

# Residential buildings with low heat demand.

*The impact of design variables on the heat demand  
of residential buildings in the Netherlands.*

M.A. Nicolai

P5 presentation 22-05-2017  
Sustainable Design Graduation Studio

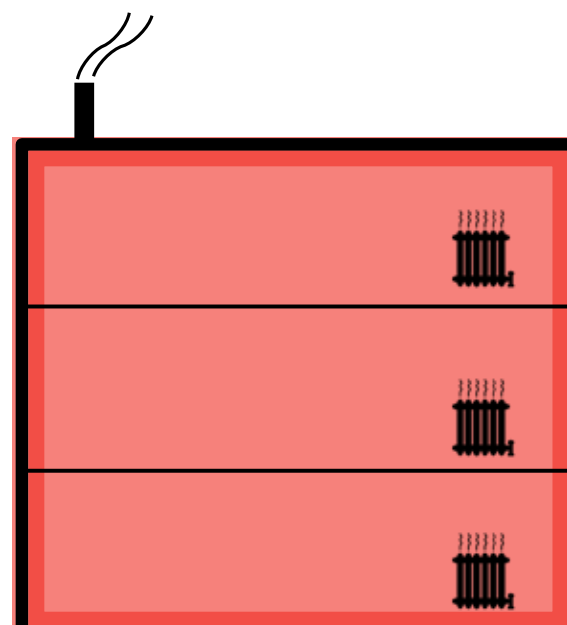
Mentors:

*Sabine Jansen*

*Engbert van der Zaag*

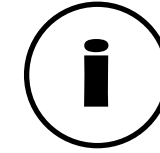
External examiner:

*Filip Geerts*

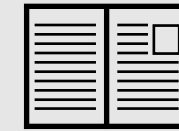


# OVERVIEW

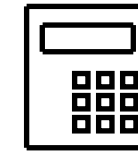
1. INTRODUCTION



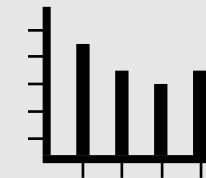
2. LITERATURE REVIEW



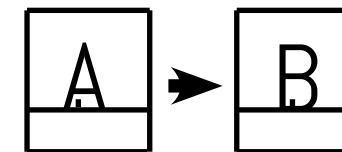
3. HEAT DEMAND CALCULATION



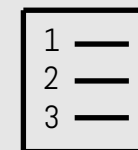
4. IMPACT STUDIES



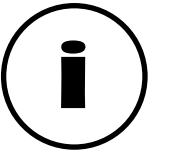
5. RE-DESIGN CASE



6. FINAL GUIDELINES



# 1. INTRODUCTION



1.1 Problem statement



1.2 Research questions



1.3 Methodology



## 1.1 Problem statement

- End of the fossil fuel age
- Societal demands on energy use
- Designers need to make the right decisions

# End of the fossil fuel age



Climate change spurs reduction of greenhouse emissions.

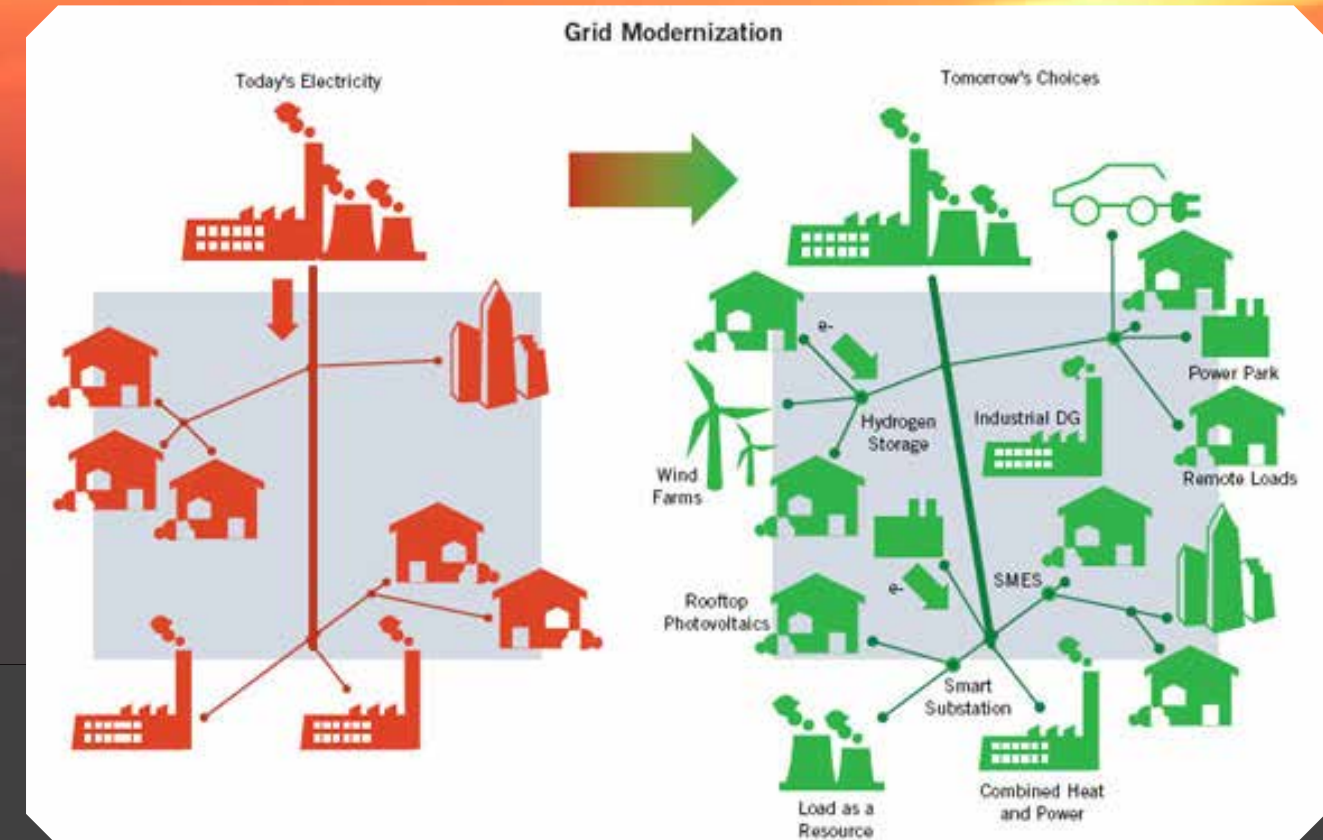


Geopolitical situation favors a move away from fossil fuel dependency.

# Societal demands on energy use

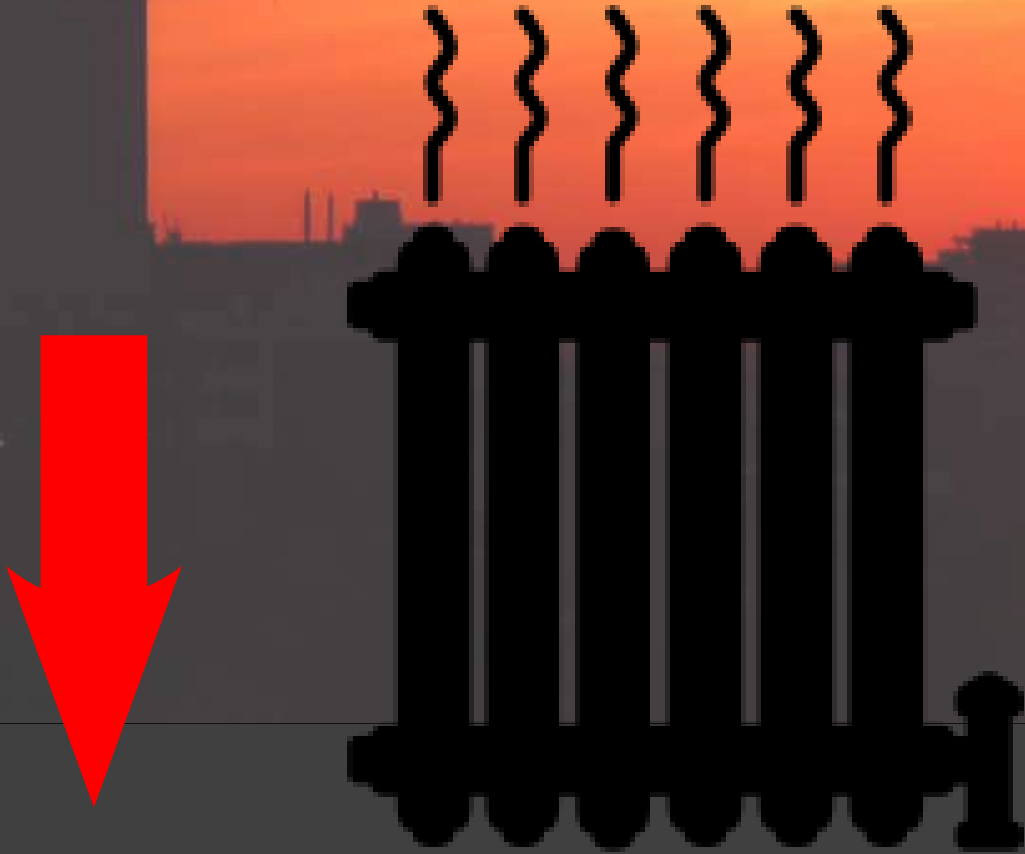


Dutch regulations: all new buildings (nearly) energy neutral starting 2021.



Rise of decentralized residential energy supply and storage.

Societal demands on energy use



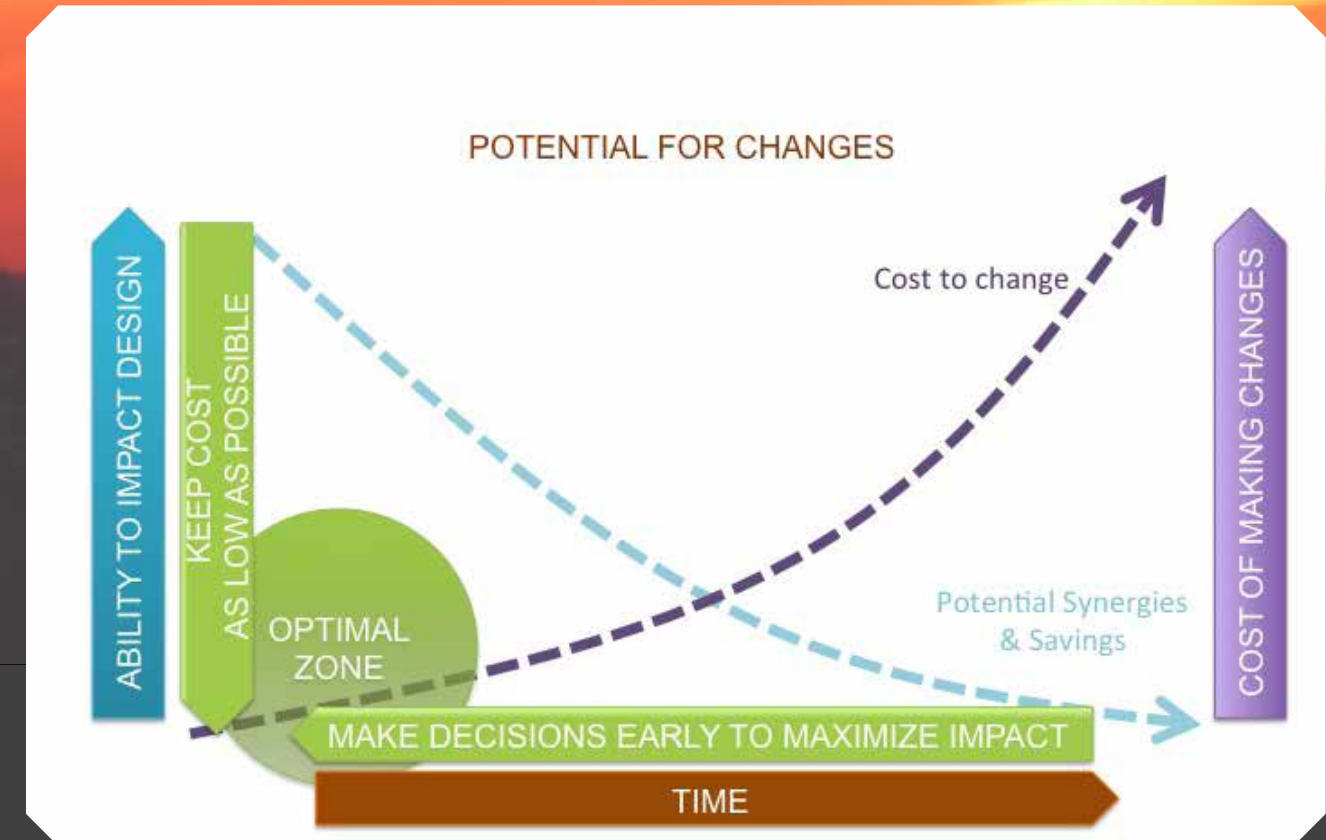
Reduction of heat demand

# Designers need to make the right decisions

## The Trias Energetica concept: the most sustainable energy is saved energy.

- 1** Reduce the demand for energy by avoiding waste and implementing energy-saving measures.
- 2** Use sustainable sources of energy instead of finite fossil fuels.
- 3** Produce- and use fossil energy as efficiently possible.

The first step is always heat demand reduction (Trias energetic etc.).



Early decisions have large impact for low cost.





## 1.2 Research questions

- Main question
- Sub questions



Main question:

*What is the impact of design variables  
on the heat demand of a residential building in the Netherlands  
and what guidelines can be established for designers?*



## Sub-questions:

- *What design variables are relevant to the heat demand of a building?*
- *How can the impact of design variables on the heat demand of a building be calculated?*
- *How can the knowledge of this impact best be applied to an actual building?*
- *How can guidelines for designers best be formulated?*

# Categorize - Quantify - Qualify

1.	1. = 100	2. 60
2.	2. = 60	3. 80
3.	3. = 80	1. 100

## 1.3 Methodology

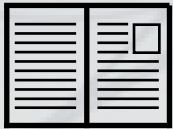
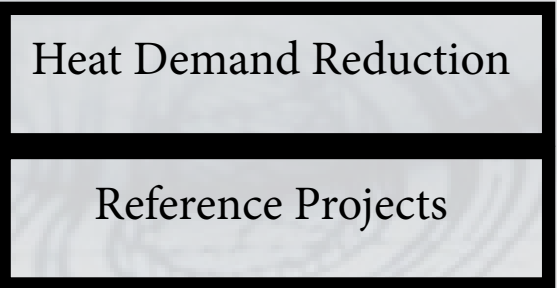
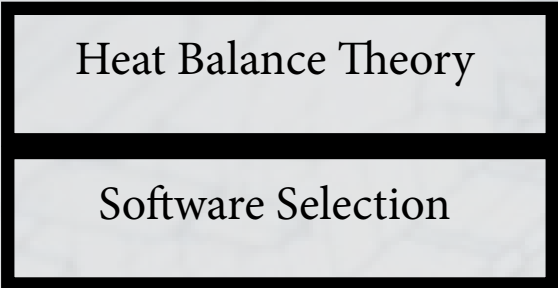
- Goals
- Process



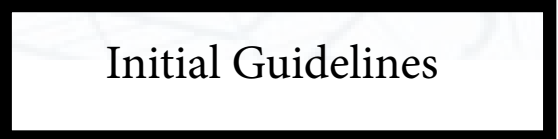
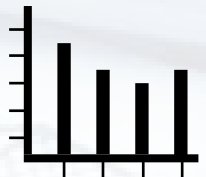
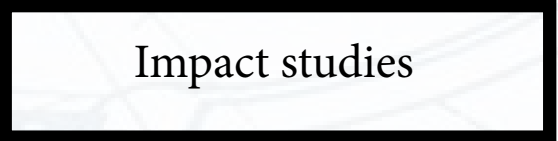
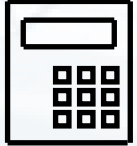
## Goals:

- 1. Make inventory of relevant design variables through literature review and reference study.*
- 2. Establish and validate a method to calculate the impact of design variables on heat demand.*
- 3. Study the impact of the design variables and apply the conclusions to a case study building.*
- 4. Establish clear guidelines for designers.*

PREPARATION

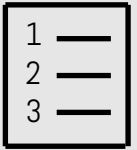
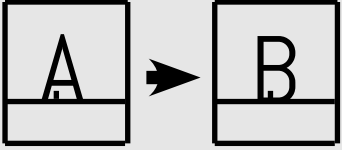


RESEARCH

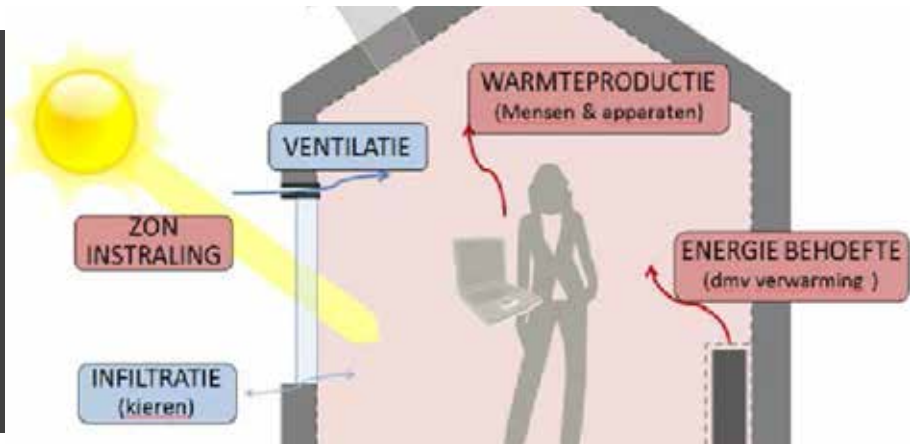
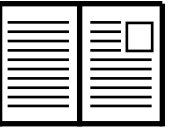


Process:

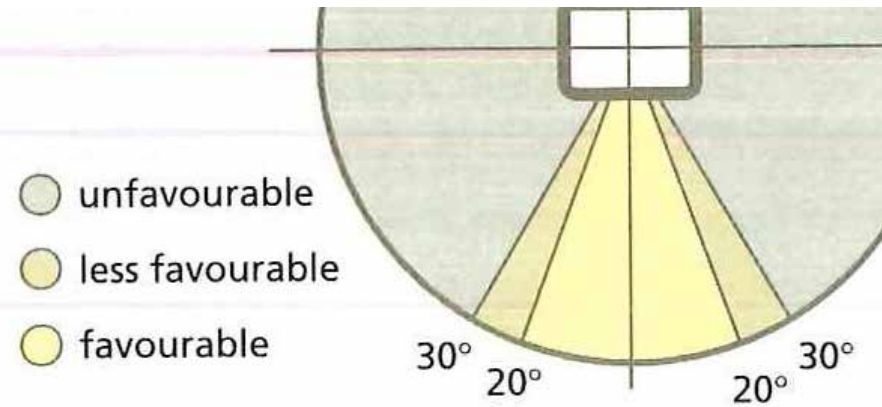
DESIGN



# 2. LITERATURE REVIEW



## 2.1 Heat balance theory



## 2.2 Design variables



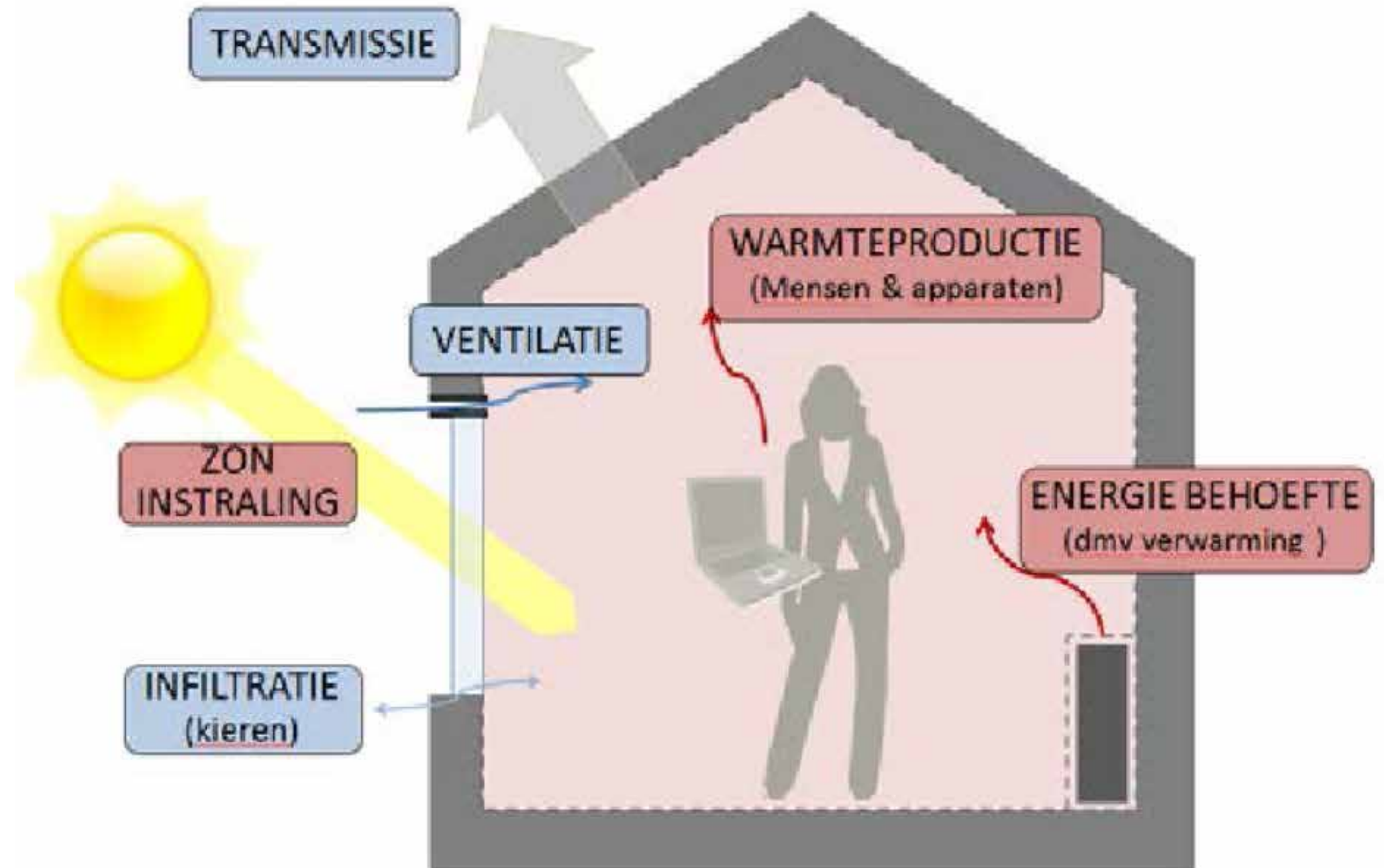
## 2.3 Reference projects



## 2.1 Heat Balance theory

- General Theory
- Transmission Heat Loss
- Solar Heat Gain

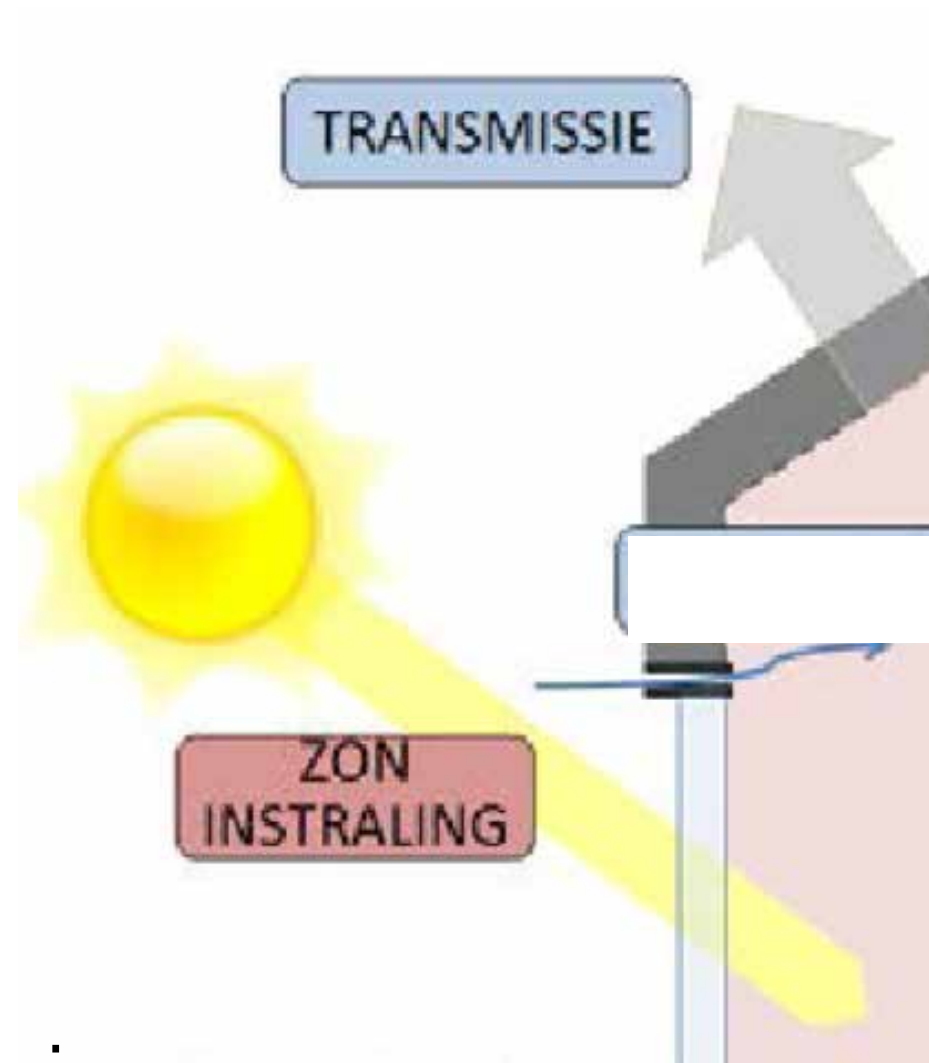




## General Theory

- Ventilation heat loss
- Infiltration heat loss
- Transmission heat loss

- + Internal heat gain
- + Solar heat gain



Most influenced by building design

- Ventilation heat loss
- Infiltration heat loss
- **Transmission heat loss**

- + Internal heat gain
- + **Solar heat gain**



## Transmission heat loss

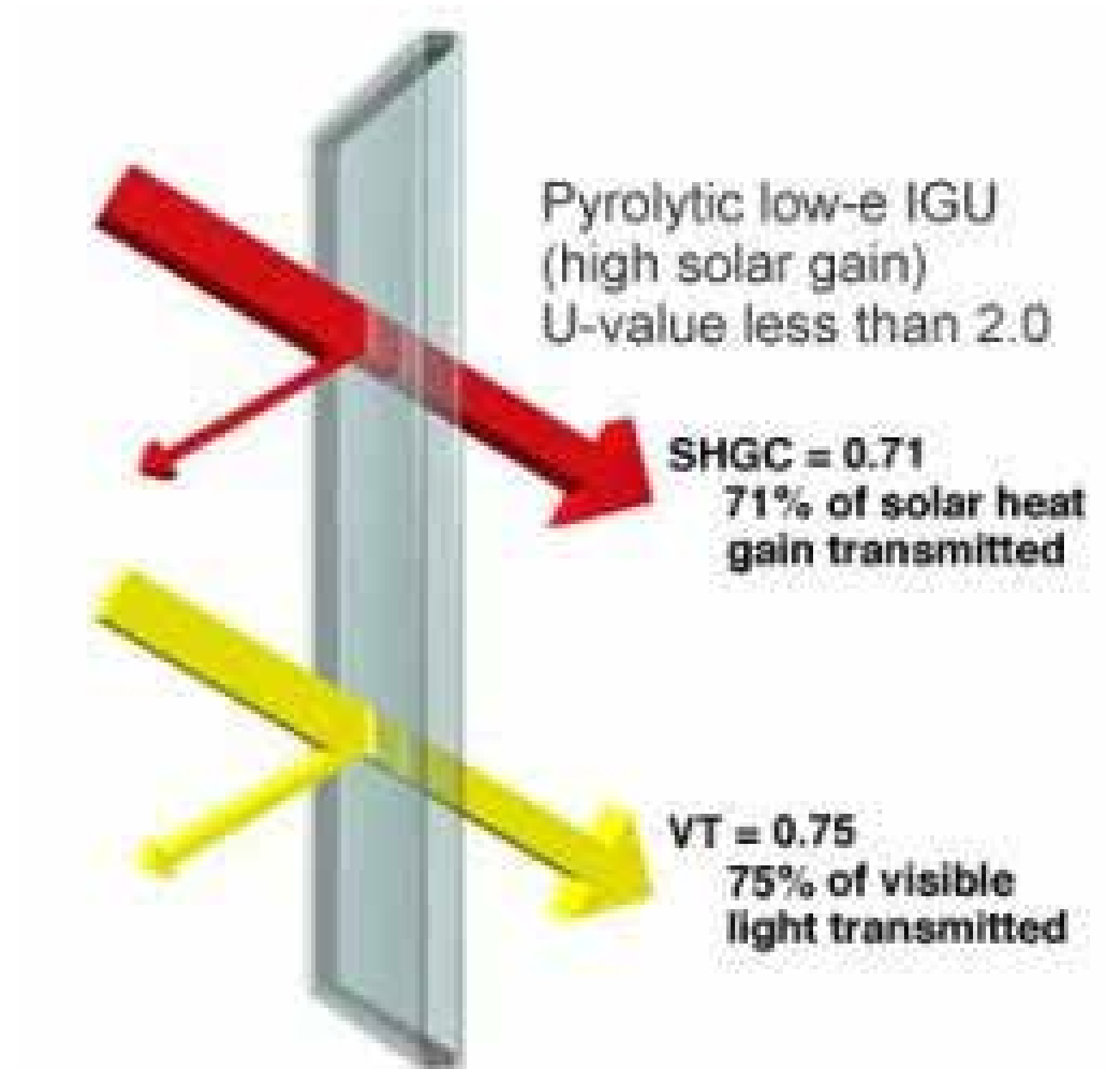
- temperature difference interior-exterior causes heat flow.
- material in between determines rate of flow.

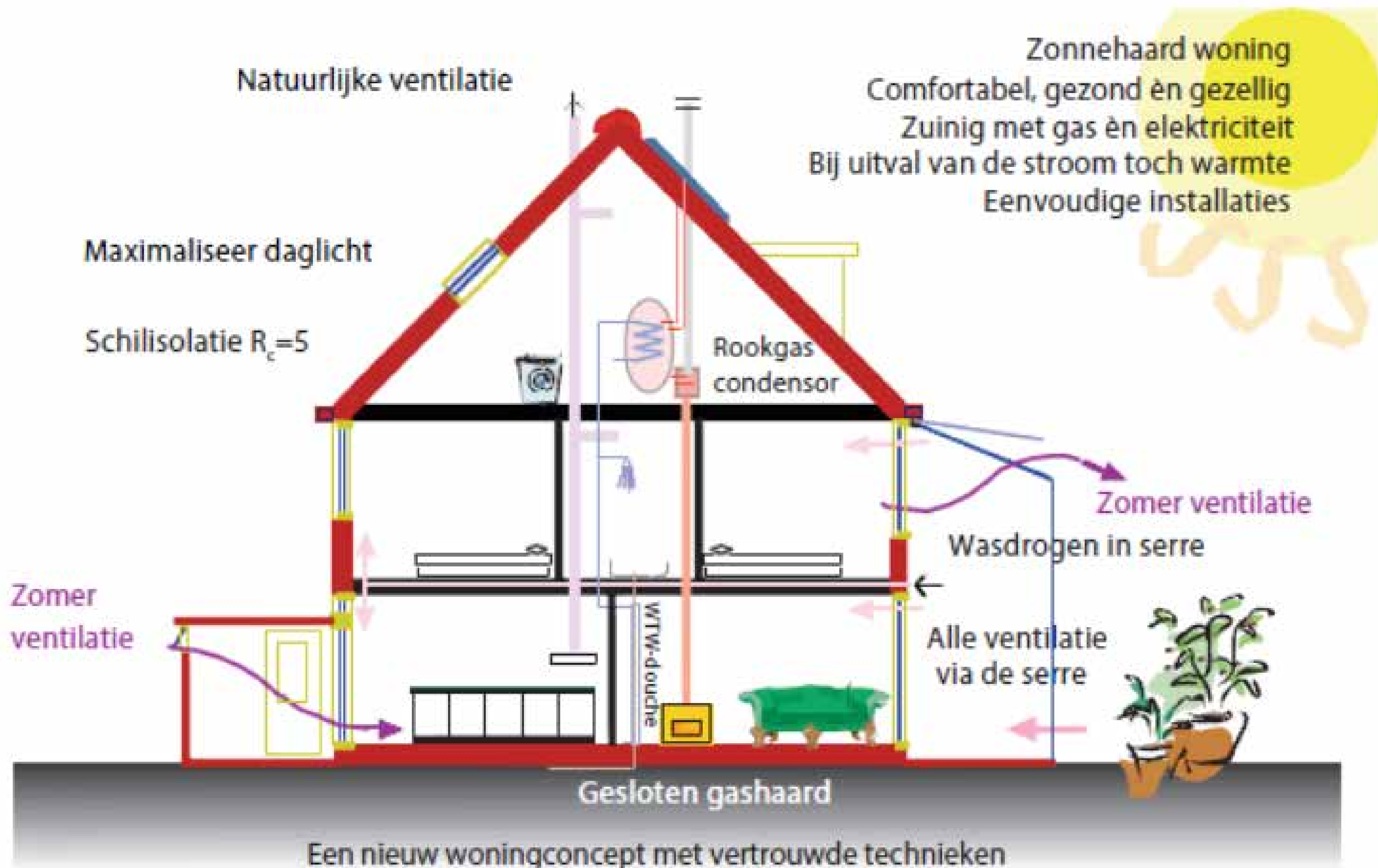
Solar heat gain

+ window surface area

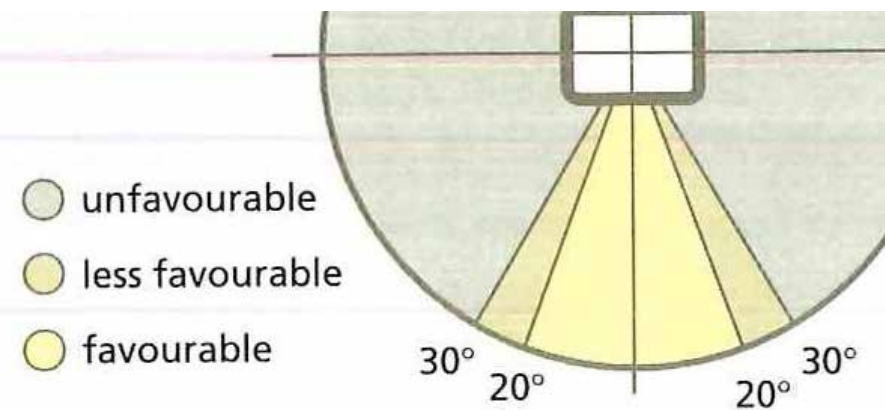
+ solar transmittance of the window

+ angle of sunlight and obstructions





## 2.2 Design Variables

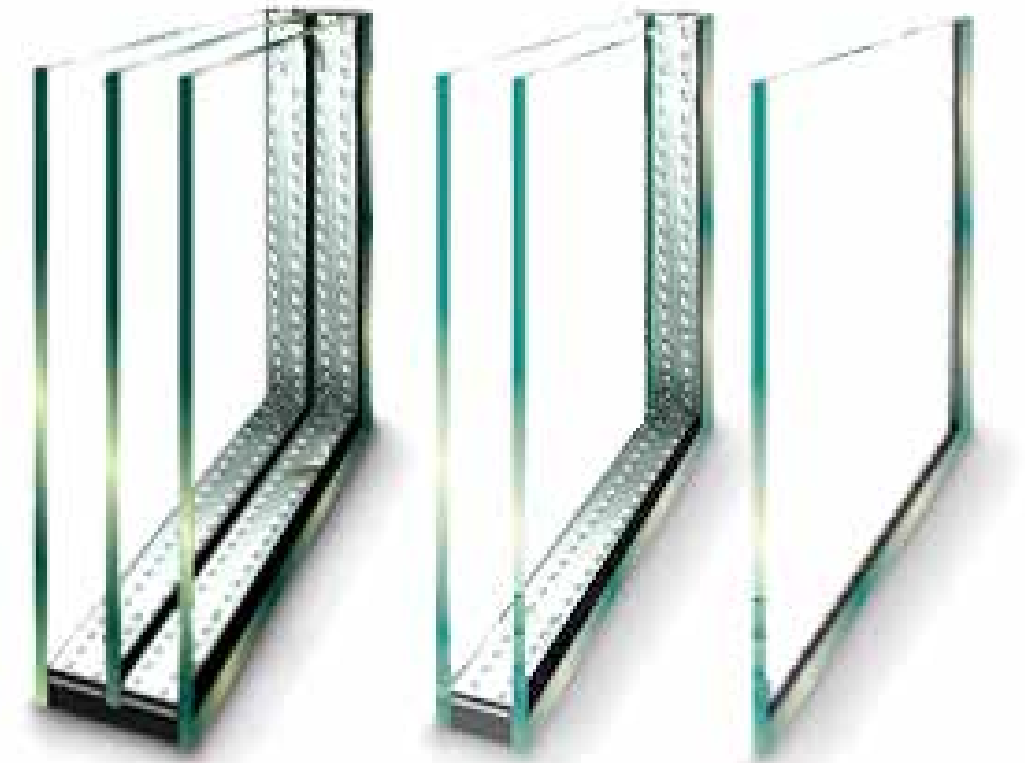


- Insulation
- Orientation
- Building Shape
- Sunspaces

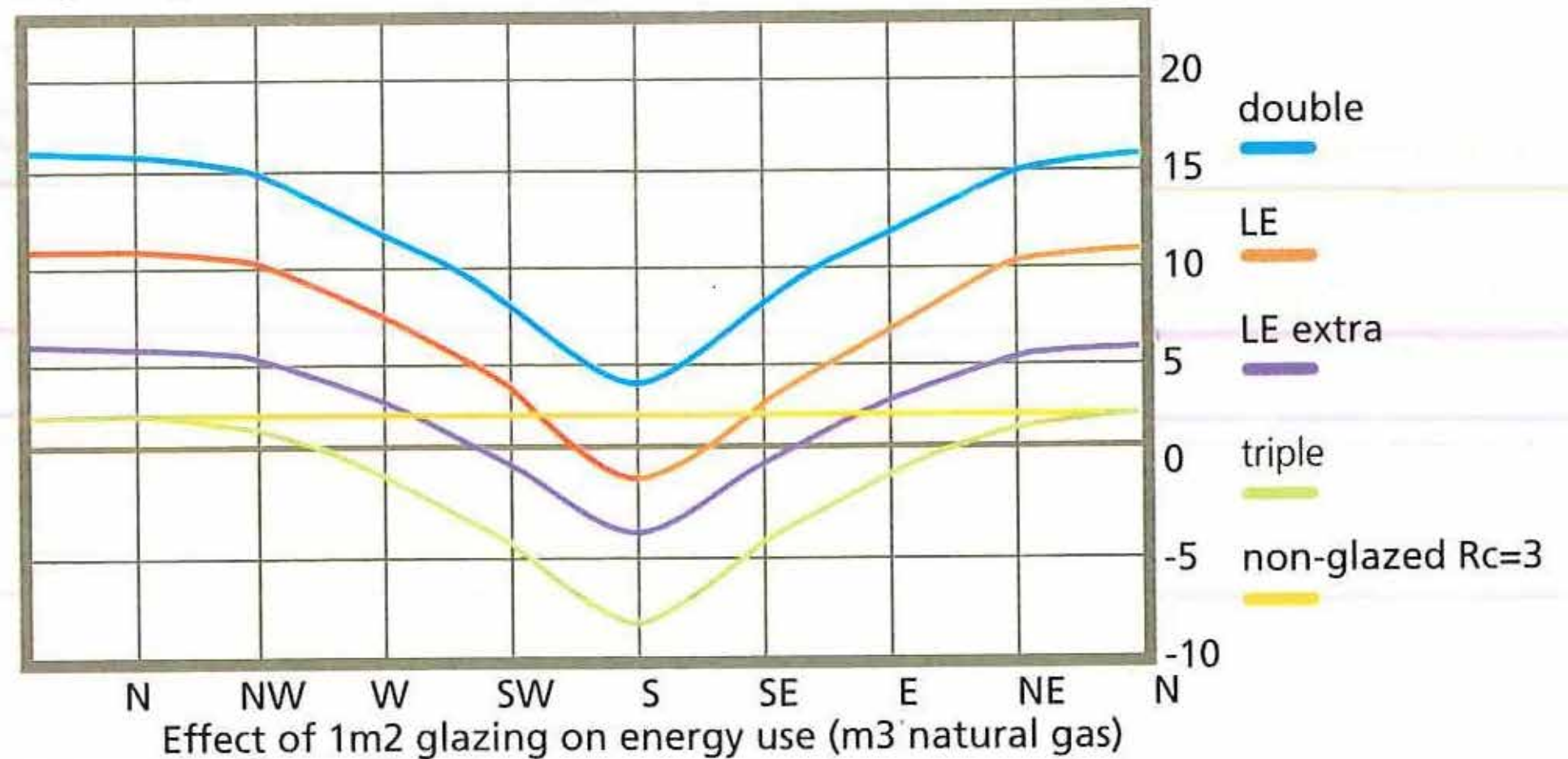
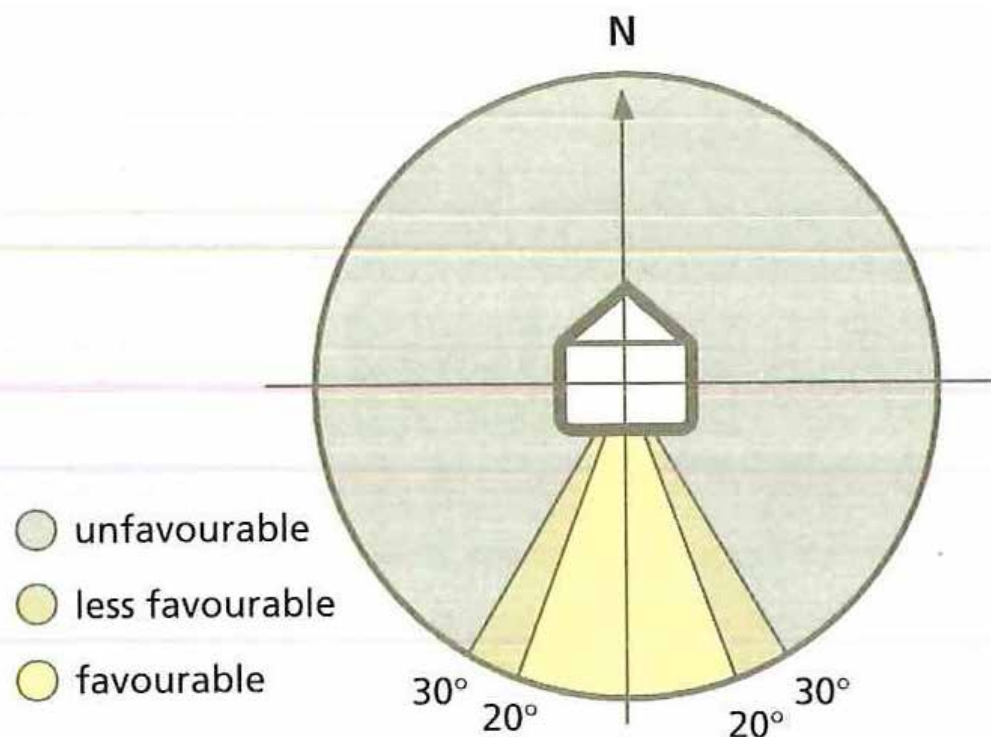


## Insulation

- Reduces transmission heat loss.
- Walls (Building code:  $R_c \geq 4.5$ )
- Windows (Building code:  $U \leq 1.6$ )



## Beglazing en oriëntatie Glazing and orientation

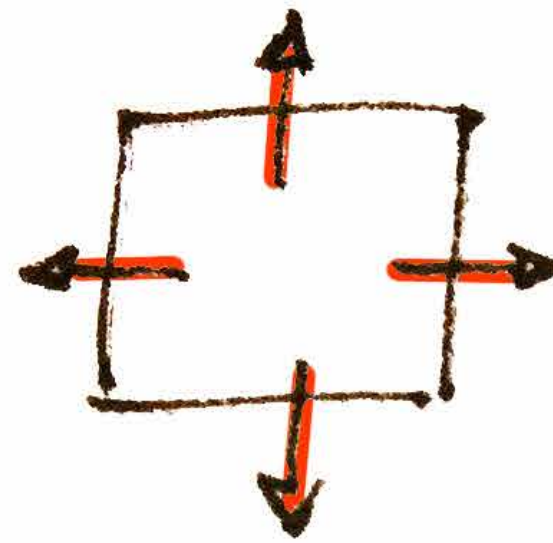


## Orientation

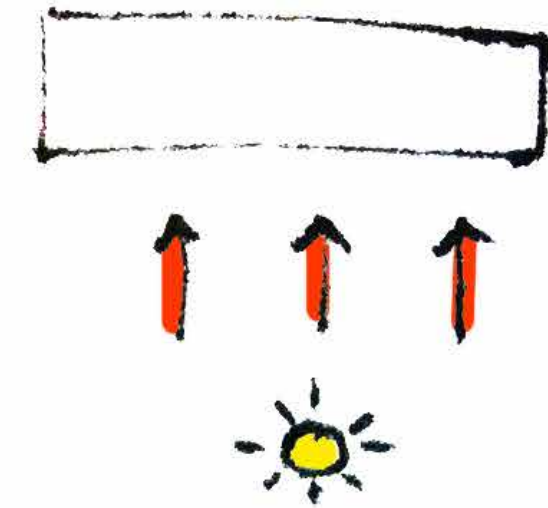
+ Increases solar heat gain.

+ Benefits from window insulation.



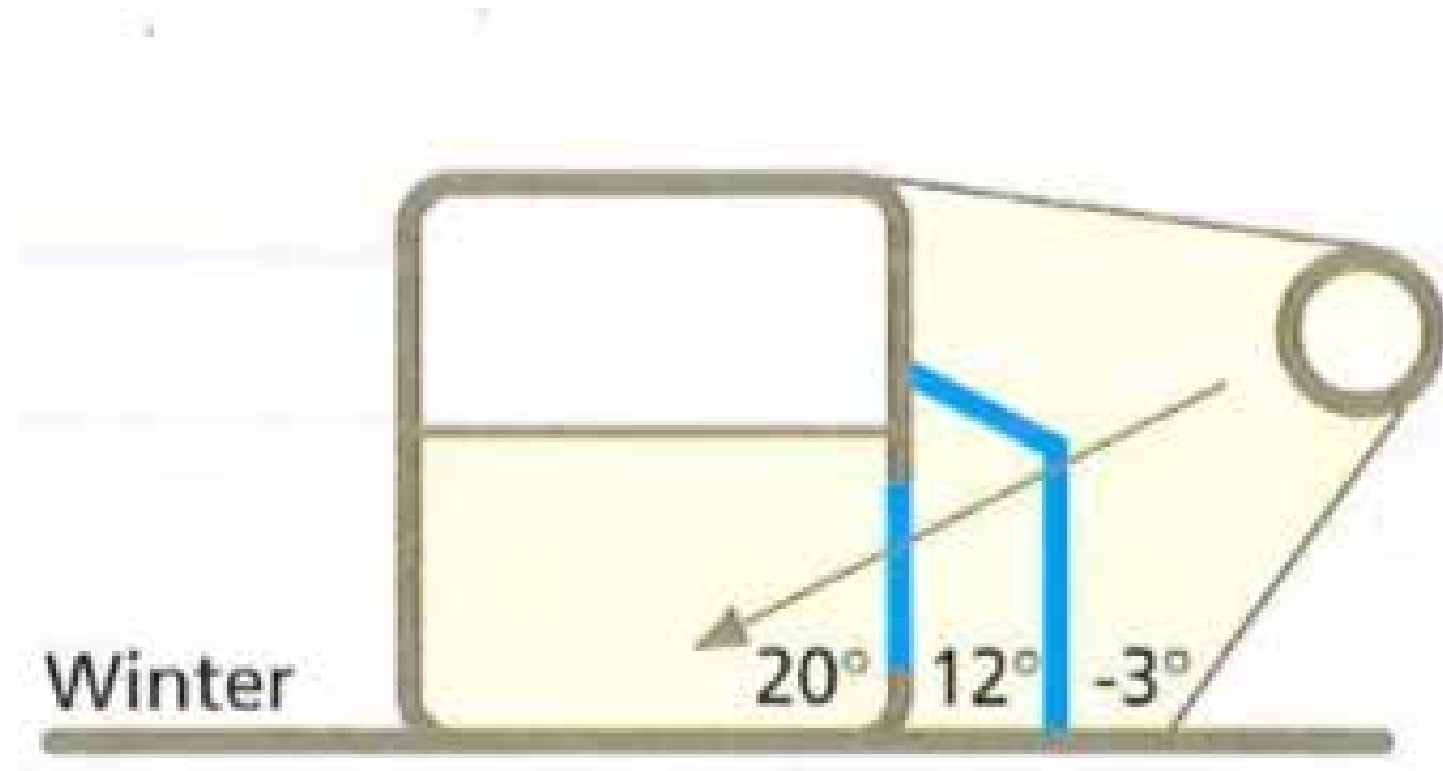


VS



## Building shape

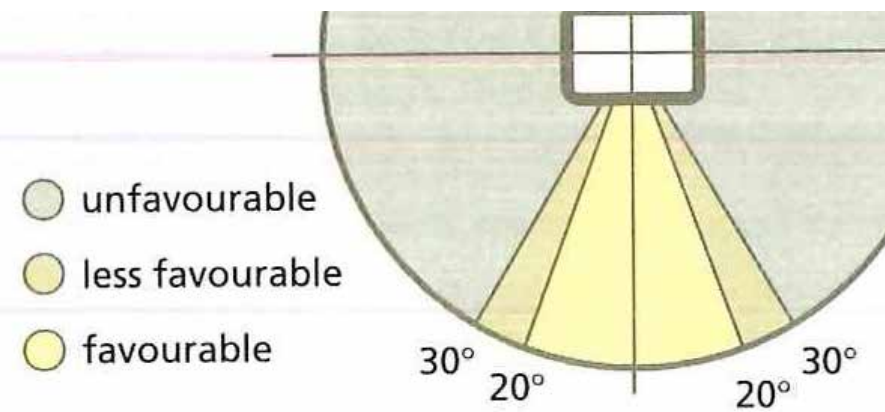
- Compactness: less facade surface area per interior volume means less transmission heat loss.
- + Shape factor: more surface facing the sun (south) means more solar heat gain.



## Sunspaces

- + Increased solar heat gain potential.
- Acts as buffer zone that decreases transmission heat loss.
- + Can provide comfortable use during cold season.

## 2.3 Reference projects



- Freiburg SSSH
- BedZED

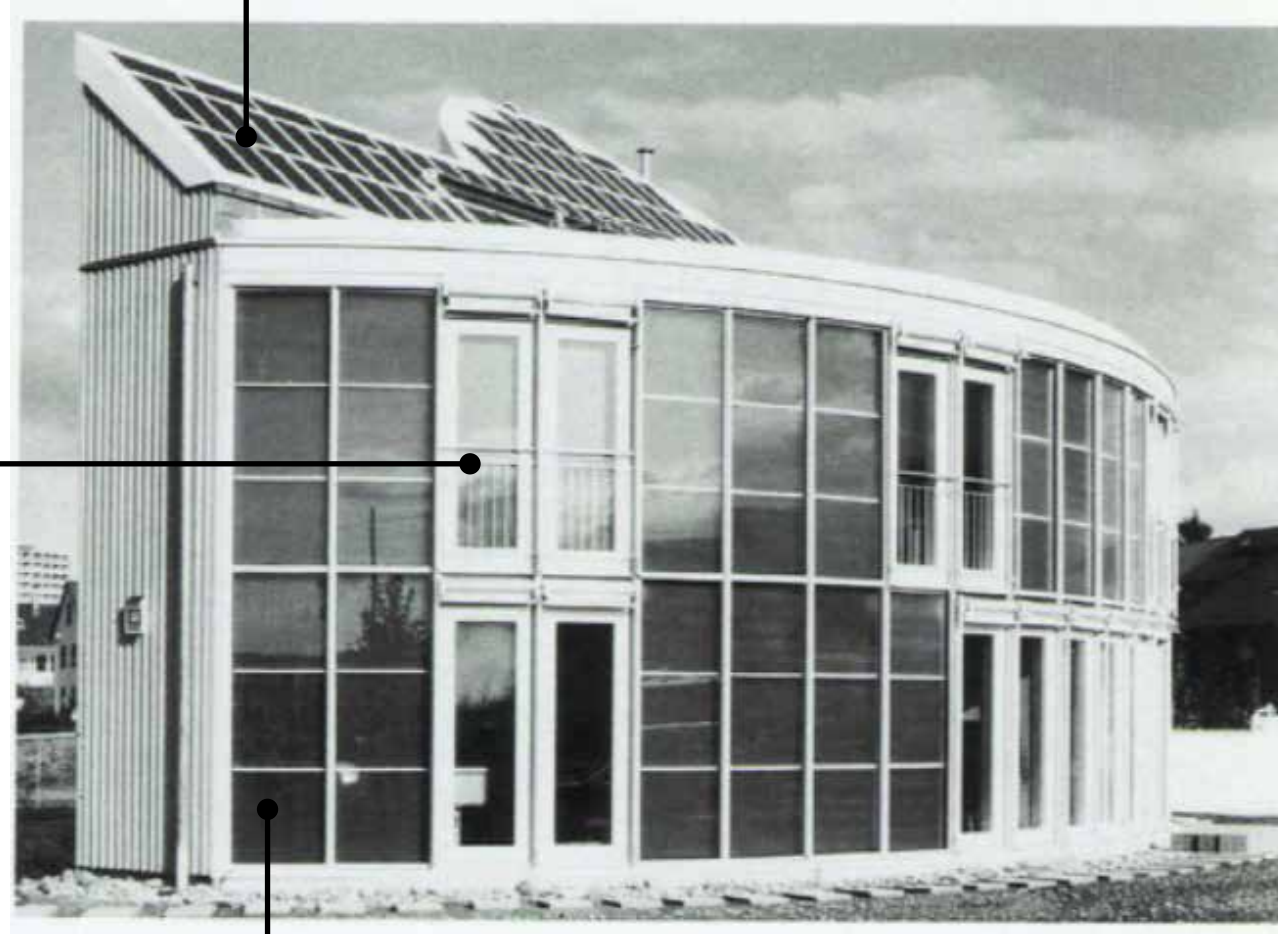
Freiburg SSSH

Self-Sustaining Solar House



- *Expected heat demand: 2 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>*
- *high-tech*

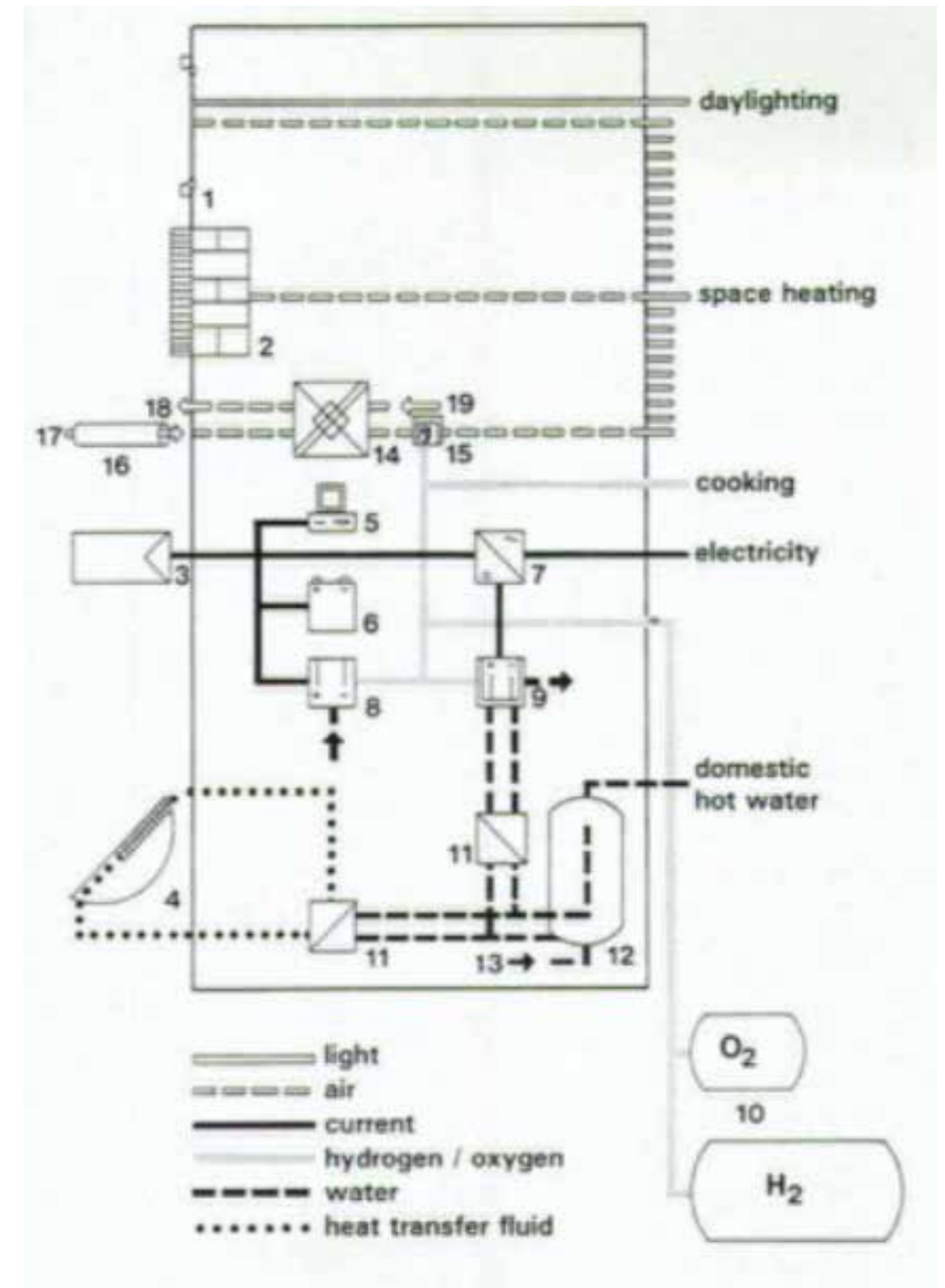
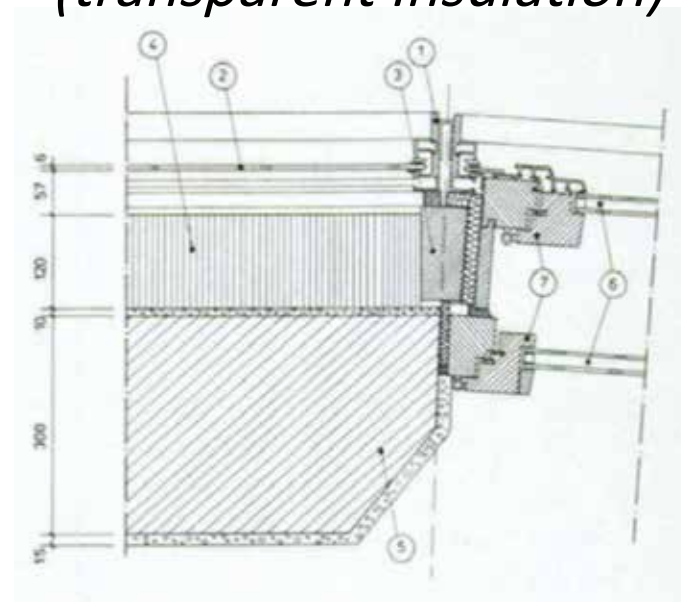
*PV panels and Solar collectors*



*All rooms have windows oriented towards sun.*

Freiburg SSSH

*Heat storage in walls with TI (transparent Insulation)*



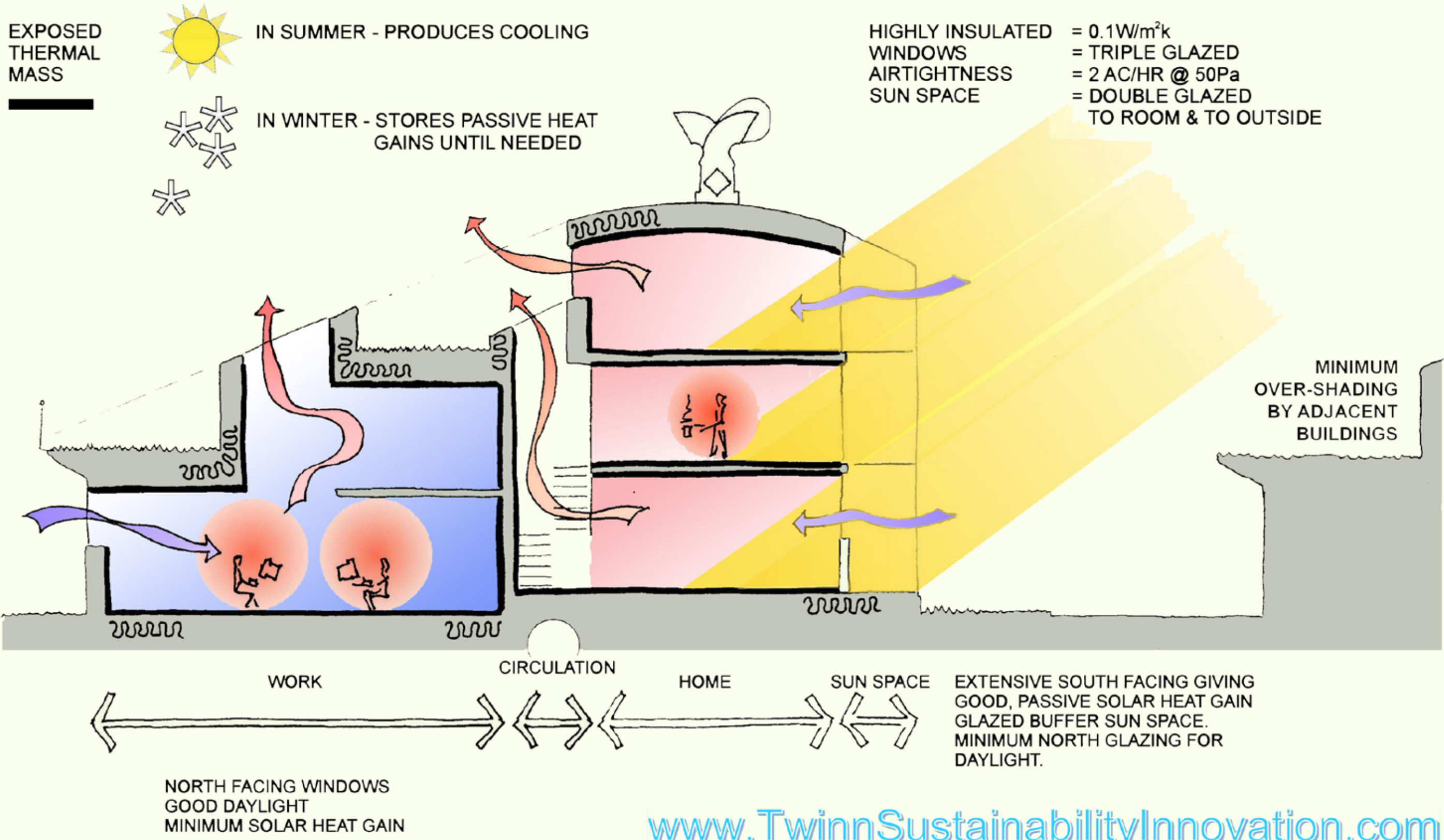
*Hydrogen power storage*

# BedZED Beddington Zero Energy Development



- *Passive house principle*
- *Combined use: house and office*
- *No primary heating system*
- *Centralized backup heating system*
- *Sunspace*

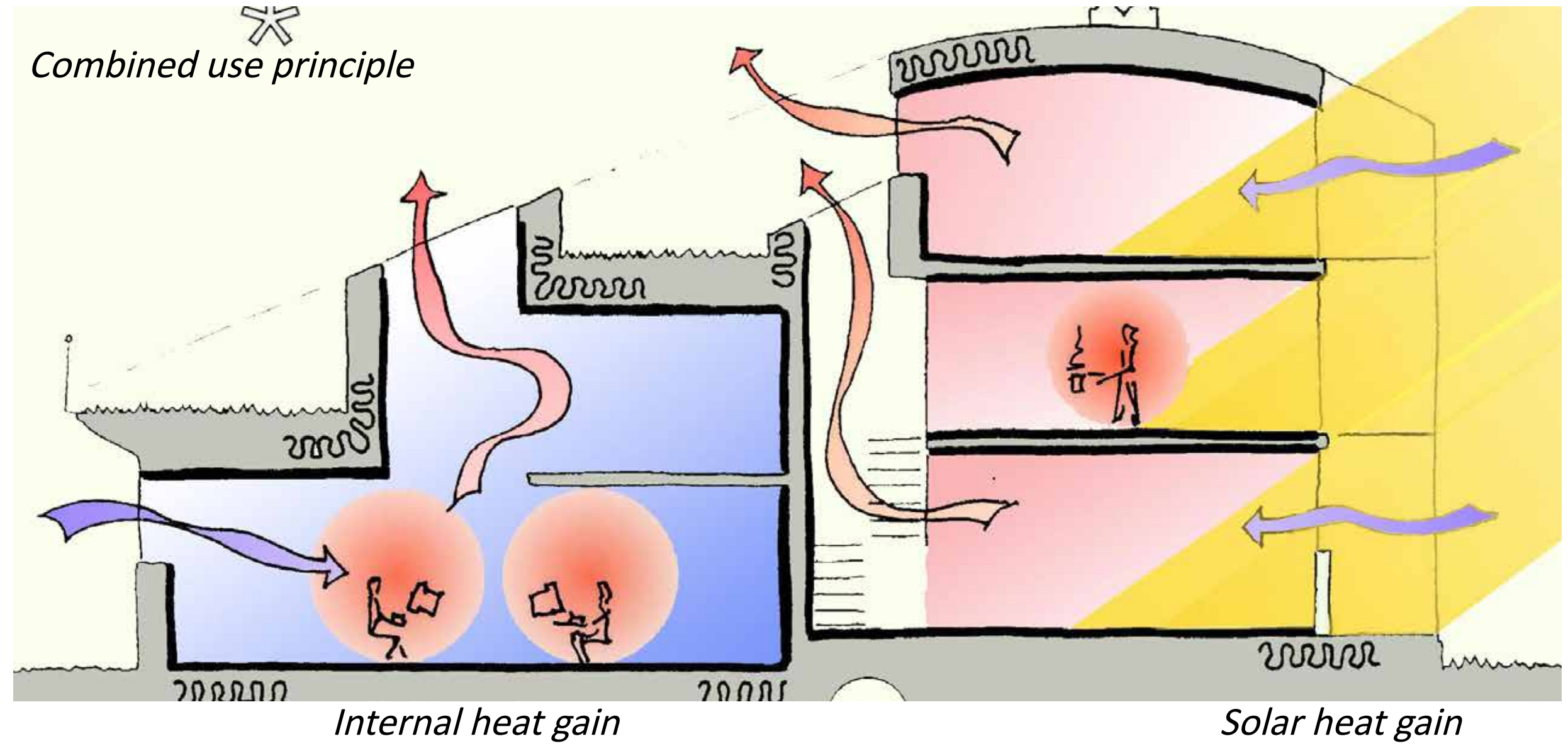
# BUILDING PHYSICS



BedZED

[www.TwinnSustainabilityInnovation.com](http://www.TwinnSustainabilityInnovation.com)

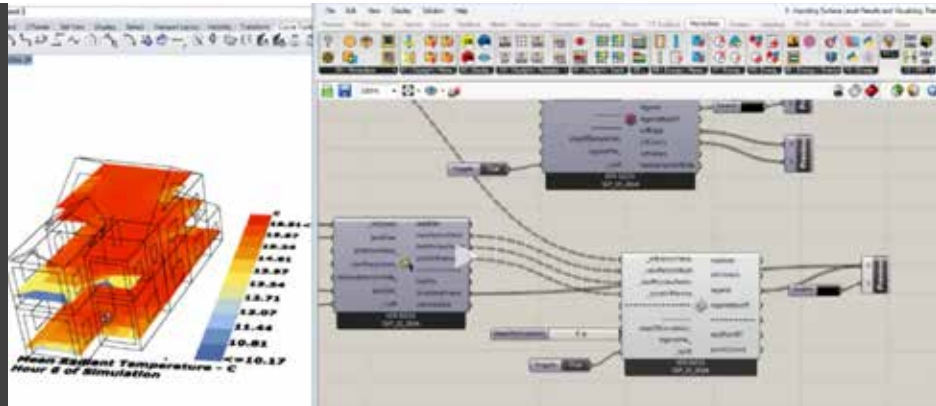
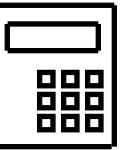
BedZED



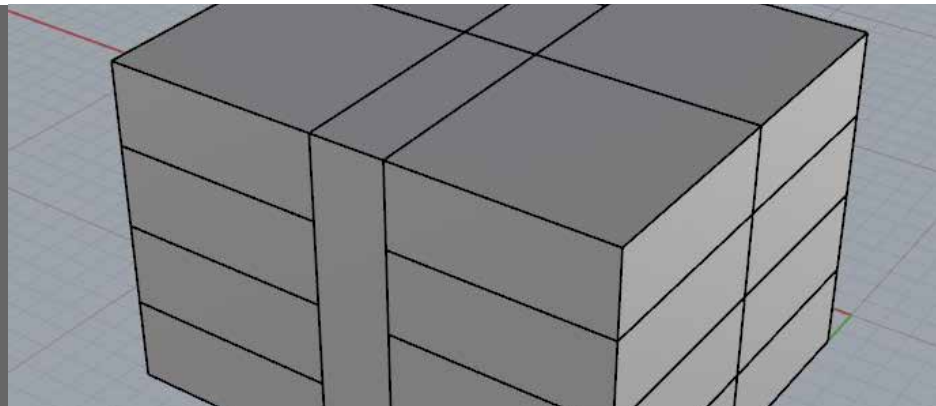
HIGHLY INSULATED	= 0.1W/m <sup>2</sup> k
WINDOWS	= TRIPLE GLAZED
AIRTIGHTNESS	= 2 AC/HR @ 50Pa
SUN SPACE	= DOUBLE GLAZED
	TO ROOM & TO OUTSIDE



# 3. HEAT DEMAND CALCULATION



## 3.1 Software selection

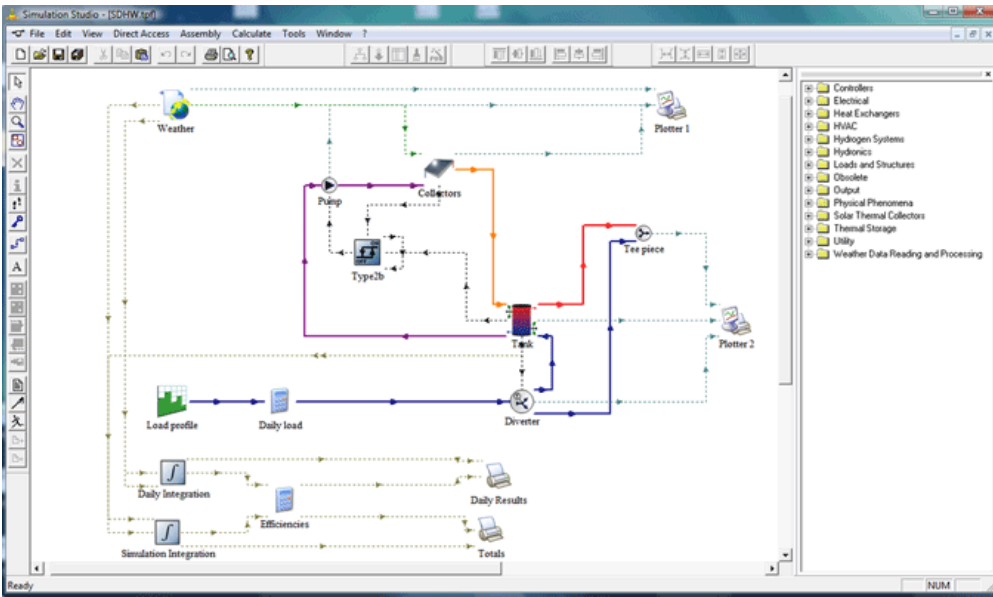
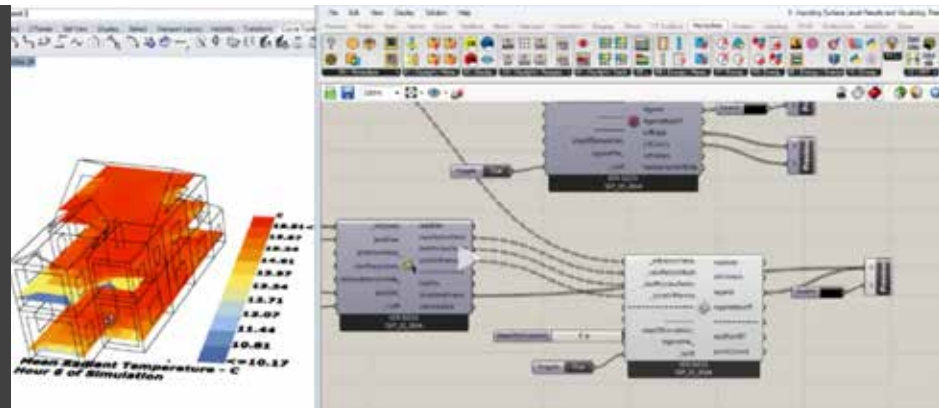


## 3.2 Case building modelling

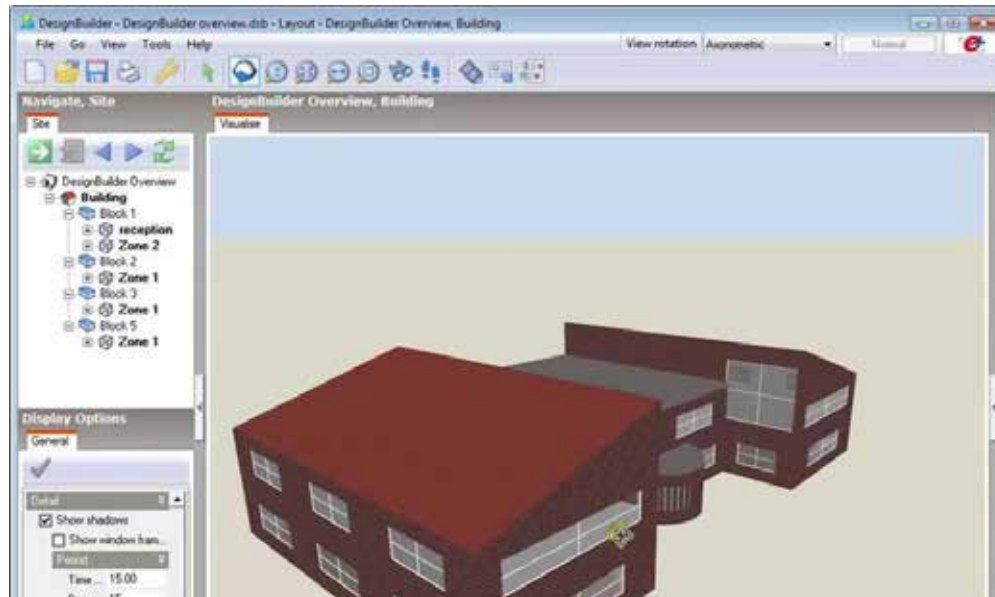


## 3.3 Validation calculations

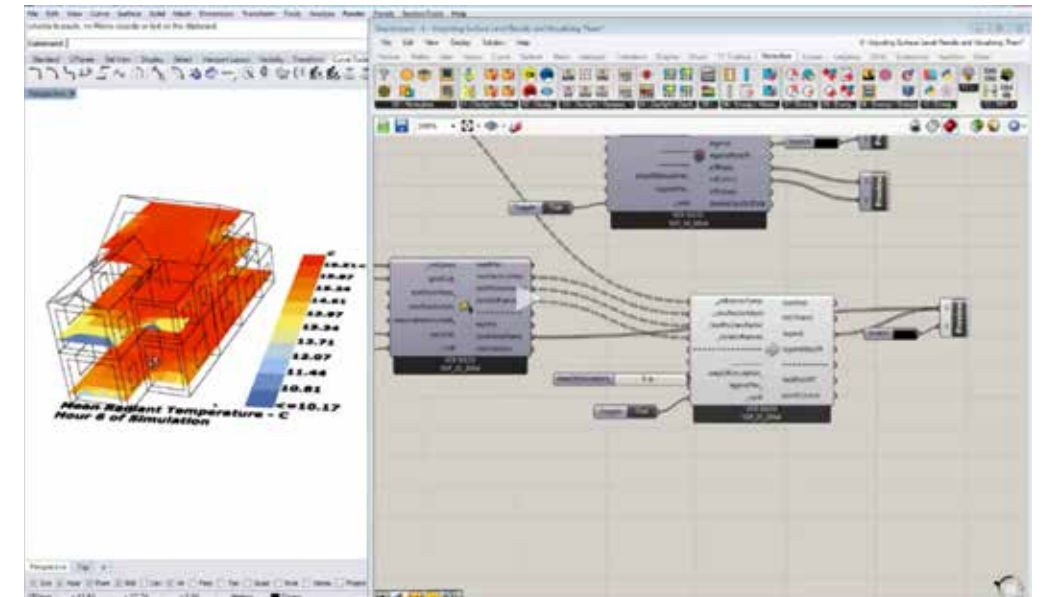
# 3.1 Software selection



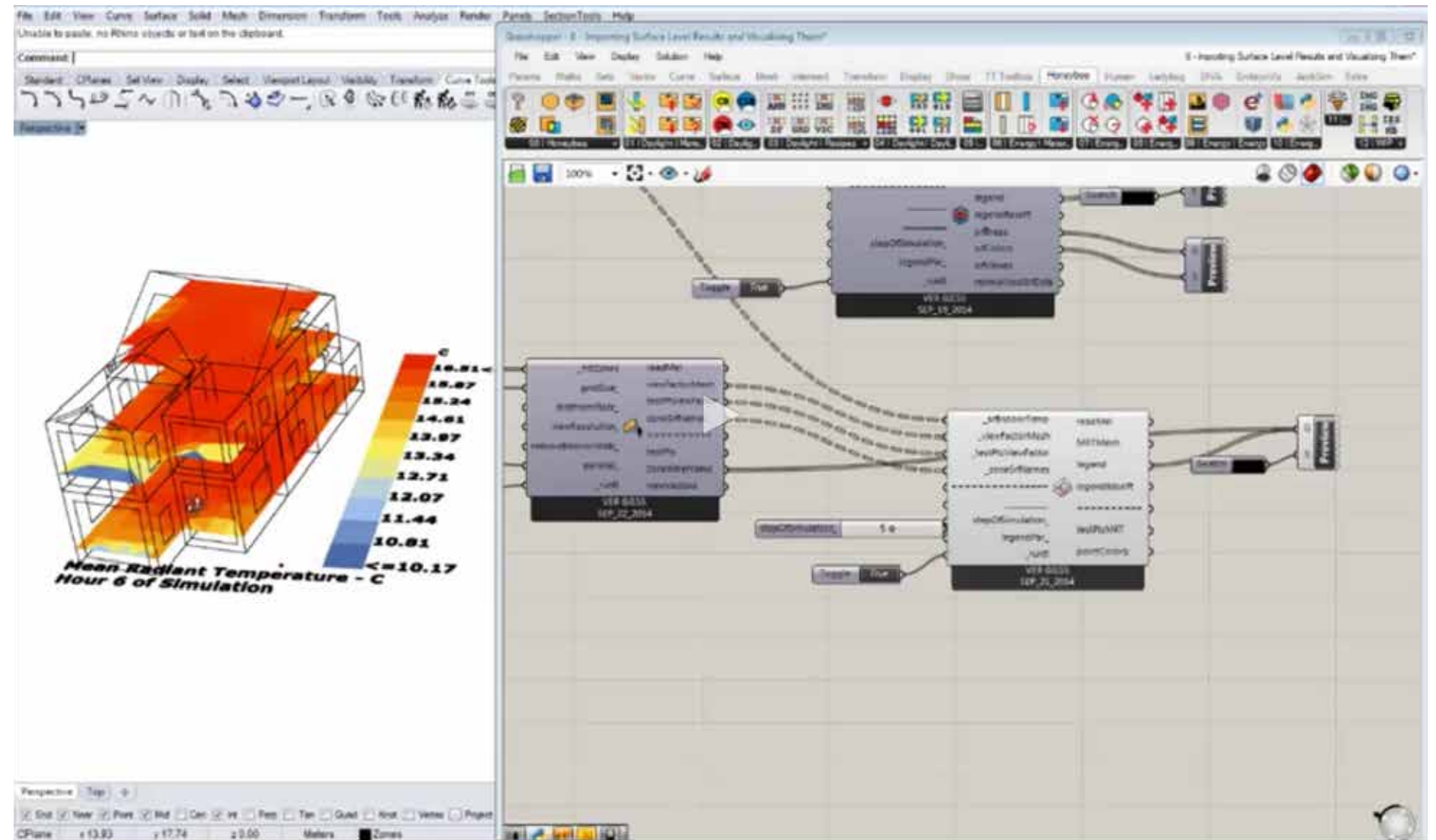
*TRANSYS*



*DesignBuilder*

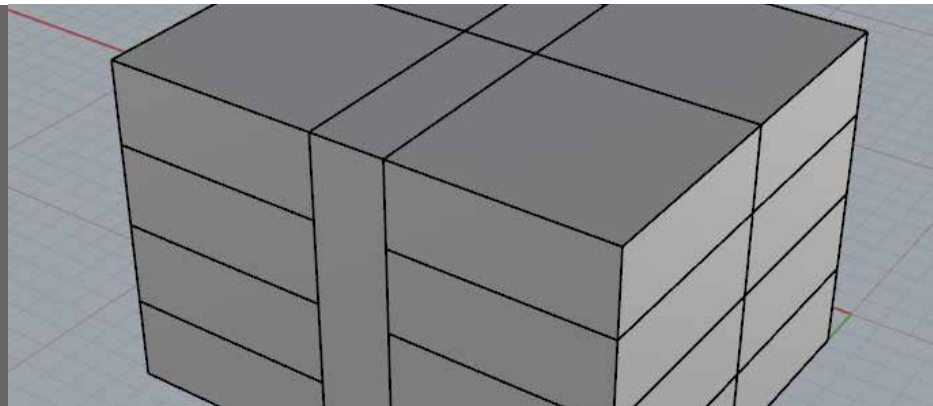


*Honeybee*



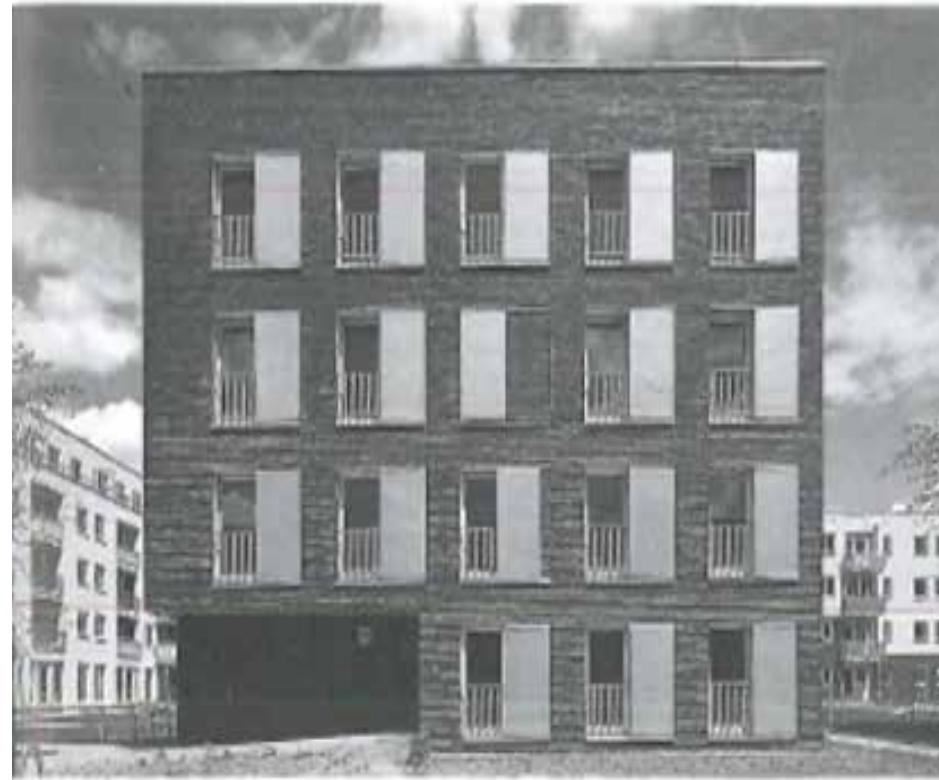
## Honeybee

- + Flexible, transparent calculation modules
- + Easy to learn
- + Wide range of relevant input and output
- + Used by other student last year



## 3.2 Case building modelling

- . Zones
- . Rhino model
- . Honeybee model

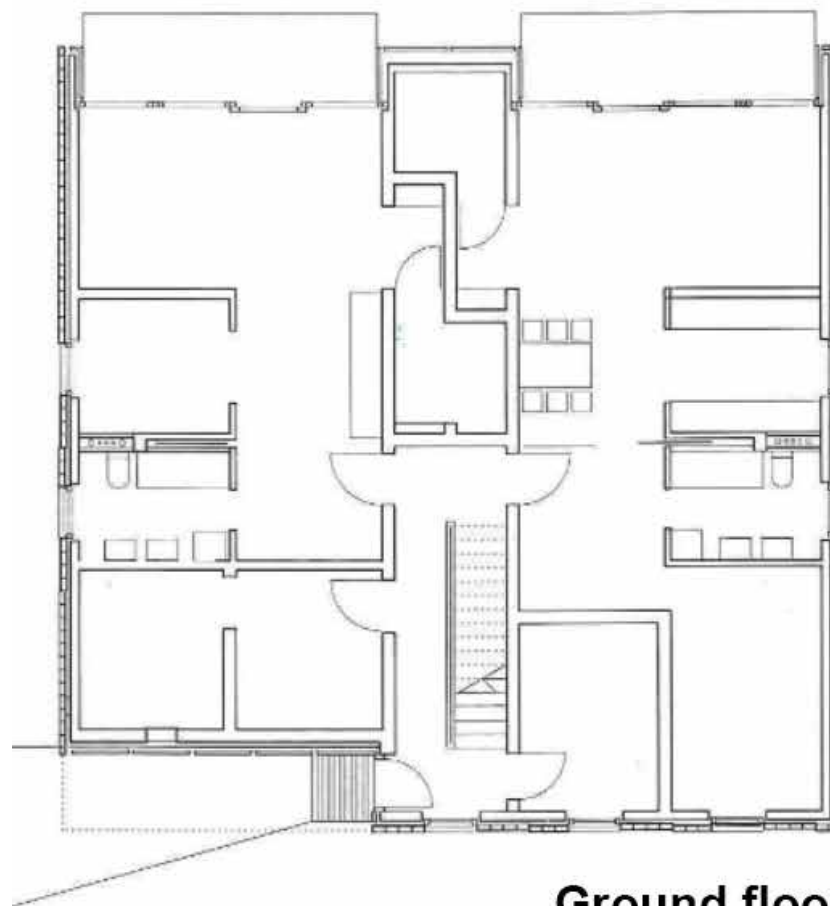


## 3.2 Case building modelling

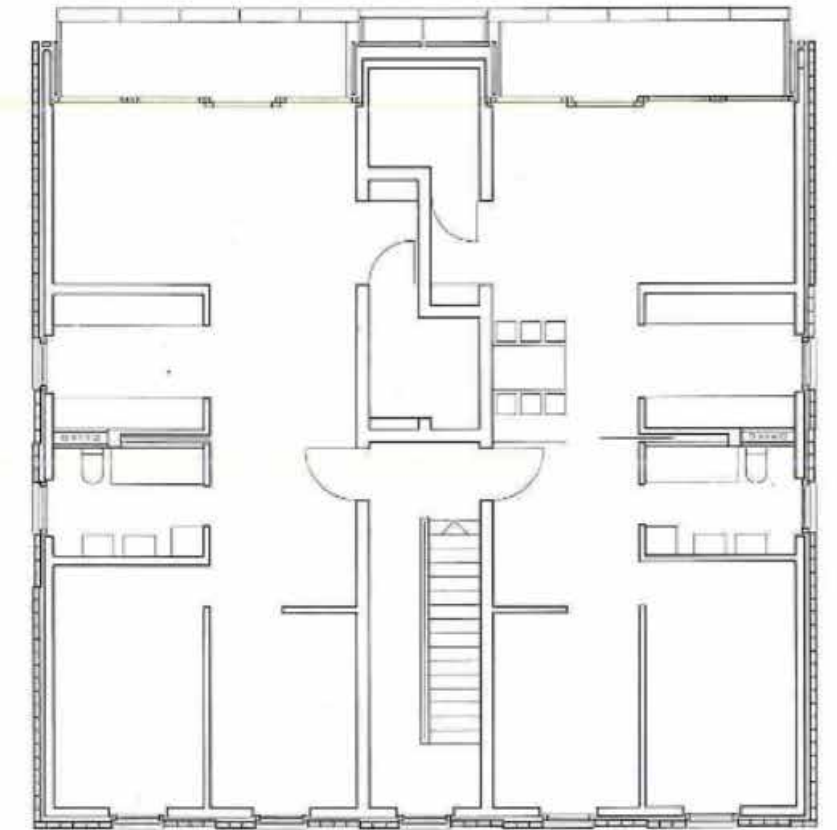
Zones

Rhino model

Honeybee

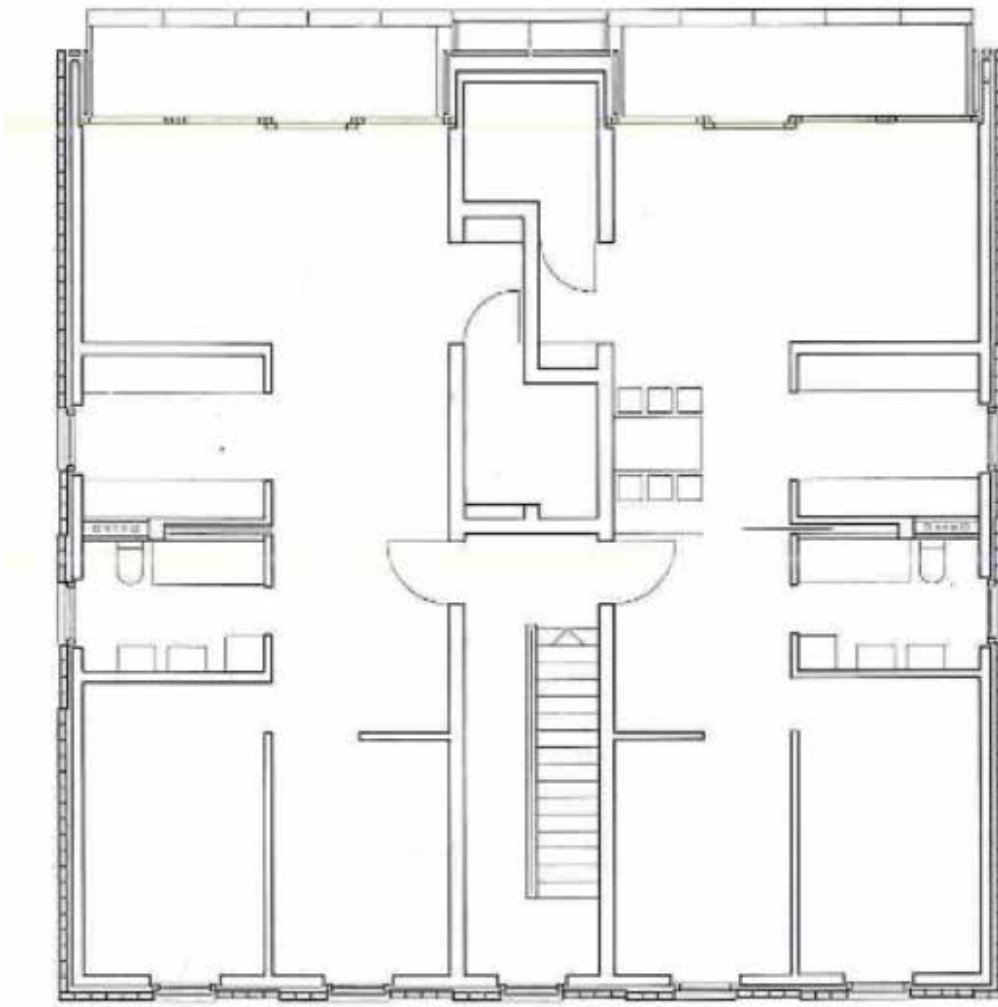


**Ground floor**



**Upper floors**

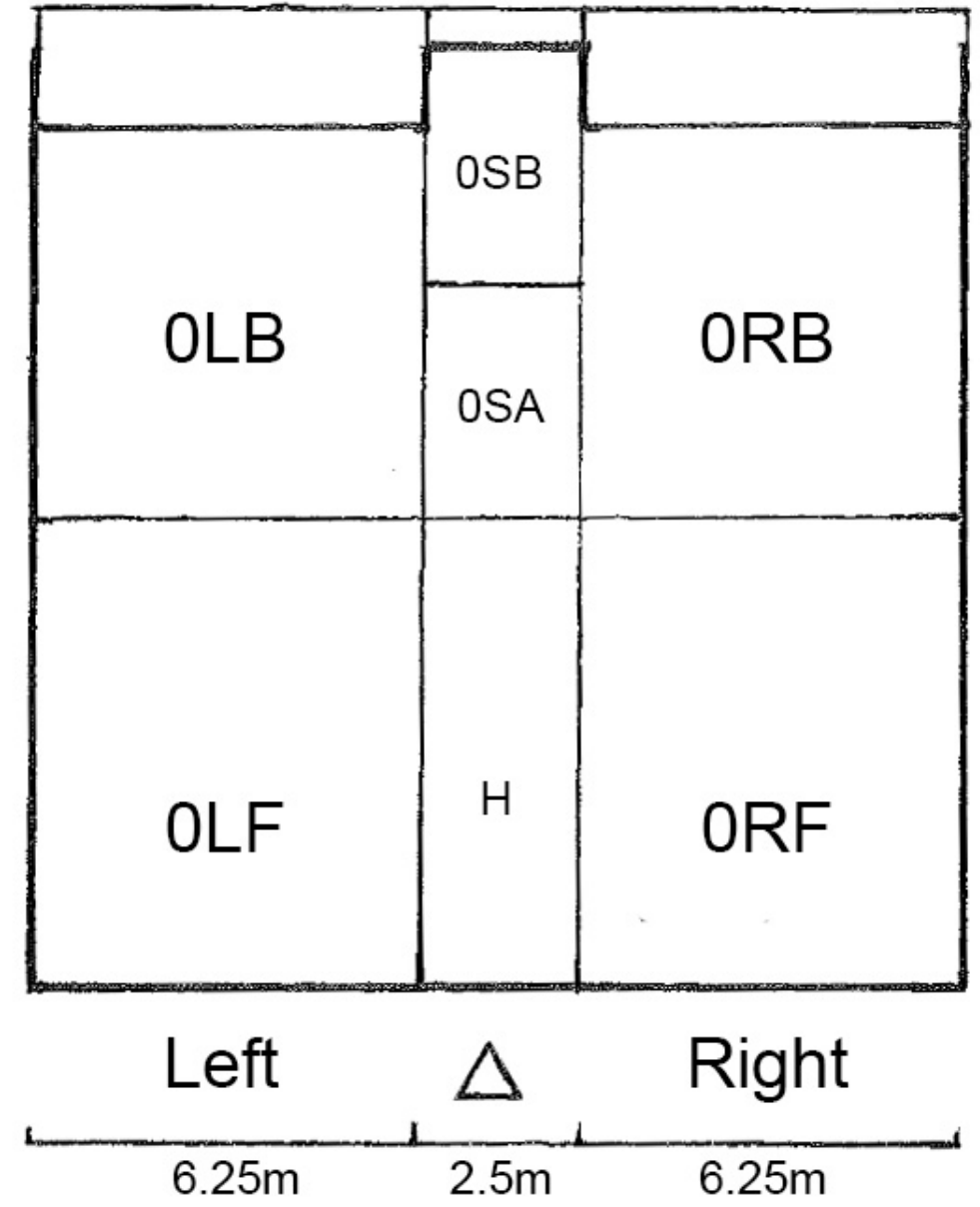
Zones



3.75m  
3.75m

6.5m

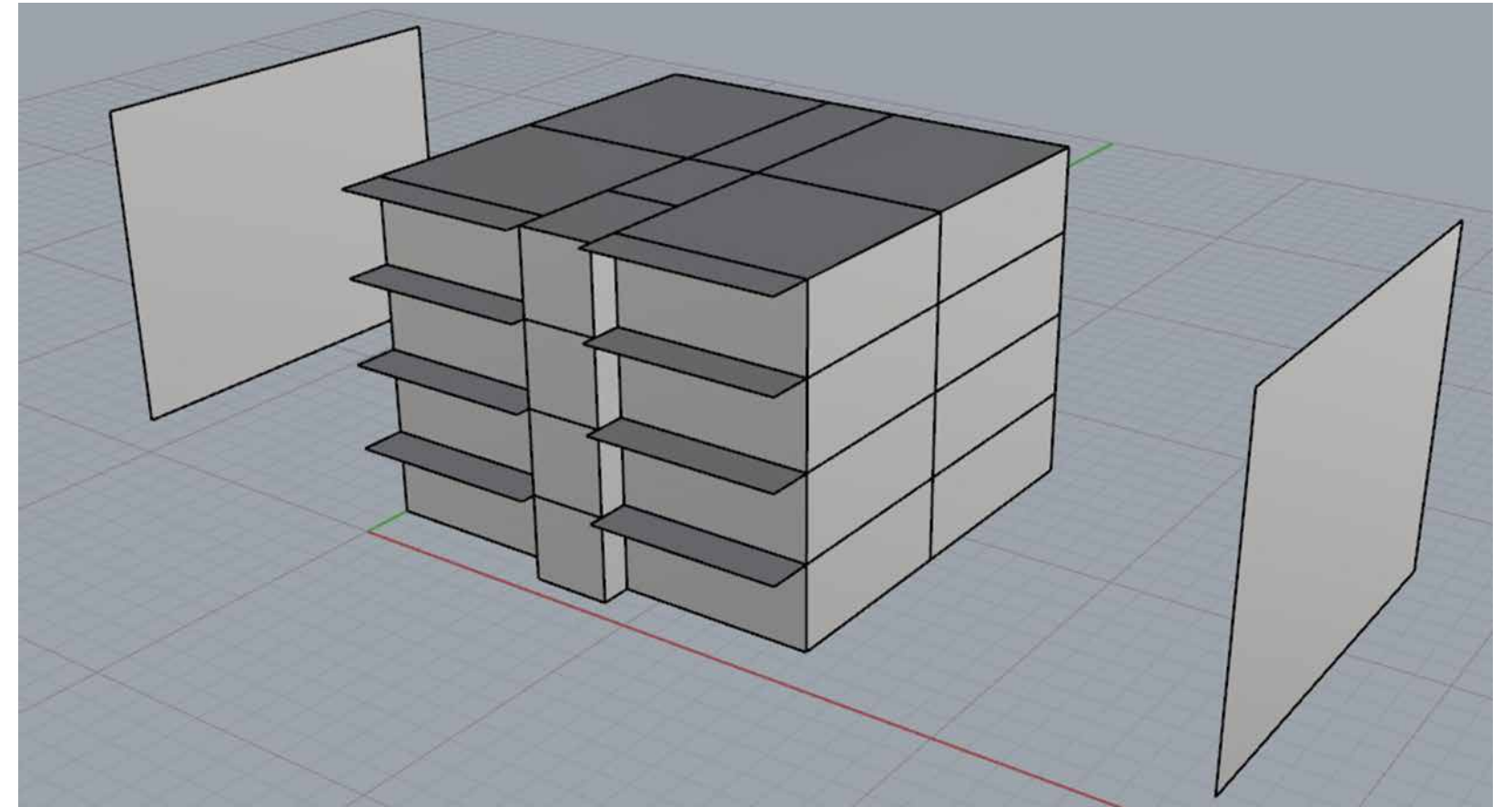
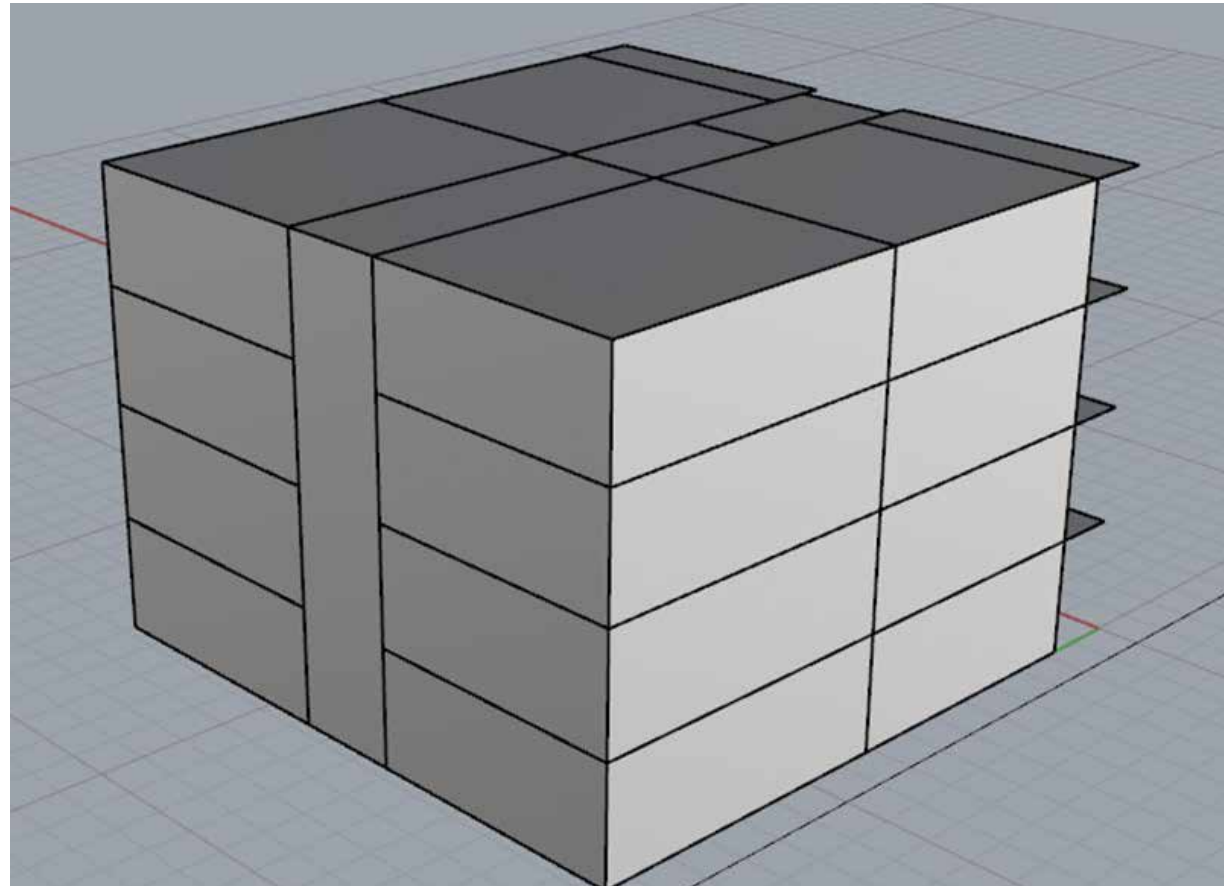
7.5m



Back

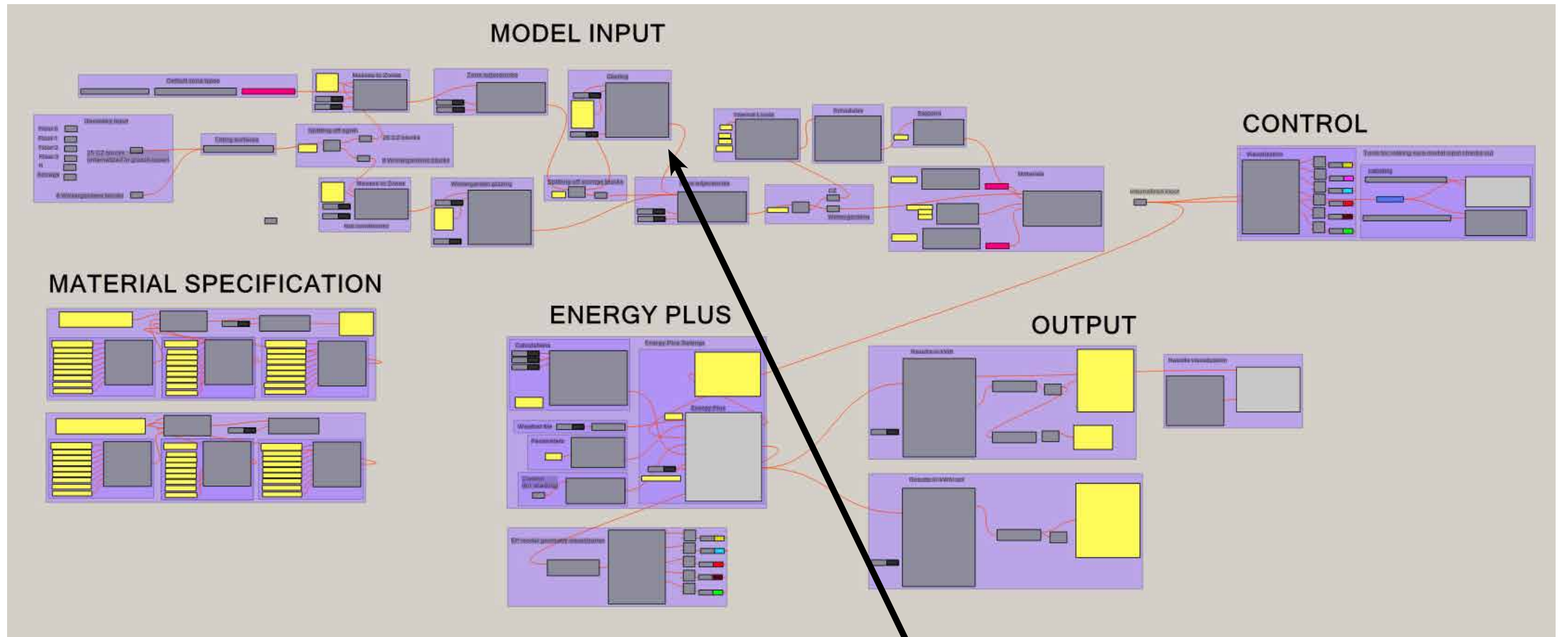
Front



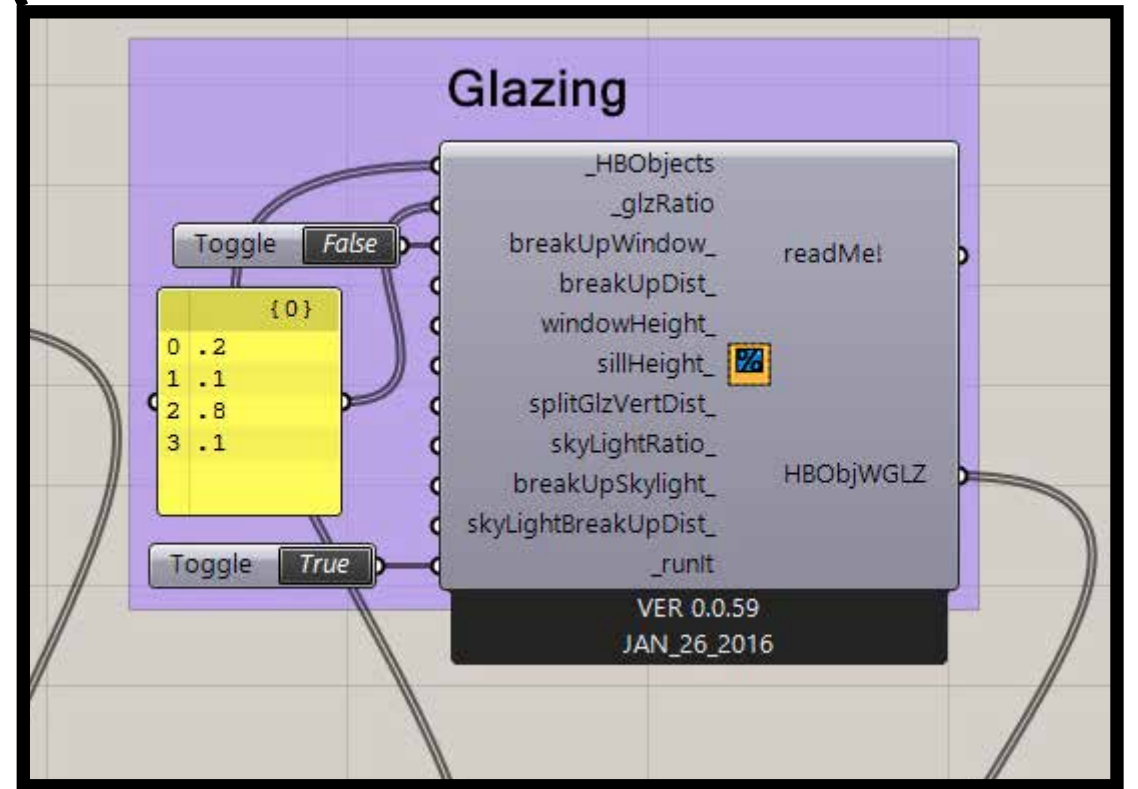


*shading elements*

Rhino model

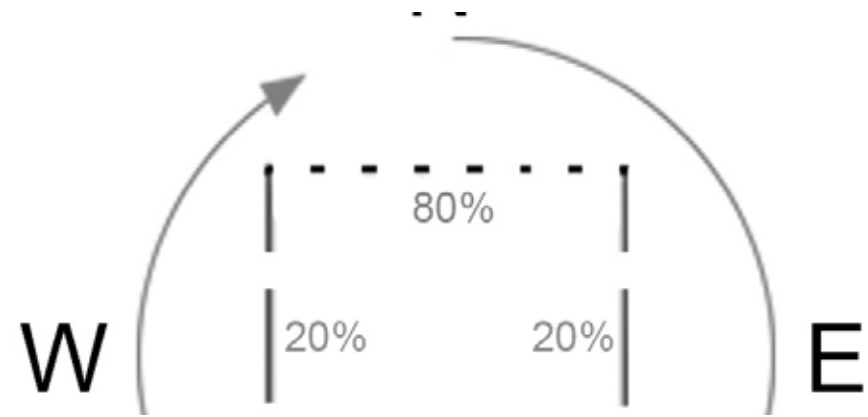
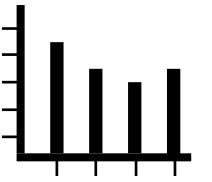


Honeybee

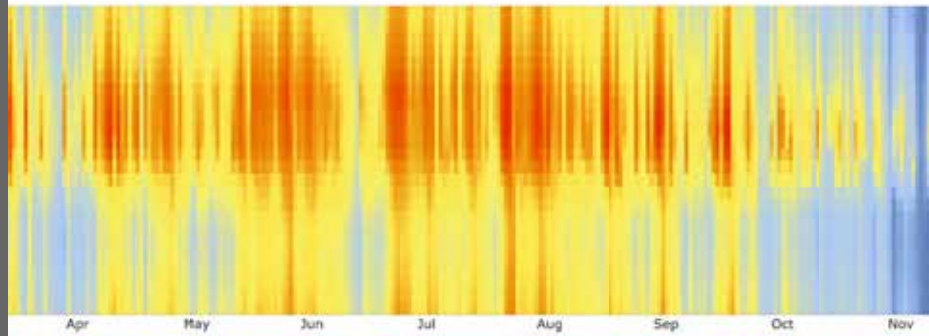




# 4. IMPACT STUDIES



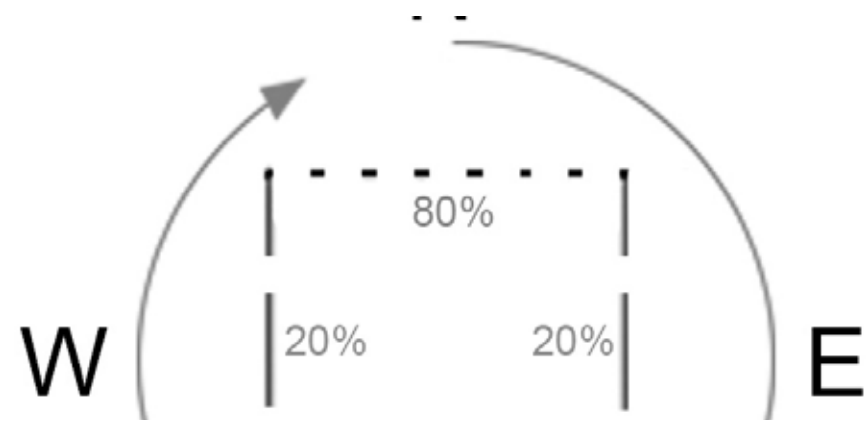
4.1 Study description



4.2 Study results



4.3 Study conclusions



## 4.1 Study description

- . Context
- . Variables
- . Study Goals

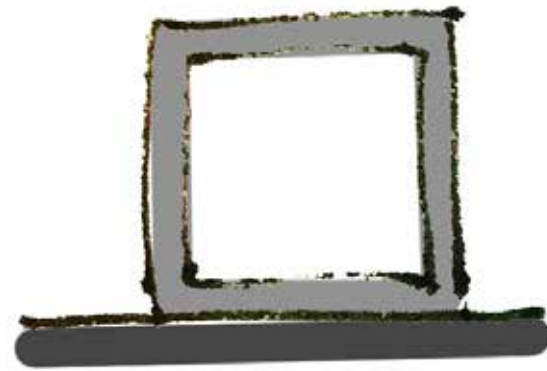
## Context

annual kWh/m<sup>2</sup> heating demand

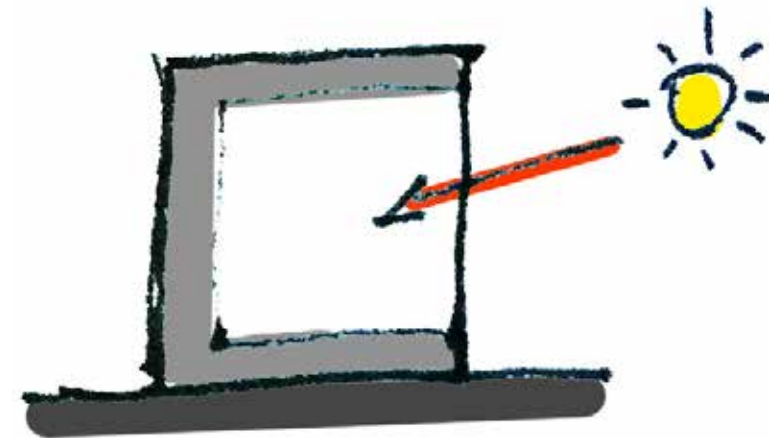
BENG max.: 25

Passive House max.: 15

Freiburg SSSH: 2

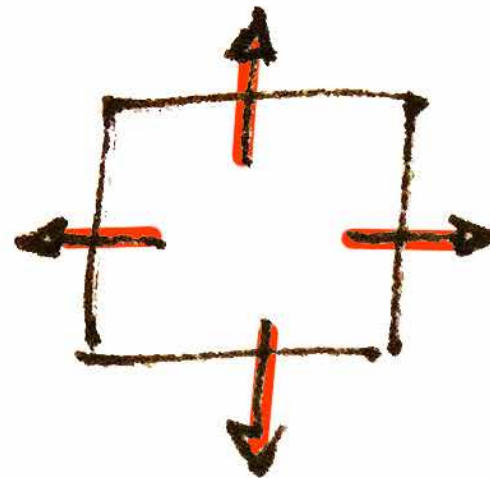


*Insulation*



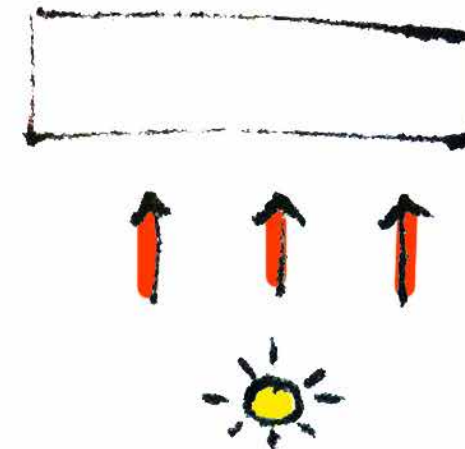
*Orientation*

Variables



*Compactness  
(Shape A)*

vs

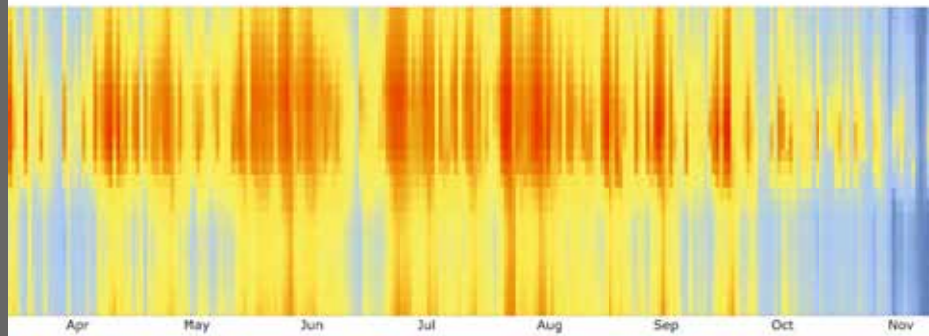


*Increased sun surface  
(Shape B)*

*1. Quantify impact of variables in terms of kWh/m<sup>2</sup> heating demand*

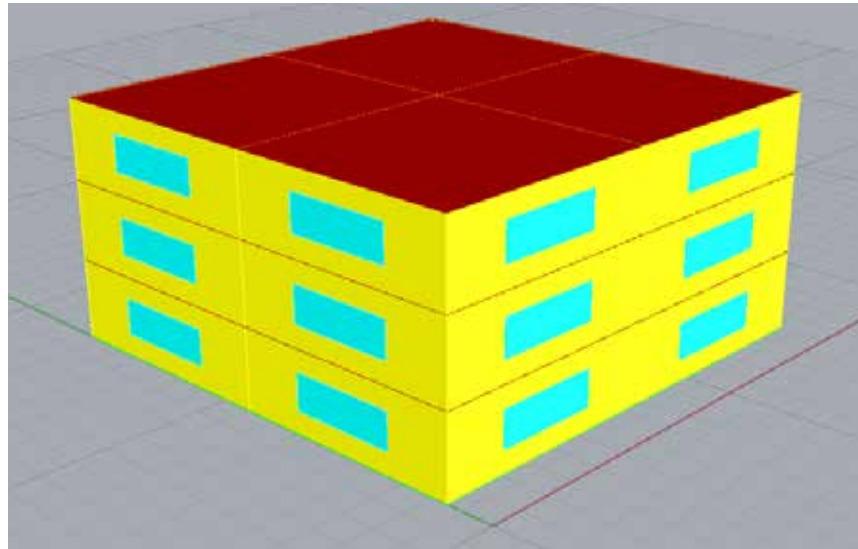
*2. Explore positive effects of sunspaces*

Goals

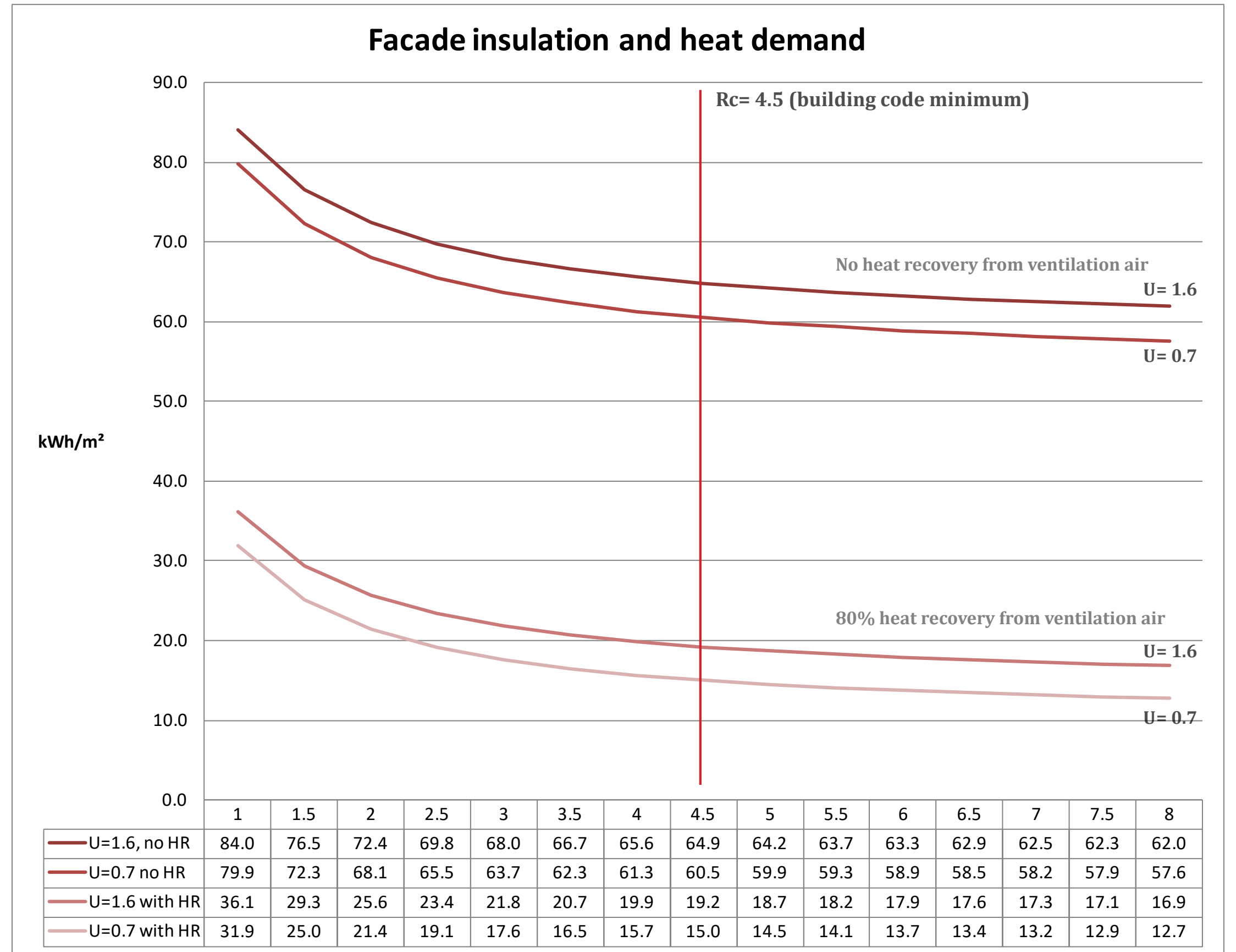


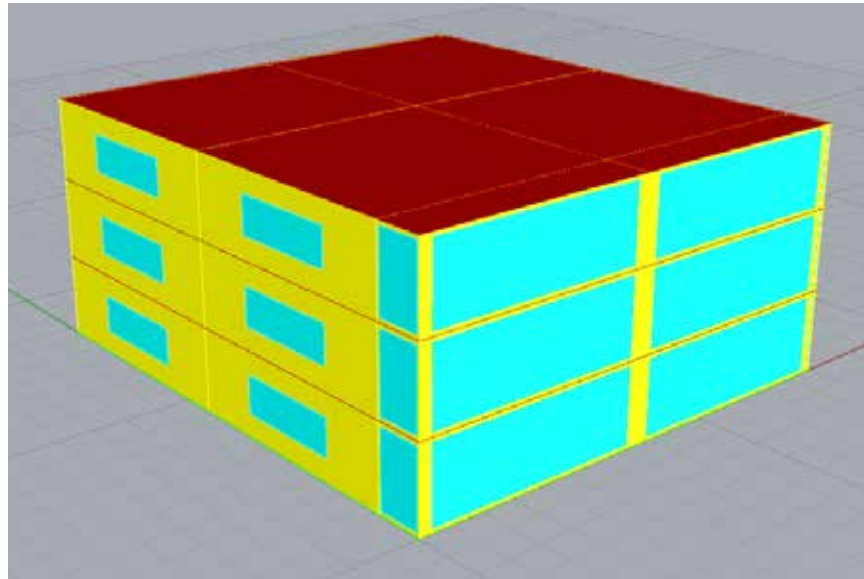
## 4.2 Study results

- . Insulation
- . Orientation
- . Building shape
- . Sunspace comparison

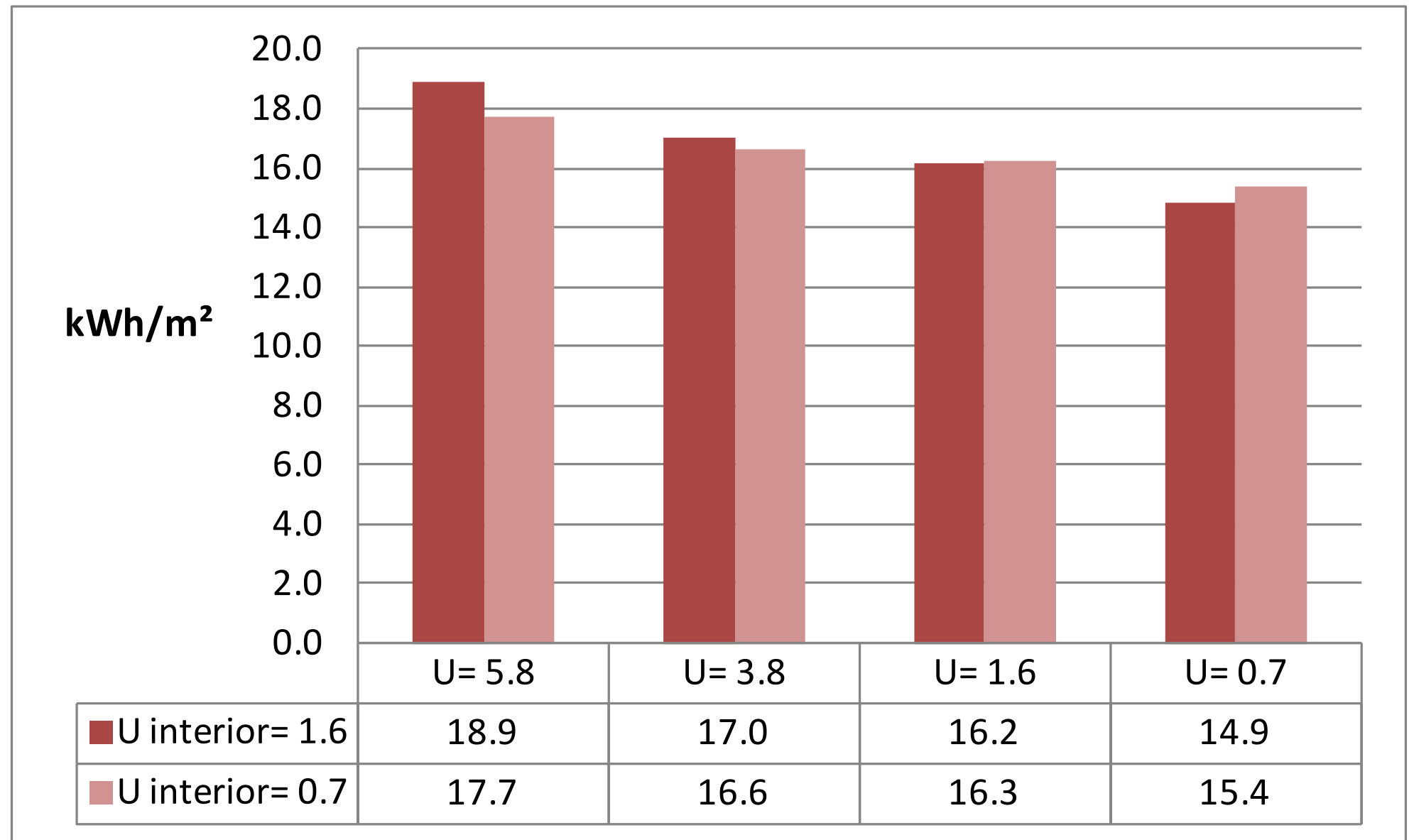
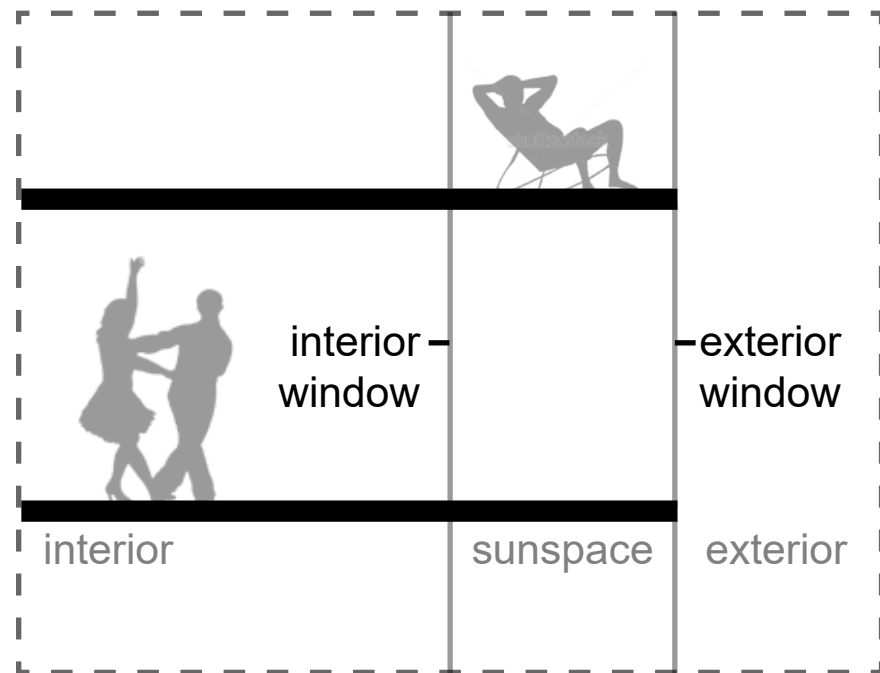


Insulation: plain facade

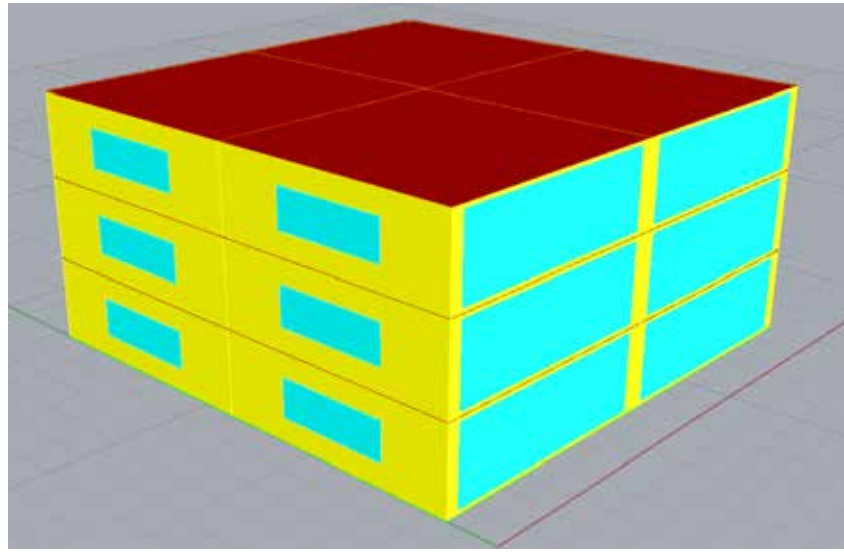




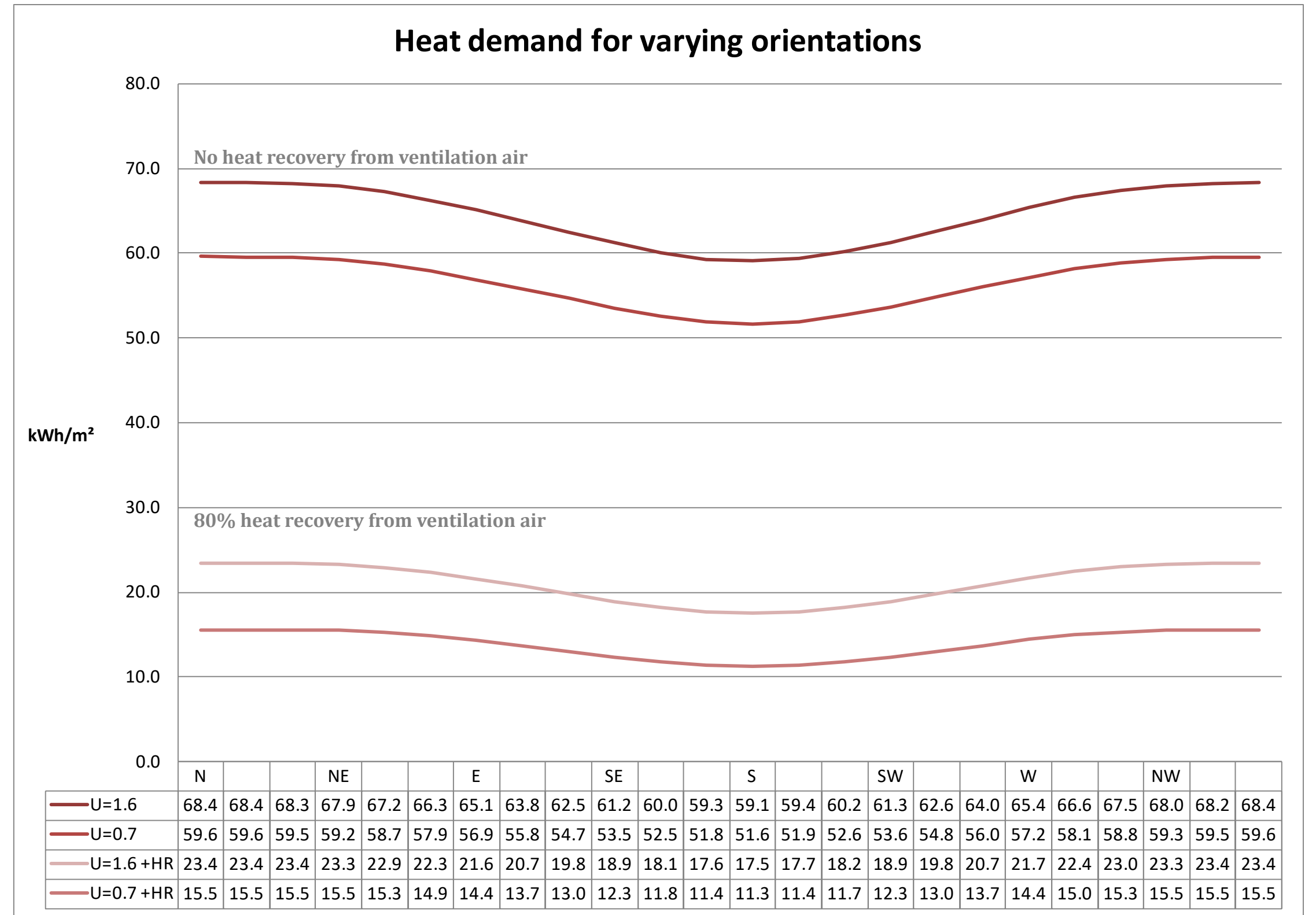
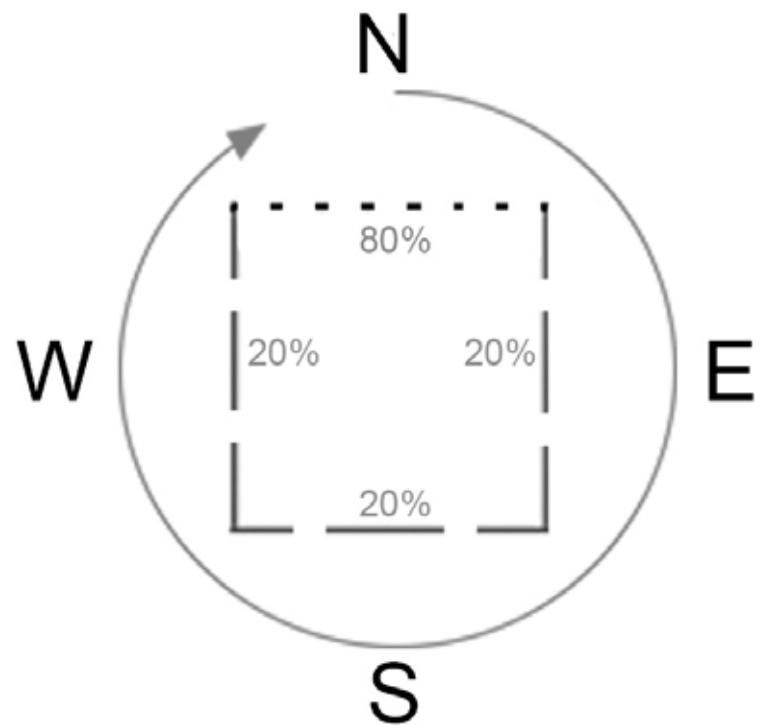
# Insulation: sunspaces



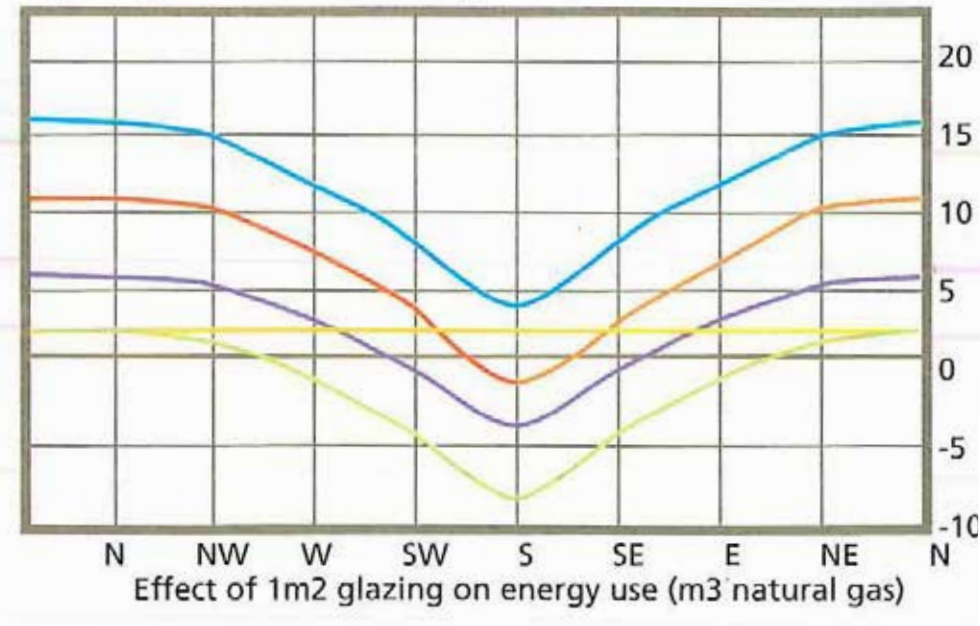




Orientation: plain facade

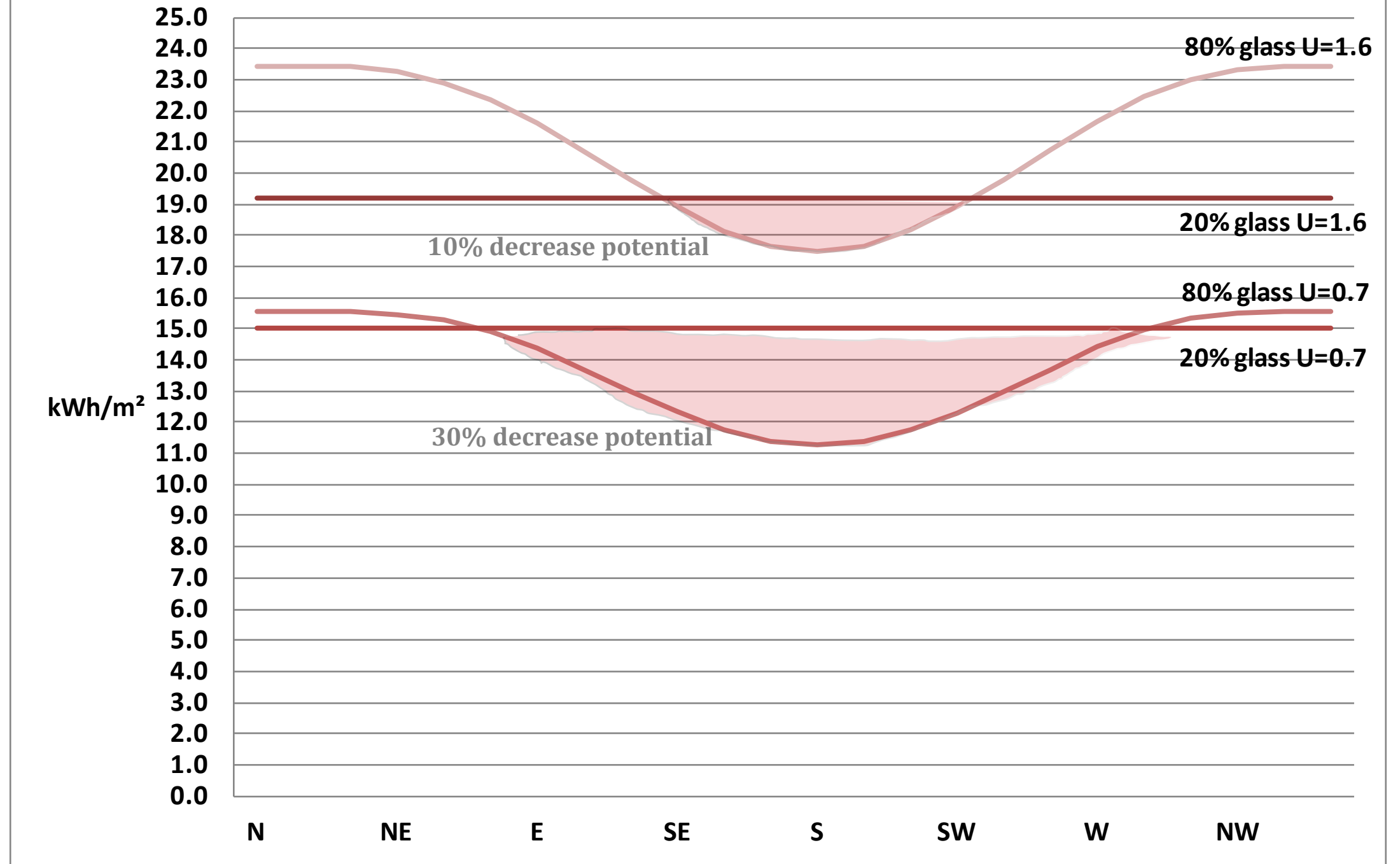


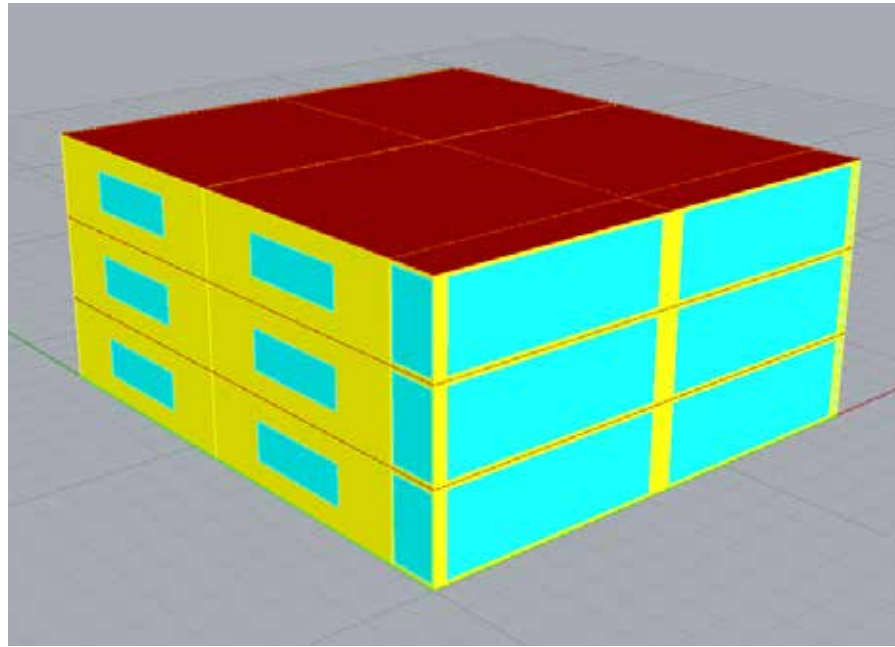
Beglazing en oriëntatie Glazing and orientation



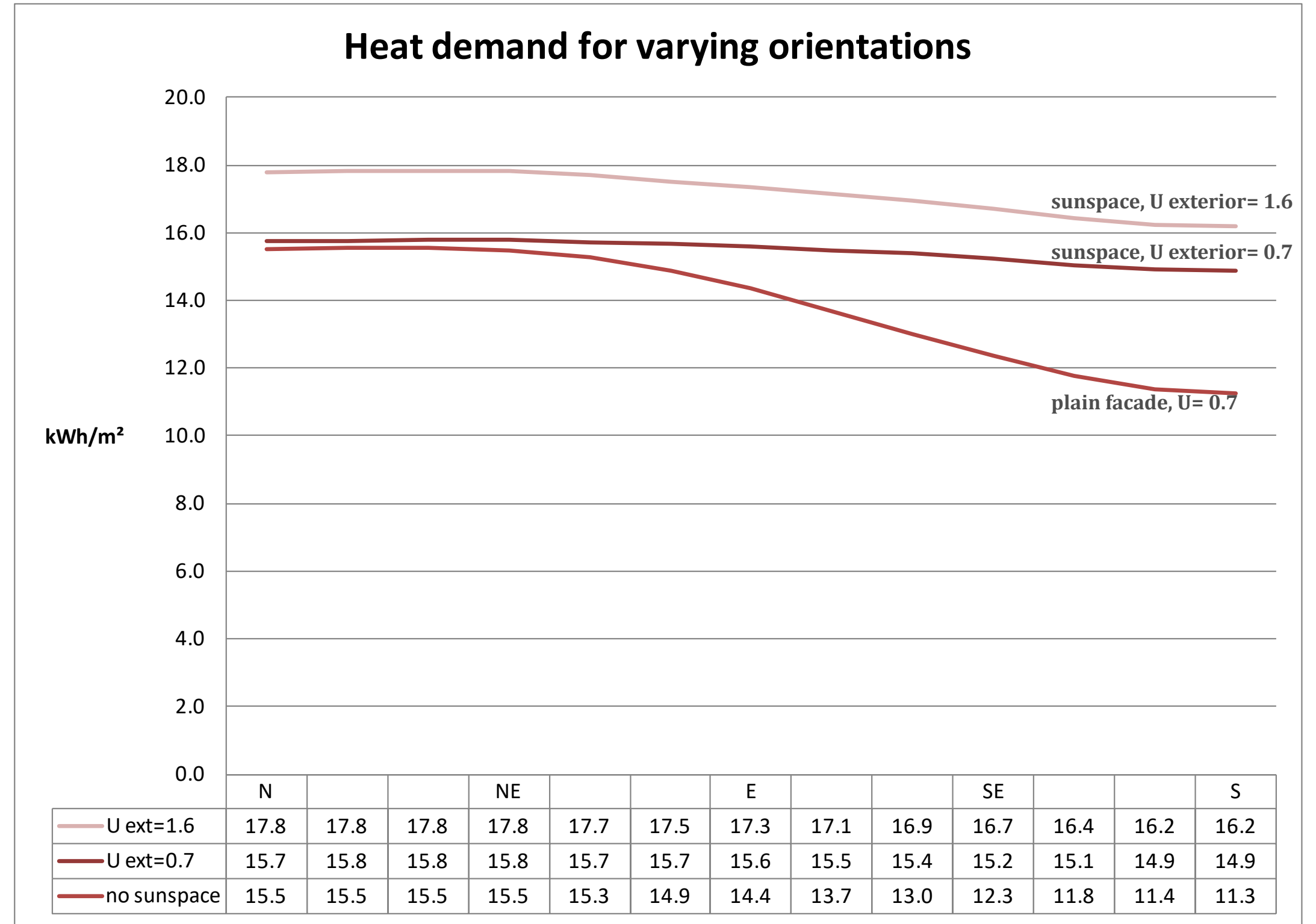
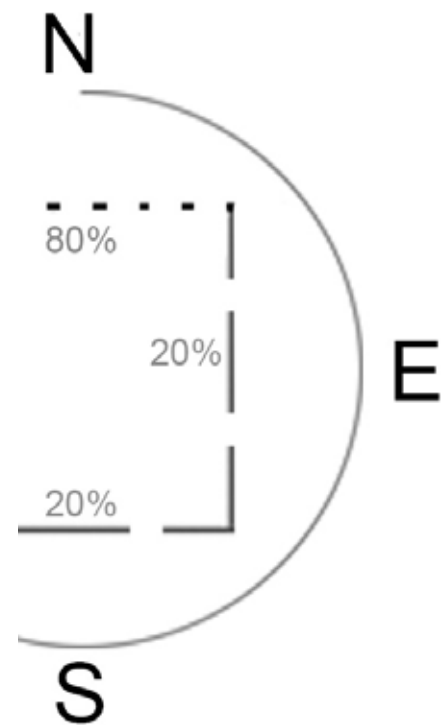
Orientation: plain facade

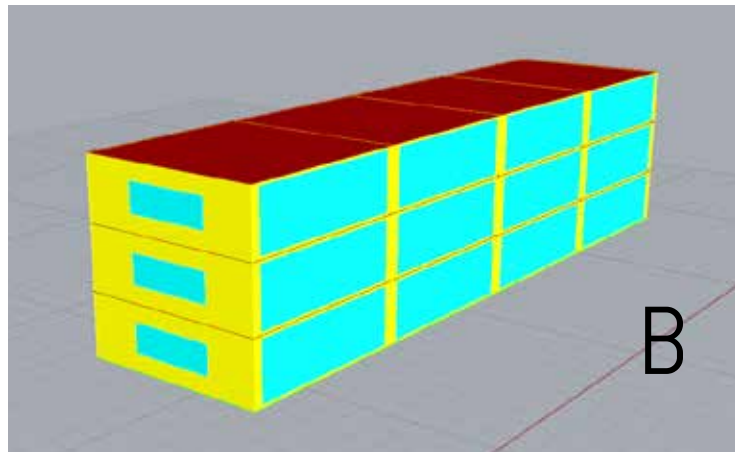
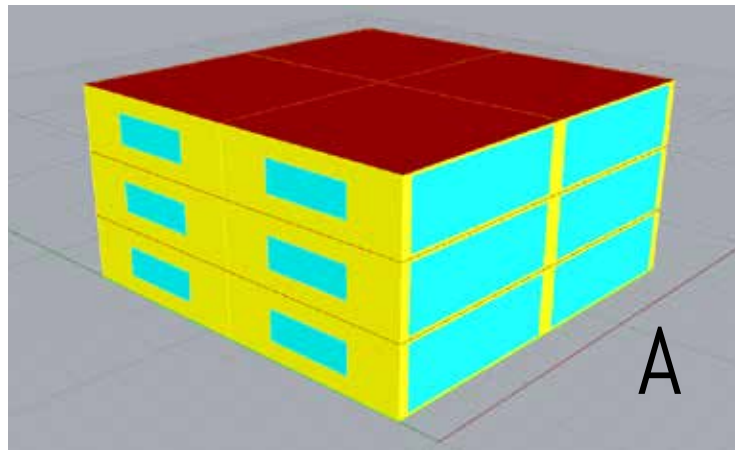
## Gain or loss due to glass





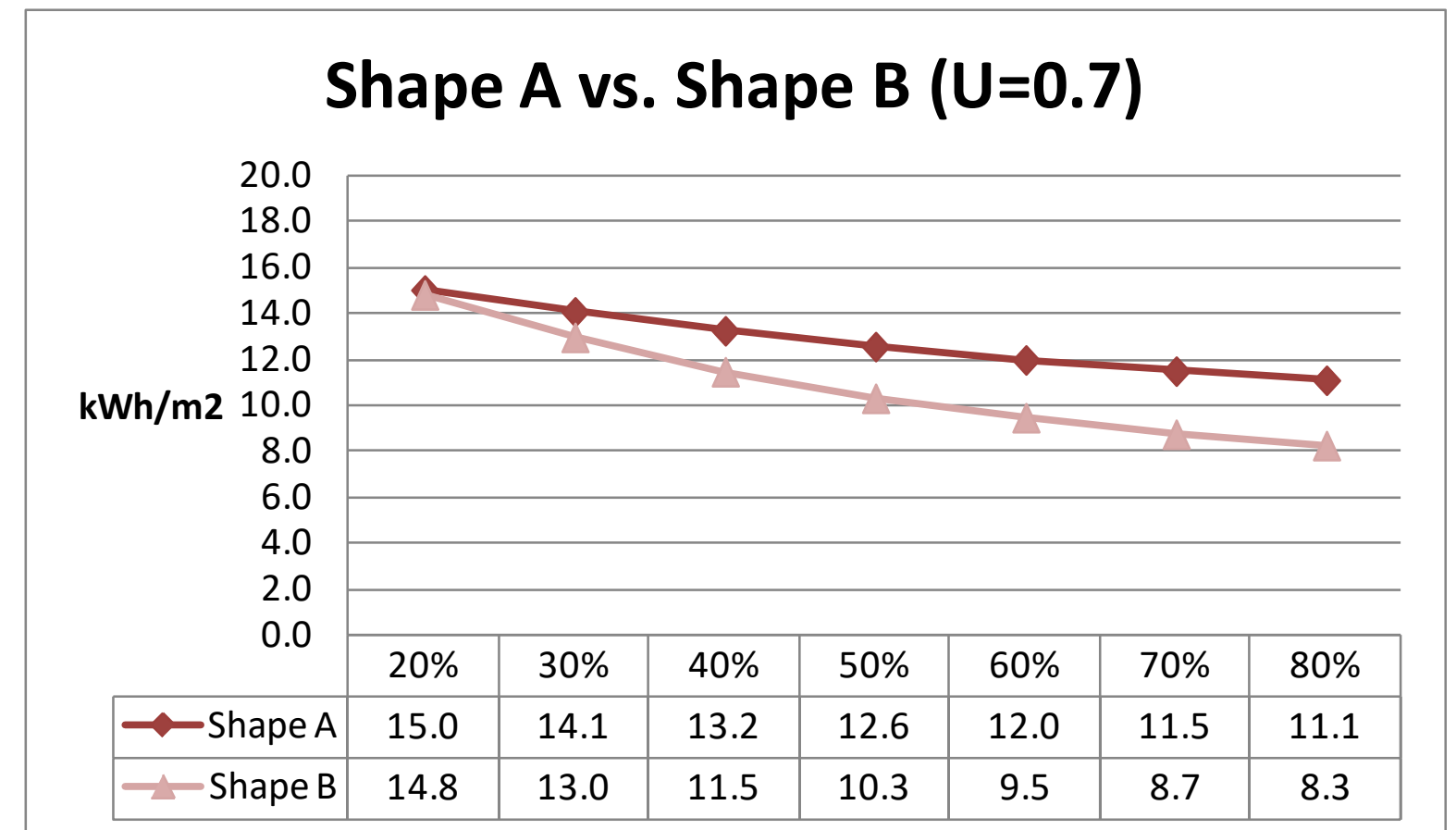
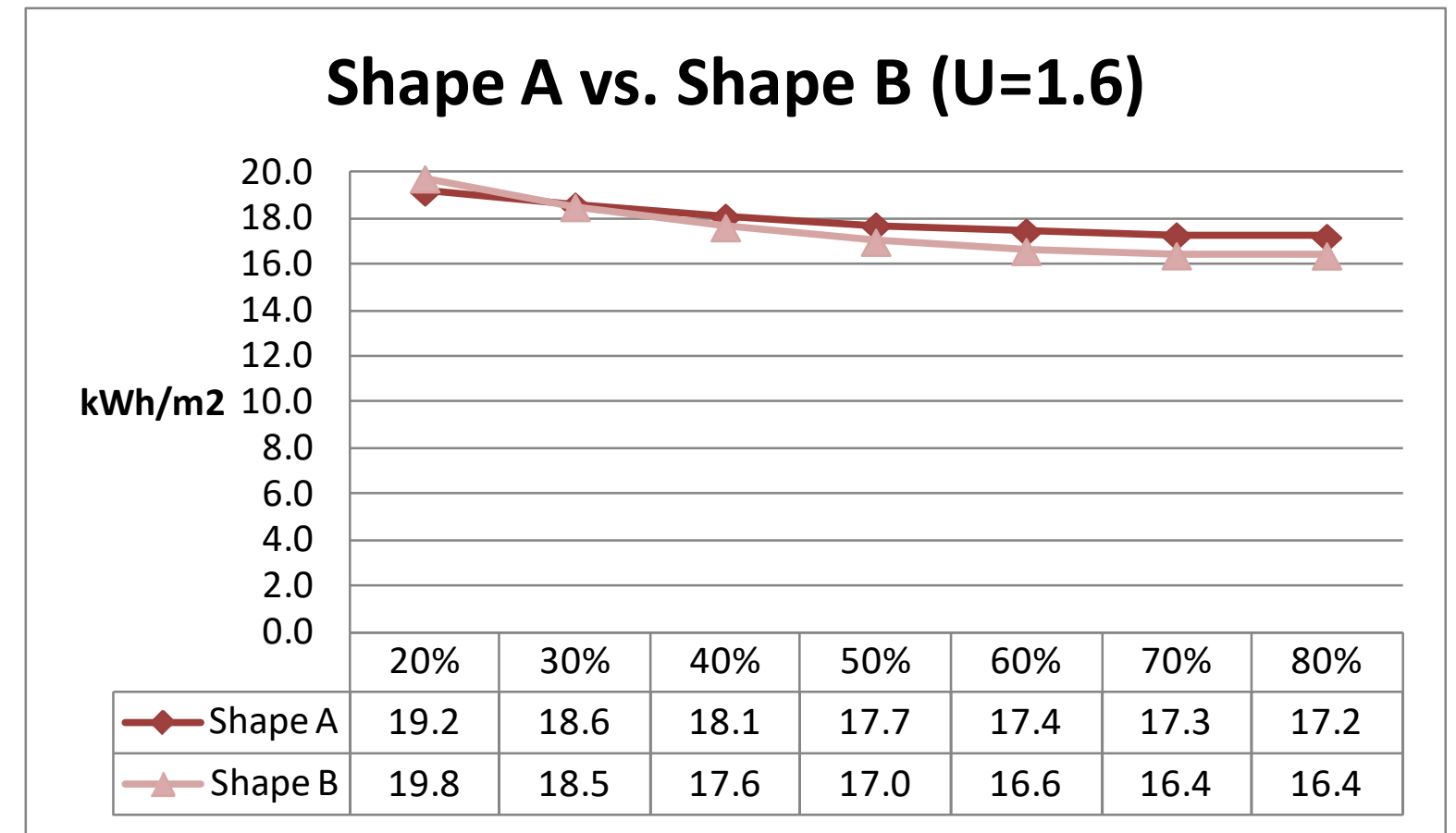
Orientation: sunspaces

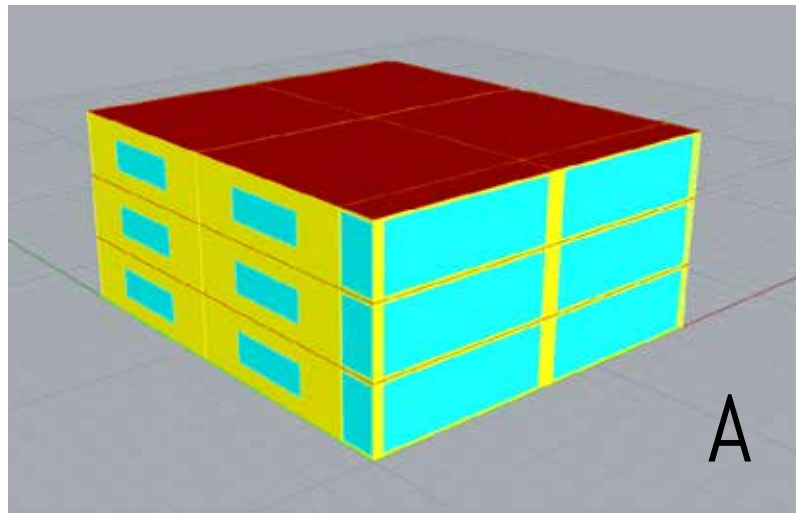




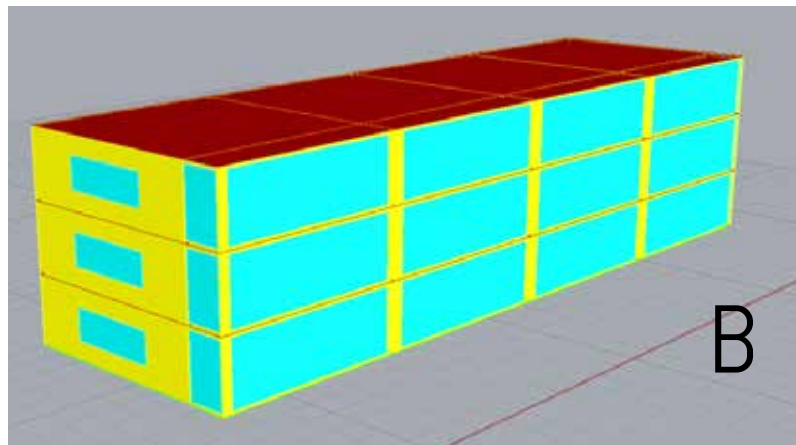
Building Shape: plain facade

extra variable: % glass in facade



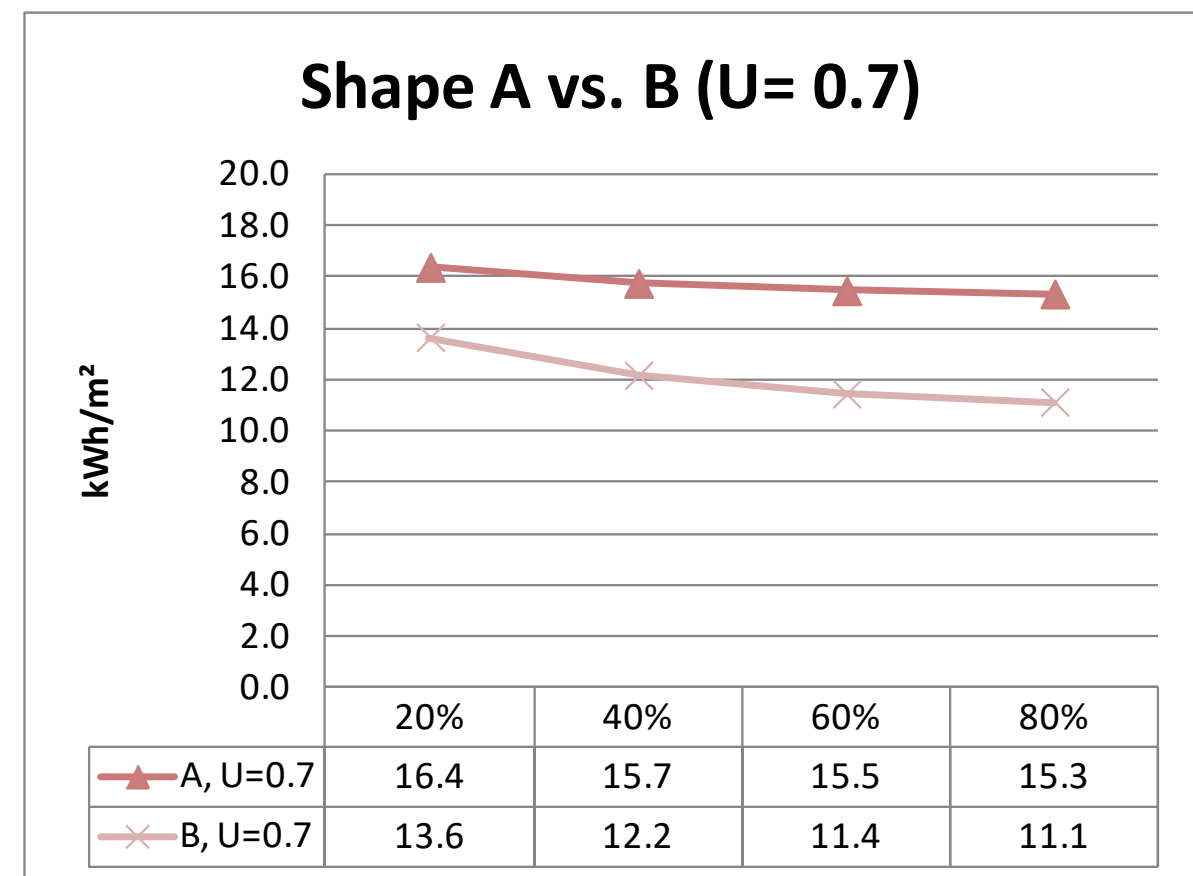
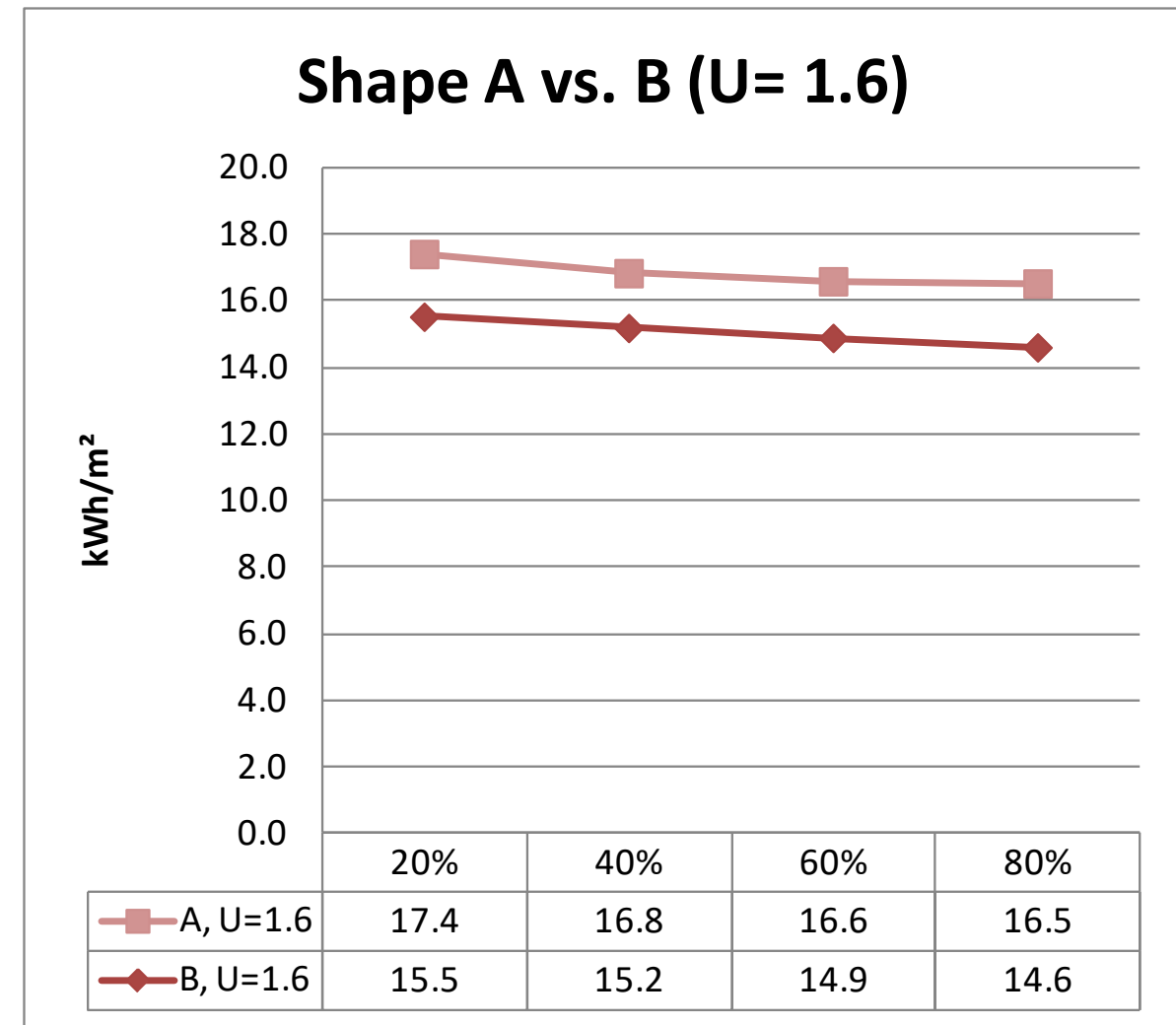
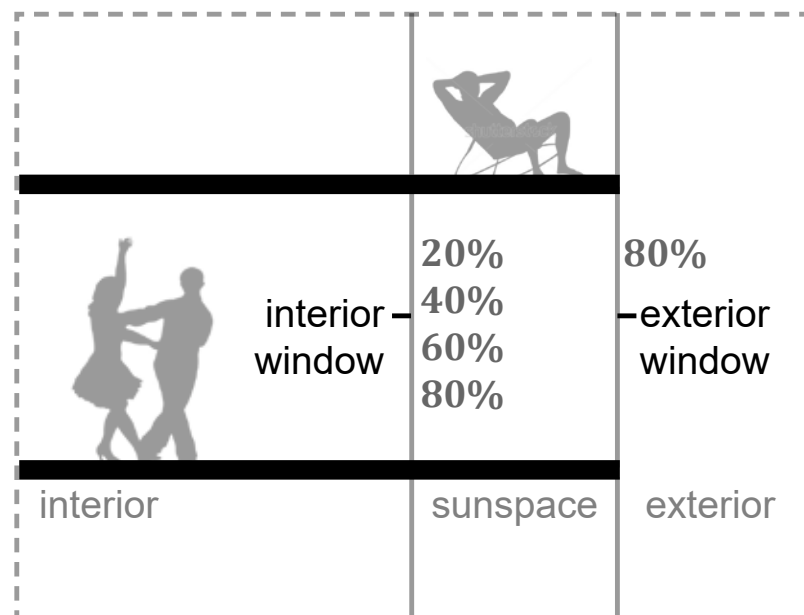


A

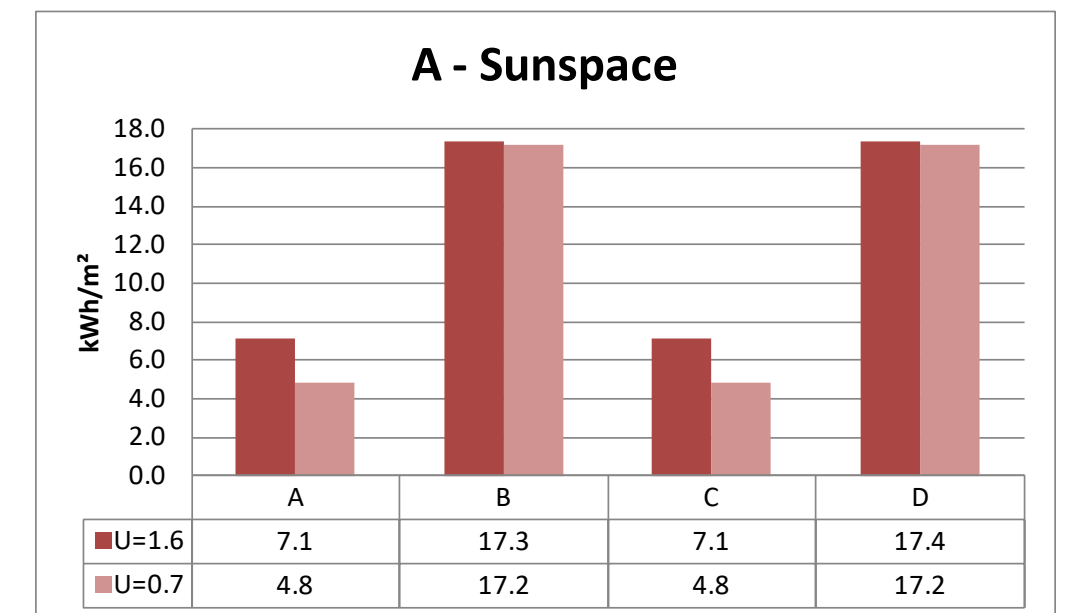
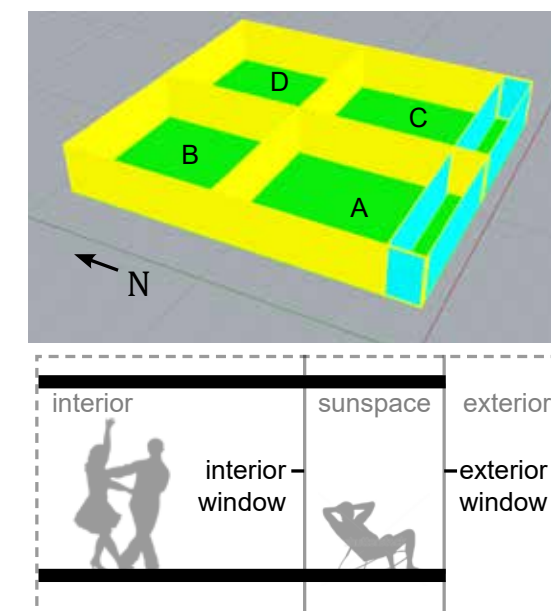
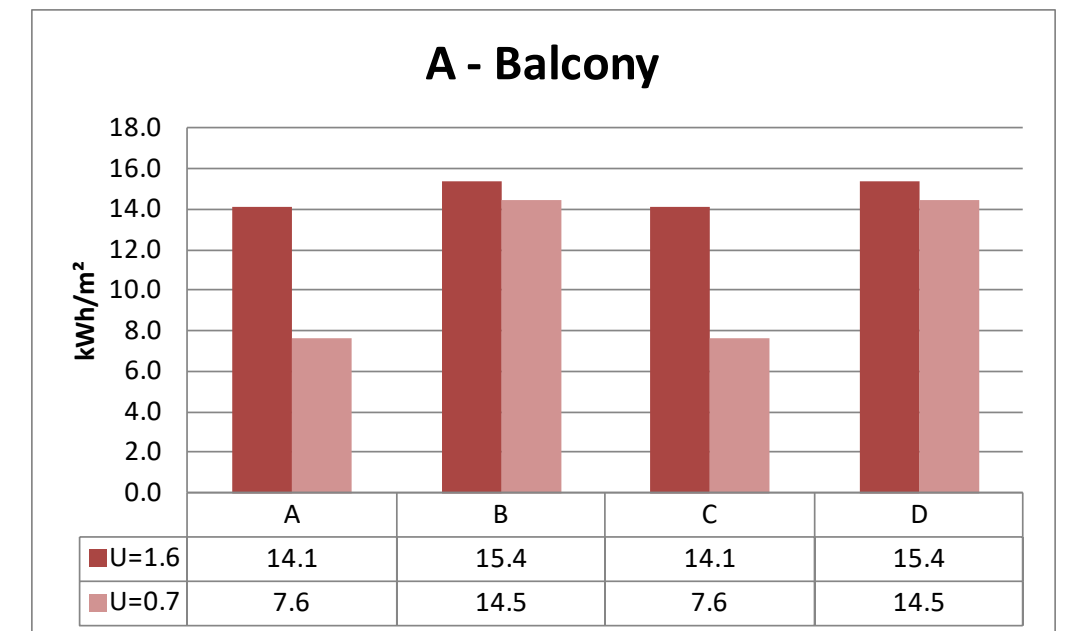
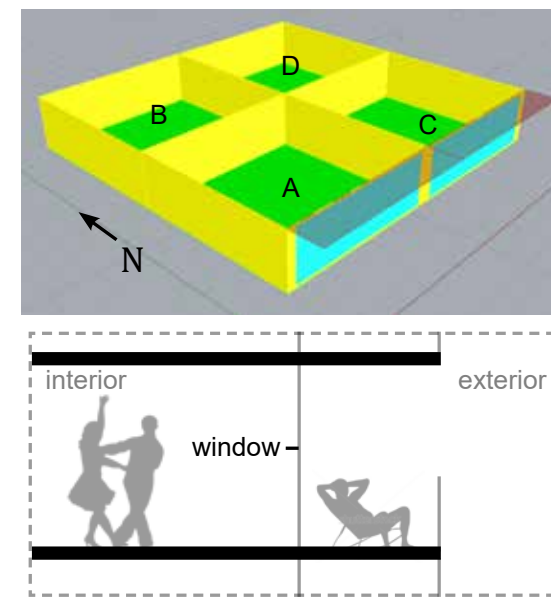
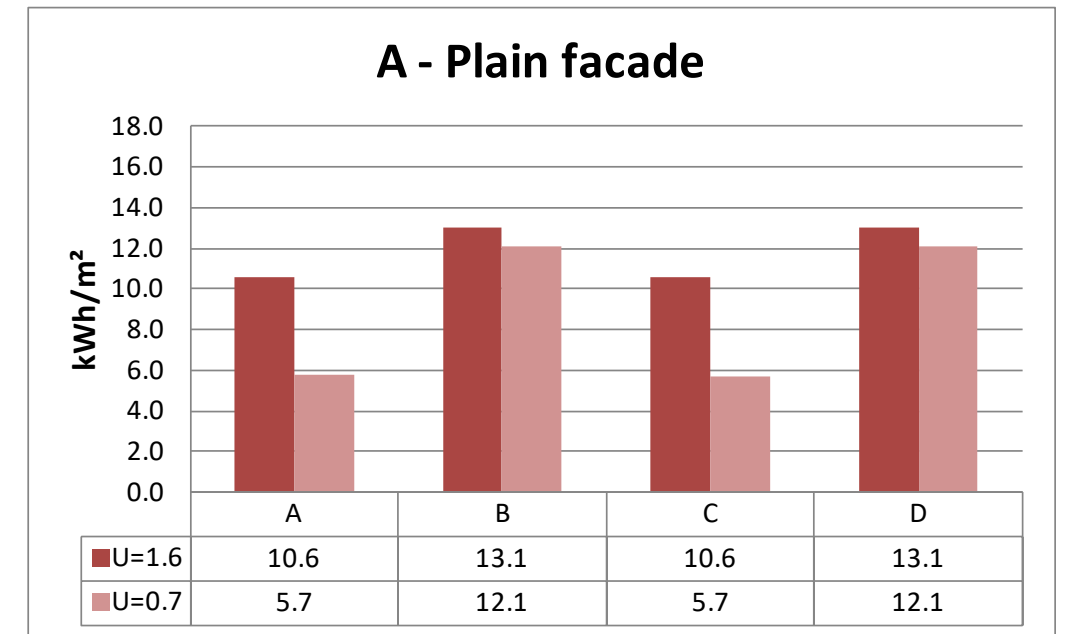
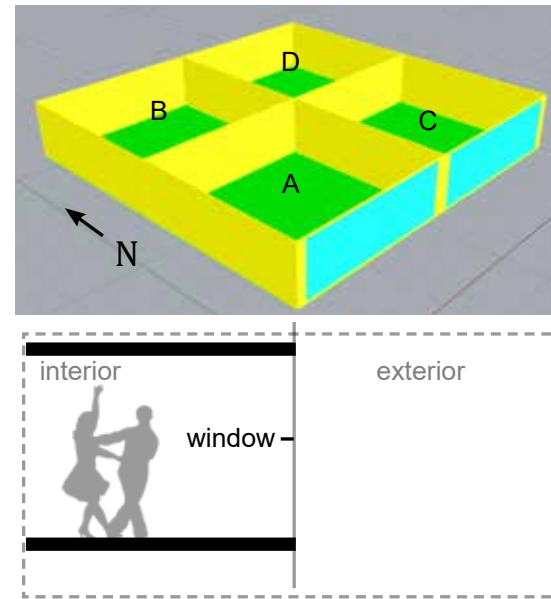


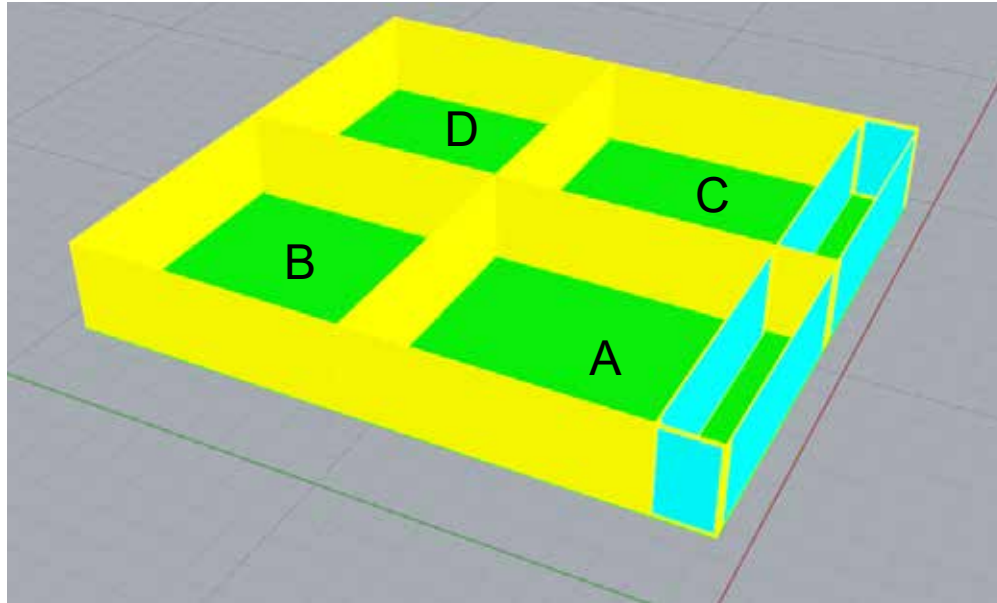
B

## Building Shape: sunspaces

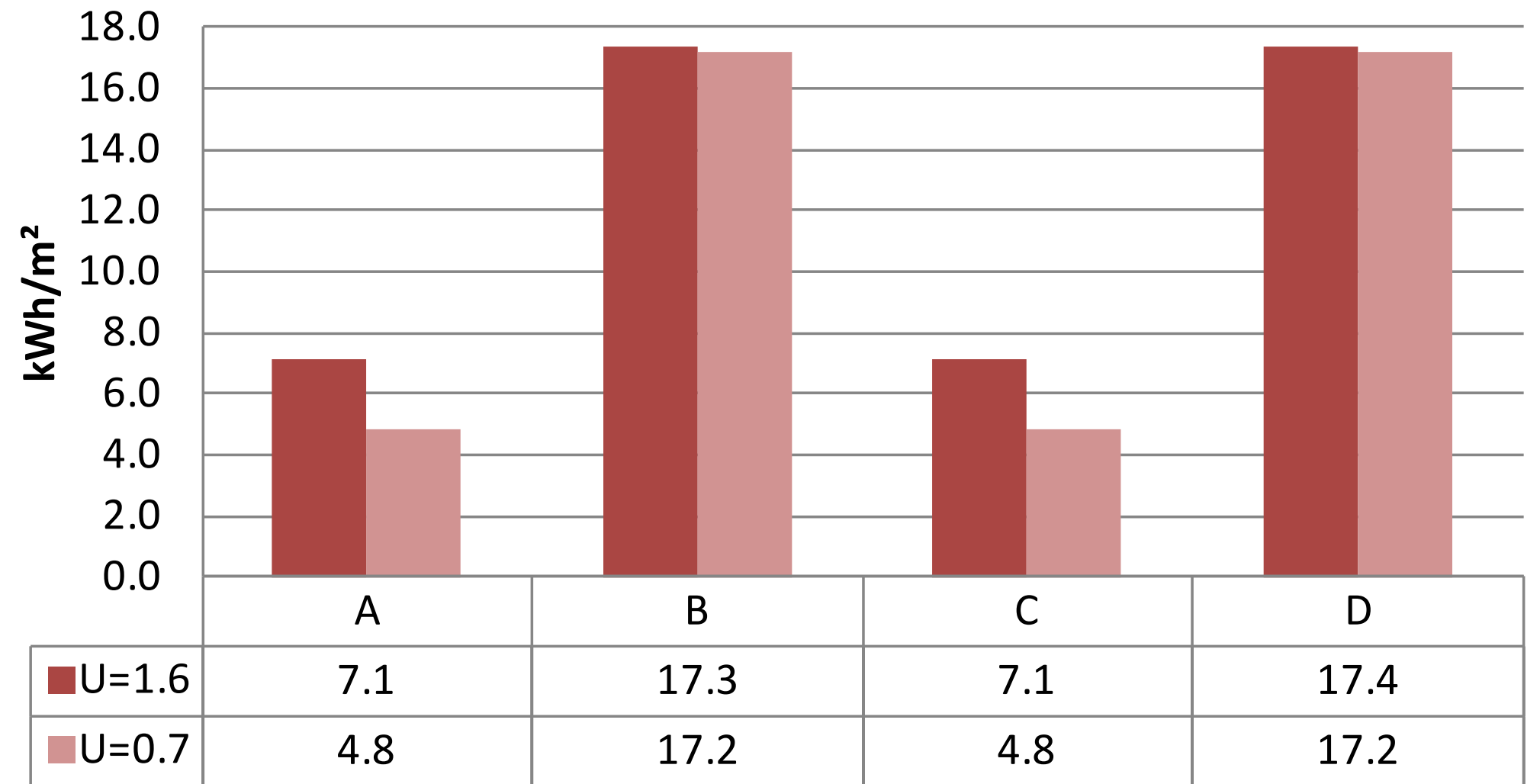


# Comparison studies: Shape A





## A - Sunspace

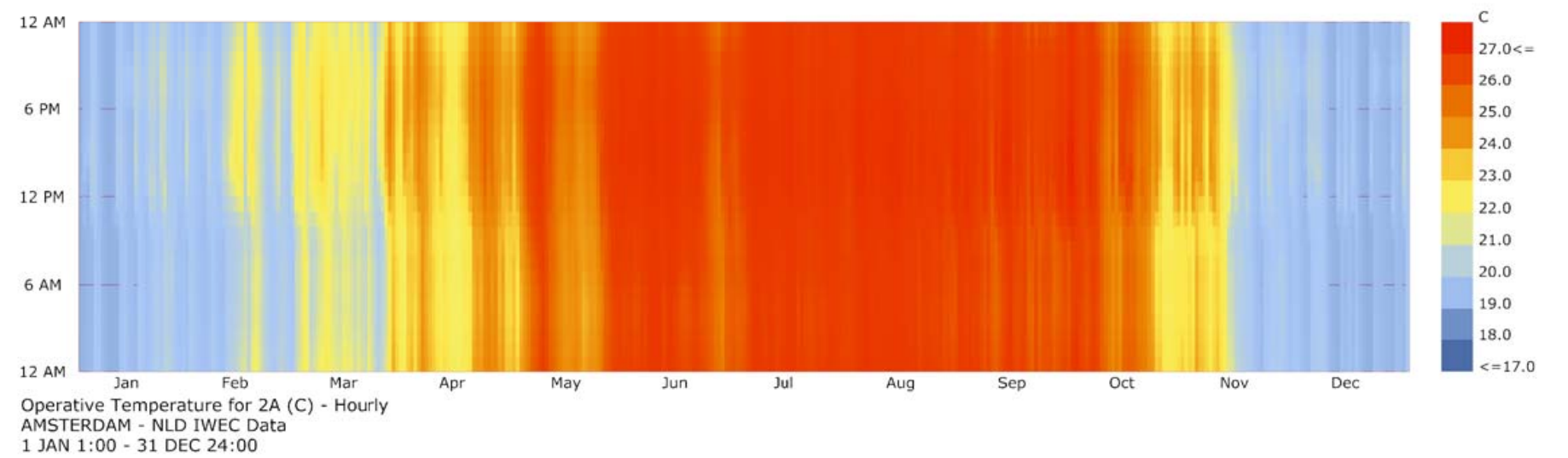
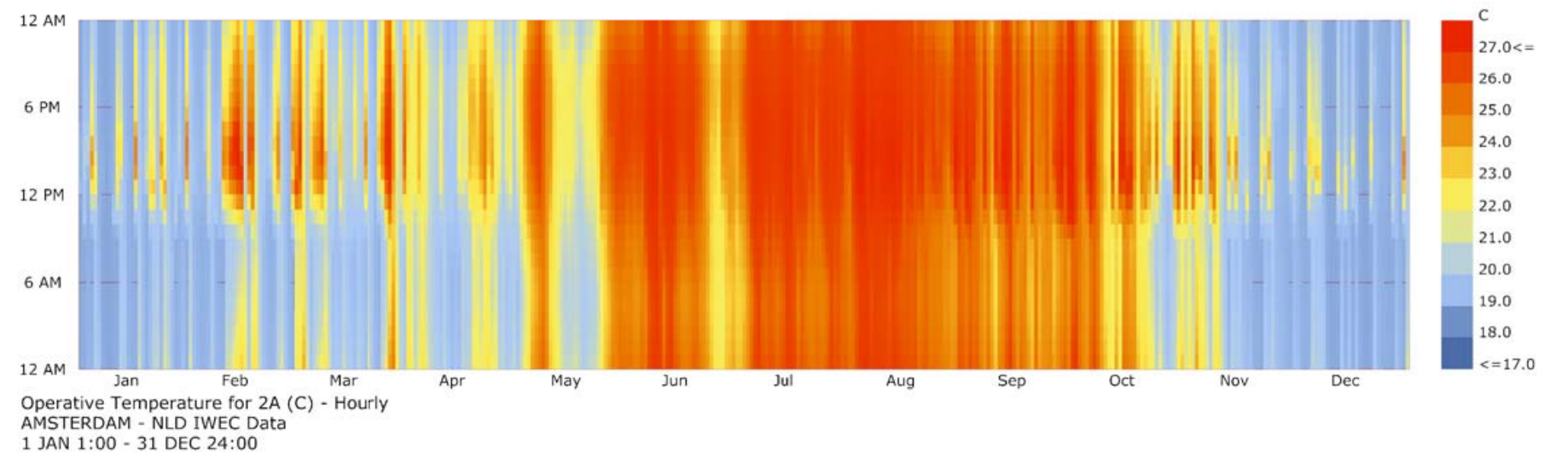
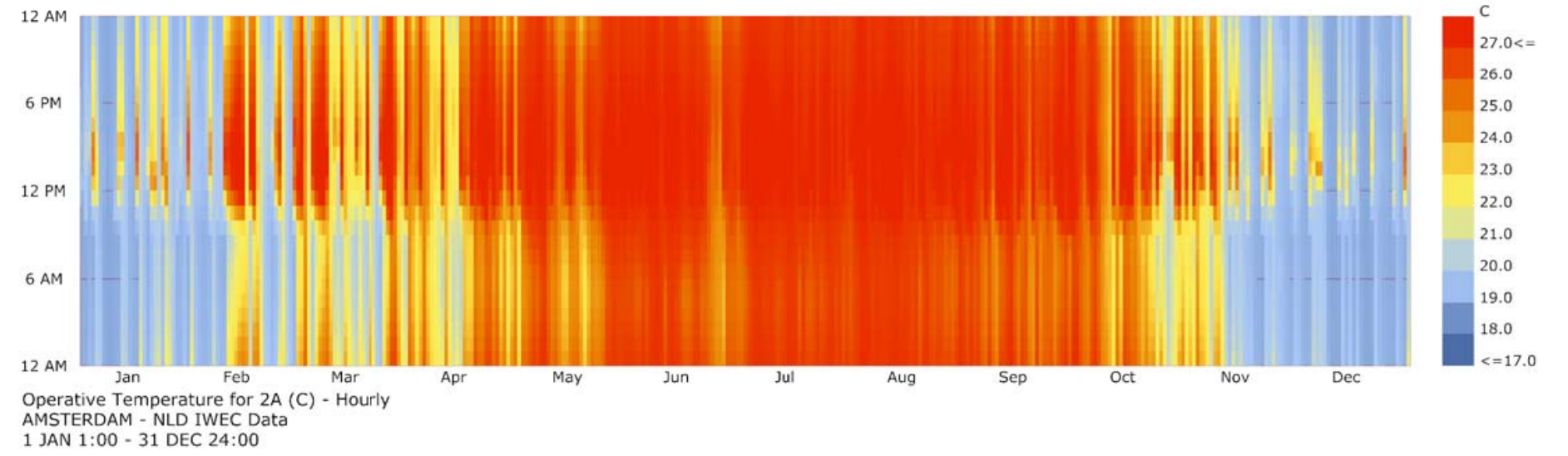


*why?*

# Operative temperature

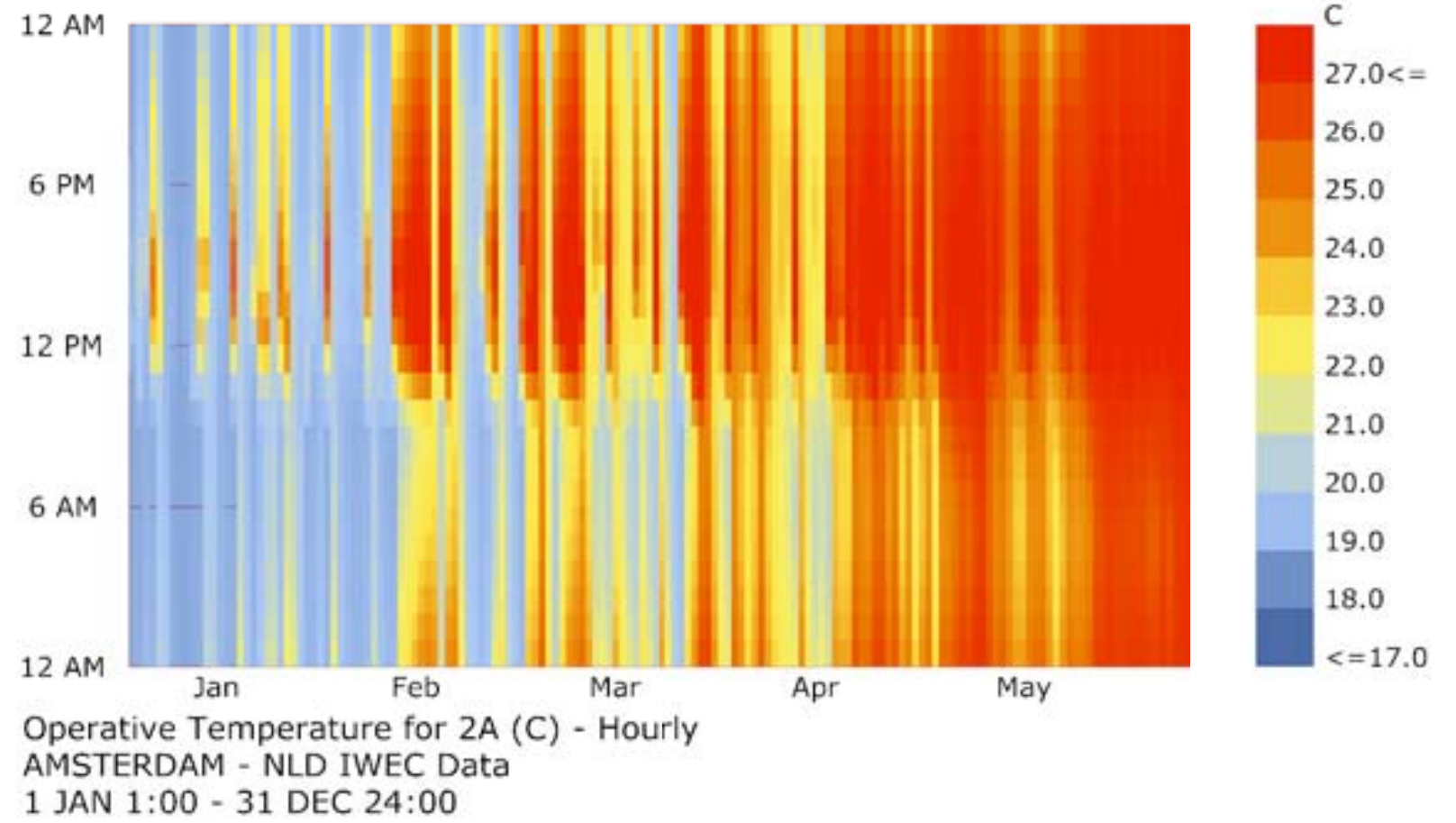
*Balconies*

*Sunspaces*



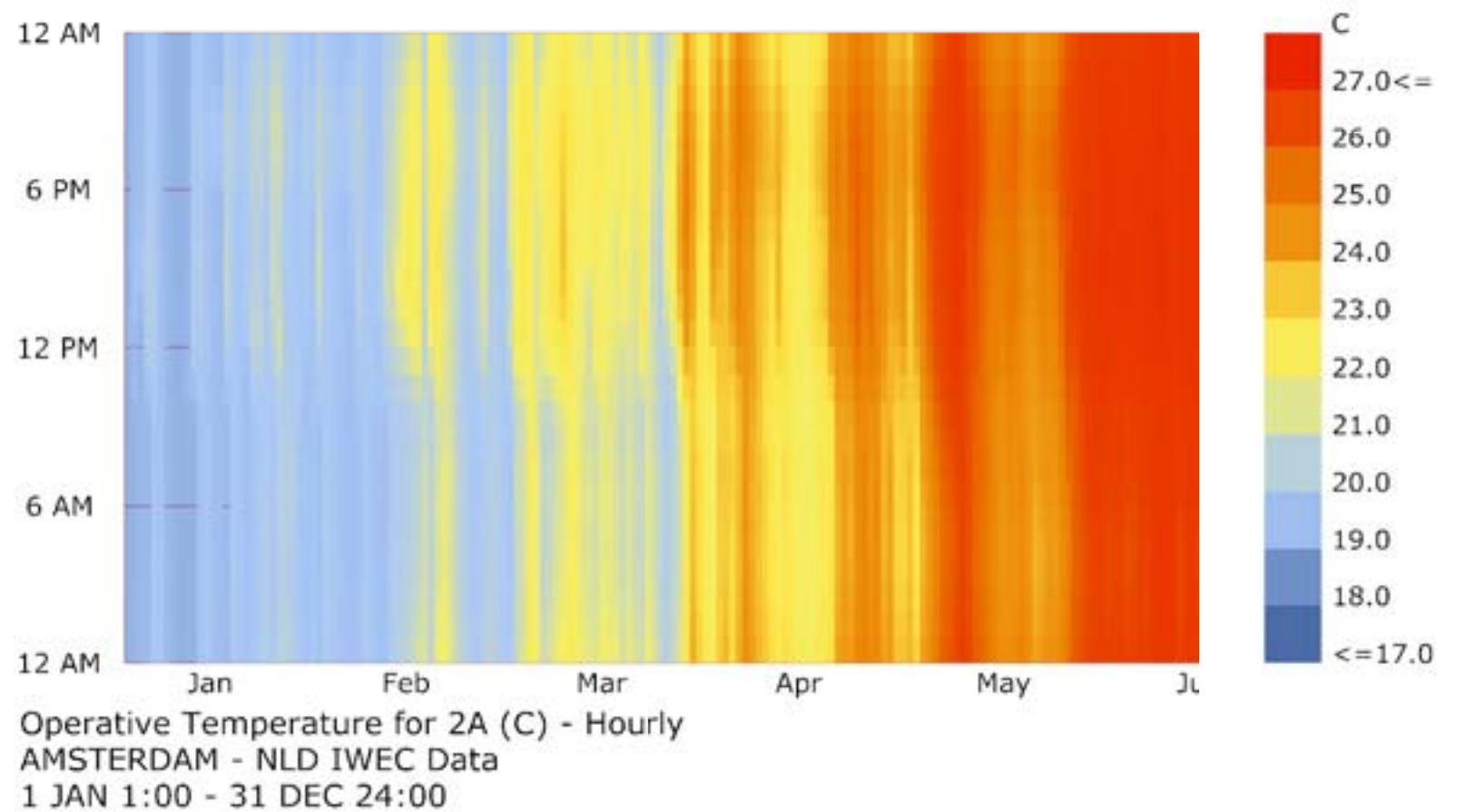


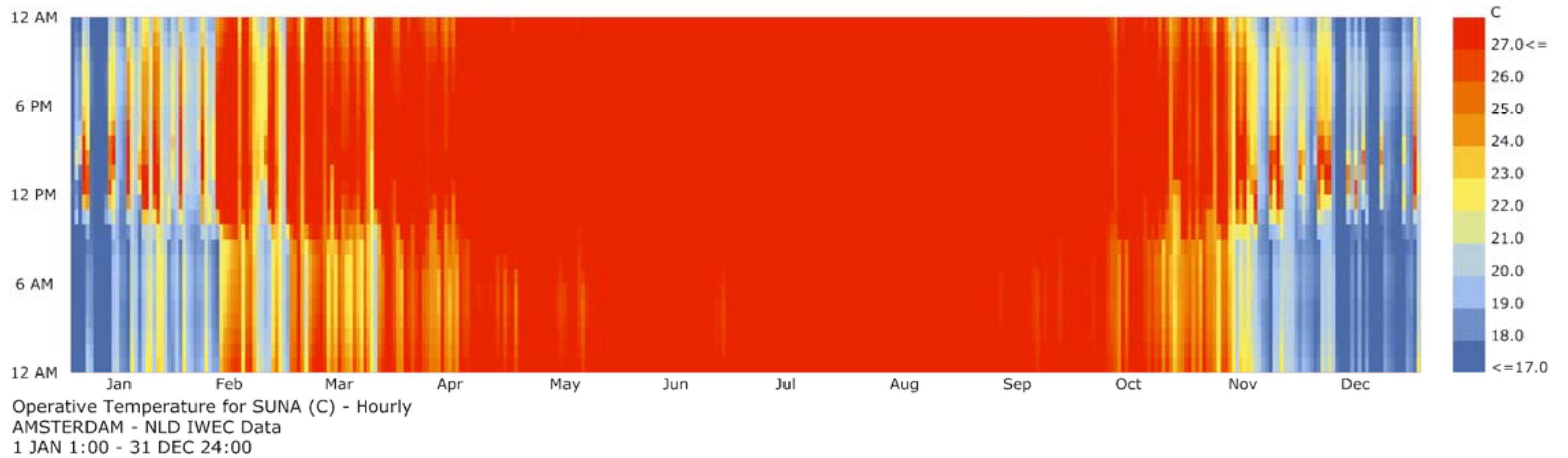
*Plain facade*



Shape A temperatures

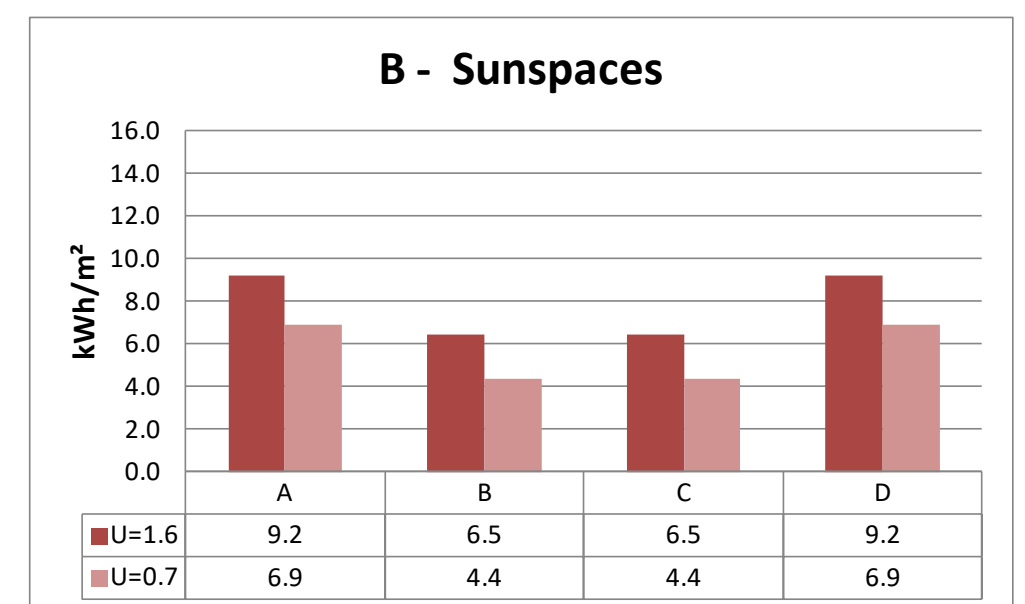
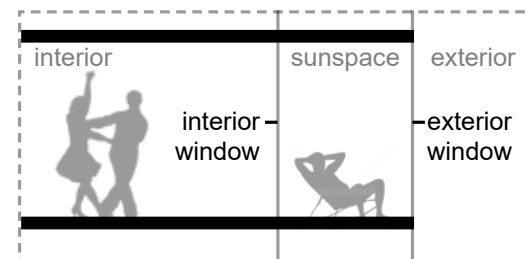
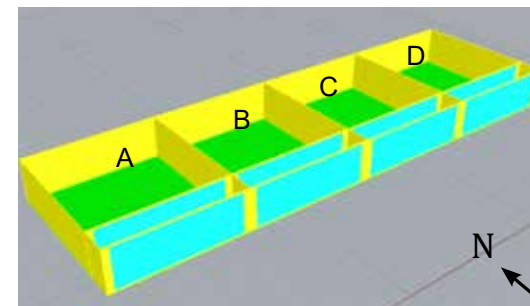
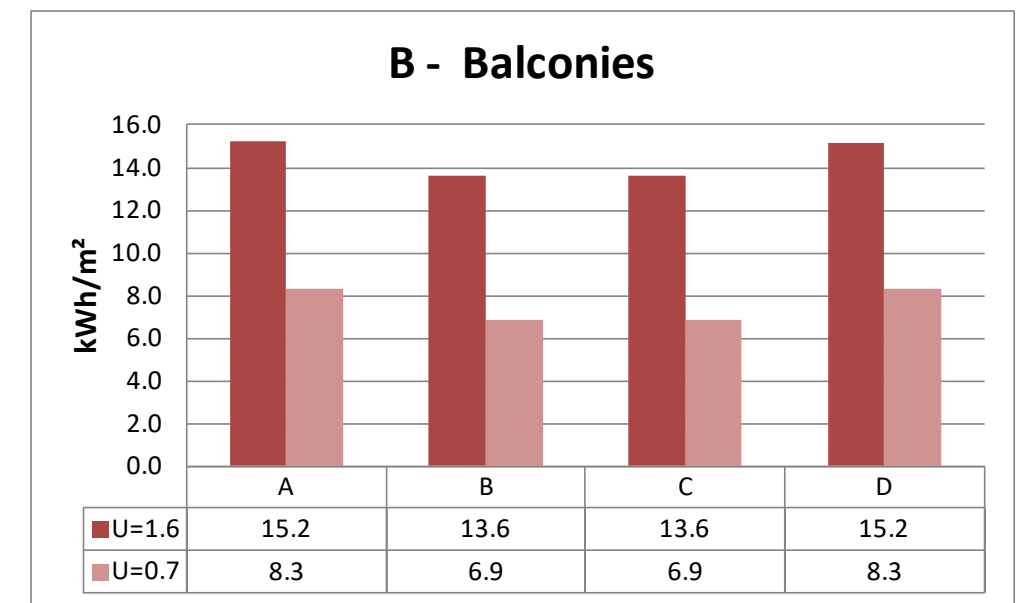
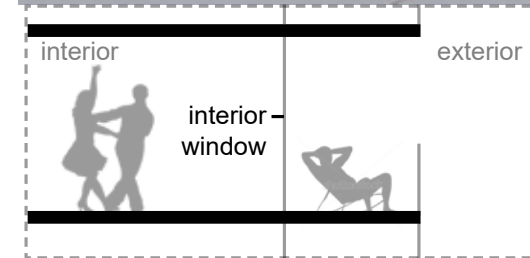
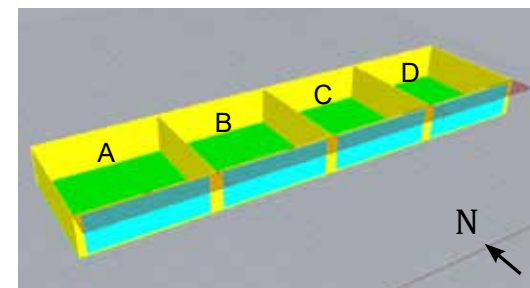
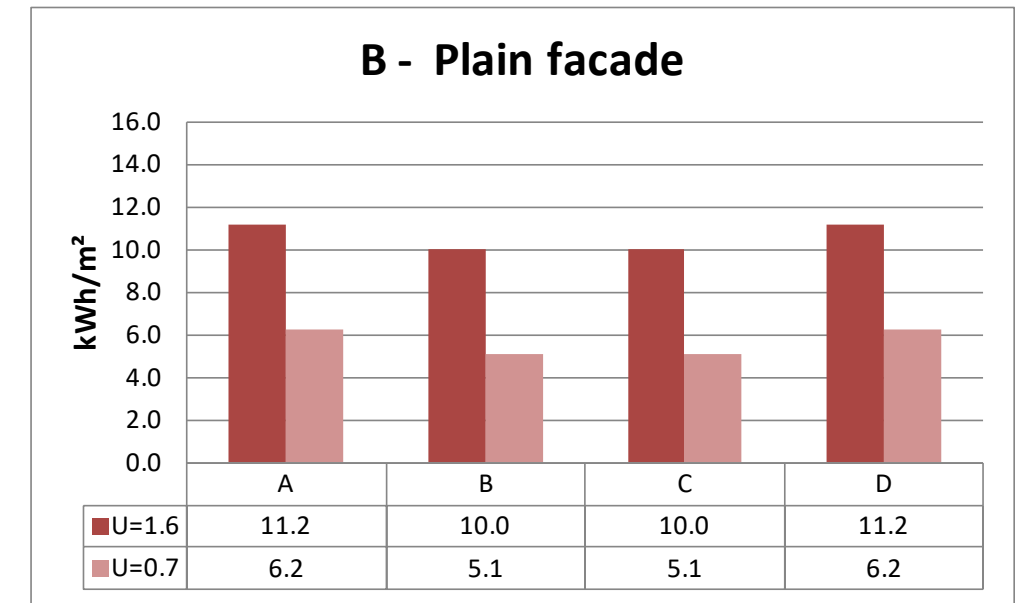
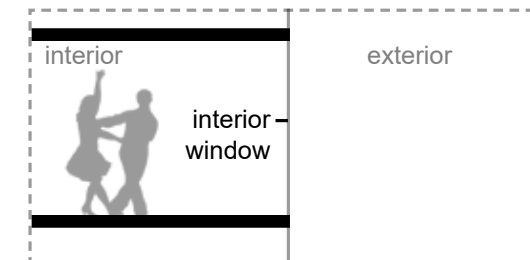
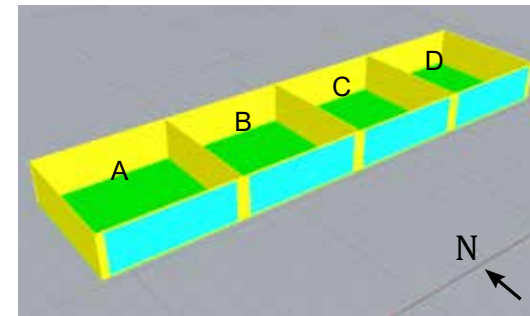
*Sunspaces*



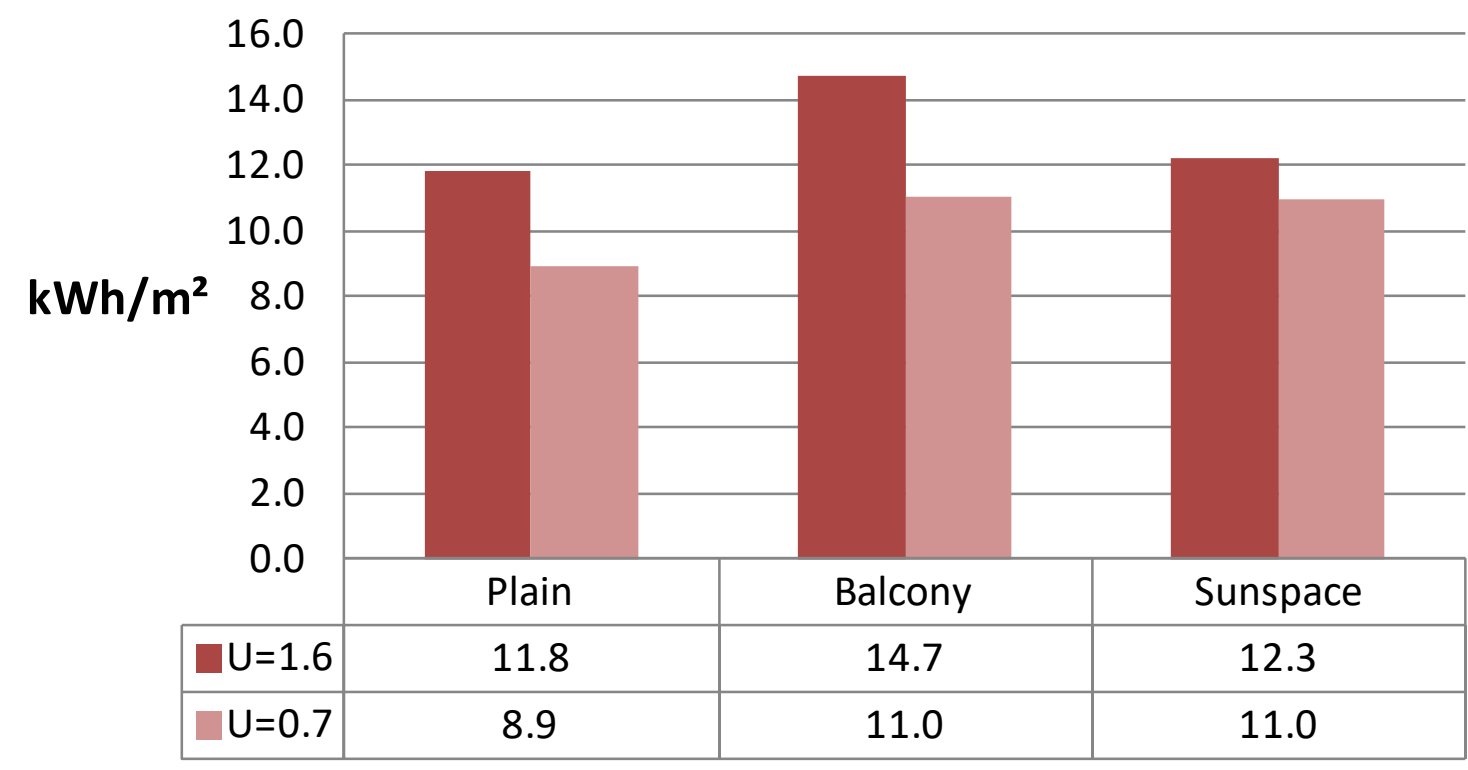


Shape A temperatures: sunspace

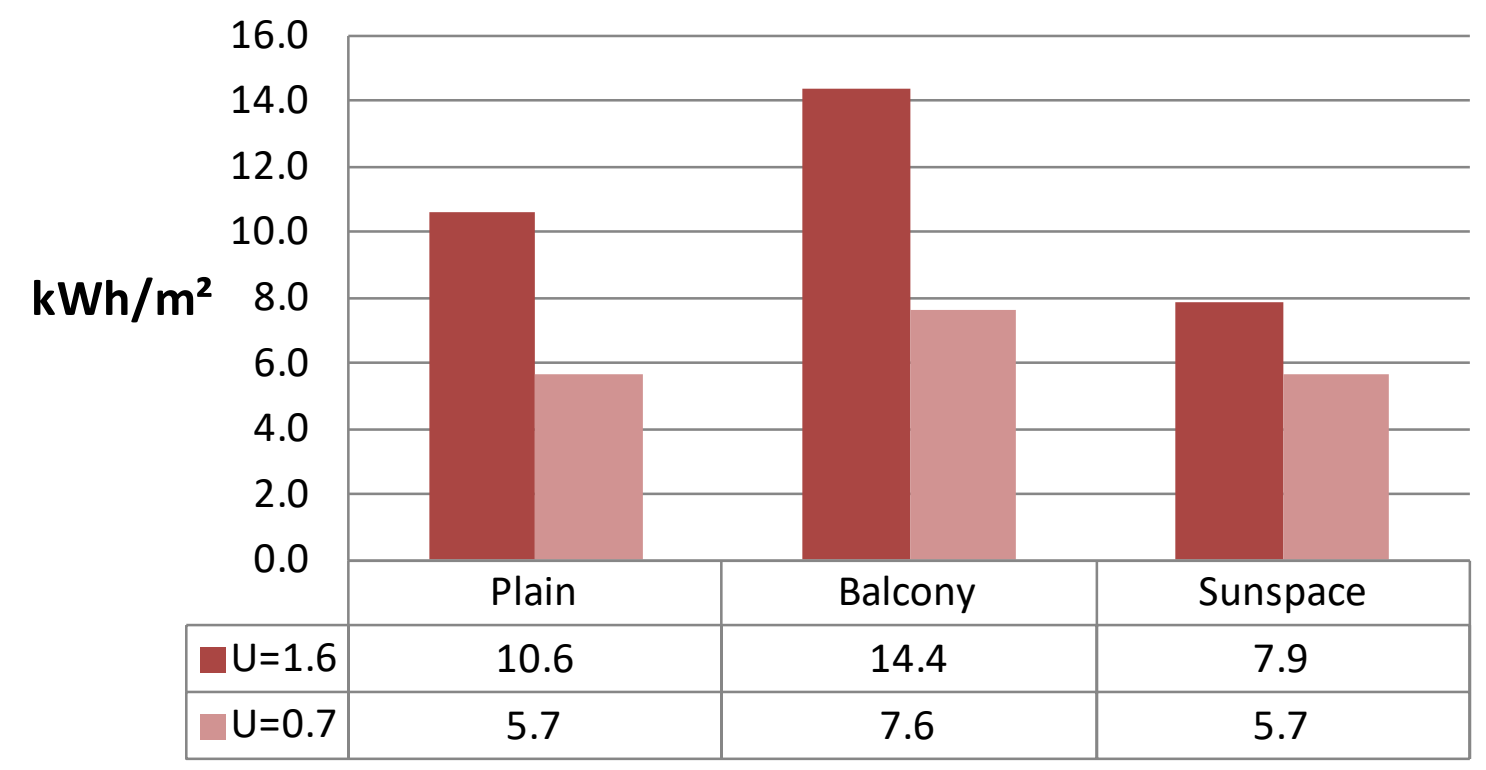
# Comparison studies: Shape B



### Shape A comparison



### Shape B comparison



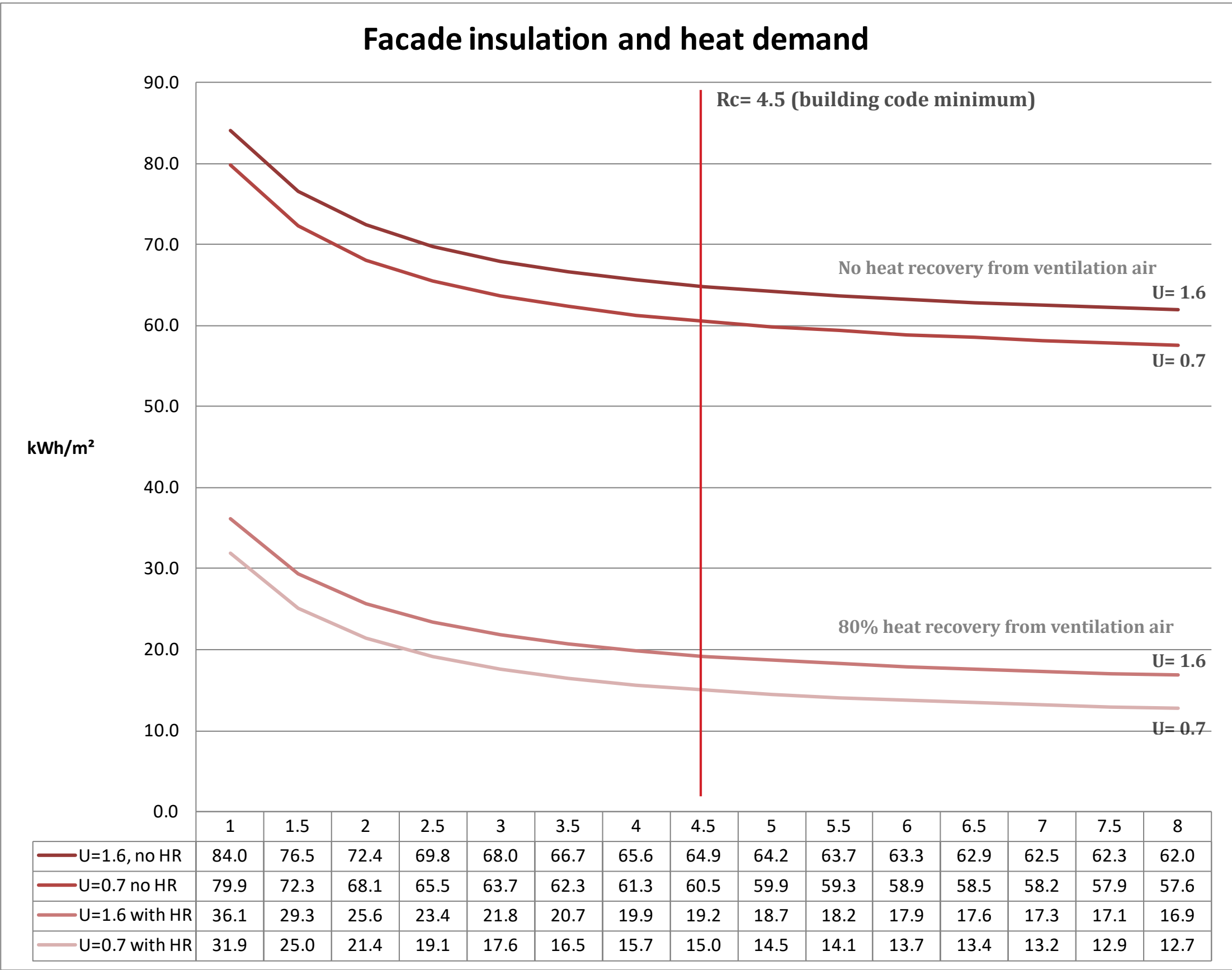
Comparison studies: overview



## 4.3 Study conclusions

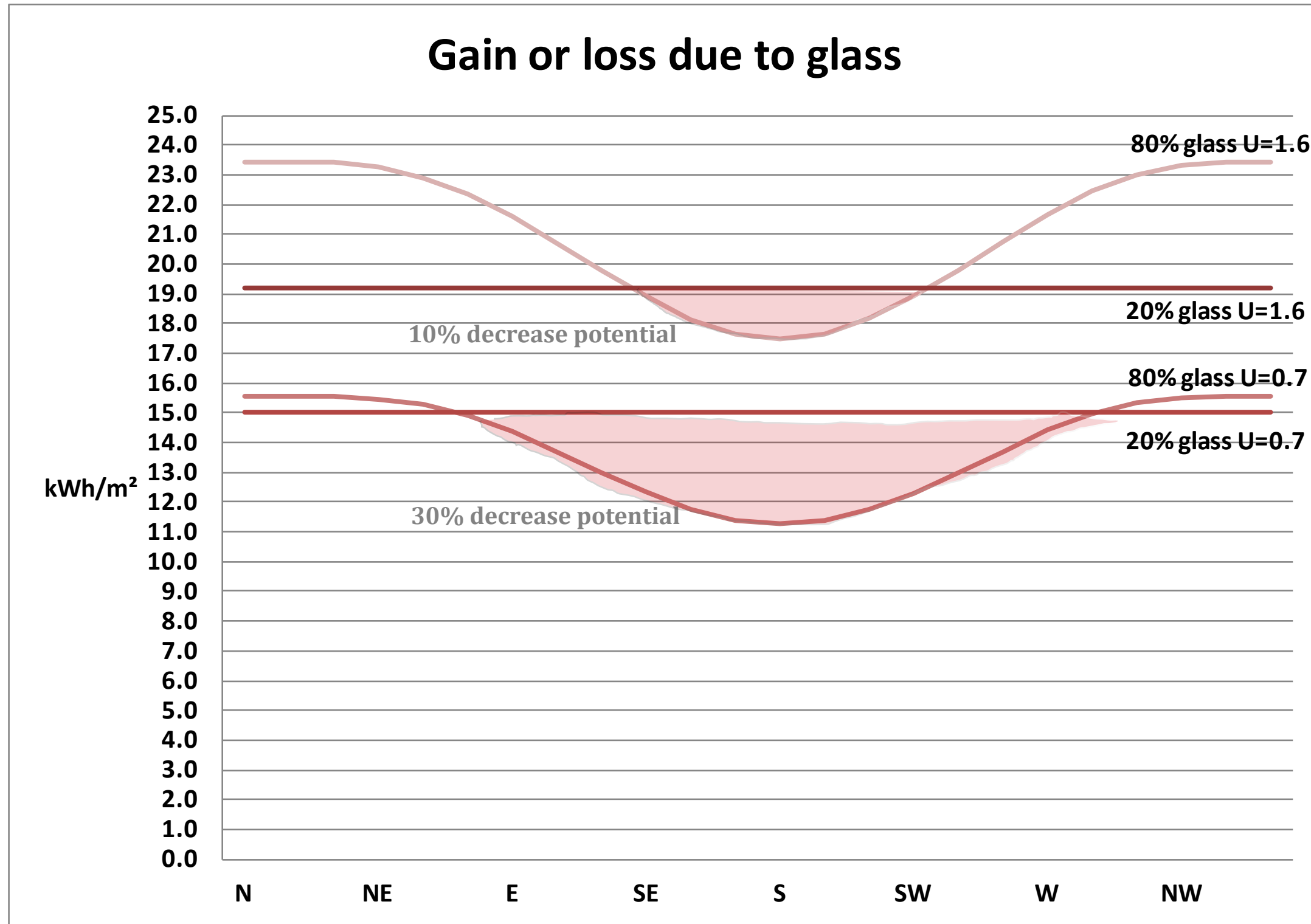
- . Insulation
- . Orientation
- . Building Shape
- . Sunspaces

# Insulation



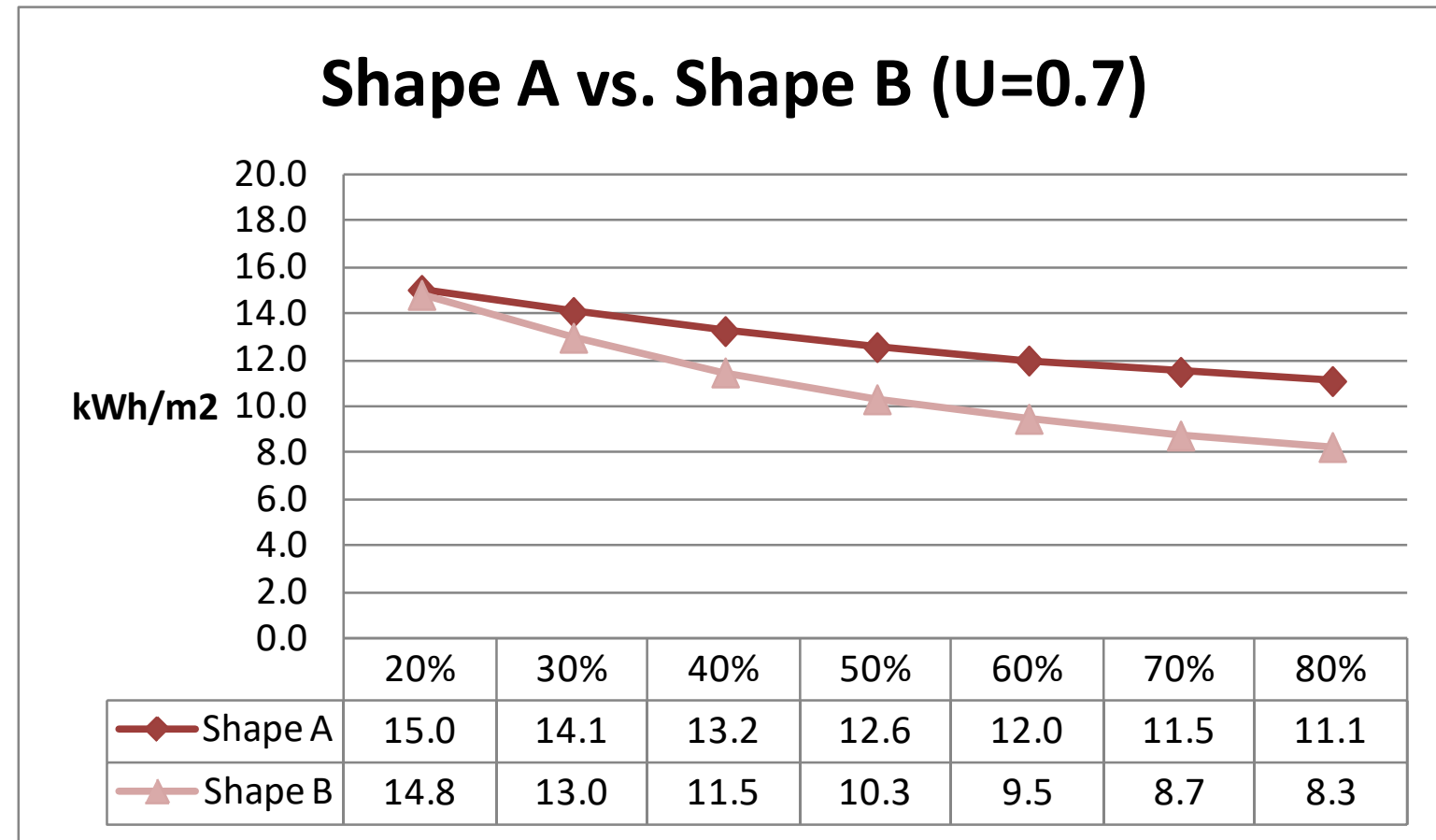
*Heat recovery has huge impact,  
insulation over Rc= 4.5 has very limited impact.*

Orientation



*Orientation has extreme impact.*

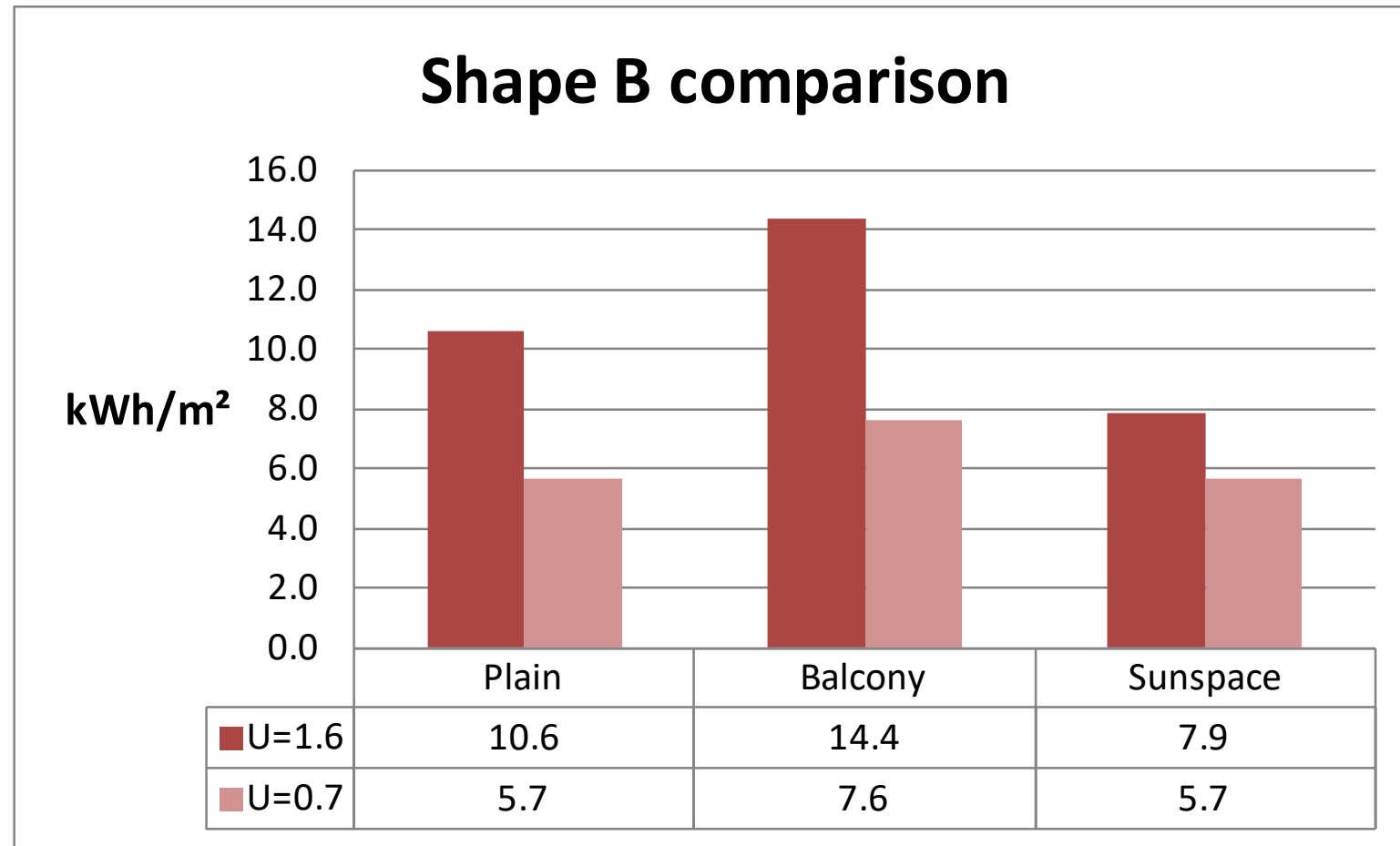
# Building shape



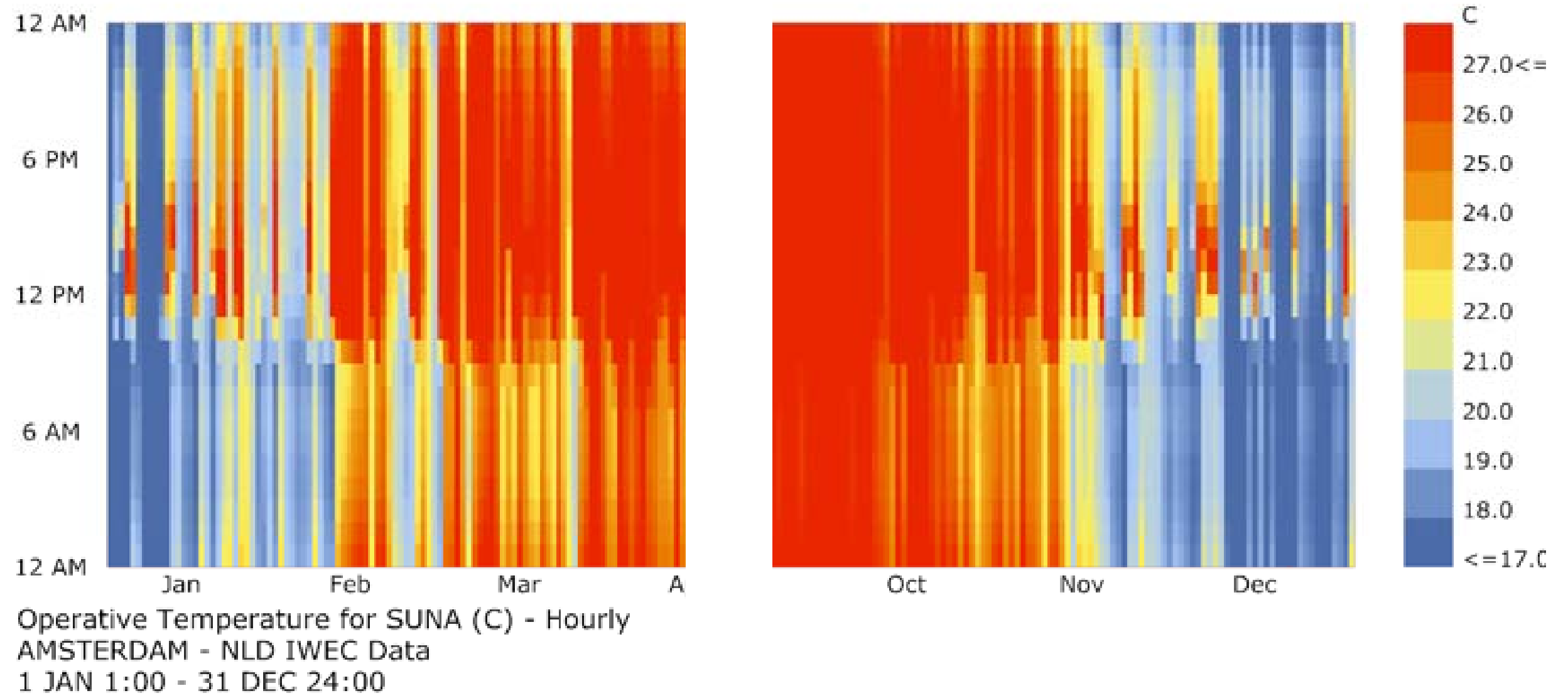
*Shape B, sun surface far outweighs compactness when well insulated.*



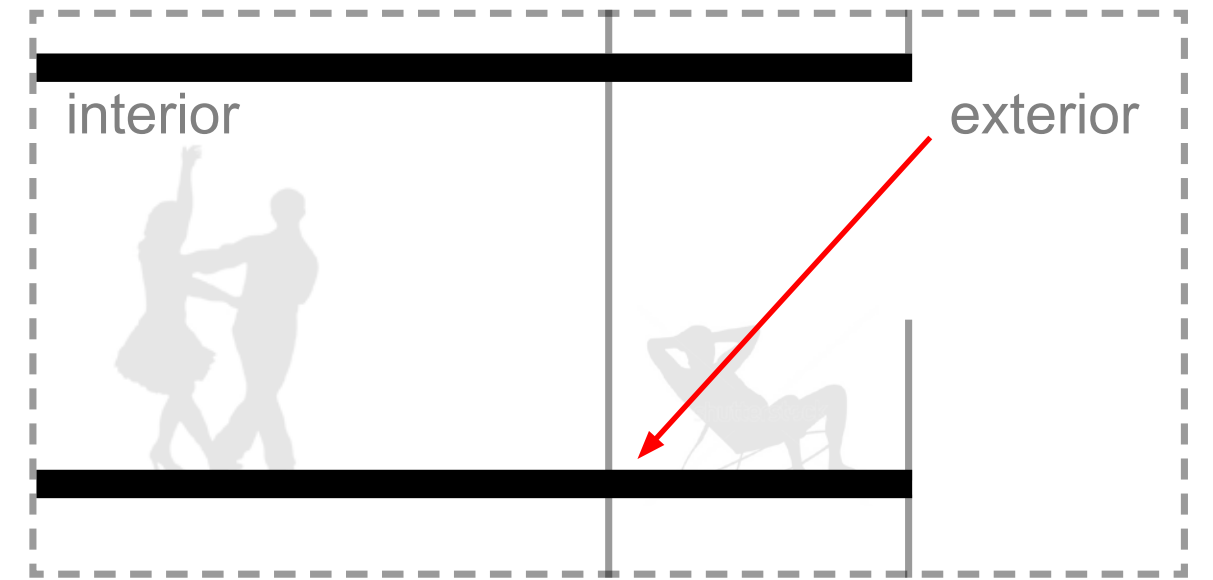
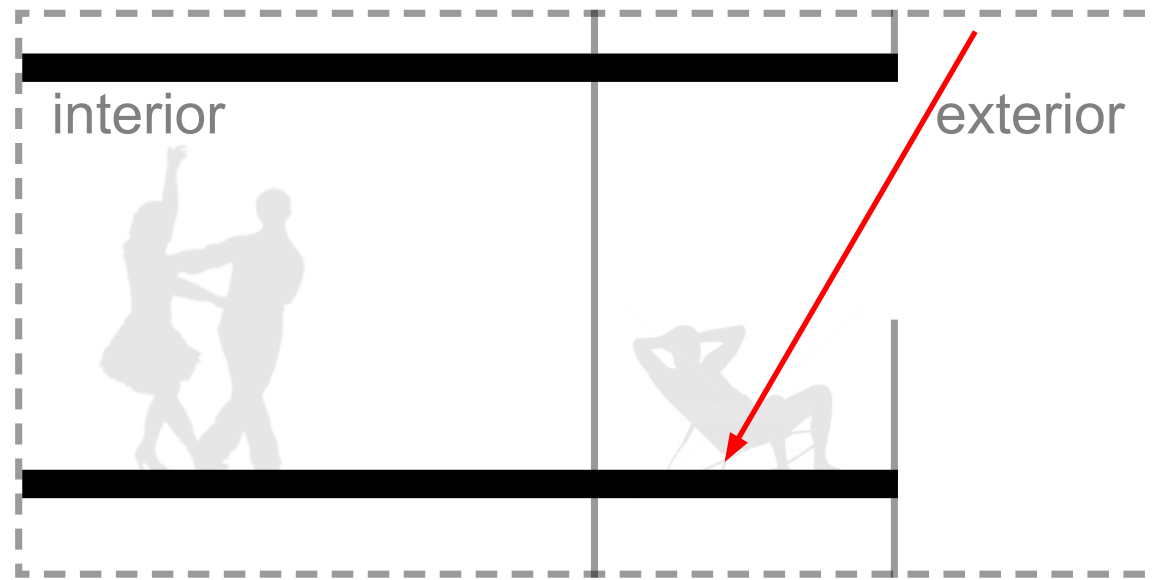
Sunspaces



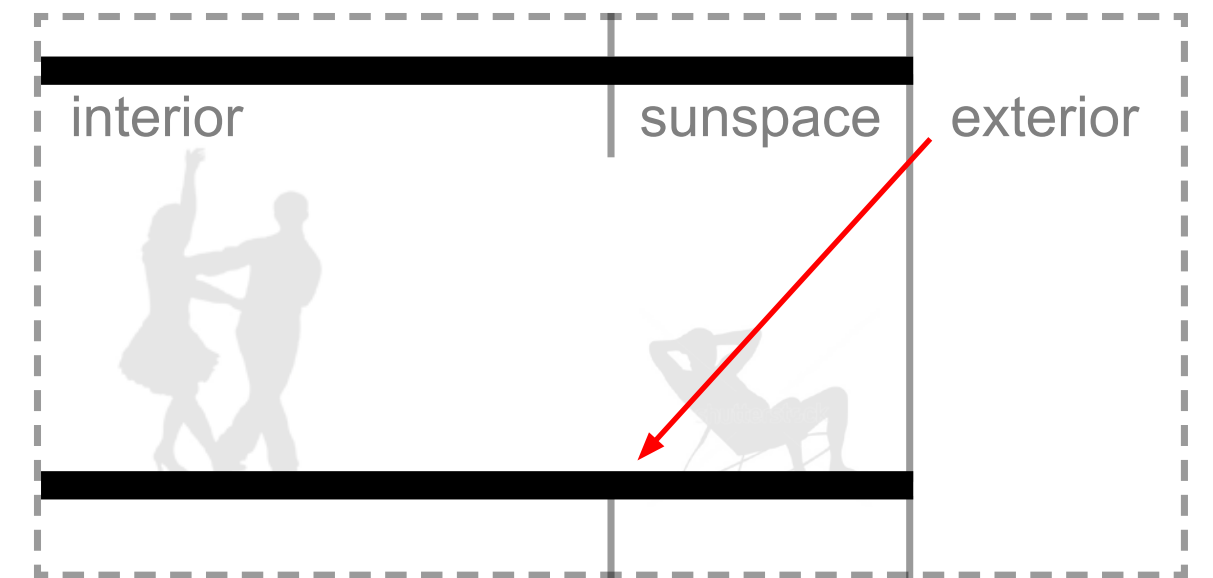
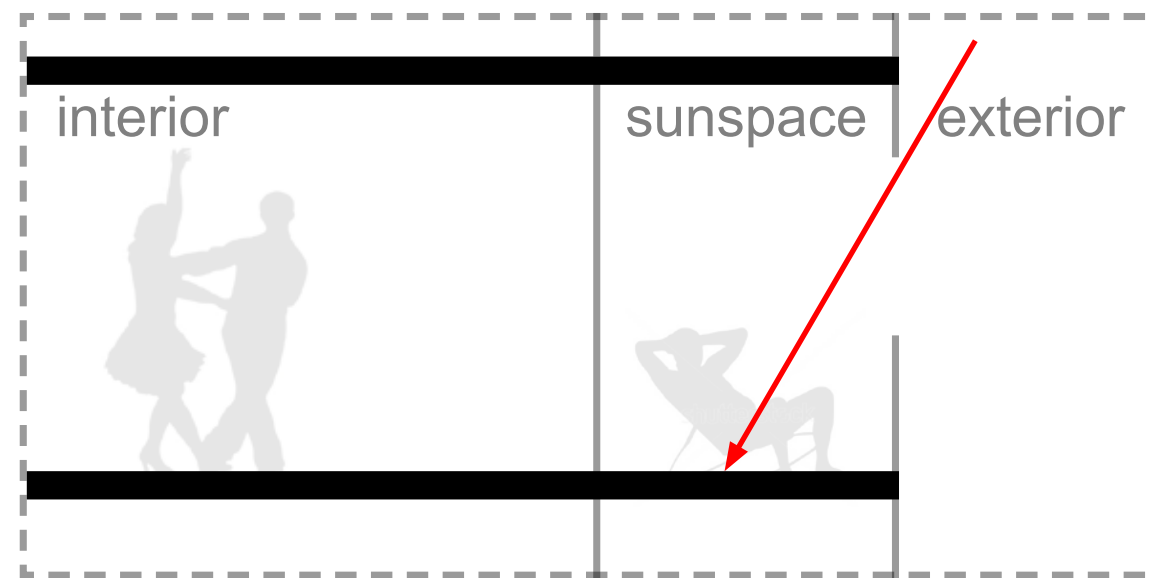
# Sunspaces



*Flexible use*



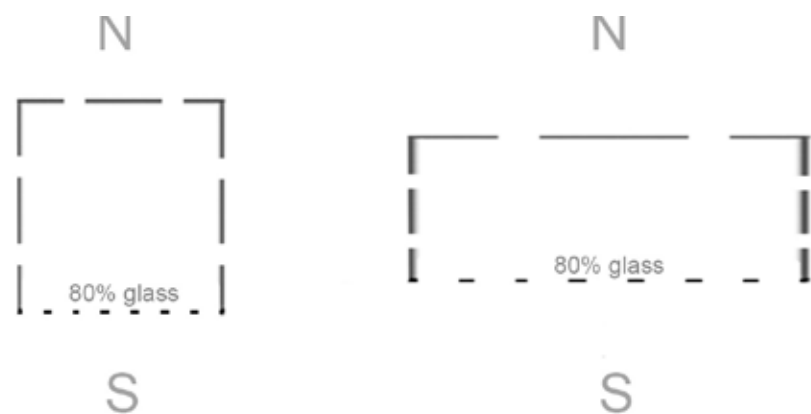
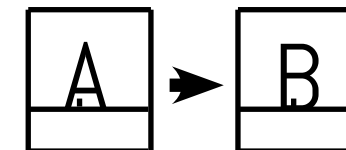
Sunspaces



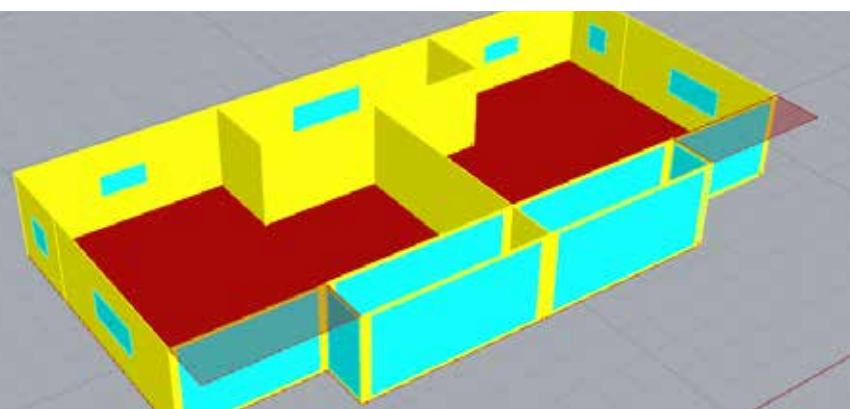
*Summer*

*Winter*

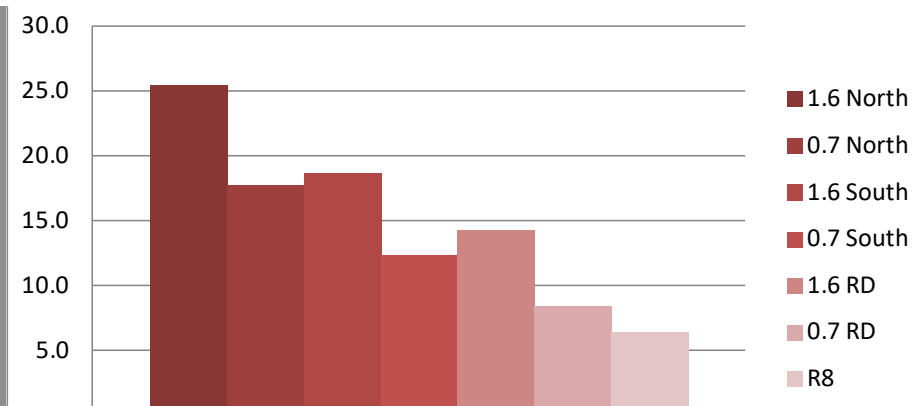
# 5. RE-DESIGN CASE



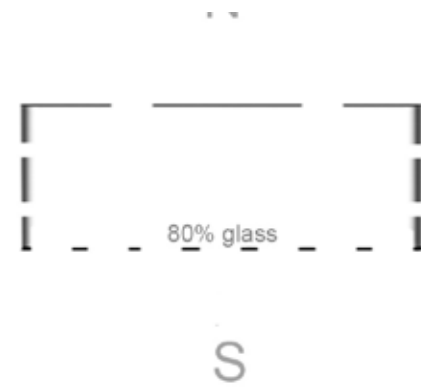
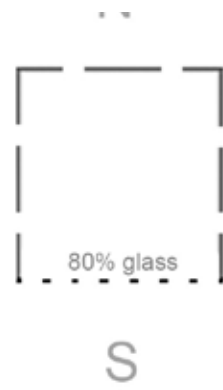
## 5.1 Re-Design Process



## 5.2 Re-design Modelling

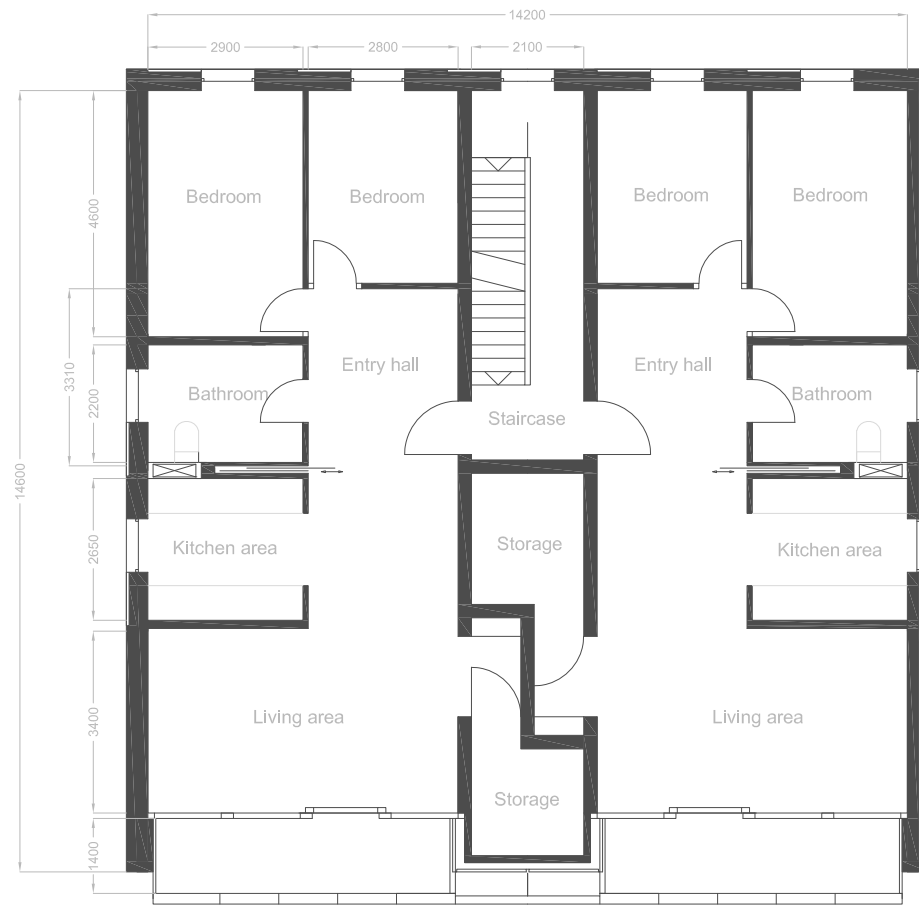


## 5.3 Analysis

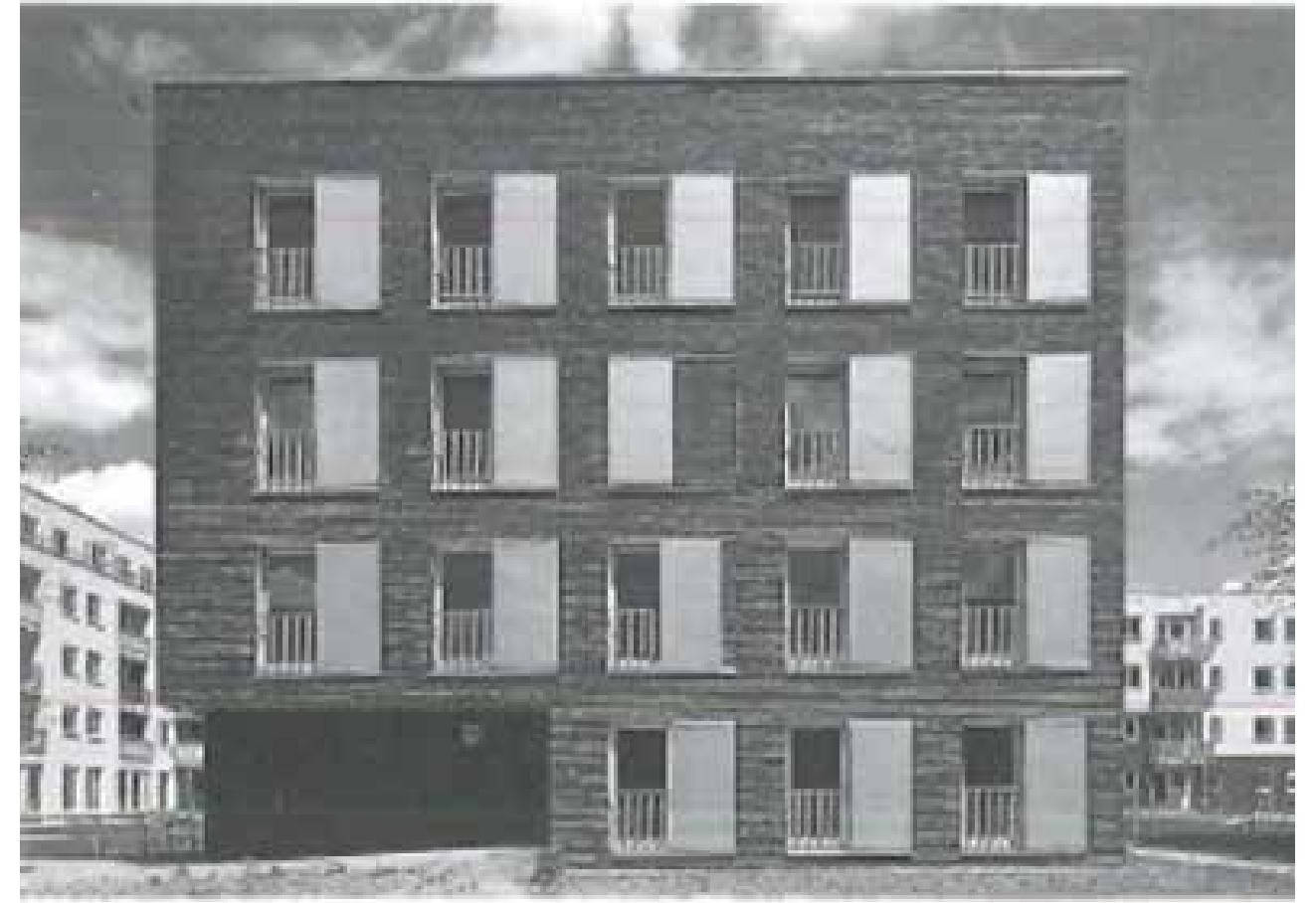


## 5.1 Re-design process

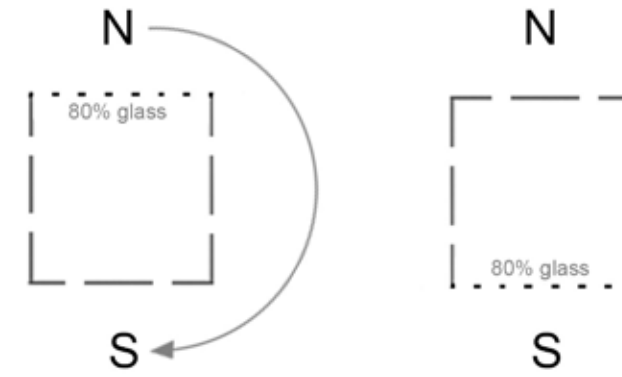
- . Case building
- . Design steps
- . Final re-design



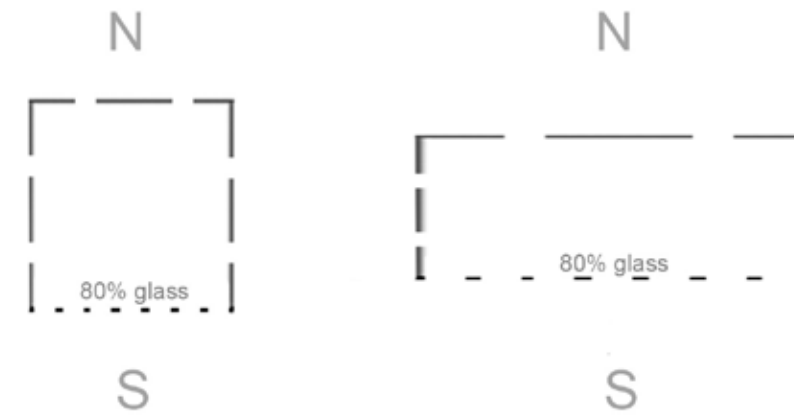
Case building



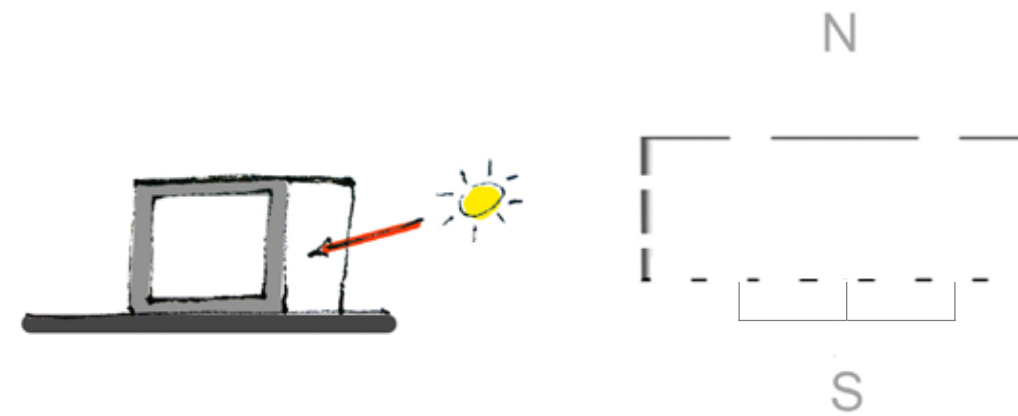
*Step 1: Orientation change*



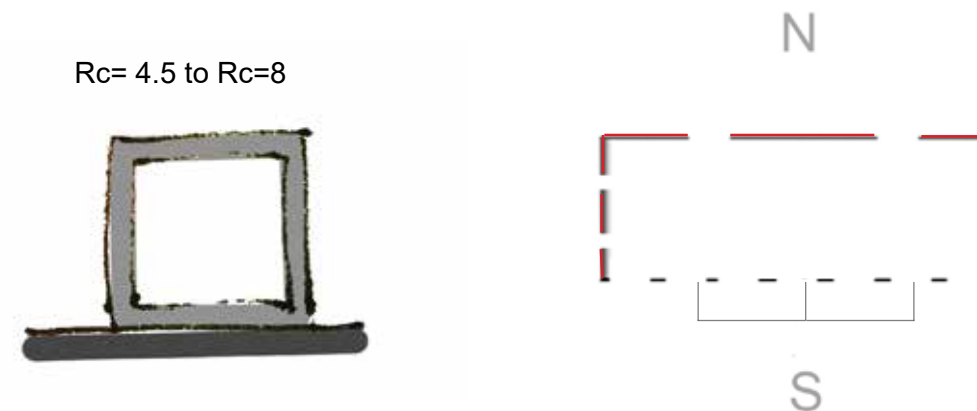
*Step 2: Shape change (A to B)*



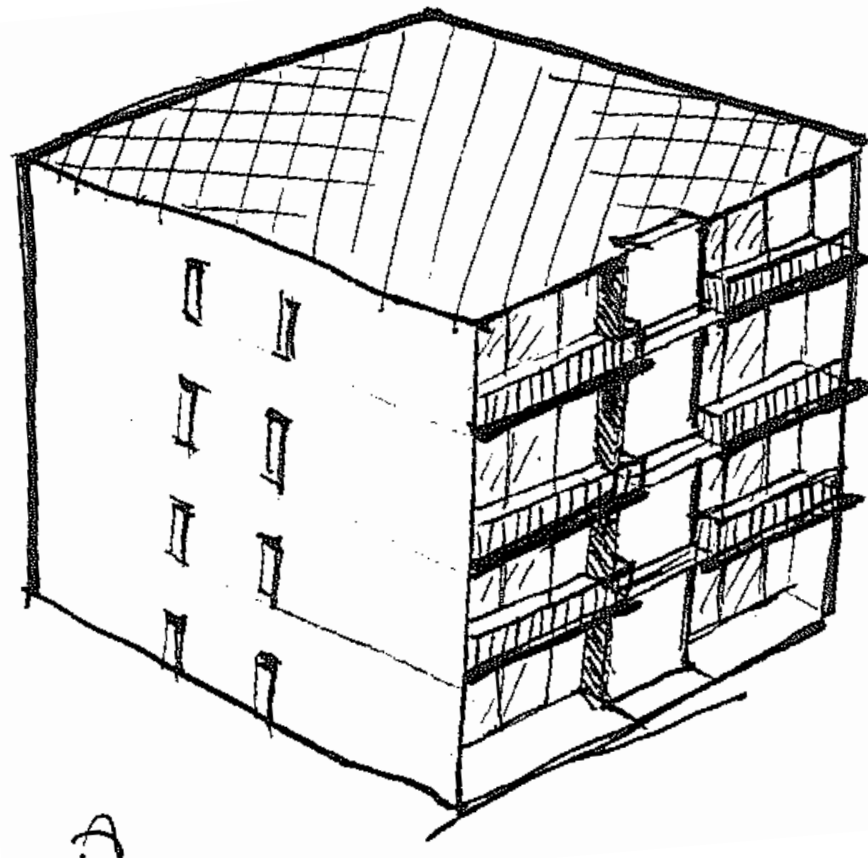
*Step 3: Sunspace and sunshade*



*Step 4: Improve Insulation*

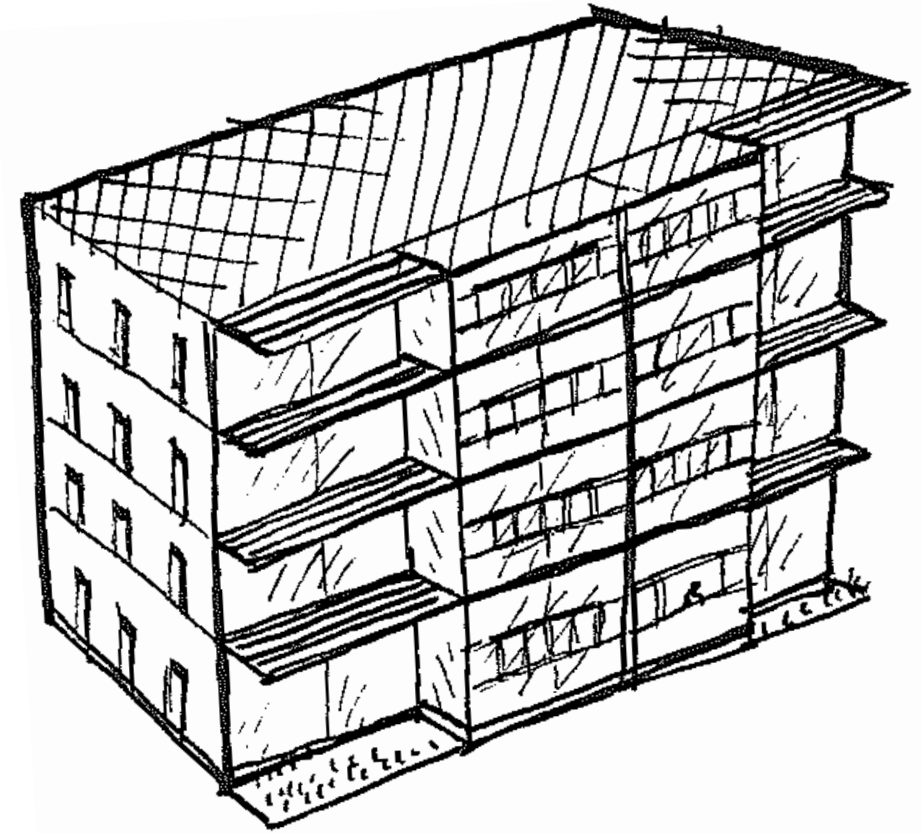


## Design steps



A

*Original design*



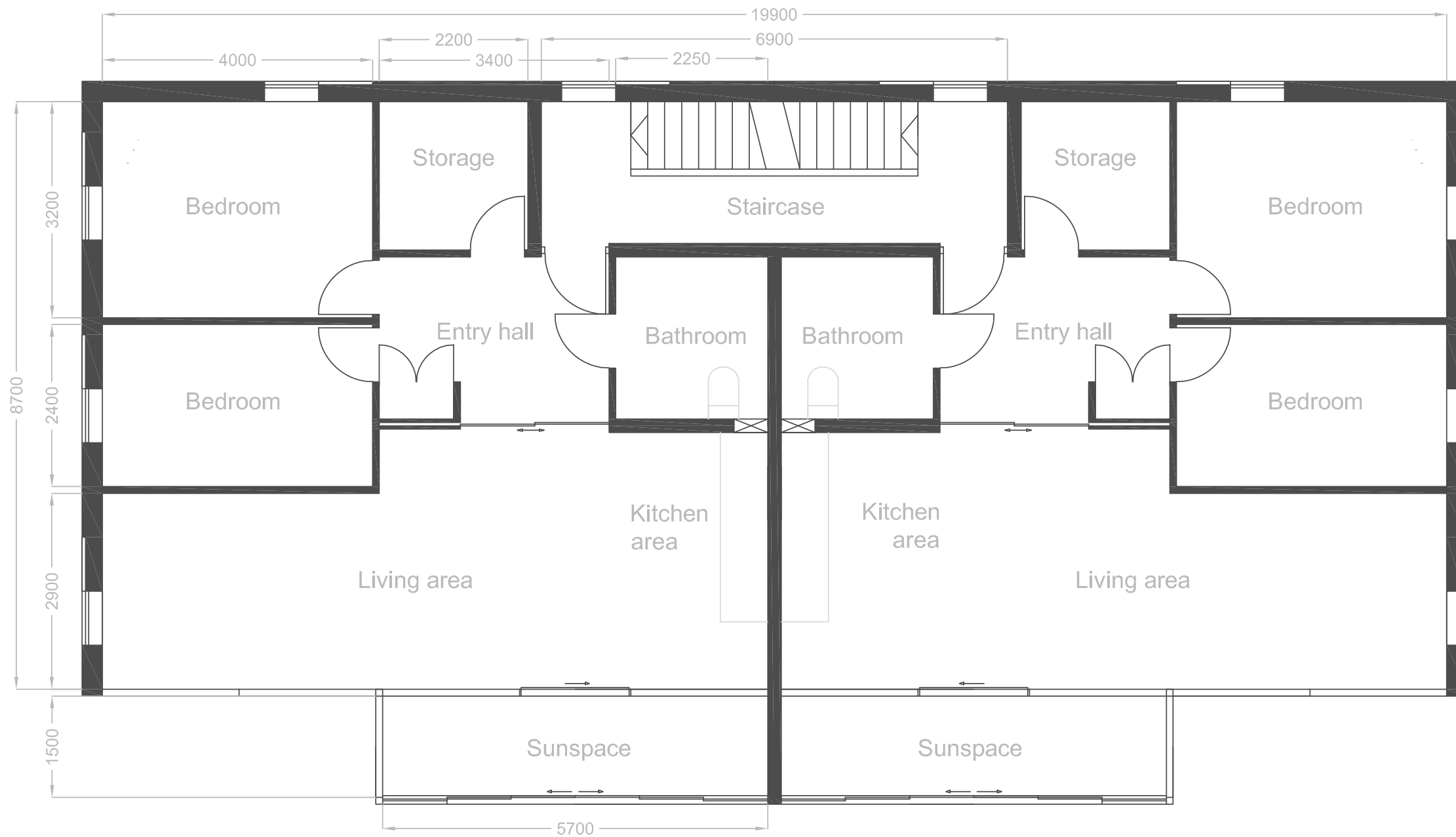
B

*Re-design*

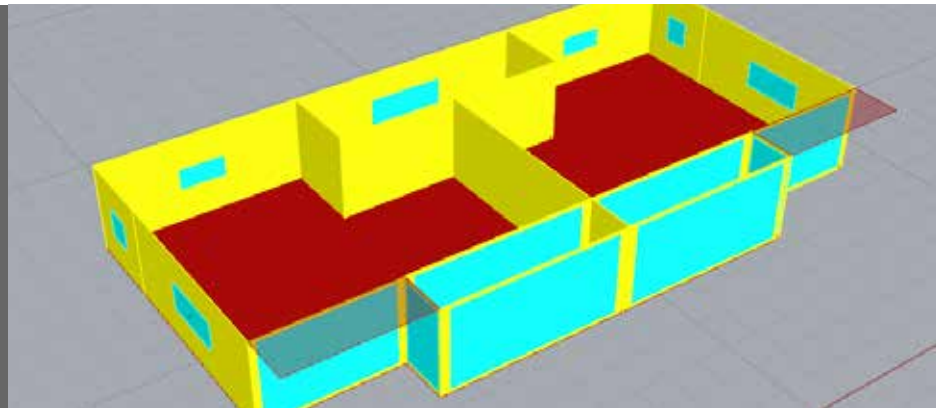
Final re-design







*Re-design floorplan*



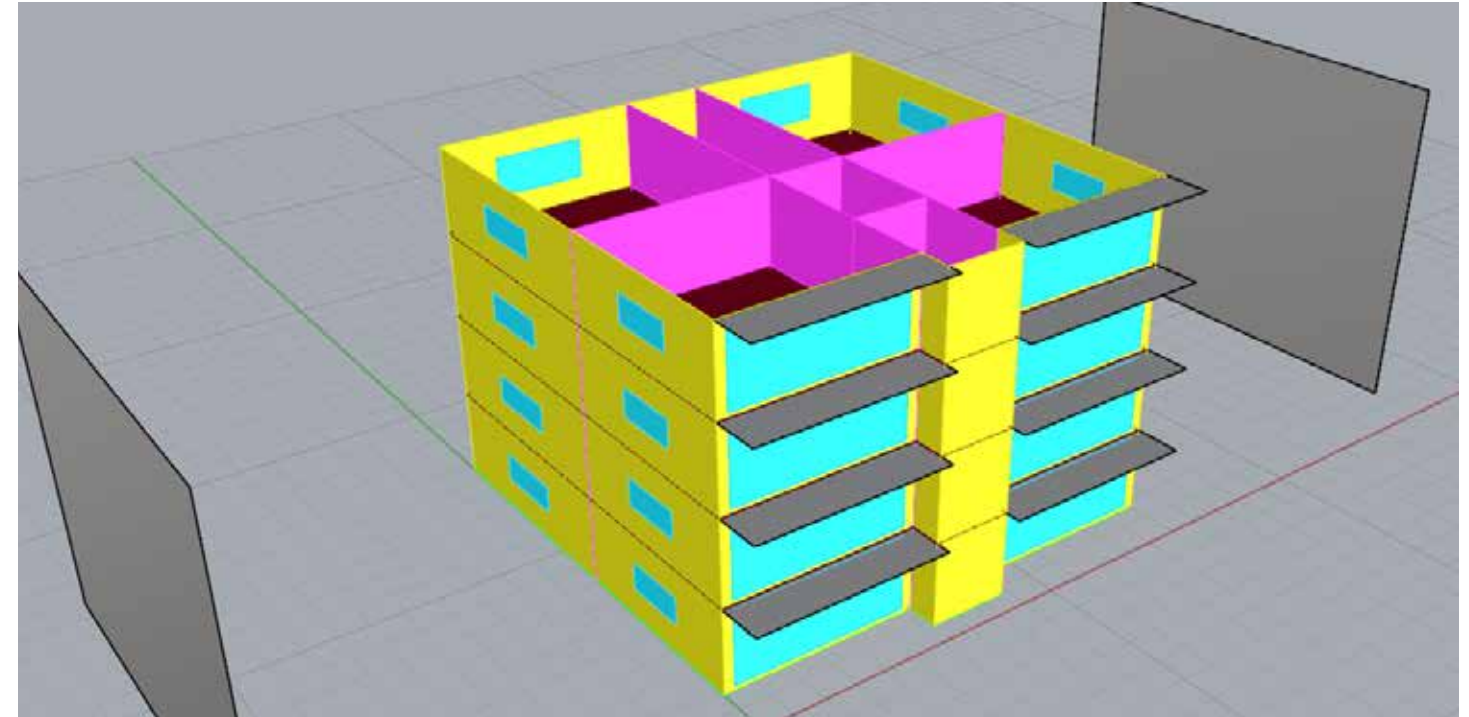
## 5.2 Re-design modelling

- . Zones
- . Models

# Zones

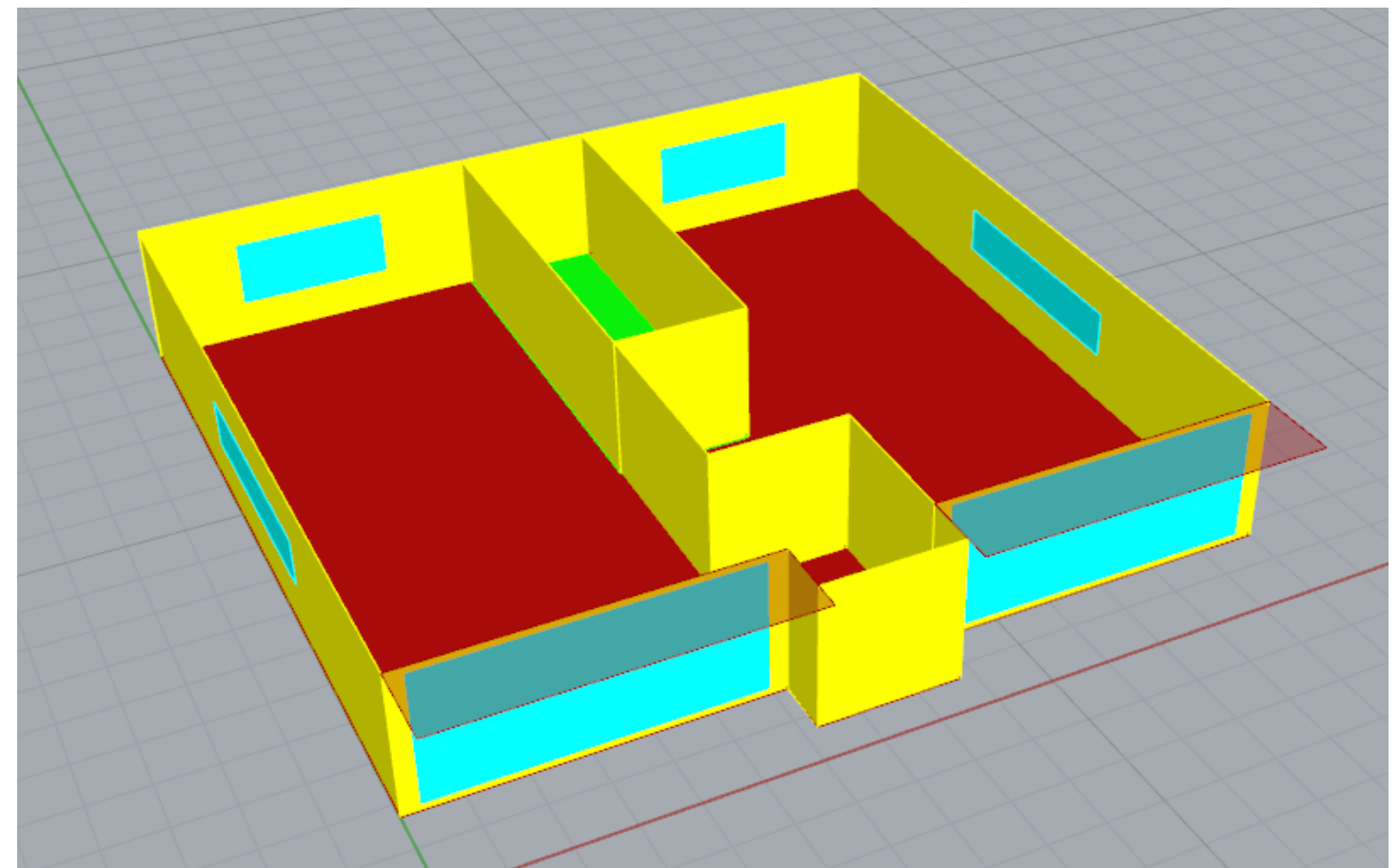
## *Validation model*

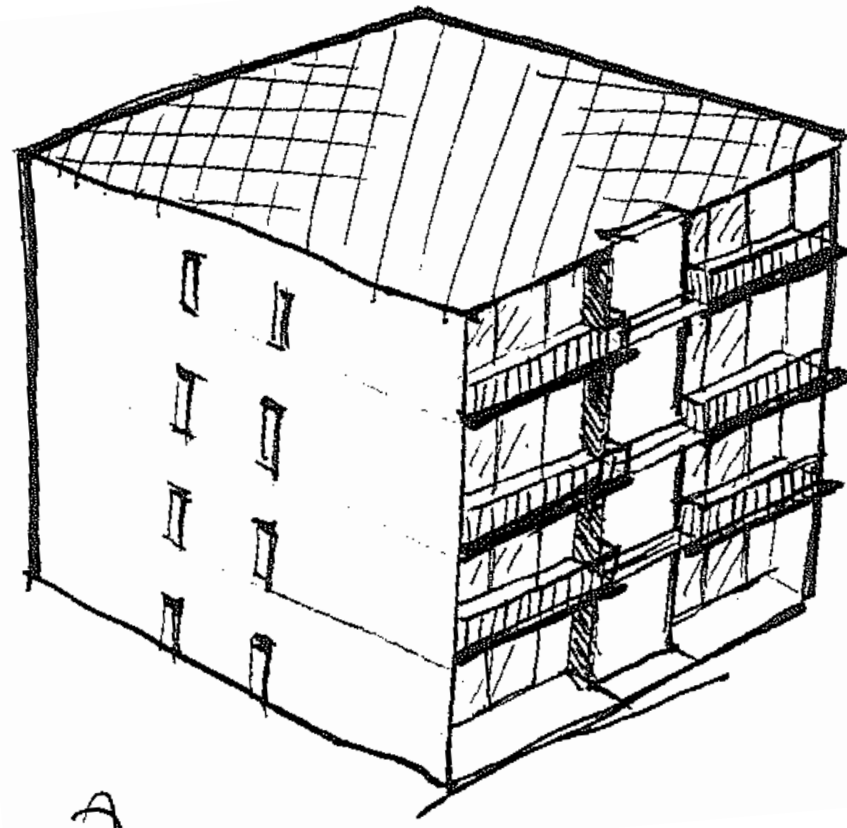
- *many zones*
- *all floors*



## *Final model*

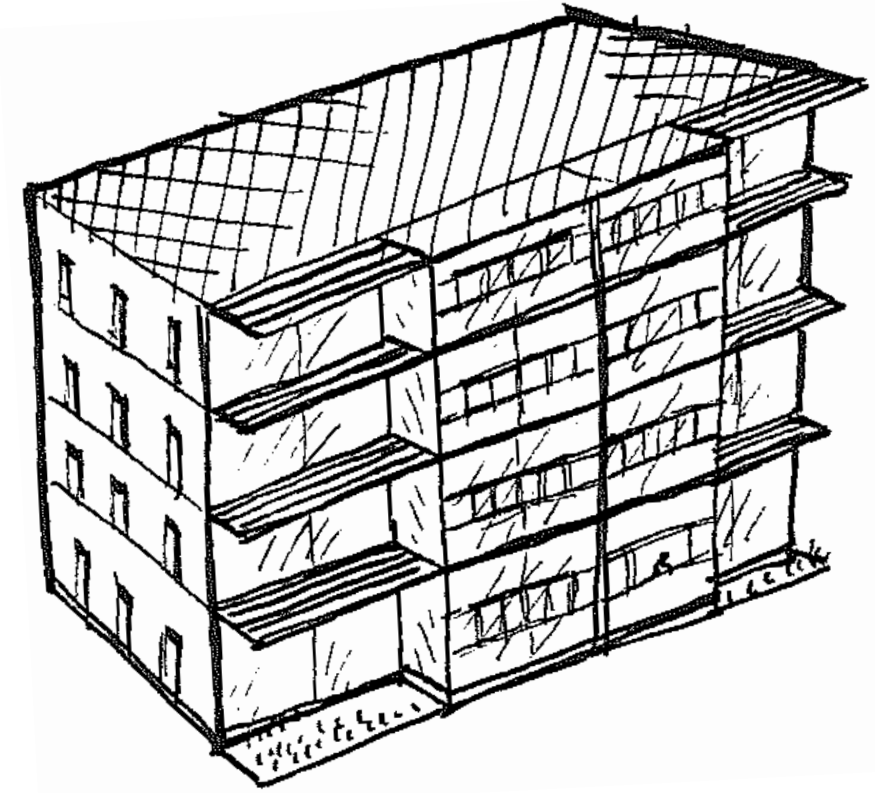
- *one zone per apartment*
- *one floor*





A

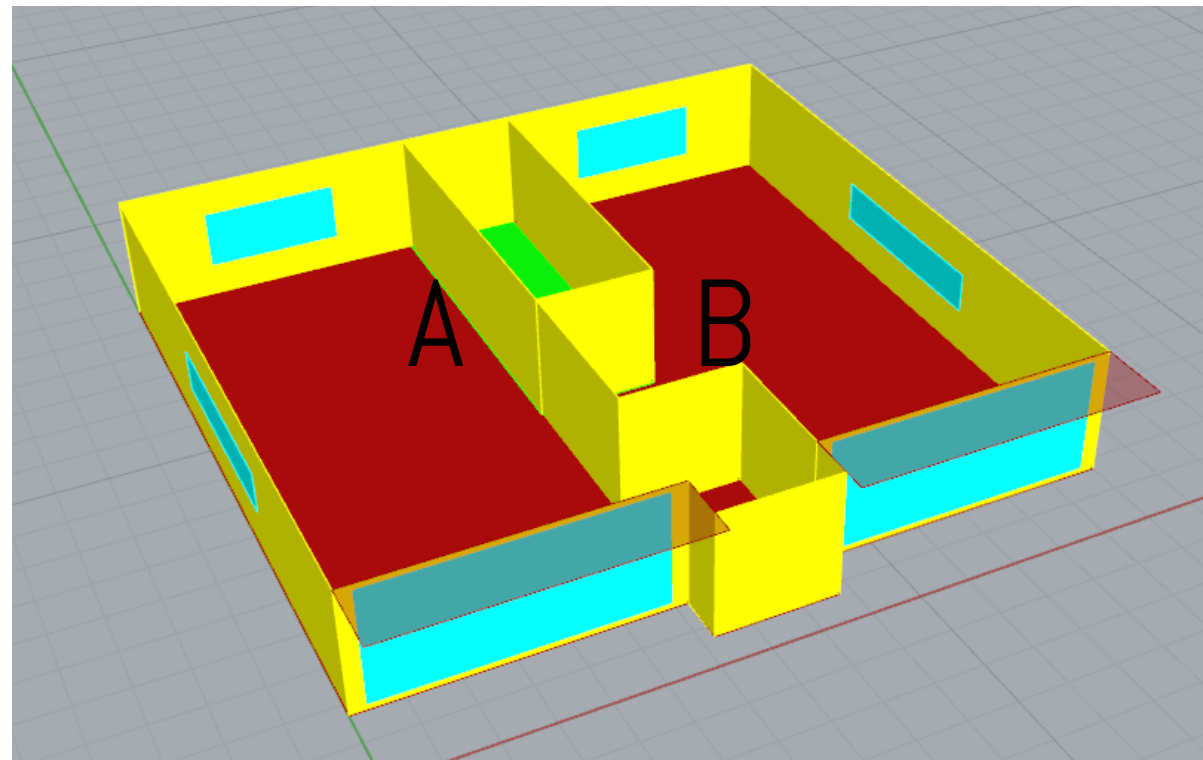
*Original design*



B

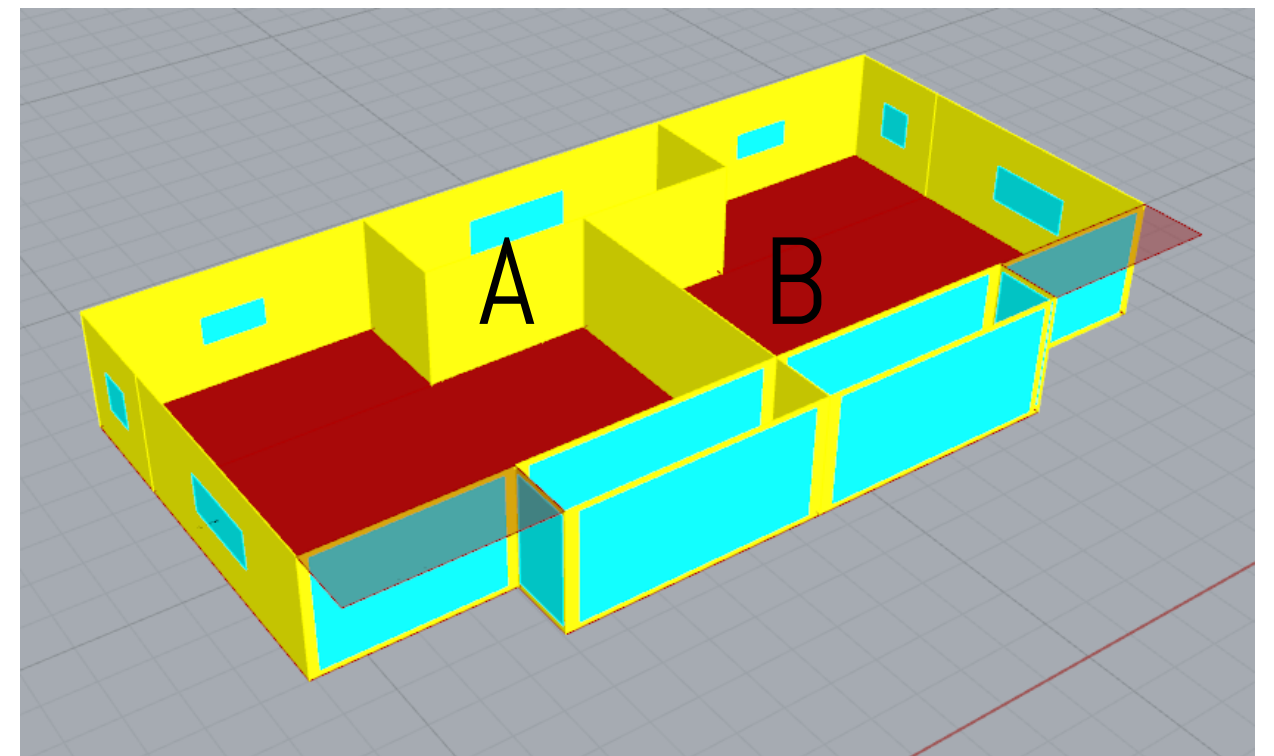
*Re-design*

## Models



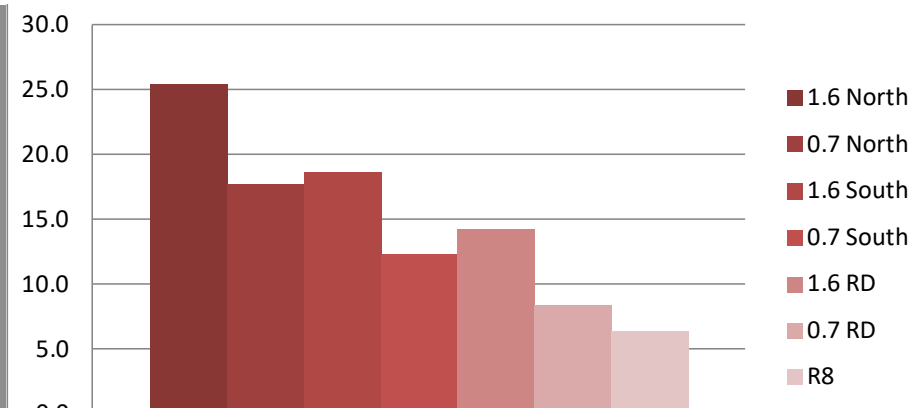
A

B



A

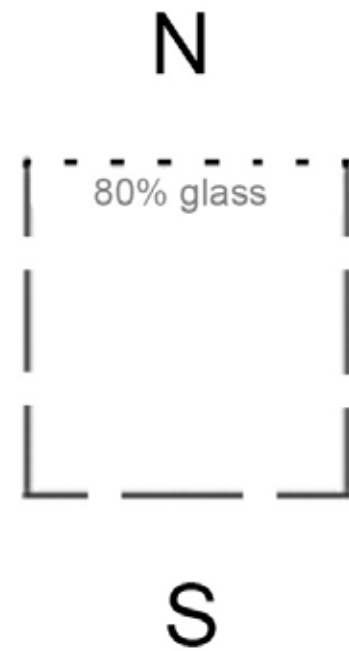
B



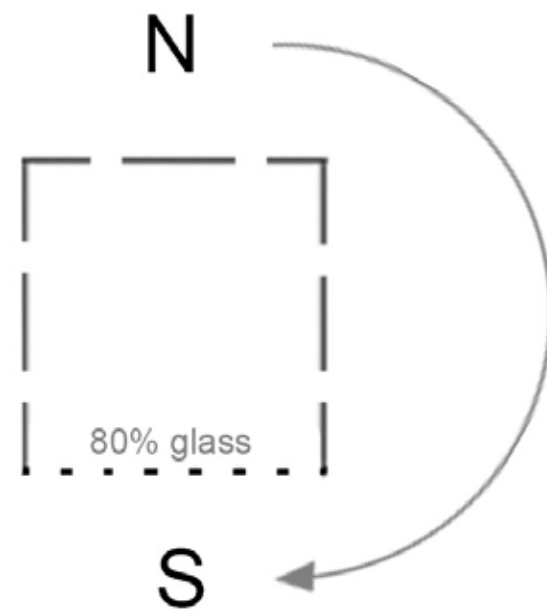
## 5.3 Analysis

- . Results
- . Conclusions

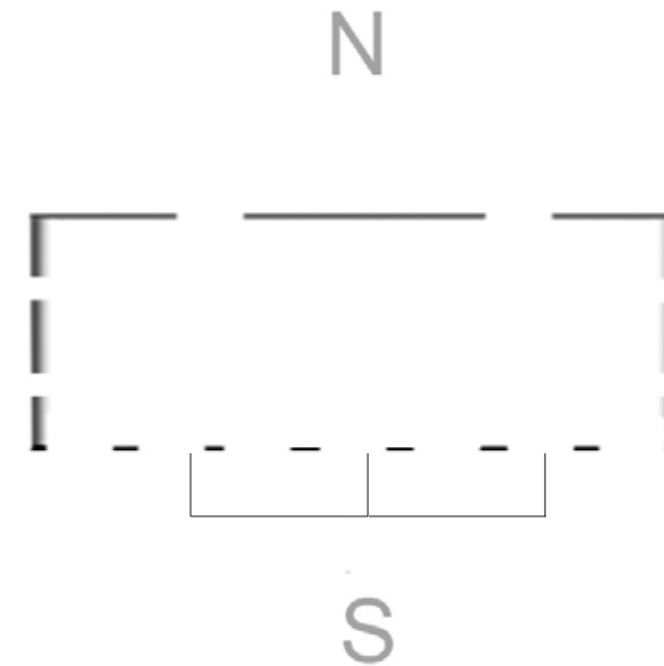
1. U glass  
 25.4 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (U=1.6)  
 17.7 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (U=0.7)



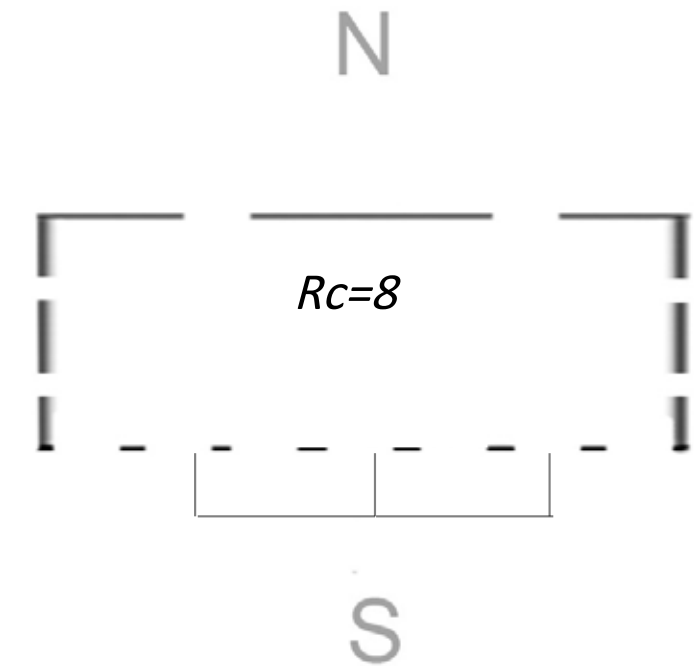
2. S glass  
 18.6 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (U=1.6)  
 12.3 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (U=0.7)



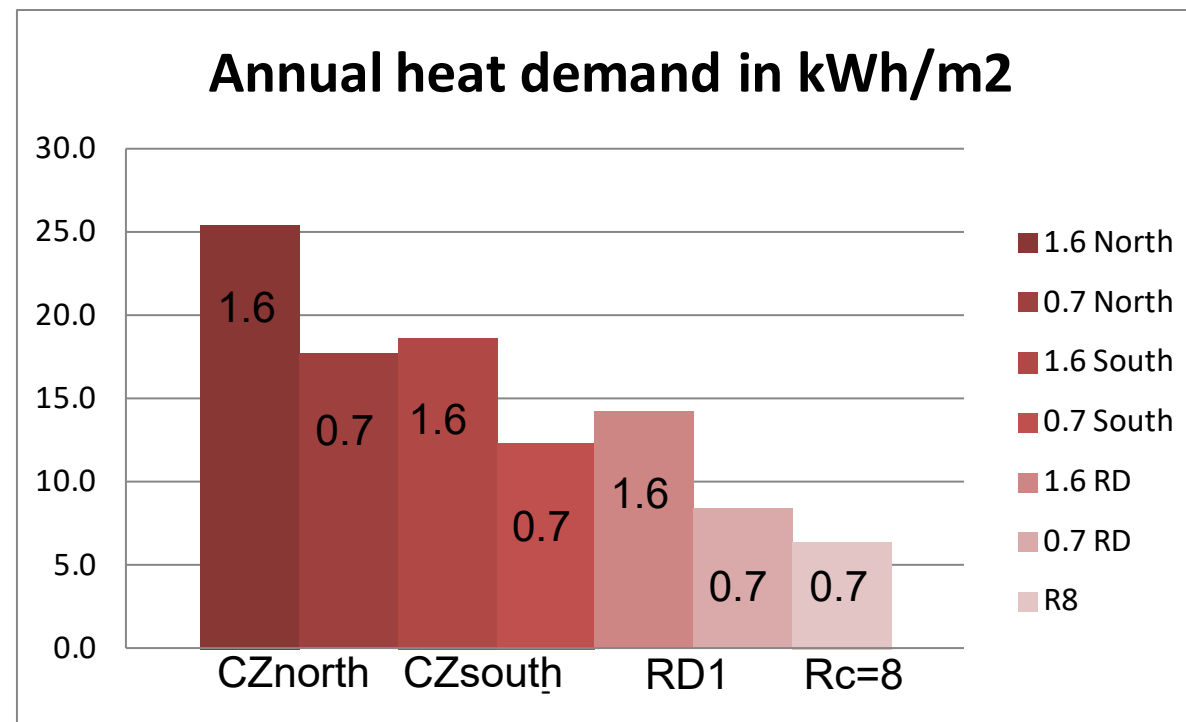
3. Shape B + sunspace  
 14.2 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (U=1.6)  
 8.4 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (U=0.7)



4. Facade insulation  
 6.4 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (U=0.7)



## Results



### Absolute reduction [kWh/m<sup>2</sup>]

- 1. -U glass = 7.7
- 2. S glass = 5.4
- 3. Shape B = 3.9
- 4. Rc = 2

### Relative reduction

- 1. -U glass = 30%
- 2. S glass = 31%
- 3. Shape B = 31%
- 4. Rc = 24%

## Conclusion

Ranked by highest (absolute) impact on heat demand:

1. change of U value glass from 1.6 to 0.7
2. South facing glass
3. Shape change A to B
4. Facade insulation

# 6. DESIGN GUIDELINES

1	—
2	—
3	—



## 6.1 Guideline development



## 6.2 Design Guidelines



## 6.3 Final words





## 6.1 Guideline development

- Criteria
- Approach
- Guidelines application

## Criteria

- *Easily readable*
- *Translate technical story into design story*
- *Short but precise*
- *Link to reasearch*
- *Explain why*

## Approach

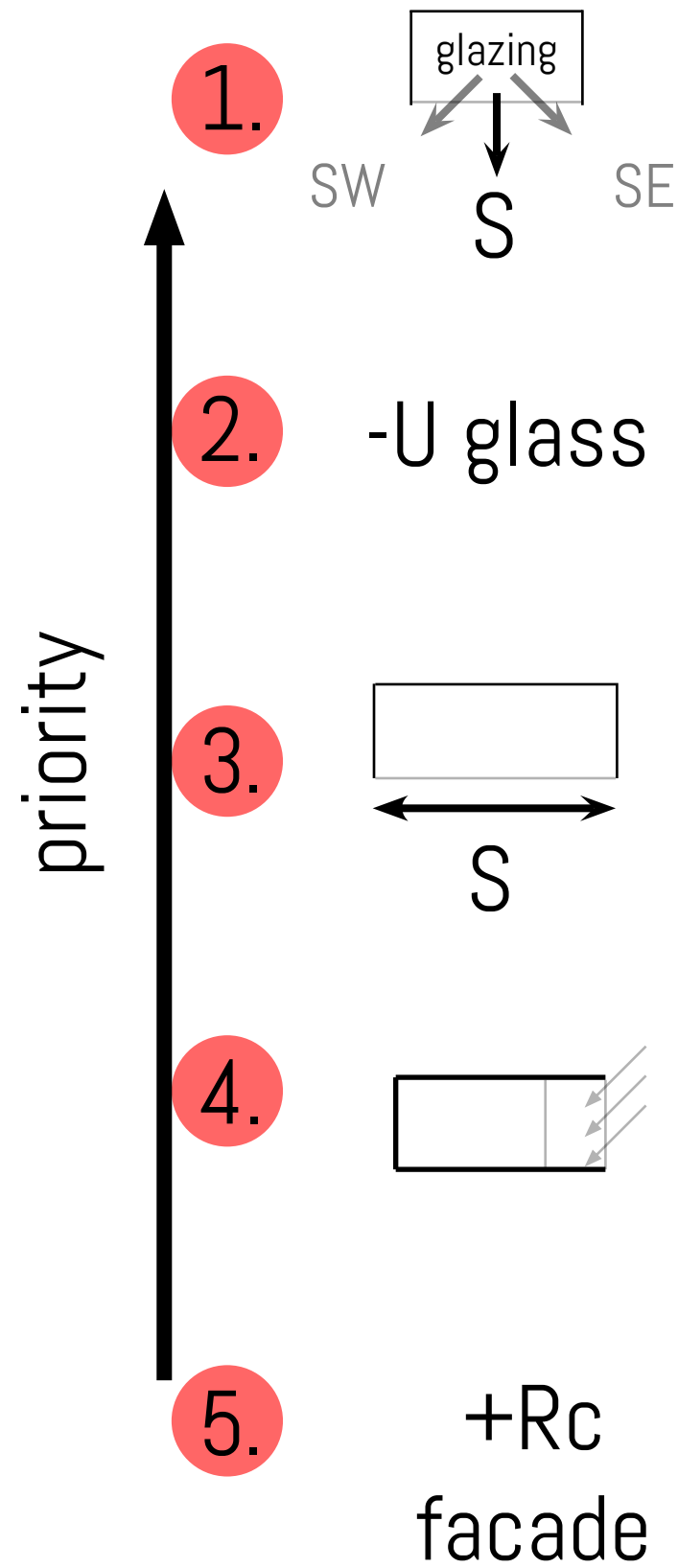
- 1. Priority List as overview*
  - *readable*
  - *short*
  - *design story*
- 2. Explanation per priority point*
  - *link to research*
  - *explain why*



## 6.2 Design Guidelines

- . Priority points
- . Explanation per point

# Priority points



*1. Have as much glazing face (roughly) South.*

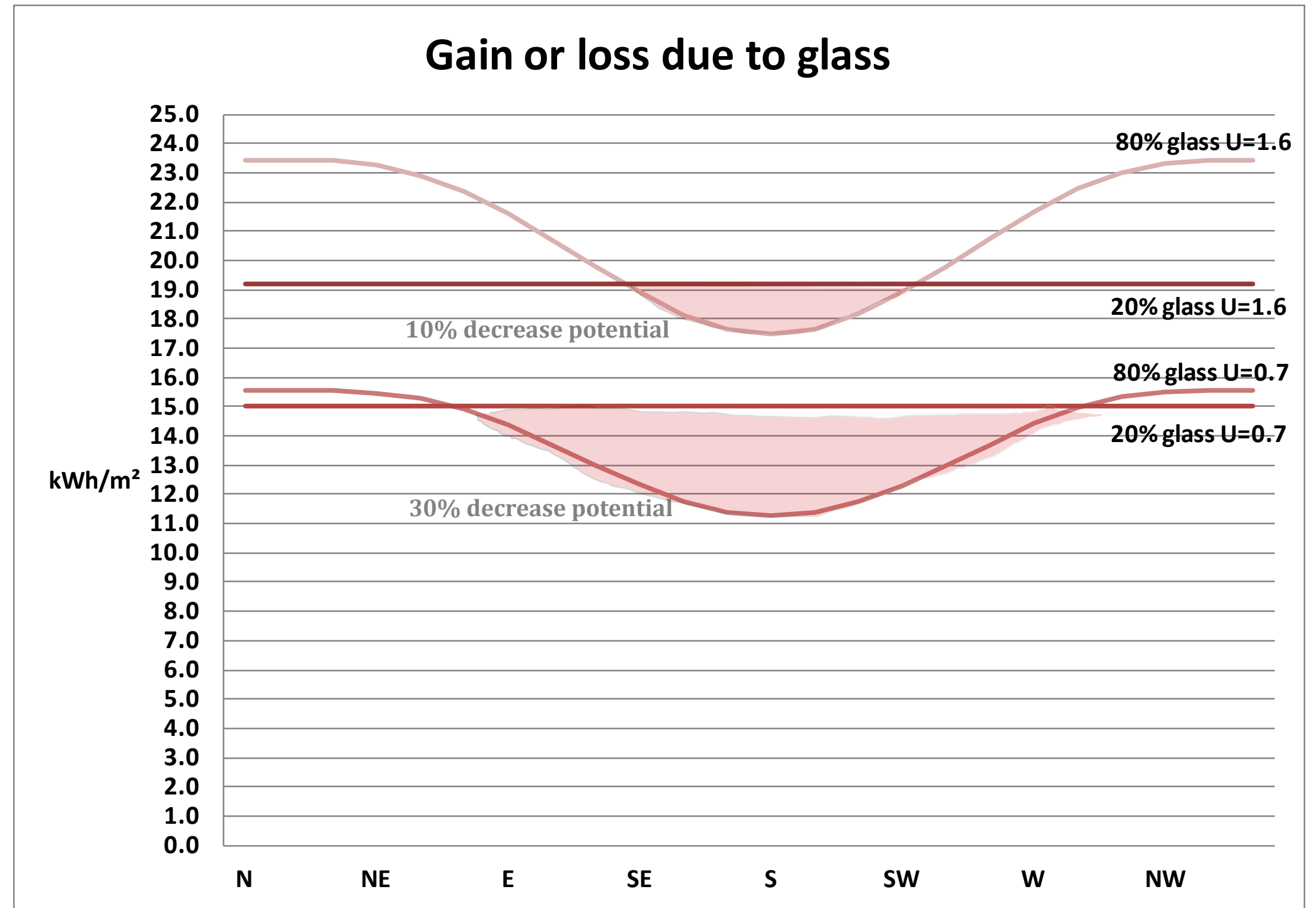
*2. Increase insulation of glazing.*

*3. Maximize sun surface.*

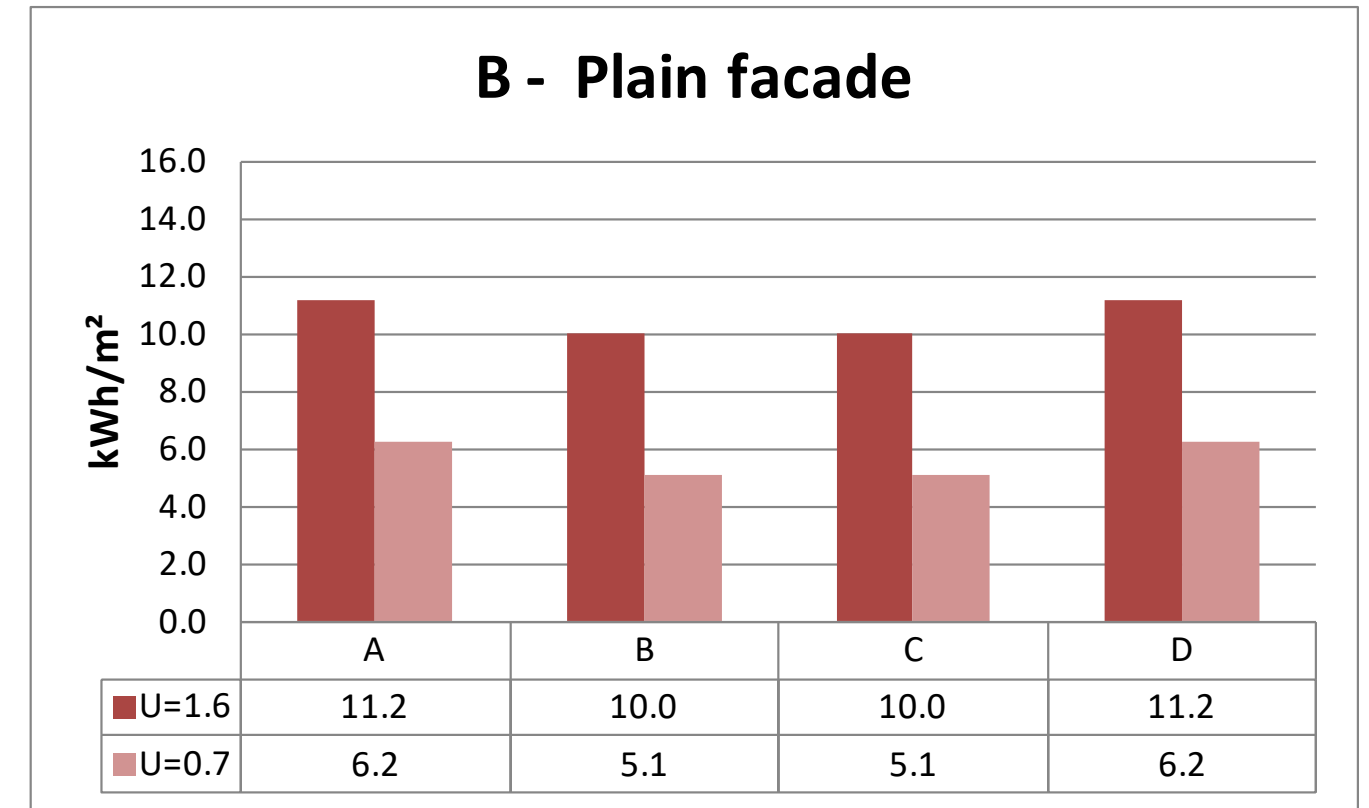
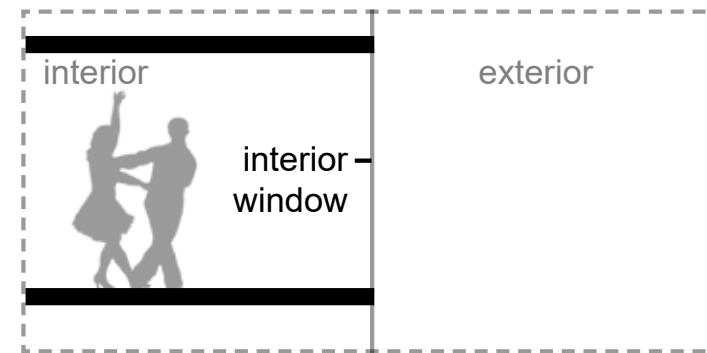
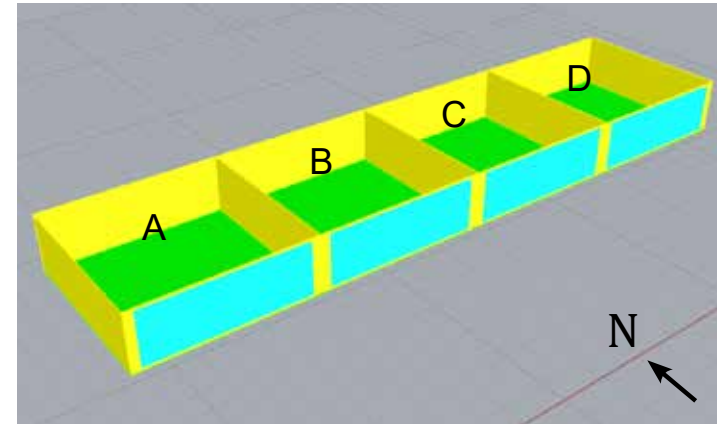
*4. Sunspaces if applicable.*

*5. Increase insulation value of facade.*

Point 1. Glass facing south



*Glass facing south has massive heat demand reduction potential.*

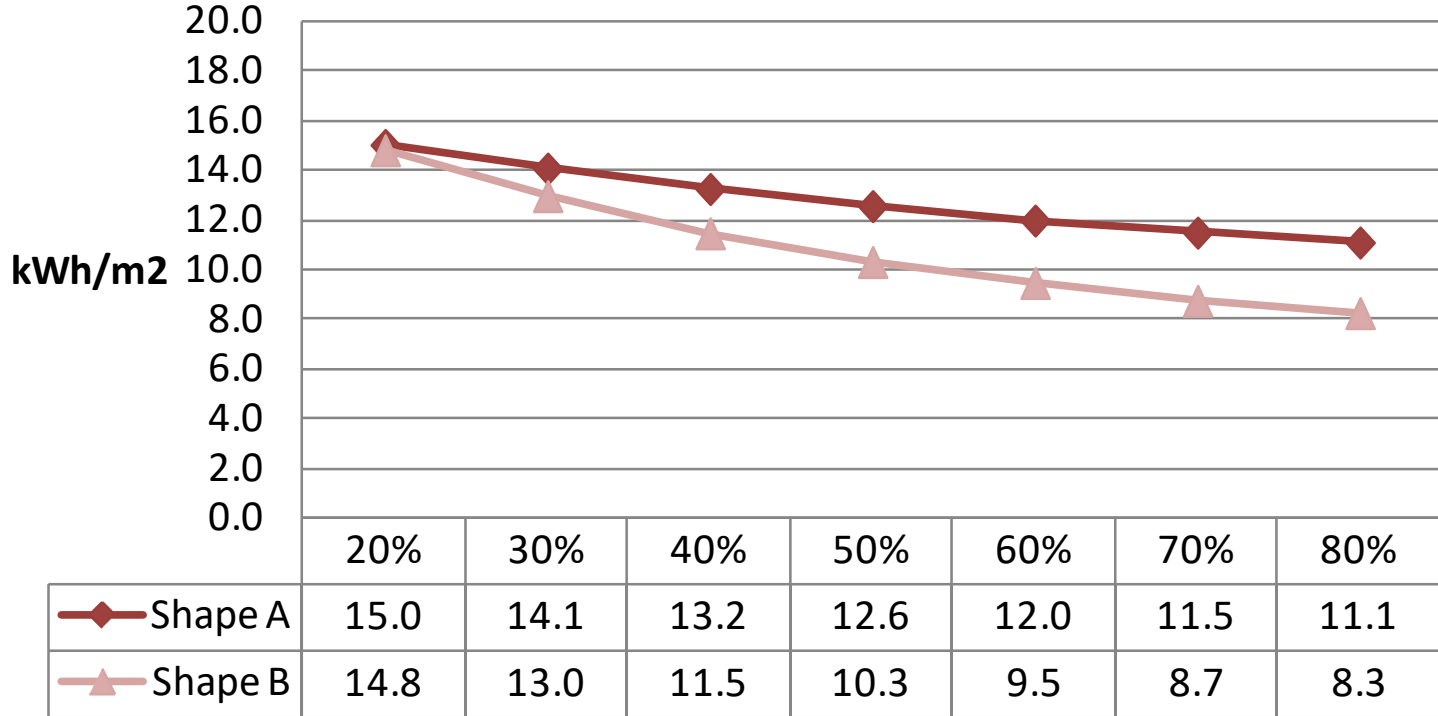


## Point 2. Insulation of glazing

*50% savings:*

*When maximizing solar gain, a U value decrease from 1.6 to 0.7 can cut heat demand in half.*

### Shape A vs. Shape B (U=0.7)



Point 3. Sun surface

*Sun surface greatly outweighs compactness when window insulation value is high.*



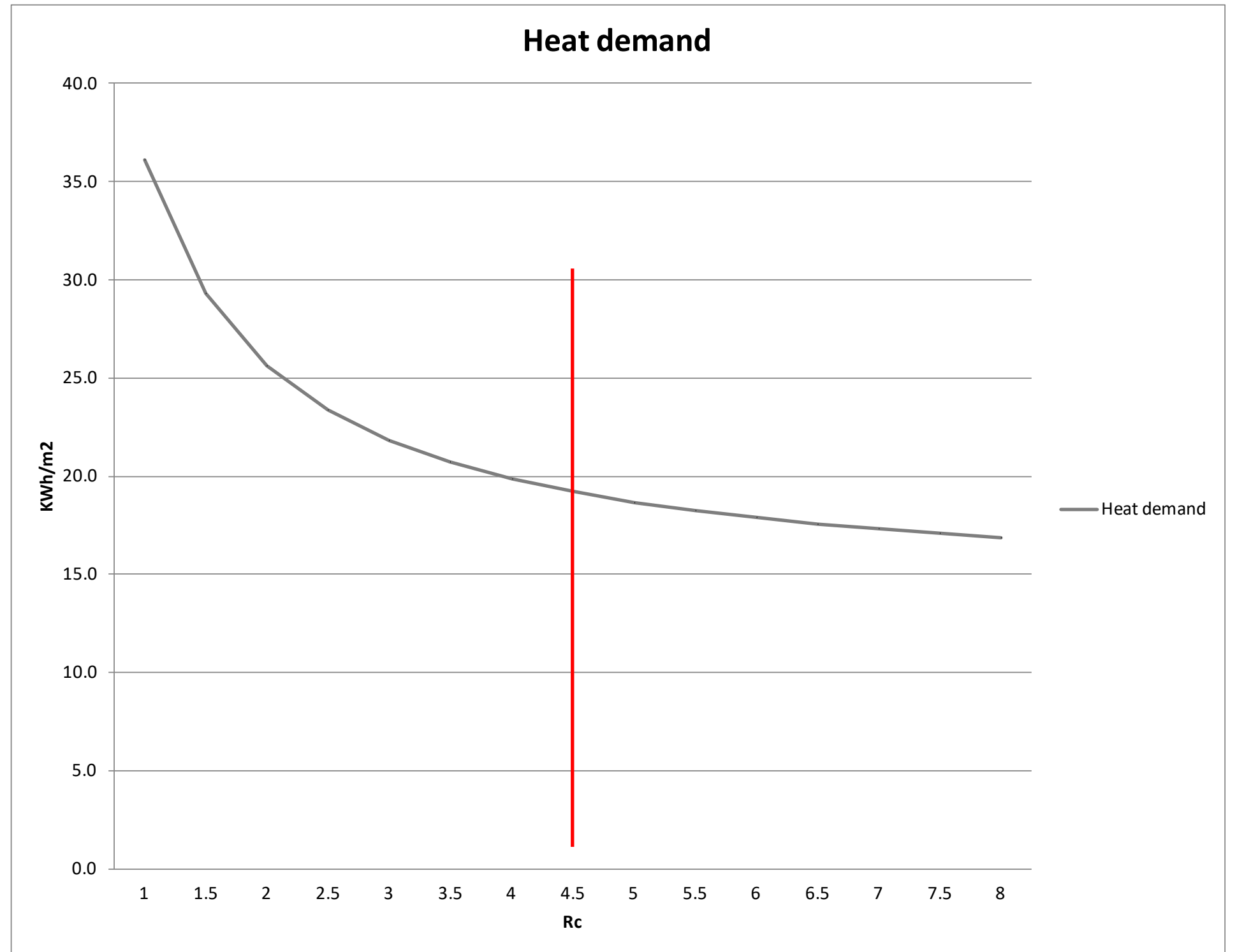
## Point 4. Sunspaces

*Heat buffer, reduces heat loss*

*Flexible use*

*Advantages of keeping heat out in summer and drawing it in in winter.*

## Point 5. Insulation of facade



*Building code minimum  $R_c$  value is 4.5.  
Impact of increase beyond 4.5 is minimal.*



## 6.3 Final Words

- . Reflection
- . Future study recommendations

## Reflection

- . better research structure
- . more illustrations!

Future study recommendations

*Fin*