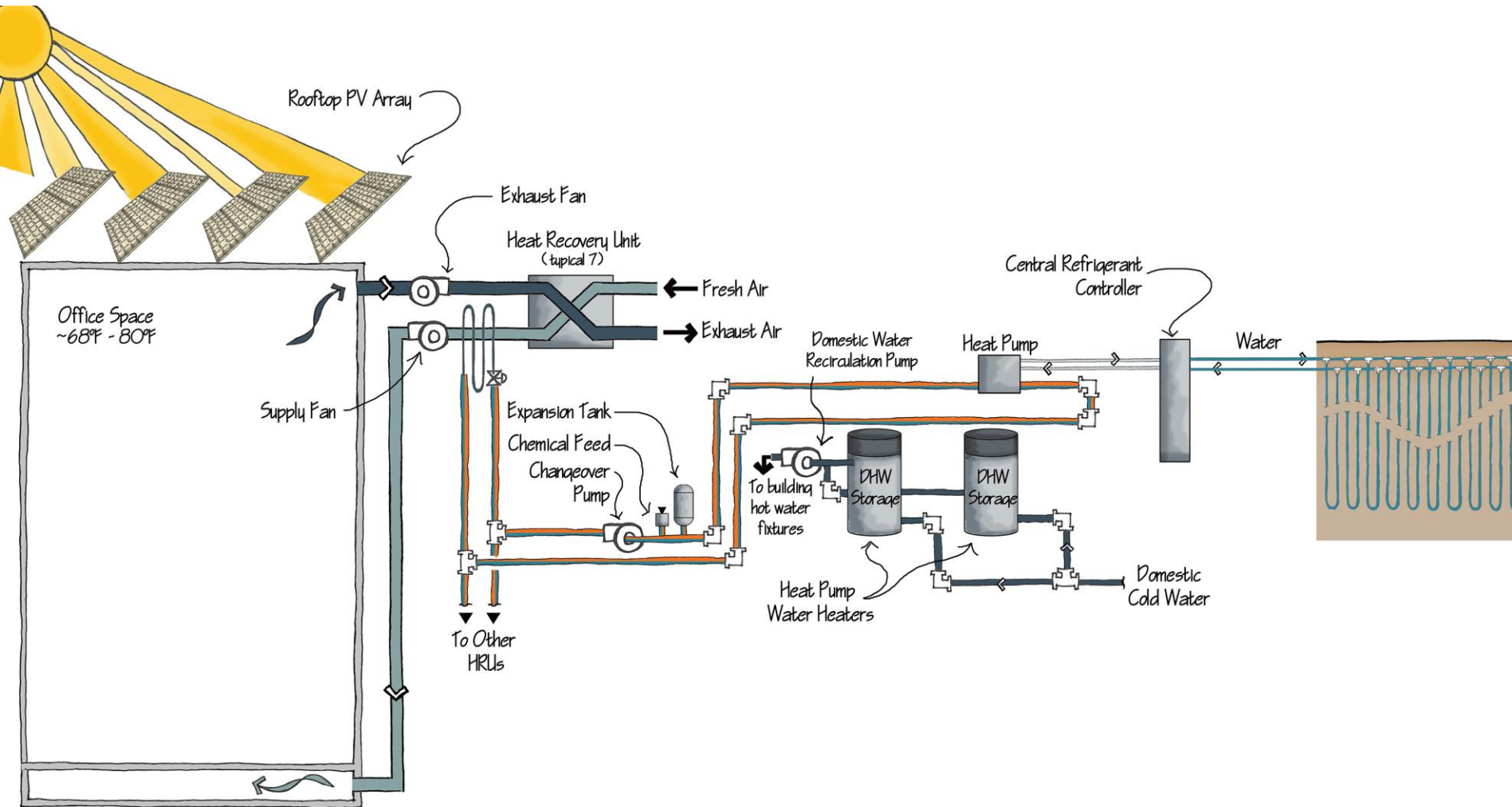




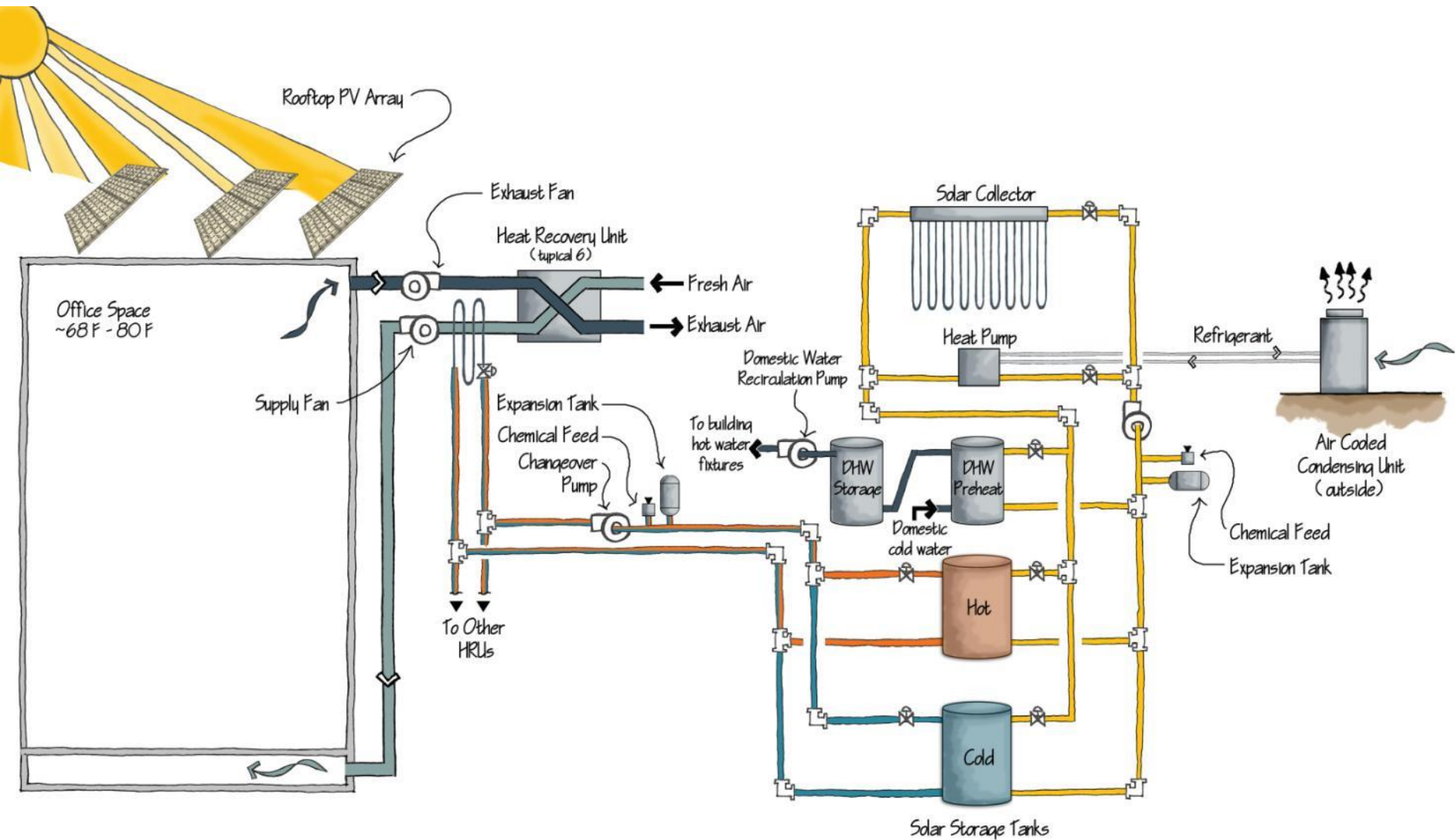
Energy Goals



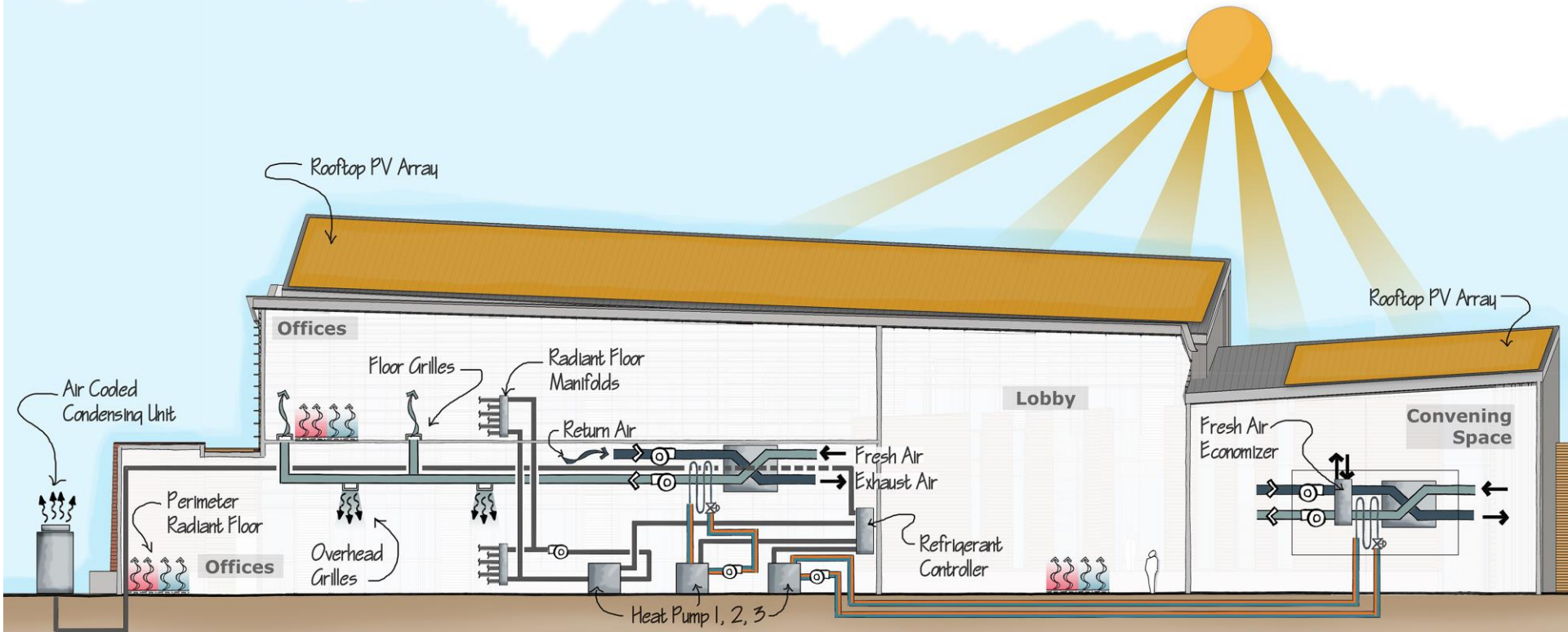
HVAC Systems: Geothermal



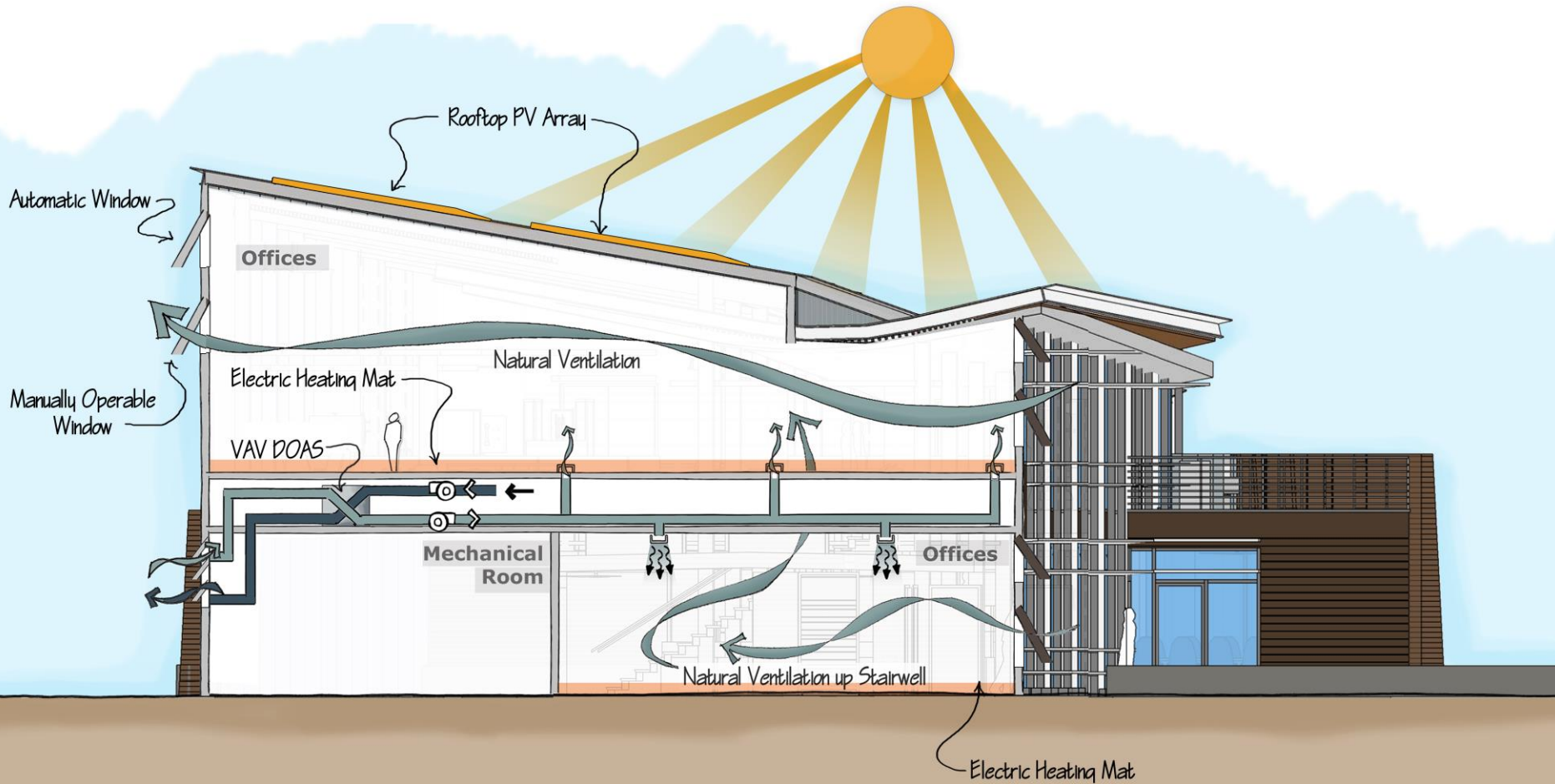
HVAC Systems: Solar + Air Source



HVAC Systems: Just Air Cooled



HVAC Systems: No Cooling, Electric Heating

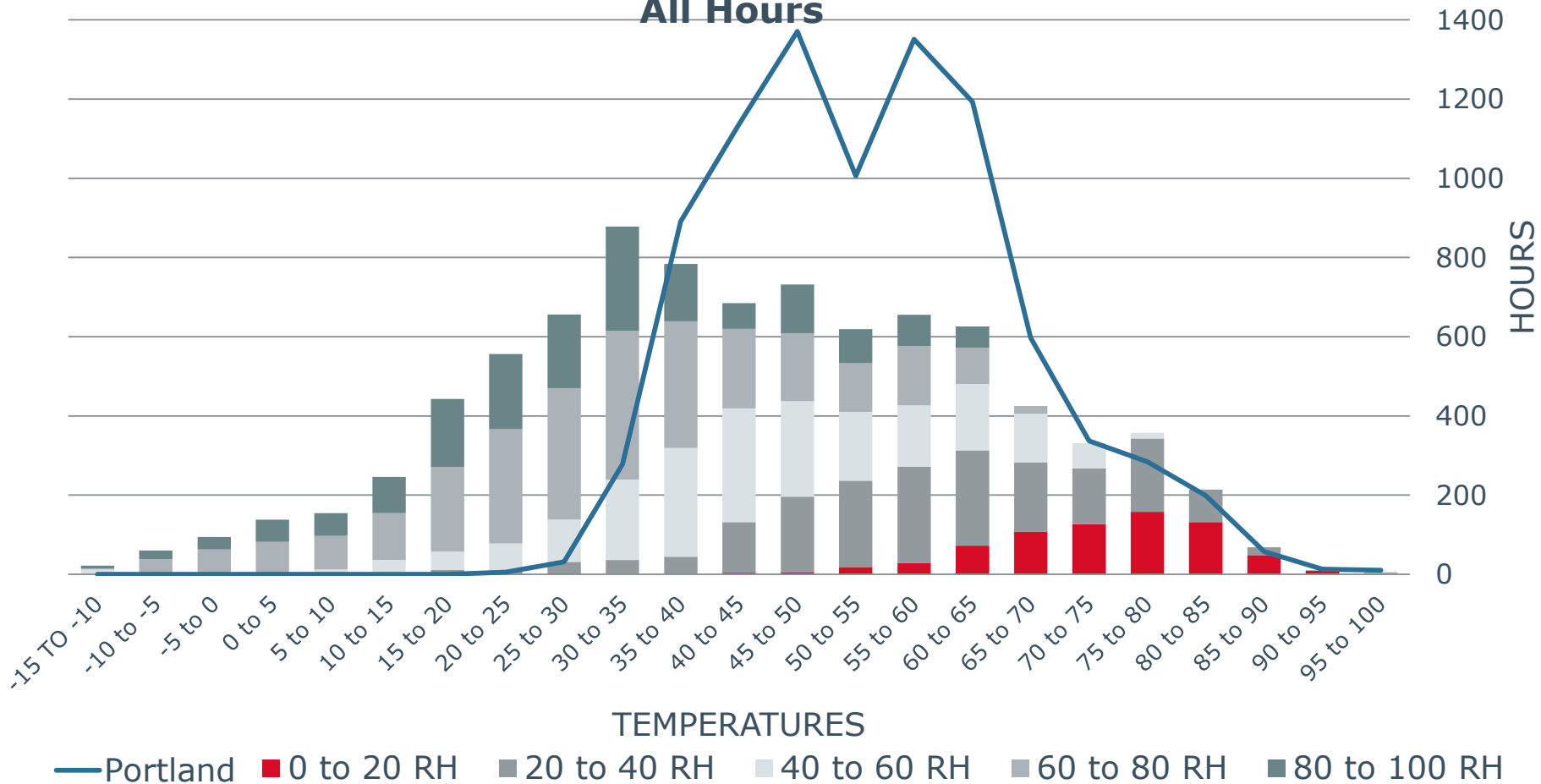


Climate

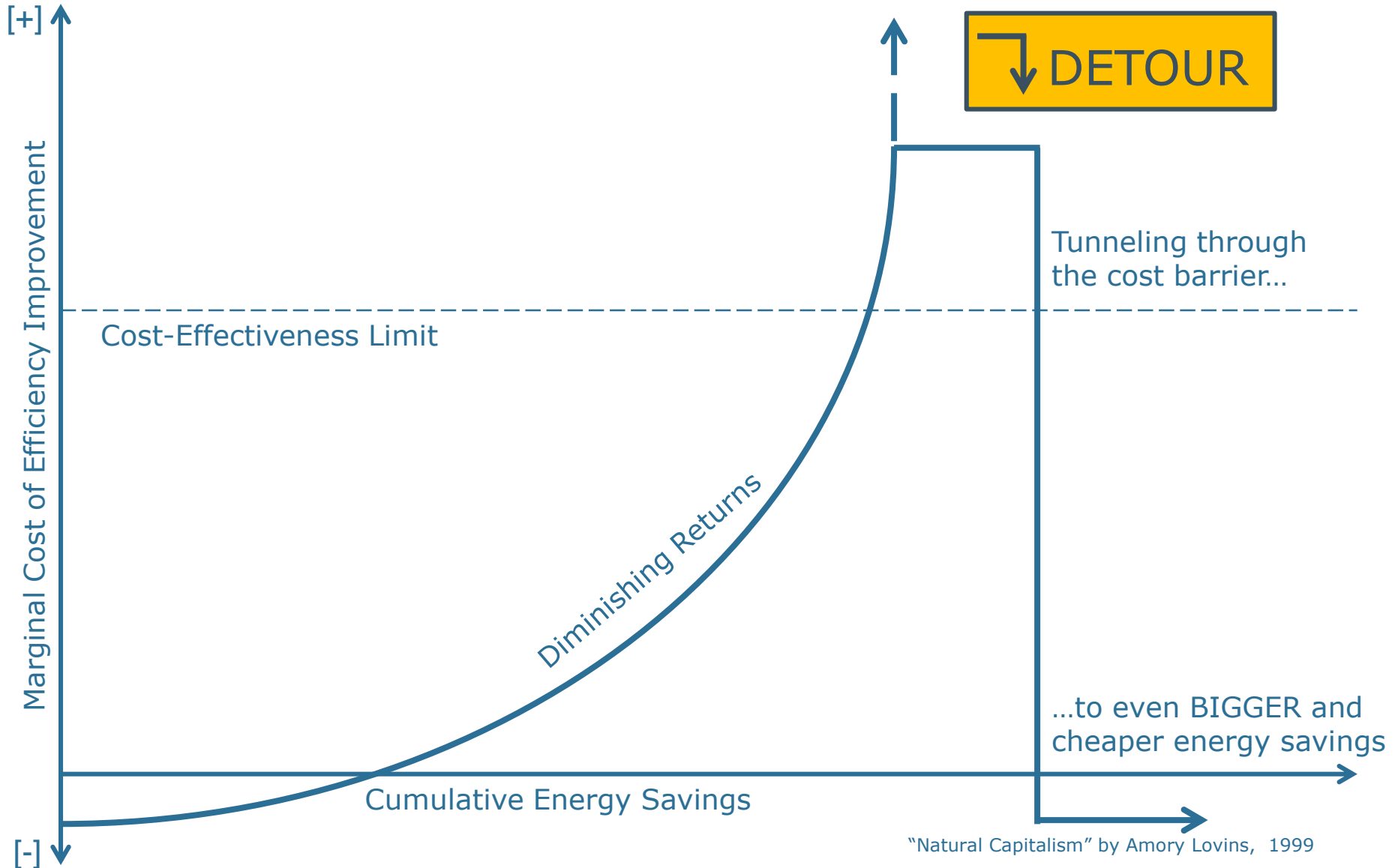


Temperature and Humidity Plot, Aspen, CO vs. Portland, OR (TMY3 Data)

All Hours



Tunneling Through the Cost Barrier



Tunneling Through the Cost Barrier



DESIGN TARGET	UNITS	EXISTING (U.S.)	BETTER	BEST PRACTICE	RMI DESIGN
Delivered energy intensity	kBTU/sf-y	90	40-60	<30	17.2
Lighting power density: connected load	W/sf	1.5	0.8	0.4-0.6	0.49
Lighting power density: as-used net of controls	W/sf	1.5	0.6	0.1-0.3	0.27
Installed computers/appliances/tasklighting	W/sf	4-6	1-2	<0.5	0.88
Glazing R-value (center of glass)	sf-F°-h/BTU	1-2	6-10	≥20	12
Window R-value (including frame)	sf-F°-h/BTU	1	3	7-8	6.5
Glazing spectral selectivity*	$k_e = T_{vis}/SC$	1.0	1.2	>2.0	1.5-2.3
Roof solar absorptance and infrared emittance	α, ϵ	0.8, 0.2	0.4, 0.4	0.08, 0.97	N/A, PV Covers Roof
Whole-building airtightness	cfm/sf @ 0.3" w.g.	1.0	0.4	<0.25	0.20
Installed mechanical cooling	sf/ton	250-350	500-600	1,200-1,400+	None
Cooling design-hour efficiency**	kW/ton	1.9	1.2-1.5	<0.6	0.00
Level of installed perimeter heating	-	extensive	minimal	none	minimal
*A measure of how well the glazing lets in light without heat					
**Whole system, including pumps, fans, and cooling towers as well as chillers					
ADDITIONAL DESIGN TARGET ITEMS					
Wall R-value	sf-F°-h/BTU				R-50
Roof R-value	sf-F°-h/BTU				R-67 ¹
Window to wall ratio	%				26%
Heat recovery effectiveness	%				90% (Winter)
Installed mechanical heating	BTU/h-sf				7.5 BTU/h-sf

1. Individual roof sections vary between R-40 and R-80 for different shapes and constructions. This value represents an area-weighted average.

This table (except for the "Additional Target Items") is from a Book entitled "Re-inventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for the New Energy Era" by Amory Lovins (2011). It is Table 3- "Benchmarking a New U.S. Office Building" (p. 108). These targets were developed by the Rocky Mountain Institute and are typical of a new midsize -to-large Class A office in an average US climate like the Mid-Atlantic states.

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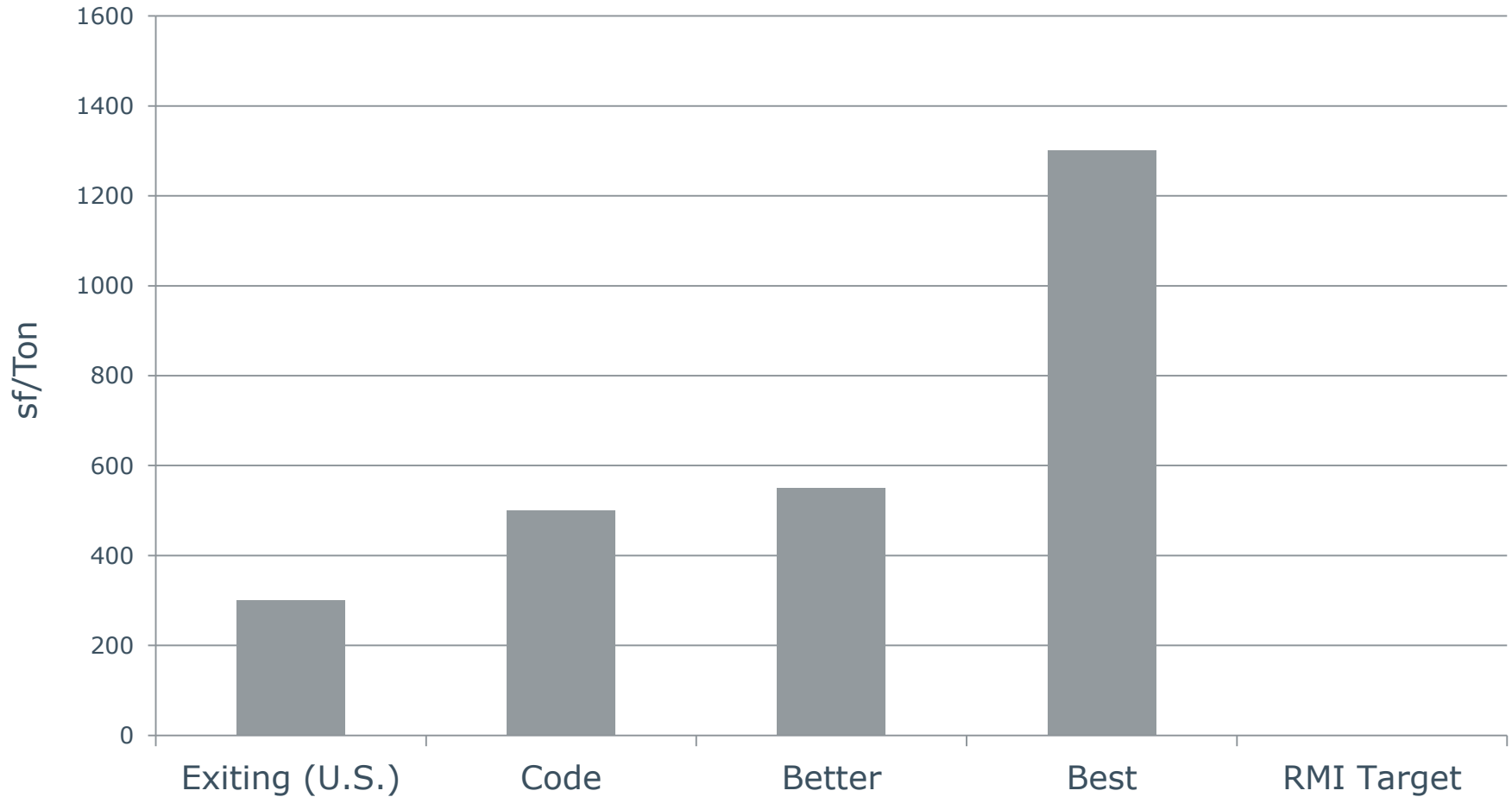
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Cooling Loads - Installed



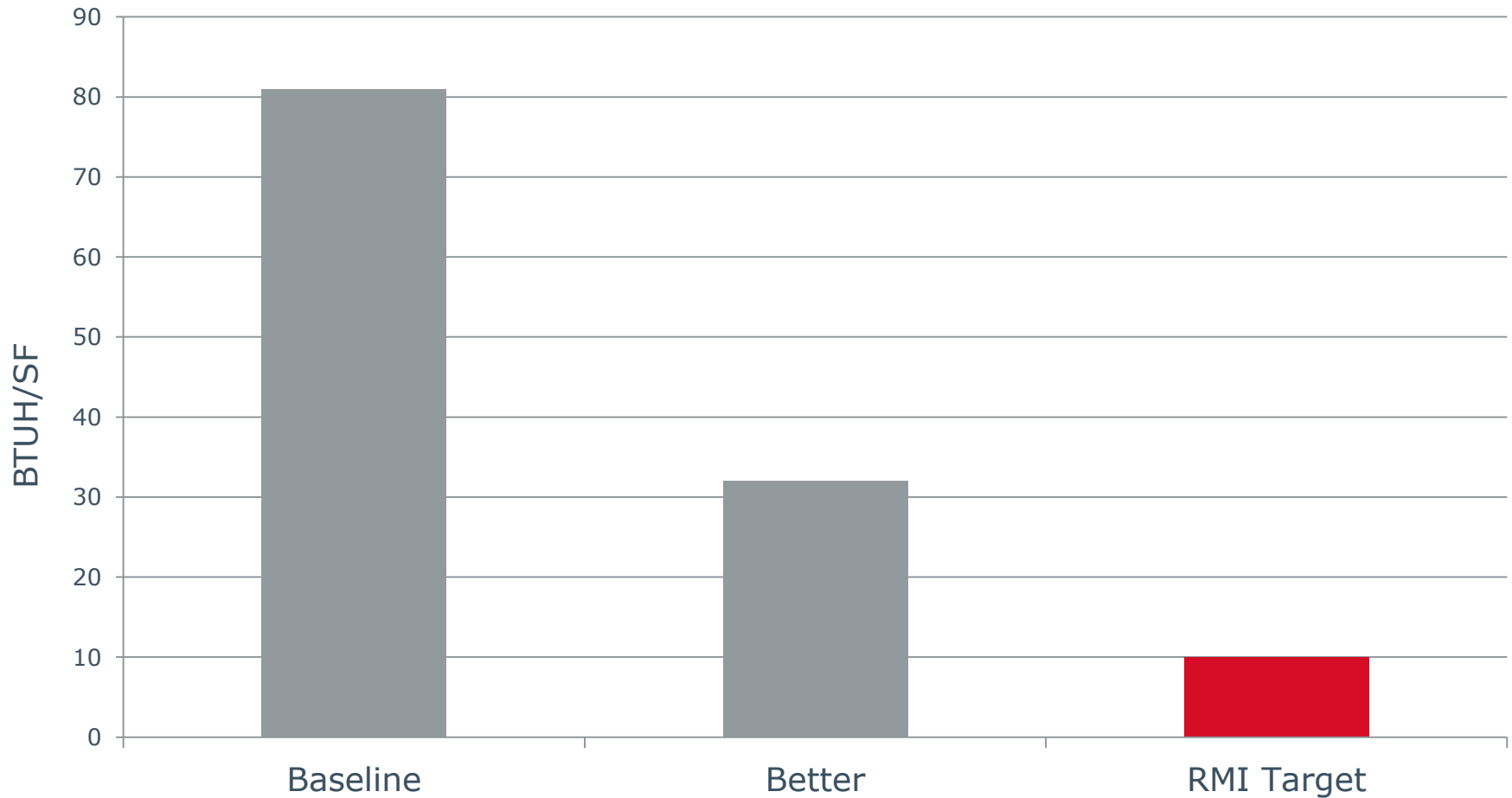
Mechanical Cooling in Buildings



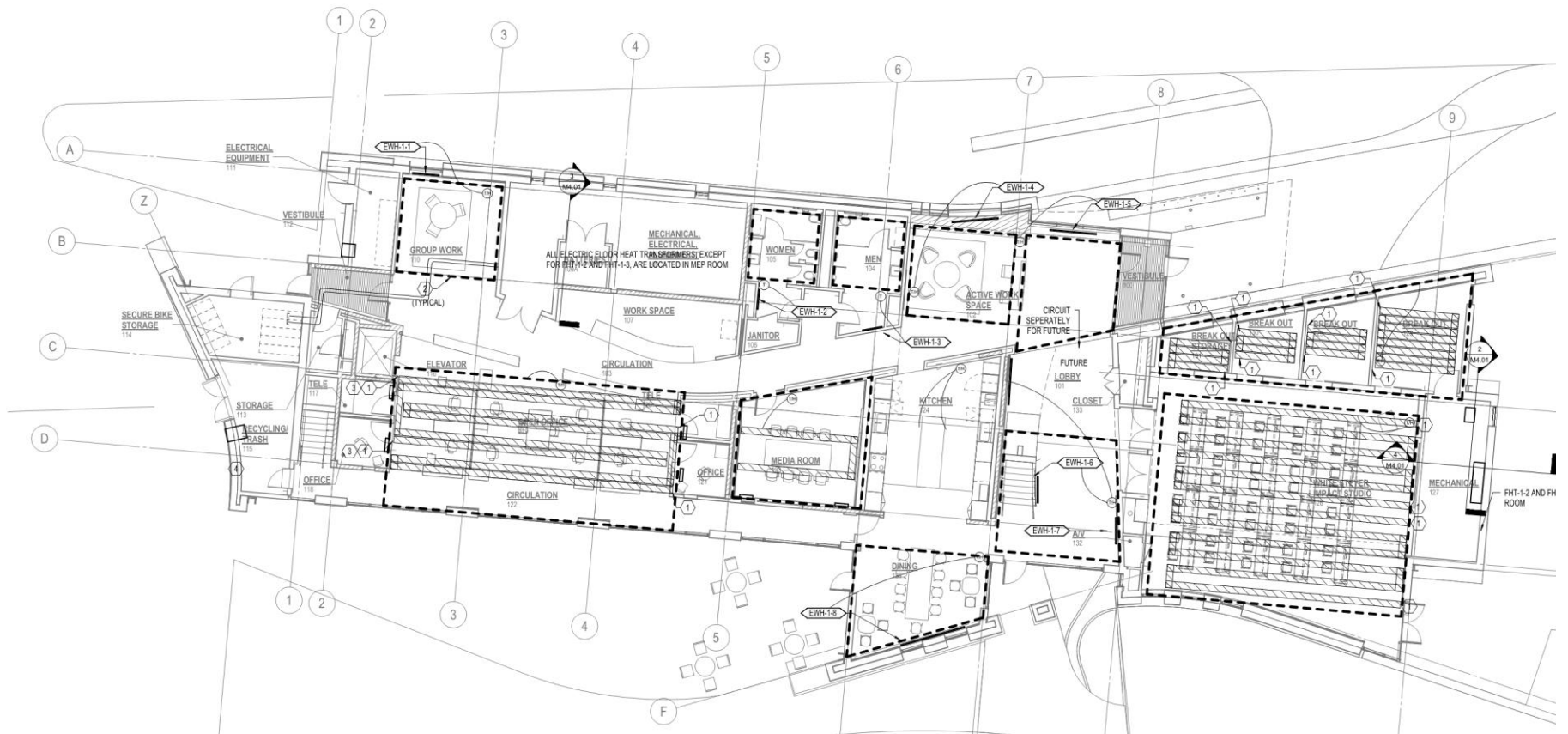
Heating Loads – Installed



Mechanical Heating in Buildings



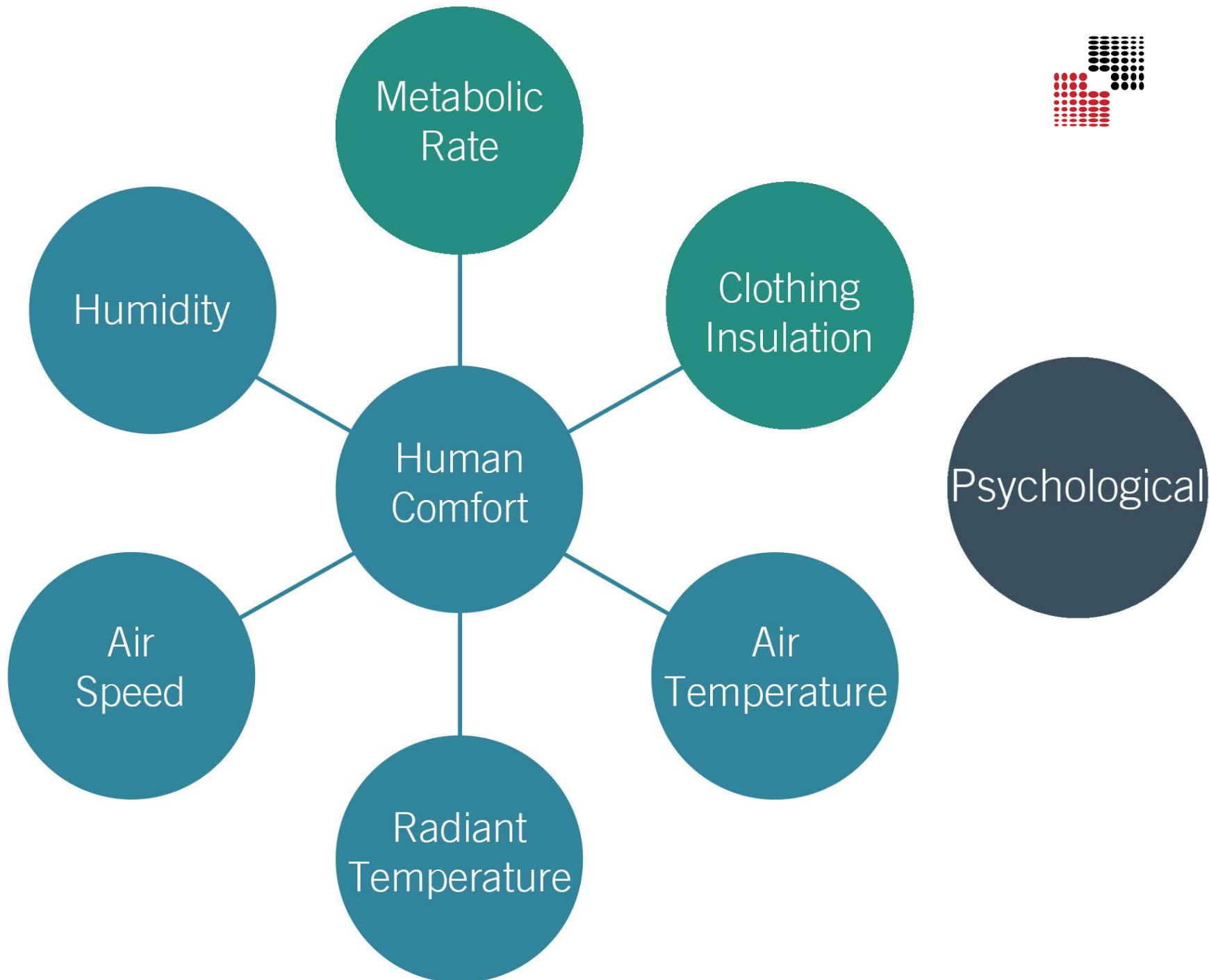
RMI Electric Heating System





Human Comfort

Air
Temperature



Berkeley CBE Comfort Tool



CBE Thermal Comfort Tool

ASHRAE-55

Compare

Ranges

Select method:

PMV method

Air temperature

77.0 °F

Use operative temperature

Mean radiant temperature

77.0 °F

Air speed

20 fpm

Local air speed control

Humidity

50 %

Relative humidity

Metabolic rate

1.2 met

Standing, relaxed: 1.2

Clothing level

0.5 clo

Typical summer indoor



Create custom ensemble



Dynamic predictive clothing



LEED documentation

Globe temp

SolarCal

Specify pressure

SI IP

Local discomfort

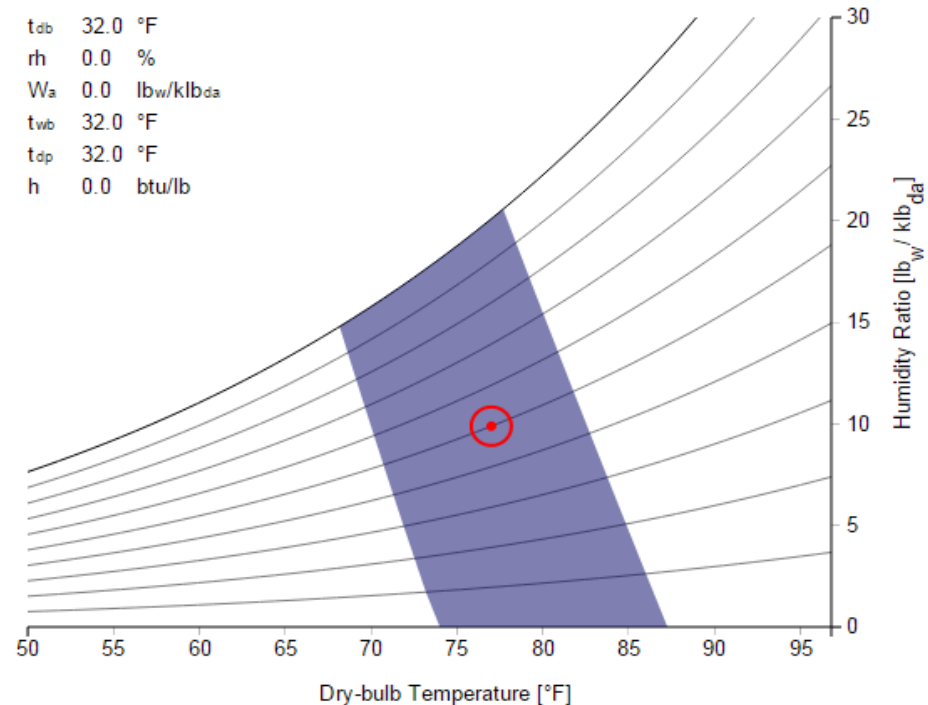
? Help

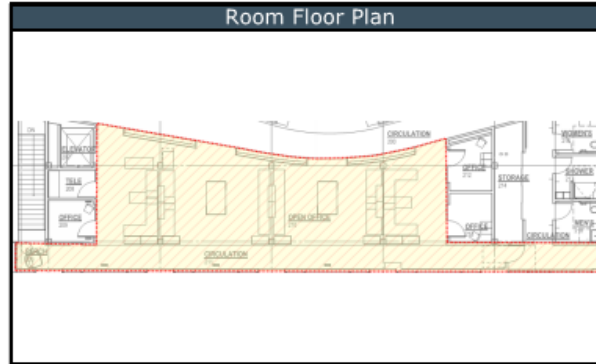
✓ Complies with ASHRAE Standard 55-2010

PMV	0.08
PPD	5%
Sensation	Neutral
SET	77.4°F

Psychrometric chart (air temperature)

t_{db}	32.0 °F
rh	0.0 %
W_a	0.0 lb _w /klb _{da}
t_{wb}	32.0 °F
t_{dp}	32.0 °F
h	0.0 btu/lb





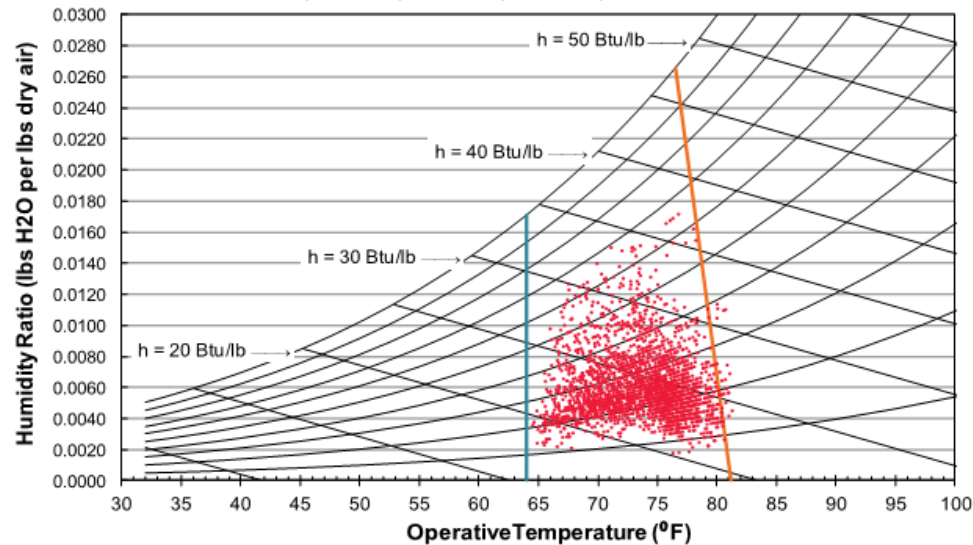
Internal Load Assumptions:	
People	10
Equipment (Installed)	0.88 W/SF
Equipment (Operational)	0.37 W/SF
Lighting (Installed)	0.55 W/SF
Lighting (Operational)	0.40 W/SF
Daylighting	Auto Dimmers
Installed Heating	3.3 kW
Heating Setpoint	64 °F
Weather File	Aspen, CO Custom TMY10, 2004-2013

Comfort Design Parameters			
Heating		Cooling	
Clo (max):	1.01	Clo (min):	0.57
(Trousers, sweater, T-shirt)		(Trousers, short sleeves)	
Met (min):	1.0	Met (max):	1.2
(Sitting, relaxed)		(Standing, relaxed)	
Air Speed:	19 FPM	Air Speed (max):	19 FPM

Schedule Description
Occupied weekdays 8:00am to 5:00pm. Equipment tracks occupancy, turning down to 7% load when unoccupied. Lighting is on with automatic daylight dimming when occupied, off when unoccupied.

Room Thermal Comfort Performance

— Upper Boundary (PMV = 0.5) — Lower Boundary (PMV = -0.5)¹ • Room Hours



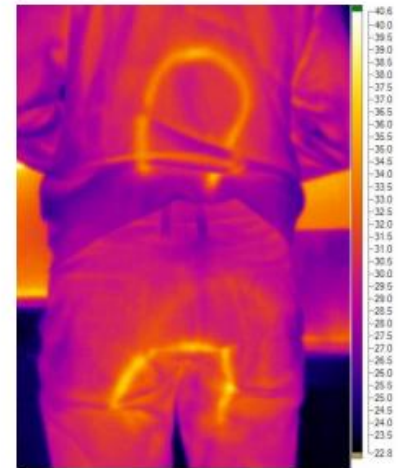
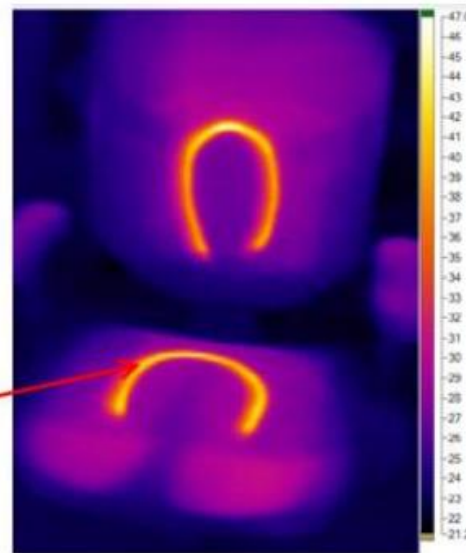
1. Lower boundary is based on implementation of the CBE Personal Comfort System

Thermal Comfort

Personal Comfort System

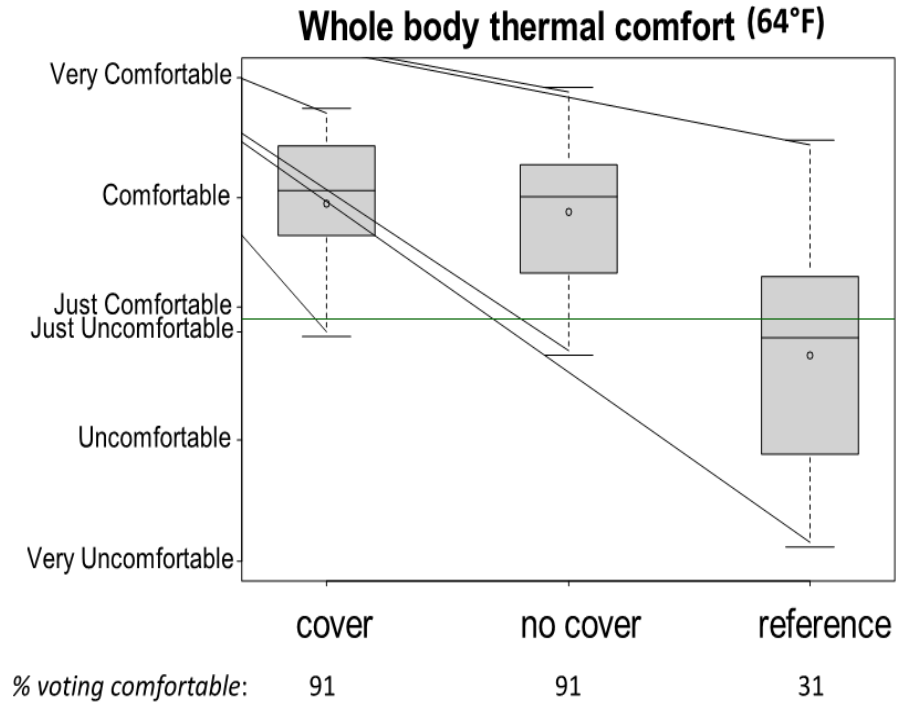
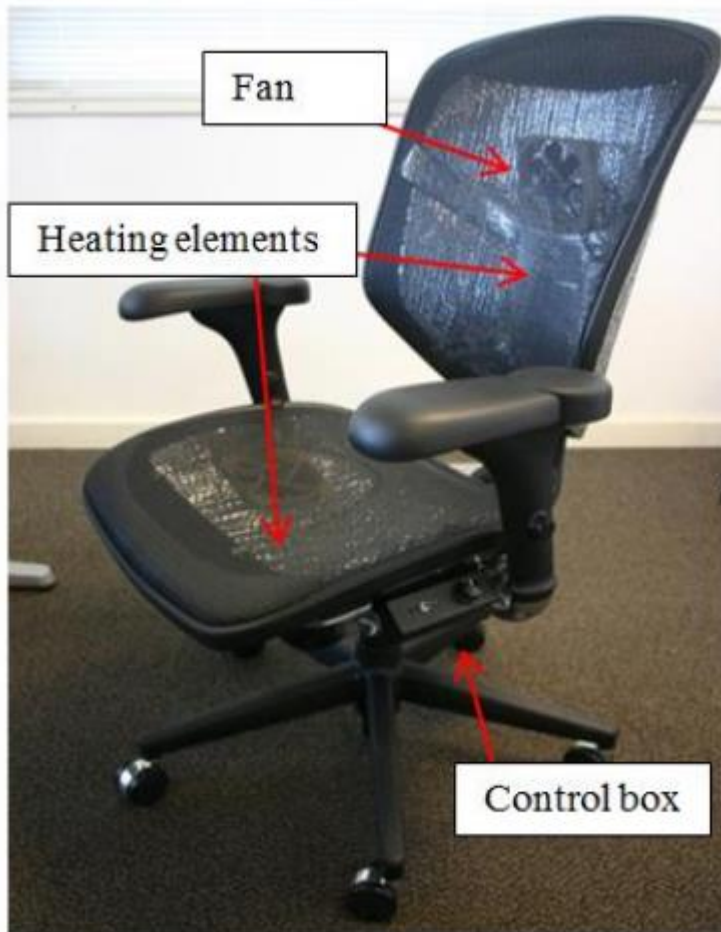


Heat the people, not the space!



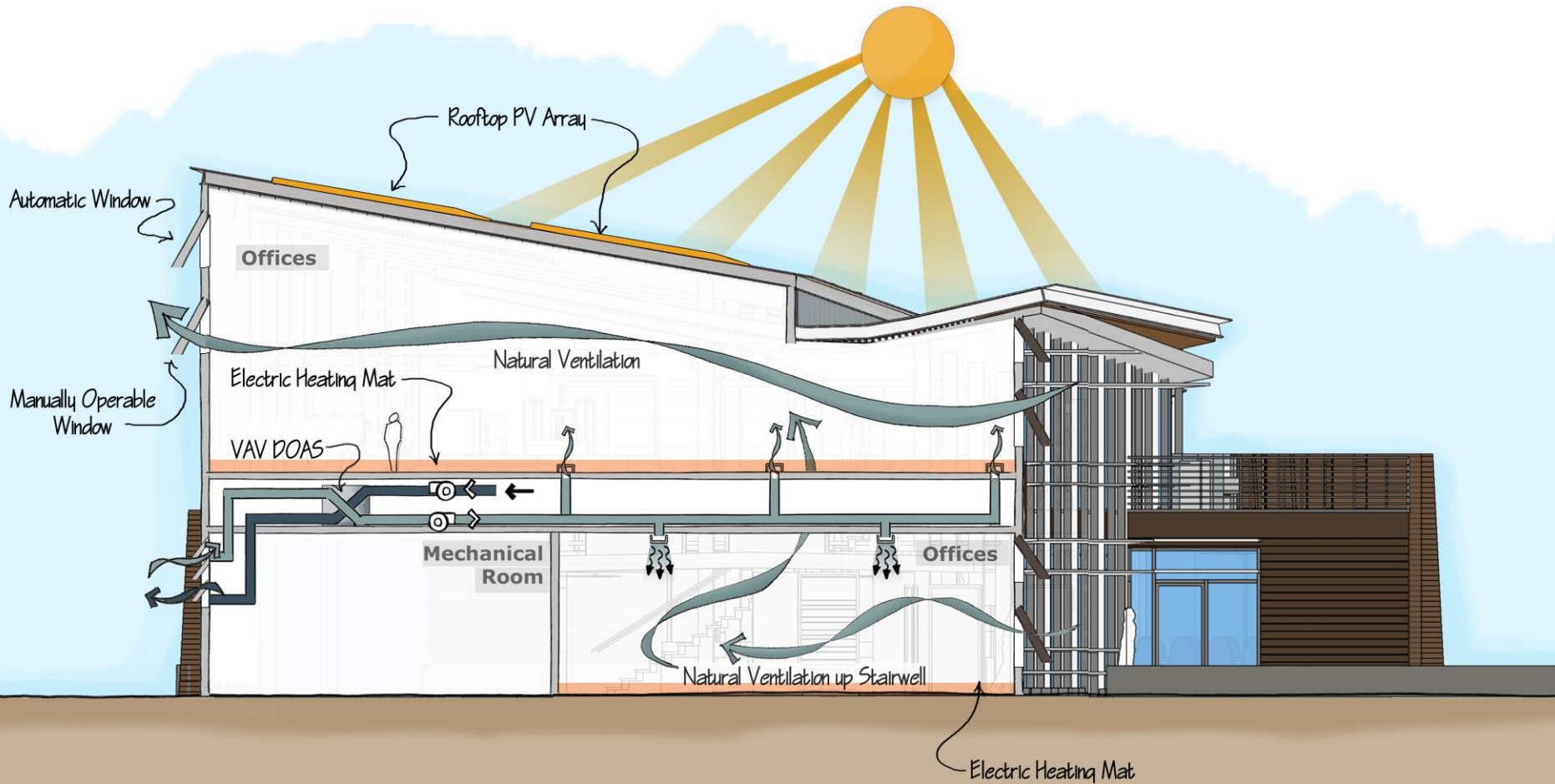
Thermal Comfort

Personal Comfort System



HVAC Systems:

Designing the un-system

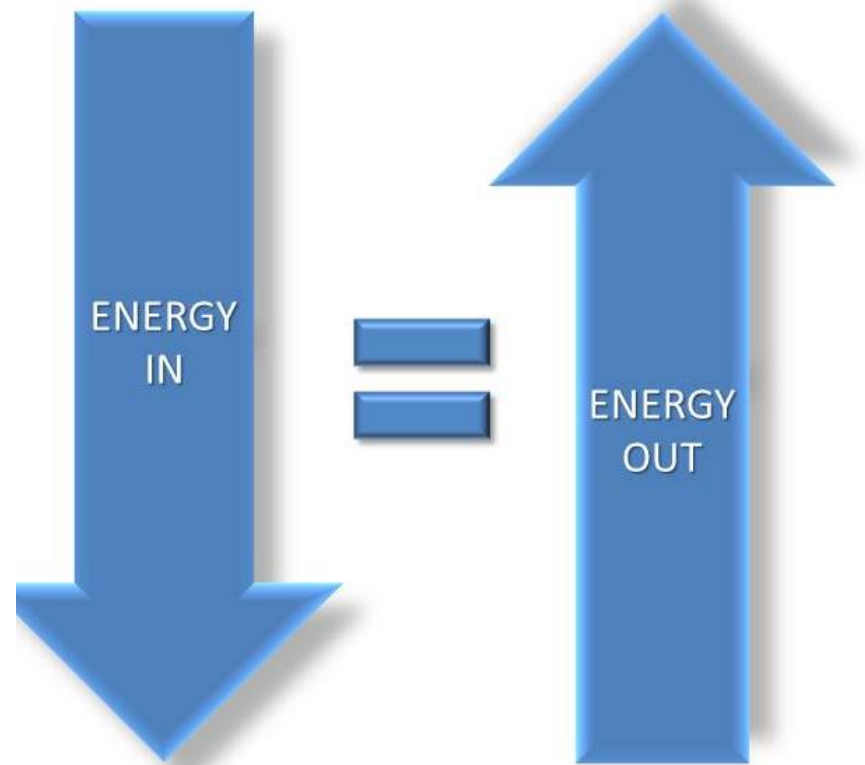


Energy Modeling

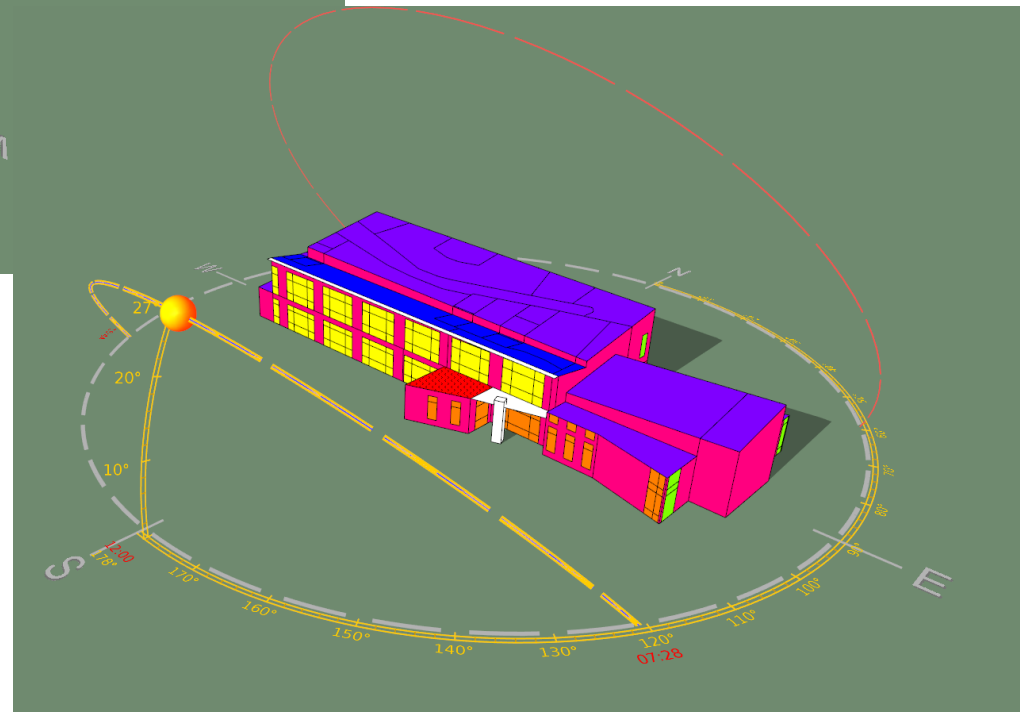
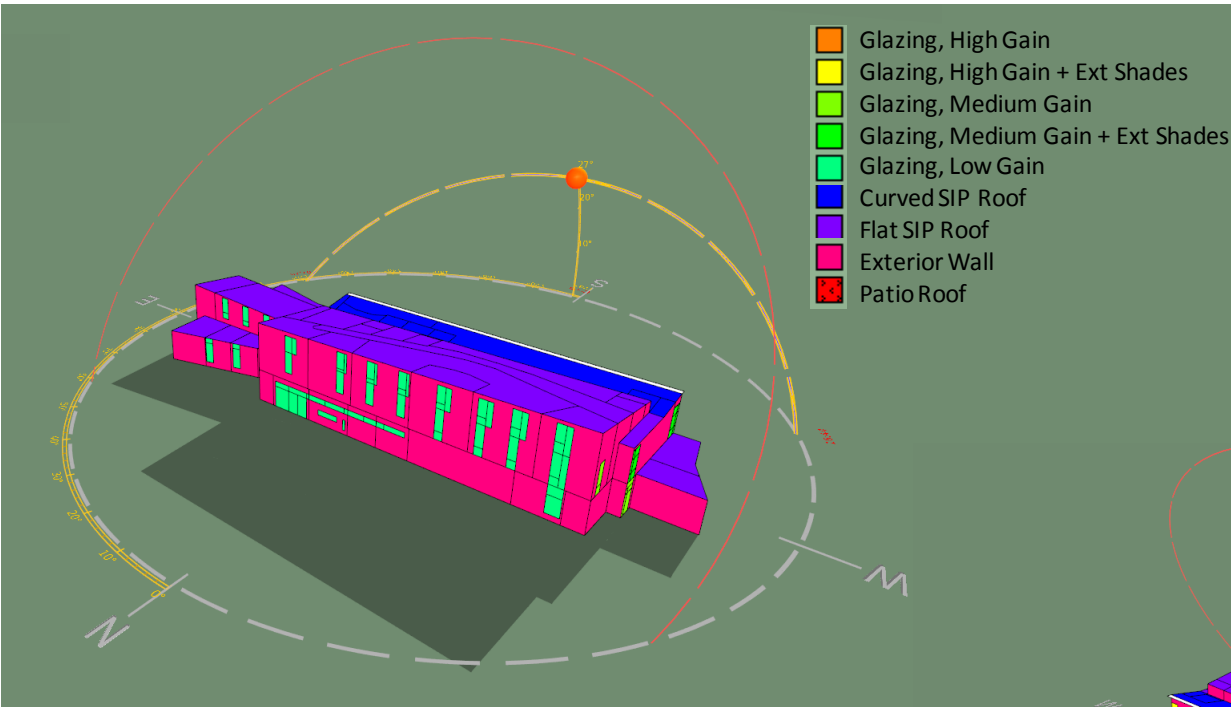
IES Software



- IES calculates a complete energy balance for the building.
- This means: loads in IES are based on the actual resultant temperatures.
- Useful for Passive Analysis.

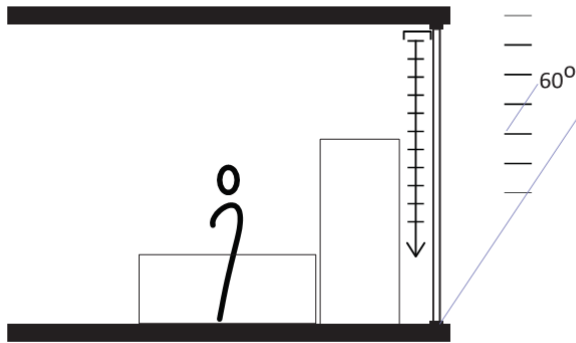


IES-VE

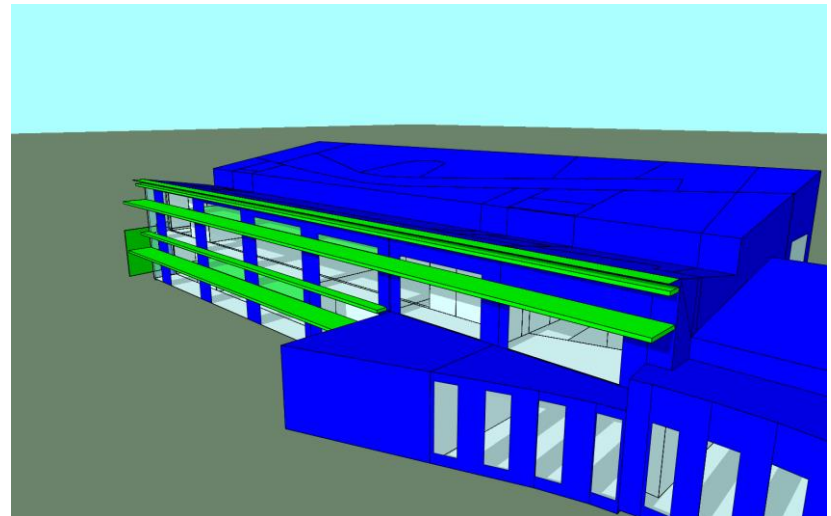
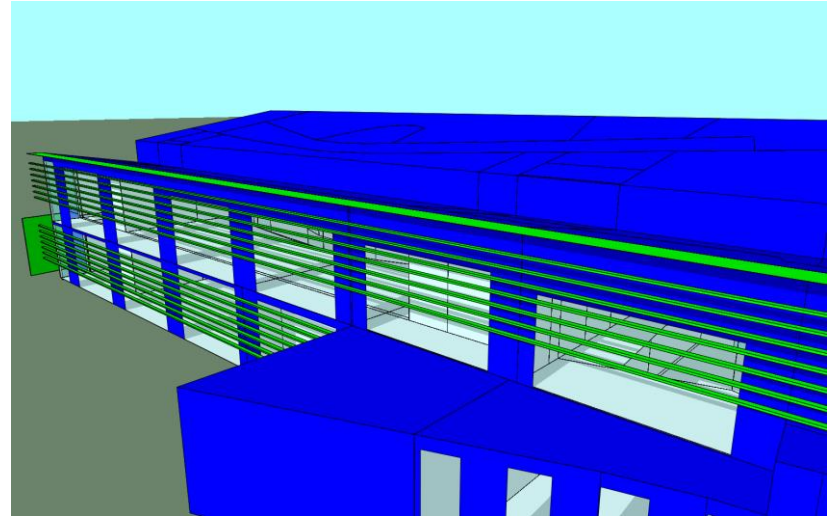
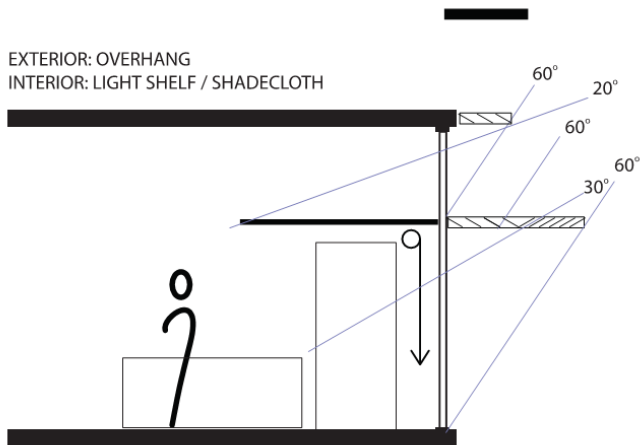


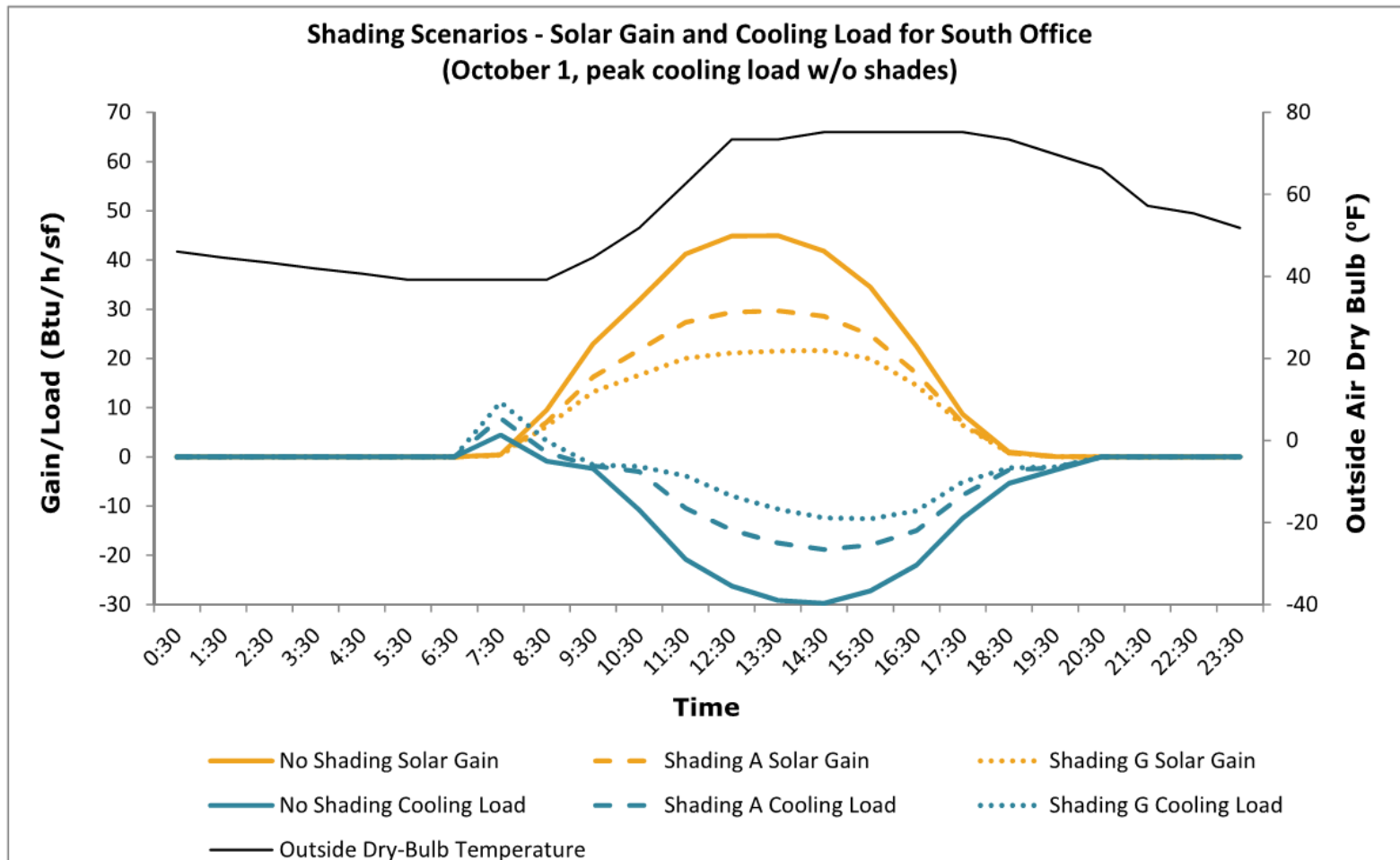
IES-VE

Shading Studies



EXTERIOR: OVERHANG
INTERIOR: LIGHT SHELF / SHADECLOTH

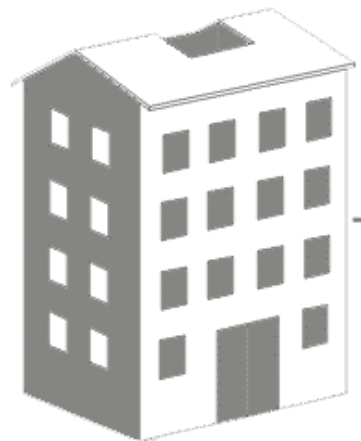
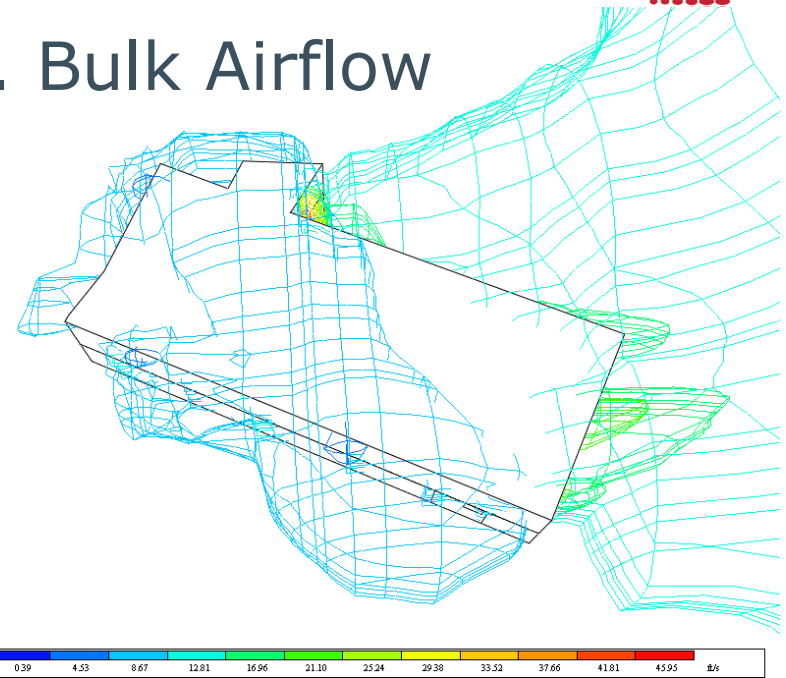
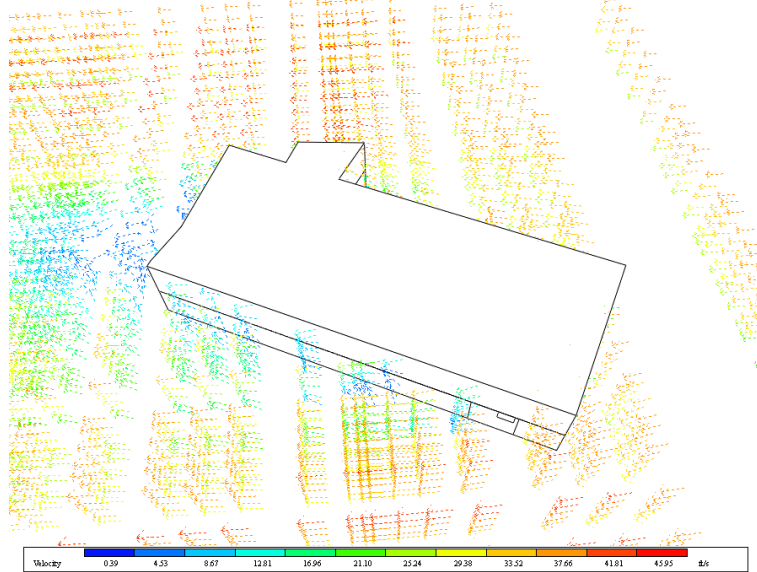




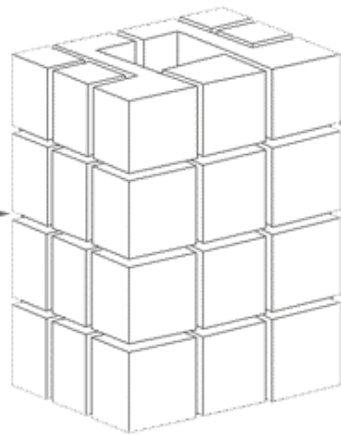
IES-VE



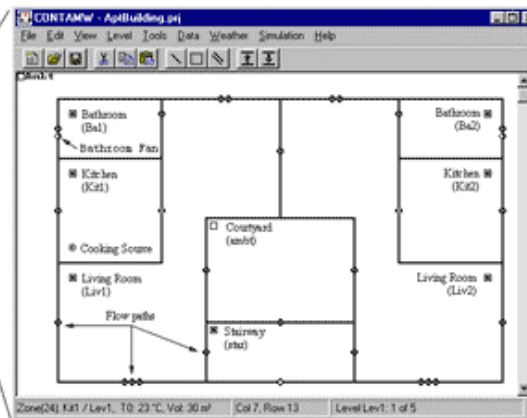
Natural Ventilation – CFD vs. Bulk Airflow



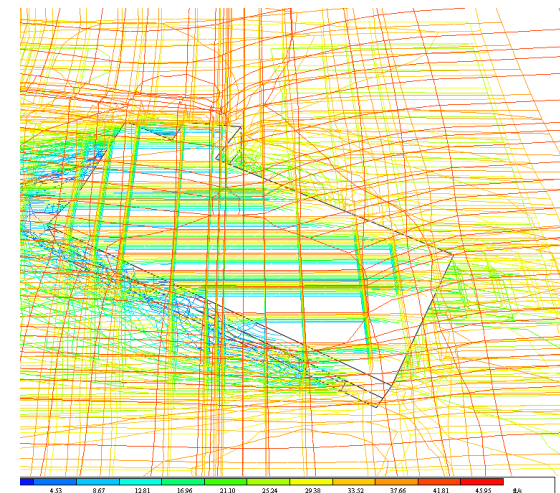
REAL
BUILDING

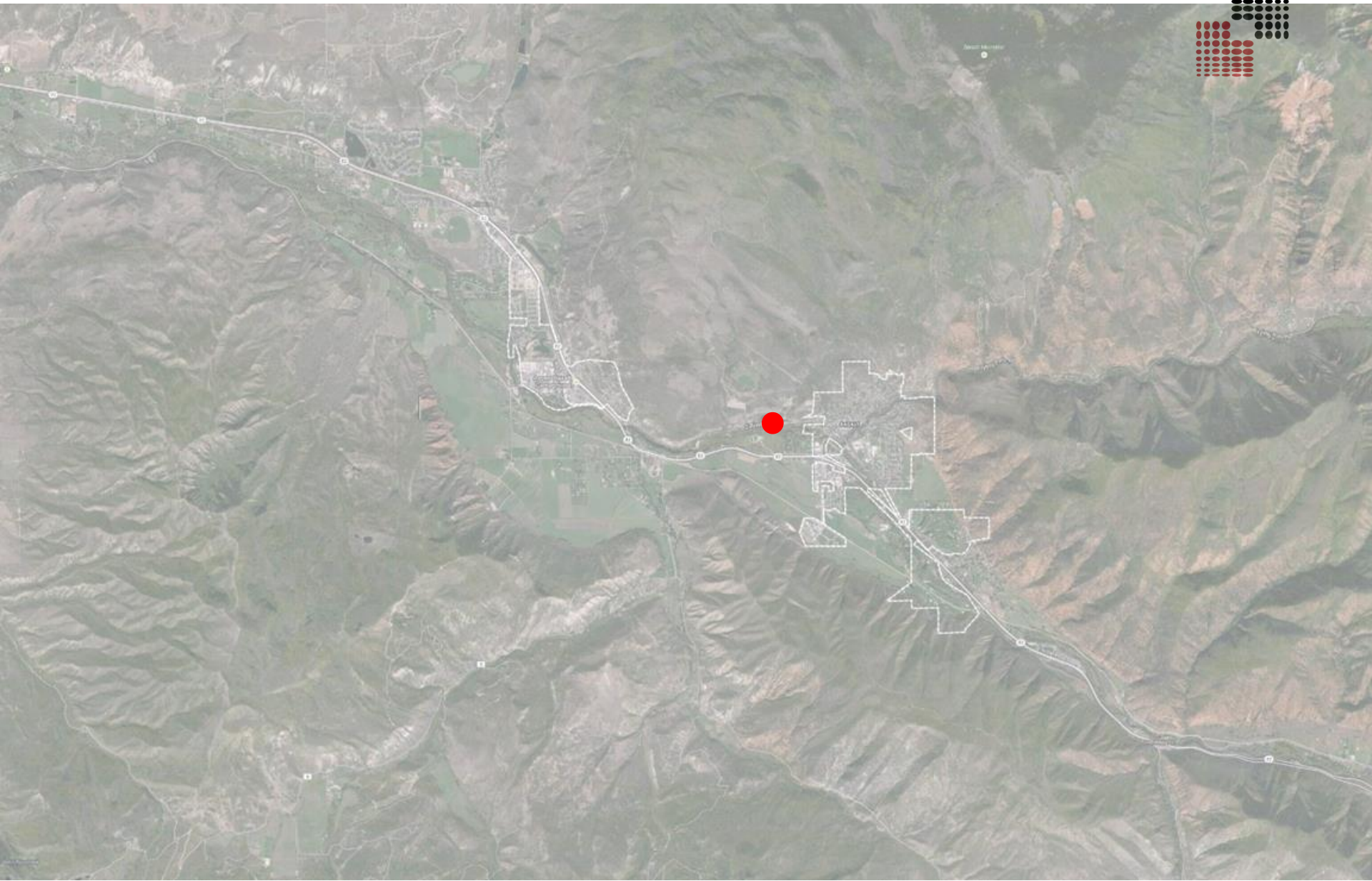


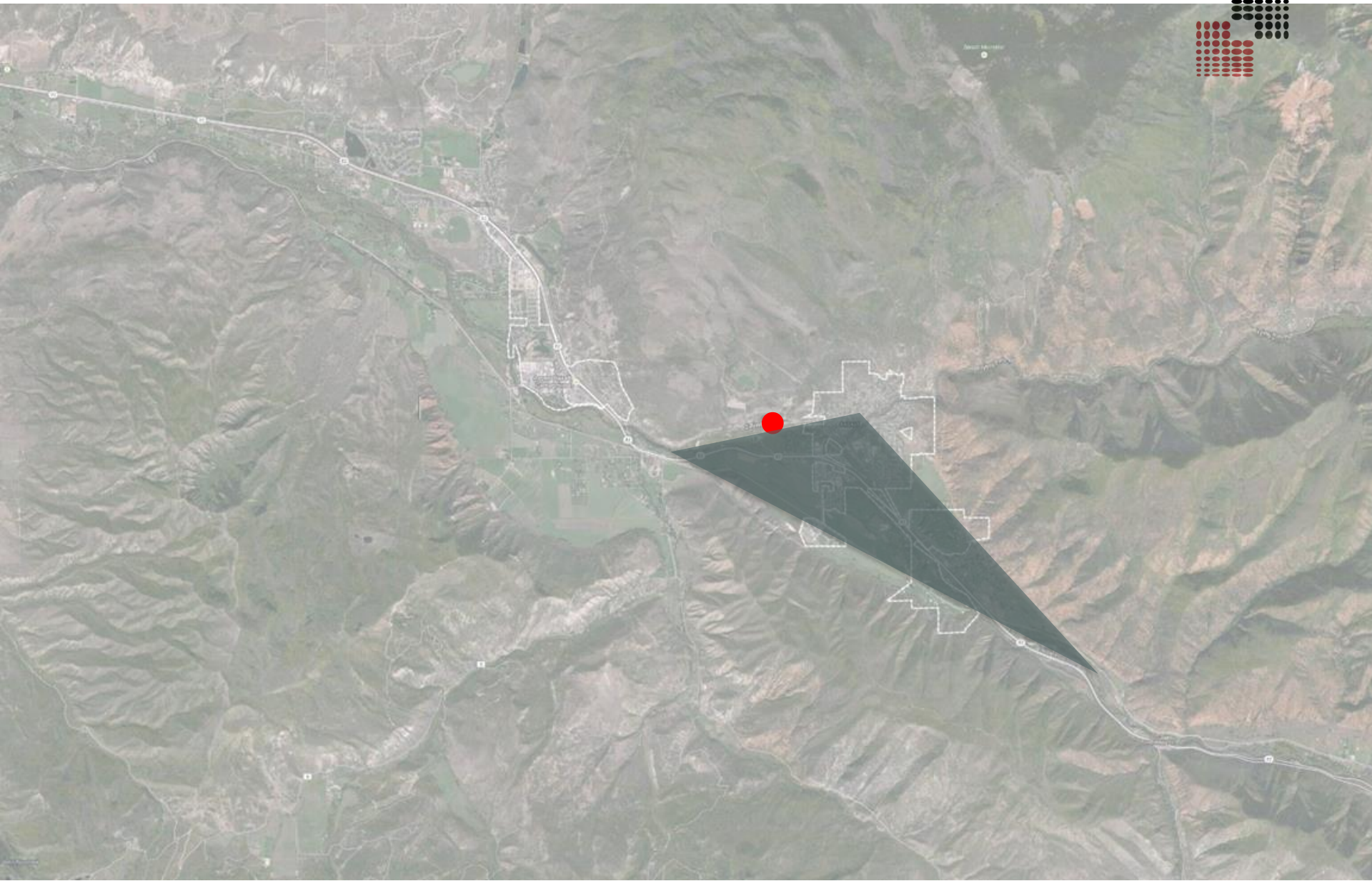
Idealized
Building



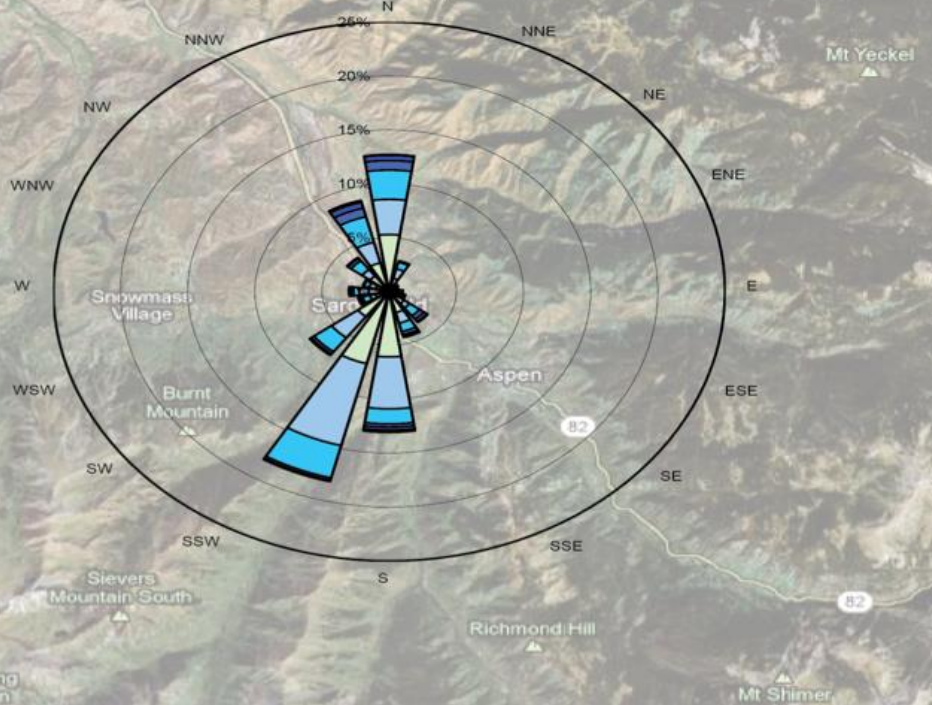
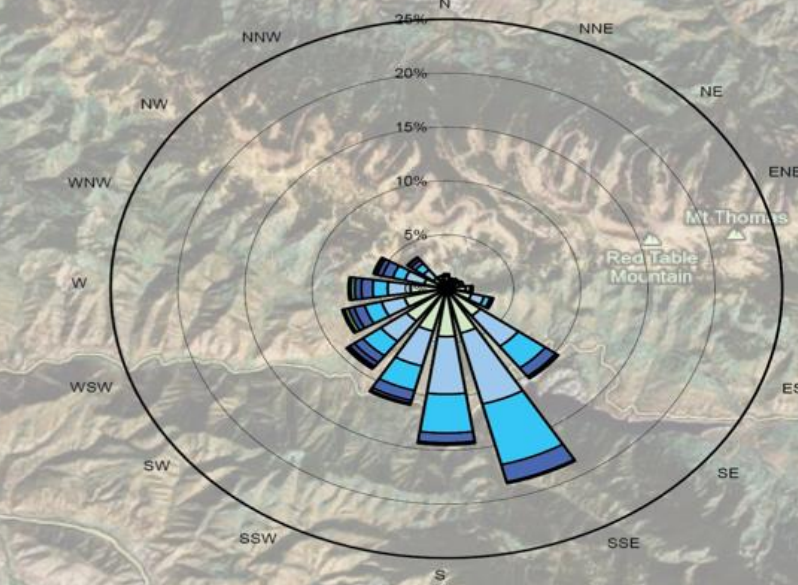
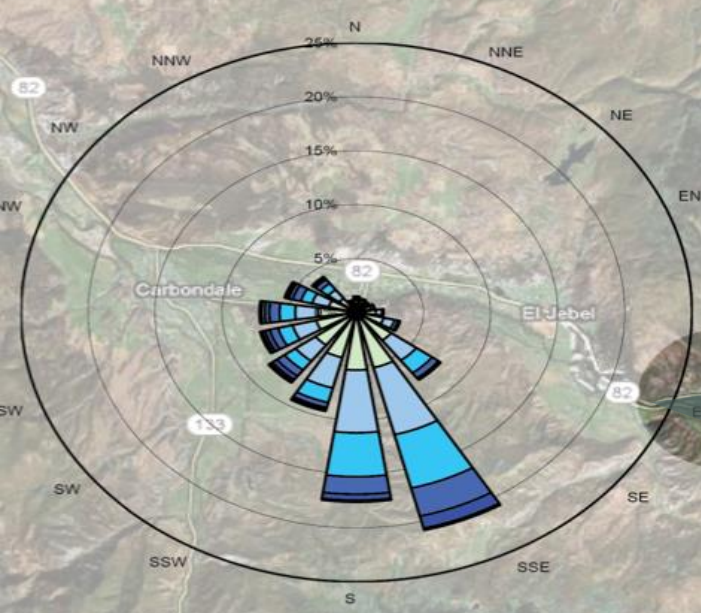
CONTAM
Building Model





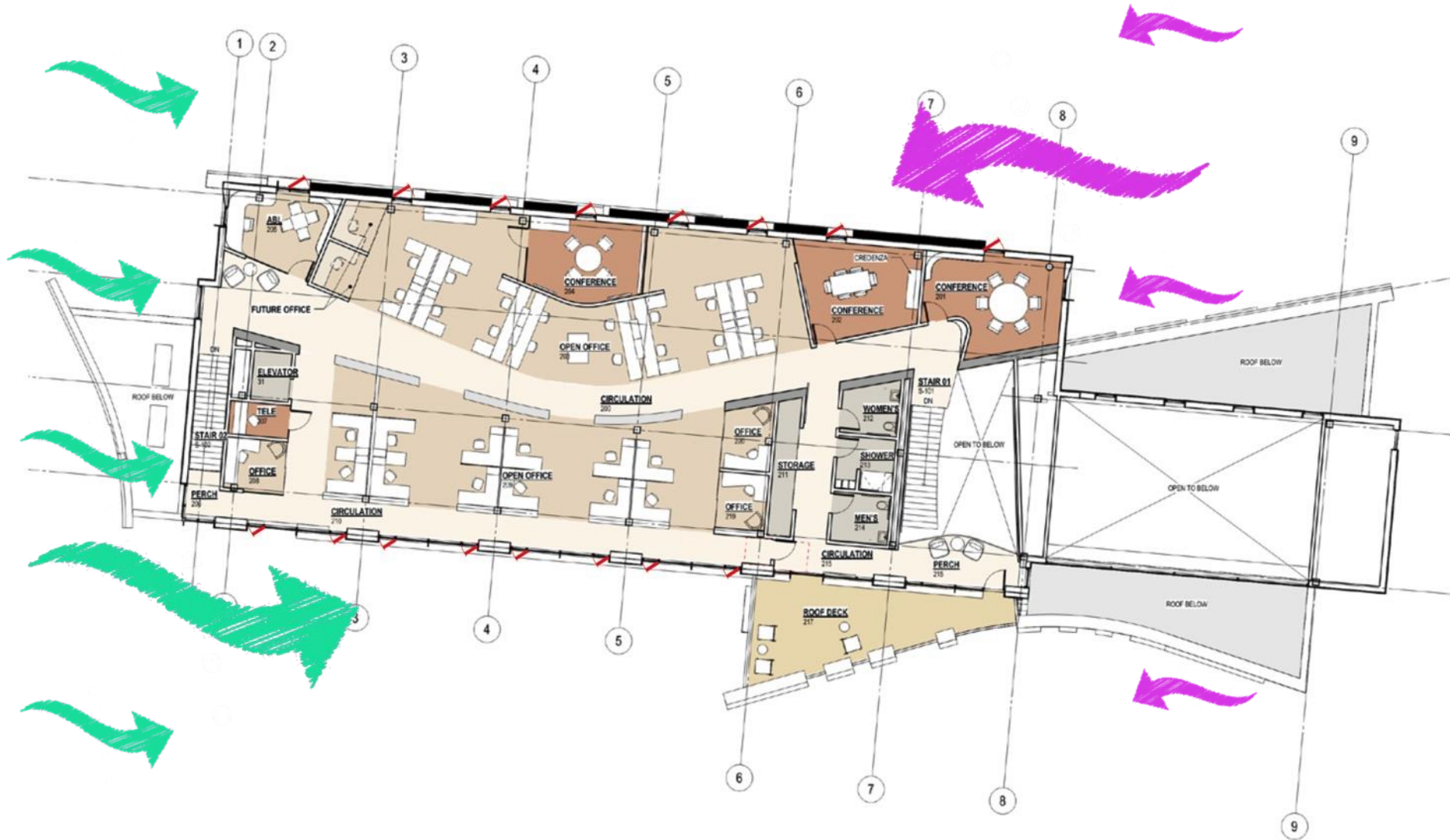


SITE conditions



Dominant Wind Direction,
Summer Daytime - (upriver)

Dominant Wind Direction,
Summer Night - (downriver)



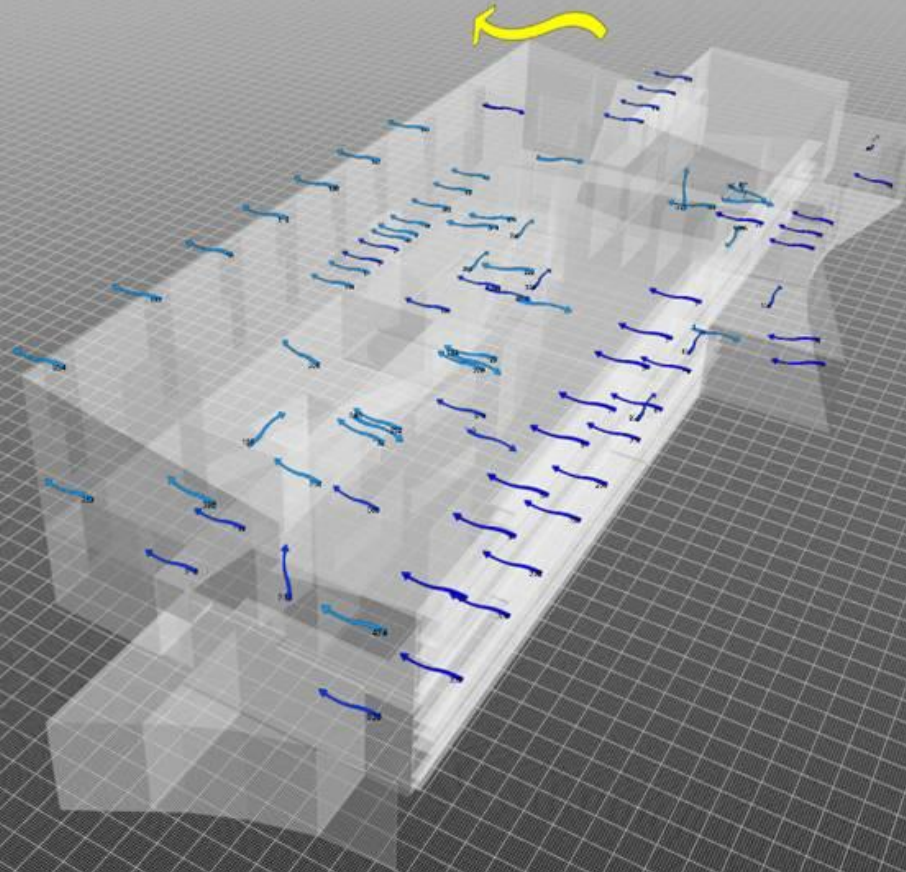
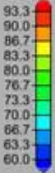
IES-VE

Natural Ventilation – MacroFlo



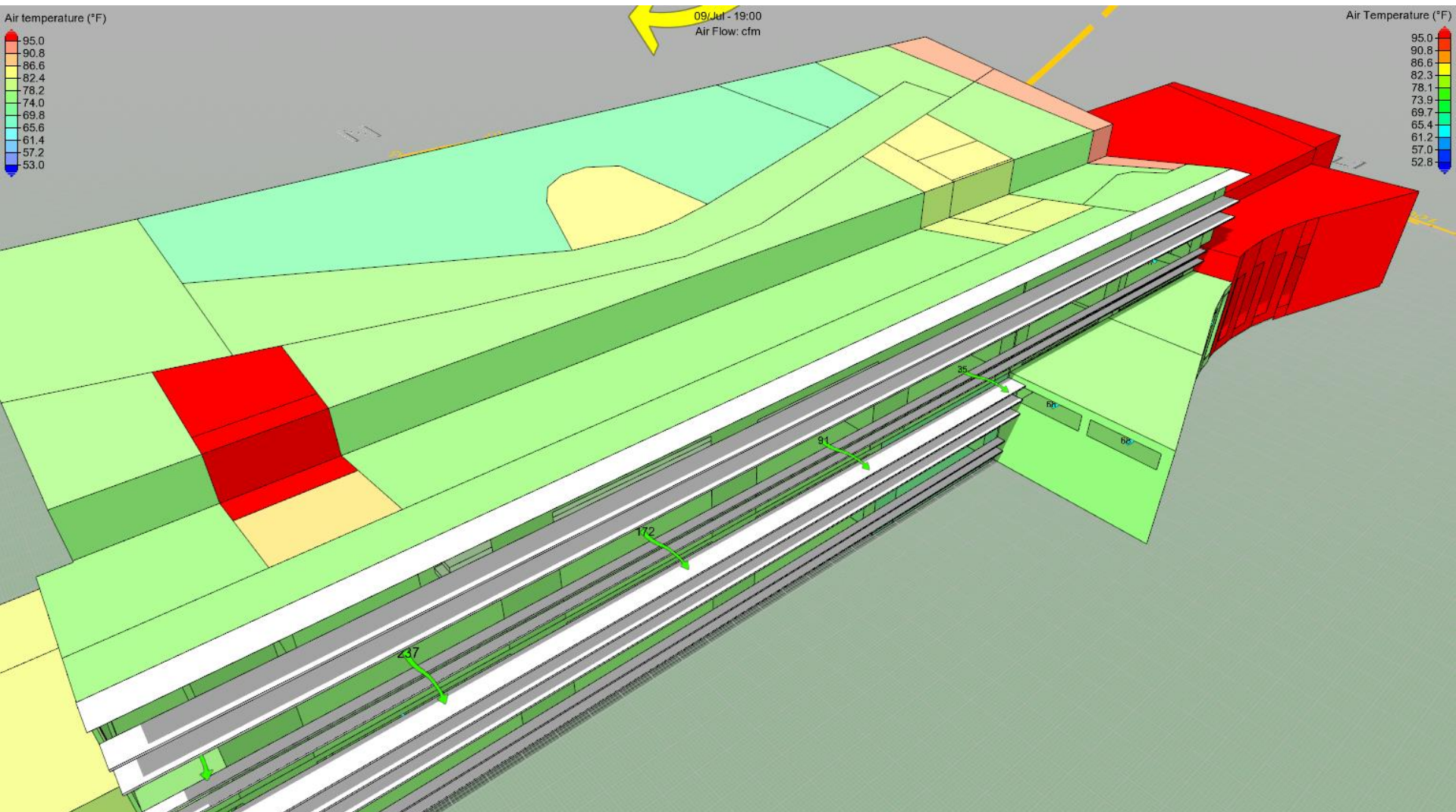
21 Jul - 05:00
Air Flow: cfm

Air Temperature (°F)



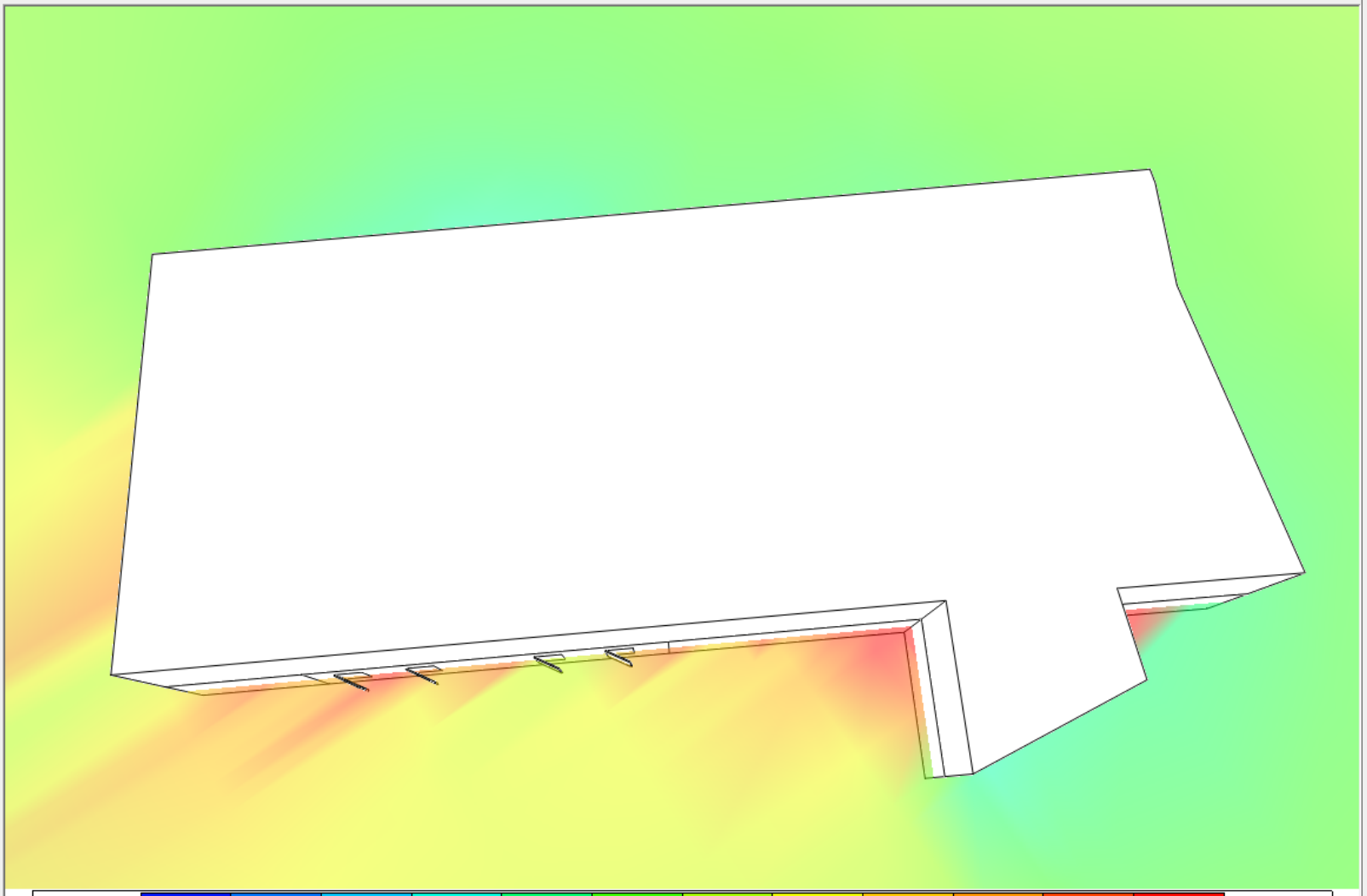
IES-VE

Natural Ventilation – MacroFlo





- Velocity Key
- Temperature Key
- Pressure Key
- H2O Mass Fraction Key
- Filled Velocity Contour
- Filled Temperature Contour
- Filled Pressure Contour
- Filled H2O Mass Fraction Contour
- Filled CO2 Mass Fraction Contour
- Filled CO Mass Fraction Contour
- Filled Local Mean Air Age Contour
- Filled Local Air Change Effectiveness Contour
- Dry Resultant Temperature Key
- PMV Key
- PPD Key
- Comfort Key
- Dry Resultant Temperature Contour
- PMV Contour
- PPD Contour
- Comfort Contour
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- Filled PMV Contour
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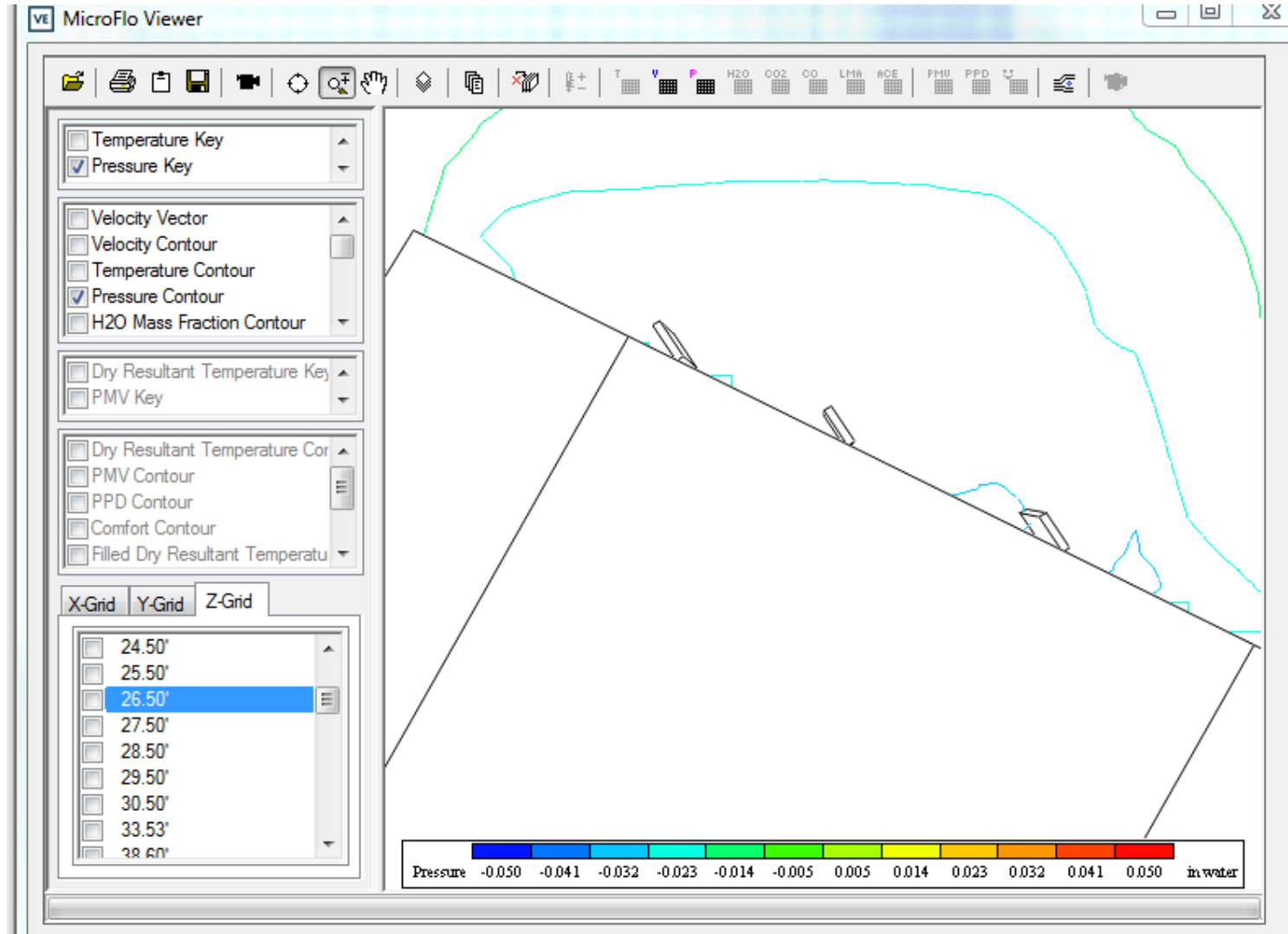
- X-Grid Y-Grid Z-Grid
- 1.59'
 - 4.34'
 - 6.67'
 - 9.17'
 - 11.25'
 - 16.00'
 - 21.50'
 - 30.50'
 - 45.50'
 - 60.50'
 - 75.50'



IES-VE

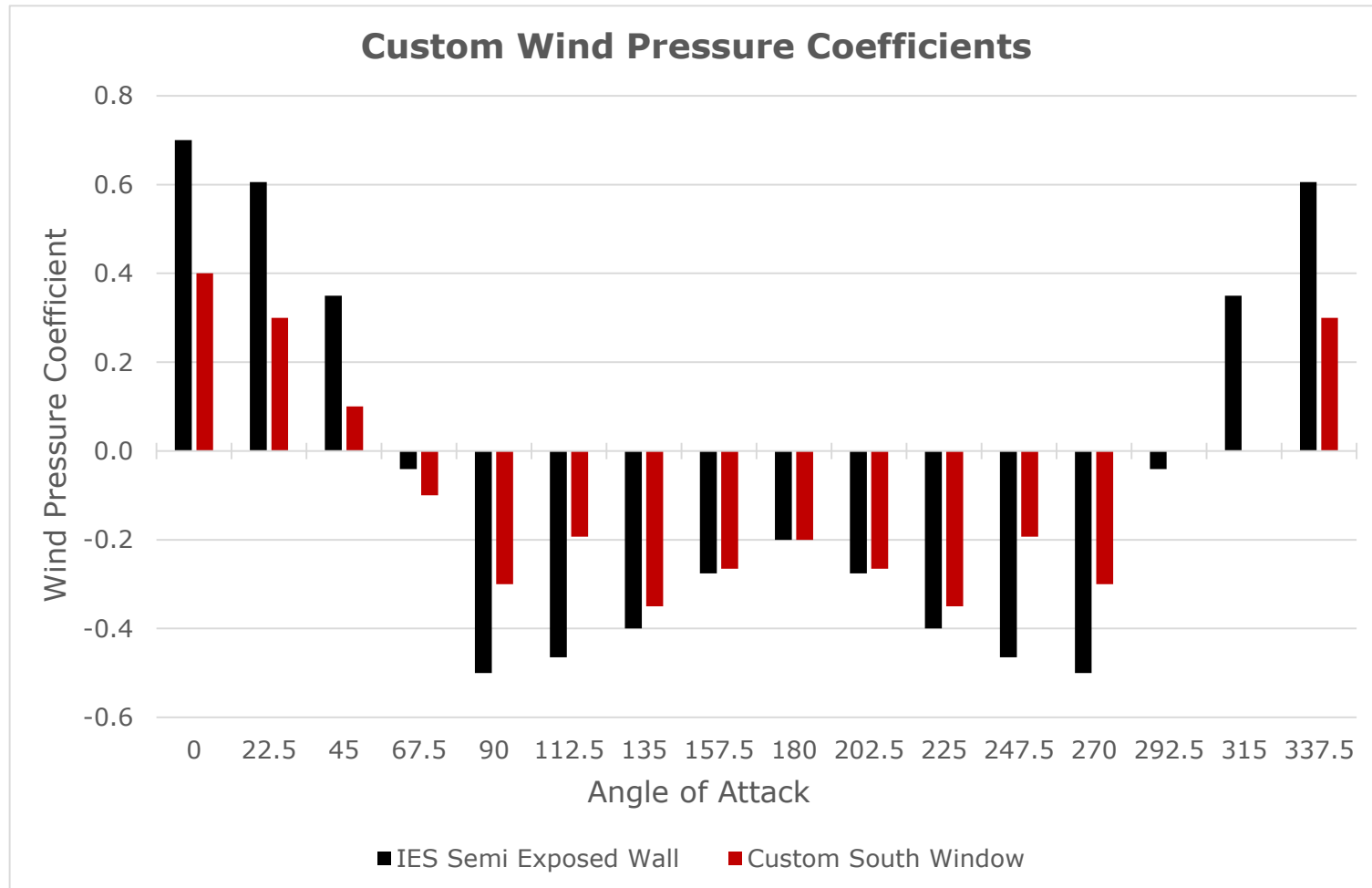


Natural Ventilation - MicroFlo





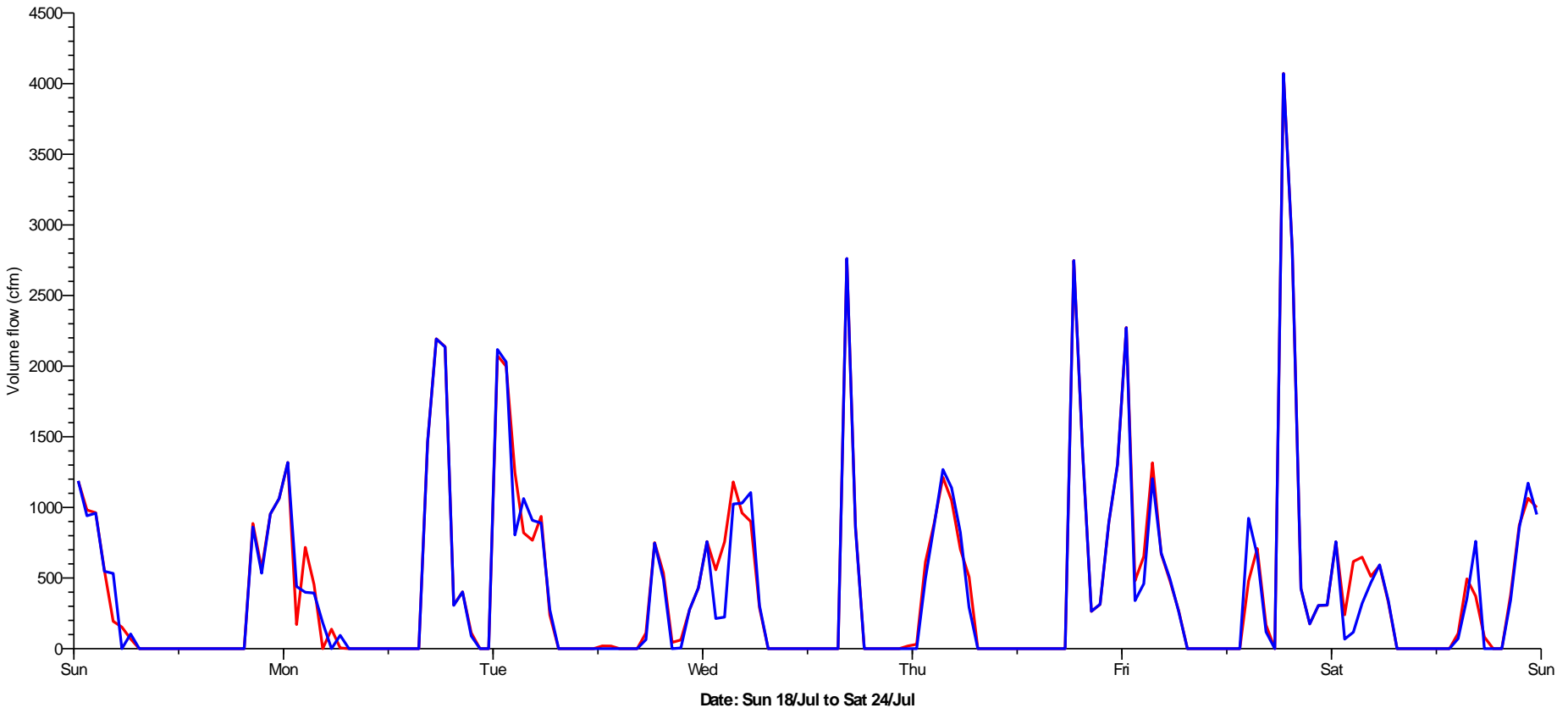
Natural Ventilation - MicroFlo



IES-VE



Natural Ventilation – MicroFlo->MacroFlo

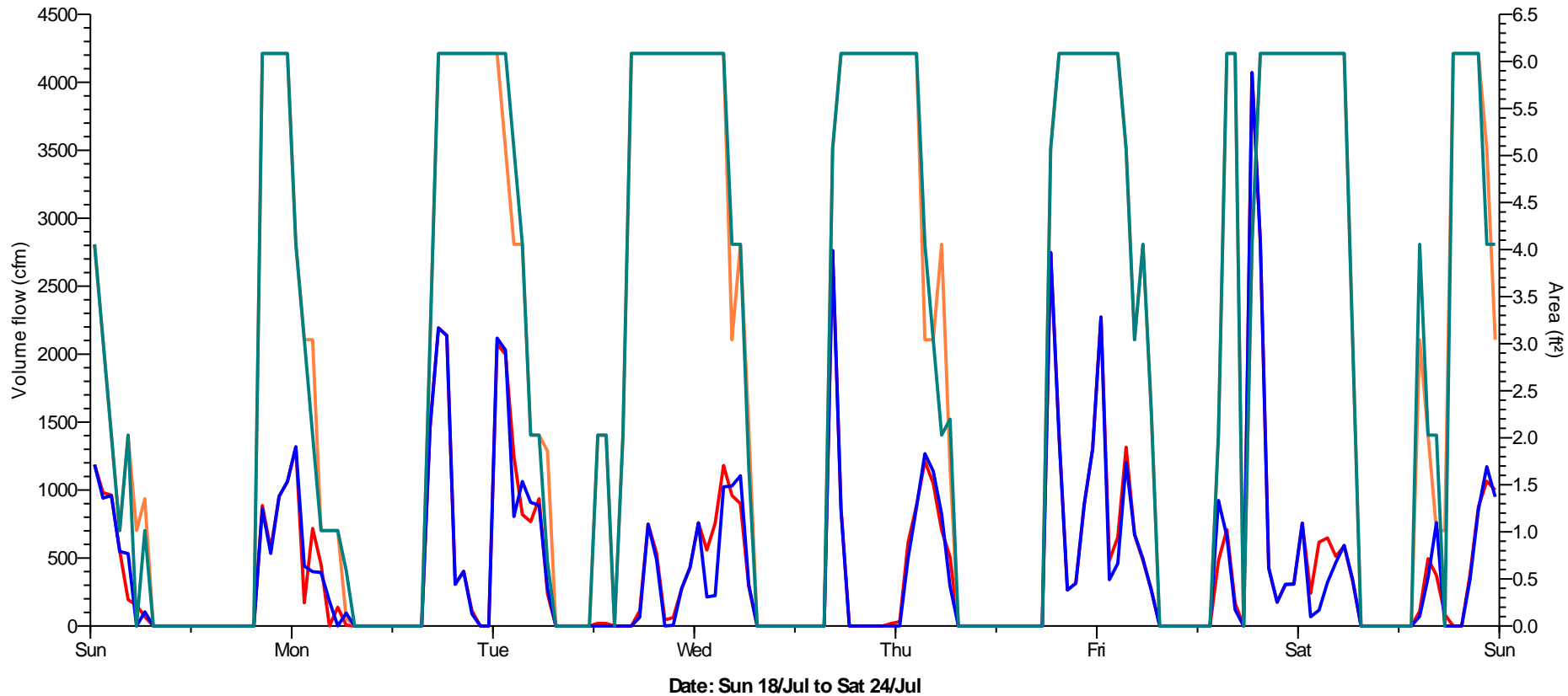


— MacroFlo external vent: 2-050 Open Office (Run A0 - Mod Weather Baseline.aps)

— MacroFlo external vent: 2-050 Open Office (Run A0 - Mod Weather Baseline-Winco.aps)



Natural Ventilation – MicroFlo->MacroFlo



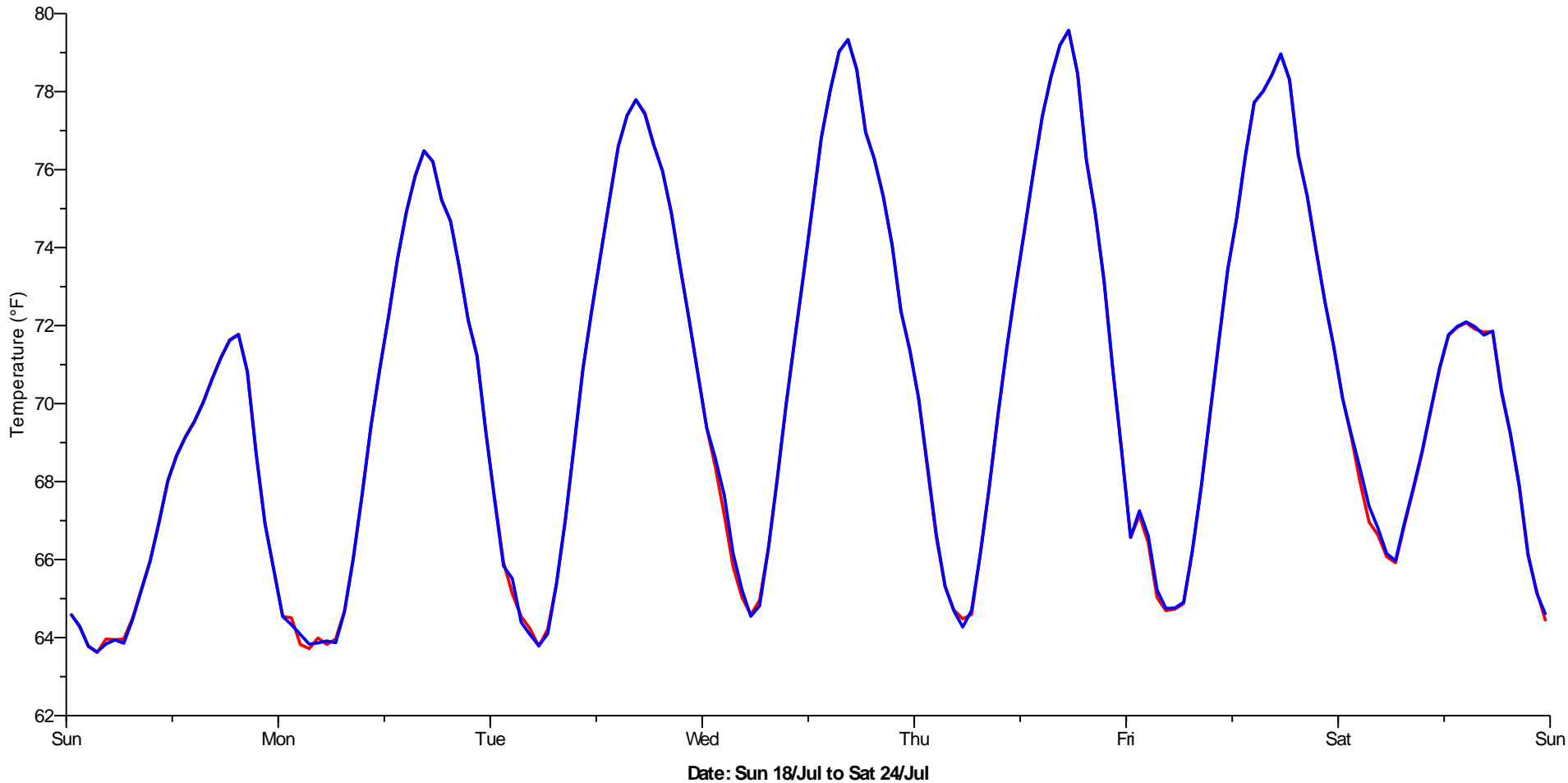
— MacroFlo external vent: 2-050 Open Office (Run A0 - Mod Weather Baseline.aps)
— MacroFlo external vent: 2-050 Open Office (Run A0 - Mod Weather Baseline-Winco.aps)

— Eqv area: External window 1 (Run A0 - Mod Weather Baseline.aps)
— Eqv area: External window 1 (Run A0 - Mod Weather Baseline-Winco.aps)

IES-VE



Natural Ventilation – MicroFlo->MacroFlo



— Dry resultant temperature: 2-050 Open Office (Run A0 - Mod Weather Baseline.aps)

— Dry resultant temperature: 2-050 Open Office (Run A0 - Mod Weather Baseline-WInoo.aps)



Natural Ventilation – Window Controls

12.7.1. Weather variables

Variable	Description	Metric unit	IP unit
ws	wind speed	m/s	ft/s
wd	wind direction	degrees clockwise from north	degrees clockwise from north
to	outside air temperature	°C	°F
go	outside air moisture	kg/kg	lb/lb
igh	global radiation on the horizontal plane	W/m ²	Btu/(h·ft ²)
ifh	diffuse radiation on the horizontal plane	W/m ²	Btu/(h·ft ²)
idn	direct normal radiation	W/m ²	Btu/(h·ft ²)

12.7.2. Room variables

Variable	Description	Metric unit	IP unit
ta	room air temperature	°C	°F
tr	room mean radiant temperature	°C	°F
tdr	room dry resultant temperature	°C	°F
ta_	adjacent room air temperature	°C	°F
g	room moisture content	kg/kg	lb/lb
g_	adjacent room moisture content	kg/kg	lb/lb
rh	room relative humidity	%	%
rh_	adjacent room relative humidity	%	%
sol	short-wave solar gain to room	W	Btu/h
co2	room carbon dioxide concentration	ppm	ppm
e1	room illuminance (sensor 1)	lux	fc
e2	room illuminance (sensor 2)	lux	fc

Edit Project Daily Profile DAY_0382

Profile Name:
Passive Cooling 64 - Cooling Season

Categories:

	Time	Value
1	00:00	(ta>to)>(ta,64,2)
2	06:00	(ta>to)>(ta,64,2)
3	07:00	(ta>to)>(ta,74,2)
4	18:00	(ta>to)>(ta,74,2)
5	18:00	(ta>to)>(ta,64,2)
6	24:00	(ta>to)>(ta,64,2)

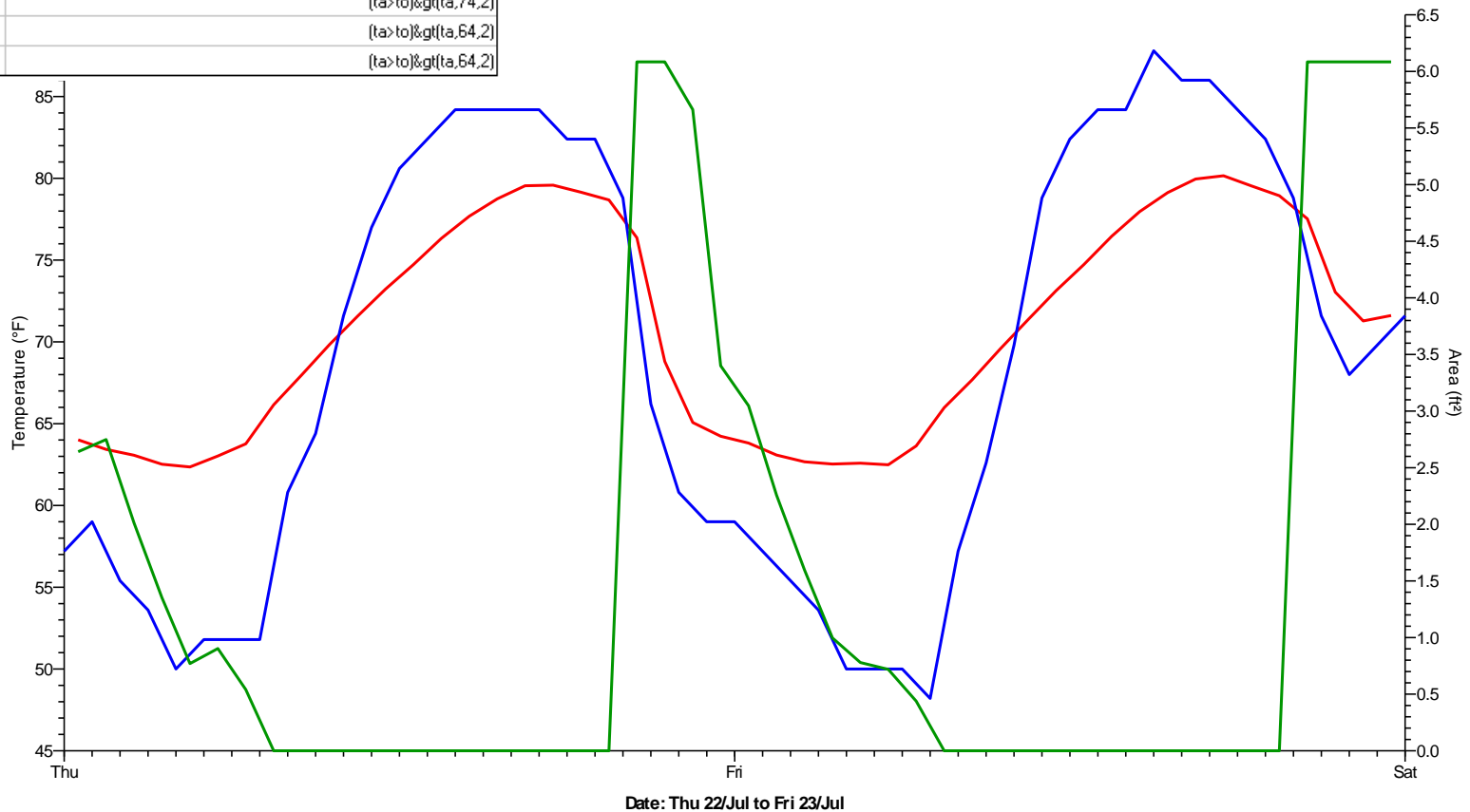
Metric
 IP
 No units

IES-VE



Natural Ventilation – Window Controls

	Time	Value
1	00:00	(ta>to)>(ta,64,2)
2	06:00	(ta>to)>(ta,64,2)
3	07:00	(ta>to)>(ta,74,2)
4	18:00	(ta>to)>(ta,74,2)
5	18:00	(ta>to)>(ta,64,2)
6	24:00	(ta>to)>(ta,64,2)



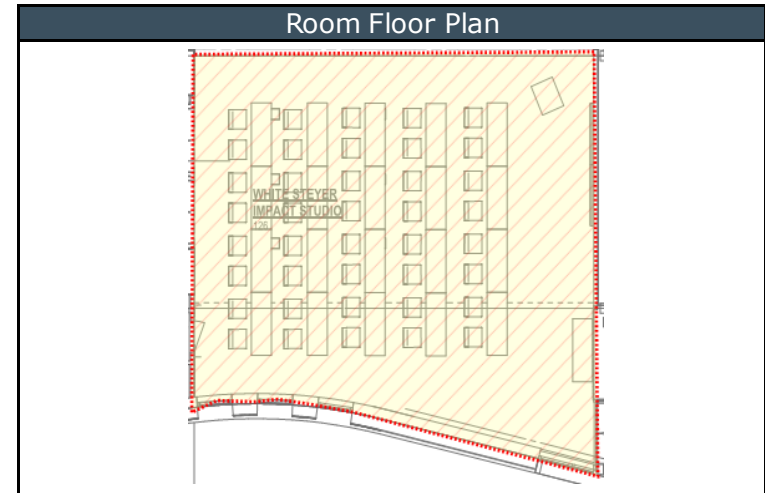
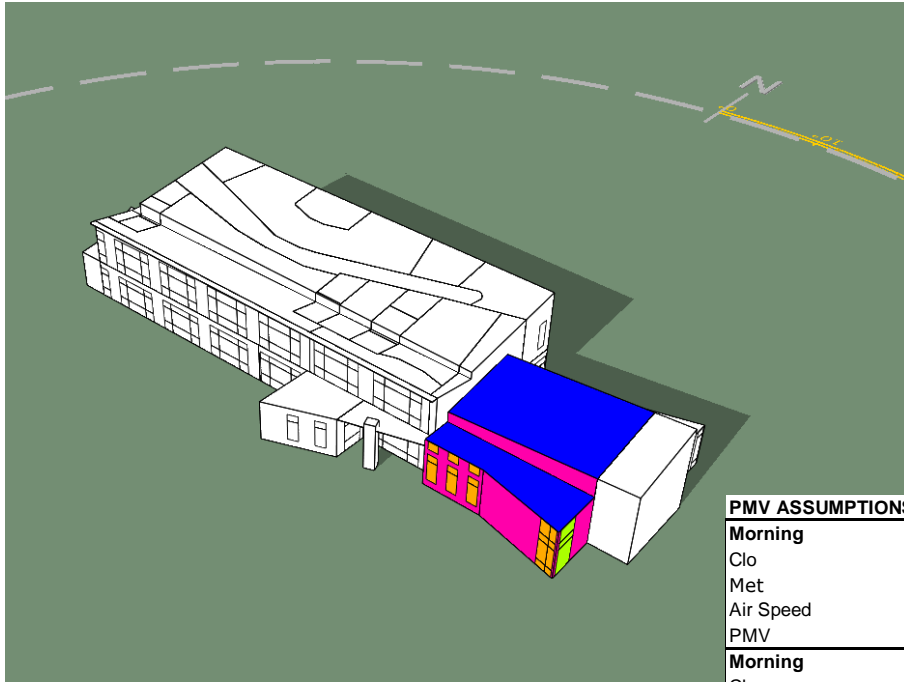
— Air temperature: 2-050 Open Office (Proposed Building - 15 Final 0.154 Wn.aps)

— Dry-bulb temperature: (Aspen_Co_TMY3-10-2014.epw)

— Eqv area: External window 7 (Proposed Building - 15 Final 0.154 Wn.aps)

Model Results

Thermal Comfort



PMV ASSUMPTIONS:

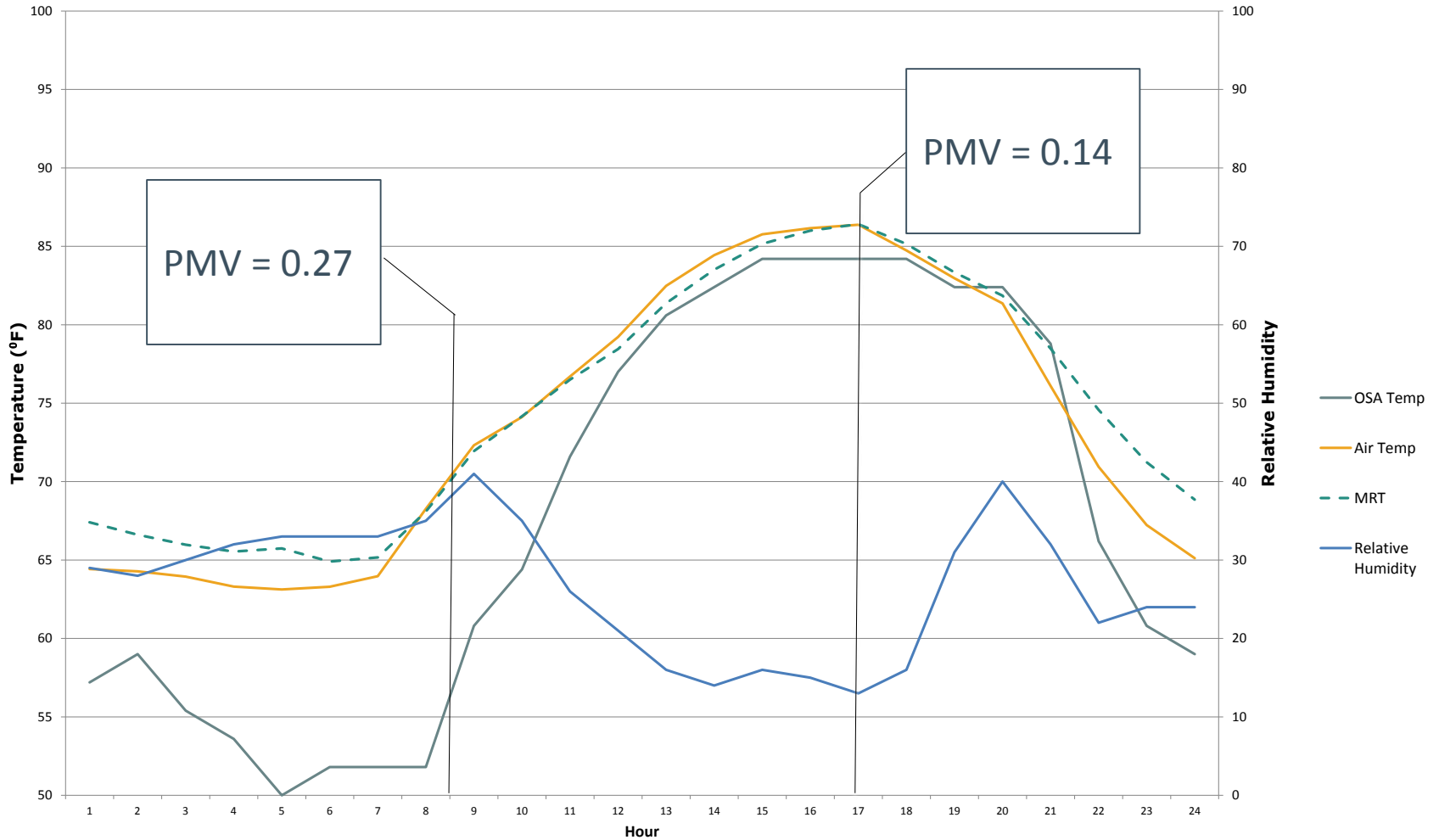
Morning		Afternoon	
Clo	1.0	Clo	0.57
Met	1.0	Met	1.0
Air Speed	19 FPM	Air Speed	200 FPM
PMV	-0.34	PMV	-0.85
Morning		Afternoon	
Clo	1.0	Clo	0.57
Met	1.7	Met	1.7
Air Speed	19 FPM	Air Speed	200 FPM
PMV	0.72	PMV	0.04
Morning		Afternoon	
Clo	0.57	Clo	1.0
Met	1.0	Met	1.0
Air Speed	19 FPM	Air Speed	200 FPM
PMV	-1.27	PMV	0.15
Morning		Afternoon	
Clo	0.57	Clo	1.00
Met	1.7	Met	1.7
Air Speed	19 FPM	Air Speed	200 FPM
PMV	0.26	PMV	0.77

Model Results

Thermal Comfort

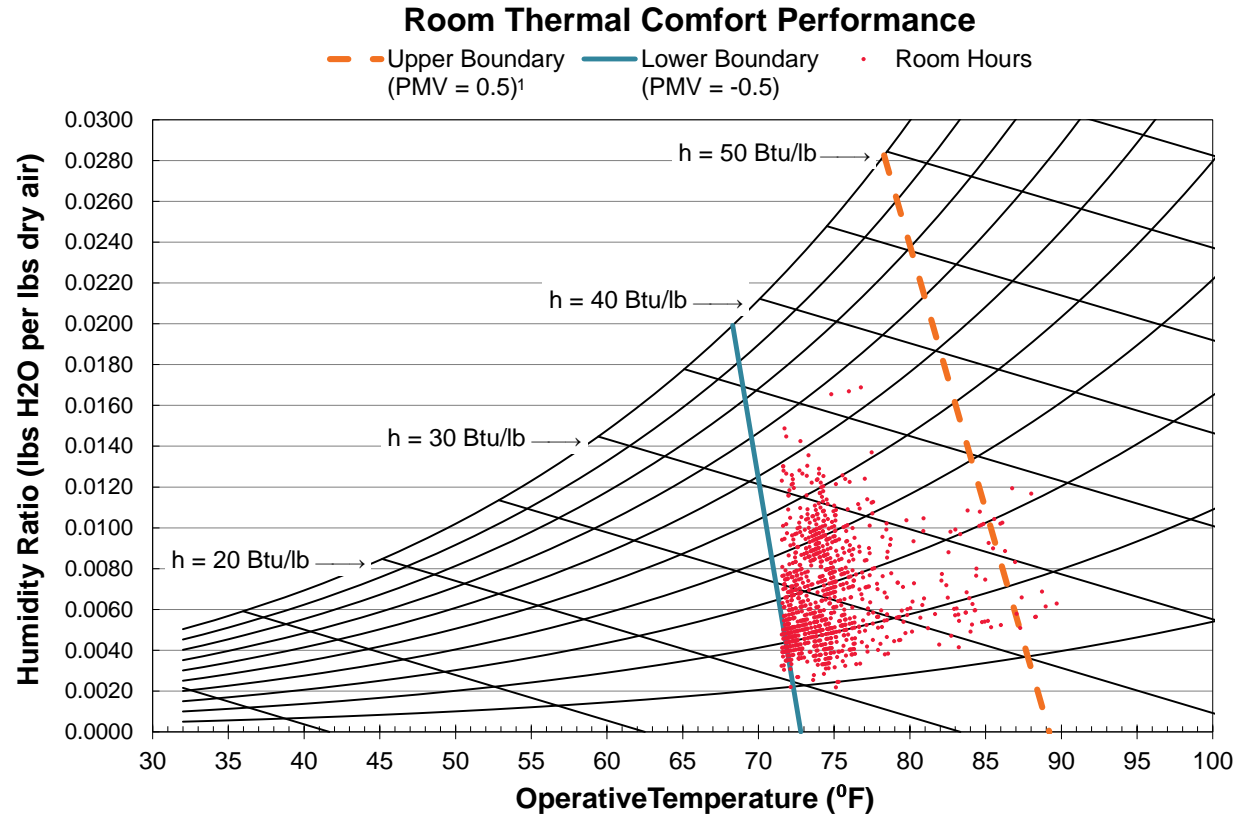


24 CONVENING 1-120 - convening exhaust fan



Model Results

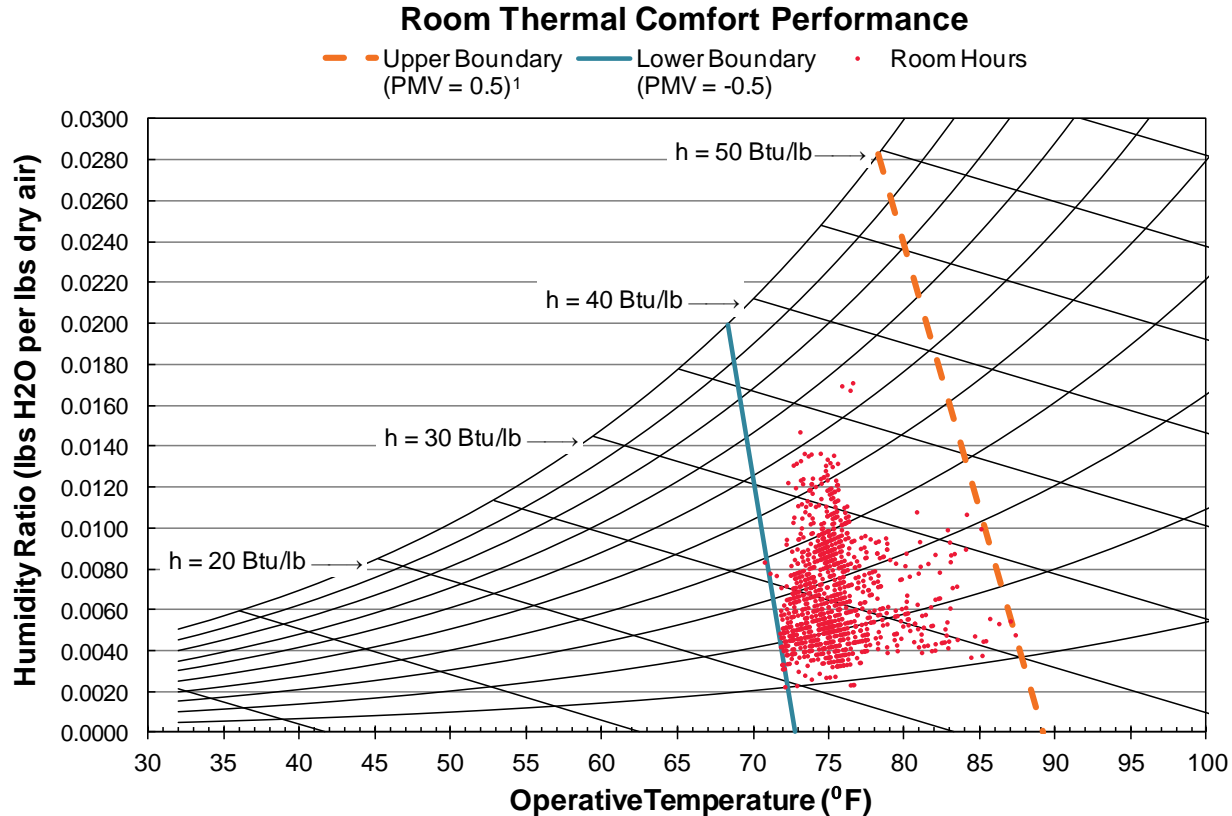
Thermal Comfort



1. Upper boundary is based on the Elevated Air Speed Model, ASHRAE Standard 55-2013 Appendix G

Model Results

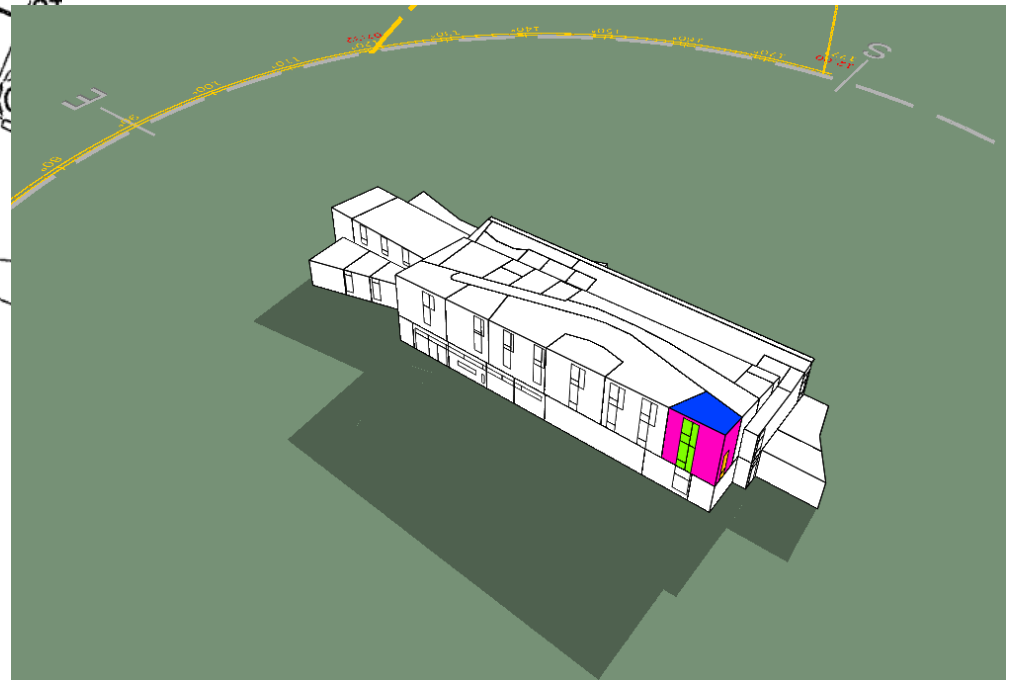
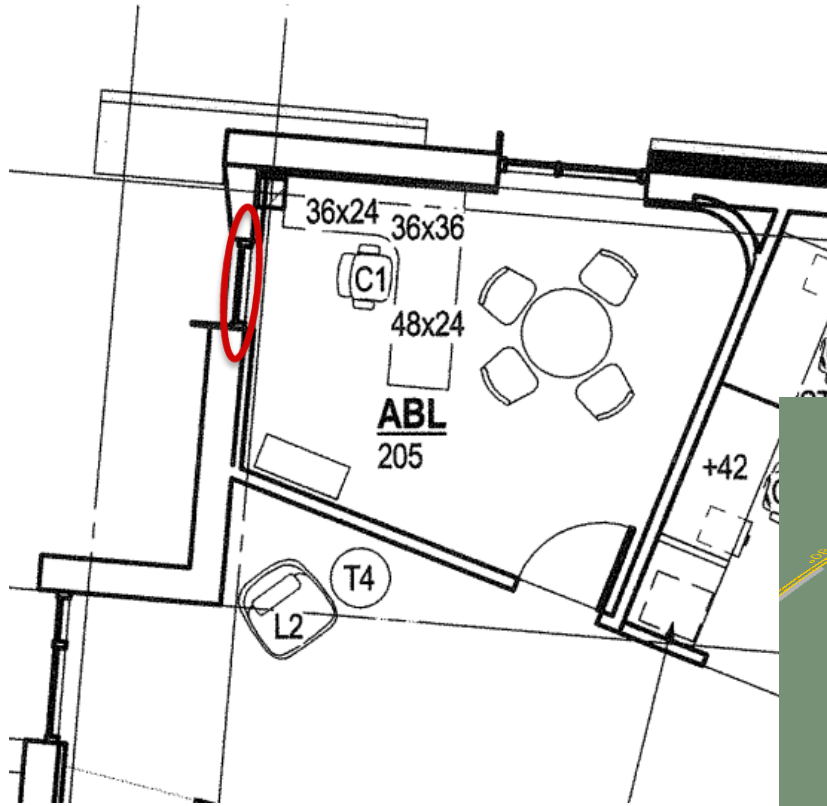
Thermal Comfort



1. Upper boundary is based on the Elevated Air Speed Model, ASHRAE Standard 55-2013 Appendix G

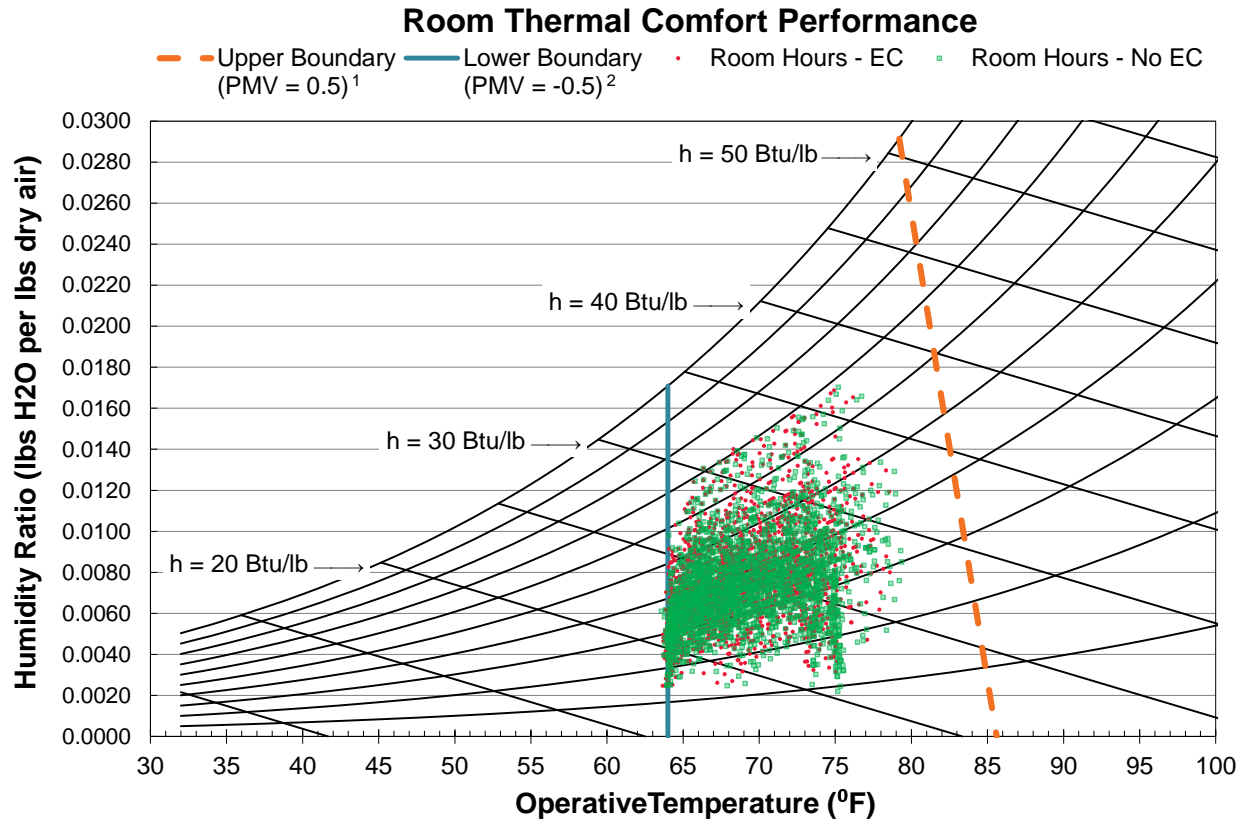
Model Results

Thermal Comfort



Model Results

Thermal Comfort

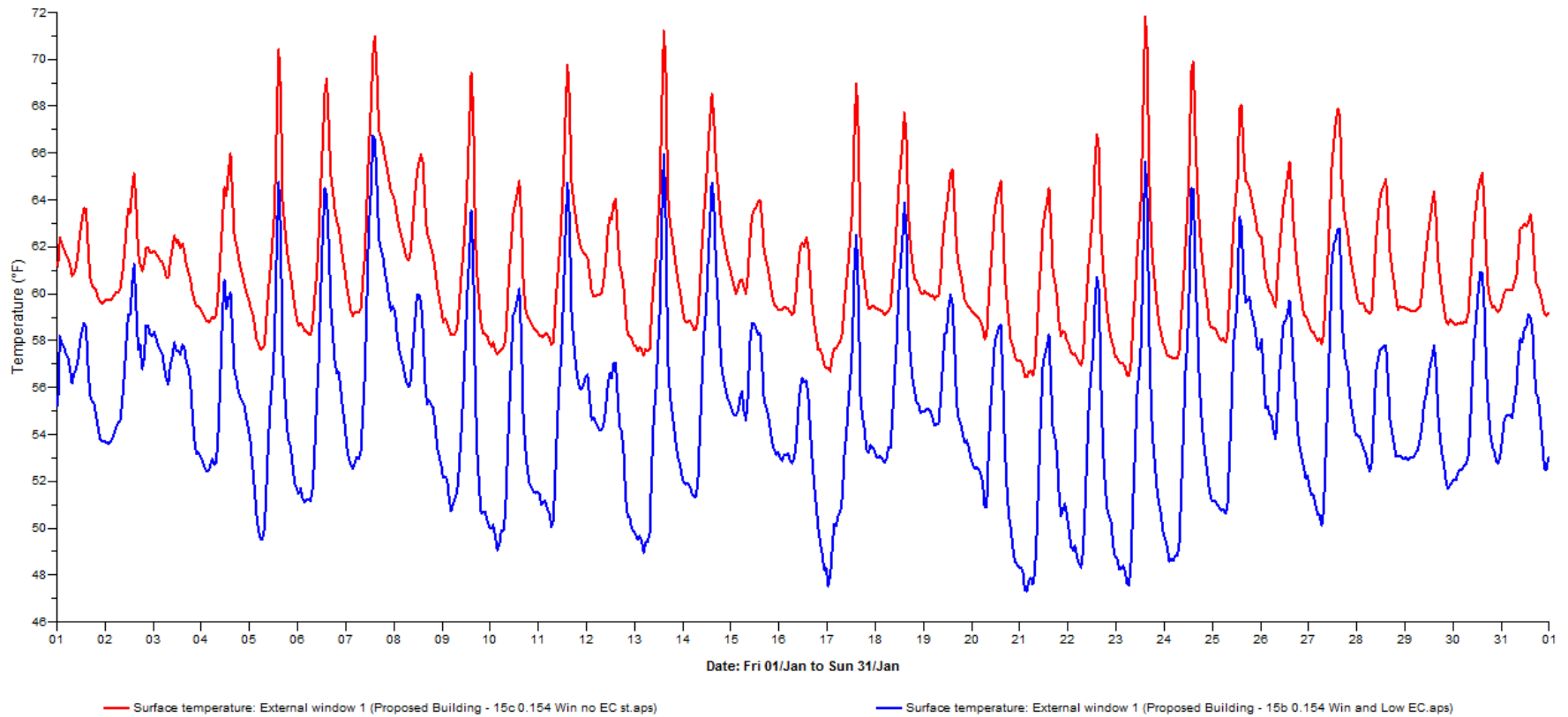


1. Upper boundary is based on the Elevated Air Speed Model, ASHRAE Standard 55-2013 Appendix G

2. Lower boundary is based on implementation of the CBE Personal Comfort System (Heated, Ventilated Chair)

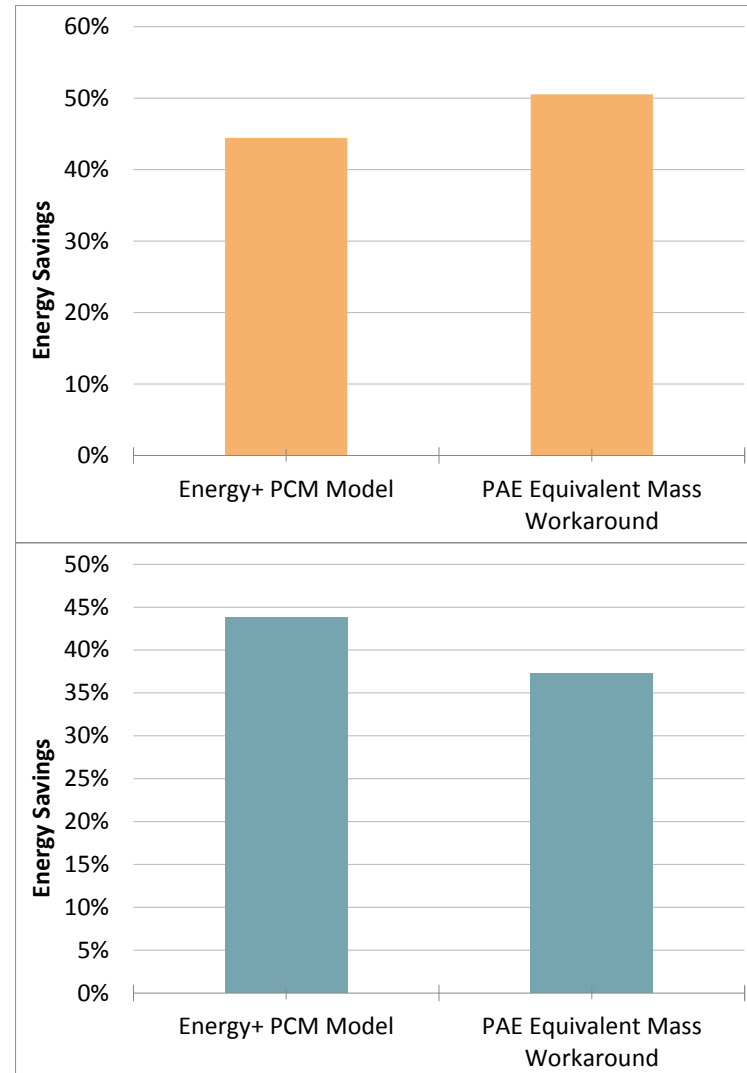
Model Results

Thermal Comfort



Model Results

Shortcomings/Workarounds - PCM



Model Results



Shortcomings/Workarounds

- Shading/EC Control



What else is new in Feature Pack 1?

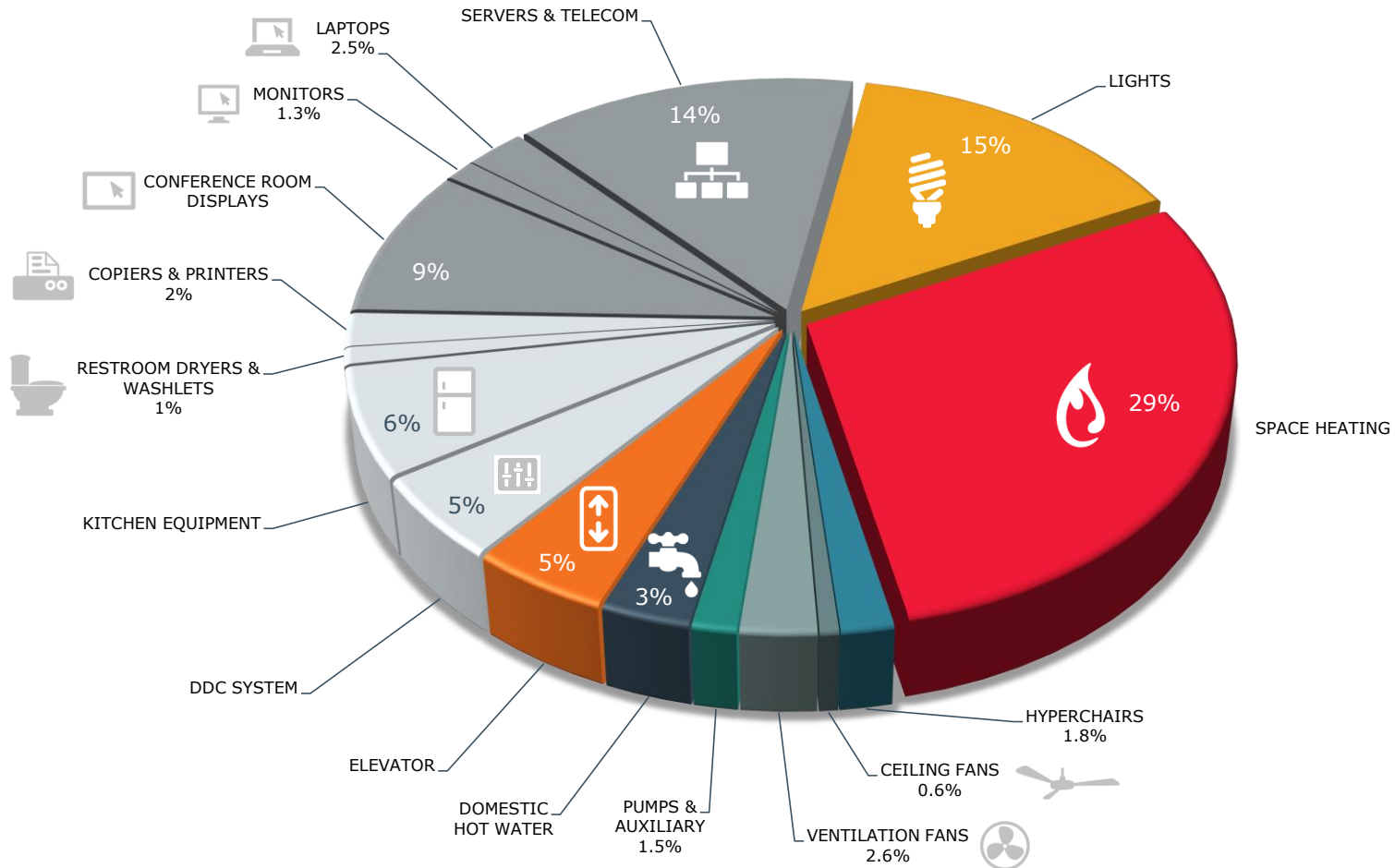
Electrochromic Glazing

- Glazed Constructions can be assigned electrochromic properties.
- Specify properties of the glazing when in clear mode and tinted mode and also operation schedule and formula for switching between modes based on variables e.g. incident irradiance on the window or room air temperature.

- Input Verification
- Parametric Runs

Model Results

Energy



An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest of evergreen trees, likely spruce or fir, covering a large area. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains, some with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The sky is a clear, deep blue with a few wispy clouds near the horizon. The overall scene is a natural, scenic landscape.

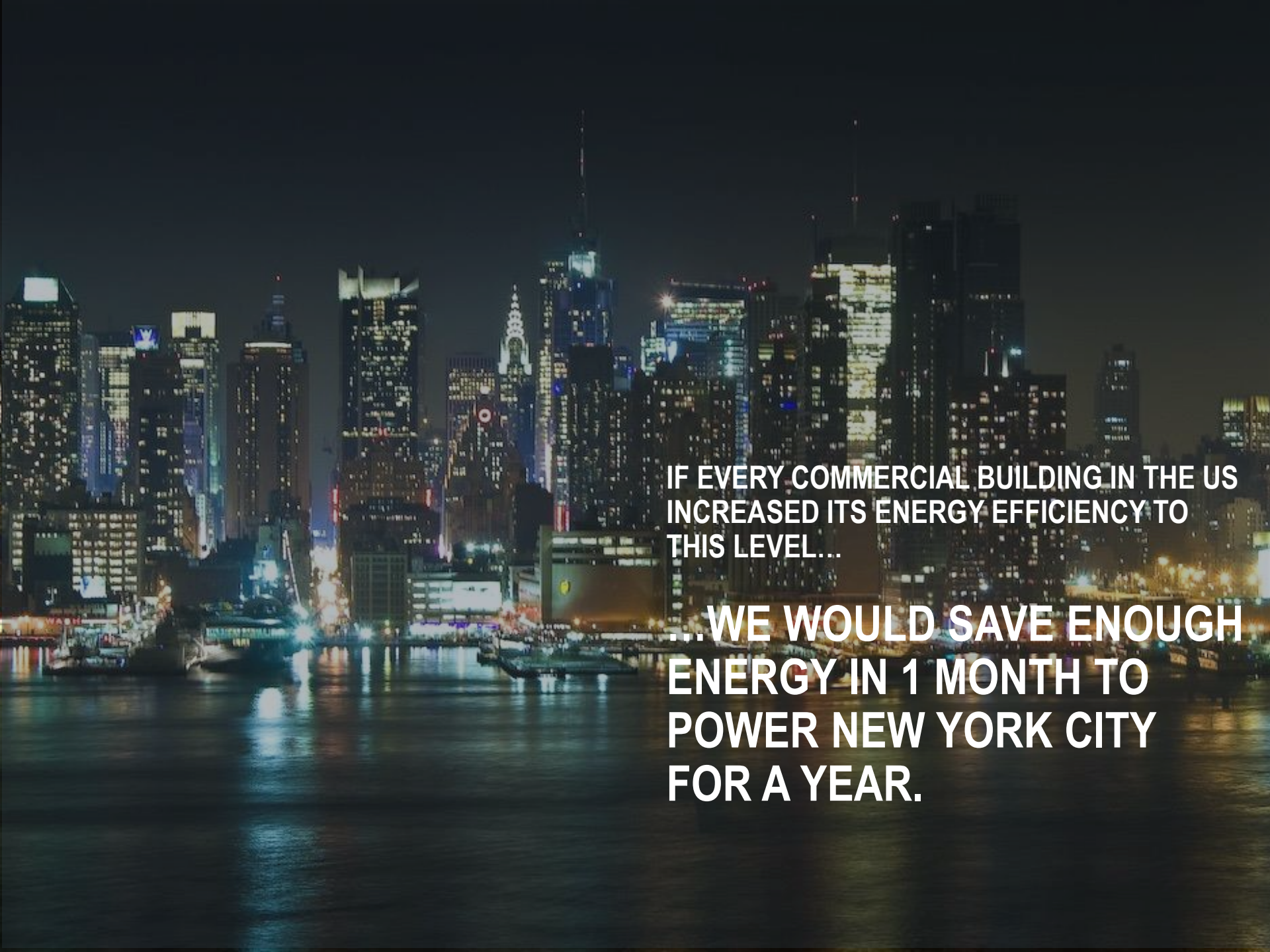
**IF ALL LOW- AND MID RISE BUILDINGS IN
THE US WERE CONSTRUCTED FROM
RECLAIMED COLORADO BEETLE-KILL
TIMBER...**

**...WE COULD MEET THE
NEW BUILDING DEMAND
FOR THE NEXT 17 YEARS.**

An aerial photograph of a large reservoir, likely Lake Mead, situated in a deep canyon. The water level is significantly lower than the surrounding rock formations, which are layered and reddish-brown. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding landscape is arid and rugged. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

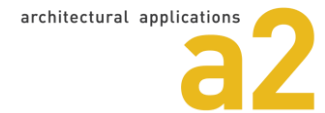
**IF ALL U.S. WORKERS REDUCED THEIR
WATER BY THESE AMOUNTS...**

**...WE WOULD SAVE AN
AMOUNT IN 2 MONTHS
EQUIVALENT TO THE
ANNUAL FLOW OF THE
COLORADO RIVER.**

A nighttime photograph of the New York City skyline, showing numerous illuminated skyscrapers and buildings along the Hudson River. The lights from the buildings are reflected in the water. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**IF EVERY COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN THE US
INCREASED ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO
THIS LEVEL...**

**...WE WOULD SAVE ENOUGH
ENERGY IN 1 MONTH TO
POWER NEW YORK CITY
FOR A YEAR.**



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ben.burnett@pae-engineers.com

John Breshears, Founder and President, Architectural Applications
jbreshears@architecturalapplications.com