

# **THERMAL & VISUAL COMFORT OPTIMIZATION OF AN UNCONDITIONED SPACE**

Philadelphia, Pa

Shengji Tan

Fall 2016 | ARCH 753 Building Performance Simulation  
PennDesign | University of Pennsylvania

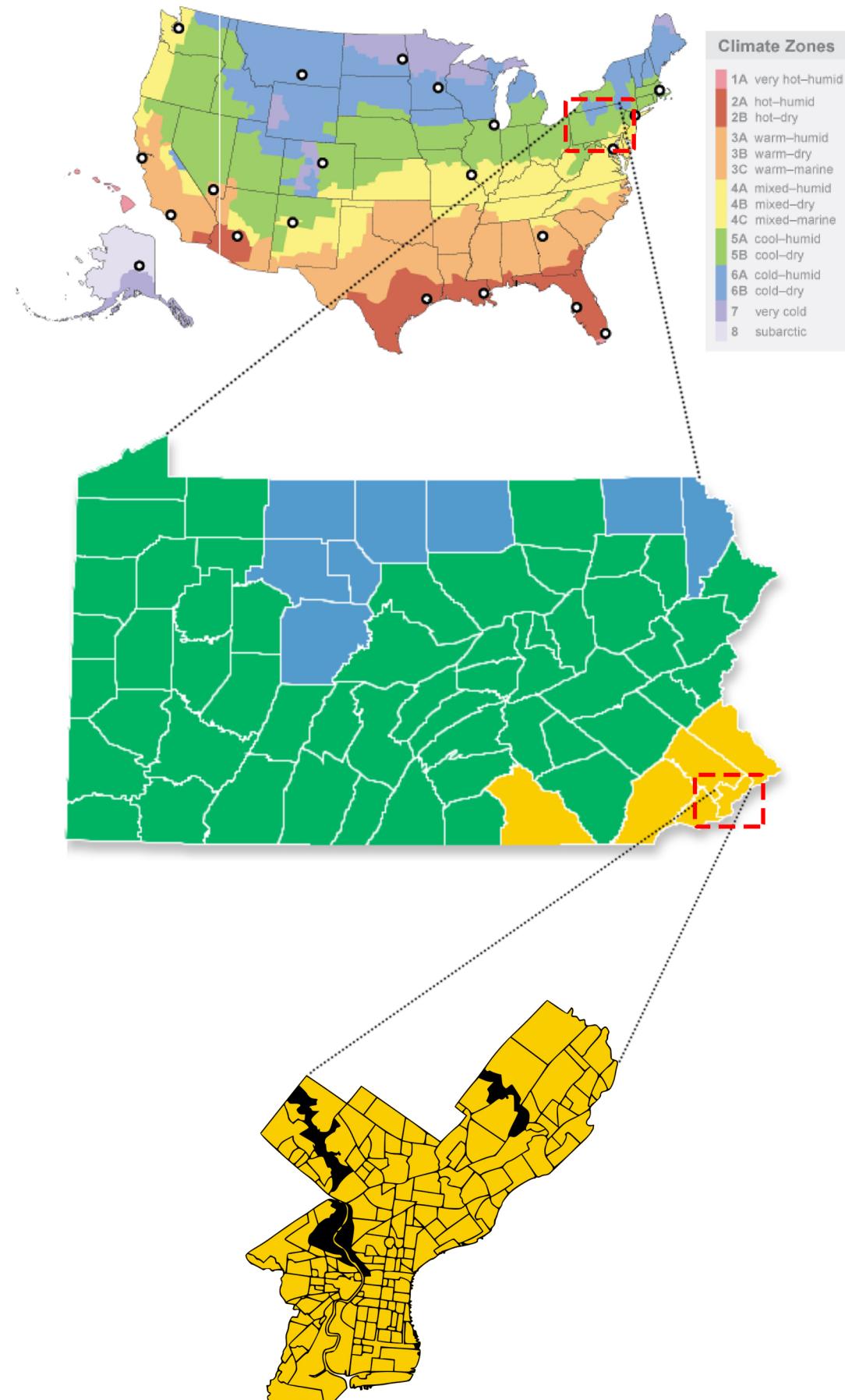
# Climate analysis

## CLIMATE ZONES

**WEATHER DATA:** Philadelphia International Ap, PA, USA, TMY3,  
**LATITUDE:** 39.87  
**LONGITUDE:** -75.23  
**CDD:** 1235  
**HDD:** 4759  
**CLIMATE ZONE:** 4A  
**CHARACTERISTIC:** MIXED-HUMID

From the climate classification, The heat degree days of philly is as much as four times than cool degree days.

The design strategy should focus on the heating efficiency and thermal insulation.

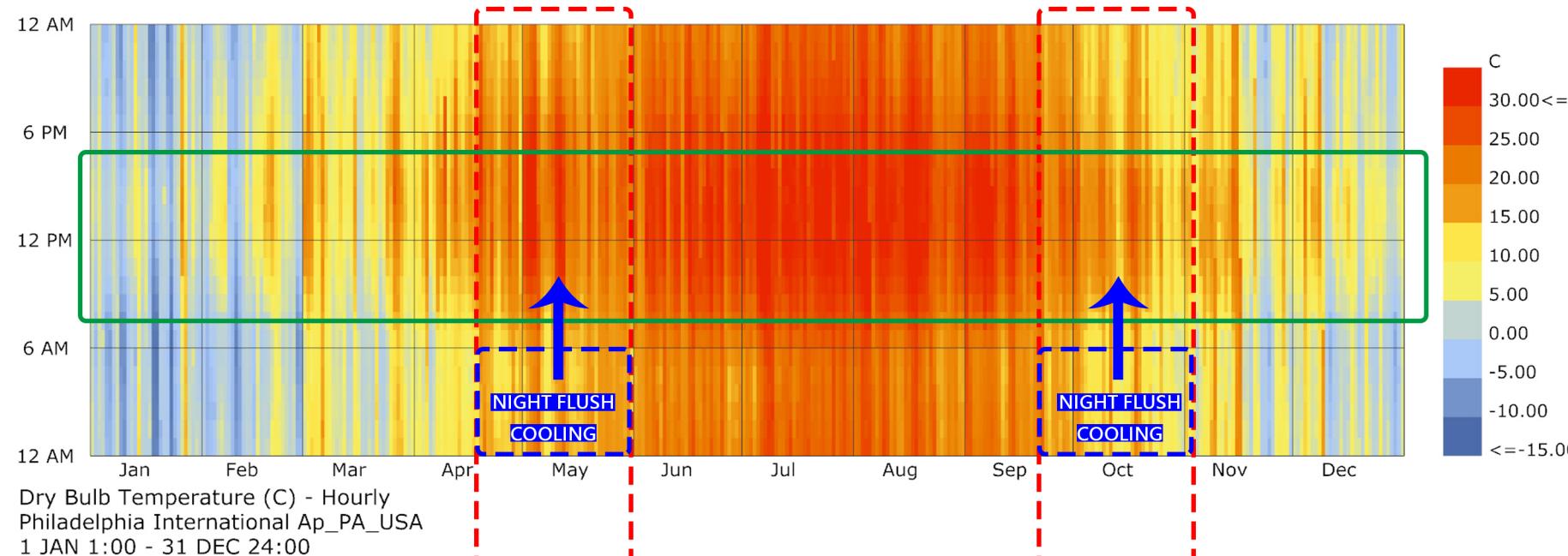


### Residential Prescriptive Requirements for Zone 1 (2009 IECC)

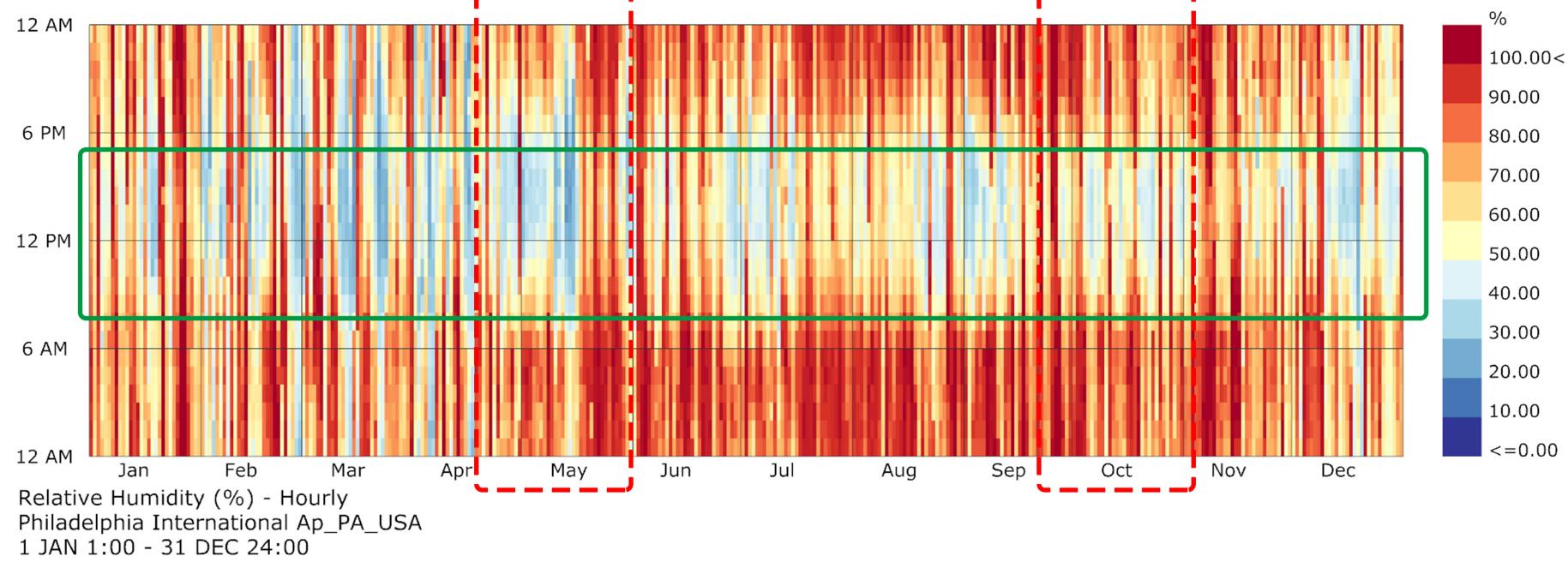
Ceiling R-value	<b>38</b>
Wood Frame Wall R-value	<b>13</b>
Mass Wall R-value <sup>i</sup>	<b>5/10</b>
Floor R-value	<b>19</b>
Basement Wall R-value <sup>c</sup>	<b>10/13</b>
Slab R-value <sup>d</sup> , Depth	<b>10, 2 ft</b>
Crawl space Wall R-value <sup>c</sup>	<b>10/13</b>
Fenestration U-Factor <sup>b</sup>	<b>0.35</b>
Skylight U-Factor <sup>b</sup>	<b>0.60</b>
Glazed fenestration SHGC <sup>b, e</sup>	<b>NR</b>

<https://energycode.pnl.gov/EnergyCodeReqs/?state=Pennsylvania>

## EXTERIOR FACTORS



According to the dry bulb temperature chart, the temperature in Philadelphia ranges from -10 to 35 degrees Celsius trough out the year. There is wide range difference between Diurnal and Nocturnal temperature during eraly summer and mid autrumn ,which reach up to 10 degrees Celsius. **NIGHT FLUSH COOLING** can be applied to decrease the interior temperature.

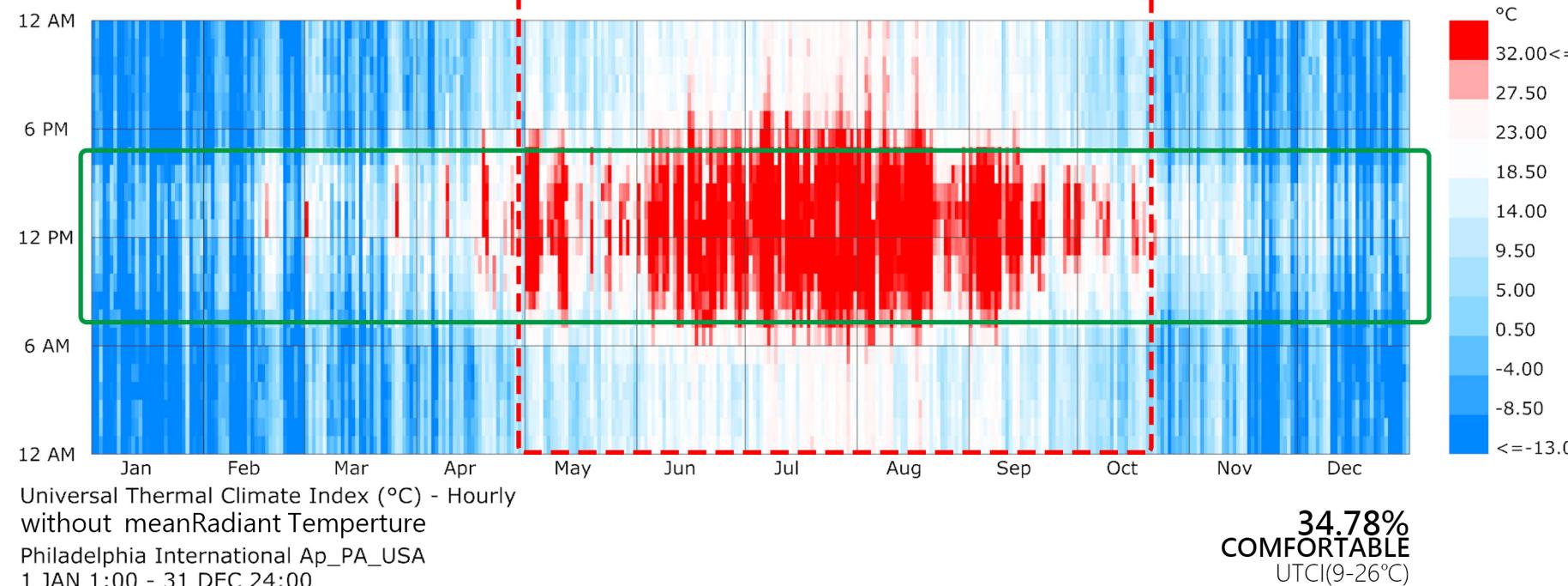
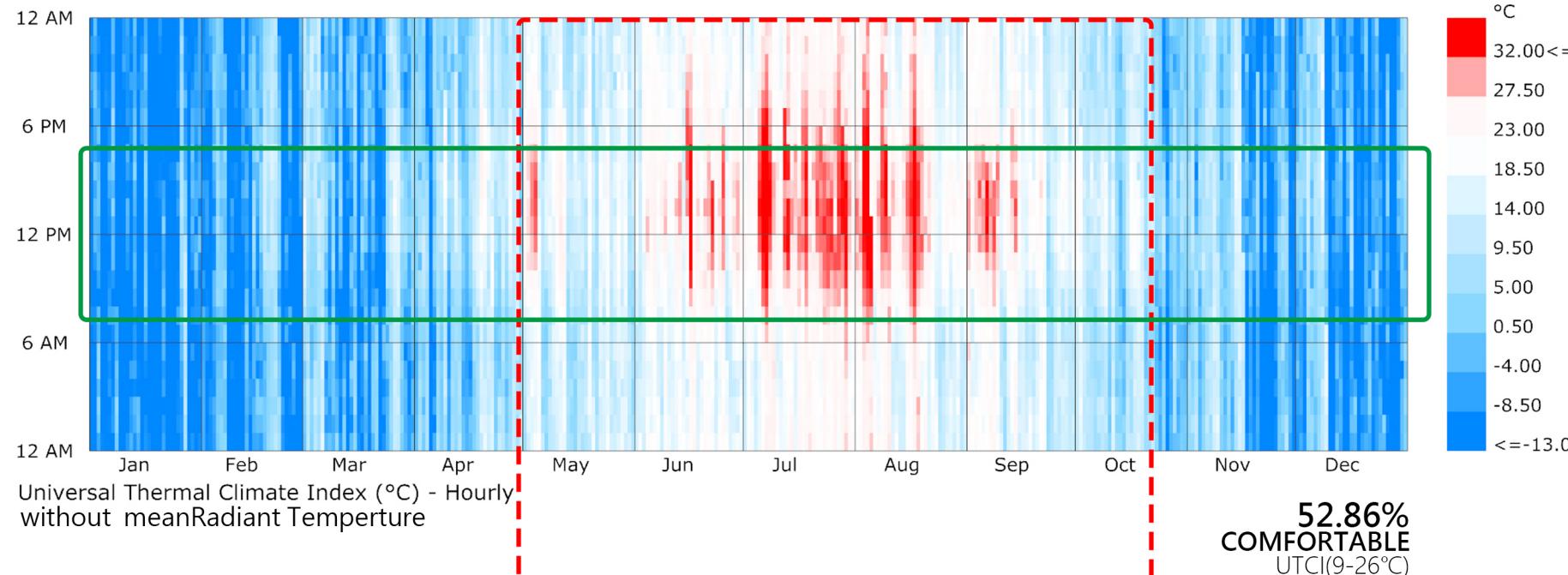


As the relative humidity chart shows, Philadelphia's humidity is moderate. In the occupied hours, the value of relative humidity is in the moderate range.



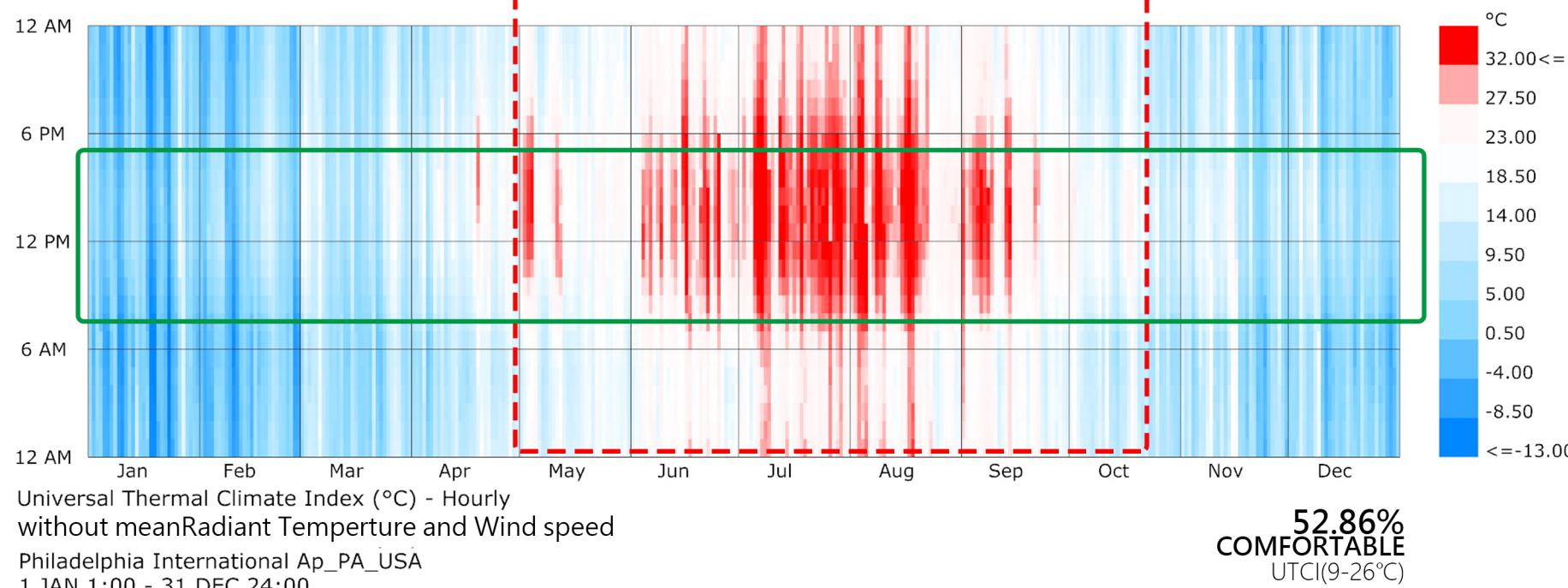
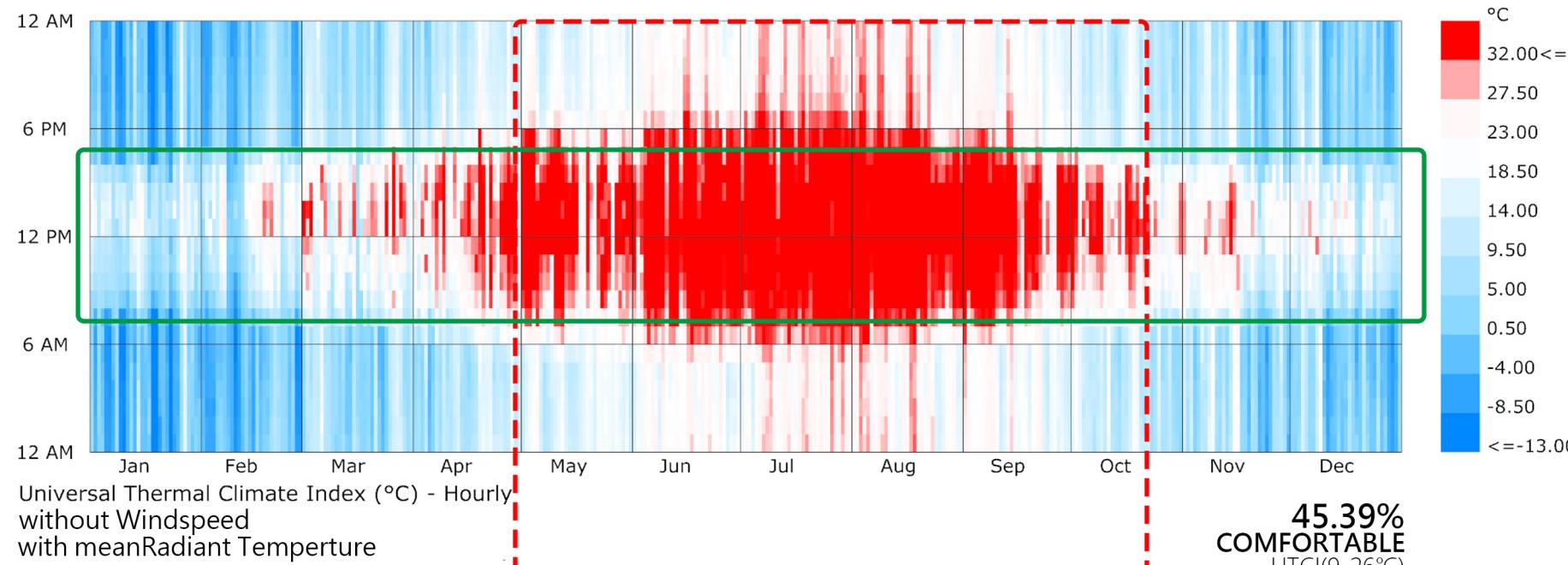
Occupied hours

## UTCI (Universal Thermal Climate Index)



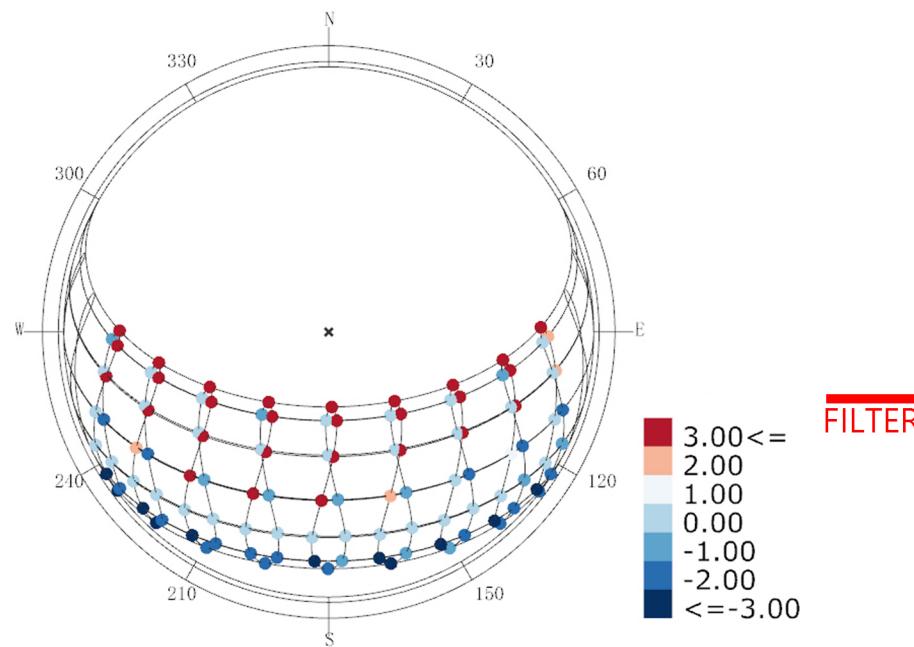
Occupied hours

From the UTCI charts, the percentage of comfortable time is 34.78% when considering MRT and Local Wind, but the comfortable time increases dramatically when it ignore these two factors to 52.86%. Therefore, choosing a suitable orientation and reducing the mean Radiant may contribute to the increasing of the percentage of comfortable time.



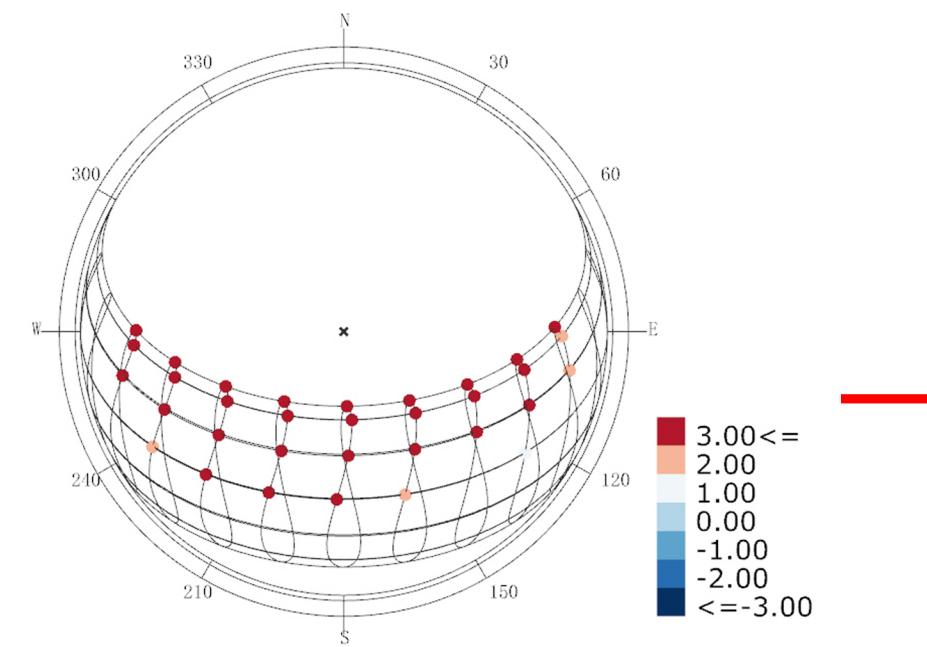
Occupied hours

From the UTCI charts, the percentage of comfortable time without windspeed but with MRT is 45.39%, but the comfortable time increases dramatically when it ignore the these two factors to 52.86%. Base on the comparison of these four charts, we could come to a conjecture that the optimal comfortable time may achieve by increase the solar radiant and minimize the ventilation in winter, more over, increase the ventilation and reduce the solar heat gain in summer .

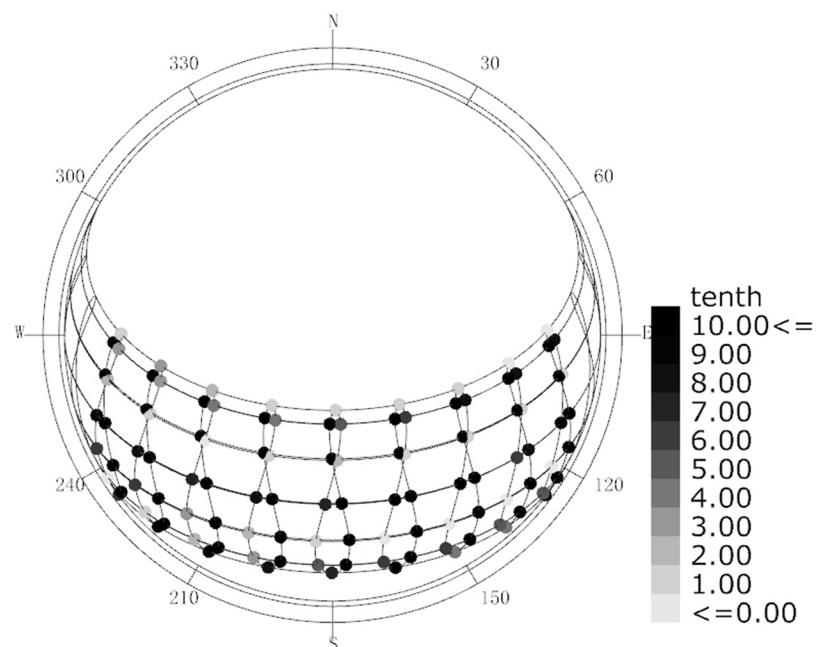
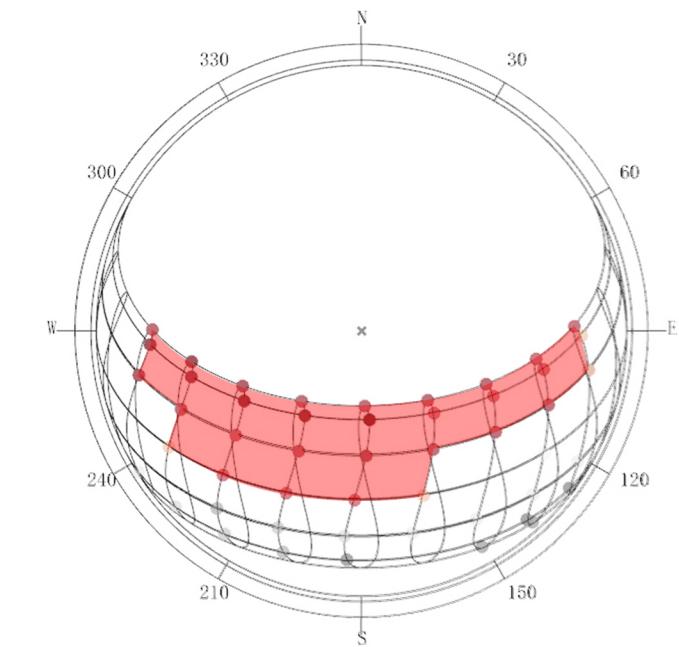


Sun-Path Diagram - Latitude: 39.87

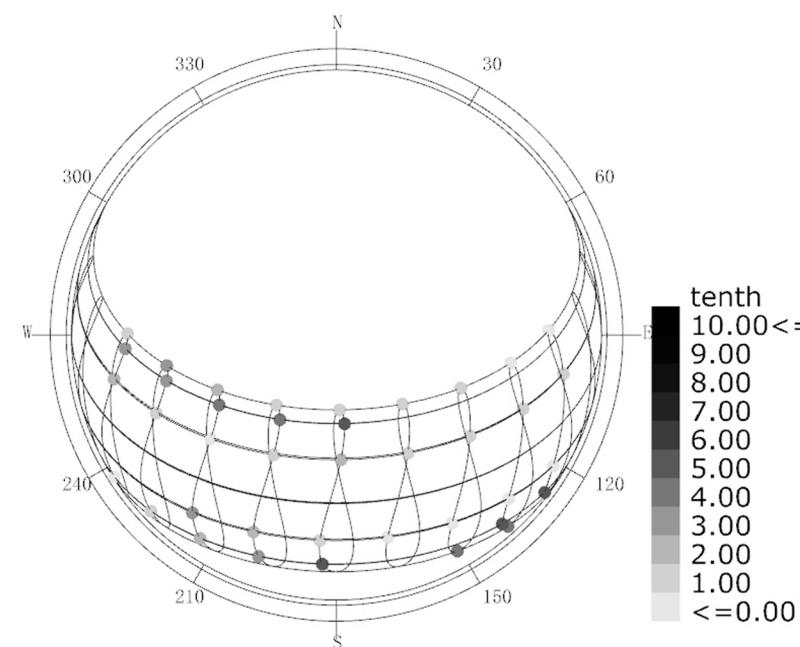
Hourly Data: Outdoor Comfort (-3 = Extreme Cold | -2 = Cold | -1 = Cool | 0 = Comfort | 1 = Warm | 2 = Hot | 3 = Extreme Heat)  
Philadelphia International Ap\_PA\_USA



Conditional Selection Applied:  
Outdoor Comfort > 0  
33.0 hours of total 108.0 sun up hours(30.56%).



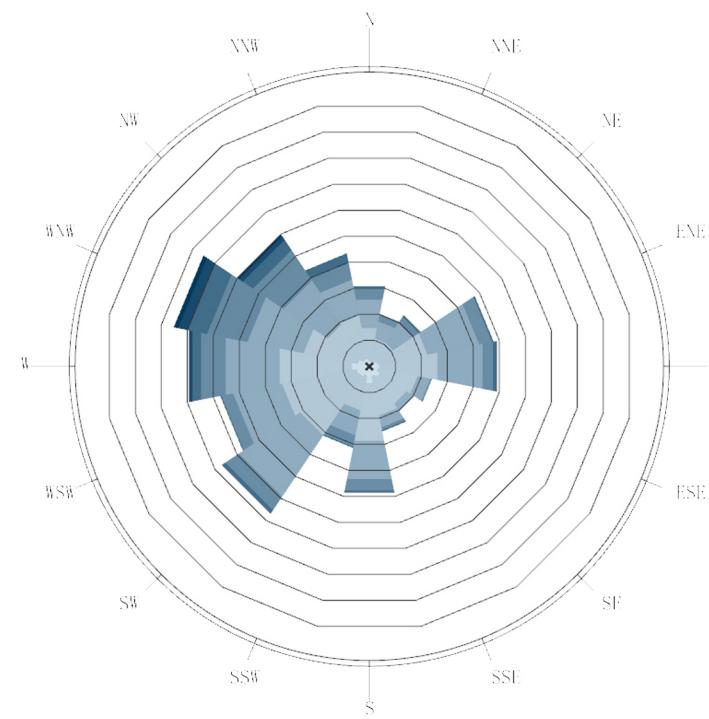
Sun-Path Diagram - Latitude: 39.87  
Hourly Data: Total Cloud Cover (tenths)  
Philadelphia International Ap\_PA\_USA



Sun-Path Diagram - Latitude: 39.87  
Hourly Data: Total Cloud Cover (tenths)  
Philadelphia International Ap\_PA\_USA  
...  
Conditional Selection Applied:  
Total Cloud Cover < 6  
39.0 hours of total 108.0 sun up hours(36.11%).

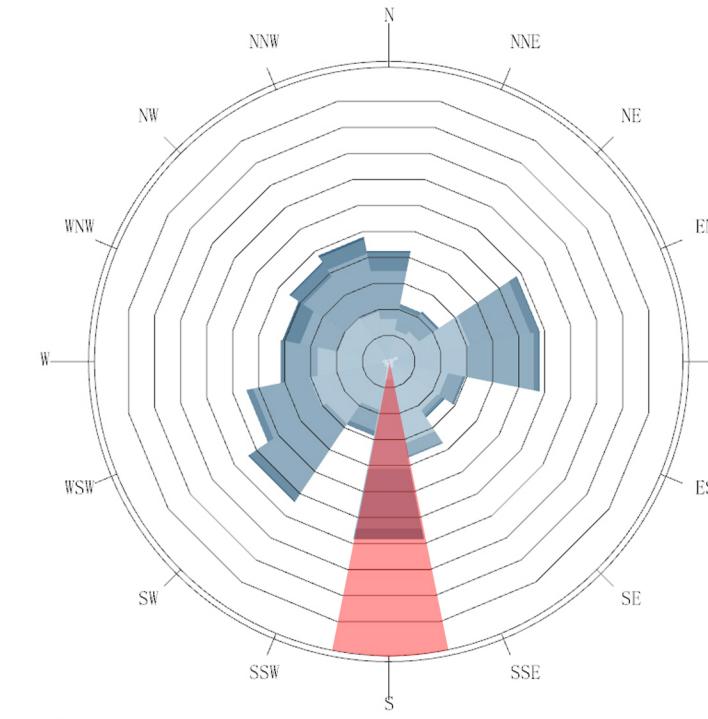
The upward sunpath diagrams show the outdoor comfort situation with the points of occupied time. The other two diagrams show the points of occupied time which cloud cover are fewer than 6. Combined these diagrams, it is reasonable to infer that the form and demension of **shading** should base on over shading the direct sunshine from June to August in order to increase the percentage of comfortable time .

# WINDROSE



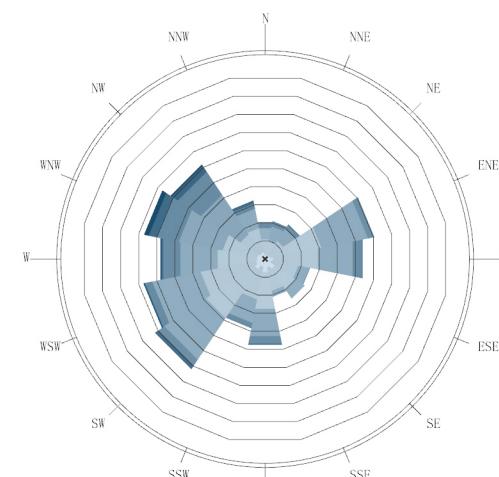
Wind-Rose  
Philadelphia International Ap\_PA\_USA  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00  
Hourly Data: Wind Speed (m/s)  
Calm for 2.81% of the time = 246 hours.  
Each closed polyline shows frequency of 1.4%. = 122 hours.

ANNUAL

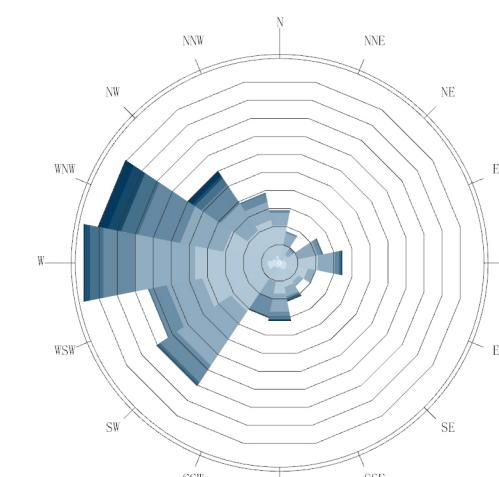


Wind-Rose  
Philadelphia International Ap\_PA\_USA  
1 JUL 1:00 - 30 SEP 24:00  
Hourly Data: Wind Speed (m/s)  
Calm for 1.09% of the time = 24 hours.  
Each closed polyline shows frequency of 1.4%. = 30 hours.

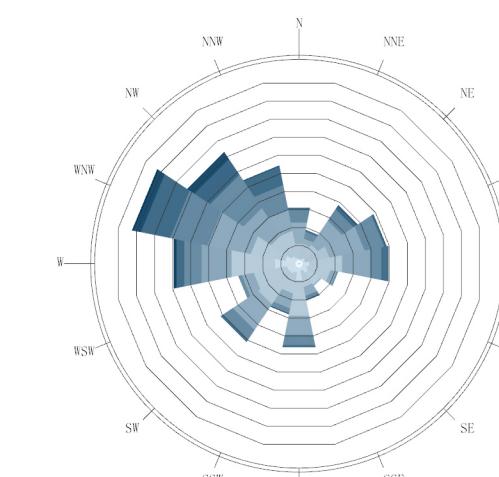
SUMMER



spring



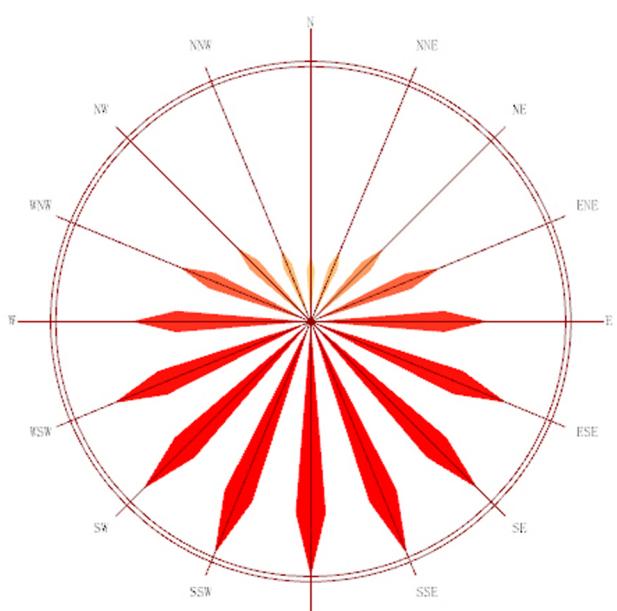
winter



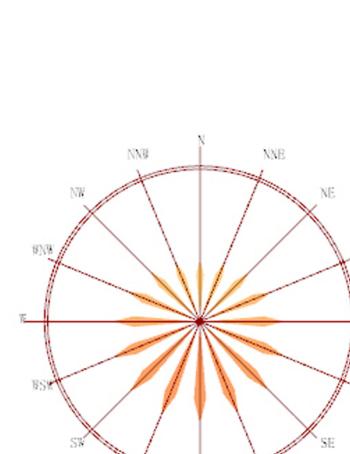
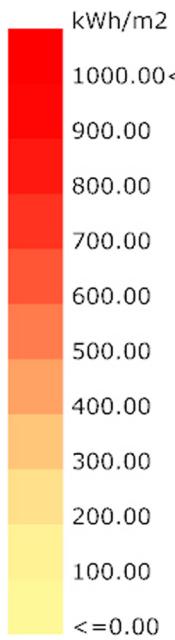
fall

As discussed preceding part of this report, natural ventilation in summer can efficiently increase the comfort in summer. The preliminary inference can be drawn based on the seasonal windrose that right south could be a better direction since the maximum wind velocity.

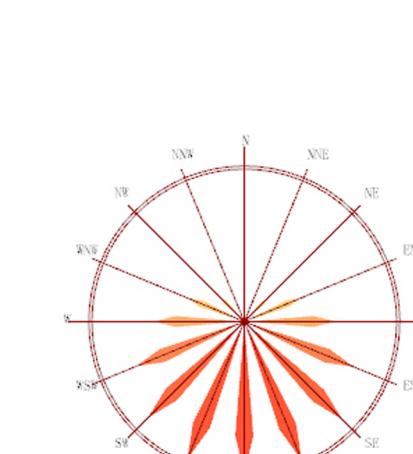
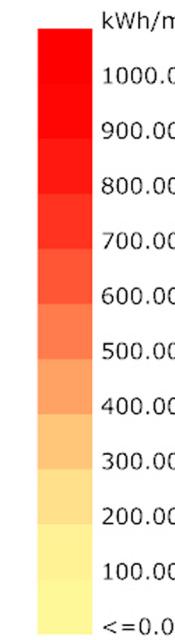
## RADIATION ROSE



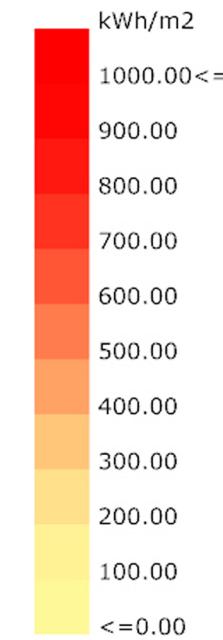
Total Radiation(kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)  
Philadelphia\_International\_Ap\_PA\_USA  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00



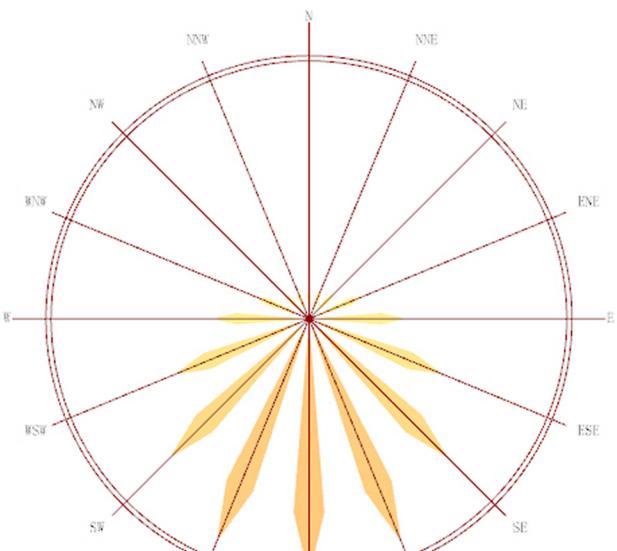
Diffuse Radiation(kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)  
Philadelphia\_International\_Ap\_PA\_USA  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00



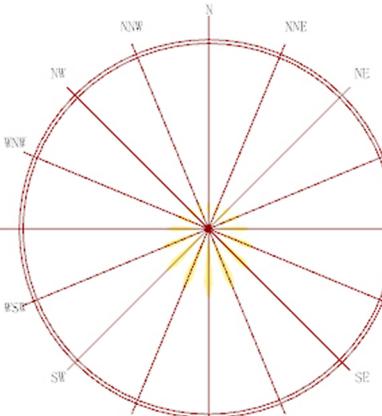
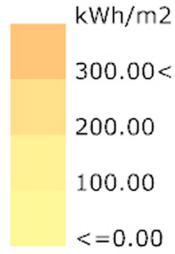
Direct Radiation(kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)  
Philadelphia\_International\_Ap\_PA\_USA  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00



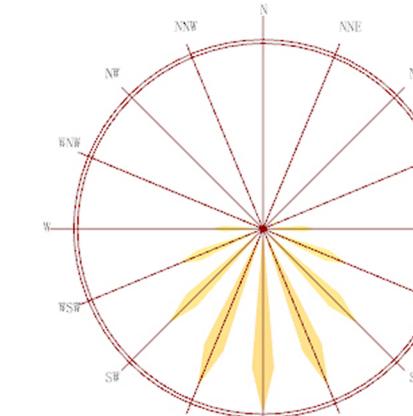
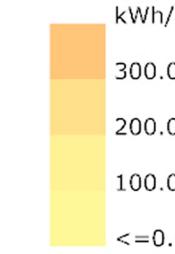
ANNUAL



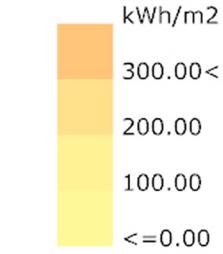
Total Radiation(kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)  
Philadelphia\_International\_Ap\_PA\_USA  
1 NOV 1:00 - 31 JAN 24:00



Diffuse Radiation(kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)  
Philadelphia\_International\_Ap\_PA\_USA  
1 NOV 1:00 - 31 JAN 24:00



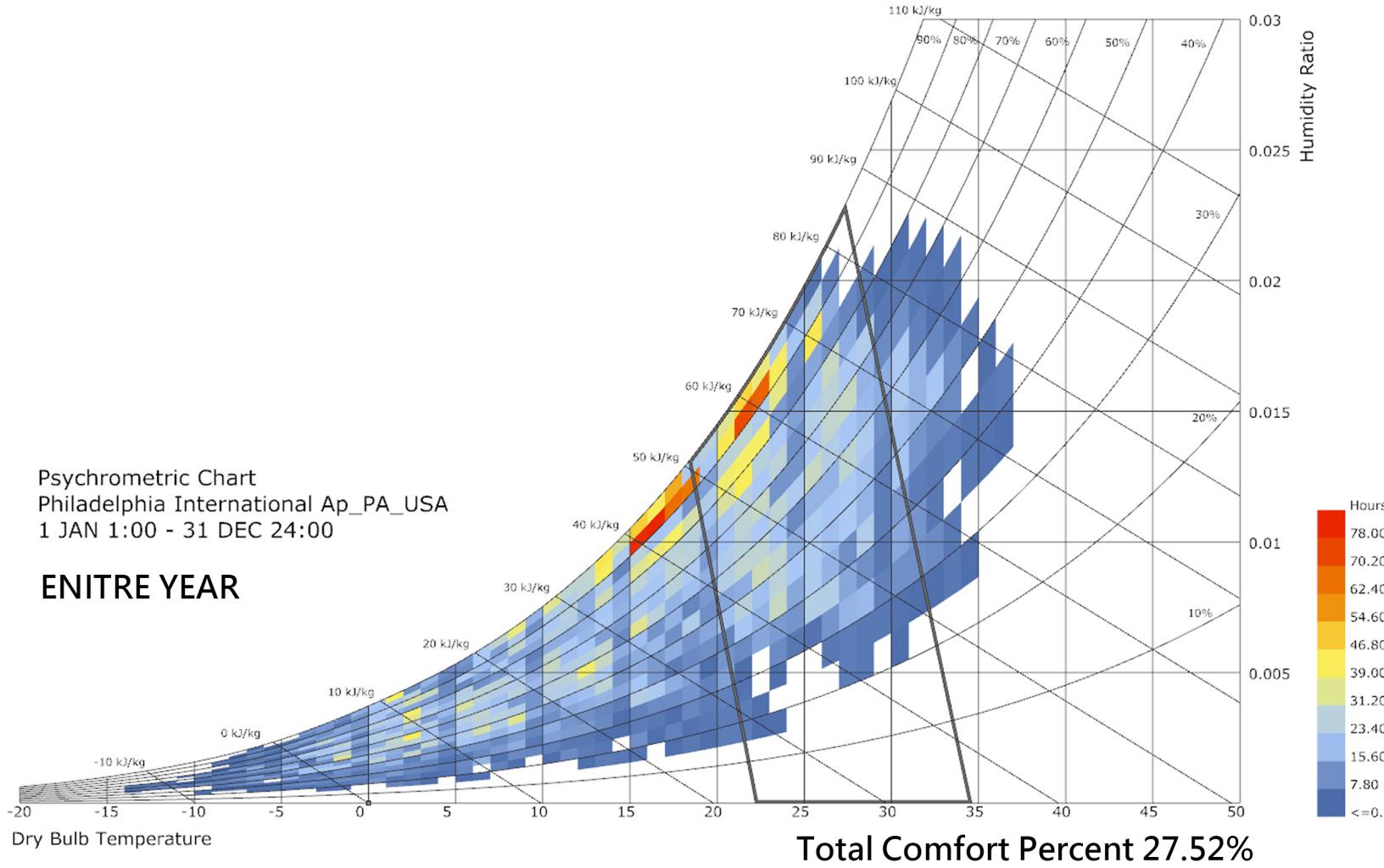
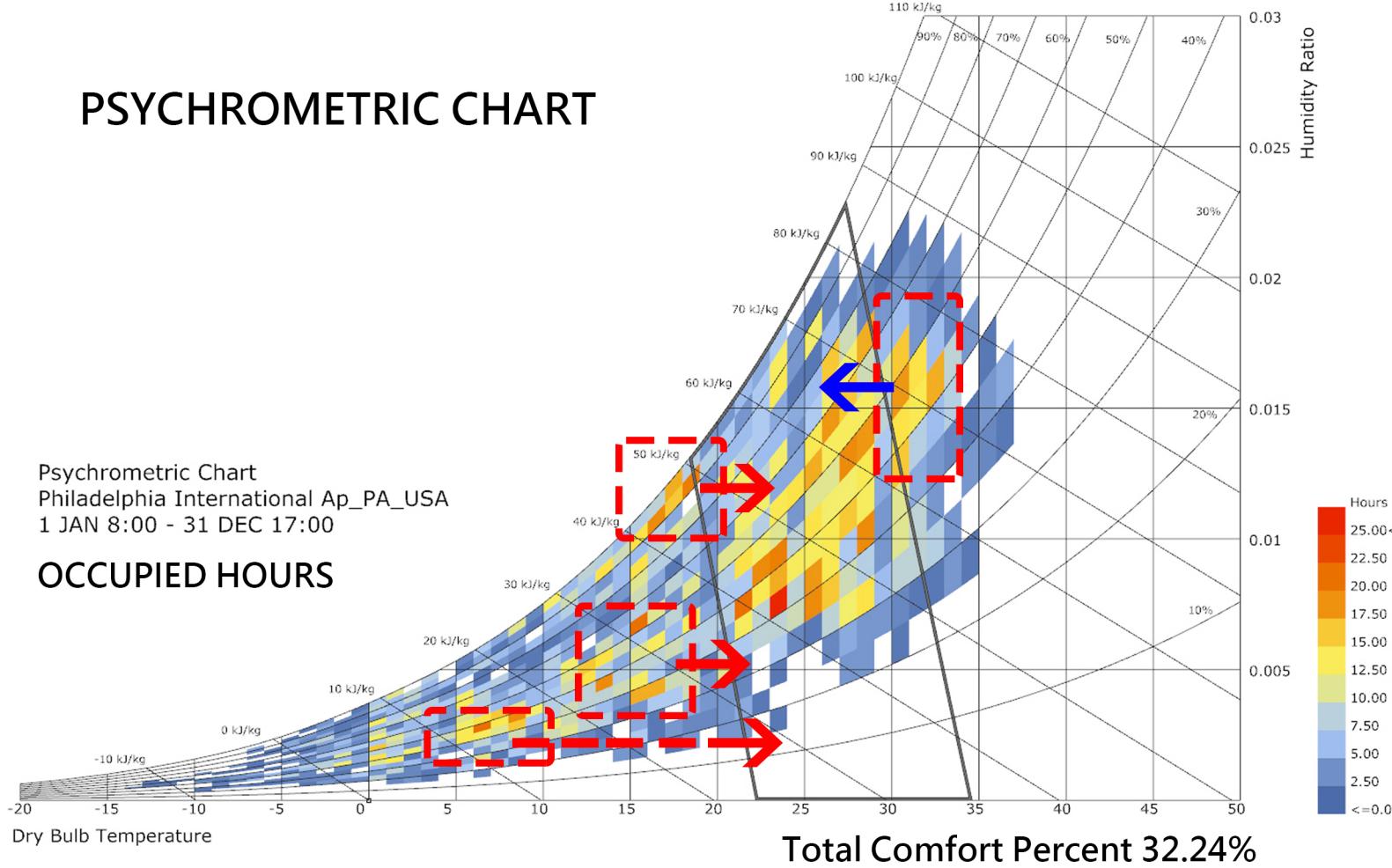
Direct Radiation(kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)  
Philadelphia\_International\_Ap\_PA\_USA  
1 NOV 1:00 - 31 JAN 24:00



WINTER

As mentioned before, Solar radiation in winter can efficiently increase the indoor temperature. According to the radiation rose chart in winter, the value of direct radiation is much greater than the diffuse radiation, which means the orientation of opening should be taken into account. In the light of Direct radiation rose diagram S SSE SSW should be better choices in absorbing the solar radiation.

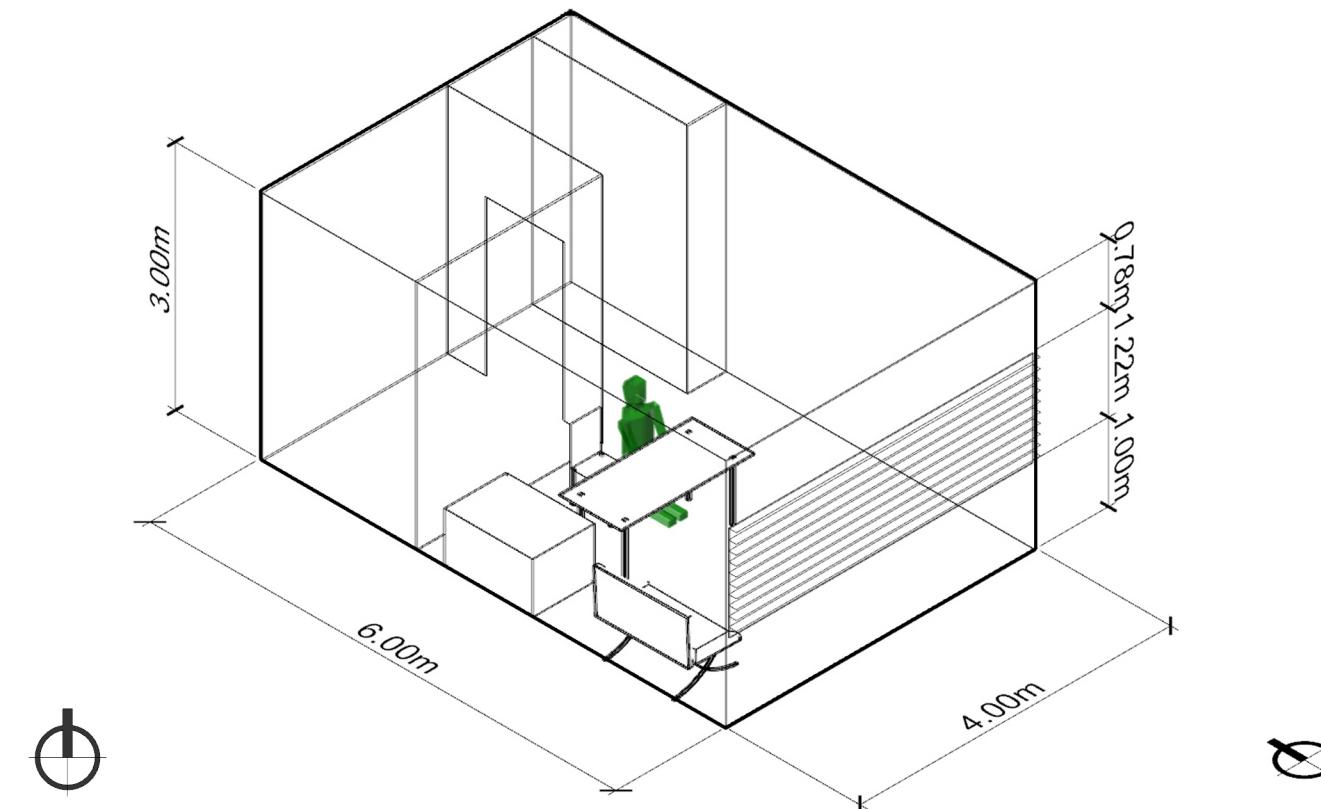
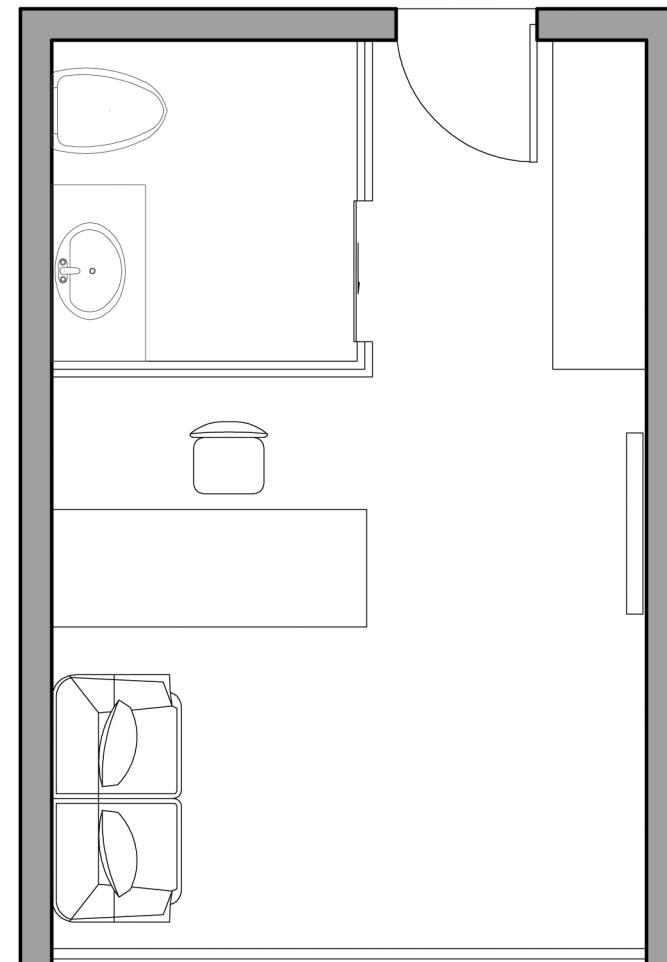
# PSYCHROMETRIC CHART



Psychrometric charts show the potential ways to improve the comfort percent time. Unlike chart of the entitre year, occpied chart hours Show greater potential to increase the percentage of comfortable time.

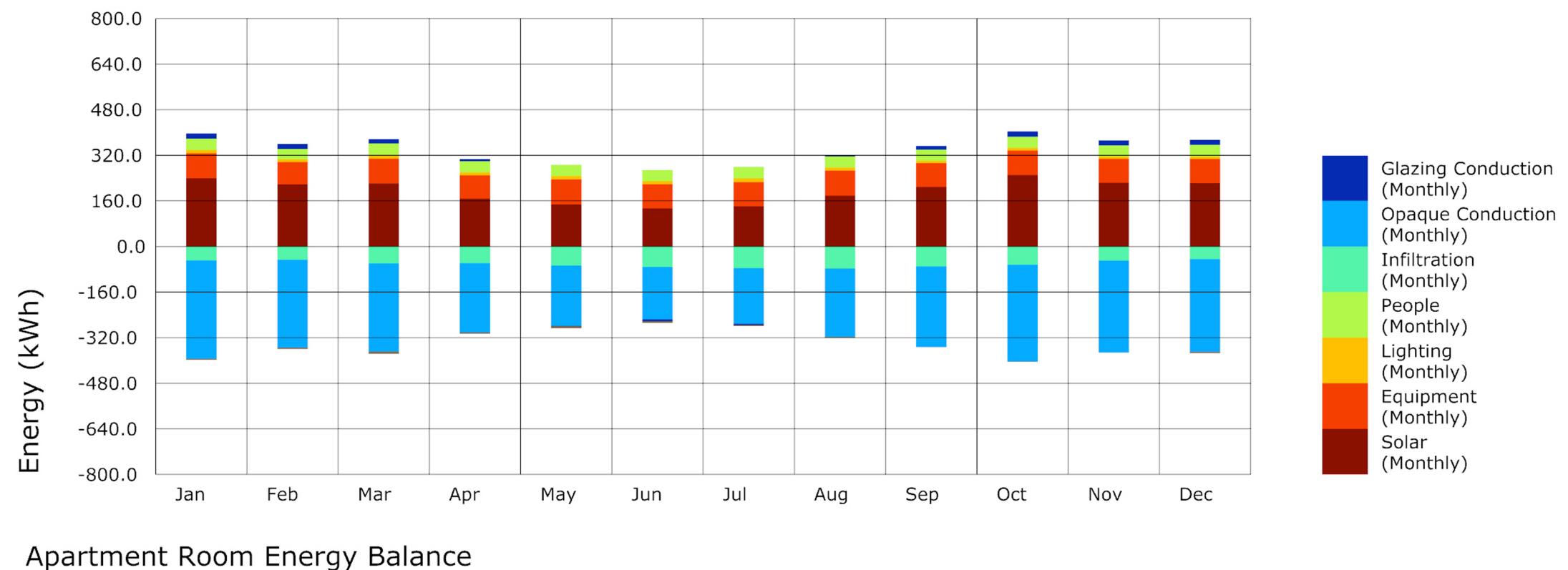
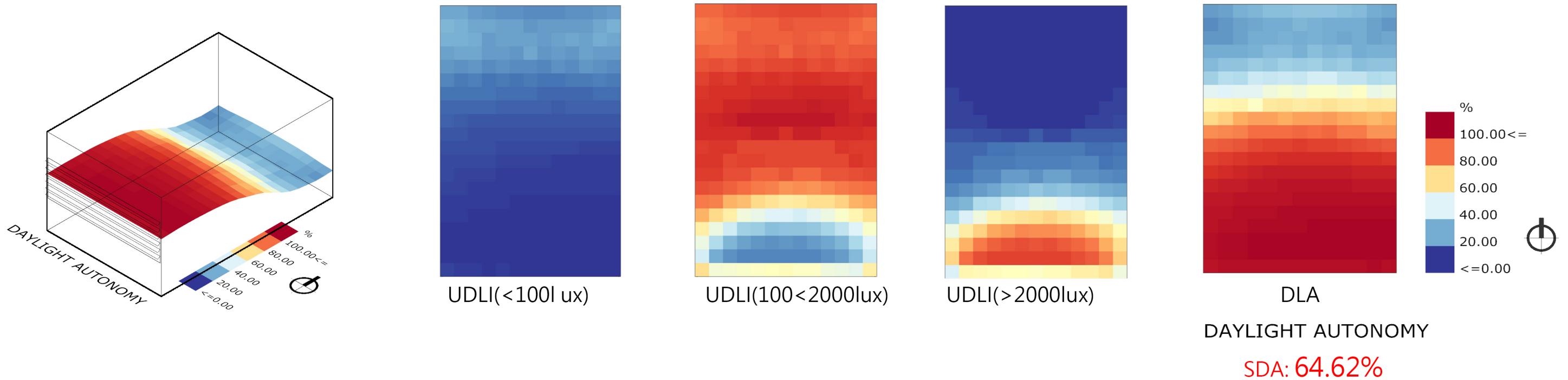
Bace-case assessment

# TEST ROOM



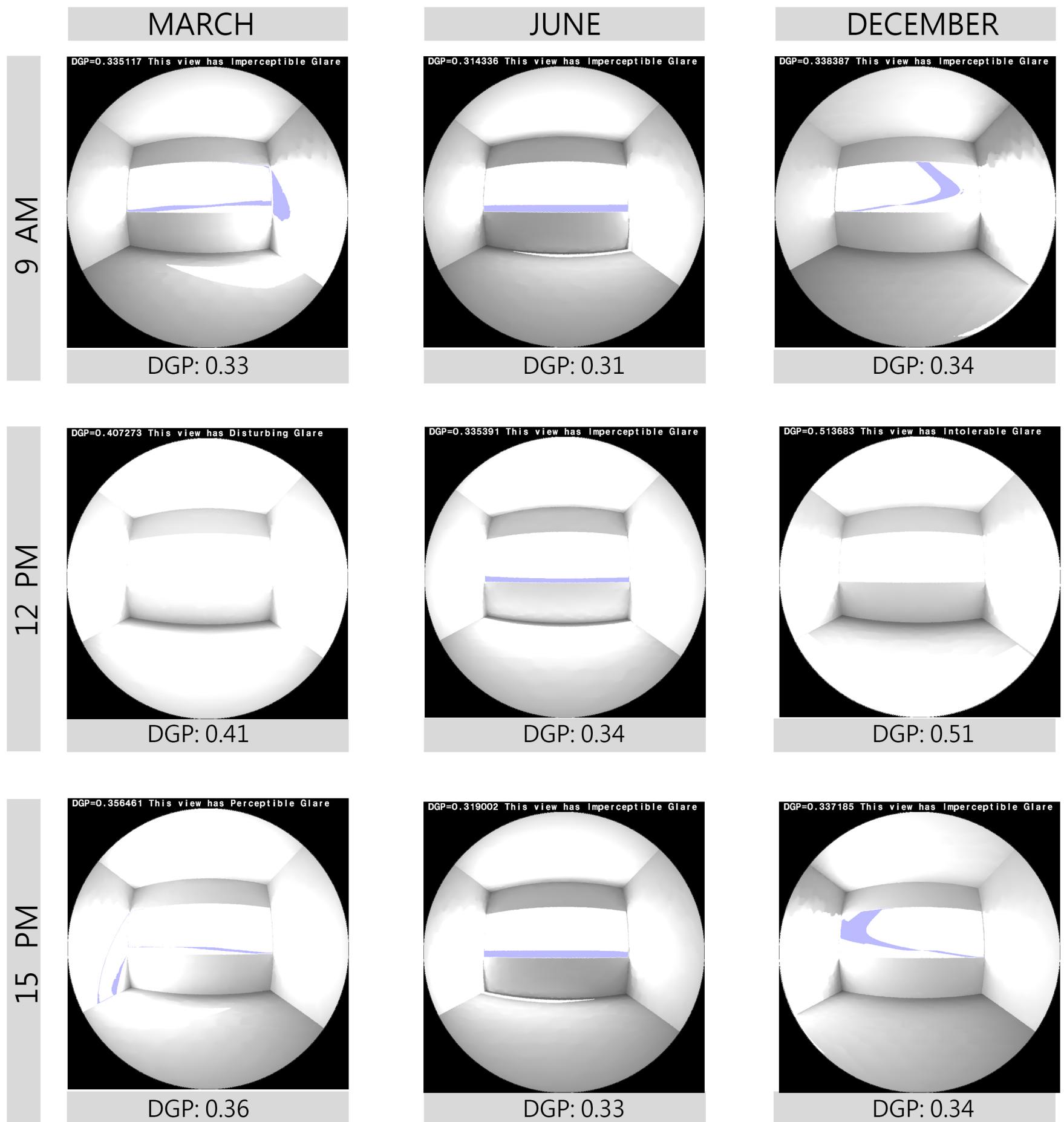
Area:  $24\text{m}^2$   
Glazing:  $4.6\text{m}^2$   
Orientation: South 0 degree  
Program: Midrise SOHO  
Occupied Hour: 8am—5pm

## TEST ROOM



Daylight autonomy chart indicates the area which receive 300 lux exceed DLA illum Thresholds vauue. Energy Balance chart shows the consumption of energy, the iffiltration and opaque conduction account for the main factor of energy consue.

## GLARE ANALYSIS



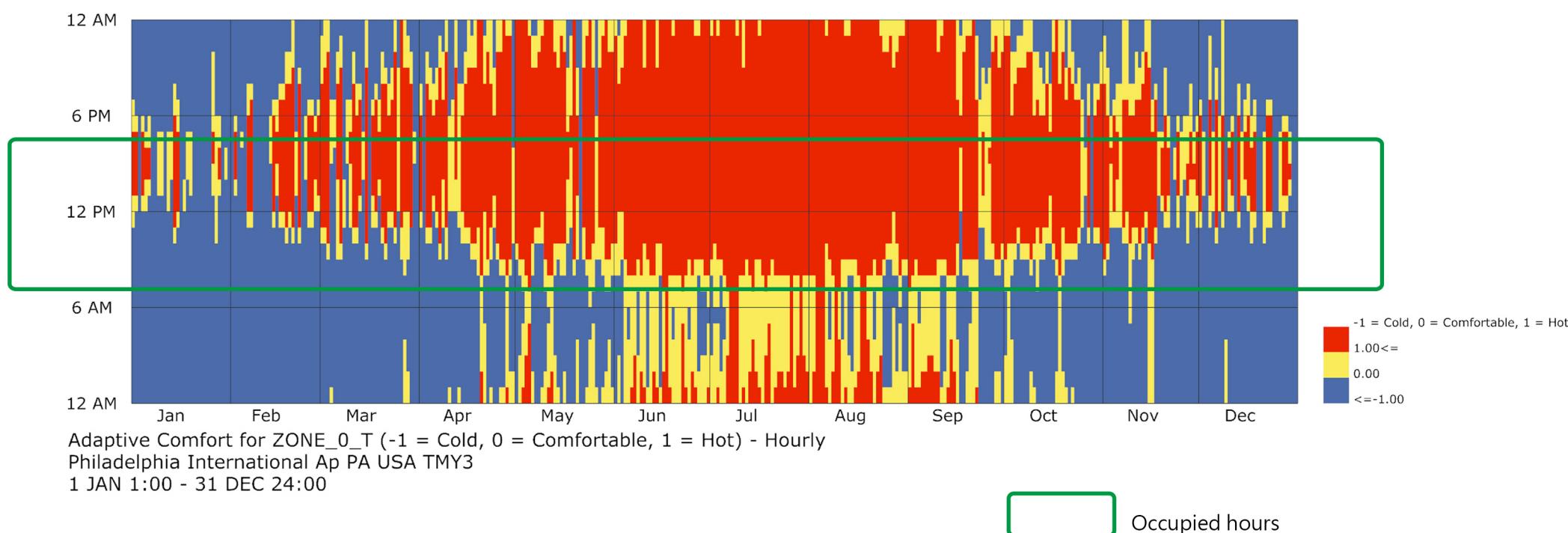
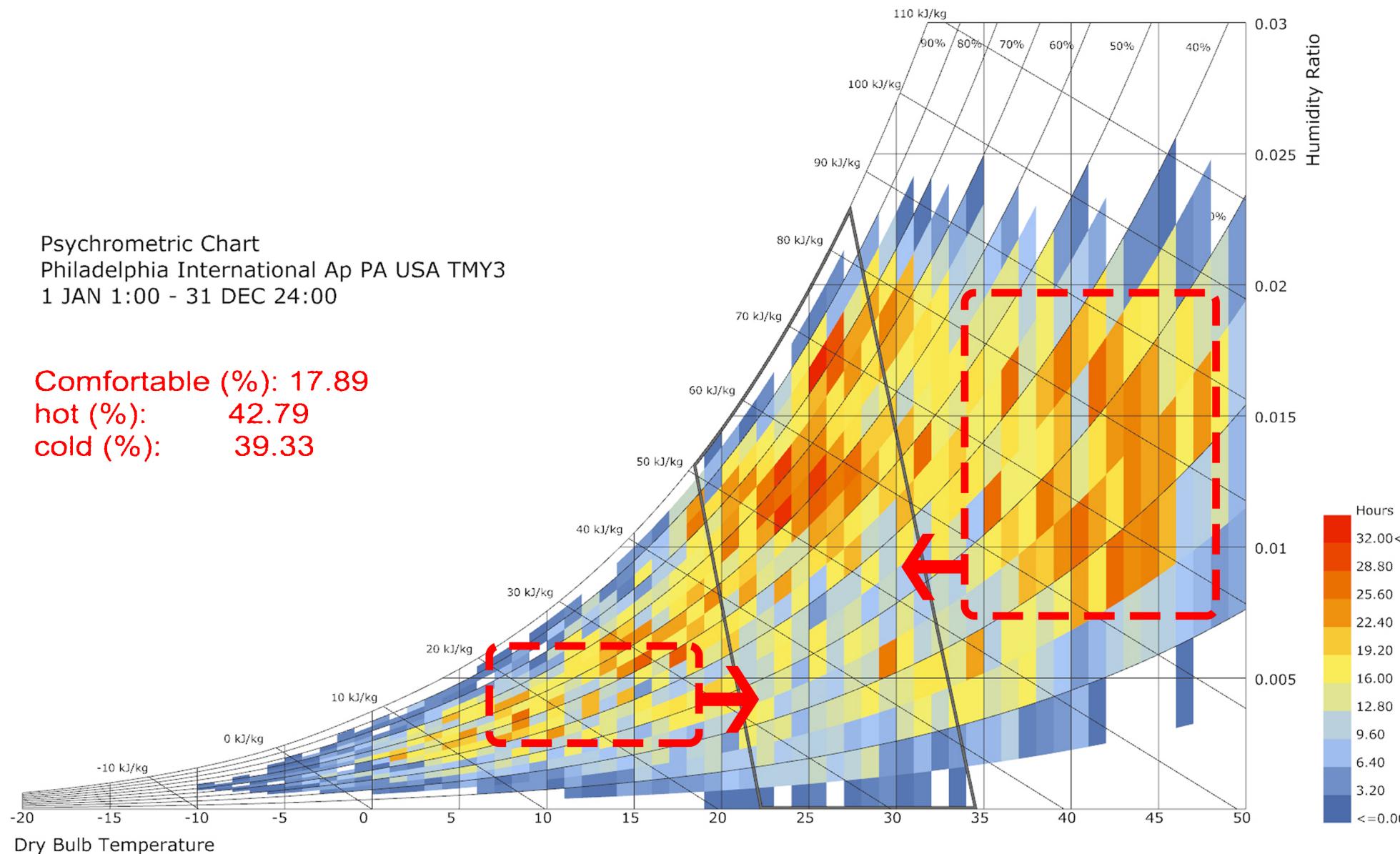
The Daylight Glare Porbability result shows there is Perceptible glare at 15pm of March 21<sup>st</sup> and at 12PM of March and December.

Imperceptible: <35%  
 Perceptible: 35~40%  
 Disturbing: 40~45%  
 Intolerable: >45%

# INDOOR COMFORT

Psychrometric Chart  
Philadelphia International Ap PA USA TMY3  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00

Comfortable (%): 17.89  
hot (%): 42.79  
cold (%): 39.33



Adaptive comfort Chart shows hot issue account for the uncomfortable situation in most time of the afternoon. And Psychrometric chart indicate the potential to improve the comfort. Based on these two diagrams, the two strategies should be applied to the base case, first one is to optimize the heat insulating performance, the second is to reduce the solar heat gain in afternoon.

Discussion and design proposals

# Optimizing Process

## BASE CASE

Orientation → DAYLIGHTING → VENTILATION → MATERIAL → FAN FLOW & LOAD

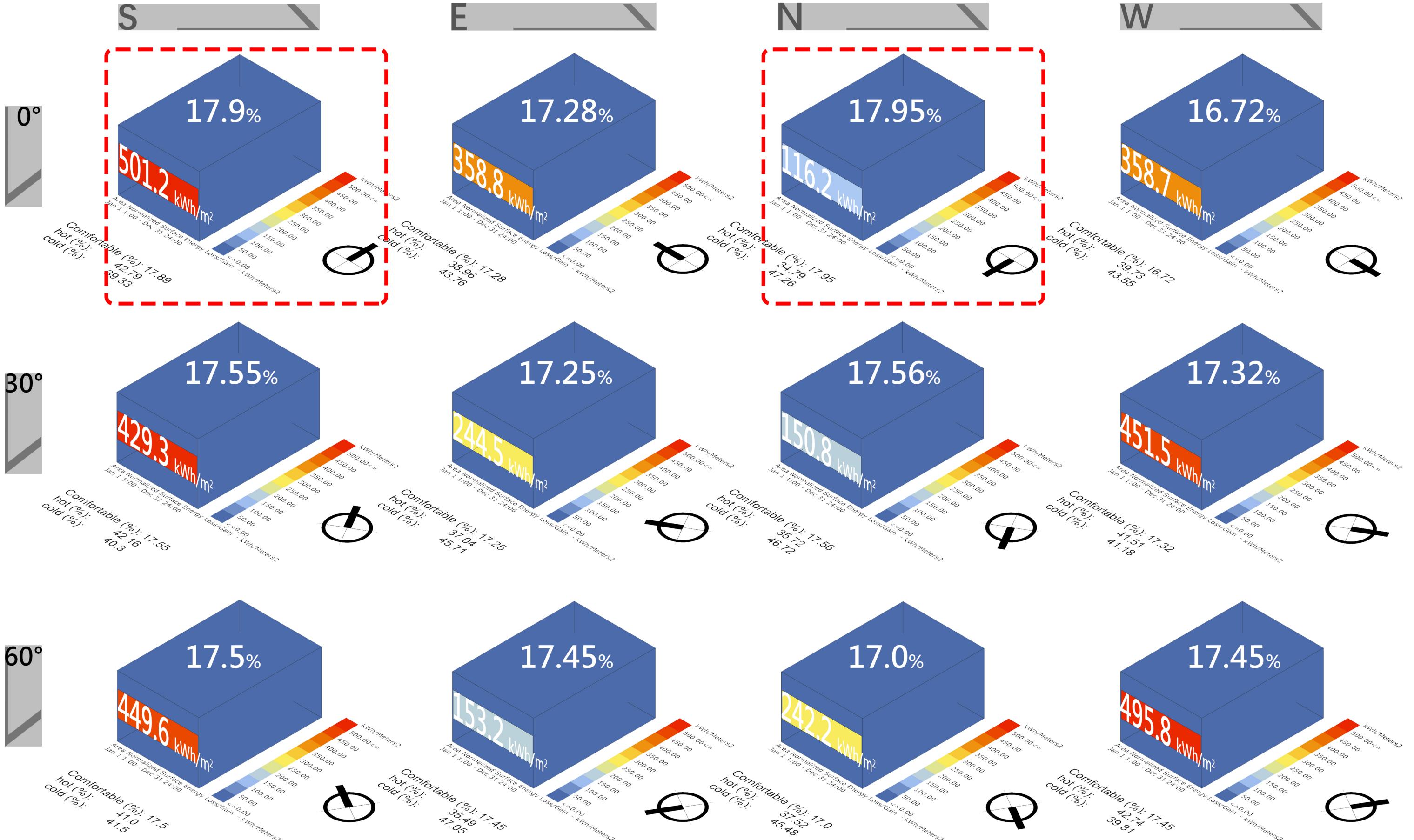
South  
Glazing Ratio: 38%  
Horizontal blinds:  
Depth: 120mm  
Width: 3900mm  
Quantity: 10

Mim Indoor Temperature : 24 °C  
Maxi Outdoor Temperature : 28°C  
Equipment Load Per Area : 6  
Light Density Per Area : 3  
Num of People Per Area : 0.2

Exterior Wall : R 34.3      Fan Flow Rate : 3  
Exterior Window : R1.9 SHGC 0.39      Fan efficiency : 1  
Exterior Roof : R 34.3      Fan Pressure Rise : 70  
Air Flow : 1  
Ground floor EP Construction  
: 8 inch Concrete

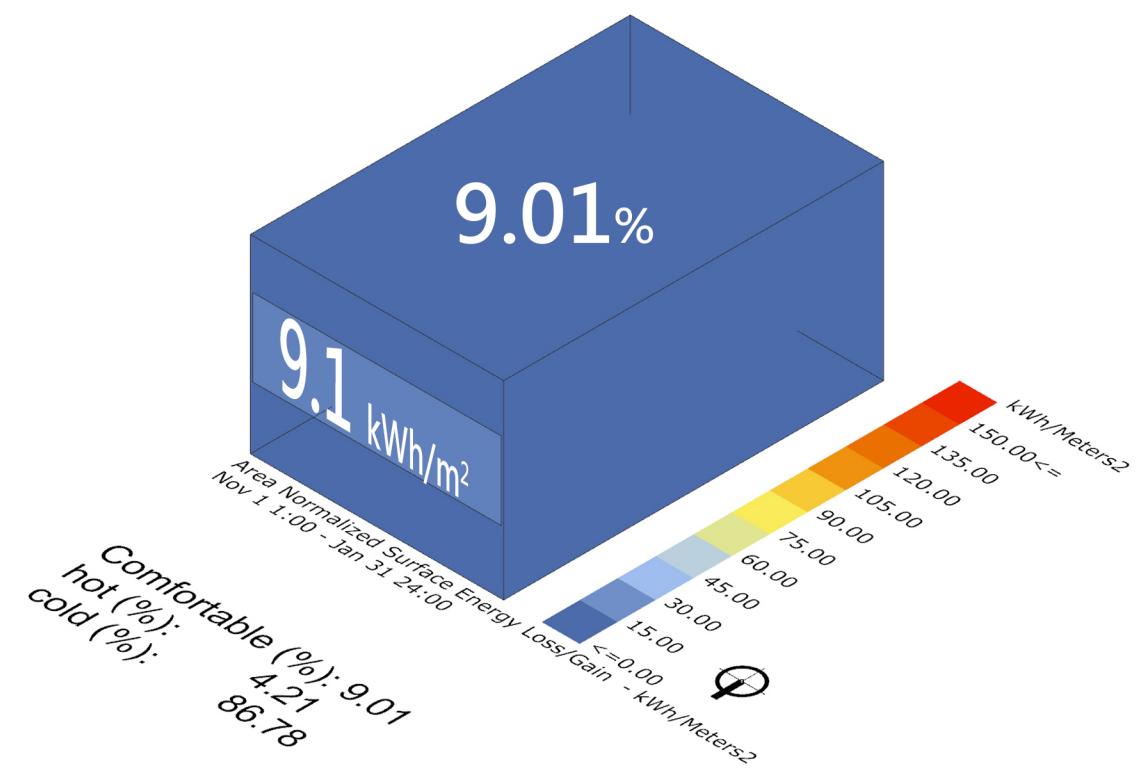
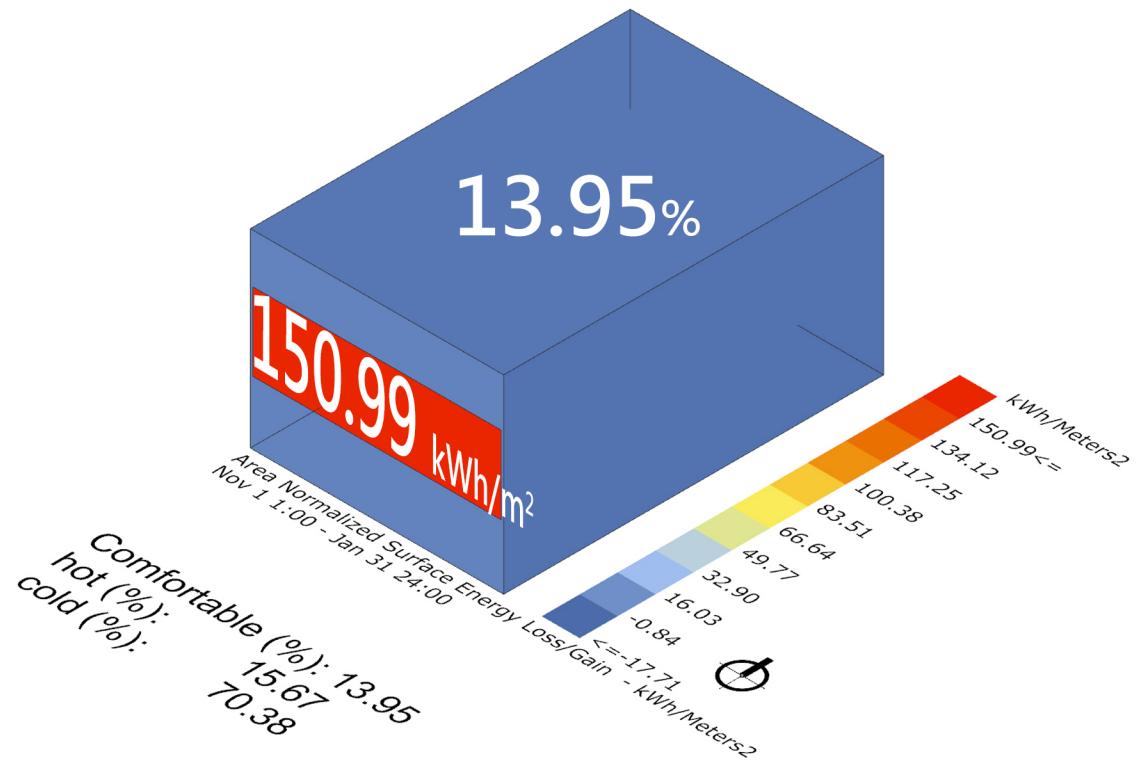
## OPTIMISATION

## ORIENTATION (EP result of opening & Percentage time of comfort)



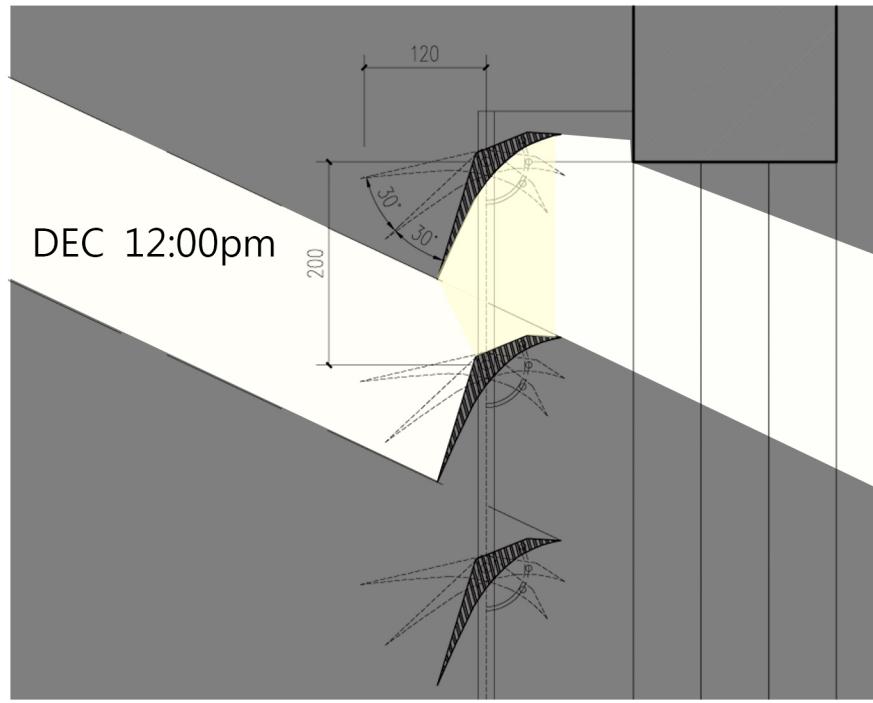
Energy simulation with comfort calculation of 12 directions can screen out the best option of the orientation. Base on the charts, **SOUTH & NORTH** may be two of the best choice. Next sept will analyze the situation of two options in winter .

## ORIENTATION (EP result of opening & Percentage time of comfort)



Compared the opening orientation of opposite side in the **winter**, it makes much more sense to locate opening on the **south** orientation since this option not only absorbs more solar radiation but also provide greater value of percentage of comfort.

## Sept 1: VISUAL COMFORT



Advanced well design shading device can block the direct sun beam shoot into interior, it can also produce indireceted daylight through reflection. This shading device is movable and adaptable so it can adjust its blinds follow the solar azimuth. After installing the shading system, glare may reduce from 0.51 to 0.31 at 12:00 Dec 21st .

Glazing Ratio: 38%

Horizontal blinds:

Depth : 120mm

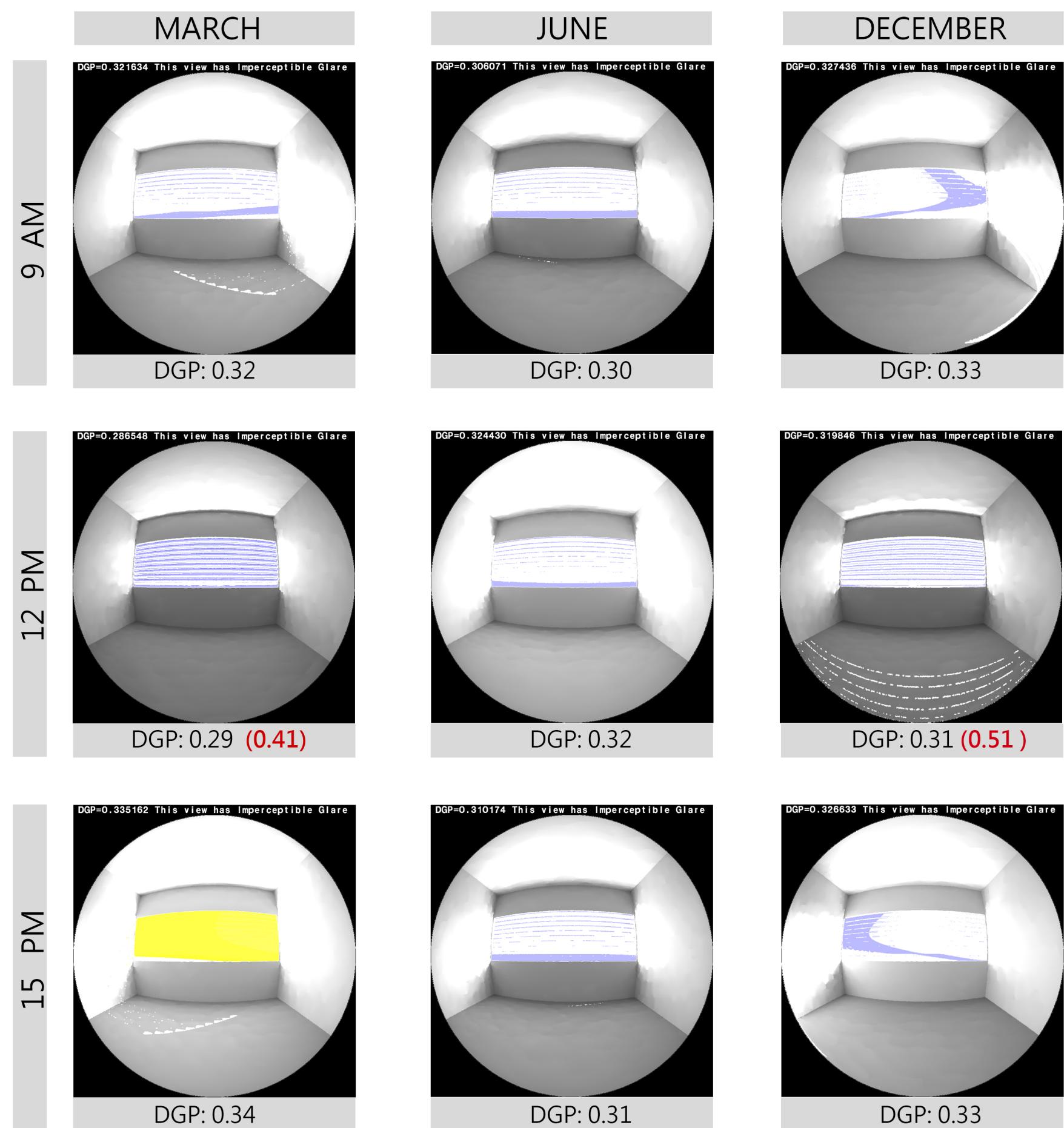
Width : 3800mm

Imperceptible: <35%

Perceptible: 35~40%

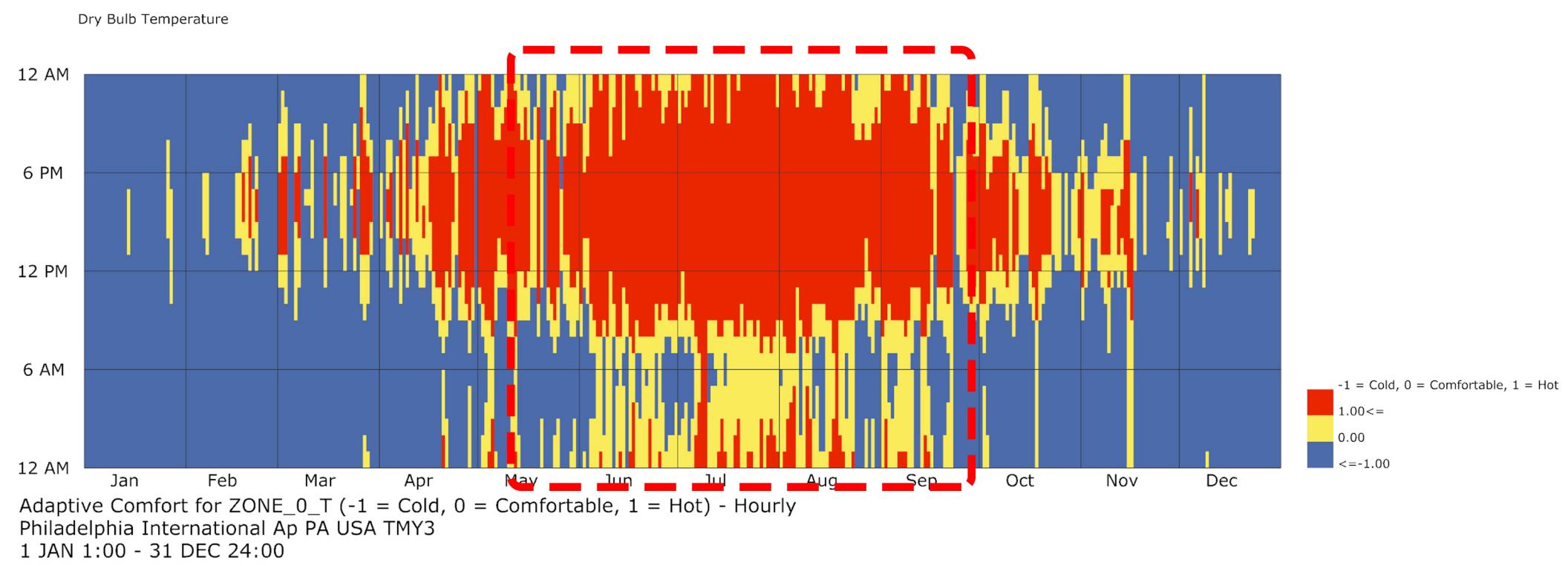
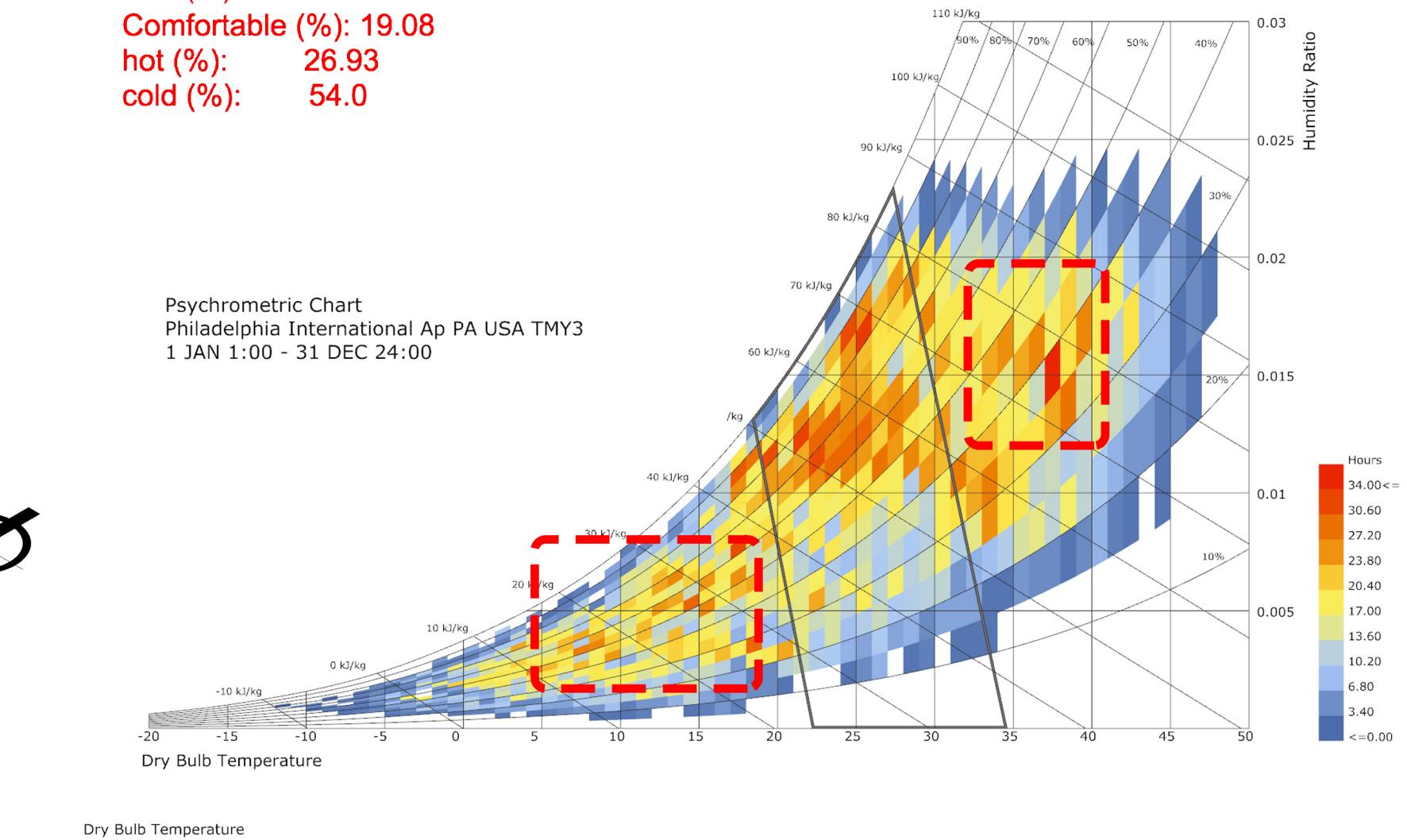
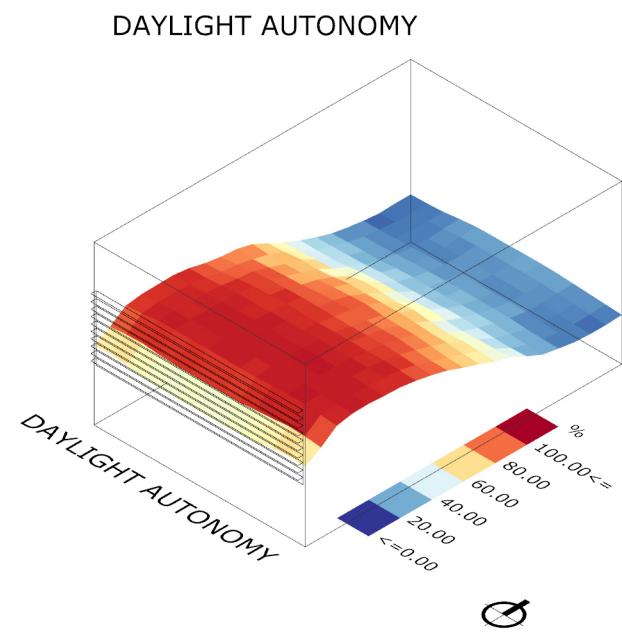
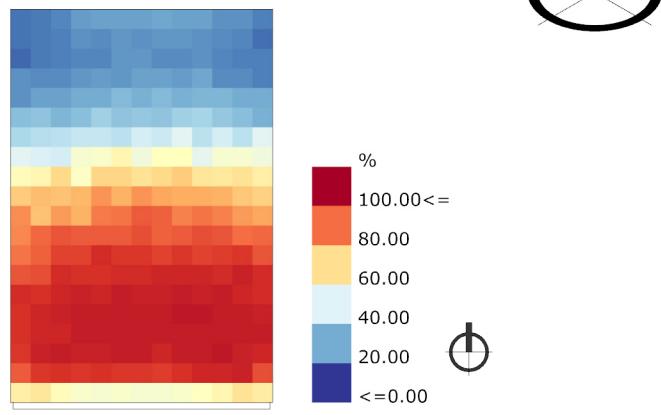
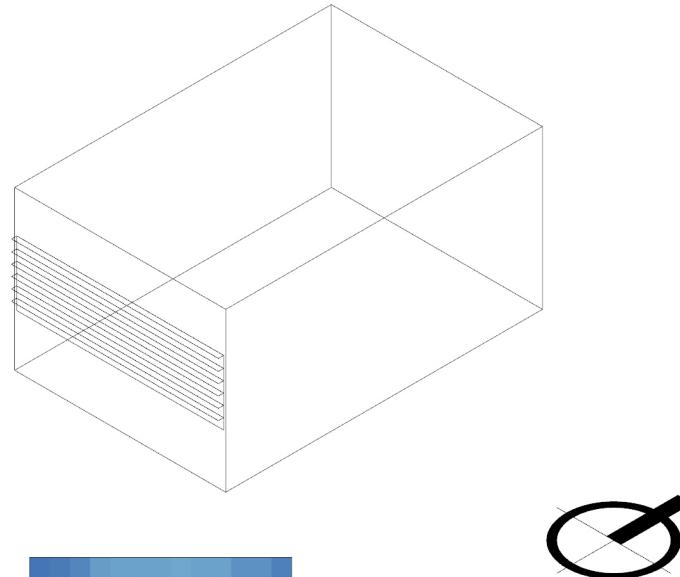
Disturbing: 40~45%

Intolerable: >45%

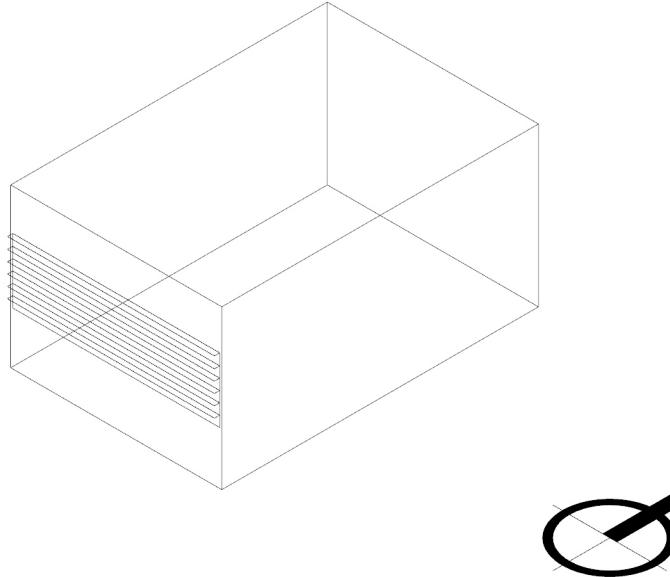


# Sept 1 DAYLIGHT AUTONOMY & ADAPTIVE COMFORT

SDA(%): 58.46  
 Comfortable (%): 19.08  
 hot (%): 26.93  
 cold (%): 54.0

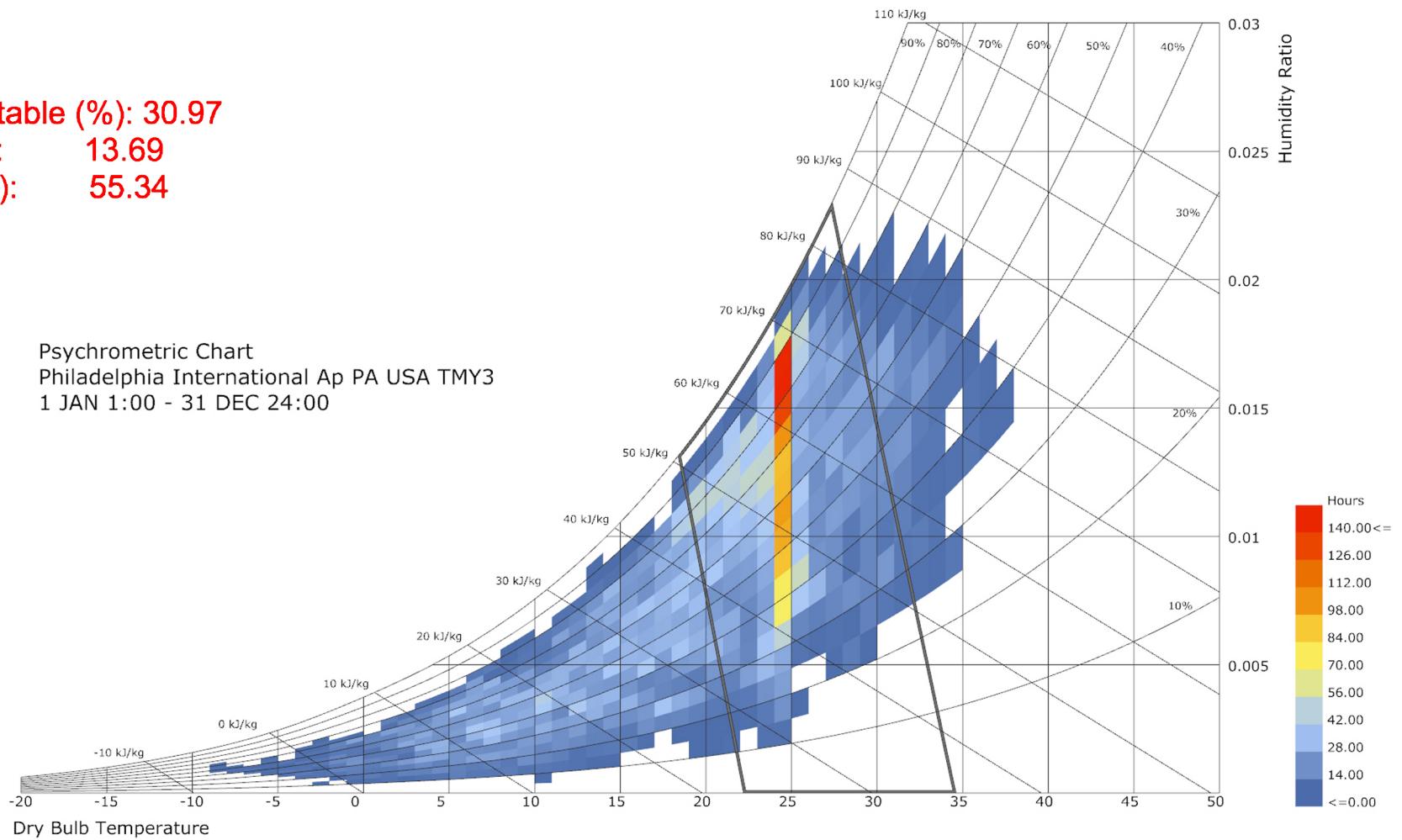


# Sept 2 VENTILATION



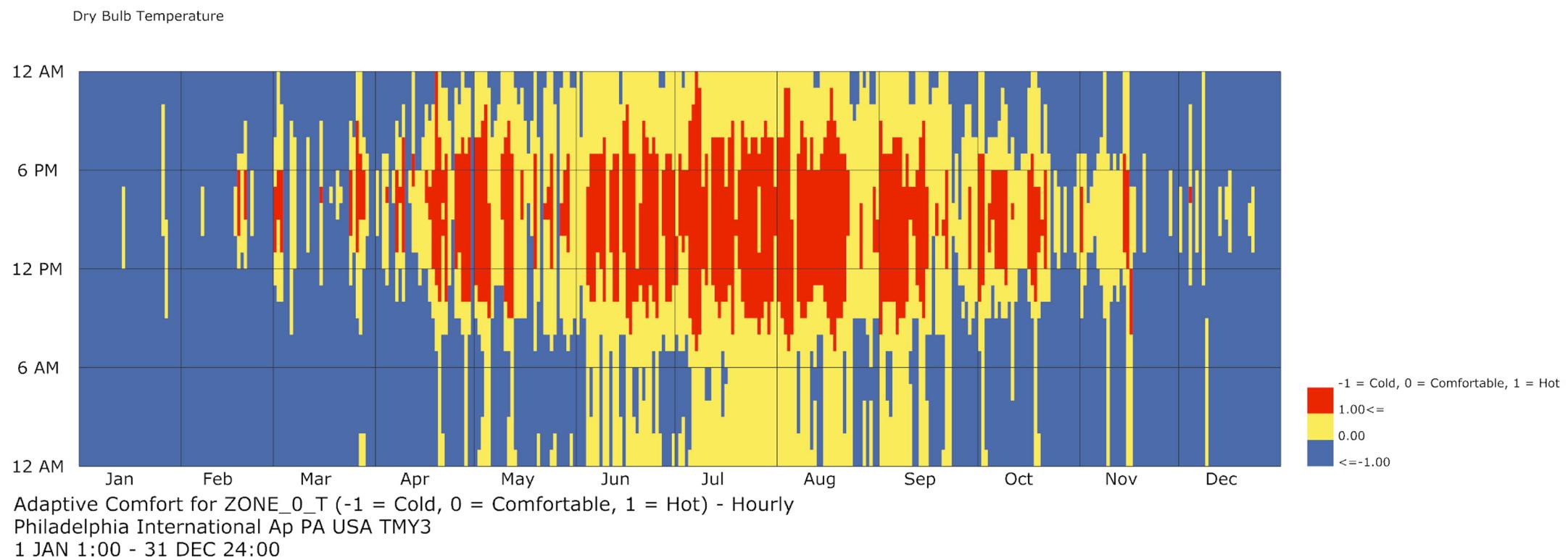
Comfortable (%): 30.97  
hot (%): 13.69  
cold (%): 55.34

Psychrometric Chart  
Philadelphia International Ap PA USA TMY3  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00

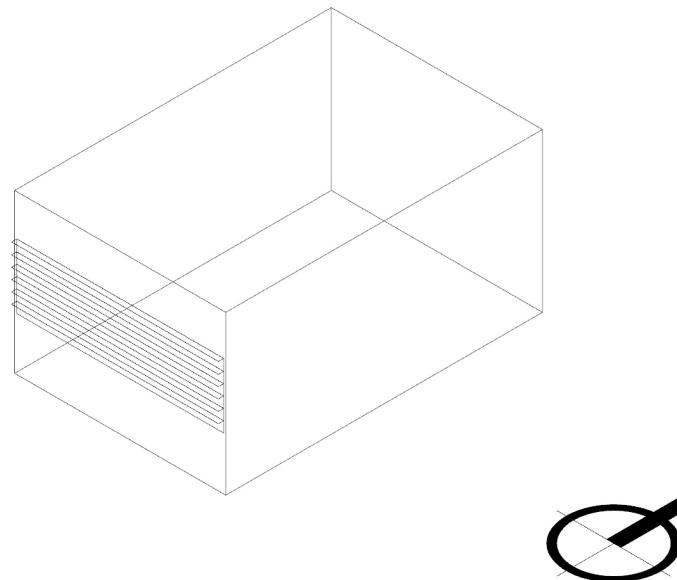


## parameters

Mim Indoor Temperature :	<b>24 °C</b>
Maxi Outdoor Temperature :	<b>28°C</b>
Equipment Load Per Area :	<b>6</b>
Light Density Per Area :	<b>3</b>
Num of People Per Area :	<b>0.2</b>

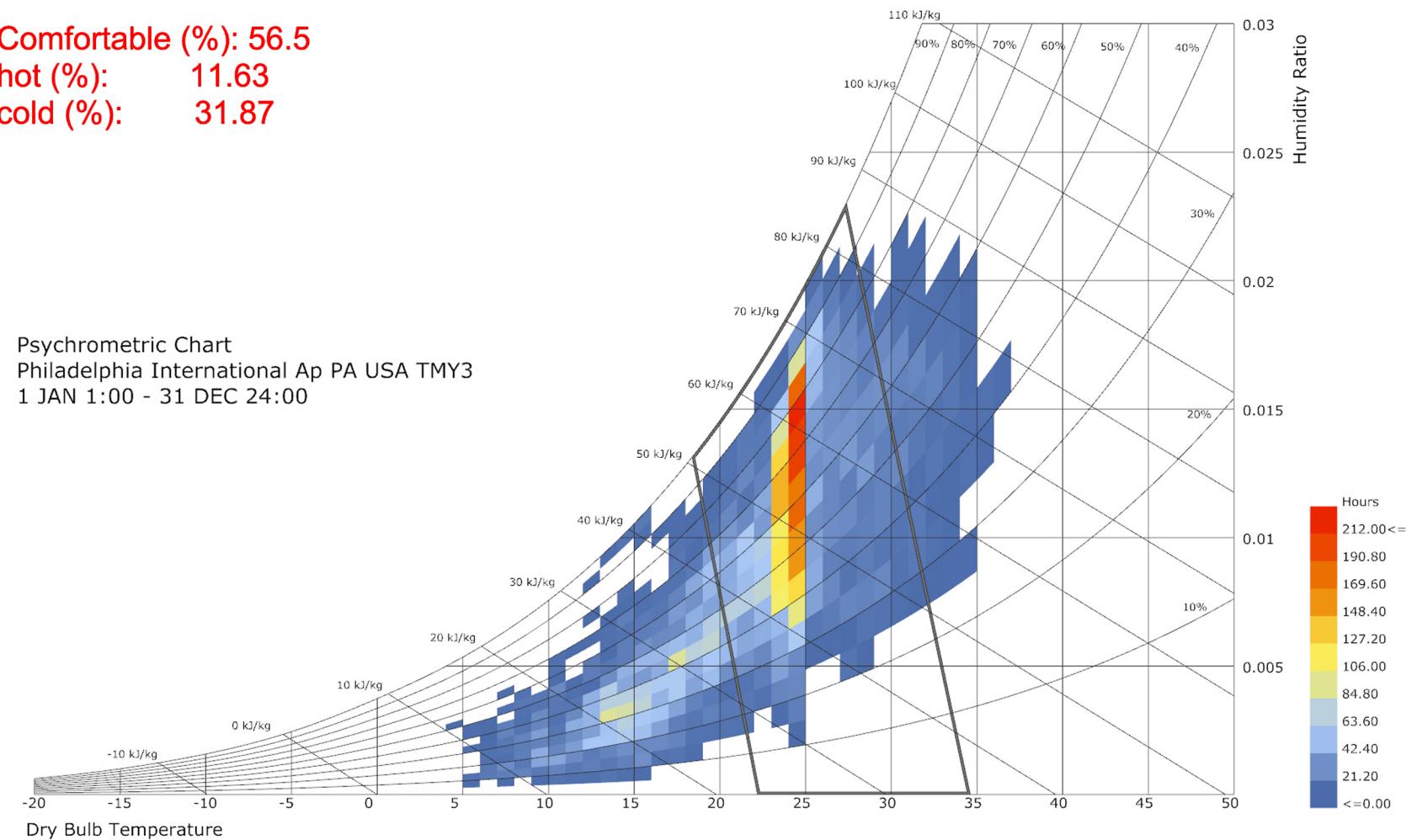


## Sept 3 MATERIAL



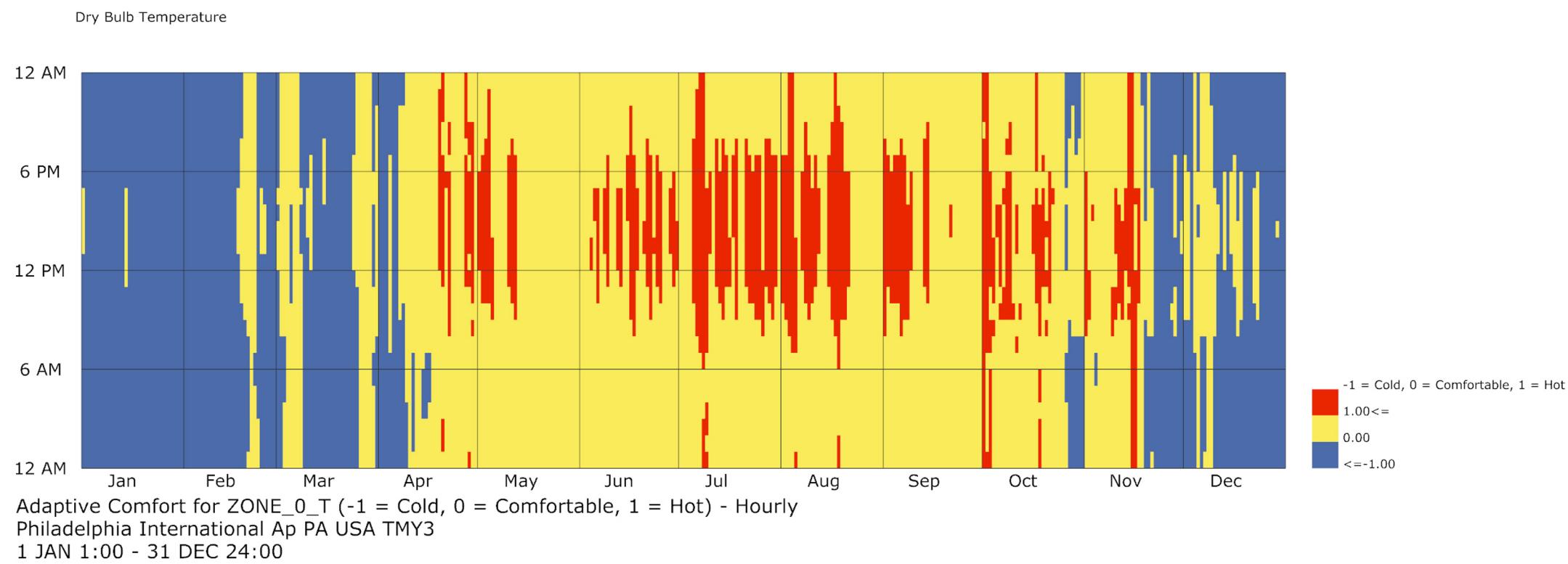
**Comfortable (%)**: 56.5  
**hot (%)**: 11.63  
**cold (%)**: 31.87

**Psychrometric Chart**  
 Philadelphia International Ap PA USA TMY3  
 1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00



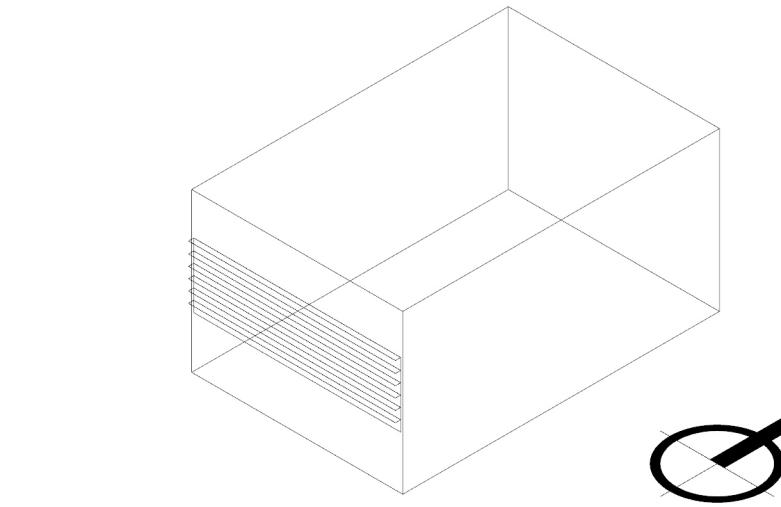
### parameters

Exterior Wall : R 34.3  
 Exterior Window : R1.9 SHGC 0.39  
 Exterior Roof : R 34.3  
 Air Flow : 1  
 Ground floor EP Construction : 8 inch Concrete



## Final design assessment & Conclusions

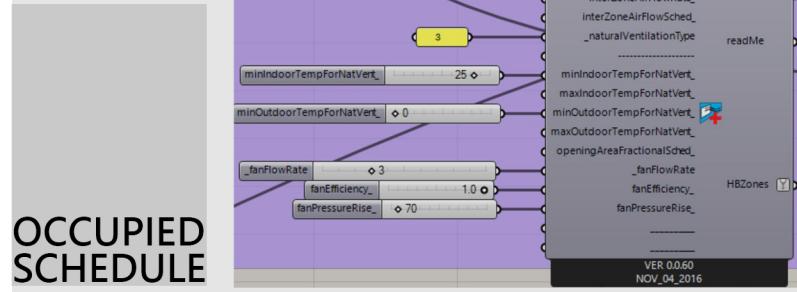
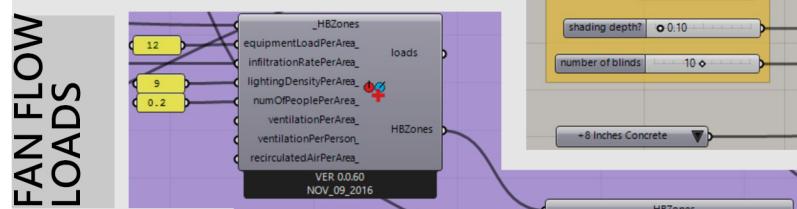
## Sept 4 FURTHER IMPROVEMENT



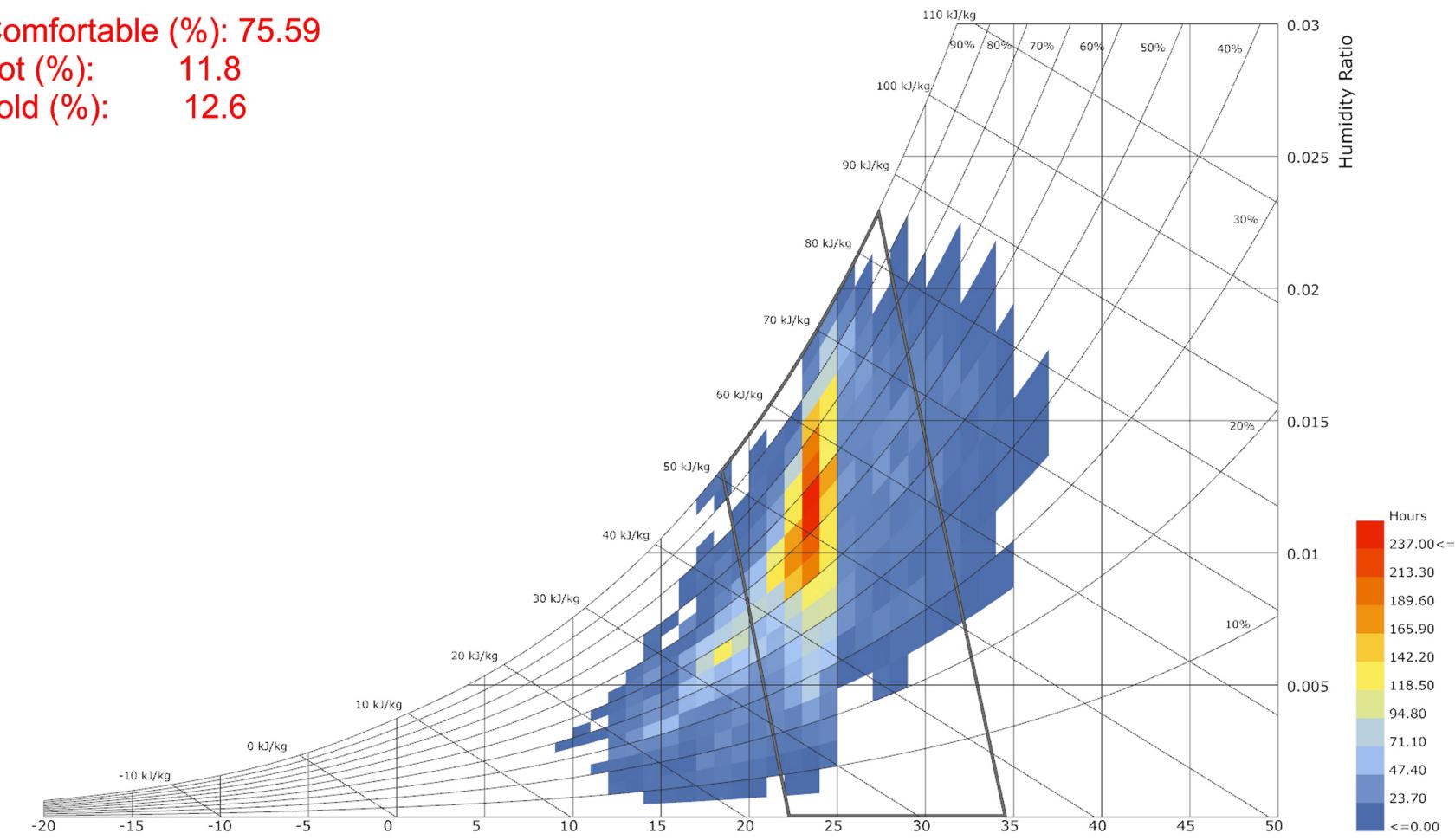
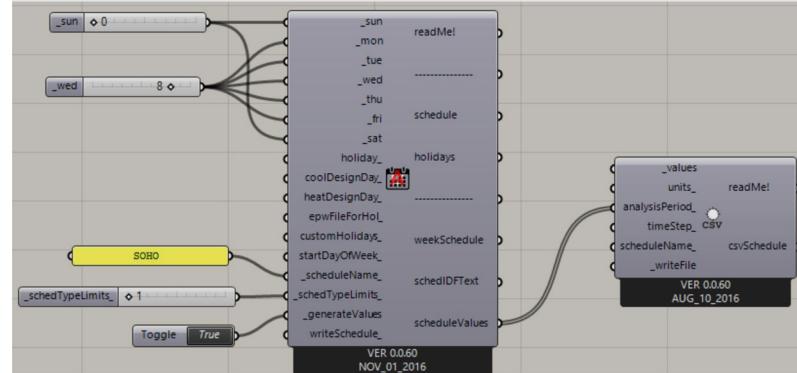
Comfortable (%): 75.59  
hot (%): 11.8  
cold (%): 12.6

### Parameters

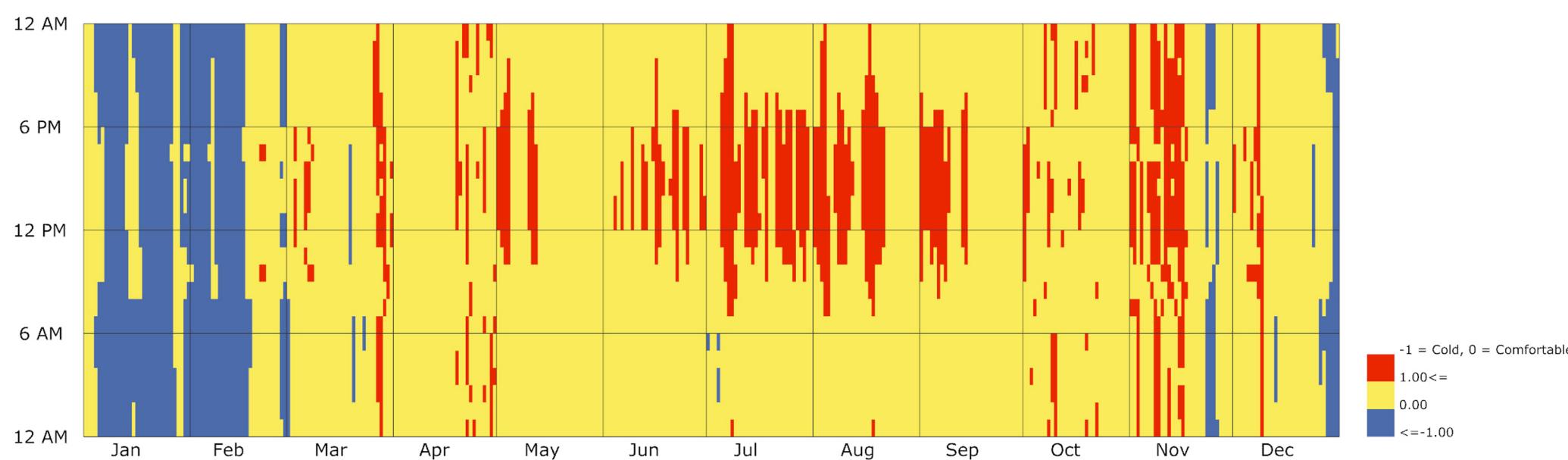
Fan Flow Rate : 3  
Fan efficiency : 1  
Fan Pressure Rise : 70



### OCCUPIED SCHEDULE

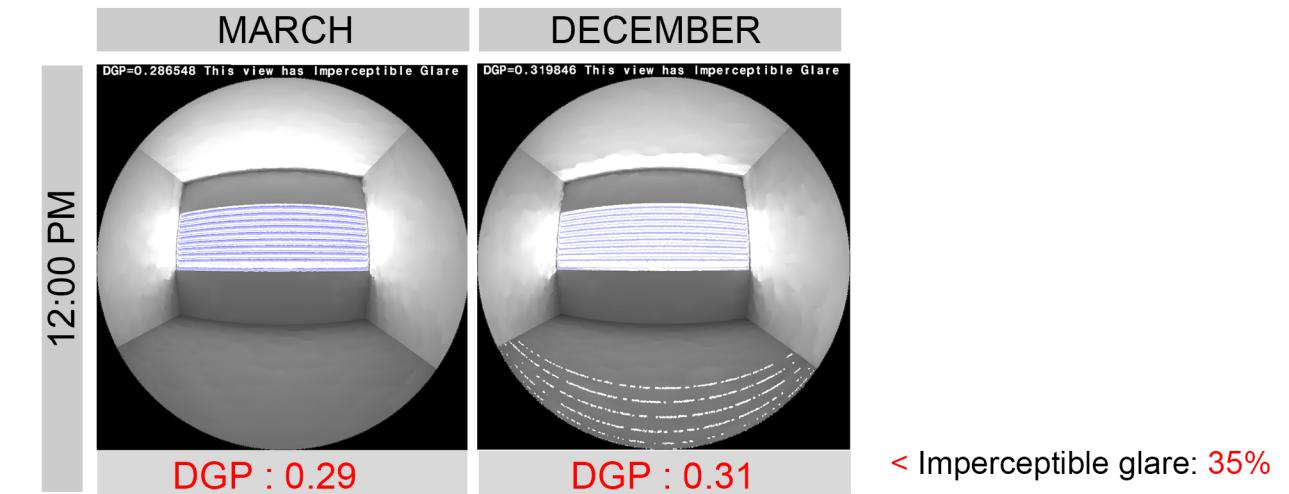
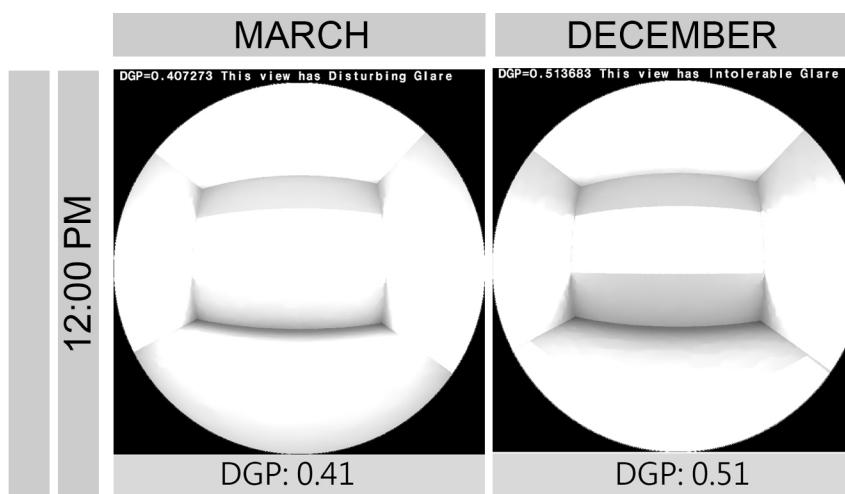
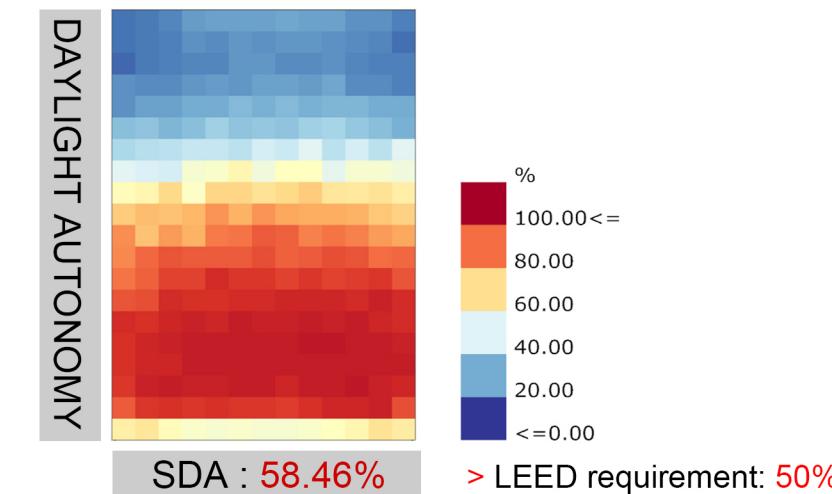
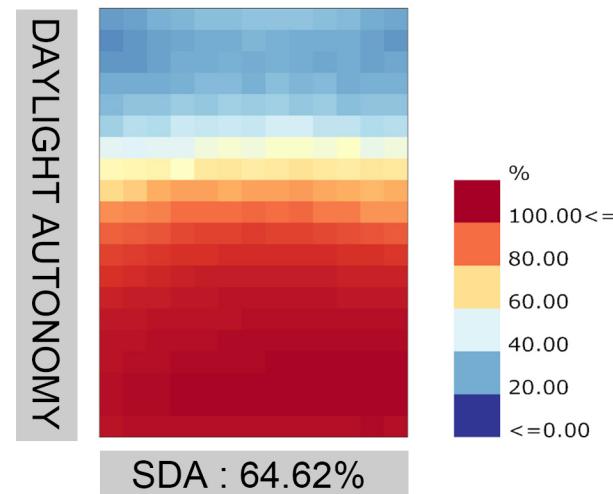
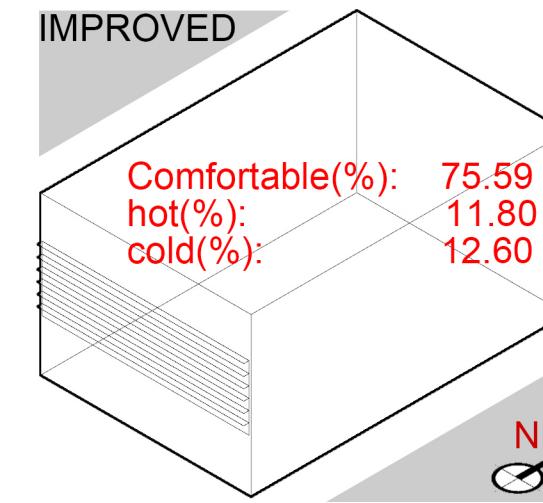
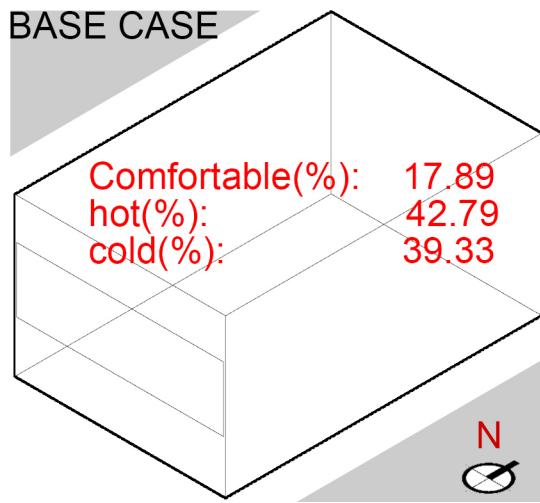


Psychrometric Chart  
Philadelphia International Ap PA USA TMY3  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00



Adaptive Comfort for ZONE\_0\_T (-1 = Cold, 0 = Comfortable, 1 = Hot) - Hourly  
Philadelphia International Ap PA USA TMY3  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00

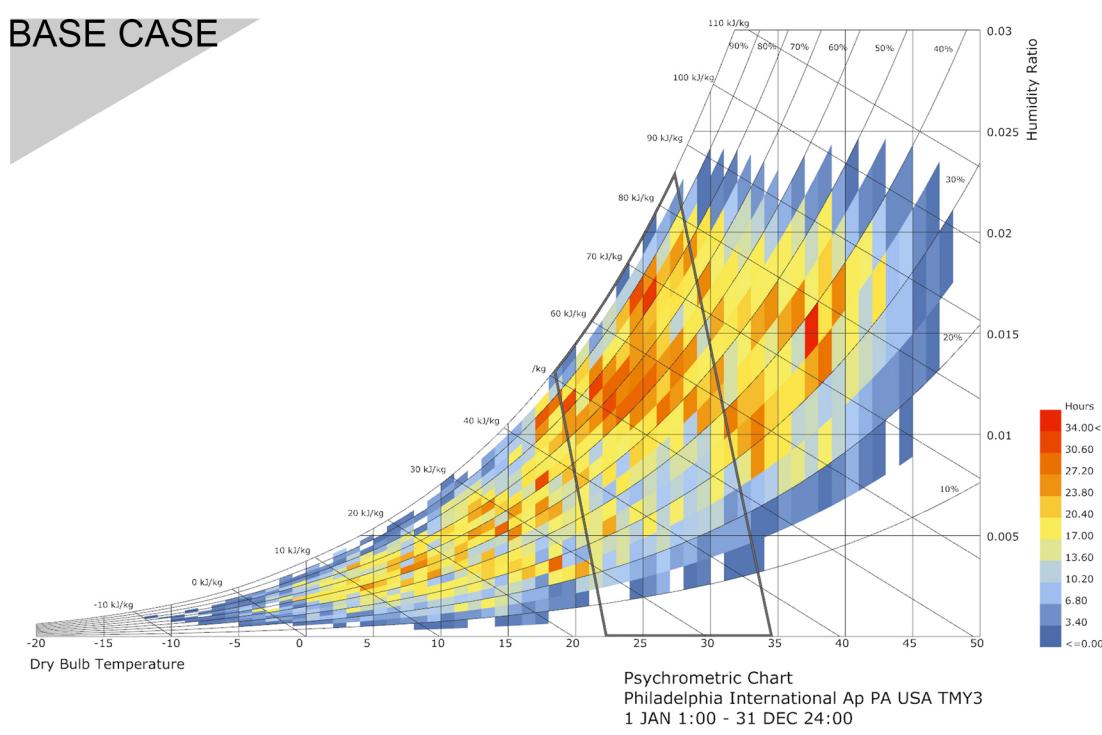
## SUMMARY(DAYLIGHTING)



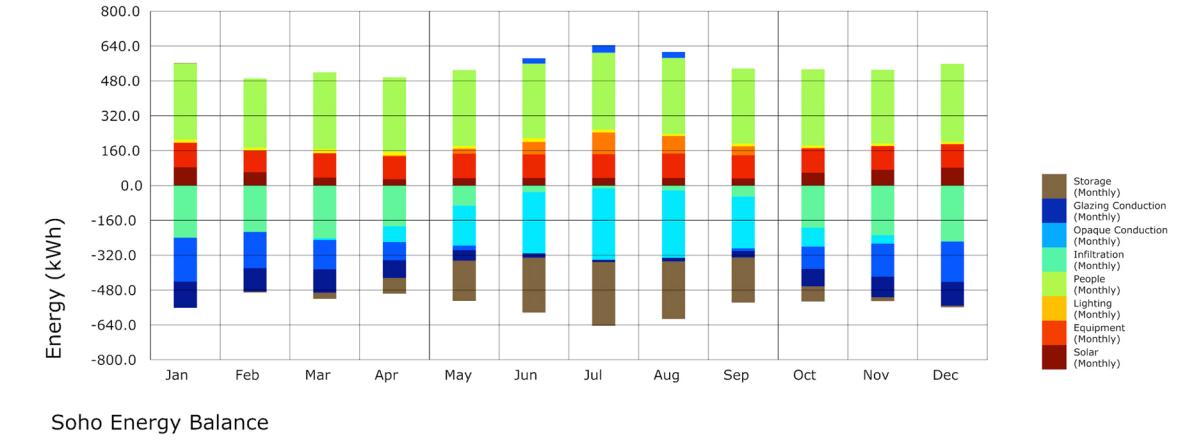
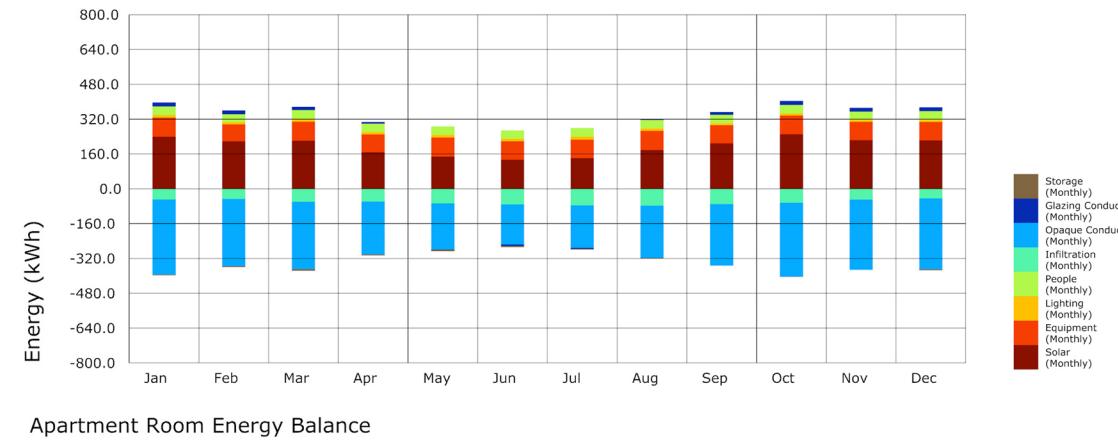
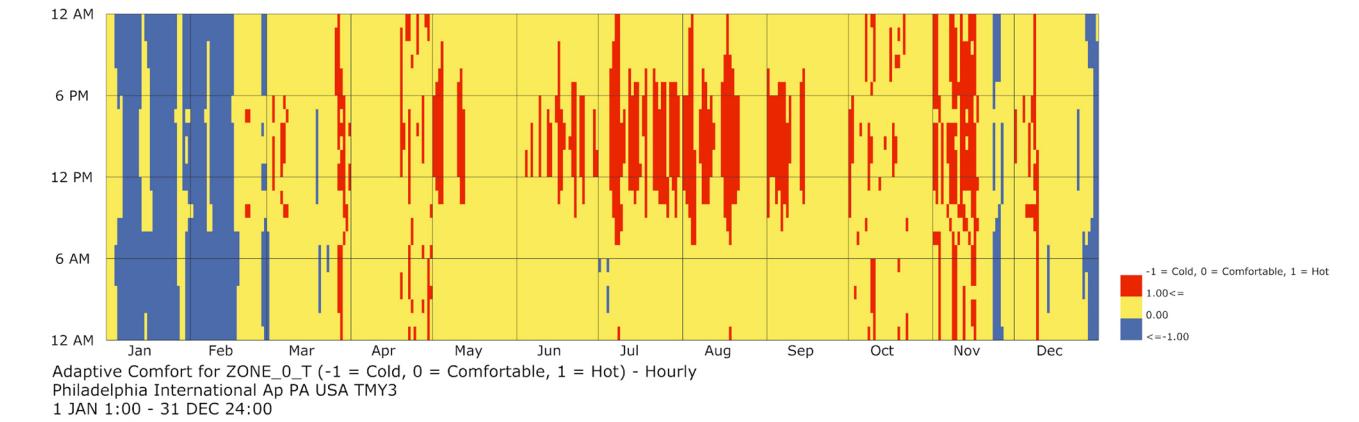
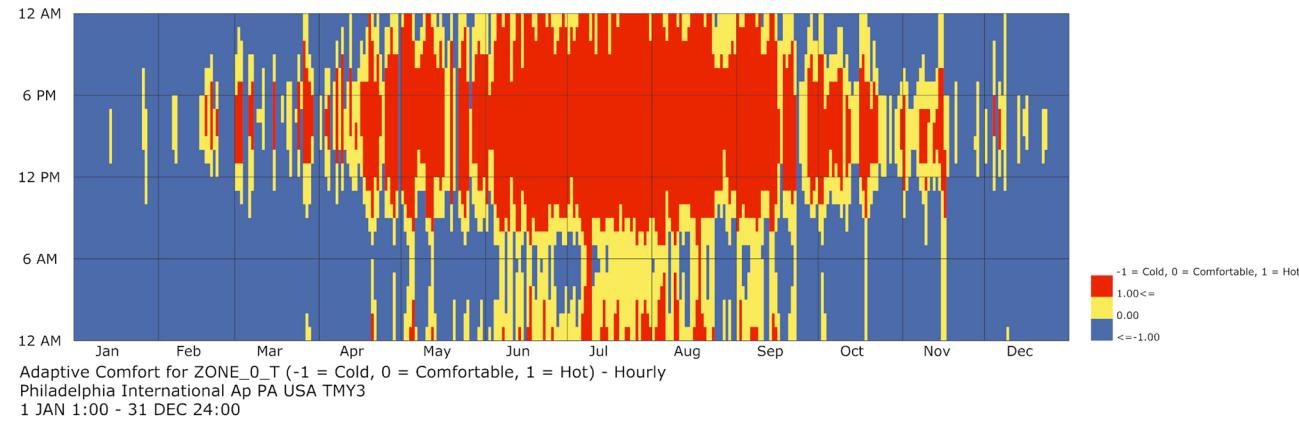
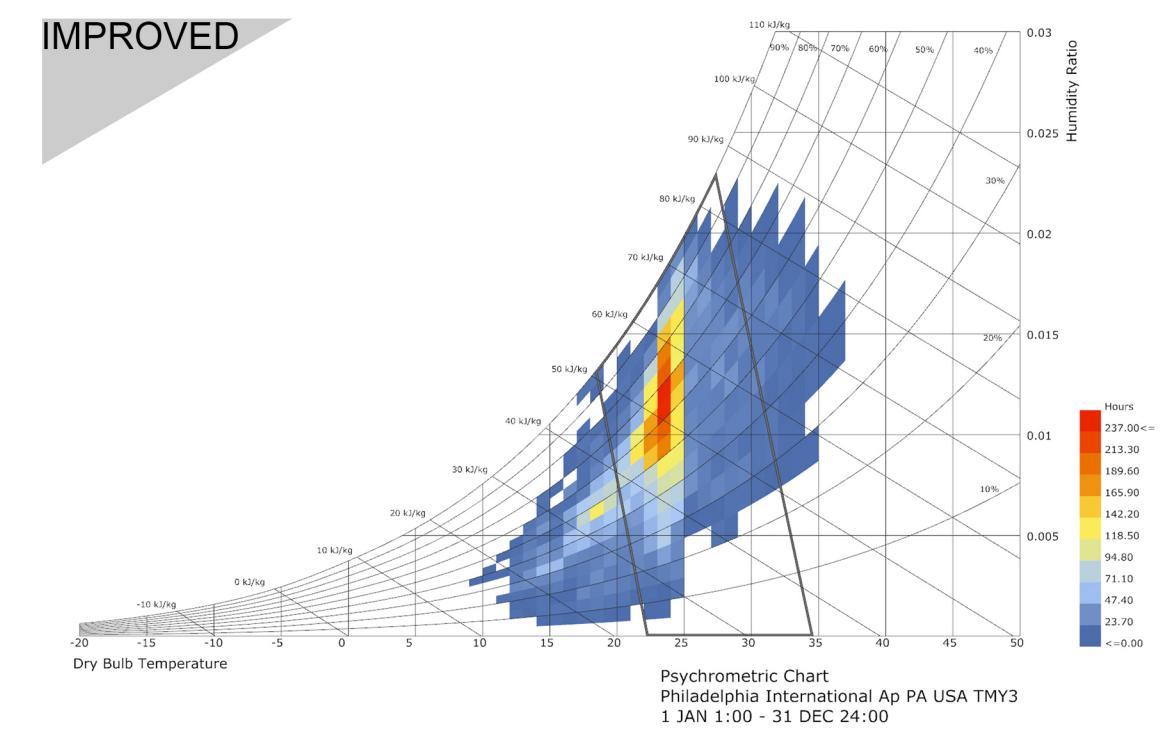
Installing the rotatable blinds can efficiently reduce the DGP (Daylight Glare Probability) · this shading device can also hold the SDA (Spatial Daylight Autonomy) exceeding the LEED standard which requires the DLA llum Thresholds value (300lux)for at least 50%.

# SUMMARY( COMFORT & ENERGY)

BASE CASE



IMPROVED



By improving the natural ventilation, material, and the fan flow, the comfort rate can increase remarkably from 18% to 76%.