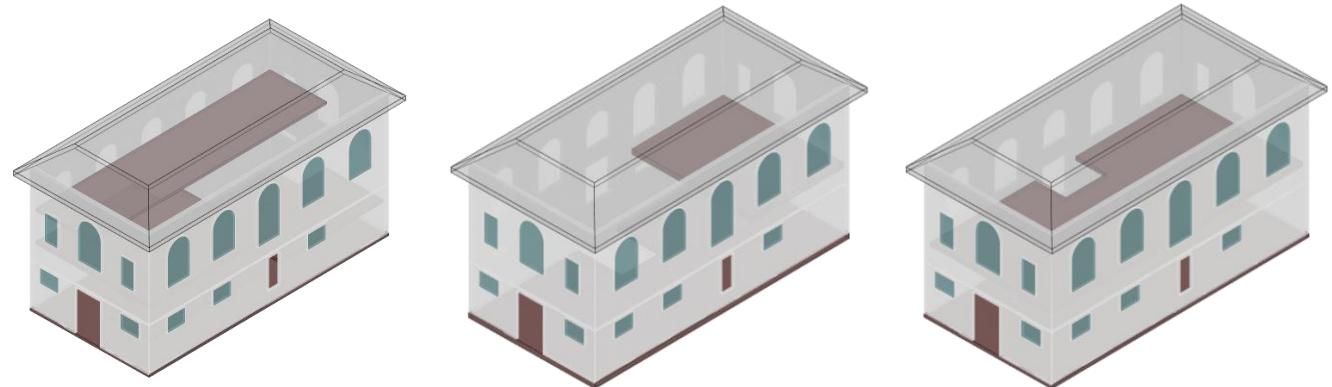


Design Space Exploration for High-Efficiency Building



Academic Project – Special Topic collaboration with Perkins and Will

Location – Atlanta, USA

Software Used – Rhino, Climate Consultant, Ladybug and Honeybee Tools

The project focuses on designing an exploration for retrofitting 792 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway NW, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The project is located in Climate Zone 3, with an area of 1,680 sqf.

The aim is to design exploration for building renovation to understand the tradeoff between occupancy (density), comfort and energy use intensity while balancing operational energy, reducing the overall carbon emission, and maintaining daylight performance (UDI/ASE). Additionally, explore rainwater harvesting potential.

PROBLEMS

- Leaky – Infiltration
- Glare
- Energy consumption
- Excess glare
- Limited changes – Historical building

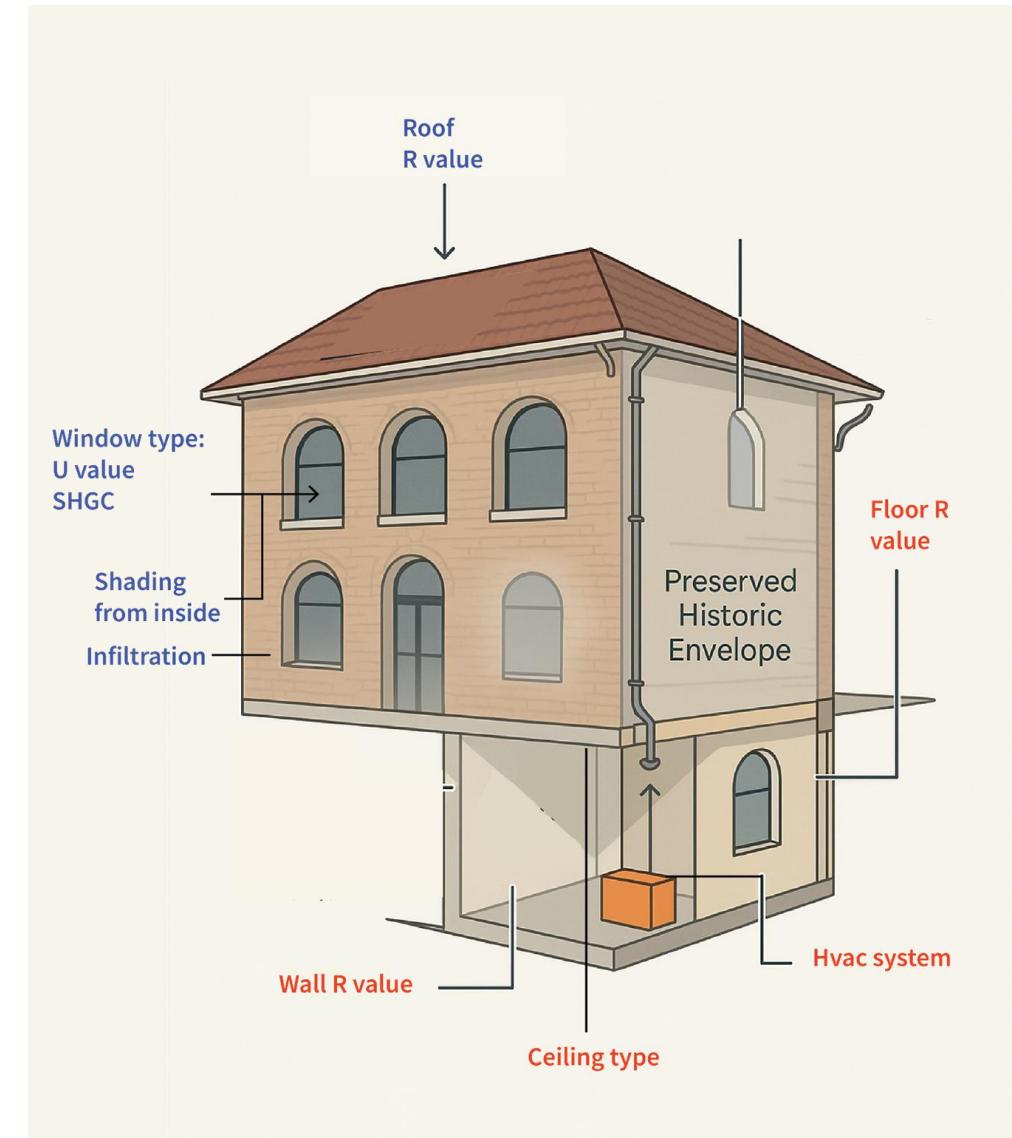
OPPORTUNITIES

- Height
- Occupancy (could be increased)
- Facade in good condition and can be upgraded
- Sufficient day lighting
- Potential to reduce radiation using indoor shades

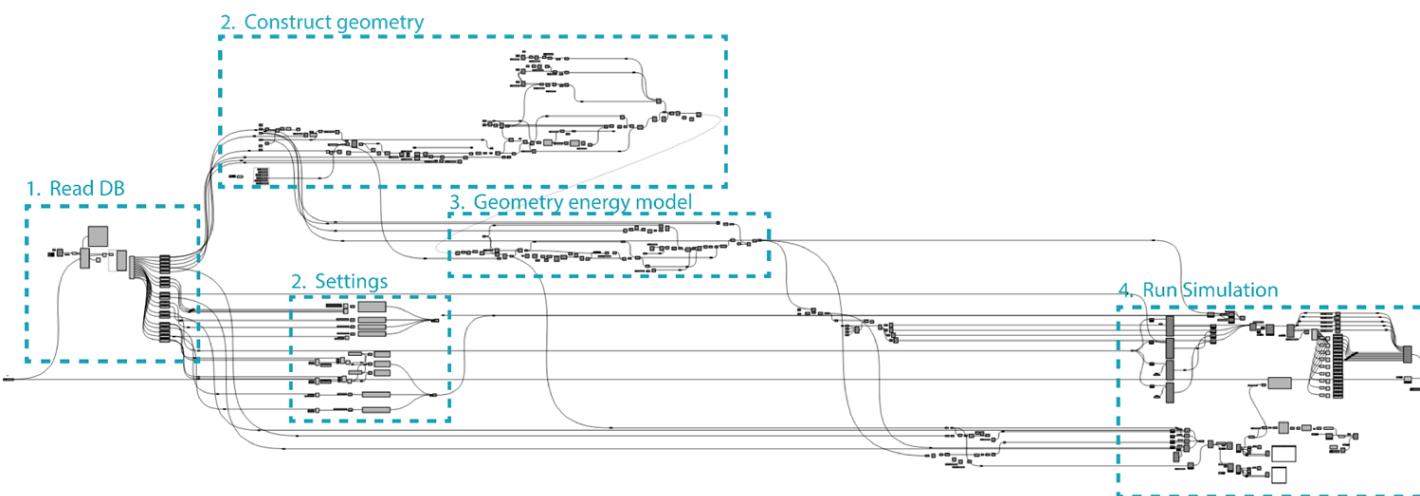
Category	Component	Upgrade / Enhancement	Purpose
Shell - Level	Roof	Retain existing roof (increase the insulation property)	Retain enhance performance without replacement
	Facade (Walls)	Preserved exterior (no thermal change externally)	Maintain historic character
Core - Level	Windows (Frames)	Retained historic frames (optional sealing upgrade)	Facade integrity + minor air infiltration fix
	Interior Walls	Interior Insulation (R-value upgrade)	Improve thermal resistance
	Ceiling / Roof Deck	Interior Roof Insulation (High R-value)	Reduce heat gain / loss from above
	Floors	Subfloor Insulation (R-value upgrade)	Minimize ground - contact thermal losses
	Windows (Glazing)	High-performance Glazing Inserts (lower U-value)	Enhance insulation without changing frames
	Interior HVAC / MEP	High-efficiency HVAC	Reduce operational energy demands

RETROFITTING STRATEGY:

“Preserve the shell. Reline the core. Retrofit from inside out.”

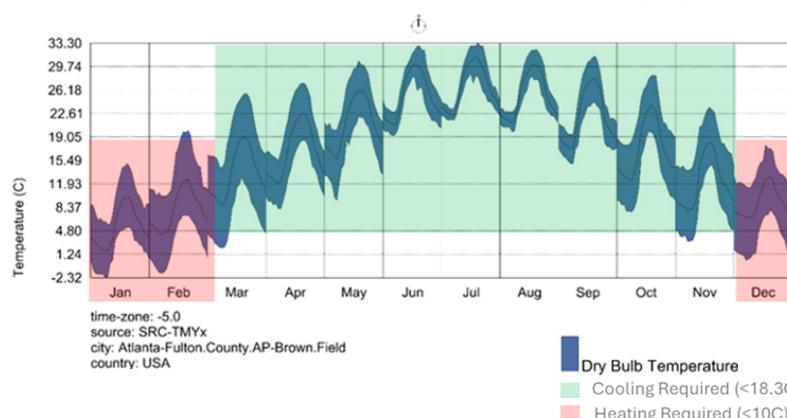
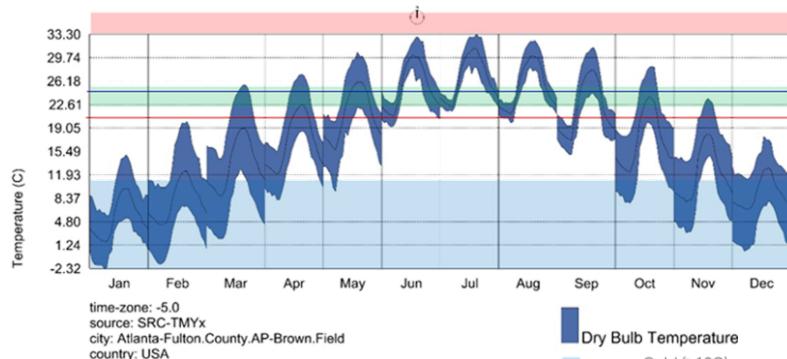


METHODOLOGY



Computationally designed to parametrize the entire workflow focusing on buildings total floor area, daylighting, energy performance, carbon emission and overall cost.

CLIMATE ASSESSMENT



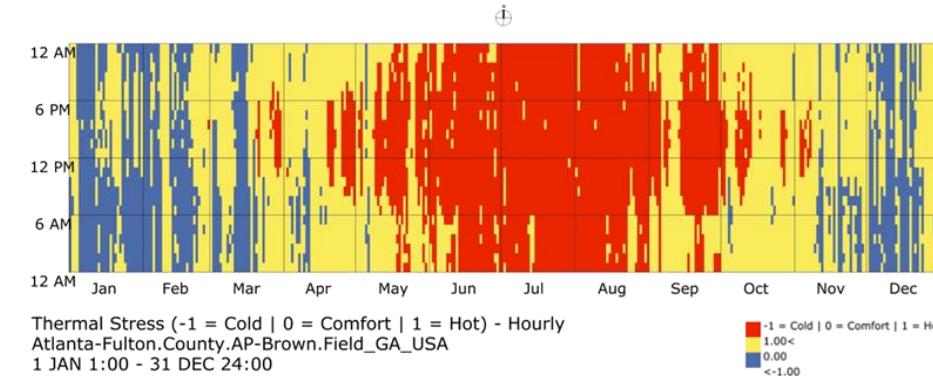
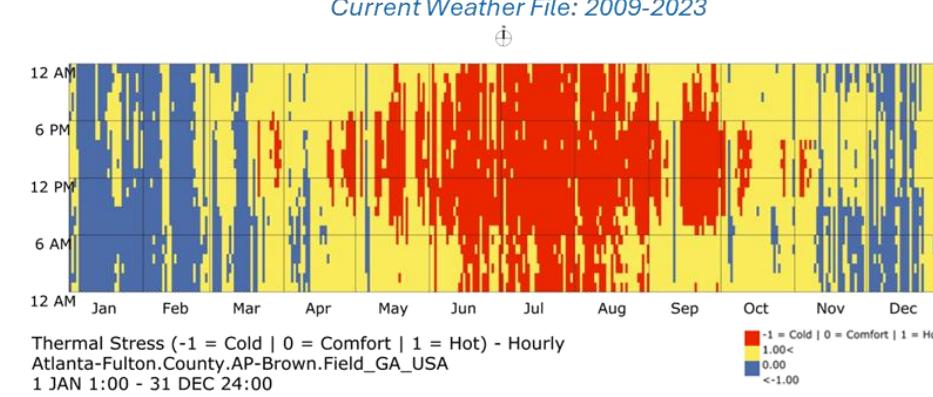
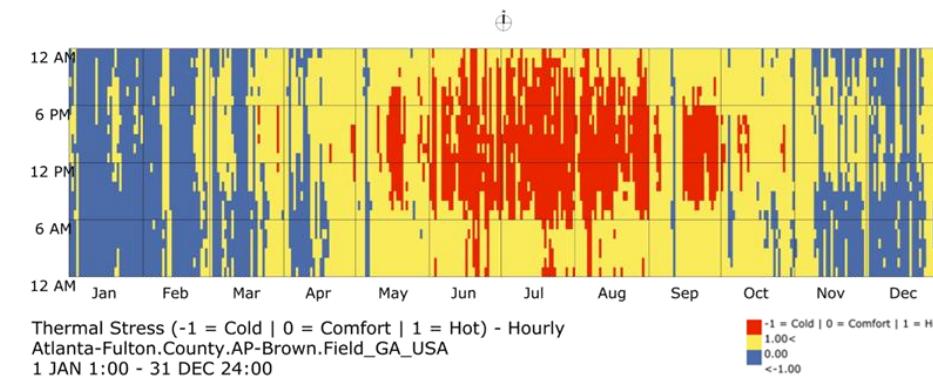
Summer temperatures:

Are within ASHRAE specified range while winter temperatures fall significantly below minimum (11.76°C below). Resulting heating systems required for winter comfort.

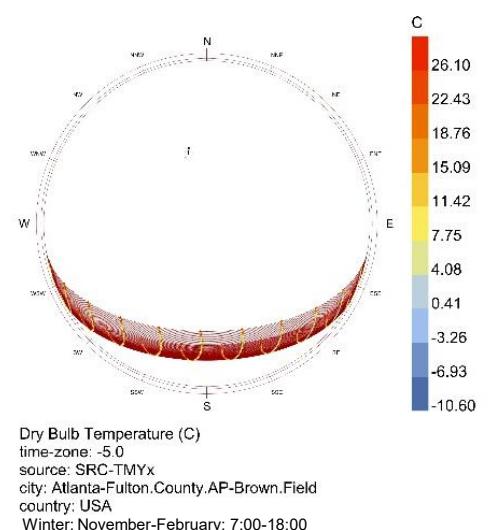
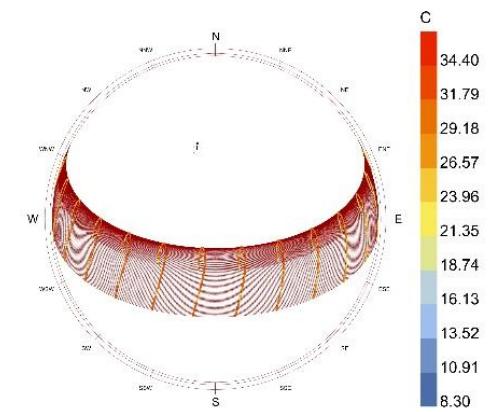
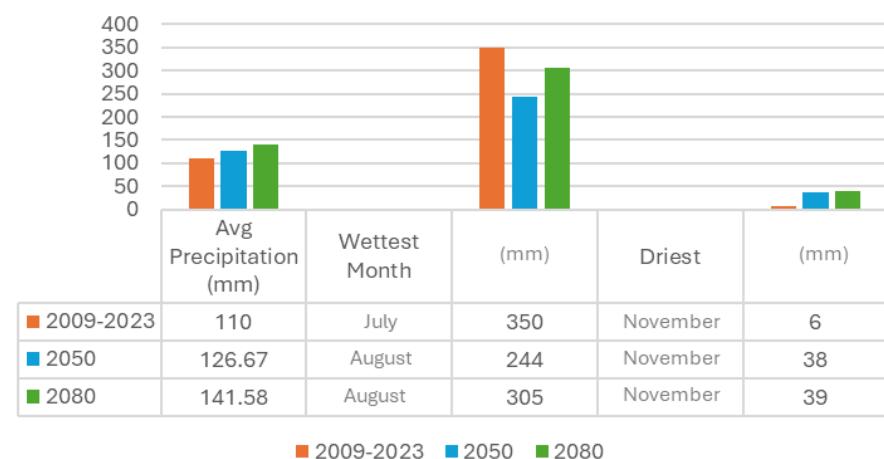
Humidity:

Both seasons exceed ASHRAE standard maximum of 60%. With summer at 13.22% above limit and winter: 3.44% above limit. Dehumidification needed year-round

According to ASHRAE Standard 55-2017, mechanical systems are required for both temperature and humidity control, with humidity control being the more significant challenge throughout the year.



Average Rainfall



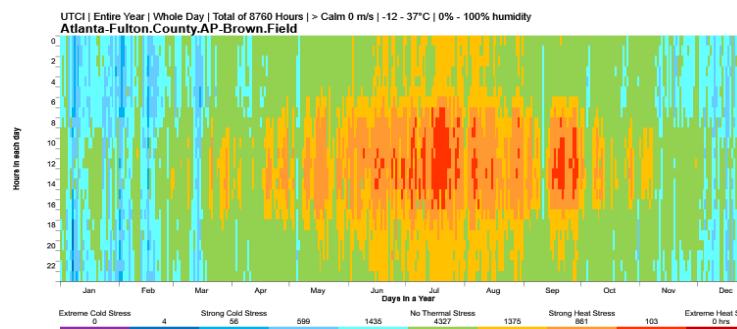
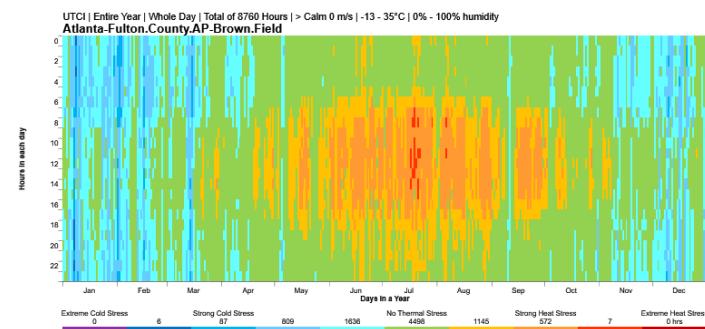
Average annual temperature will increase by +1.6°C by 2050. However, by 2080 the average temperature will increase by +3°C.

- ASHRAE climate zone shifts from Warm (3) to Hot (2) by 2080
- Thermal stress graphs show expansion of hot periods (red areas) in summer months
- Winter cold stress periods (blue areas) decrease significantly
- Comfort periods (yellow areas) shift seasonally.

Significant change in the seasonal distribution of rainfall, a trend toward wetter conditions.

ASSUMPTIONS

Weather Files



Space and Schedule

Space program: Office

Space Use

People:

- People Density [P/m²]: 0.2
- Metabolic Rate [met]: 1.2
- Occupancy Schedule: 8am-6pm Weekdays with DST
- Airspeed Schedule [m/s]: AirSpeed 0
- Clothing [clo]: Dynamic Clothing Model ASHRAE55

Equipment:

- Equipment Power Density [W/m²]: 8.1
- Equipment Availability Schedule: equipOffice

Lighting:

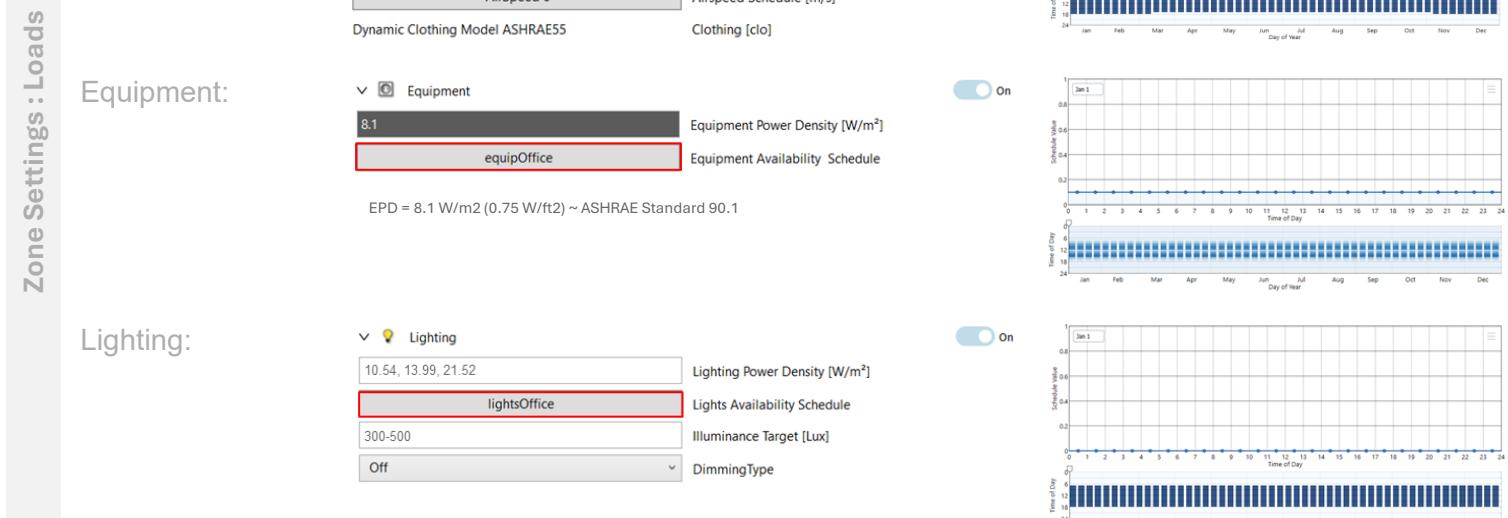
- Lighting Power Density [W/m²]: 10.54, 13.99, 21.52
- Lights Availability Schedule: lightsOffice
- Illuminance Target [Lux]: 300-500
- DimmingType: Off

Thermostat:

- HeatingSetpoint [°C]: 20
- CoolingSetpoint [°C]: 27

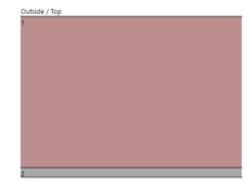
Mechanical System:

- Min Fresh Air Person [L/s/p]: 2.5
- Min Fresh Air Area [L/s/m²]: 0.3



ASSUMPTIONS

Envelope - Wall



Base Case



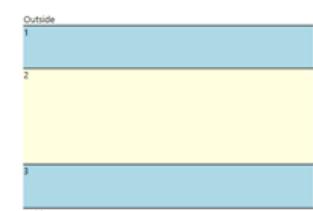
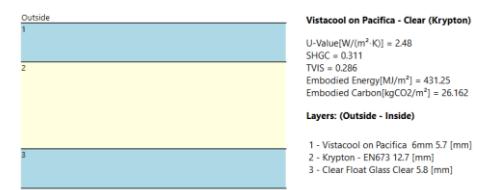
Envelope - Wall



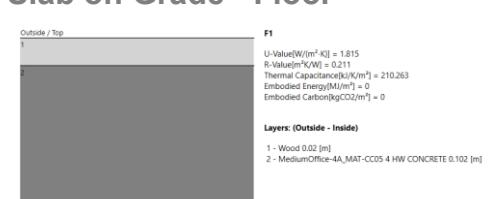
Base Case



Envelope - Glazing



Slab on Grade - Floor

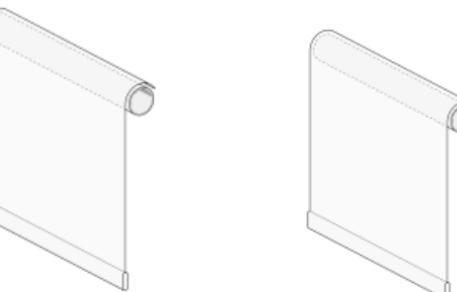


Air Infiltration

Infiltration

Air Changes per Hour: InfiltrationAch [ACH]

Interior Shading Material



Sunvision Ecru

Inset	5.08 cm
Permeability	14 %
VLT	35 %
VLR	59 % / 59 %

Golden low-E fabric WBI2W

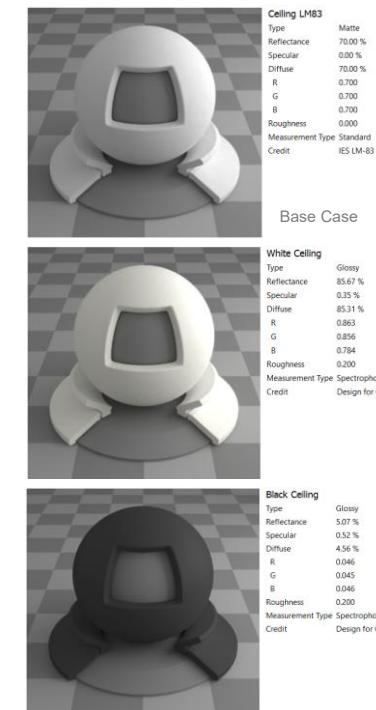
Inset	5.08 cm
Permeability	1 %
VLT	1 %
VLR	44 % / 44 %

Interior Shading	On (1) / Off (2)
If On	Option1, Option 2

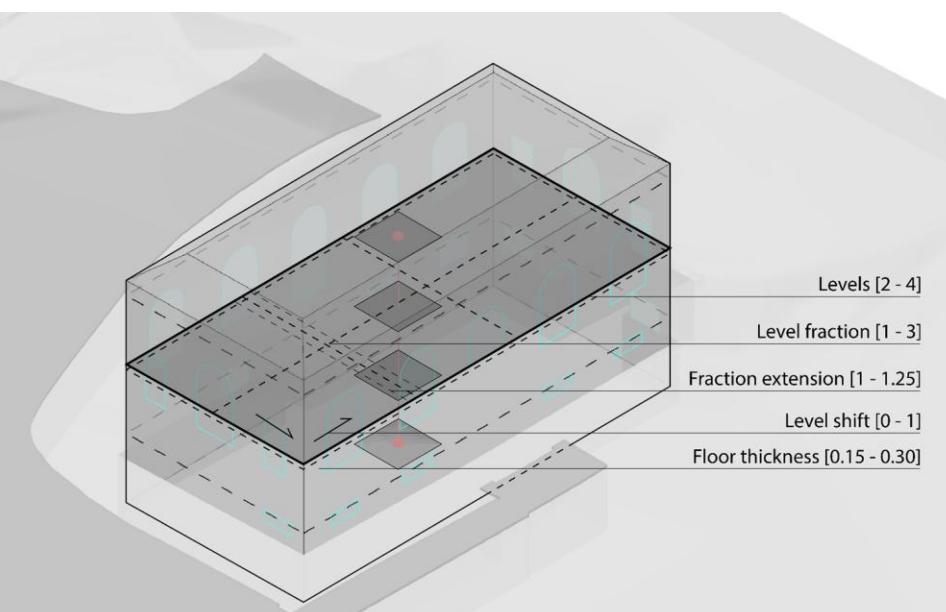
Daylight Analysis Work-plane

0.8 Workplane Height [m]

Ceiling



Building geometry settings



Levels [2, 3 ,4]

Total height divided by the amount of desired levels.

Level fraction [1, 2, 3]

Subdivision ratio of floors based on total length.

Fraction extension [1, 1.1, 1.25]

Percentage of level fraction extension based on subdivision parameter.

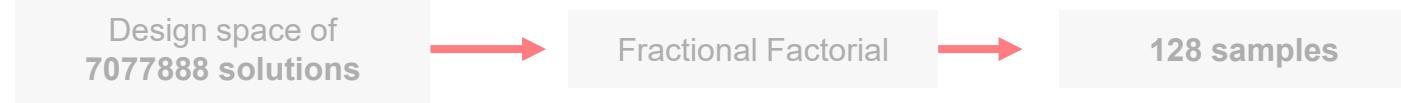
Level shift [0, 1]

Shift of the level fraction positioning.

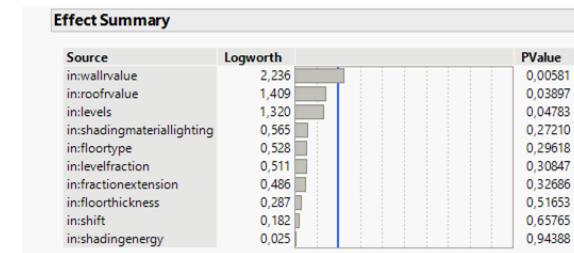
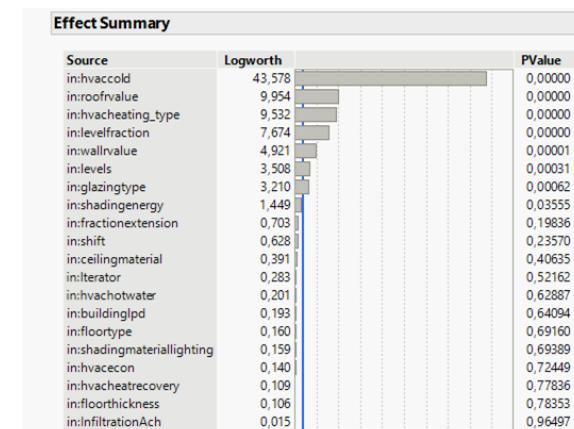
Floor thickness [0.15, 0.20, 0.30]

DESIGN SPACE CONSTRUCTION

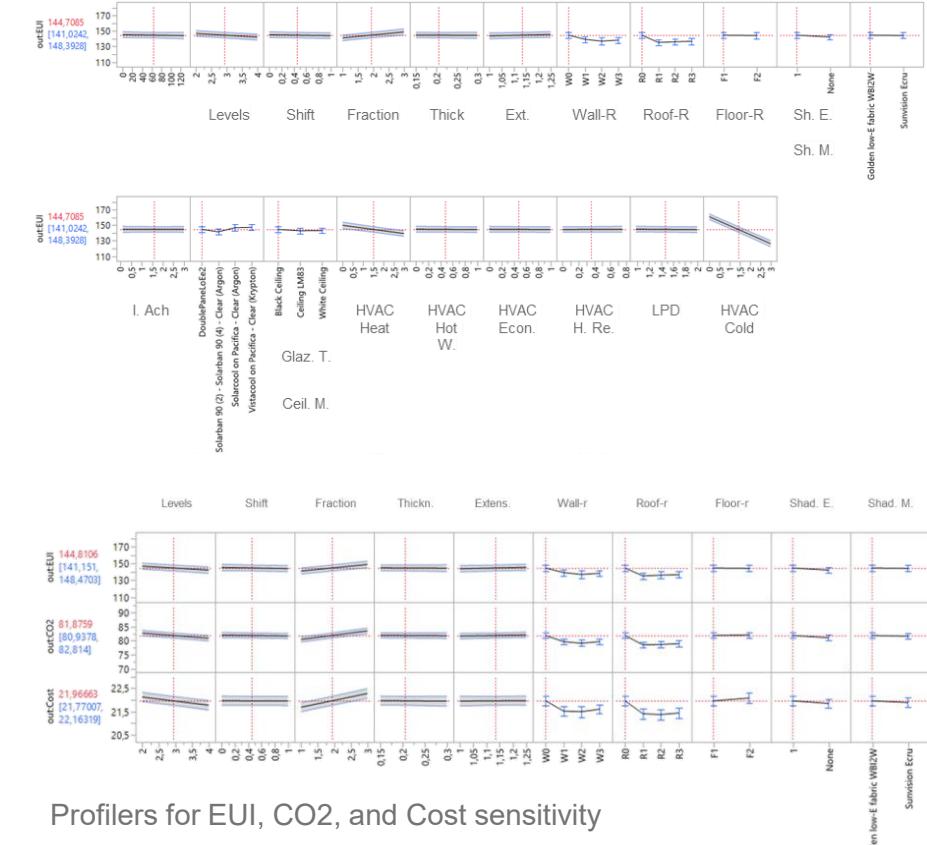
PARAMETER	VALUES	TOTAL
Exterior Wall R-Value	[0.231, 13.771, 17.156, 20.541]	(4)
Exterior Roof R-Value	[0.004, 21.364, 30.442, 40.054]	(4)
Interior Floor R-Value	[0.211, 8.004]	(2)
Interior Ceiling Reflectance (%)	[70, 85.67, 5.07]	(3)
Glazing U-value	[2.48, 1.493, 0.66, 2.53]	(4)
Glazing SHGC	[0.311, 0.373, 0.16, 0.206]	(4)
Interior Shading	[0, 1]	(2)
Shading Permeability (%)	[14, 1]	(2)
Shading VLT (%)	[35, 1]	(2)
Air Infiltration	[0.1, 1.5, 3.0]	(3)
HVAC Heating Nat_Gas COP	[0.83, 0.95]	(2)
HVAC Cooling Nat_Gas COP	[0.7, 1.2]	(2)
HVAC Heating Electricity COP	[3.1, 4.5]	(2)
HVAC Cooling Electricity COP	[3.8, 5.3]	(2)
Domestic Hot Water type	[0, 1]	(2)
HVAC Economizer	[0, 1]	(2)
HVAC Heat Recovery	[0, 1]	(2)
Building LPD	[13.99, 10.54, 21.52]	(3)
Building EPD	[8.1]	(1)



RESULTS - Analysis for EUI, Energy Model

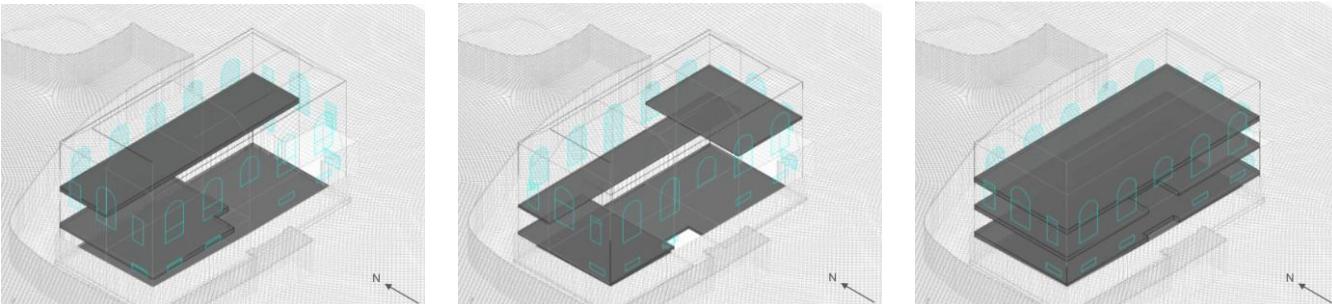


Sensitivity analysis



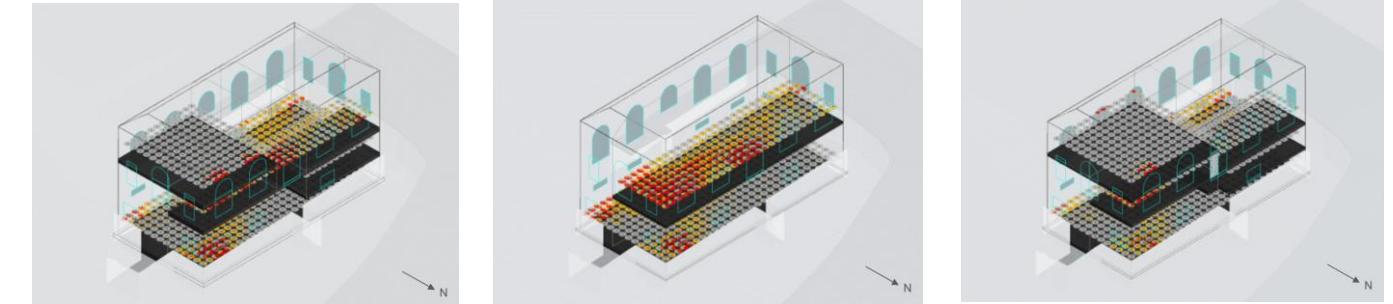
Profilers for EUI, CO2, and Cost sensitivity

RESULTS – FLOOR AREA



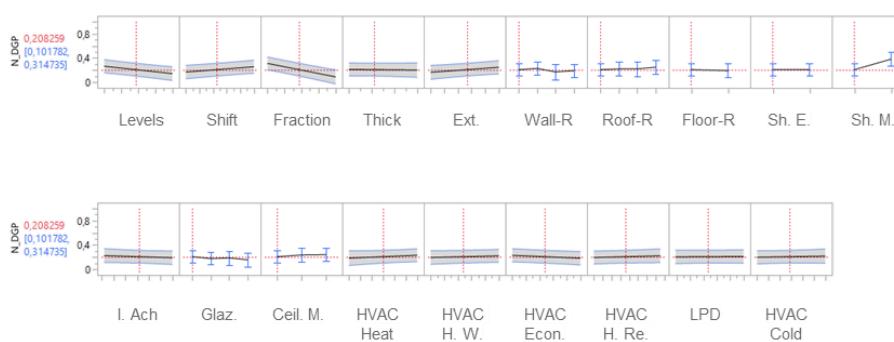
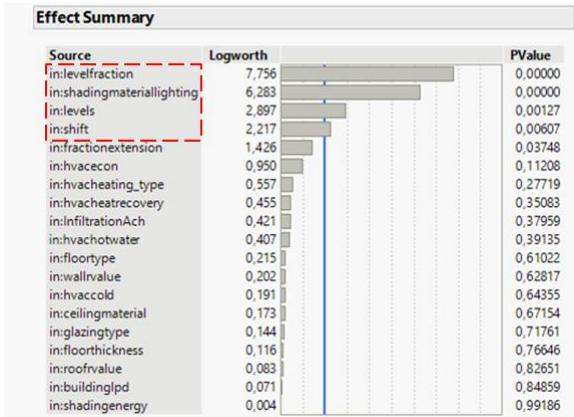
out:EUI	out:Baseline	out:CO2	out:Cost	out:Area
180,66	283,91	91,17	22,66	183,78
151,46	283,91	82,15	21,47	537,89
150,79	283,91	81,94	21,44	537,89
147,32	283,91	80,87	21,3	537,89
143,16	283,91	79,97	21,3	537,89
164,69	283,91	86,24	22,01	268,95
139,89	283,91	78,57	20,99	537,89
137,19	283,91	77,88	20,94	537,89
154,22	283,91	84,44	22,2	302,56
140,19	283,91	78,67	21,01	537,89
150,93	283,91	83,15	21,95	268,95

RESULTS – DGP

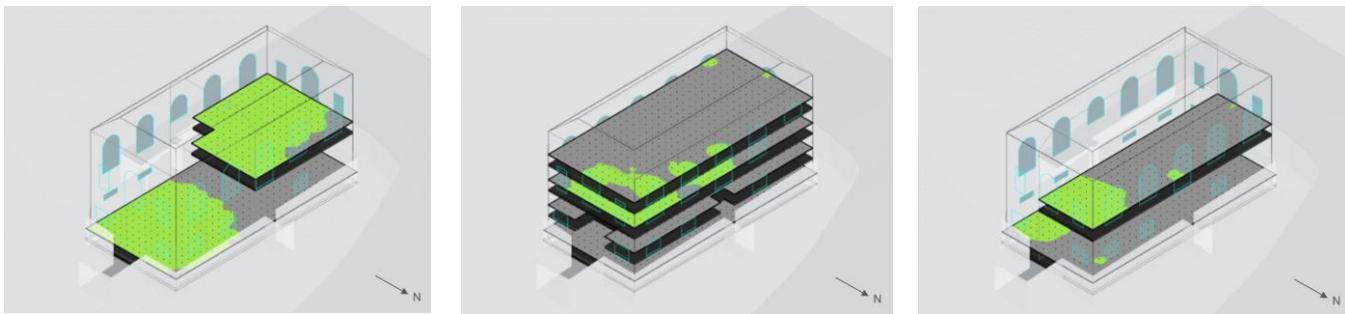


out:dgp_0	out:dgp_1	out:dgp_2	out:dgp_3
7,82	6,39	0	0
0,03	2,21	0,05	5,86
0	2,23	0,06	6,94
0	2,22	0,05	5,95
0	2,35	0,08	7,35
9,24	0,74	0	0
0	2,22	0,07	5,53
0	2,2	0,08	5,93
1,38	3,57	0,57	1,09
0	2,35	0,07	7,17
13,89	0,74	0	0

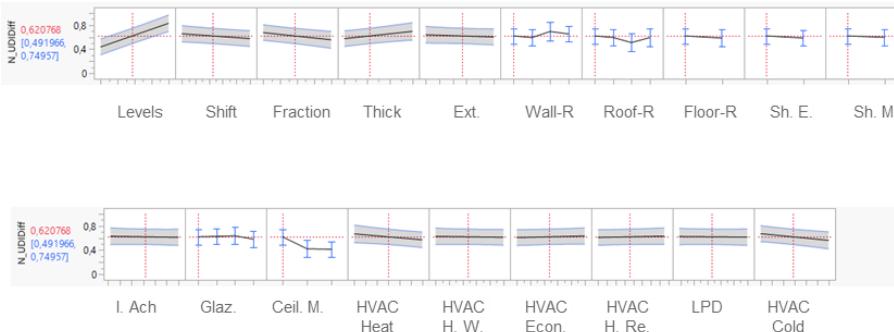
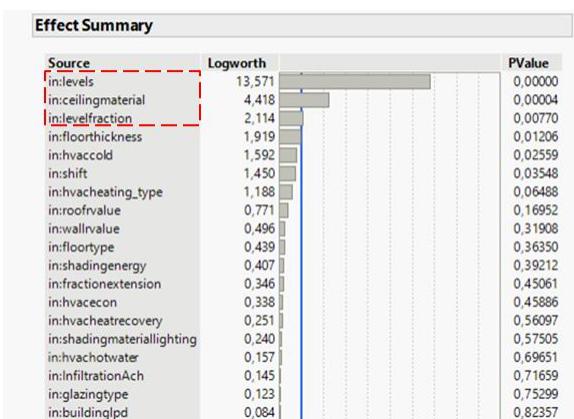
RESULTS – ANALYSIS FOR MAXIMUM DGP



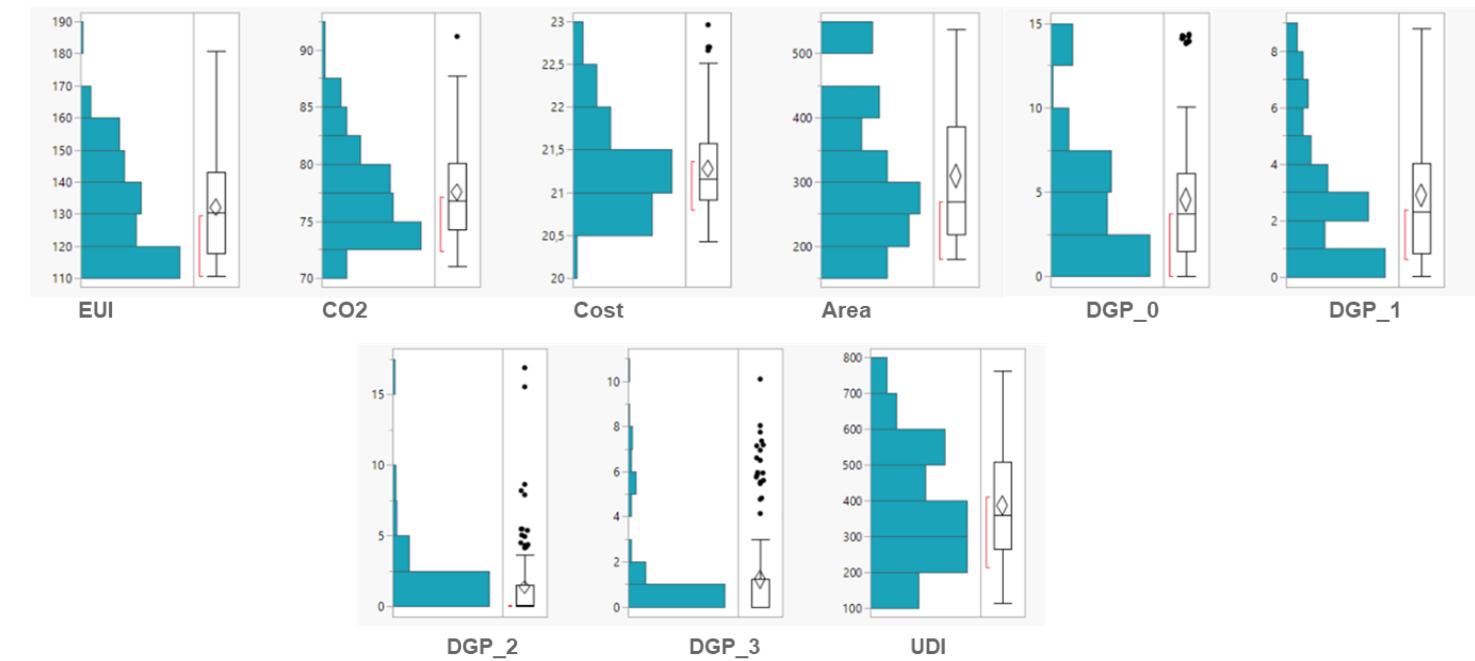
RESULTS – UDI



out:EUI	out:Baseline
761,31	0,67
118,69	0,98
204,28	0,76
171,15	0,85
214,01	0,74
362,16	0,35
115,09	0,99
114,8	1
189,72	0,8
194,82	0,78
409,36	0,23



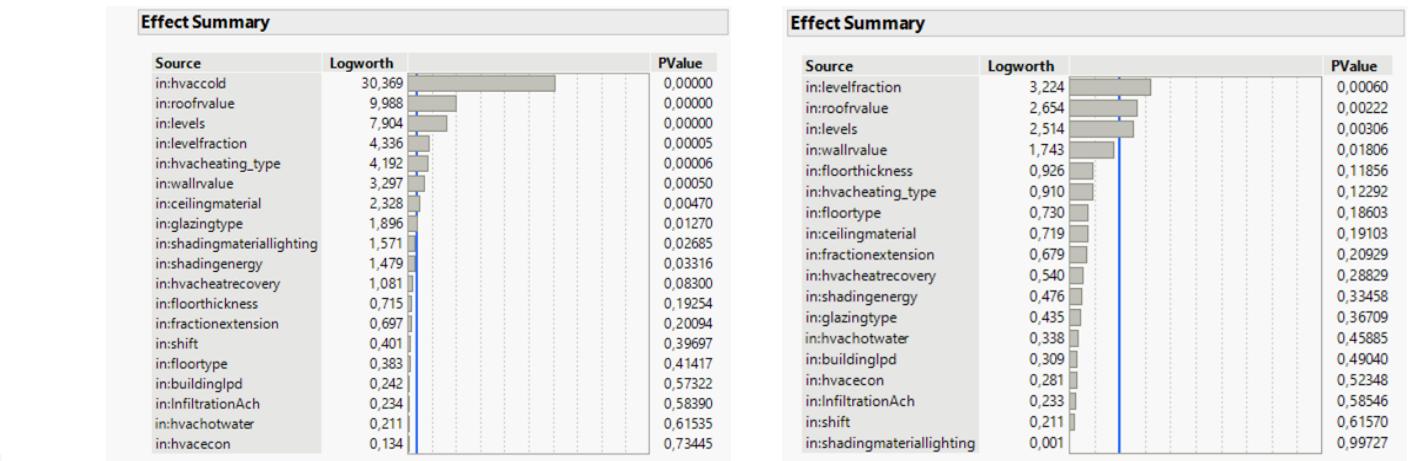
RESULTS – RESULT DISTRIBUTION



RESULTS – WEIGHTED SUM SCORE

Weights	Site EUI	CO2	Area	Cost	UDI	DGP
	27.5%	12.5%	15%	10%	17.5%	17.5%

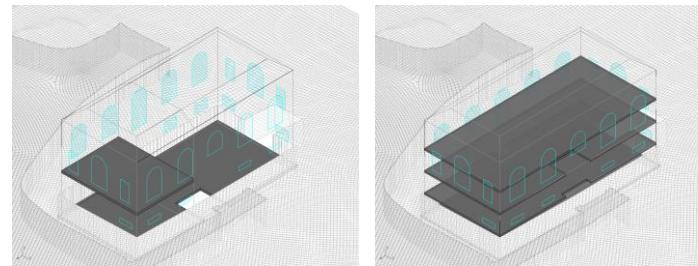
$$(EUI * 0,275) + (CO2 * 0,125) + (Area * 0,15) + (Cost * 0,1) + (UDI_Diff * 0,175) + (DGP * 0,175)$$



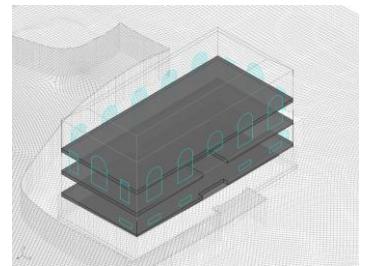
Removing HVAC_Cold

Analysis shows that cooling is the most demanding factor followed by roof and wall insulation. While the no of floors (level fraction) makes significant change in the overall EPI, DGI and DGP

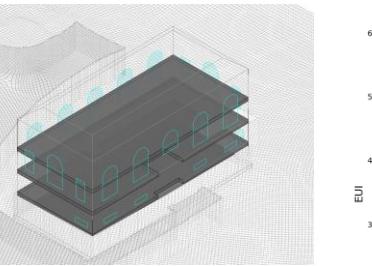
RESULTS – TOP 8 BASED ON WEIGHTED SCORE



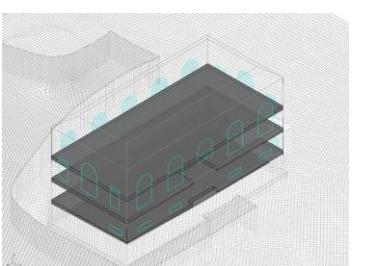
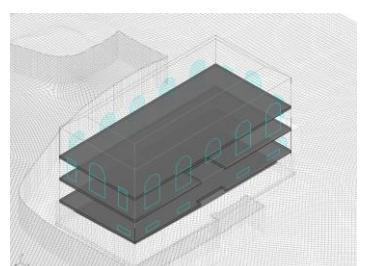
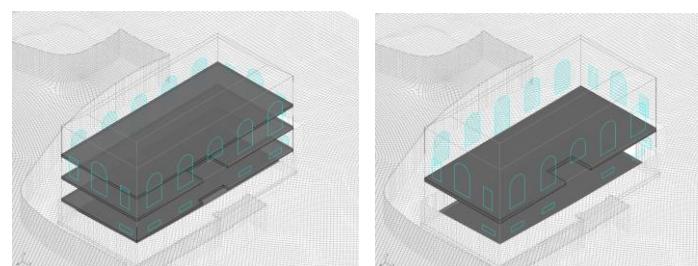
Iter	50	Iter	62	Iter	113	Iter	126
EUI	180,66	EUI	151,46	EUI	150,79	EUI	147,32
CO2	91,17	CO2	82,15	CO2	81,94	CO2	80,87
Cost	22,66	Cost	21,47	Cost	21,44	Cost	21,3
Area	183,78	Area	537,89	Area	537,89 <th>Area</th> <td>537,89</td>	Area	537,89



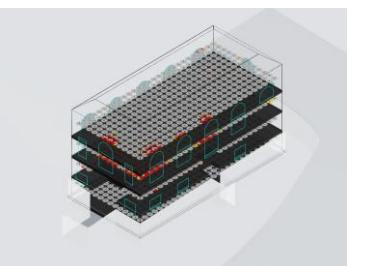
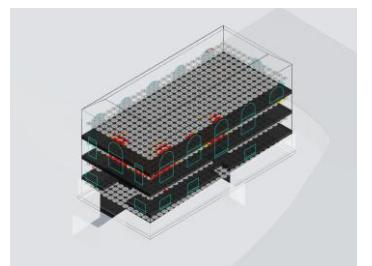
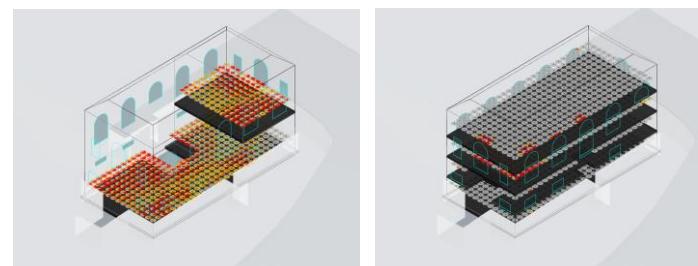
Iter	113	Iter	126
EUI	150,79	EUI	147,32
CO2	81,94	CO2	80,87
Cost	21,44	Cost	21,3
Area	537,89	Area	537,89



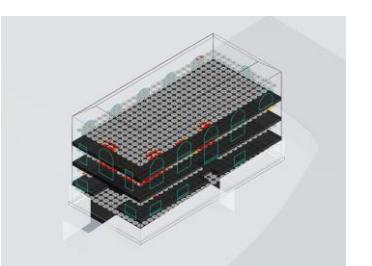
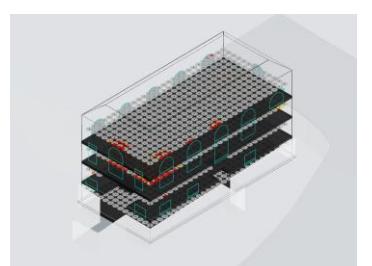
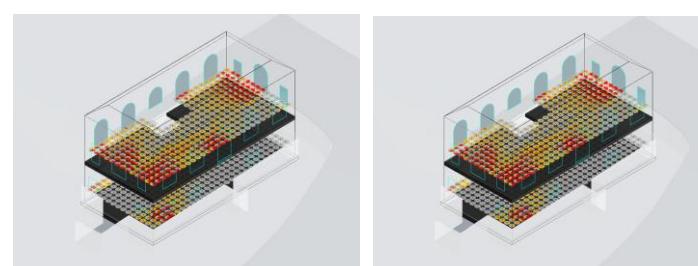
Iter	126
EUI	147,32
CO2	80,87
Cost	21,3
Area	537,89



Iter	95	Iter	84	Iter	125	Iter	15
EUI	143,16	EUI	164,69	EUI	139,89	EUI	137,19
CO2	79,97	CO2	86,24	CO2	78,57	CO2	77,88
Cost	21,3	Cost	22,01	Cost	20,99	Cost	20,94
Area	537,89	Area	268,95	Area	537,89	Area	537,89

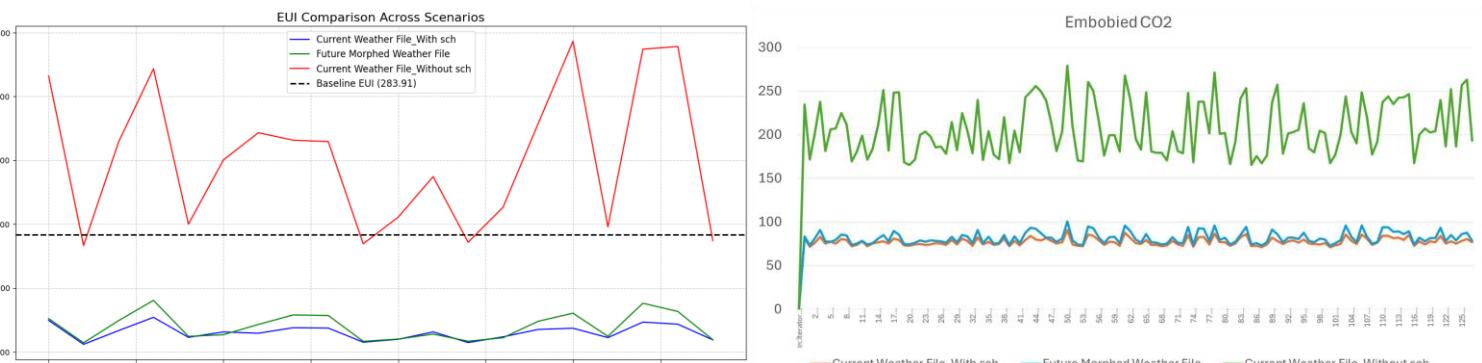


Iter	50	Iter	62	Iter	113	Iter	126
DGP_N	0,38	DGP_N	0,24	DGP_N	0,32	DGP_N	0,25



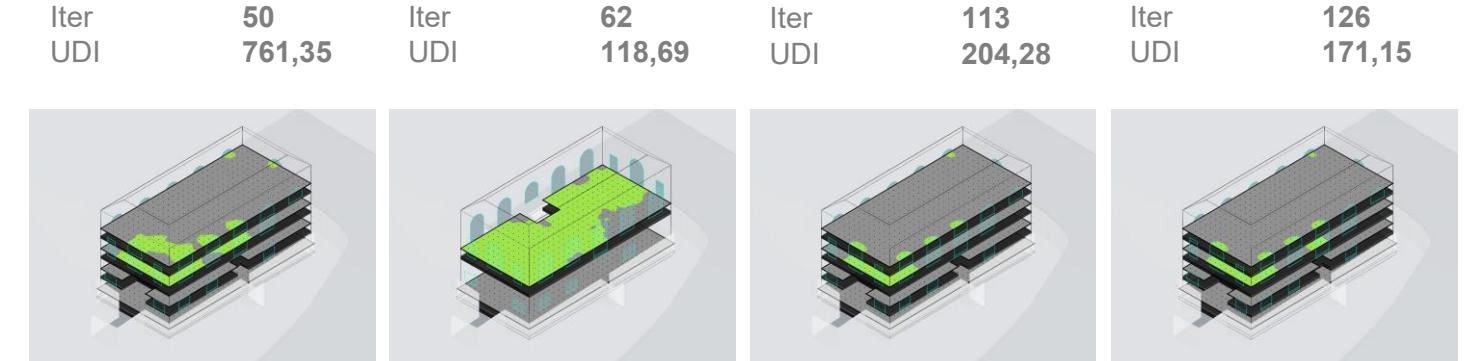
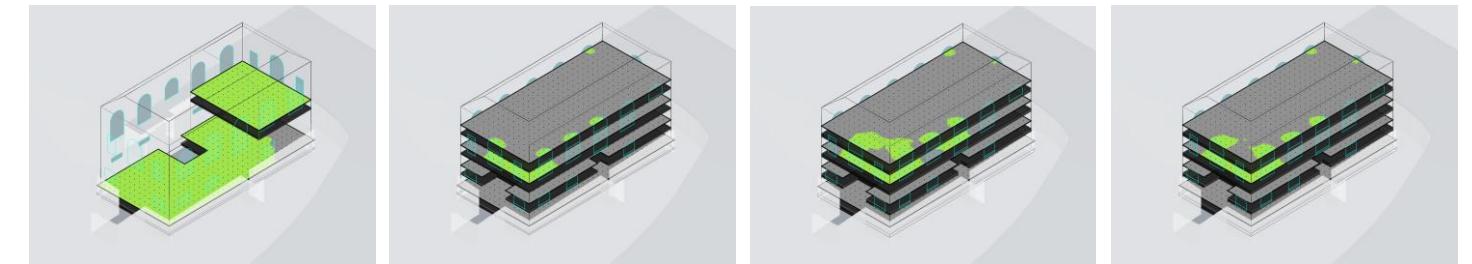
Iter	95	Iter	84	Iter	125	Iter	15
DGP_N	0,34	DGP_N	0,47	DGP_N	0,22	DGP_N	0,25

FLEXIBILITY AND FUTURE PROOFING



Iteration: 100

Case	Baseline	Minimum	Improvement
Current Weather file with Schedule	283.91	110.51	60.93%
Current Weather file without Schedule	283.91	113.35	60.08%
Future Morphed Weather file with Schedule	283.91	257.46	9.32%

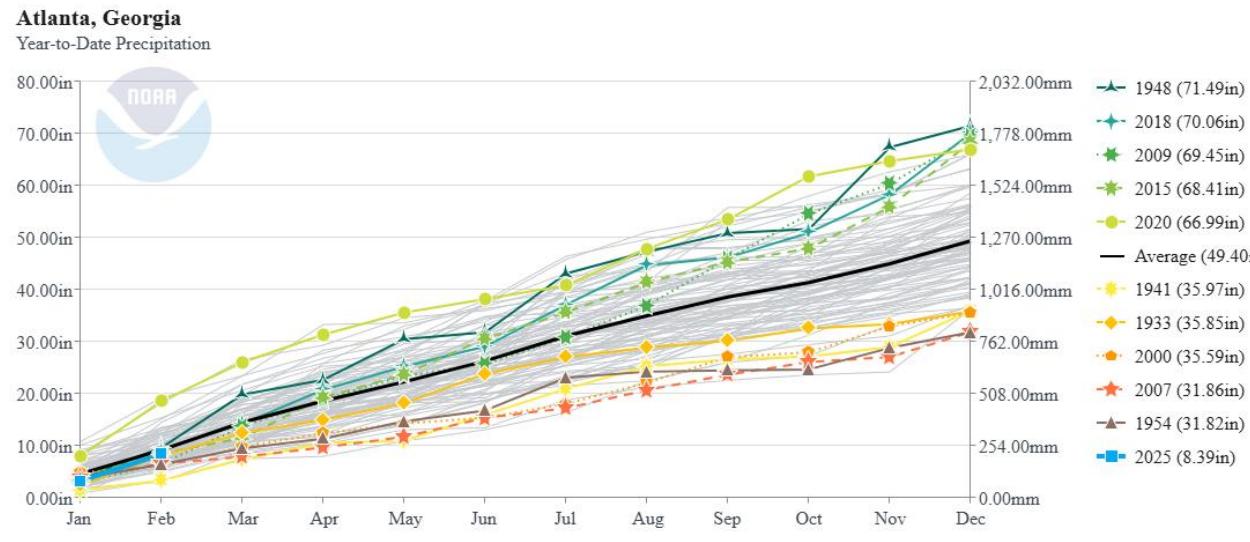


Iter	UDI	Iter	UDI	Iter	UDI	Iter	UDI
50	761,35	62	118,69	113	204,28	126	171,15
95	214,01	84	362,16	125	115,09	15	114,8

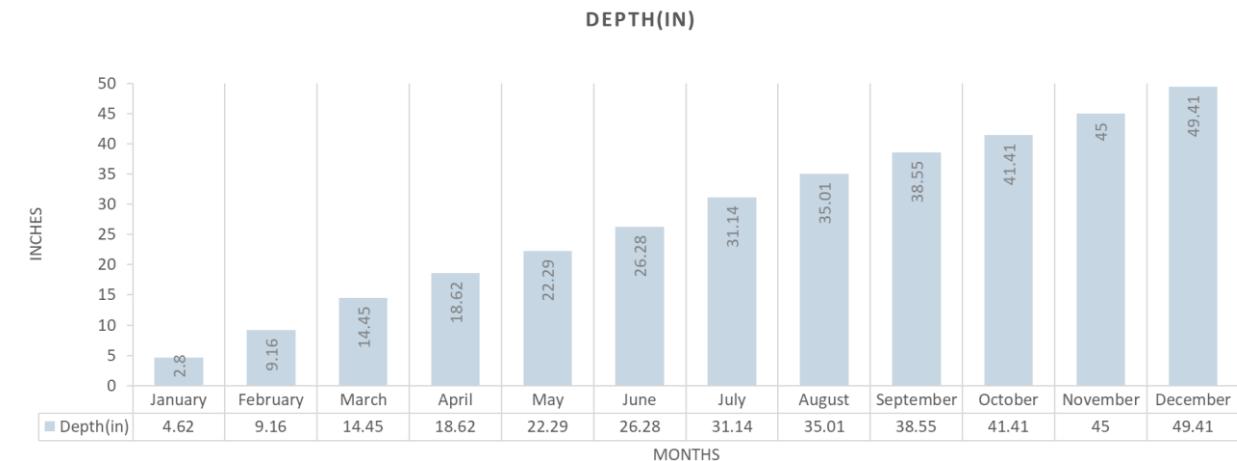
RAINWATER HARVESTING

NOAA Climate At a Glance Haywood Plots

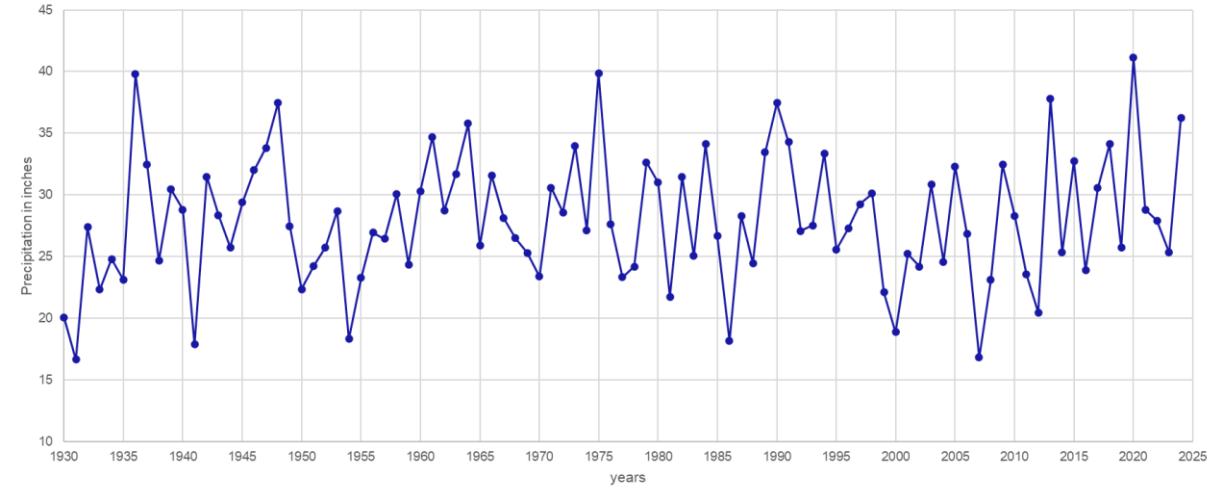
Historical averaged precipitation depth for 792 Donald Lee Hollowell at Atlanta, Georgia



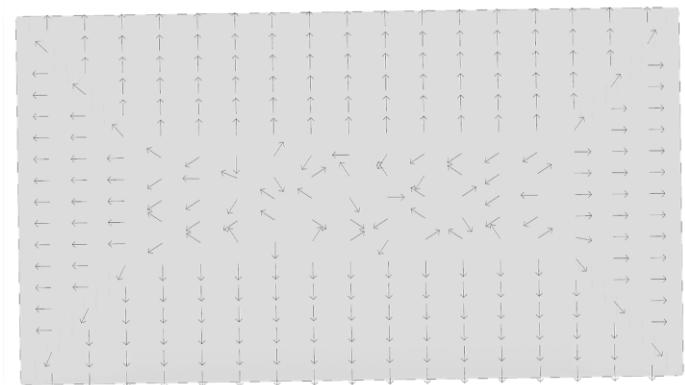
Atlanta Annual Precipitation Rainwater Depth (in)



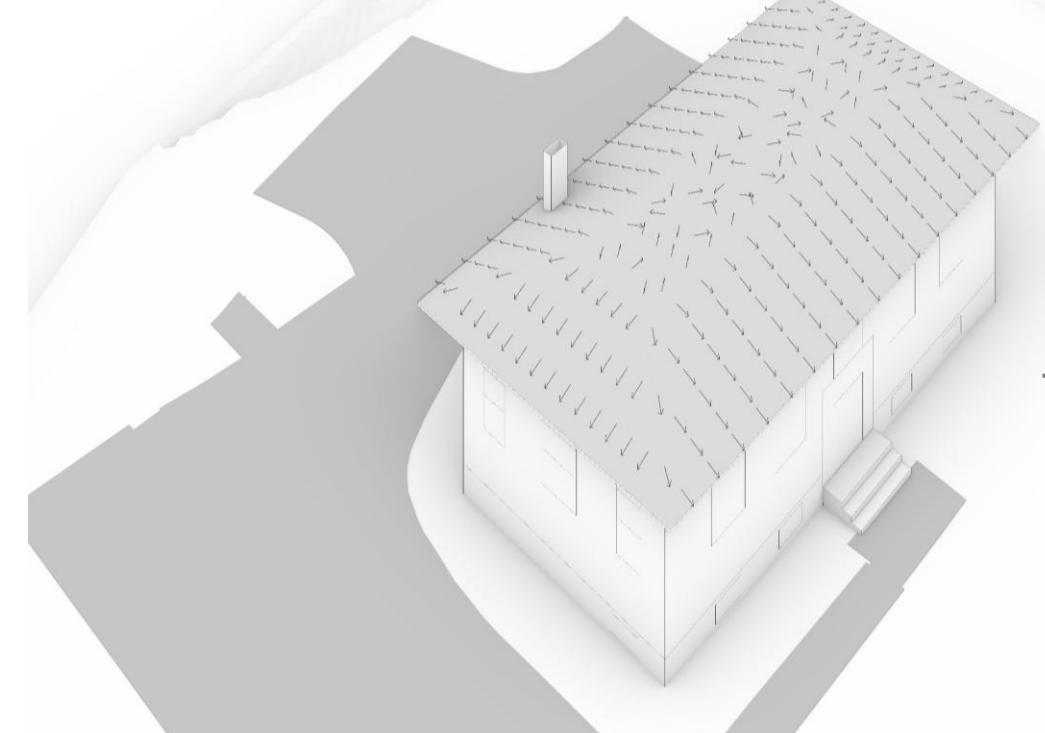
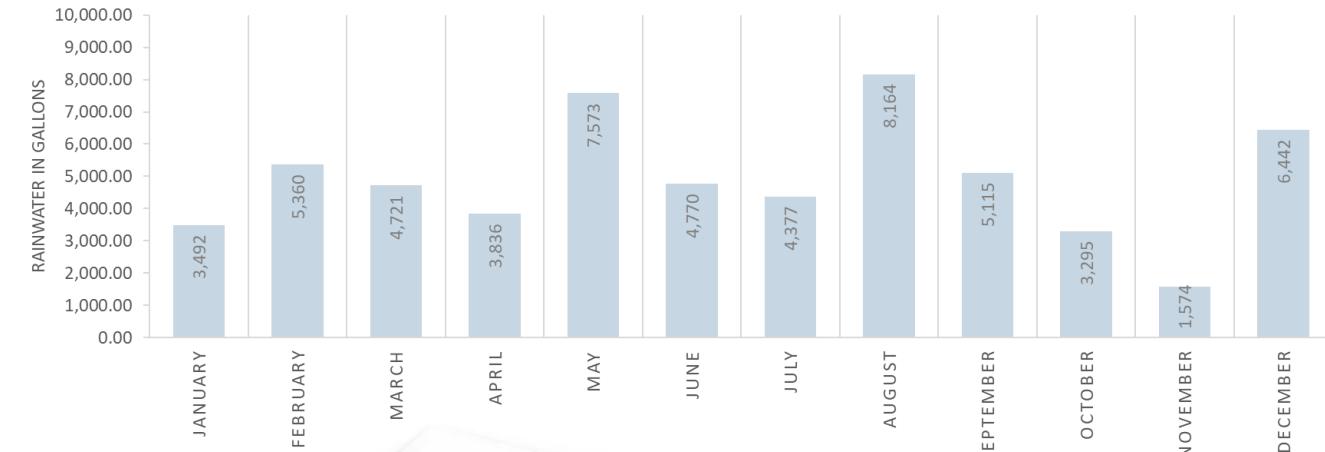
ANNUAL Average Precipitation (in INCHES)



The project sites considers 100% yearly average rainfall and does not evaluate the monthly indoor demand, or plant and irrigation requires. The project roof design does not possess significant opportunities for a roof rainwater harvesting catchment system, particularly during early summer through to mid-fall.



RAINWATER HARVESTING TANK VOLUME COLLECTION BASED ON ROOF AREA (GALLONS)



Roof Performance

64911.53

Gallons Potential Rainwater Harvested Annually

07 Circular Cistern

10 Foot Depth and Width with 13 Foot Diameter

APPENDIX

Note: All values are taken from ASHRAE Standard 90.1

- **Exterior Wall R-Value**

W0 - 0.231, W1-13.771, W2 -17.156, W3 - 20.541

Note: R-13 cavity insulation and R-5 continuous exterior insulation, R-13: Minimum requirement per IECC for walls in Zone 3.

- **Exterior Roof R-value**

R0 - 0.004, R1 - 21.364, R2 - 30.442, R3 - 40.054

Note: Minimum R-49 for attic insulation as per IECC 2021 standards if occupied.

- **Interior Floor R-Value**

F1 - 0.211, F2 - 8.004

- **Interior Ceiling Reflectance (%)**

Ceiling LM83 - 70, White Ceiling - 85.67, Black Ceiling - 5.07

- **Glazing:**

Vistacool on Pacifica - Clear (Argon)

U-Value: 2.48

SHGC: 0.311

DoublePanelLoEe2

U-Value: 1.493

SHGC: 0.373

Solarban 90 (2) - Solarban 90 (4) - Clear (Argon)

U-Value: 0.66

SHGC: 0.16

Solarcool on Pacifica - Clear (Argon)

U-Value: 2.53

SHGC: 0.206

NOTE: U-Factor of 0.32 or less: Suitable for ENERGY STAR compliance.

U-Factor of 0.30: This meets the International Residential Code (IRC) requirements for energy efficiency in Climate Zone 3

NOTE: SHGC between 0.20 and 0.25: Ideal for reducing solar heat gain while maintaining some natural light, especially for east- and west-facing windows

Low SHGC (≤ 0.20): Best for heavily sun-exposed windows, such as those on the west or east facades

Maximum SHGC of 0.25: This is the building code requirement and the maximum allowed for ENERGY STAR-certified windows

- **Interior Shading: On (1) , Off (0)**

Sunvision Ecru

Permeability: 14%

VLT: 35%

Golden low-E fabric WB12W

Permeability: 1%

VLT: 1%

- **Air Infiltration:**

ACH per hour: 0.1, 1.5, 3.0

NOTE: Natural (unpressurized) air changes per hour for design conditions typically range from 0.20 to 0.29 ACH for heating and 0.11 to 0.16 ACH for cooling. ≤ 0.6 ACH at 50 Pa, representing high-performance or passive house standards

- **HVAC Heating System Electrification**

Natural Gas :

HEATING: (Conventional Boiler)

COP - 0.83, 0.95

COOLING: (Gas Absorption Chillers)

COP - 0.7, 1.2

Electrification:

HEATING: (Air-Source Heat Pumps)

COP – 3.1, 4.5

COOLING: (Water-Cooled Chillers)

COP – 3.8 5.3

NOTE: for heating with High-efficiency natural gas boilers with economizers

Electrification: Heat pumps will reduce GHG emissions by 30–60% versus gas systems.

- **Domestic Hot Water**

Natural Gas: 0

Electricity: 1

- **HVAC Economizer**

Economizer: options

NoEconomizer

DifferentialEnthalpy

NOTE: Differential Enthalpy is preferred over Differential Dry Bulb for high-performance systems because it accounts for both temperature and humidity, which is critical in humid climates, ensuring better energy efficiency and indoor comfort. *High-limit shutoff: Outdoor air enthalpy > 28 Btu/lb or outdoor air temperature > 75°F*

- **HVAC Heat Recovery**

Heat Recovery:

Heat Recovery – None (Both values 0)

Heat Recovery Efficiency Latent – 0.75

NOTE: Latent Heat Recovery is preferred for high-performance HVAC systems in Climate Zone 3 due to its ability to manage humidity effectively, which is critical in humid climates

- **Building Level Lighting Power Density**

VALUES: 13.99, 10.54, 21.52 W/m²

- **Building Level Equipment Power Density**

VALUES: 8.1 W/m²

- **Schedule :**

Option 1: All on

Option 2: 8am to 6pm with DST