

# **Passive Design Strategies**

### **Building Energy Use**





#### Climate





#### **Gandhinagar Climate**







# **PASSIVE DESIGN STRATEGIES**

Indo-Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project

#### **Passive Design Strategies**



1	BUILDING MASSING AND ORIENTATION			
2	BUILDING ENVELOPE	ROOF AND WALLS		
		WINDOWS		
		AIR LEAKAGE		
3	DAYLIGHTING			
4	NATURAL VENTILATION			



#### 1 BUILDING MASSING AND ORIENTATION

#### **Building massing and orientation**



- Massing is the overall shape and size of the building
  - Orientation is the direction the building faces



Good building massing and orientation helps minimise external energy loads and harness solar and wind energy for human comfort

#### **Ahmedabad Sun Path**





#### Sun exposure in different directions





#### **Remove / Reduce Internal Gains**









### Significance of building envelope



The building envelope is the boundary between the conditioned interior of a building and the outdoors.



The building envelope is first a protection and shelter.

It should meet this need of the occupants while reducing energy consumption.

### **Energy Loads: Building Envelope Components**





### Heat transfer through Roof and Walls





## Heat flows naturally from Hot to Cold.





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#### **Heat Flow in Buildings**



#### When Hotter Outside



#### When Colder Outside



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- A material that restricts the transfer of heat
- In buildings, material that restricts the heat transfer better than structure materials

#### **Different Insulation Materials**





Mineral fibre insulation



Vermiculite



Glass foam insulation



Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)



Polyurethane Foam (PUF)



Extruded Polystyrene (XPS)



### How does a Material Insulate ?



- F t
- Reduce the density of matter to reduce conduction
  - Lock or suppress any fluid to avoid convection

	<b>—</b>
$\sim$	

• Using opaque or even reflecting materials to reduce **radiation** 



 Keep the product dry to avoid evaporation-condensation

# Locked Air: Main thermal insulation material in Buildings





- Air is a poor thermal conductor
- Air is locked in foam bubbles or between fibres, preventing convection
- Bubbles walls and fibres are themselves opaque to thermal radiation

Characteristics of insulating materials	Insulating power	Density	Fire résistance	Water vapour diffusion	Resistance to water	Compression strength	Traction strength	Heat resistance	Absorption of vibrations	Absorption of aerial noise	Cost at given insulation	Grey energy
Light mineral wool	+		++		0			+		++	\$	
Dense mineral wool	++	+	++		0	0	-	++	++	+	\$	0
Hemp fiber	0		0			0		0		++	\$	
Wood fibers	0	++	0			+		+	+	++	\$\$	-
Wood straw -cement	-	++	+			+	0	+	0	+	\$\$	-
Cellulose flakes	+		0				-	0		++	\$	
Cork	+	++	+	+	-	+	0	++	+	-	\$\$	
Glass foam	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++		-	\$\$\$	0
Cellular concrete		++	++	-	-	++	+	++		-	\$\$\$	0
PUR	++	-	0	-	0	+	+	++	-		\$	++
EPS	+		+	+	0	+	+	0	-		\$\$\$	-
Graphited EPS	++		+	+	0	+	+	0	-		\$	-
XPS	++	0	+	++	+	+	++	0	-		\$	+
Silica aerogel	+++		+		++		-	+	++		\$\$\$\$	+++

### **Insulation Application**



# External Distributed Internal Heat flow Heat flow Heat flow

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### **Thermal Conductivity K**



Property denoting a material's inherent ability to conduct heat. It is an intrinsic material property and is temperature dependent

Amount of heat transferred in 1 second through 1 m<sup>2</sup> of an homogeneous layer

1 metre thick, under a temperature difference of

1 degree.



# Smaller the thermal conductivity of a material, better is the thermal insulation provided by it.

#### **Thermal Resistance: R value**



Resistance of a layer of material, with thickness "d" to heat transfer



#### Heat Transfer Coefficient: U value





		24-n. use hospitals, center	buildings, hotels, call 's, etc.	& other building types			
/elope nponent		Max U-value	Min. R-value of insulation alone	Max U-value	Min. R-value of insulation alone		
Env	Climate Zone	W/(m²K)	m² K/W	W/(m²K)	m² K/W		
Roofs	Composite	0.261	3.5	0.409	2.1		
	Hot & Dry	0.261	3.5	0.409	2.1		
	Warm & Humid	0.261	3.5	0.409	2.1		
	Moderate	0.409	2.1	0.409	2.1		
	Cold	0.261	3.5	0.409	2.1		
Opaque walls	Composite	0.440	2.10	0.440	2.10		
	Hot & Dry	0.440	2.10	0.440	2.10		
	Warm & Humid	0.440	2.10	0.440	2.10		
	Moderate	0.440	2.10	0.440	2.10		
	Cold	0.369	2.20	0.352	2.35		



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		WINDOWS	

# Heat transfer through Windows- Single Glazing





# Heat transfer through Windows- Double Glazing





#### **Design decisions for windows**



Placement and Area (Window-Wall-Ratio)

#### **Solar Protection**

#### **Glazing and Frame Properties**

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### Placement & Area (Window-Wall-Ratio)





#### **Solar Protection**





- North-facing windows receive almost no direct sunlight. Only in summer mornings and evenings.
- Vertical fins or small recess into the wall can shade adequately



#### **South face Shading**





#### INFOSYS, HYDERABAD

#### **South face Shading**





#### INFOSYS, HYDERABAD


- Low sun on east west facades
- Solar azimuth angle also changes
- Dynamic shading most effective on east west facades

#### **External Movable shades**





#### **External Movable shades**







#### COMMUNICATION BUILDING, EPFL, LAUSANNE

#### ROLEX LEARNING CENTRE, EPFL, LAUSANNE







GOLCONDE, PONDICHERRY





#### SABARMATI ASHRAM, AHMEDABAD

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#### SAFAL PROFITAIRE, AHMEDABAD





#### SAFAL PROFITAIRE, AHMEDABAD

#### Window Glazing & Frame





#### Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)



SHGC is the ratio of solar (radiant) heat gain that passes through the fenestration to the total incident solar radiation that falls on it.

SHGC is a dimensionless number between 0 and 1.

#### FACTORS INFLUENCING SHGC:

- Solar protection or shading
- Type of glass & number of panes
  - Tints & Coatings on the glazing
  - Gas fill between glazing layers

#### **U** Factor



As with opaque envelope components, U-factors measure thermal conductivity through the window components.

#### FACTORS INFLUENCING U FACTOR:

- The size of the air gap between glass panes
  - Coatings on the glazing
  - Gas fill between glass panes
    - Frame construction

# Visible Light Transmission (VLT)



VLT is the ratio of visible light that passes through a glazing unit to the total visible light incident on it.

#### FACTORS INFLUENCING VLT:

- Colour of glass
- Tints & Coatings on the glazing
  - Number of glass panes

### **Different Glazing Types**



Glazing type	Glass pane thickness (mm)	U factor W/(m²K)	SHGC	VLT
Single clear glazing	6	6	0.81	0.89
Double glazing (clear)	6	2.7	0.7	0.79
Double glazing (low-e)	3	1.8	0.71	0.75
Triple glazing (clear)	3	2	0.67	0.74
Double glazing, argon filled (low-e)	6	1.4	0.57	0.73

Source: <u>www.wbdg.org/resources/windows.php</u>, Whole Building Design Guide

Double glazing (low-e) SKN Envision	6	1.5	0.33	0.55
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Source: Saint Gobain



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	BUILDING ENVELOPE	WINDOWS
		AIR LEAKAGE

#### **Air Leakage**



Normal air movement in and out of buildings - infiltration and exfiltration - is known as air leakage and is usually measured using air changes per hour (ACH).

As it is uncontrolled and admits or expels conditioned air, it leads to more energy consumption in conditioned buildings.



It is estimated that up to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a building's HVAC energy is wasted due to air leakage.

Source: Wikipedia

# **Envelope Airtightness to reduce Air** Leakage



Reducing air leakage by making the building envelope airtight is estimated to save 5% to 40% of heating and cooling energy.

An air tight envelope is needed in all buildings, in all climates, except those without any mechanical ventilation for fresh air, i.e. naturally ventilated buildings. Thus, air leakage rates are often specified with consideration of mechanical ventilation for fresh air.

Source: IEA (2013), Technology Roadmap: Energy Efficient Building Envelopes, OECD/IEA, Paris.

### **Prescribed Minimum Air Leakage Rates**



Air leakage rates for European Union, United States and advanced housing programmes						
	Northern European Union without ventilation (code)	Northern European Union with ventilation (code)	United States, residential (code)	Passivhaus residential guideline	Typical for very tight new houses with ventilation	Old leaky houses
Performance metrics, air leakage at 50 Pa	2.5 ACH to 3.0 ACH	1.0 ACH to 0.6 ACH	≤ 3.0 ACH cold climate; ≤ 5.0 ACH hot climate	≤ 0.6 ACH	Approximately 0.2 ACH	10 ACH to 20 ACH

Source: IEA (2013), Technology Roadmap: Energy Efficient Building Envelopes, OECD/IEA, Paris.



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3	DAYLIGHTING	

#### **Design decisions for Daylight**



#### Space geometry

Light reflecting features

- Light shelves etc.
- Internal surfaces

#### **Space Geometry**





• Higher the window, deeper the daylight penetration in the room

 Usually, daylight penetration in the room is between 6m to 8m from the fenestration

#### **Space Geometry**





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#### **Light Reflecting Features**





- Lighter colours on interior surfaces reflect light better.
  - Helps in daylight distribution and reducing glare.

### **Daylighting Example**







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#### What is Natural Ventilation?



Natural ventilation is the process of supplying and removing air through an indoor space without using mechanical systems.



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- To provide an acceptable indoor air quality (IAQ)
- To provide thermal comfort by providing a heat transport mechanism
  - Cooling of indoor air by replacing or diluting it with outdoor air as long as outdoor temperatures are lower than the indoor temperatures.
  - Cooling of the building structure i.e. Thermal mass of building.
  - A direct cooling effect over the human body through convection and evaporation.

# Potential for Natural Ventilation in Gandhinagar





#### **Communications Building,** Federal Institute Of Technology, Lausanne





#### **Communications Building, Federal Institute Of Technology, Lausanne**





# Swiss Federal Office For Statistics, Neuchâtel





# Swiss Federal Office For Statistics, Neuchâtel





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# Swiss Federal Office For Statistics, Neuchâtel









# RECAP OF PASSIVE DESIGN MEASURES

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#### 1 BUILDING MASSING AND ORIENTATION

- Buildings with longer facades towards north and south
- Shape the building to mutually shade



#### 2 BUILDING ENVELOPE

- Insulation on the roof and walls to reduce heat transfer
- Seal air -conditioned buildings to prevent air leakages
- Shade windows to cut-off direct solar radiation from falling on the windows
- High performance window frame and glazing



#### 3 DAYLIGHT

- Place large windows on north and south facades
- Zone building spaces to place areas needing daylight at the perimeter
- Place windows higher up on the wall, near the ceiling for better daylight distribution
- Light shelves to reflect light deeper into the room
- Light coloured internal surfaces for better light reflection



#### 4 NATURAL VENTILATION

- In Gandhinagar, natural ventilation is feasible in late nights during summer and the winter months.
- Natural Ventilation useful only when outside temperature is lower than inside temperature
- Different operation schedule for windows and other openings at different times of the year
- Shallow floorplate assists better ventilation
- Atriums and openings at different levels assist stack ventilation
- Provide operable windows (with proper sealing) to have the option of natural ventilation


## THANK YOU

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