### **EXOSKELETWINDOW**

Thin-glass window embedded with soft pneumatic actuator

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Delft University of Technology
Netherlands





#### Mentor team

First mentor(structure design): Christian Louter

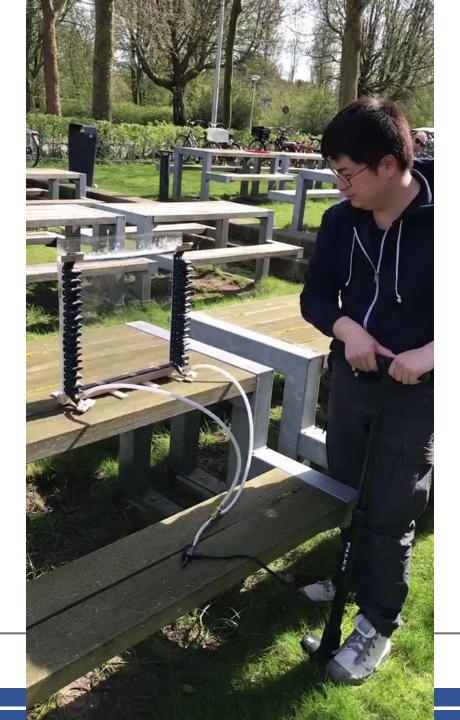
Second mentor(facade design): Tillmann Klein

External consultant (computational design): Serdar Asut

External mentors from ABT(computational design): Frank Huijben and Chris van der Ploeg



# **Prototype**





#### Content

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Hypothesis-based research
- 3. Draft design
- 4. Mathematical model and assumption
- 5. Simulation and further design
- 6. Conclusion and discussion

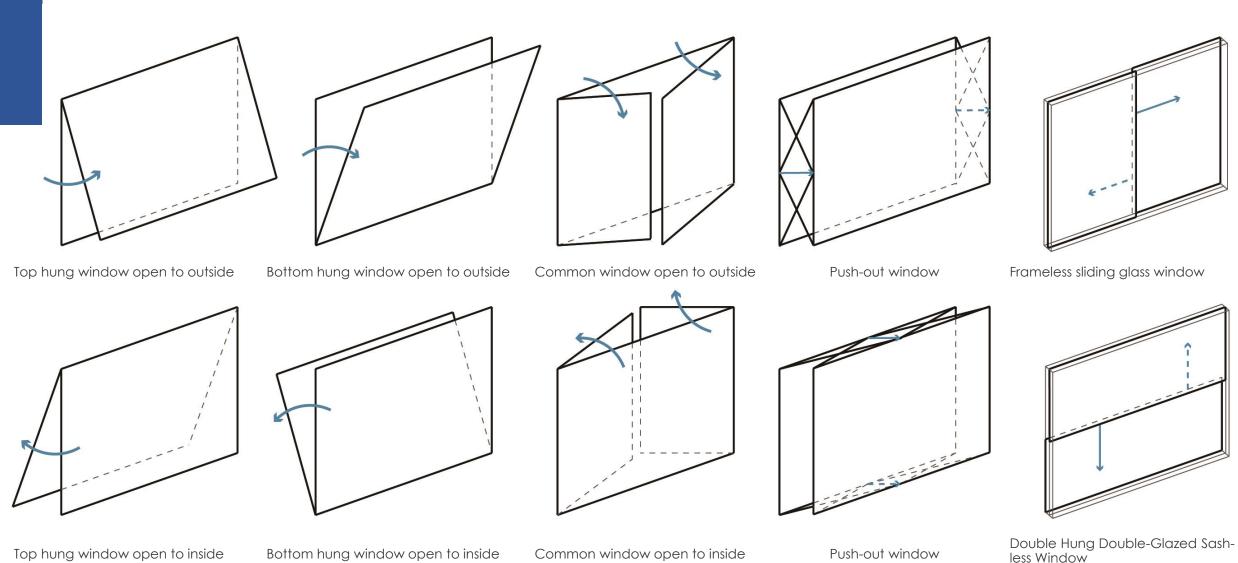


### Part 1

# Introduction



#### How window open for natural ventilation nowadays







O Unpredictable wind

O Monotonous window openings

O Difficult to control inlet air velocity and direction



## Main questions

How can soft pneumatic actuator(SPA) bend thin-glass windows structurally for natural ventilation?



## **Sub-questions**

- O How to prove curved window can decrease predict dissatisfied percentage due to draft (PPDR)
- Considering natural ventilation function, which window configuration can be developed
- What is the relationship between SPA geometry, air pressure and bending radius.
- o How to design window frame



### **Part 1.1**

# Methodology



#### **Hypothesis**

A: Soft pneumatic actuator can bend insulating thin glass window

B: Curved window can improve predict dissatisfied percentage due to draft



#### **Hypothesis**

A: Soft pneumatic actuator can bend insulating thin glass window

B: Curved window can improve predict dissatisfied percentage due to draft

#### Hypothesis based Research

A: Soft Pneumatic Actuator, thin glass and Window detail

B: Aerodynamic theory and Draught model



#### Hand calculation based approximation

A: Structure mechanism, SPA morphology generation

B: Inlet air flow rate



#### Hand calculation based approximation

A: Structure mechanism, SPA morphology generation

B: Inlet air flow rate

#### Simulation based approximation

A: Soft Fiber-Reinforced Bending Actuator, SPA

B: Mean air velocity and predict dissatisfied percentage due to draft(PPDR)



### **Experiment based evaluation**

A: Model making by increase air pressure to test bending behavior



### Part 2

Hypothesis-based research





- o High strength
- o Flexibility
- o Lightweight

Source: (Schott, 2016)



#### Previous research on thin glass topic



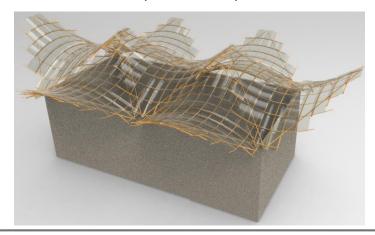
Thin glass adaptive facade Source: (Rafael, 2016)



Water and air tight bending facade Source: (Özhan, 2017)



Folding-canopy roof Source: (Prof. Jürgen Neugebauer, 2014)



Bamboo and thin glass roof

Source: (Priyanka, 2016)

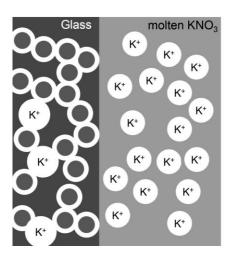


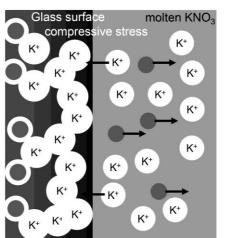
Thin glass sandwich panel

Source: (Iris, 2017)



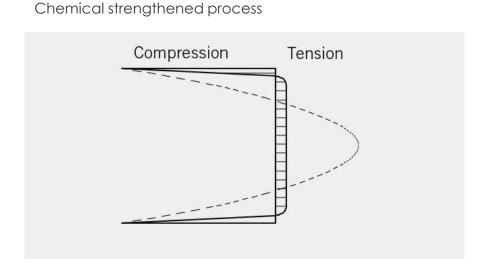
#### Chemically strengthened borosilicate glass



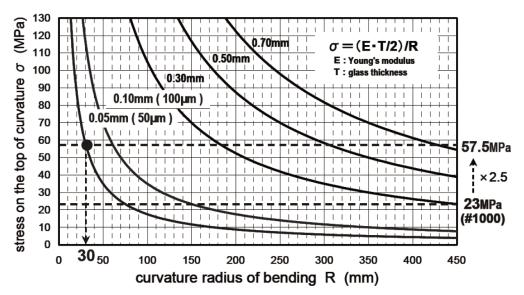


	Leoflex (0.85mm)	Thermally tempered (3.2mm)
MECHANICAL CHARACTERISTICS		
Strength / Marginal stress 短期許容応力 (MPa)	260	80
Young modulus ヤング率 (GPa)	74	70
Poisson ratio ポアッソン比	0.23	0.2
Density 密度 (g/cm³)	2.48	2.5

Thin glass mechanical properties



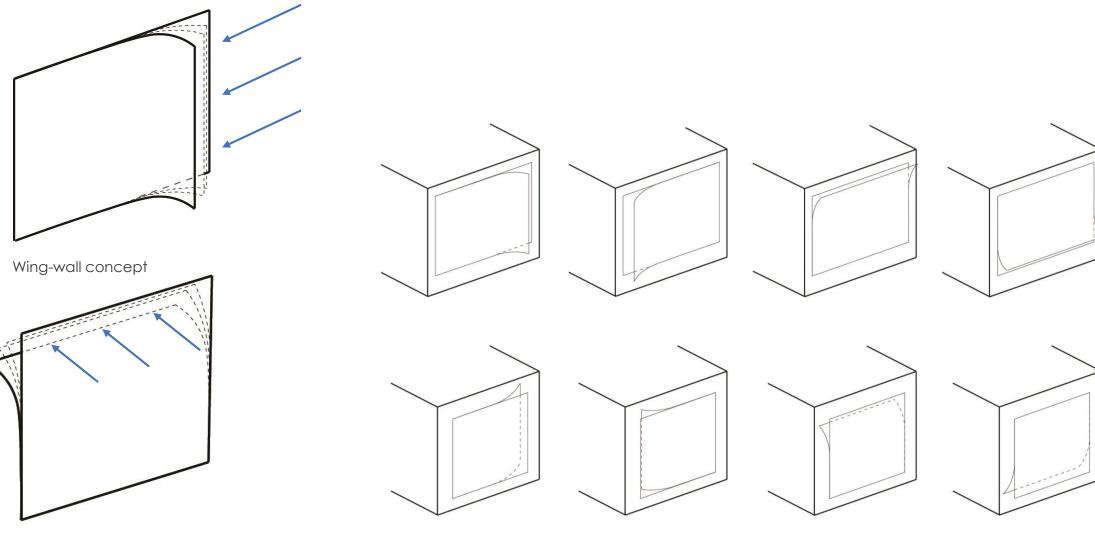
Stress cross-sectional of chemically strengthened glass



Stress on surface by bending curvature



### New material possibilities





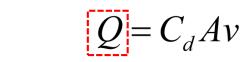


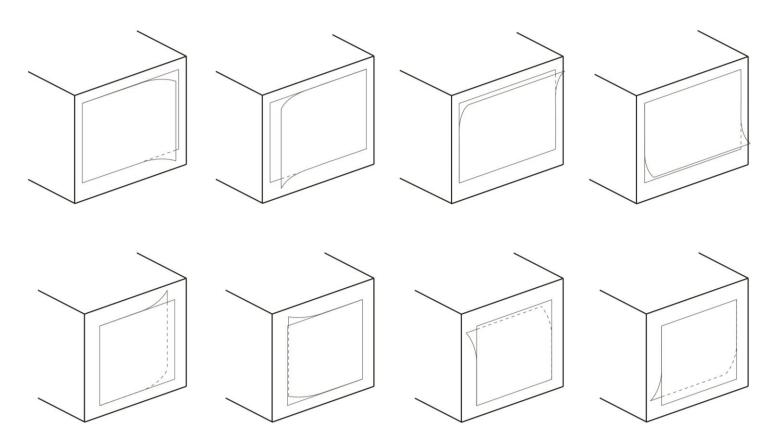
#### New material possibilities

Wing-wall concept

Tilt and turn window concept

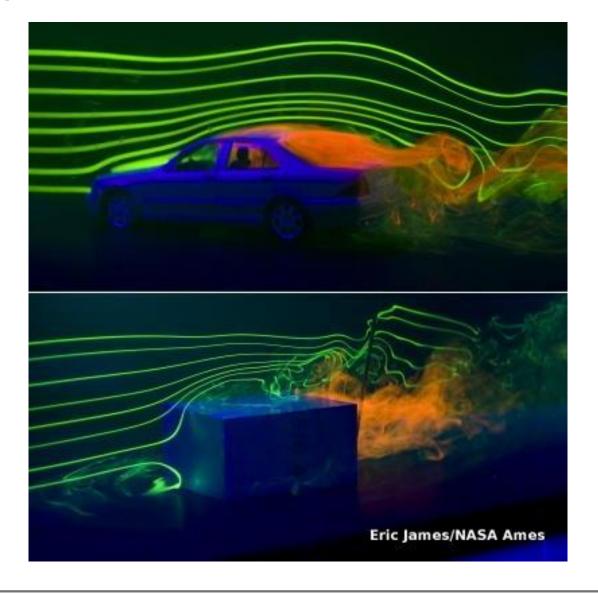
Variable opening radius adaptable to external environment





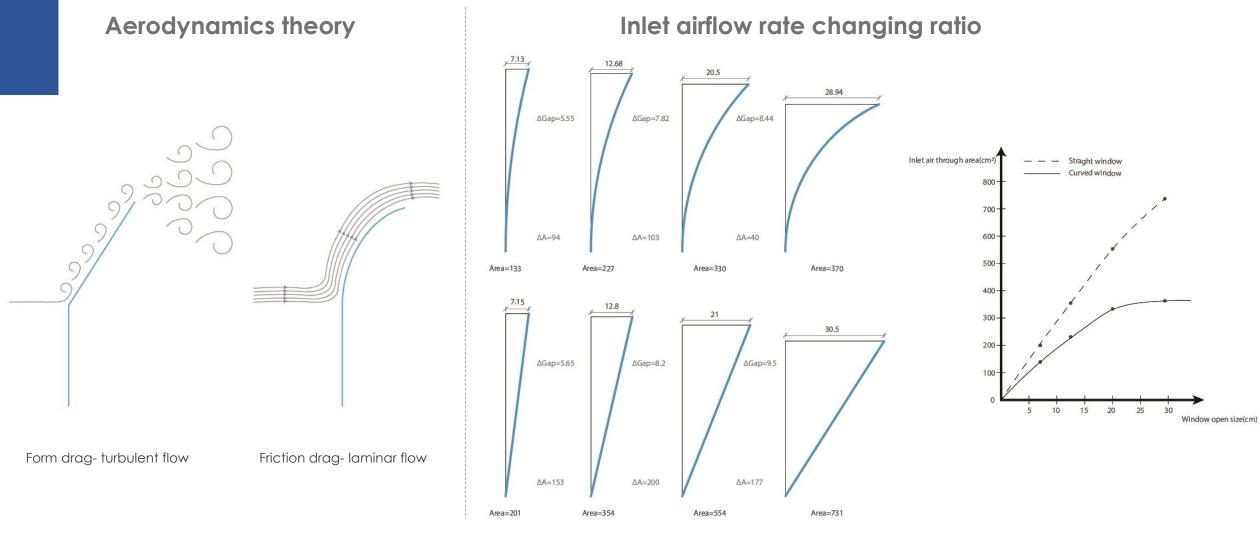


### CFD simulation comparison





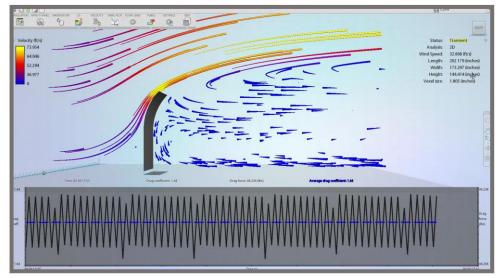
#### Why curved window



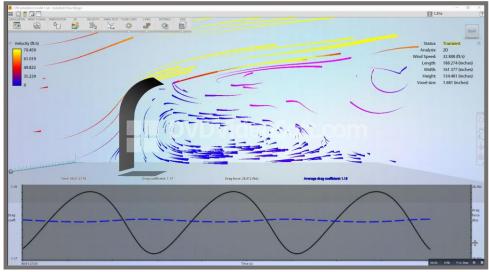
Fanger and Pedersen(1977) experiments shows that a fluctuating air flow is more uncomfortable than a constant flow with the same mean velocity.



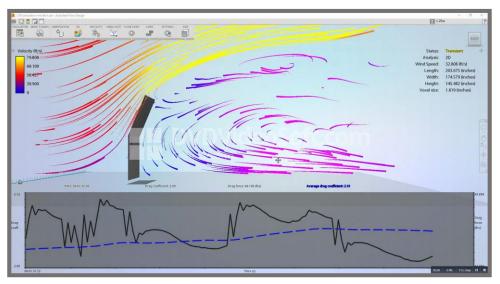
#### CFD simulation comparison



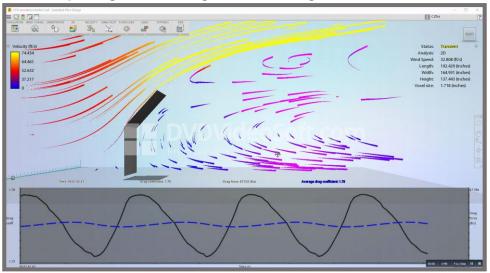
Opening size-A/ Drag force 46/ Drag coefficient 1.64



Opening size-B/ Drag force 28/ Drag coefficient 1.18



Opening size-A/ Drag force 64/ Drag coefficient 2.10



Opening size-B/ Drag force 47/ Drag coefficient 1.78





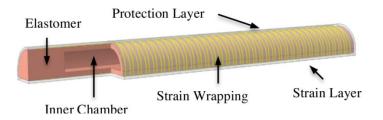
# Soft robotics

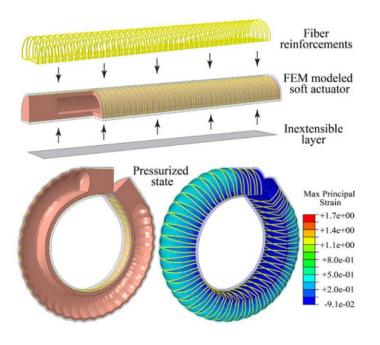
Source: (soft robotic toolkit, 2015)



#### Two soft actuators comparison

#### **Soft Fiber-Reinforced Bending Actuators**



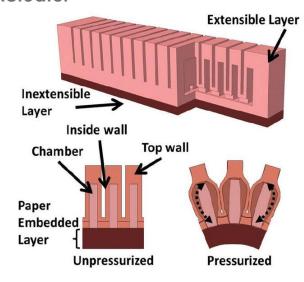


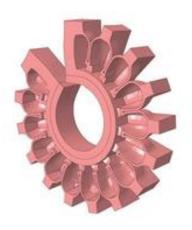
Source: (soft robotic toolkit, 2015)

#### **Soft Pneumatic Actuator**







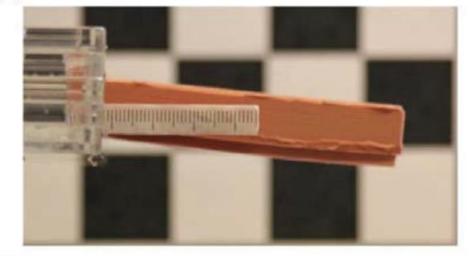


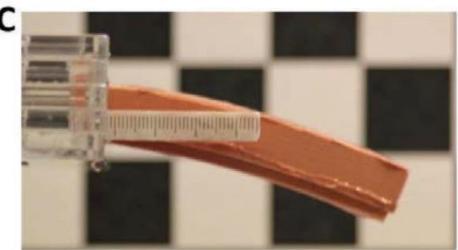
Source: (soft robotic toolkit, 2015)



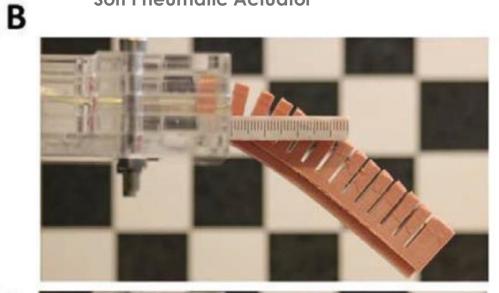
#### Two soft actuators comparison

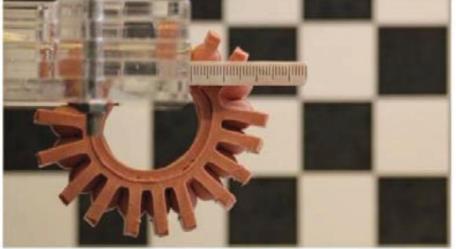
**Soft Fiber-Reinforced Bending Actuators** 





#### **Soft Pneumatic Actuator**

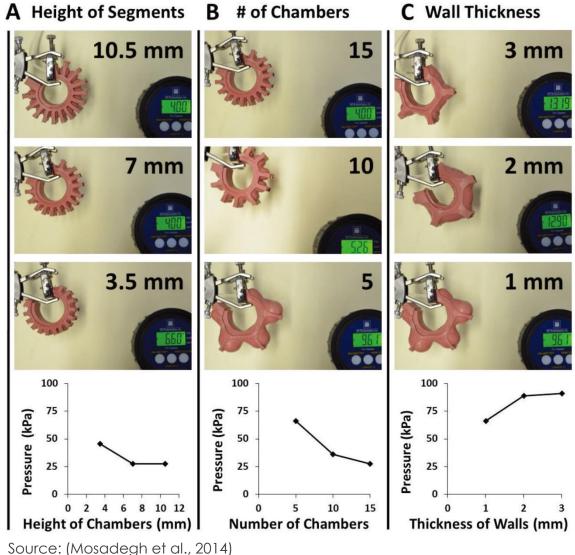




Source: (soft robotic toolkit, 2015)



#### Relative Research- SPA- Actuator morphology influences air pressure



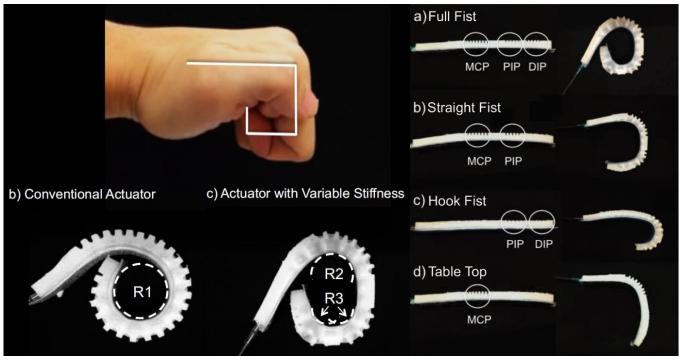
#### Conclusion

To achieve full bending motion, Thinner wall, more chamber numbers and higher segments requires least air pressure



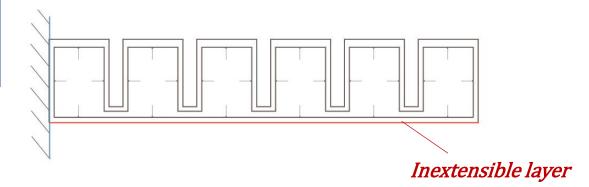
#### Relative Research- SPA- Variable Stiffness at different localities to conform to the shape

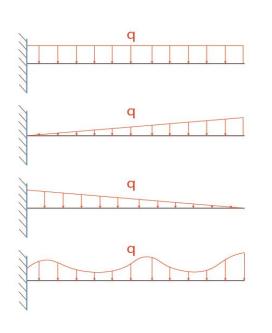


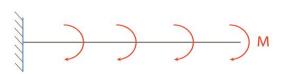




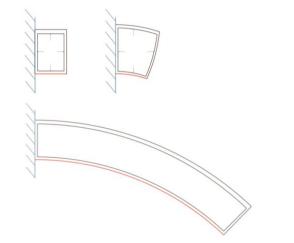
#### Structural mechanism





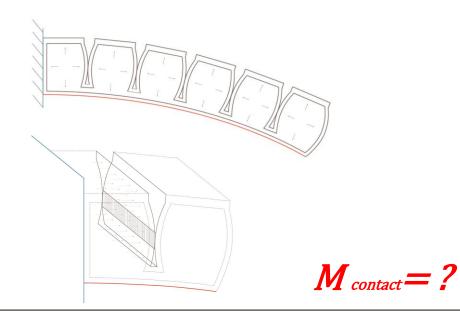






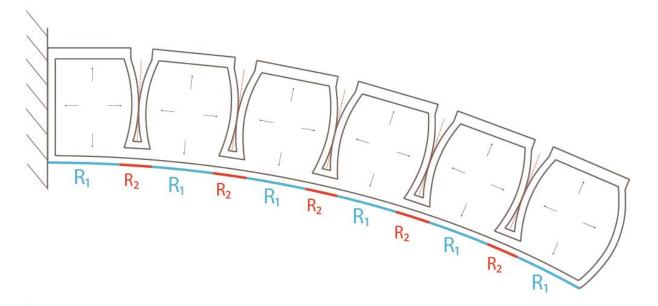
 $M_{stretch}=?$ 

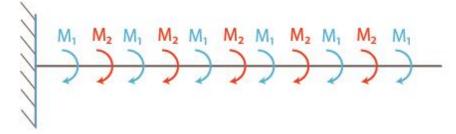
Contacting based bending





#### Structural mechanism



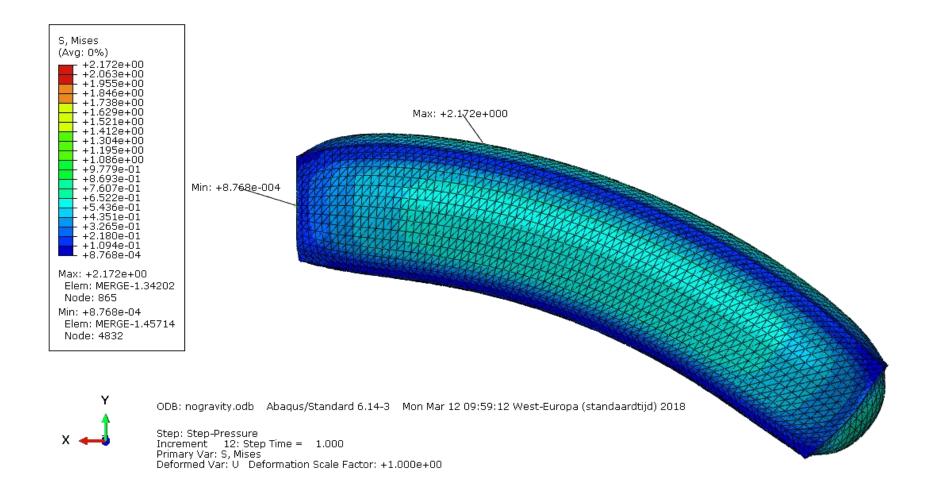


$$\frac{1}{R_1} = \frac{M_{\text{stretch}}}{EI}$$

$$\frac{1}{R_2} = \frac{M_{contact}}{EI}$$

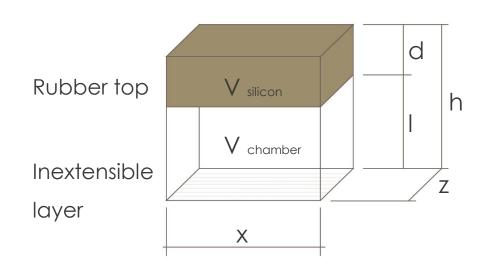
- O Bending moment (M) by pressure
- O Rubber tensile stress (σ)
- O Thin glass tensile stress(σ)
- O End edge deflection(δ)

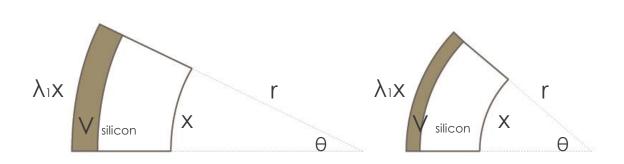
#### Product mechanism- stretching model





#### Product mechanism- strain energy method





- Gas compression
- O Elastic rubber deformation
- O Work added by an external load

$$W = W_{air} + W_{silicom} + W_{load}$$
  $h = 50mm$ 

$$h = 50 \text{mm}$$

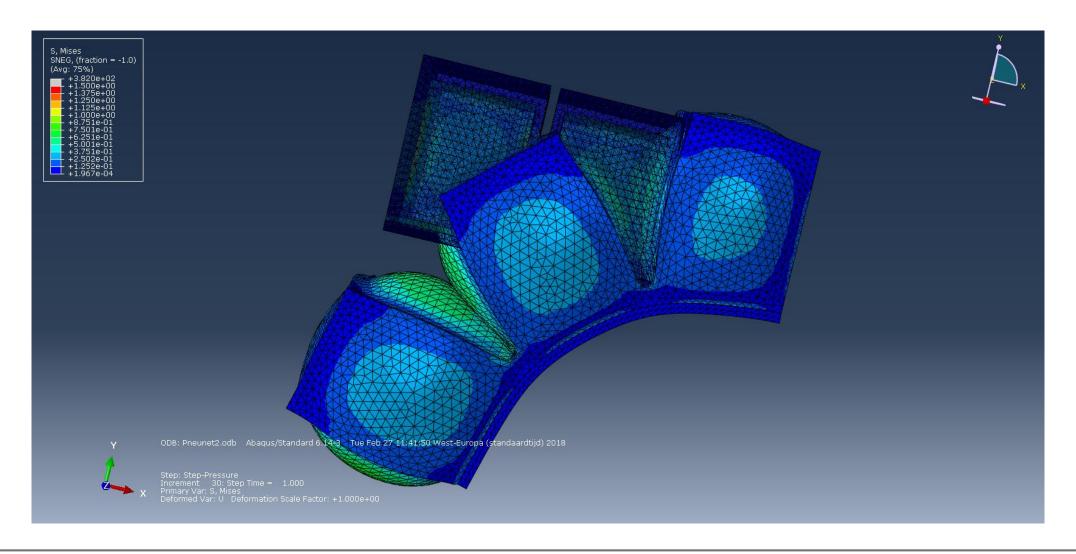
$$P = 0.55MPa$$

$$\frac{\delta W_{\text{silicon}}}{\delta \lambda_1} + \frac{\delta W_{\text{air}}}{\delta \lambda_1} + \frac{\delta W_{\text{load}}}{\delta \lambda_1} = 0$$

$$d = 8mm$$

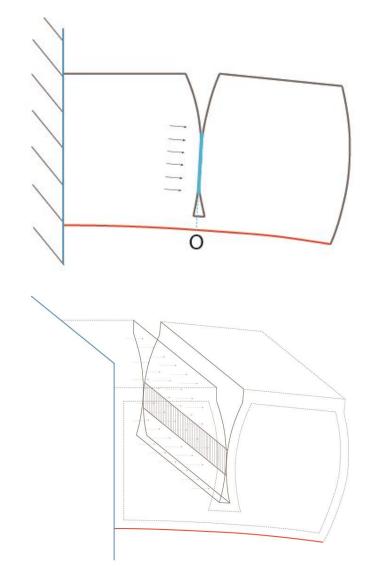
$$M_{\text{stretch}} = 189 \text{Nmm}$$

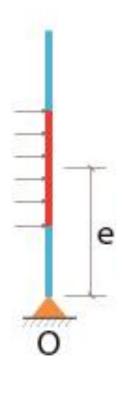
#### Product mechanism- contacting model





#### Product mechanism- contacting model





h = 50mm

d = 8mm

 $M_{contact} = PAe = 2775Nmm$ 

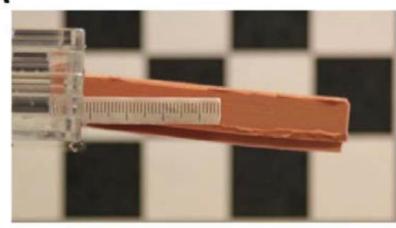
A= Contacting area

P= Air pressure

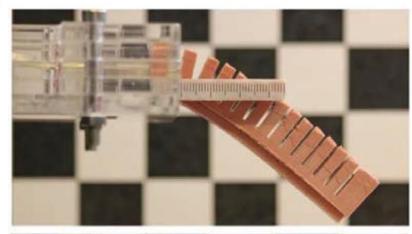


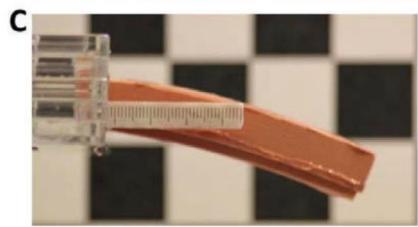
#### Product mechanism- stretching and contacting model

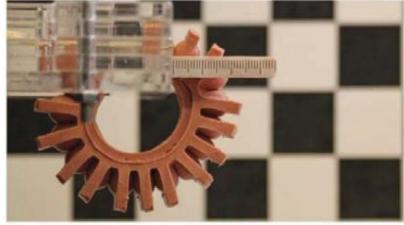
Α



В







M stretch = 189Nmm

M contact = PAe=2775Nmm



### **Soft Robotics Technology Utilities**

o Gripper





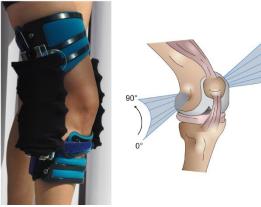


Octopus gripper-Festo

Soft Robotics gripper

Soft Robotics gripper





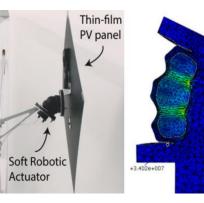


O Rehabilitation

Skewed rotary elastic chambers bending actuator

Soft robotic glove







o Sun shading

Adaptive Solar Façade installed at ETH House of Natural Resources



### **Soft Pneumatic Actuator-benefit**

- o Curvature adaptive
- o Continuous form change
- Lightweight
- Easily controlled and measured
- o Less mechanical equipment

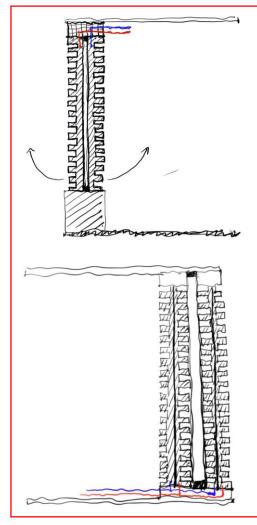


# Part 3

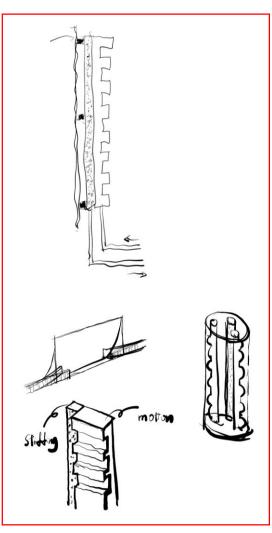
# Draft design



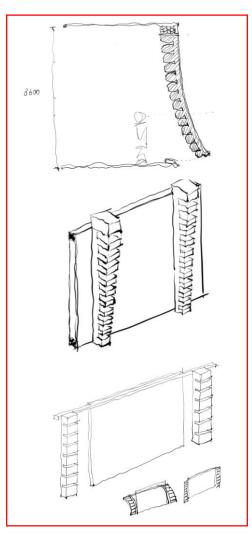
### **Hand sketches**



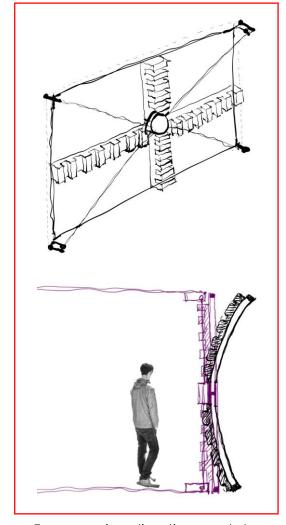
Bi-direction opening window



Variable stiffness with jamming chamber



Top hung window



Four opening directions prototype

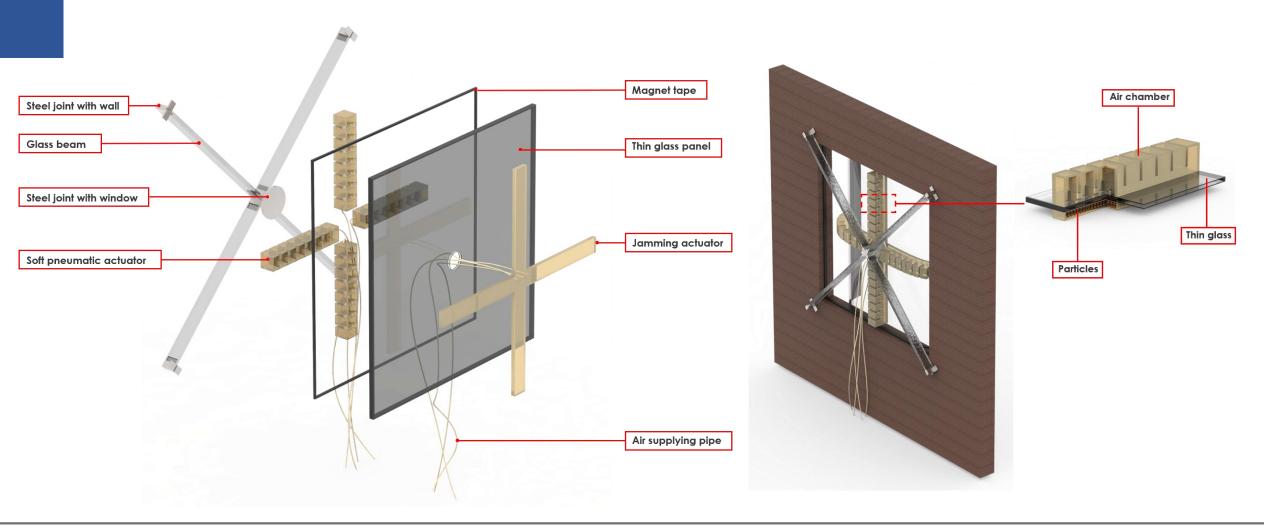


# Design A Design B

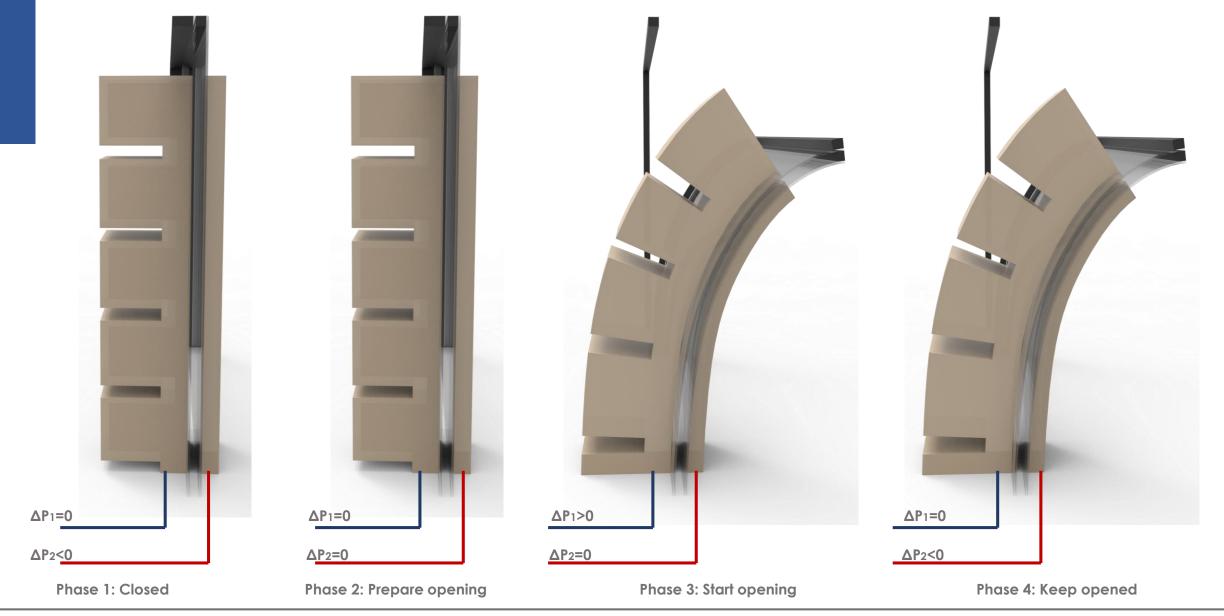








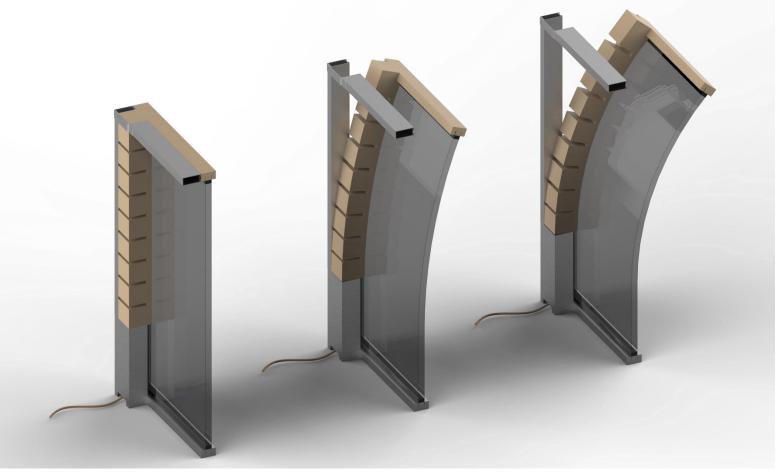






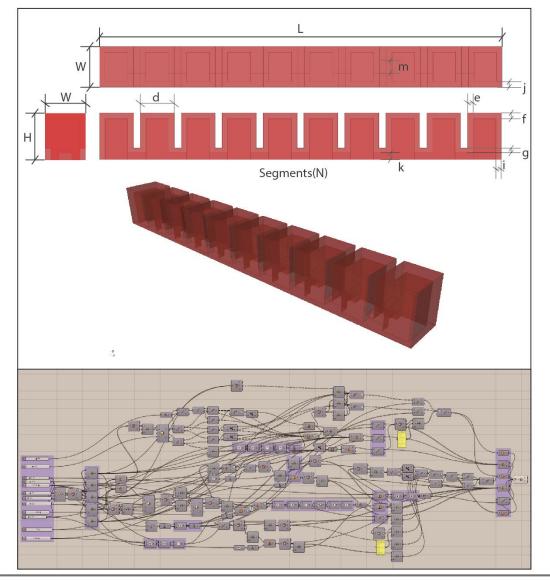
# Design D

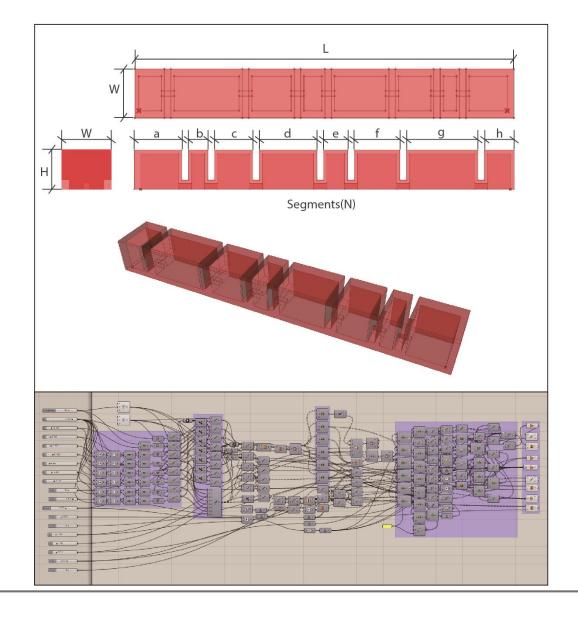






# Parametric geometry generation





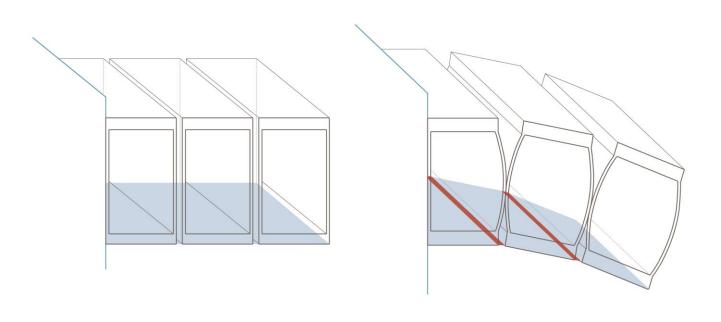


# Part 4

Mathematical model and assumption



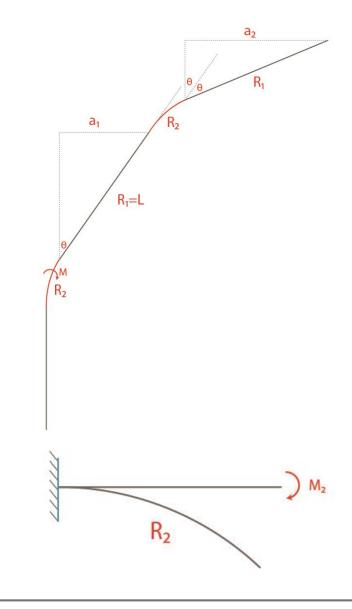
### Opening size calculation



Opening size = $L(\sin\theta + \sin 2\theta + \sin 3\theta + \dots + \sin n\theta)$ 

$$\theta = L_2/R_2$$

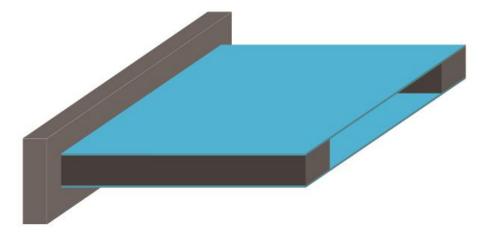
$$\sigma = \frac{ET}{2R_2}$$
  $\theta = \frac{LM_2}{EI} = \frac{L}{R}$ 

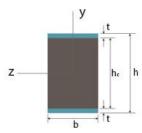




### Product mechanism- rigid spacer

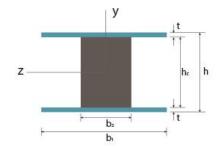






$$I_1 = \frac{b}{12} (h^3 - h_c^3)$$

$$I_2 = \frac{b}{12} h_c^3$$



$$I_1 = \frac{b_1}{12} (h^3 - h_c^3)$$

$$I_2 = \frac{b_2}{12} h_c^3$$

Flexural rigidity =  $E_1 I_1 + E_2 I_2$ 

$$\sigma_{\text{1max}} = \pm \frac{M(h/2)E_1}{E_1 I_1 + E_2 I_2}$$

$$\sigma_{2\text{max}} = \pm \frac{M(h_c/2)E_2}{E_1 I_1 + E_2 I_2}$$

$$R = \frac{E_1 I_1 + E_2 I_2}{M}$$

t = 0.55 mm

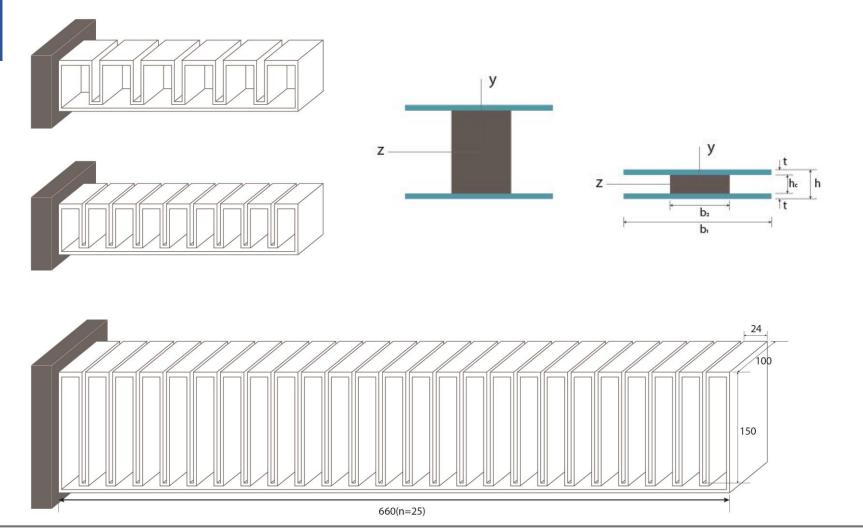
 $h_c = 12 \text{mm}$ 

M= 2775Nmm

R = 346m



### Correction: Soft actuator morphology-enlarge bending moment



 $h_c = 4 \text{mm}$ 

n = 25

M= 210000Nmm



### Spacer material-super spacer edgetech





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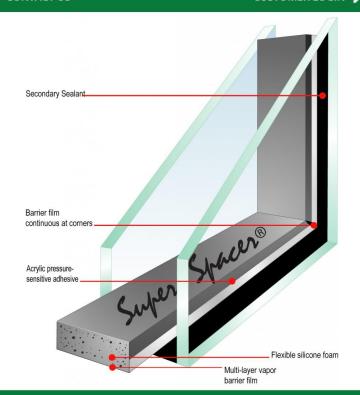
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p

#### **Energy Efficient**

80% of the energy lost through a window occurs at the edge of the glass because of the highly conductive nature of aluminium spacer. Super Spacer® is 950 times less conductive, blocking heat loss and reducing energy costs. Super Spacer reduces window U-values by up to 0.2W/m2K allowing windows to achieve the highest Window Energy Ratings.

Download the leaflet 👤



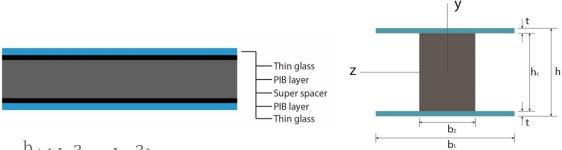
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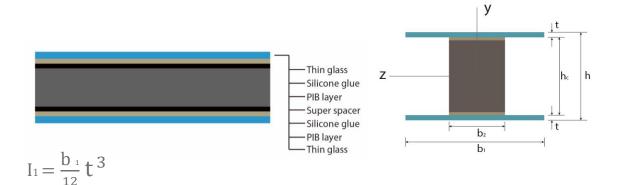
### Product mechanism- effective flexural stiffness of insulating window-correction

0.55mm thickness thin glass and 12mm super spacer



$$I_1 = \frac{b_1}{12} (h^3 - h_c^3)$$

$$I_2 = \frac{b_2}{12} h_c^3$$
 Flexural rigidity =  $E_1 I_1 + E_2 I_2 = 1.9 * 10^9 \text{ N mm}^2$ 



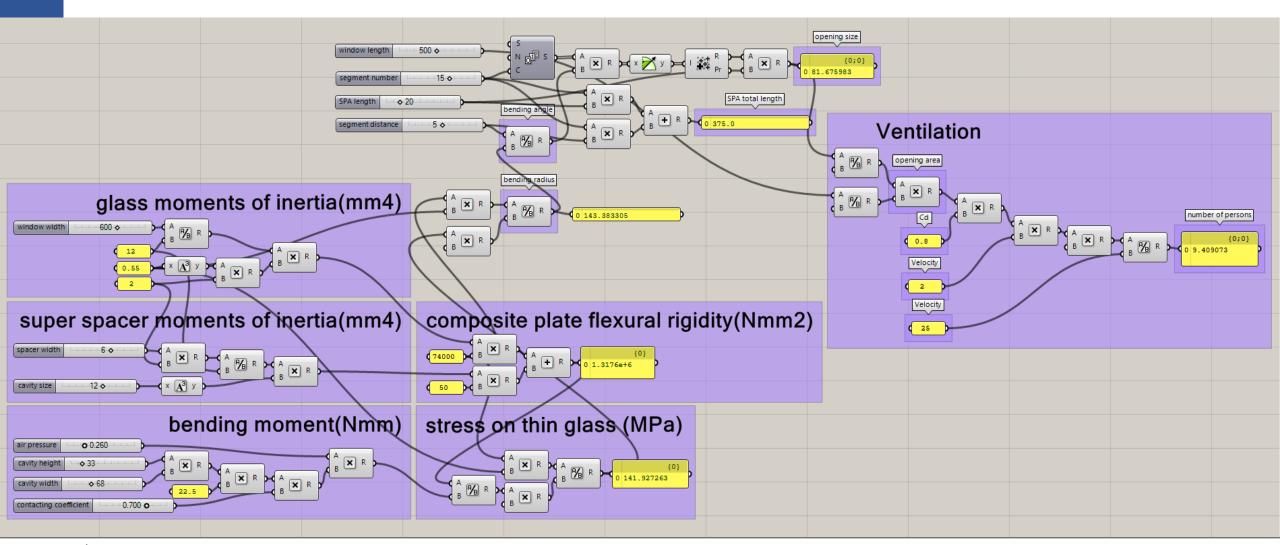
$$I_2 = \frac{b_2}{12} h_c^3$$
 Flexural rigidity =  $2E_1 I_1 + E_2 I_2 = 1.3 * 10^6 \text{ N mm}^2$ 





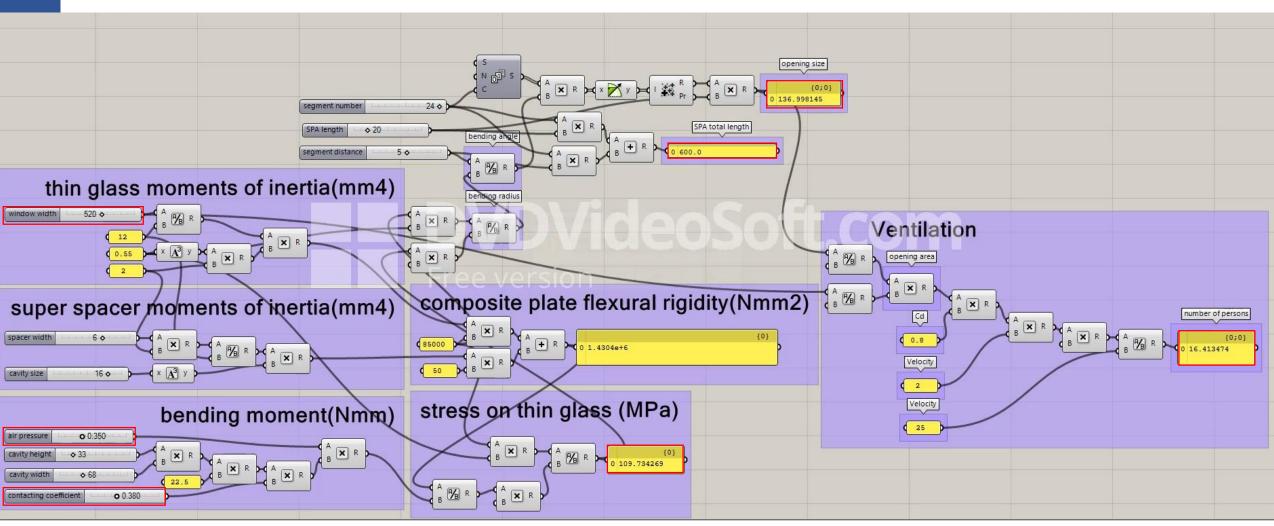


### **Calculation integration**





### **Calculation integration**





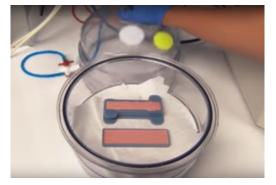
# **Part 4.1**

Draft experiment









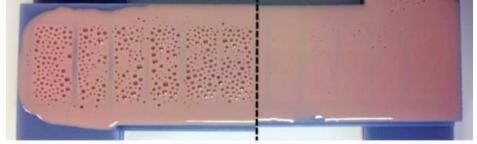
Pouring De-gas

### Material property

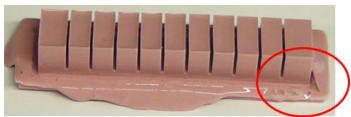
Tensile strength: 6.5MPa Elongation at break: 700% Break at air pressure: 1 bar

### Disadvantage

Low tensile strength: 6.5MPa



Before After



Bubbles – may be a weak spot. Inspect closely.

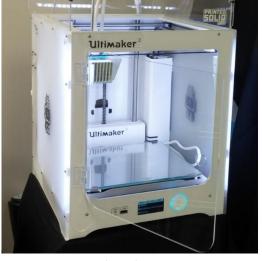


Cure



# The lat Yes Setting Decision Rights Pederson Nels CUCCI Propore Montator © Cut of thems User type District Pederson Some Trace of the Cut of thems Some Trace of the Cut of thems The Some Trace of the Cut of the Cu

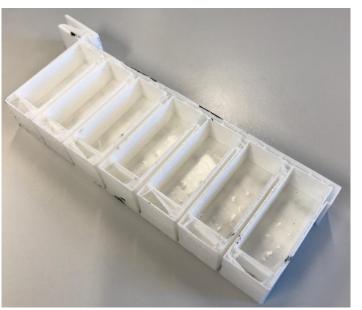
Cura simulation



Ultimaker 3



TPU 95A



Soft robotics prototype

### **Material property**

Tensile stress at yield: 8.6MPa Elongation at break: 580%

Maximum air pressure: 4 bars

### Disadvantage

High tensile modulus: 26MPa Leakage between layers



# **Production and cost**

Description	x   y   z extents (mm)	Quantity	Unit
FDM: Material= Nylon 12	77.209*46.511*30 0.000	Ī.	\$377
FDM: Material= ABS	77.209*46.511*30 0.000	1	\$324











### Material property

Tensile stress at yield: 11MPa Elongation at break: 600% Maximum air pressure: 7 bars





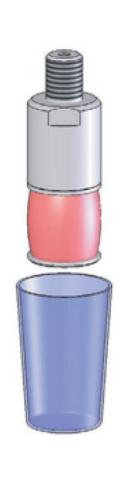
# **Part 4.2**

Further design

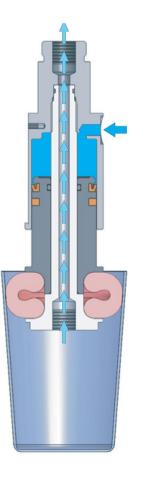


# Inspiration- Bellows grippers Festo

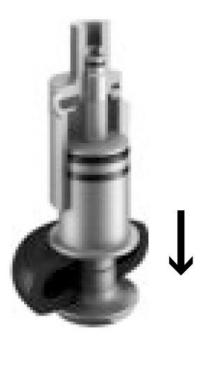












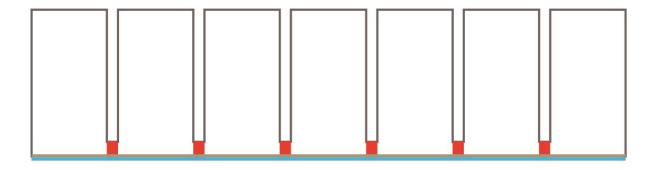
# Inspiration- Bellows grippers Festo

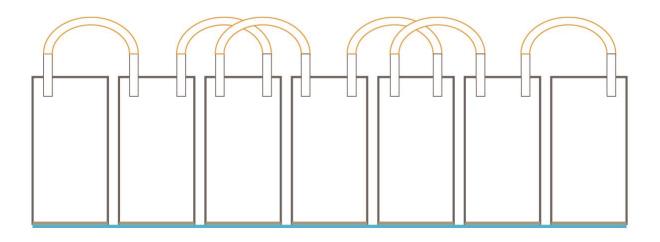






### **Bellows connection remove**



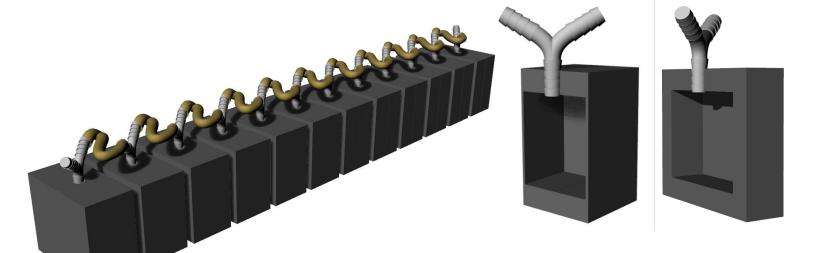




# Bellows geometry generation



Design A



Design B

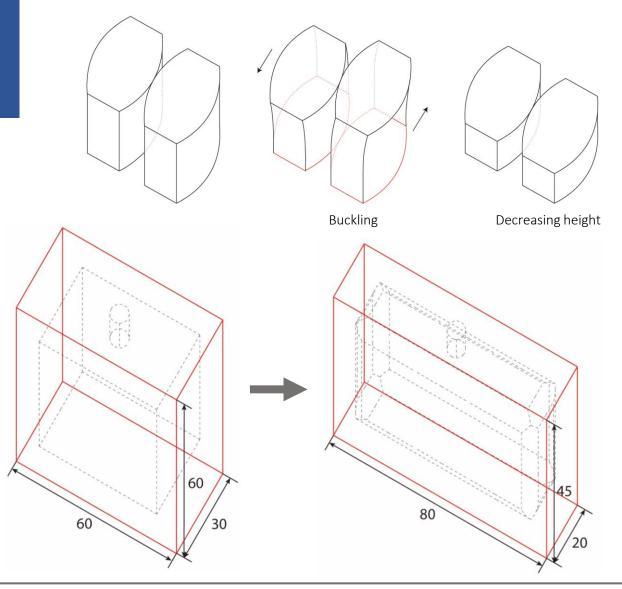




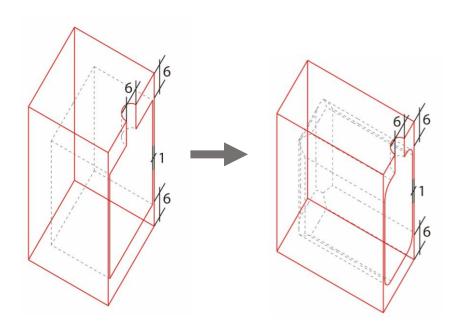




### Bellows geometry generation



- O Decreasing segments height
- O Keep contacting area same
- O Decreasing segments thickness
- O Fillet bellow corners





# **Mould making and Production**









# **Mould making and Production**

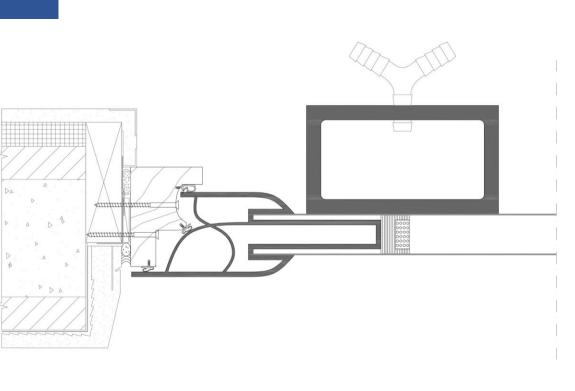


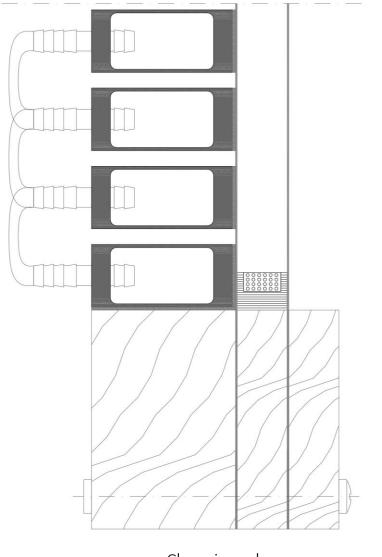


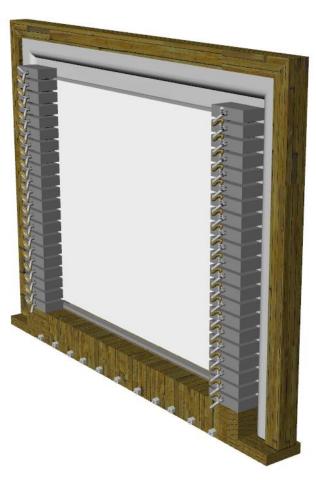




# Design A





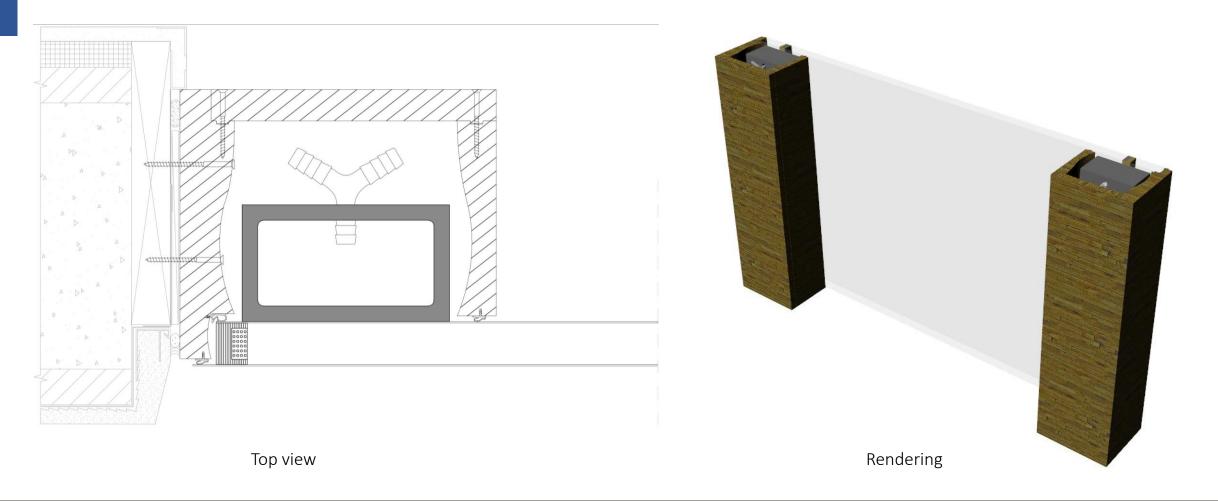


Top view

Clamping edge Rendering

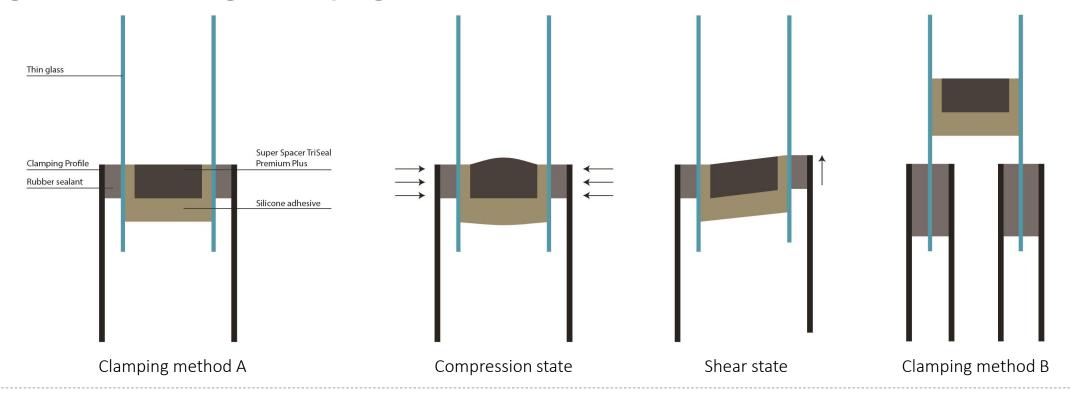


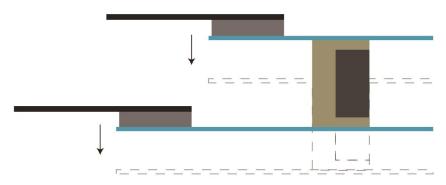
# Design B





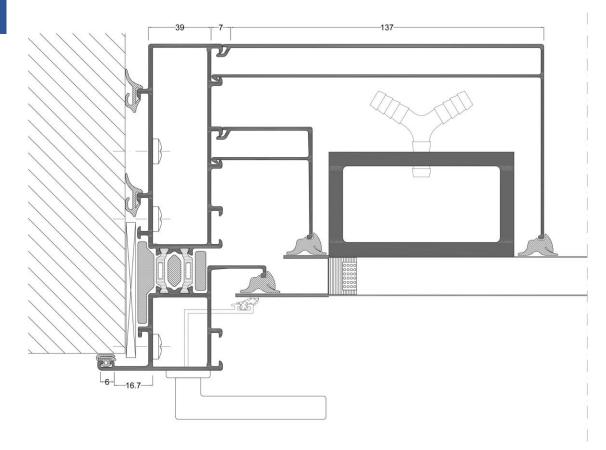
### Design C- bottom edge clamping method



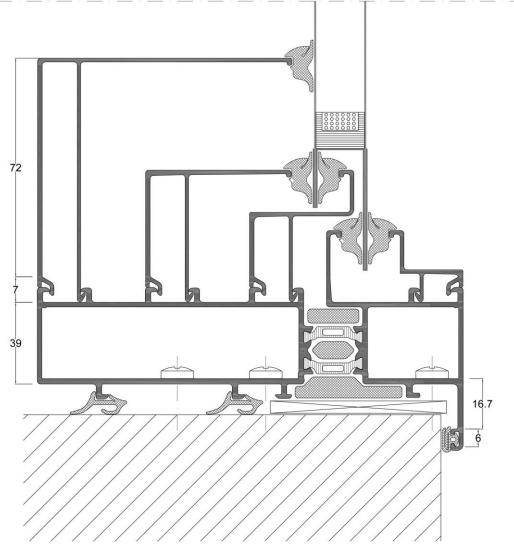


Opening on side edge



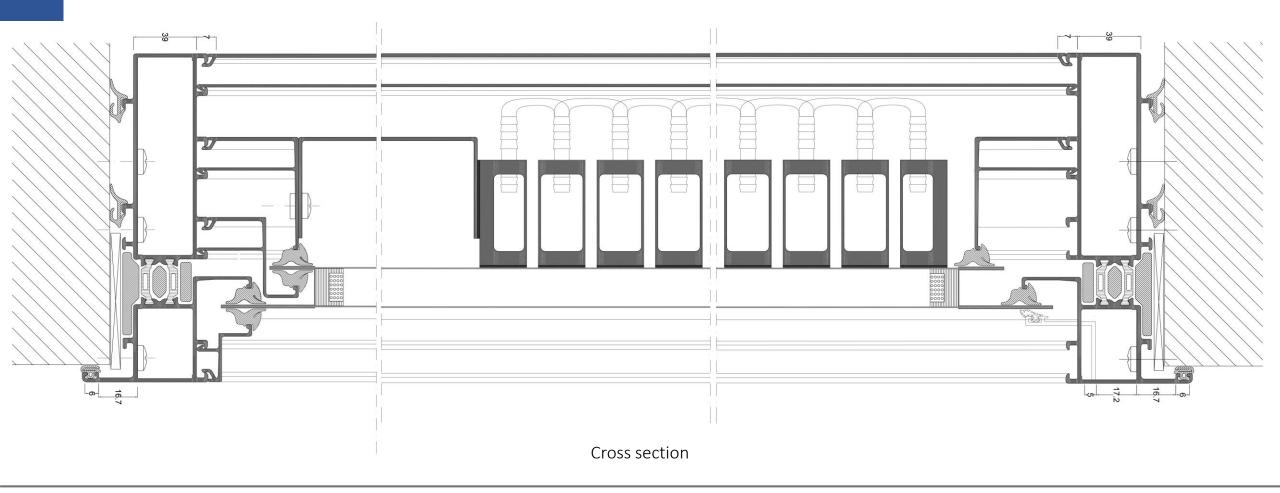






Bottom edge











Inside view

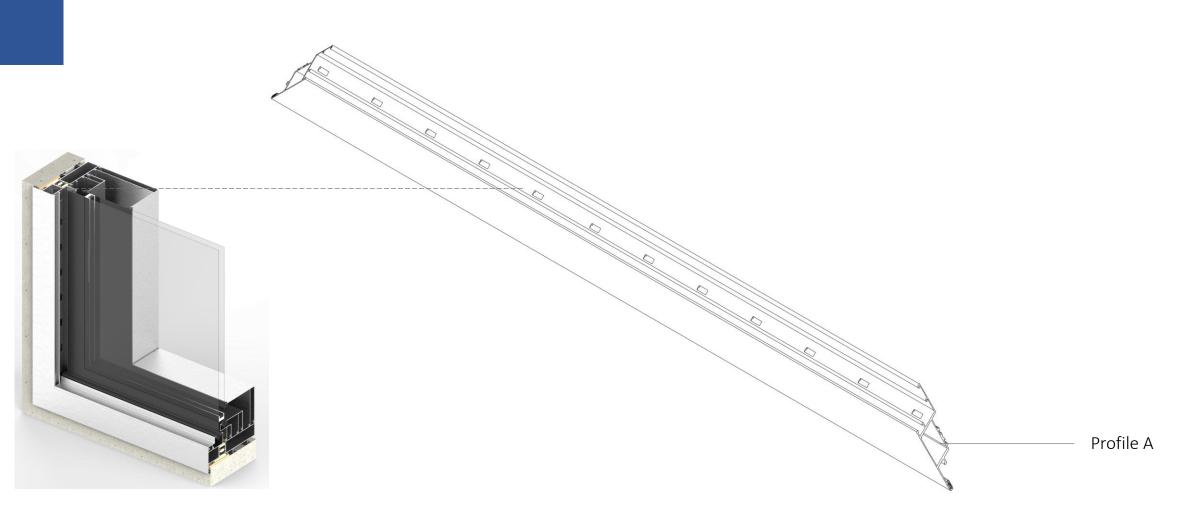
Outside view



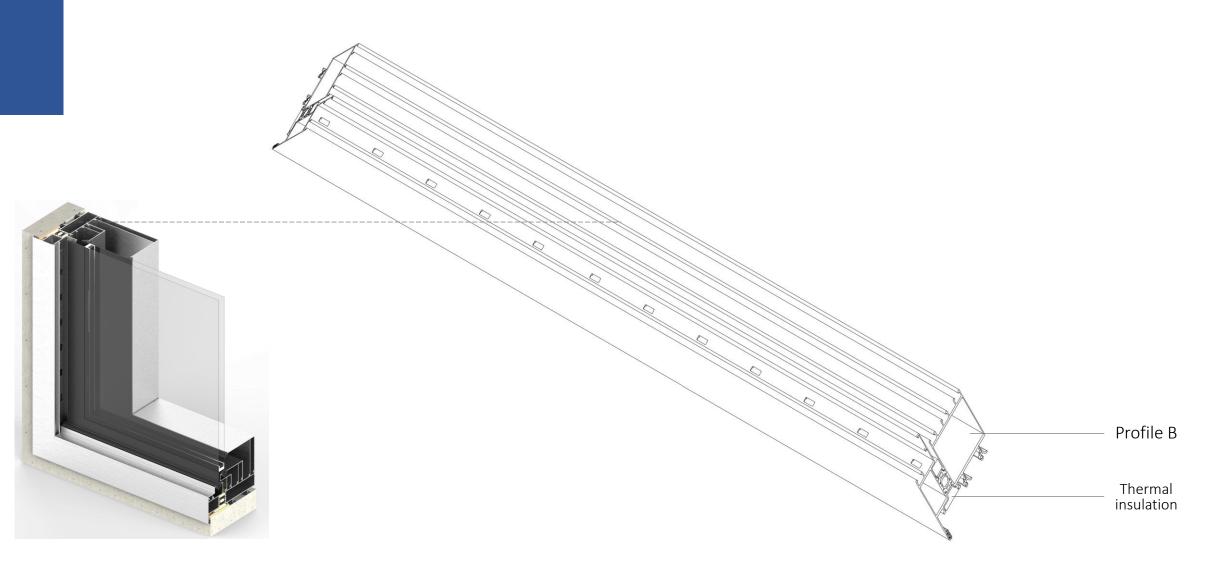
# **Part 4.3**

# Installing process

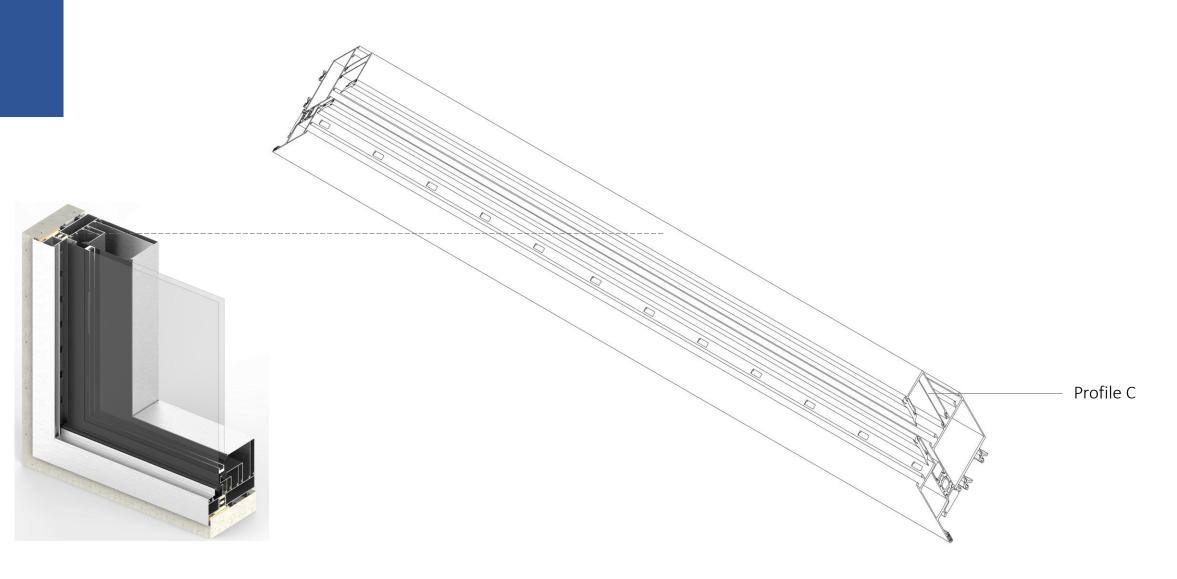




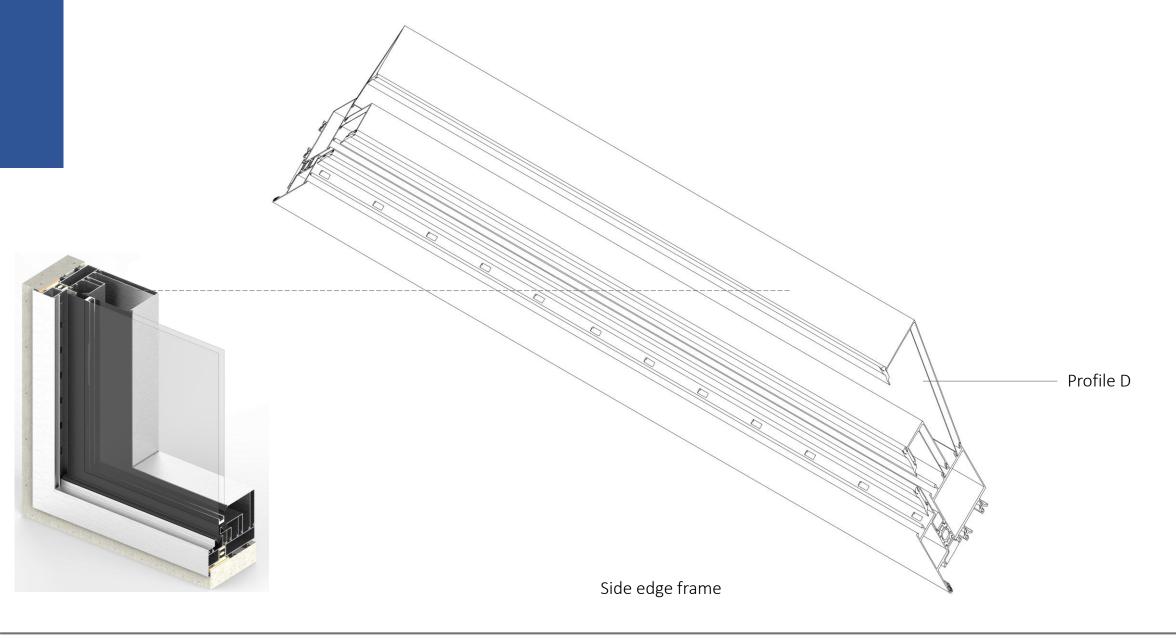




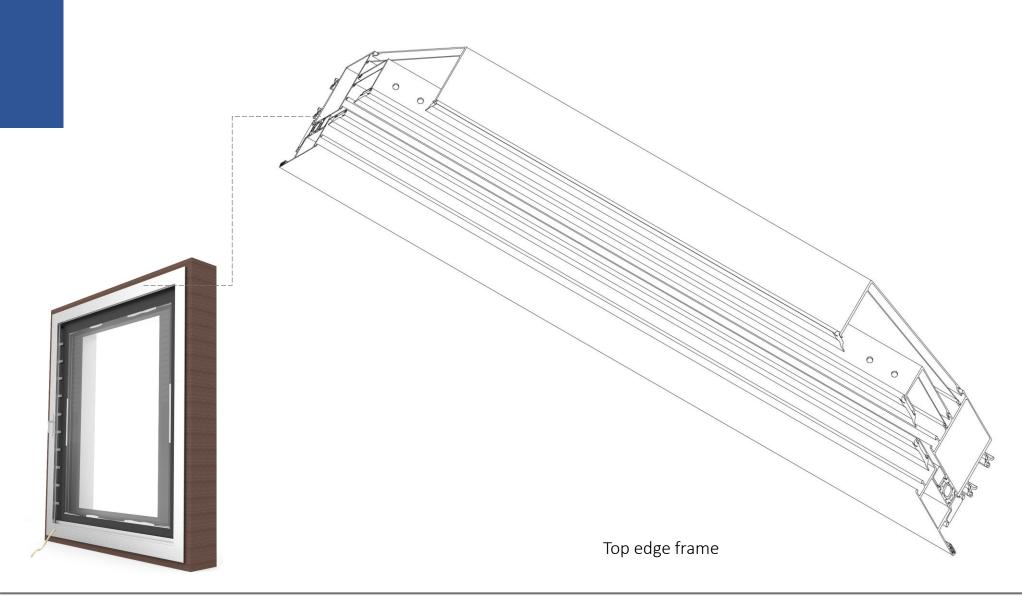




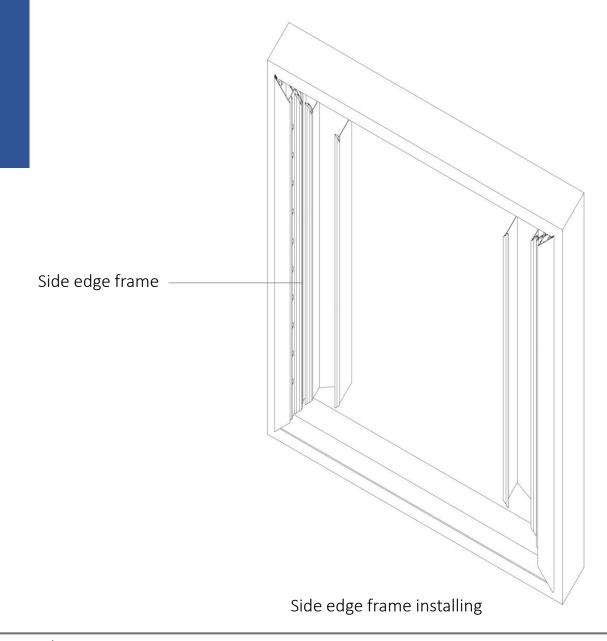


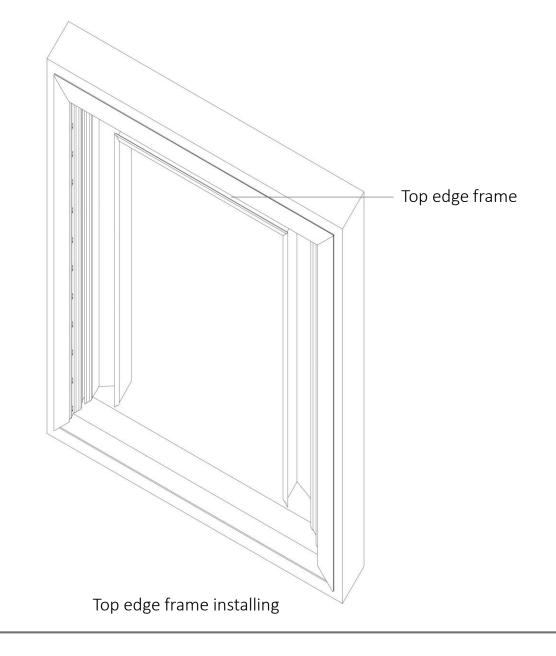




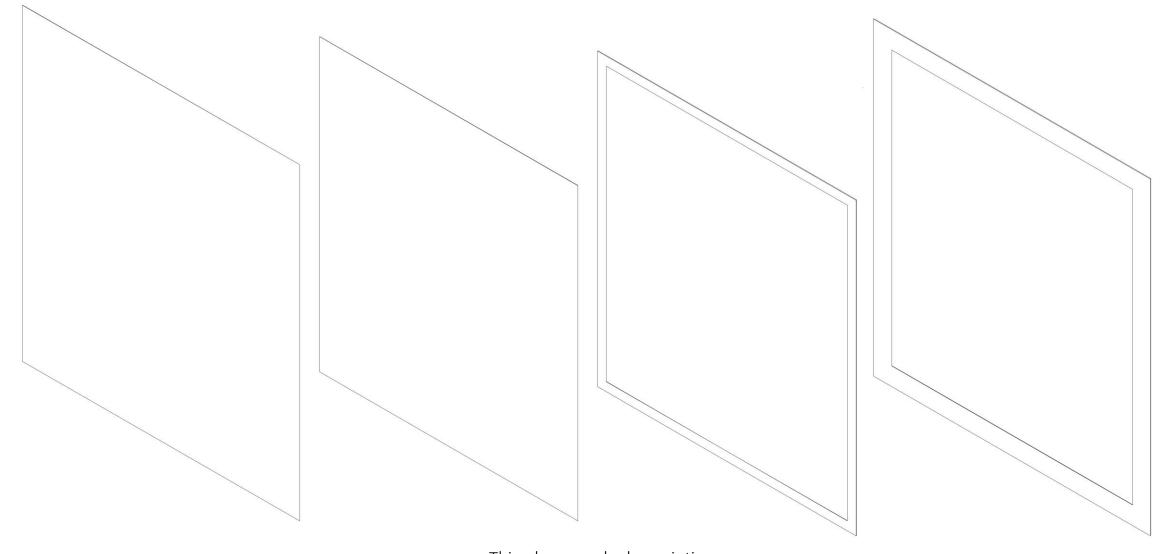






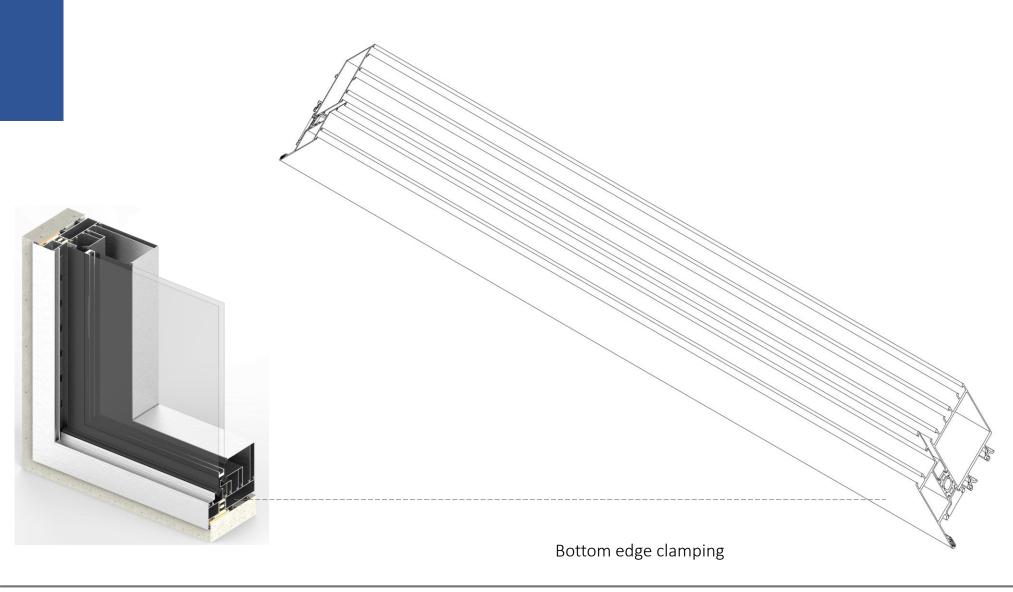




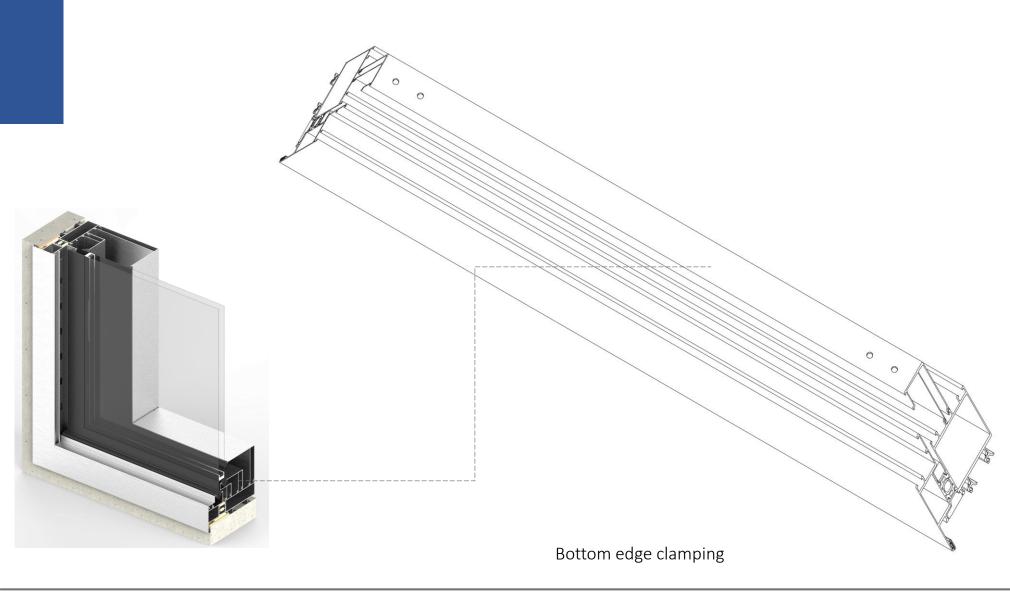


Thin glass panel edge painting

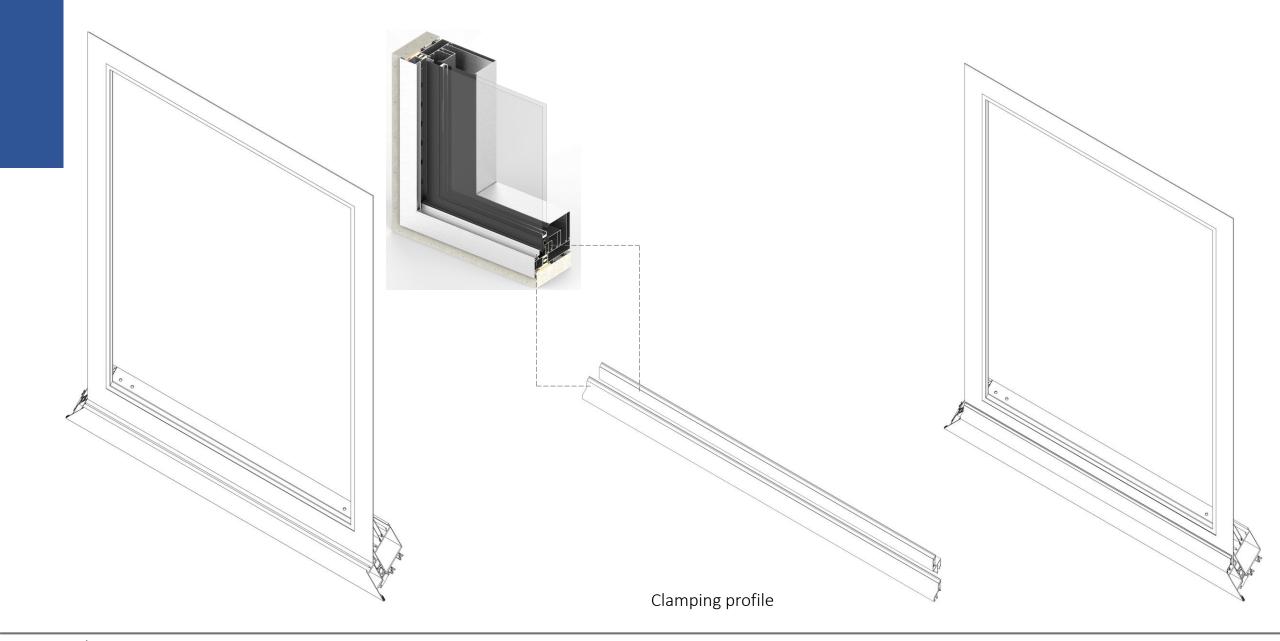




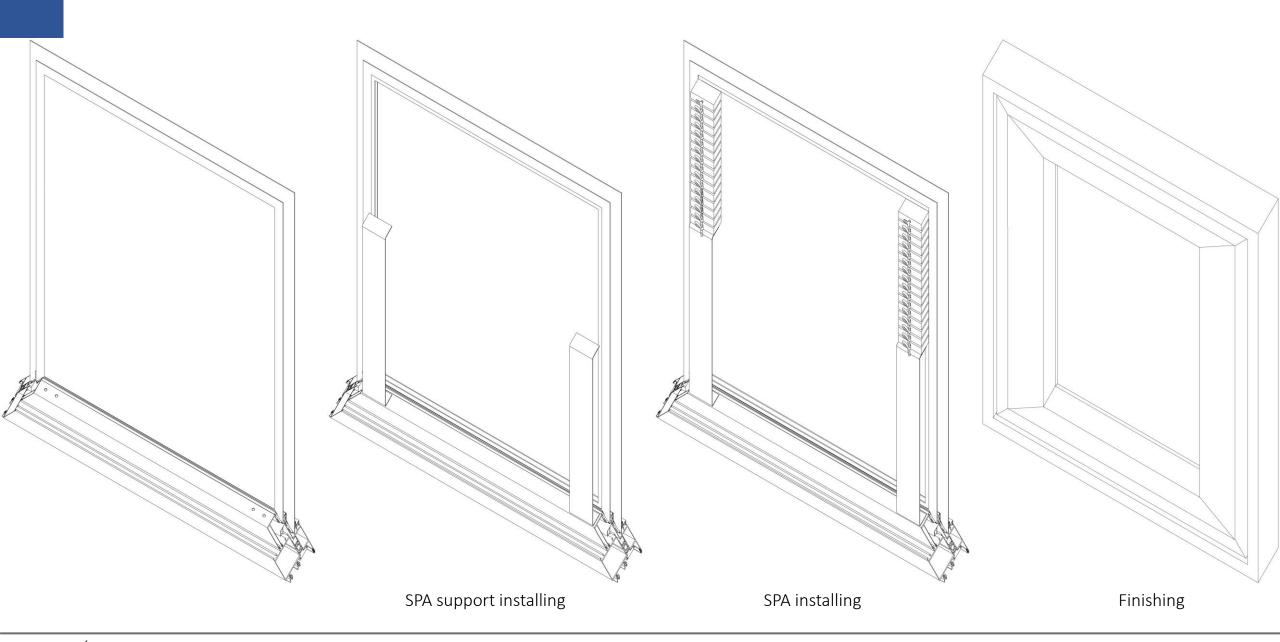




















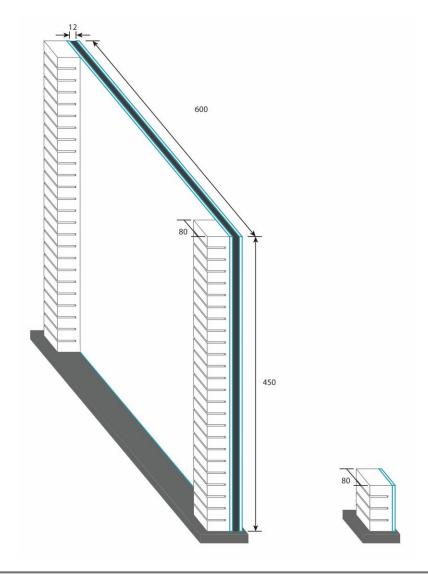


# Part 5

# Simulation



## Structure equivalent

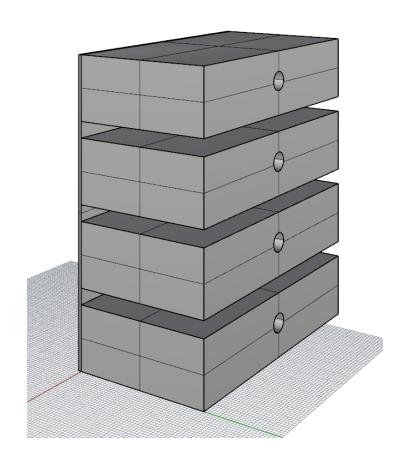


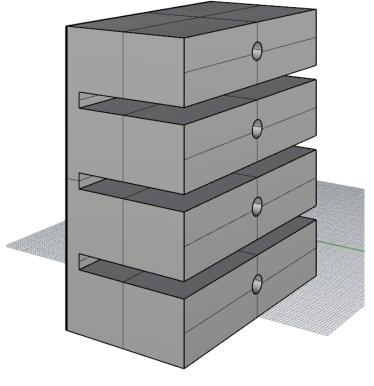
Flexural rigidity =  $2E_{thin glass} I_{thin glass} + E_{super spacer} I_{super spacer}$ =  $E_{equivalent} I_{equivalent}$ 

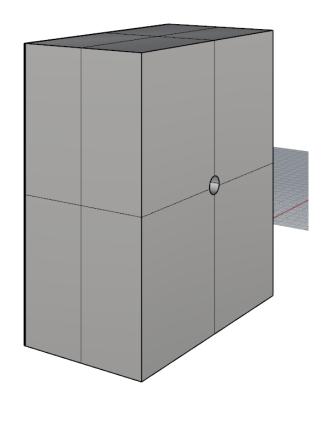
Thickness = 1.1mm

 $E_{\text{equivalent}} = 84556MPa$ 

## Geometry







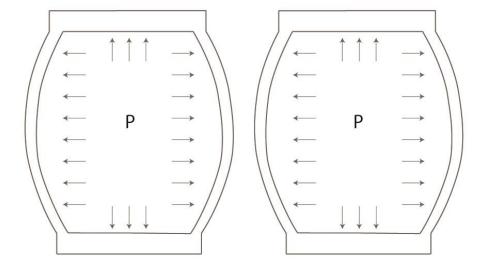
Separate segments

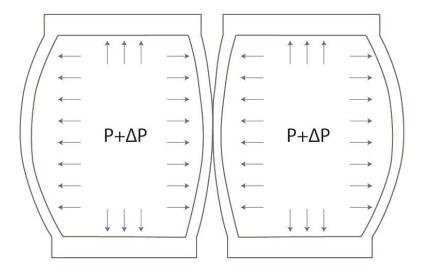
Connected segments

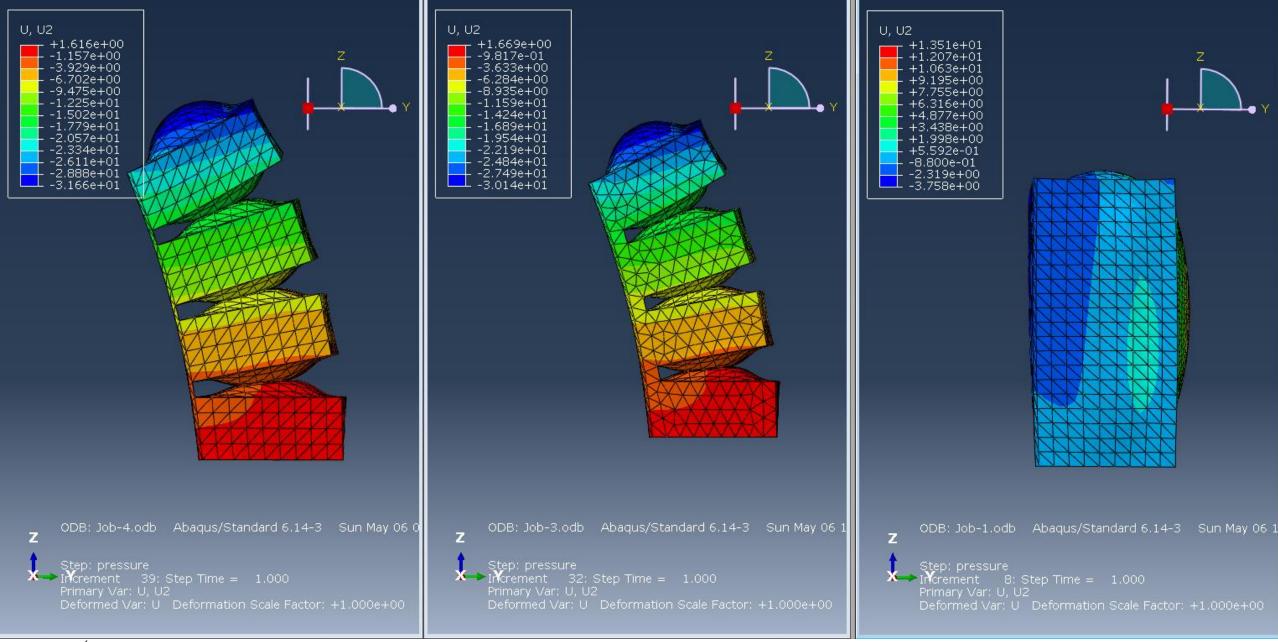
Whole segment



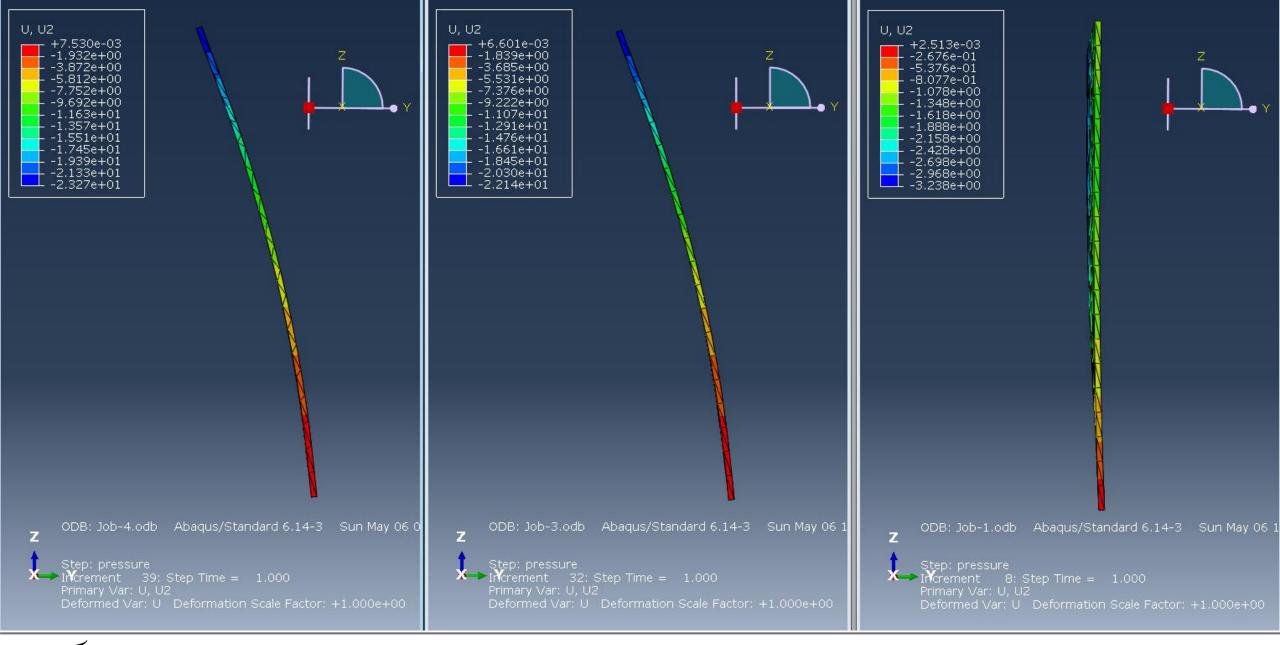
#### **Pressure correction**



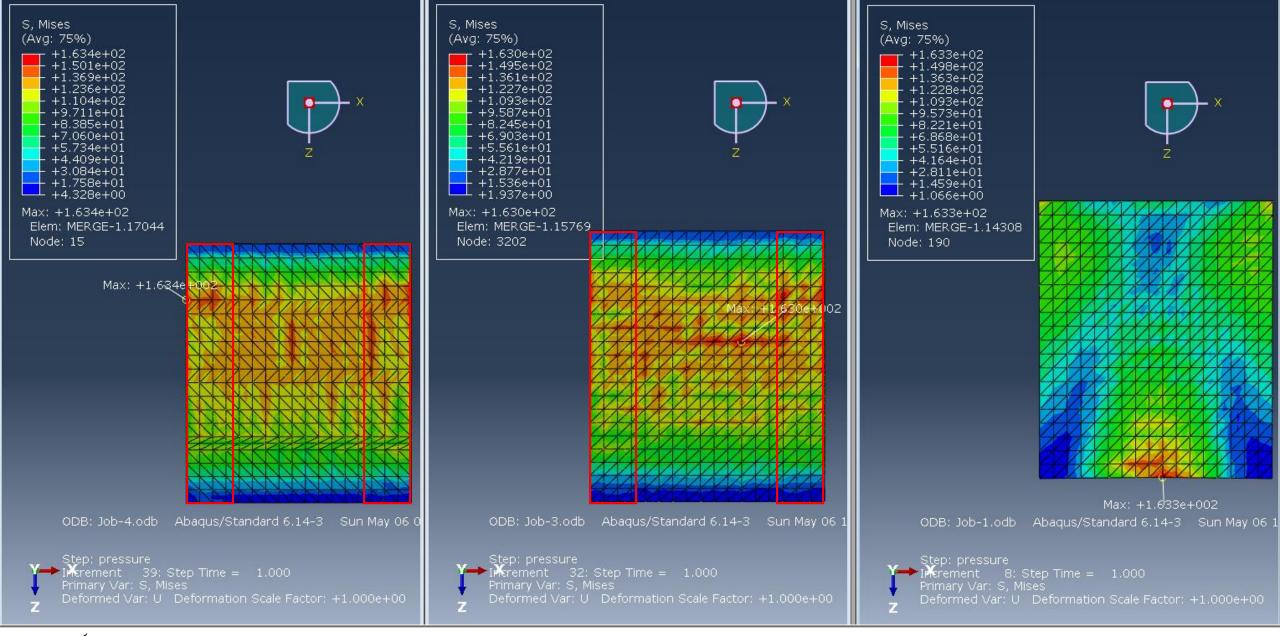






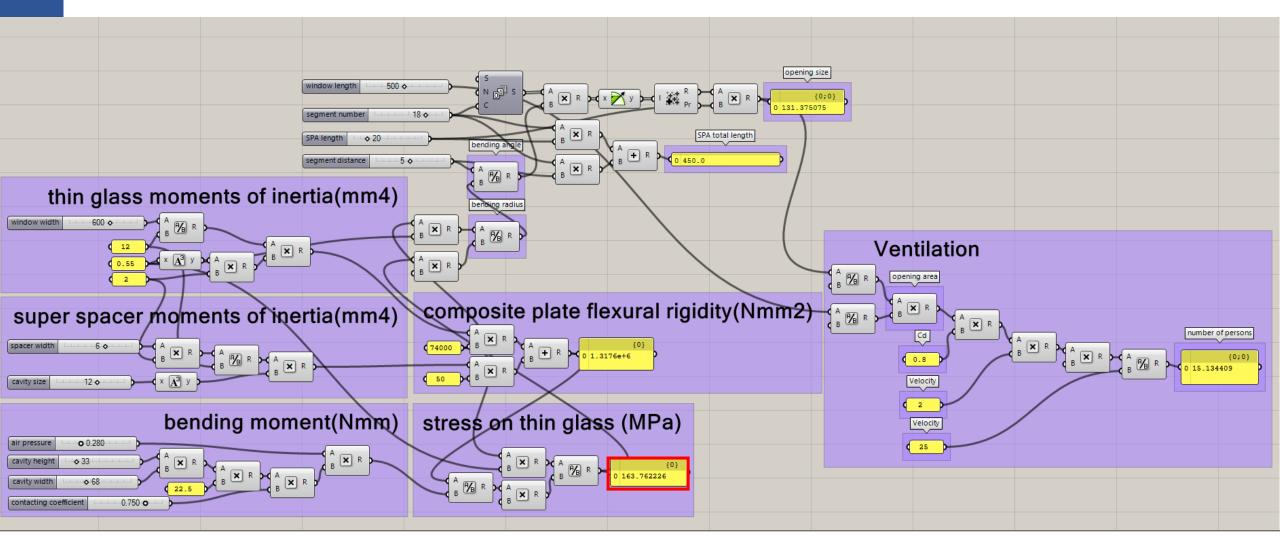








#### **Validation**





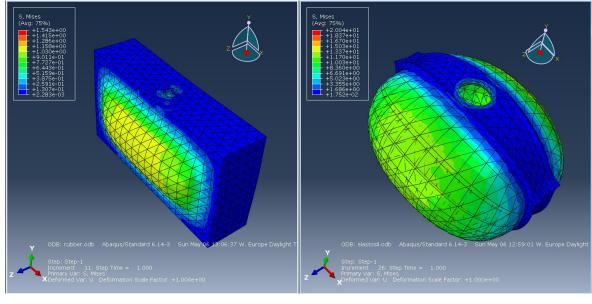
#### Material inflating comparing

Natural rubber

Elastosil silicone

(1, 13, 69ee0)
(1-5, 29ee0)
(1-6, 29ee0)
(1-6,

Natural rubber Elastosil silicone



Segments inflating deformation

Segments inflating stress simulation

Tensile strength: Natural rubber 28MPa
Elastosil silicone 6.5MPa



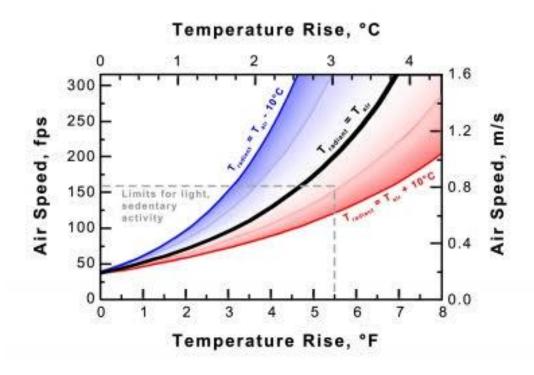
# **Part 5.1**

Indoor comfort simulation



#### Relationship between air speed and air temperature in comforting human

#### Comfort From Moving Air vs. Temperature Rise, For Different Radiant Temperatures



Inlet air temperature

5°C lower than radiant temperature

0 3°C increasing need 0.8m/s increasing

5°C higher than radiant temperature

0 3°C increasing need 1.6m/s increasing

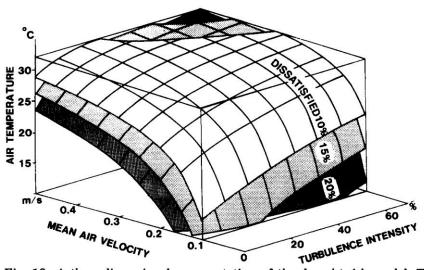
• Maximum allowable elevated airspeed is 1.5 m/s



#### How to quantify indoor comfort by ventilation

- O Air temperature (ta)
- Mean air velocity (v)
- O Turbulence intensity (Tu)

Percentage Dissatisfied due to draft



PD= 
$$3.143(34-t_a)(\overline{V}-0.05)^{0.6223} + 0.3696\overline{V}Tu(34-t_a)$$

$$(\overline{V}-0.05)^{0.6223}$$

for  $\overline{v}$ <0.05 m/s insert  $\overline{v}$ =0.05 m/s

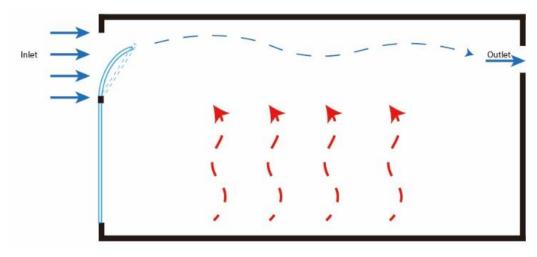
for PD>100% use PD=100%

Fig. 19. A three-dimensional representation of the draught-risk model. The surfaces shown correspond to 10%, 15% and 20% dissatisfied respectively. The axes are turbulence intensity, mean air velocity and air temperature.

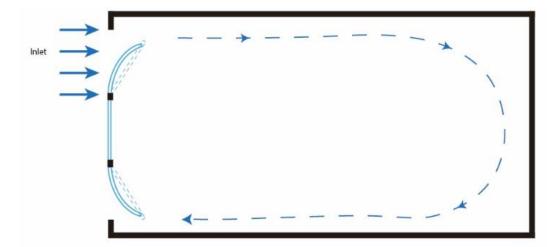


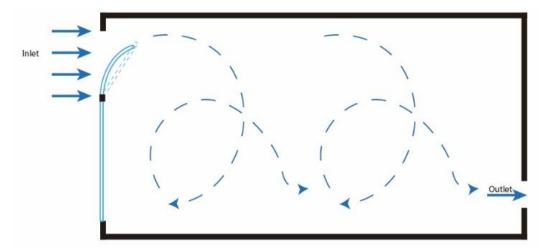
Source: (Fanger, 1988)

## Standard room configurations



Air exhausting



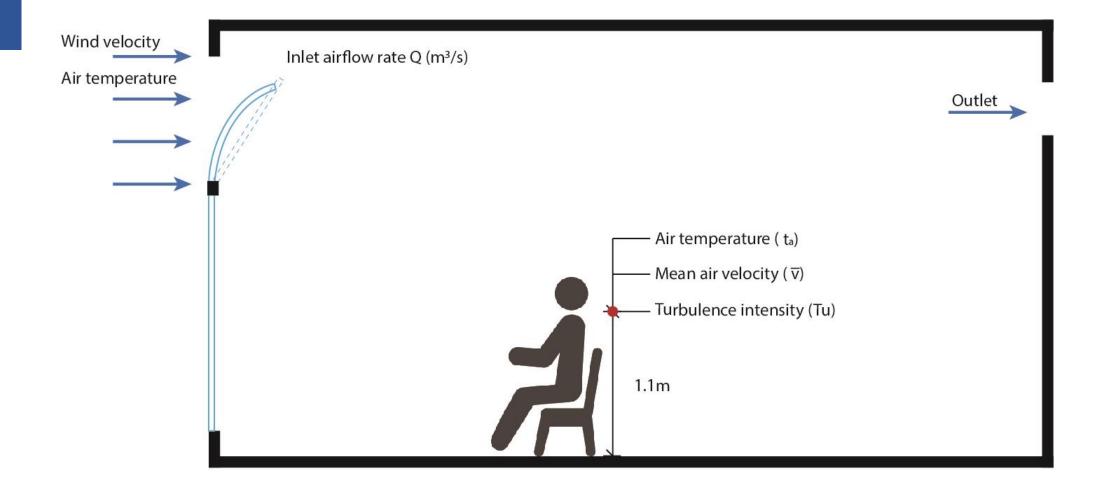


Air circulation

Single side ventilation



#### Standard room for simulation

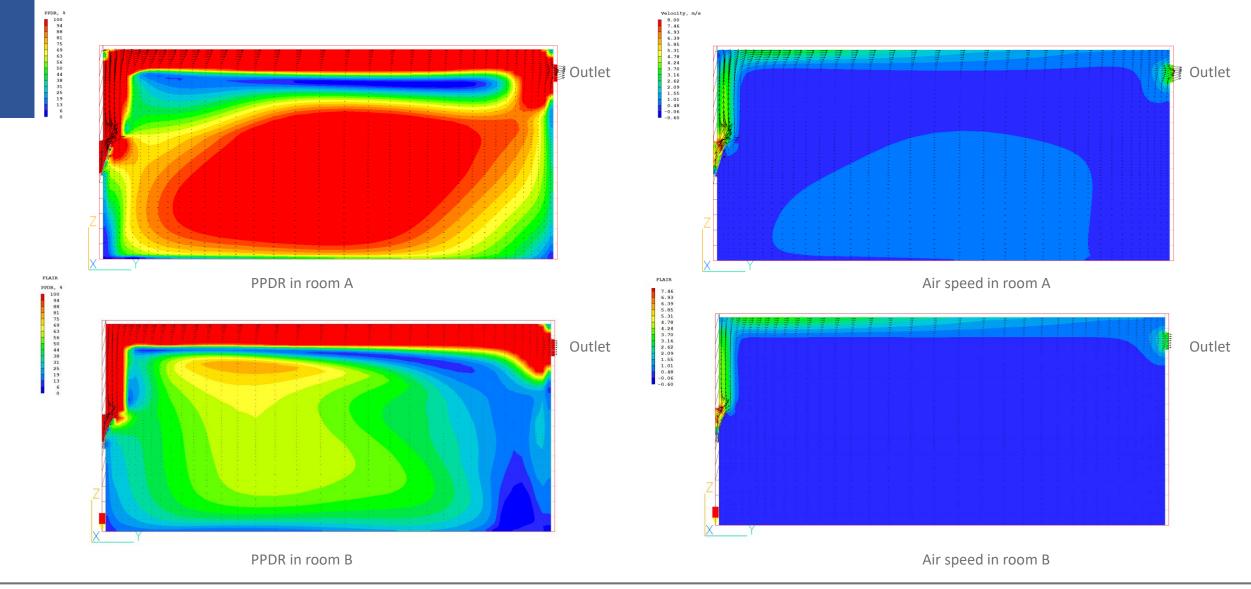




# **Phoenics CFD simulation** 0.45m Room A 3.0m 2.4m PPDR in room A 4.5m Room B PPDR in room B

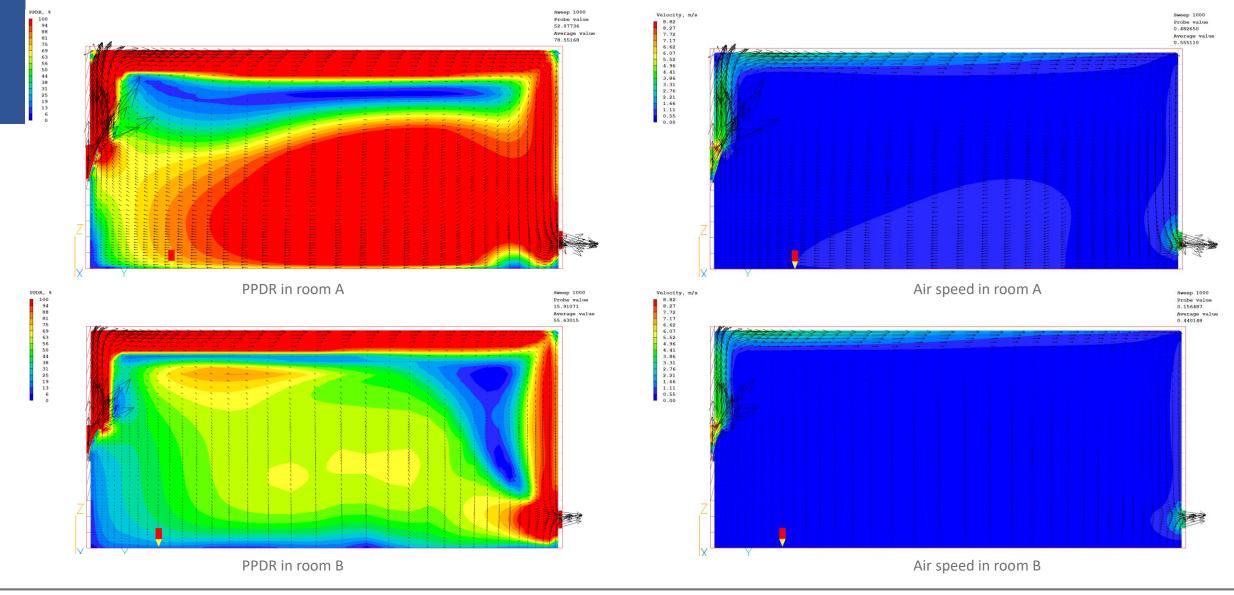


#### **Phoenics CFD simulation**

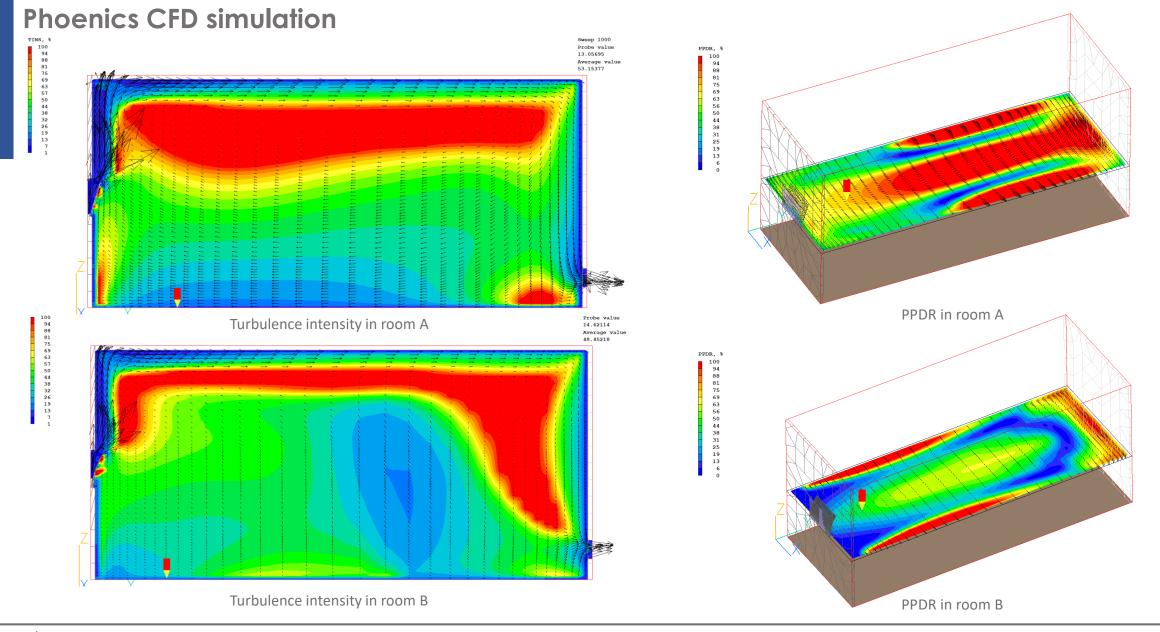




#### **Phoenics CFD simulation**







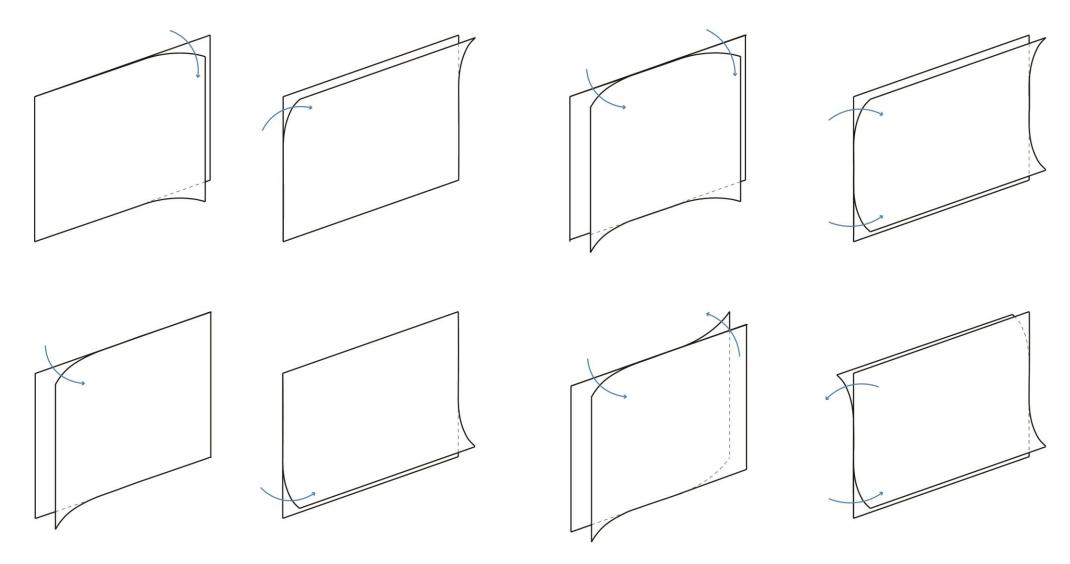


# **Part 5.2**

# Benchmark Exoskeletwindow



## Window opening configurations





#### **Product features**

- Smooth air flow rate changing ratio
- Adaptive hinge system
- Low maintenance compared to kinetic façade
- Easy to control and measured
- Meet different architecture function and aesthetic



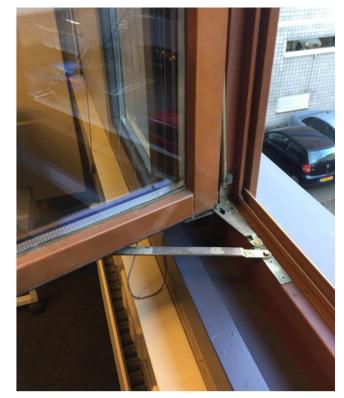
# **Part 5.3**

# Case study







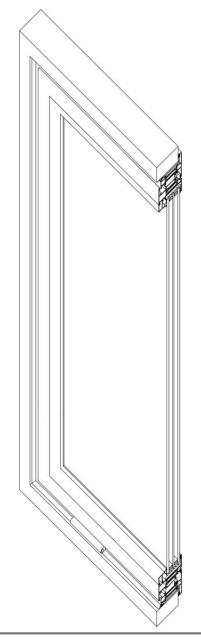


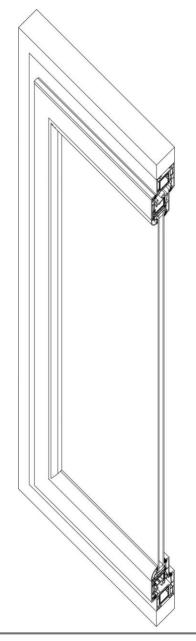
Google map view

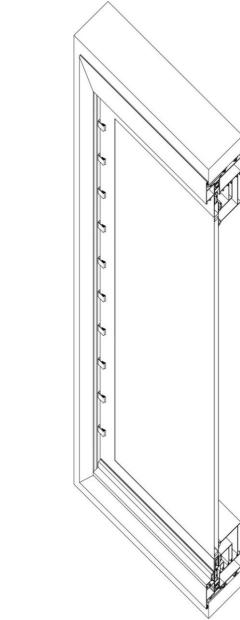
TPM Building facade

Window hinge system







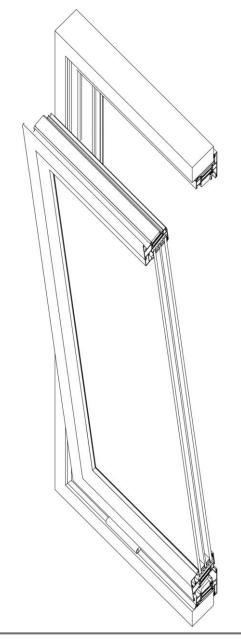


RT 82 HI+

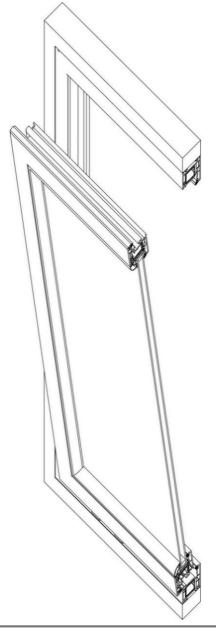
IDEAL 5000

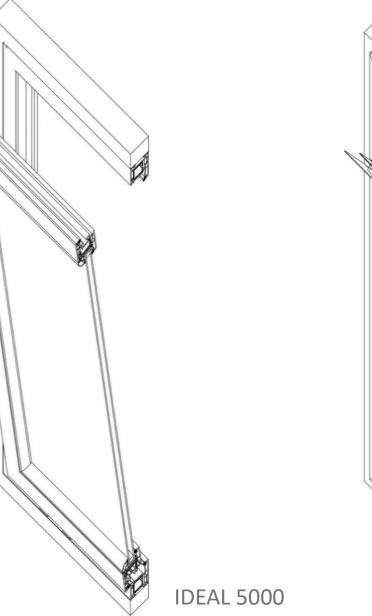


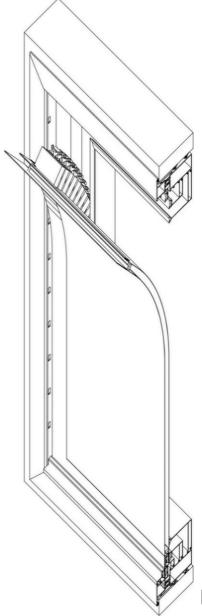




RT 82 HI+

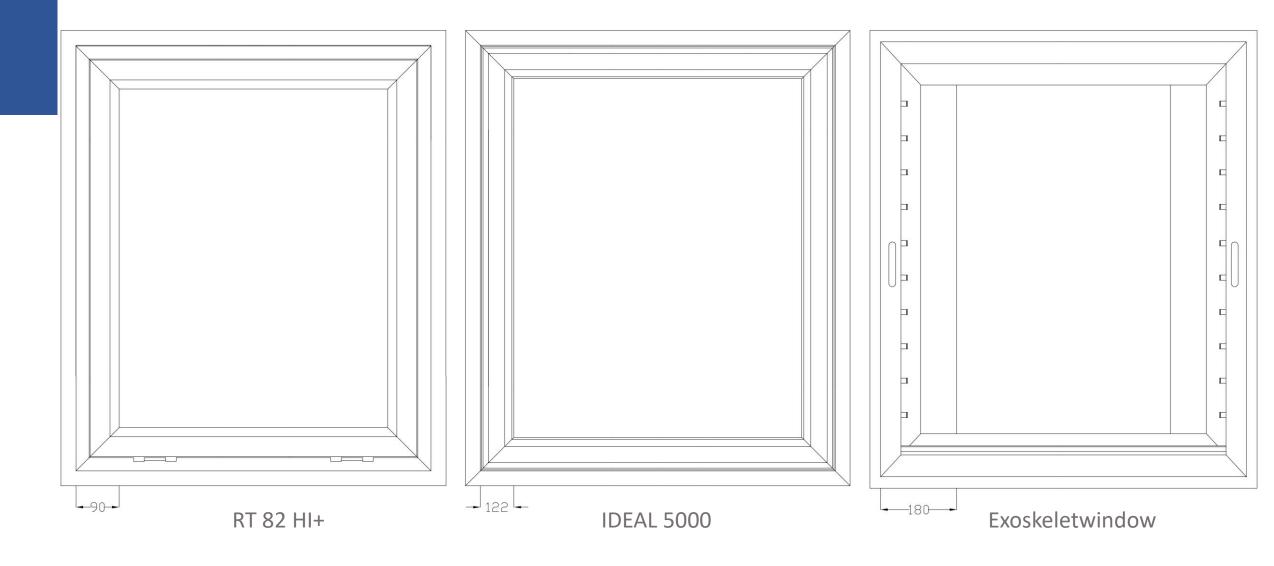






Exoskeletwindow









Future window



Future window

### Part 6

# Conclusion and discussion



### Advantage

- Automatically indoor environment
- improving by responding to the external environment
- No motors and mechanical equipment
- Lightweight
- Potential on geometry generation

## Disadvantage and limitation

Low insulation value

Too large window frame

- The low durability of rubber material
- Risk of delamination between silicone and thin glass

Conclusion: Not ready for the market, but worth further researching



#### Limitation of research

Wind load and wind direction effect on structure are not considered

Rubber material biaxial and uniaxial testing for Abaqus simulation

- CFD analysis in different configurations
  - Different window opening size
  - Different window locations
  - Different outlet locations



#### Future research

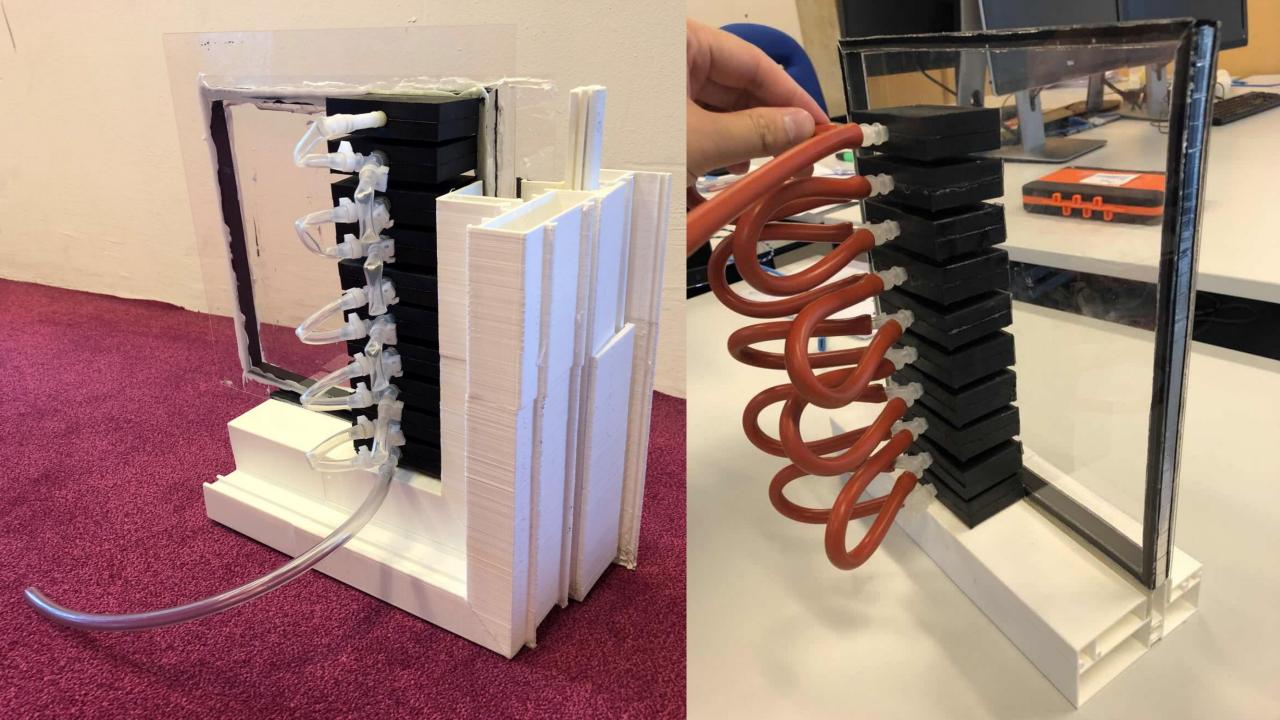
- Geometry generation
- Effects of wind load and direction

- Window location and opening size optimization to improve indoor comfort
- SPA material exploration
- Sun shading integration



# Physical model





# Exploration



#### Wing wall configurations

