

# Multi Climate Global Passive House

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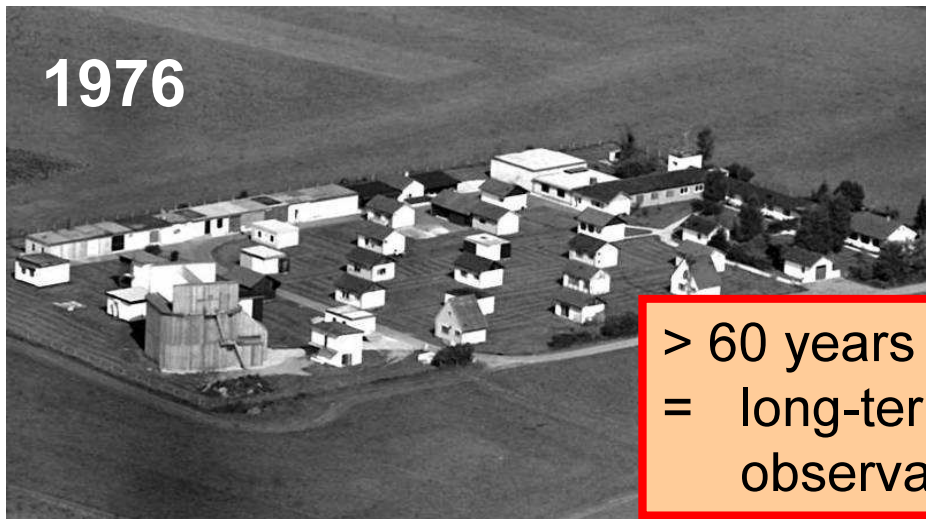
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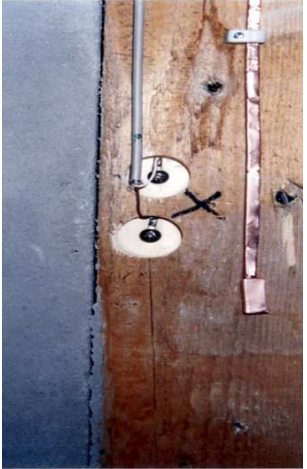
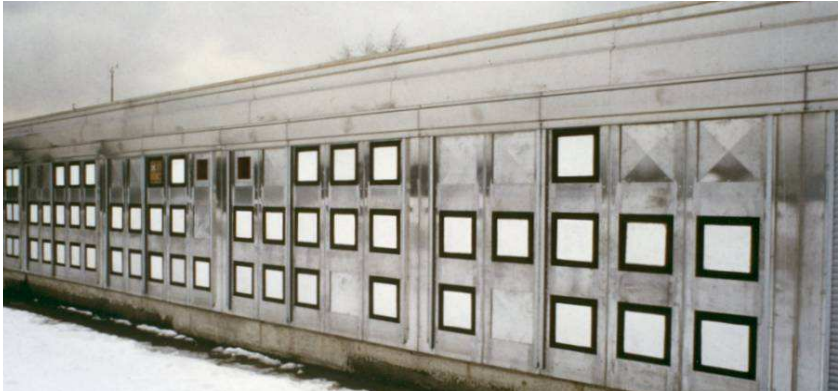
# Introduction

## IBP field test site in Holzkirchen



> 60 years of field tests  
= long-term durability  
observation

# Introduction



Measurements help to validate calculations

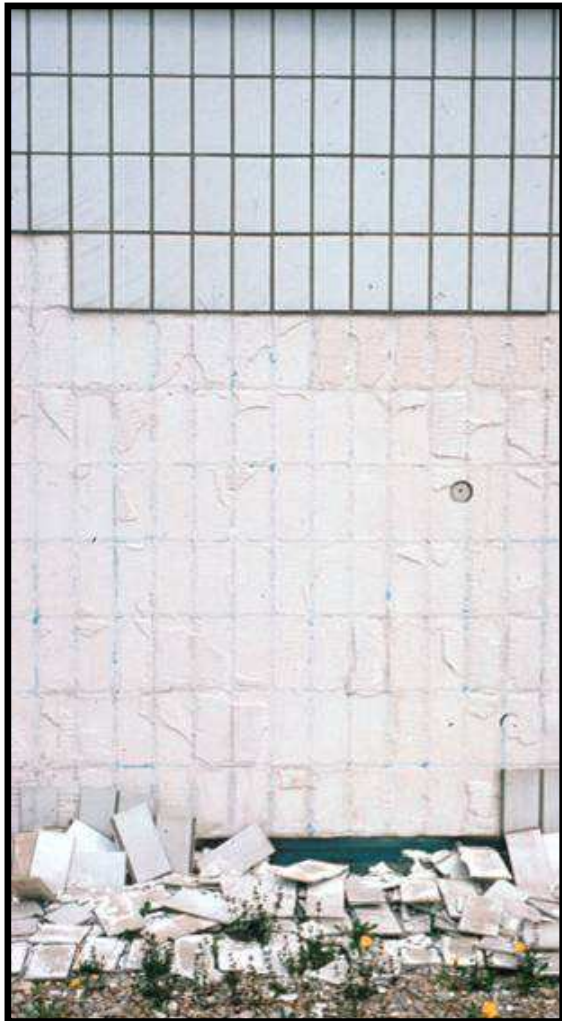
# Introduction



Green roof investigation  
Water retention is good for the environment but not always for the building

# Introduction

## Long-term observation of degradation processes



Moisture seems to be the main cause for degradation



# Introduction

## Investigating visible mold growth



Test of building material's susceptibility for different species of mold

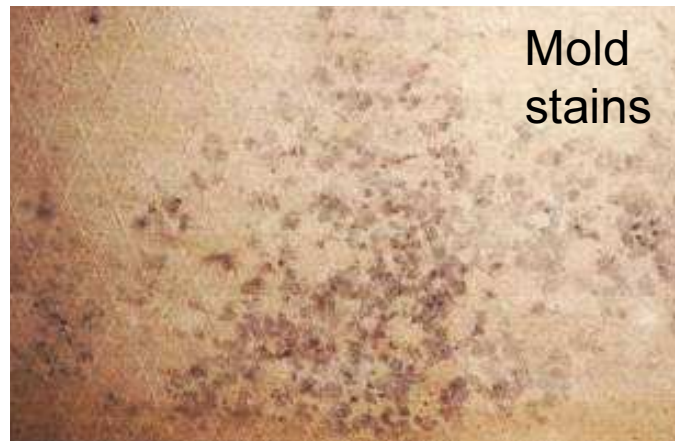
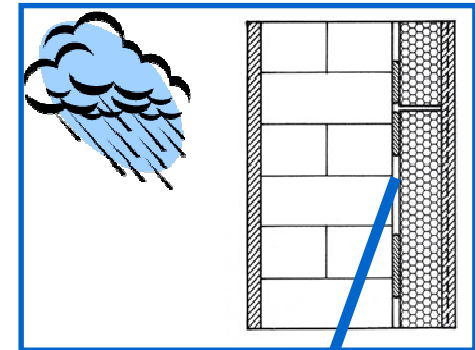


# Introduction

## Investigating invisible mold growth



Mold behind interior insulation due to high RH



Mold on kraft paper due to solar vapor drive



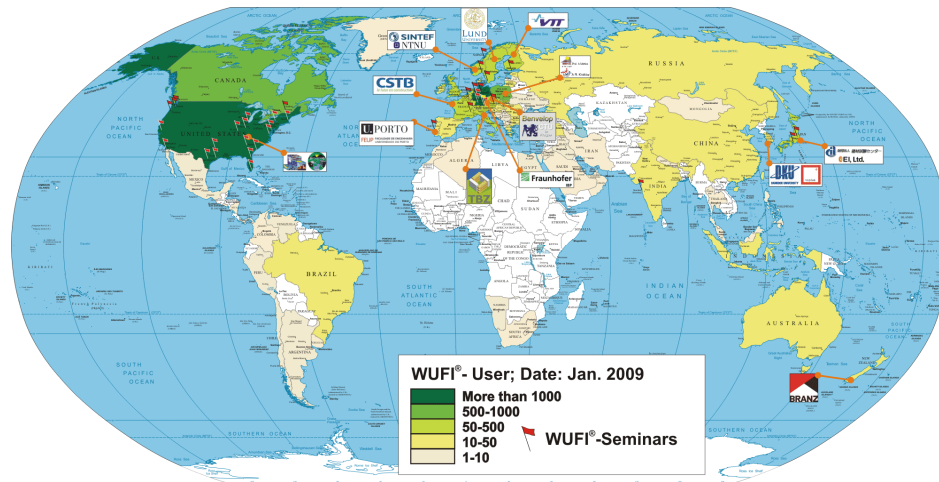


# Introduction



- ▲ Twin houses for comparative energy efficiency tests of residential buildings
- ◀ Commercial test building to determine energy consumption and comfort conditions

# Introduction



The hygrothermal simulation tool WUFI is used in more than 40 countries world-wide

## PRESS RELEASE

PRESSE RELEASE

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### A Design Tool for Passive Houses of the Future

Adoption of Passive House building principles is accelerating worldwide. The climate of the various countries where Passive Houses are being built has to be considered carefully for this unique type of design. Fraunhofer-Institute for Building Physics (IBP) has developed, in cooperation with the Passive House Institute US (PHIUS), the WUFI® Passive design software for Passive Houses in North America. The Fraunhofer IBP's hygrothermal analysis software WUFI® Plus was the basis for this new modeling tool.

**3 years of  
successful  
cooperation  
with**

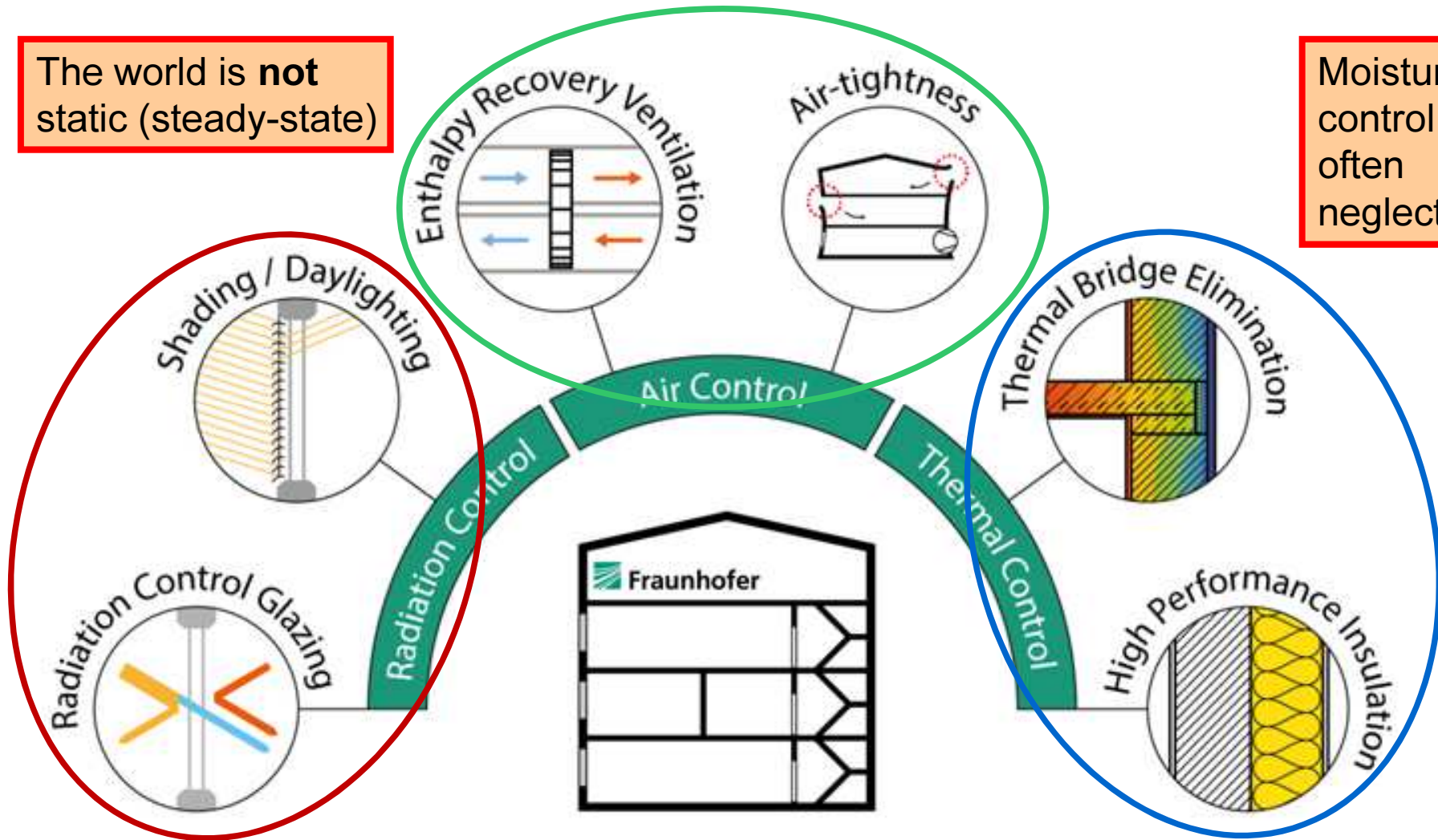


# Introduction

## Passive design principles for energy efficient buildings

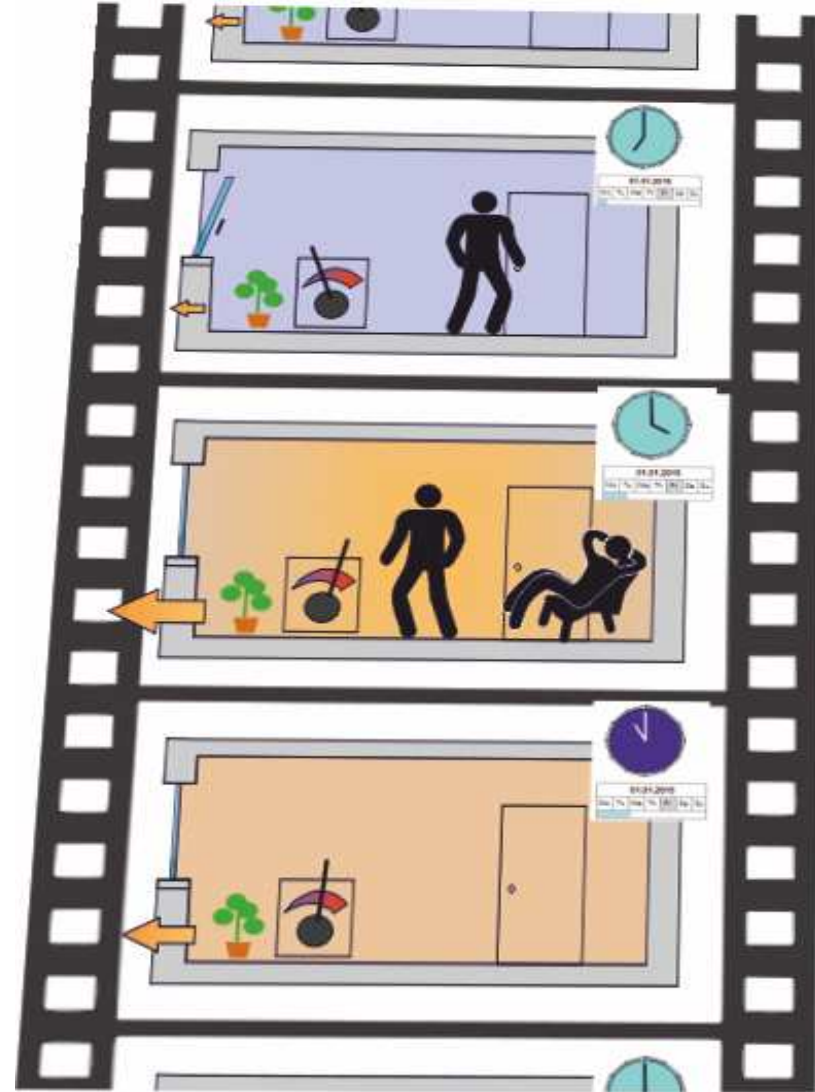
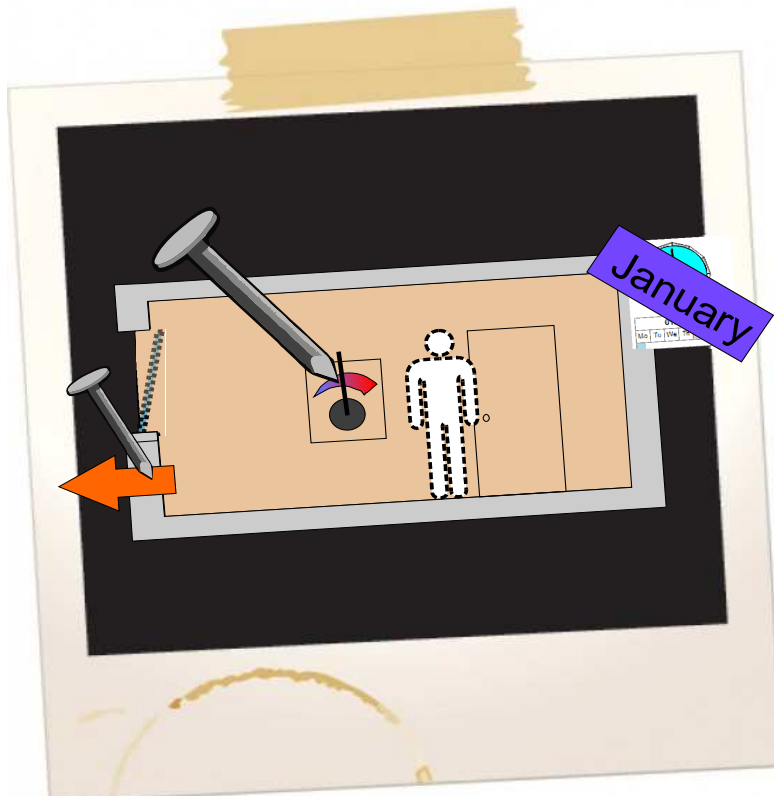
The world is **not** static (steady-state)

Moisture control is often neglected



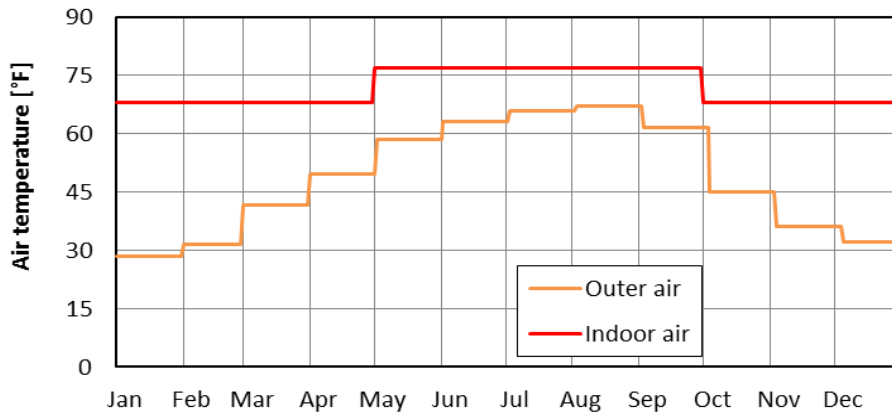
# Static vs. dynamic

simple vs. complicated?  
vague vs. accurate?



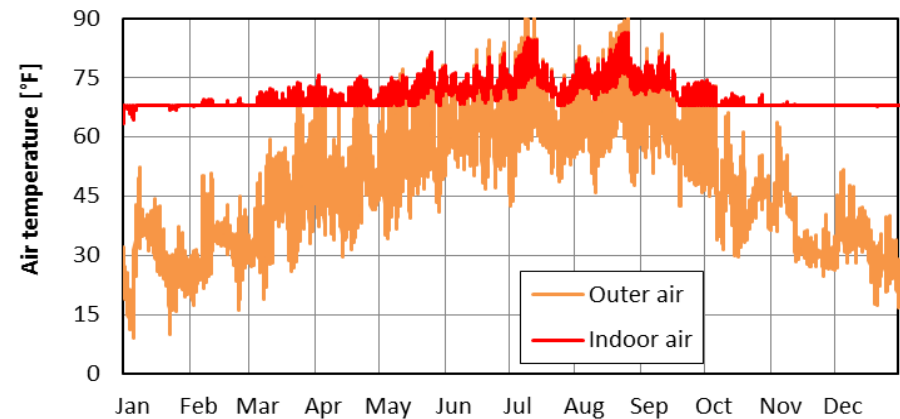
# Static vs. dynamic

## Monthly balance calculation



- no thermal inertia
- peak loads calculated separately
- comfort conditions are estimated
- time-averaged operation assumed

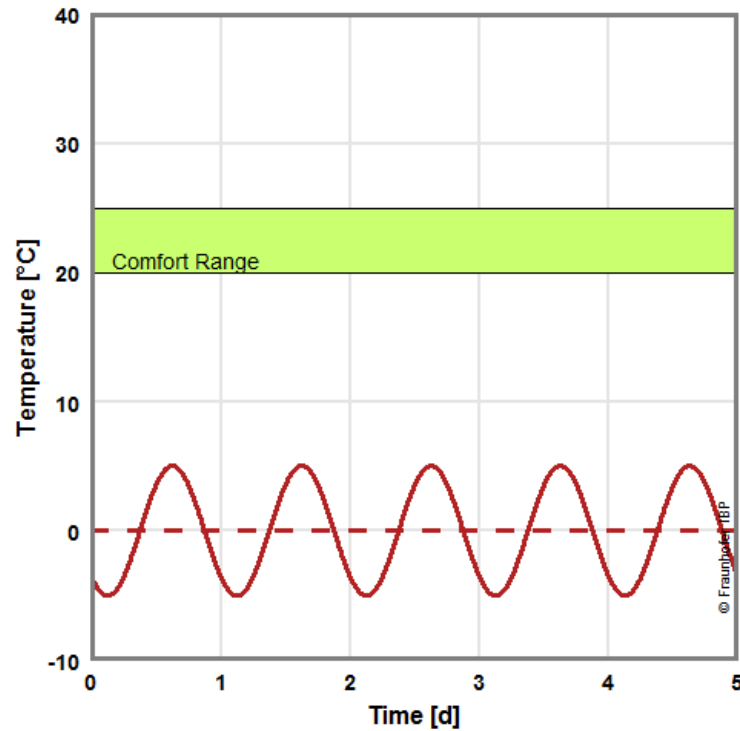
## Dynamic simulation (hourly)



- full heat and moisture storage
- peak loads are part of results
- dynamic comfort simulated
- detailed operation profiles definable

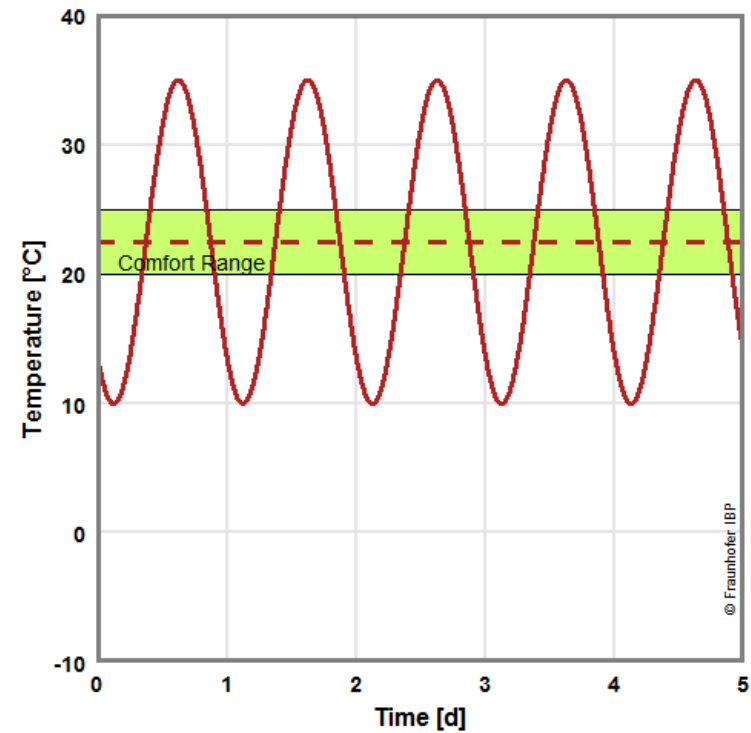
# Static vs. dynamic

## Heating climate



Monthly balance methods work well if heating is continuous

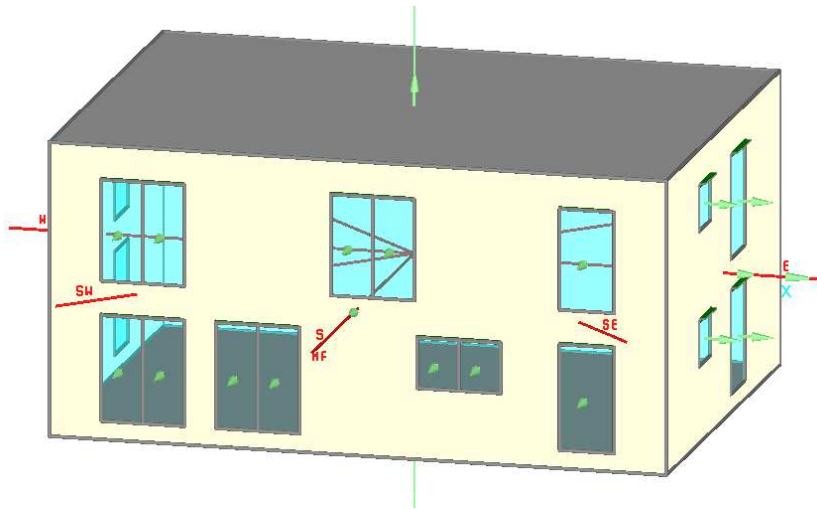
## Cooling / mixed climate



Additional dynamic (hygrothermal) simulation recommended

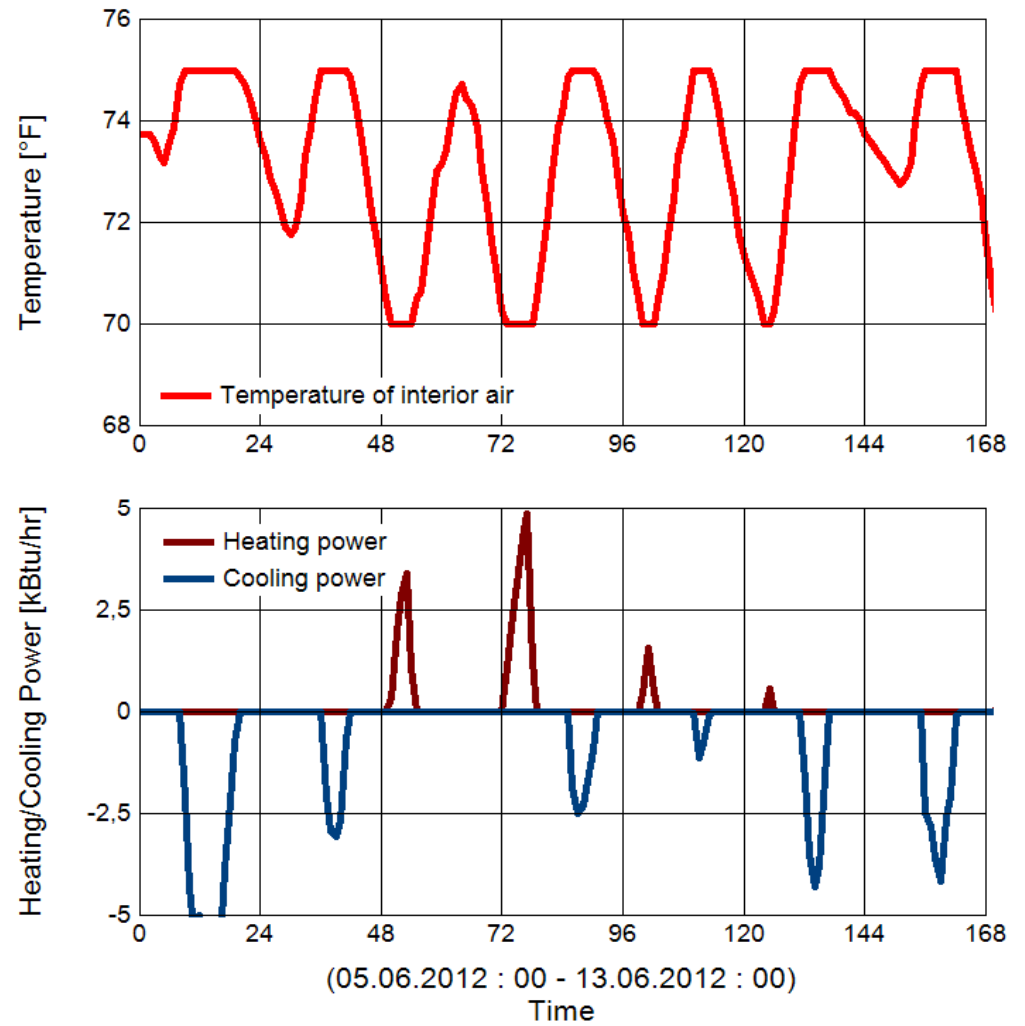
# Static vs. dynamic

## Heating and cooling in the same month

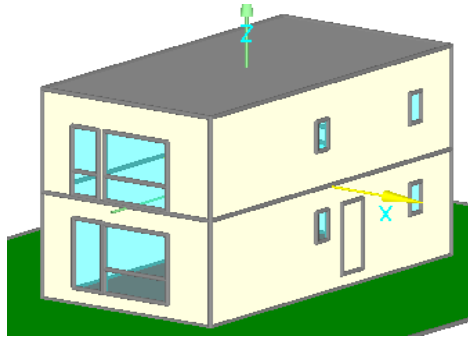


- **Passive House in Chicago**
- **Large window areas**
- **Mainly cellulose insulation**
- $R_{\text{wall}}$  and  $R_{\text{slab}} = 50 \text{ (h ft}^2 \text{ F) / Btu}$
- $R_{\text{roof}} = 60 \text{ (h ft}^2 \text{ F) / Btu}$

One week, beginning of June

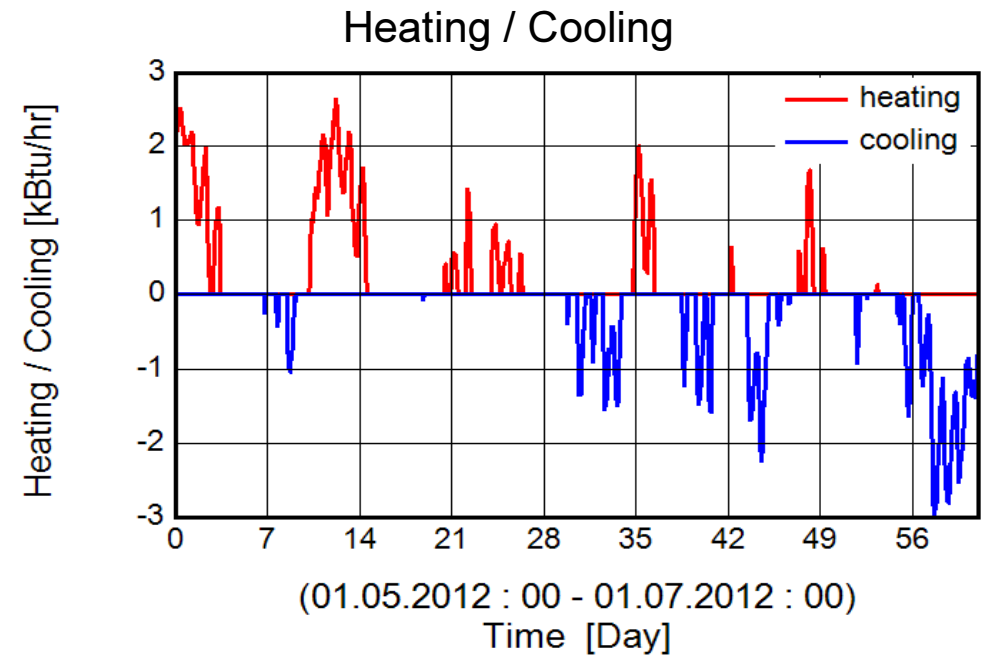
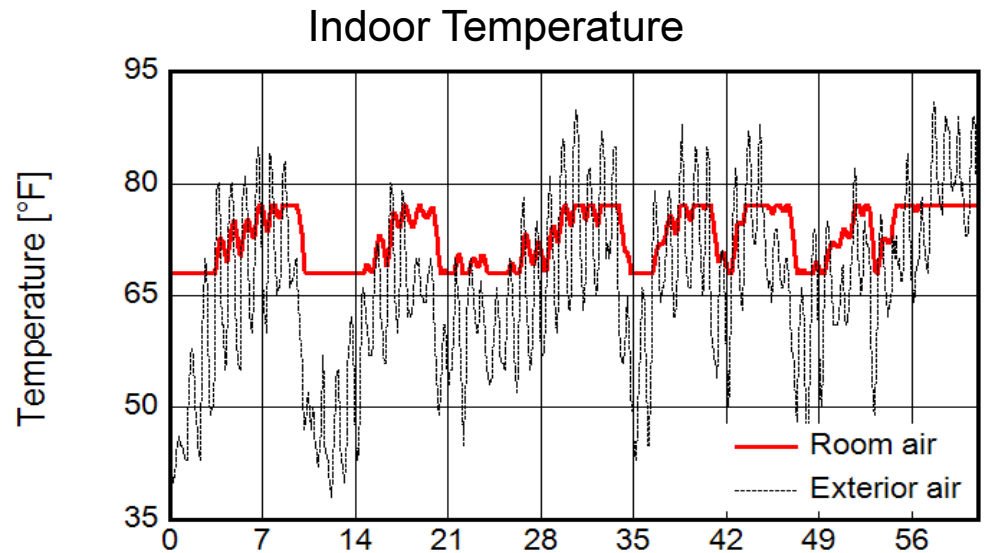


# Static vs. dynamic



## Dynamic conditions indoor

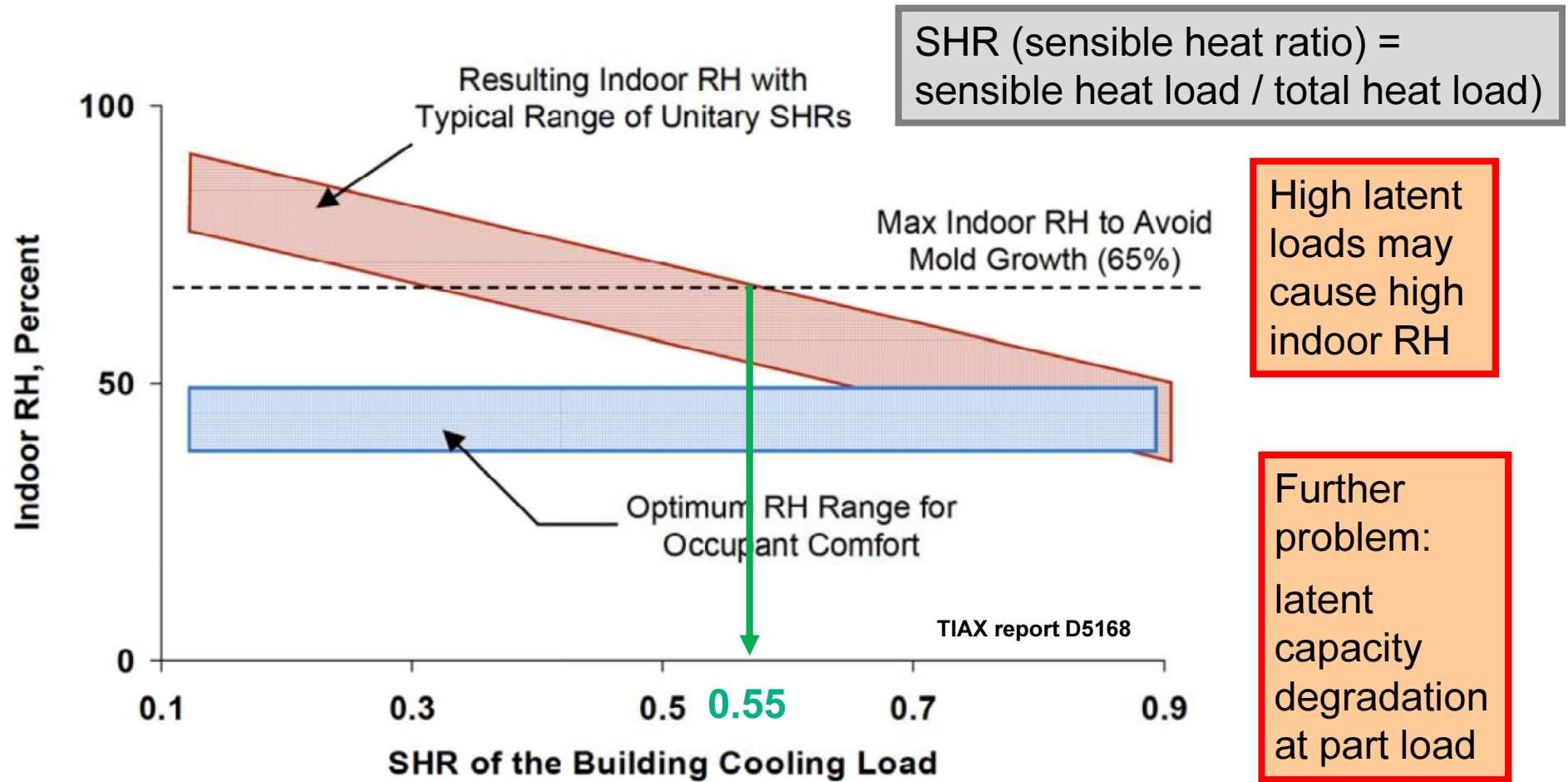
- Design conditions set points: 68 – 77°F
- Climate: **Savoy, IL**
- Heating Demand 3,45 kBtu/ft<sup>2</sup>yr
- Cooling Demand 2,843 kBtu/ft<sup>2</sup>yr





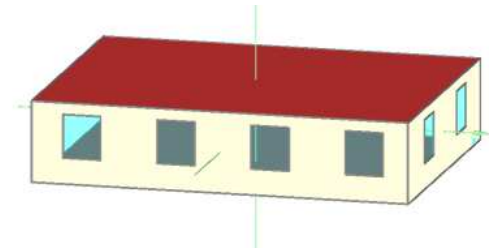
# Static vs. dynamic

## Moisture removal capacity of standard unitary AC systems

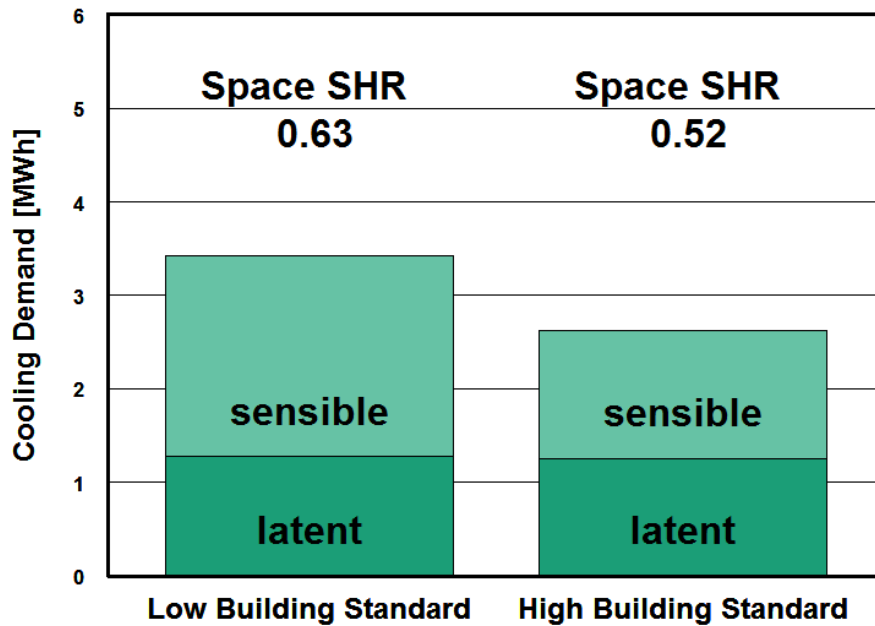


# Static vs. dynamic

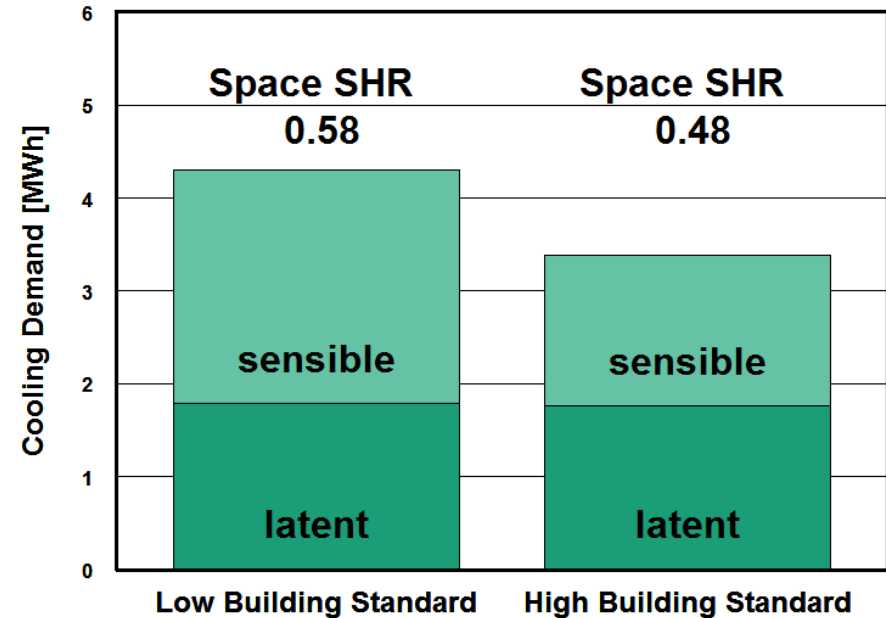
## Sensible heat ratio (SHR) of cooling loads in apartment building July / August



Beijing



Hongkong



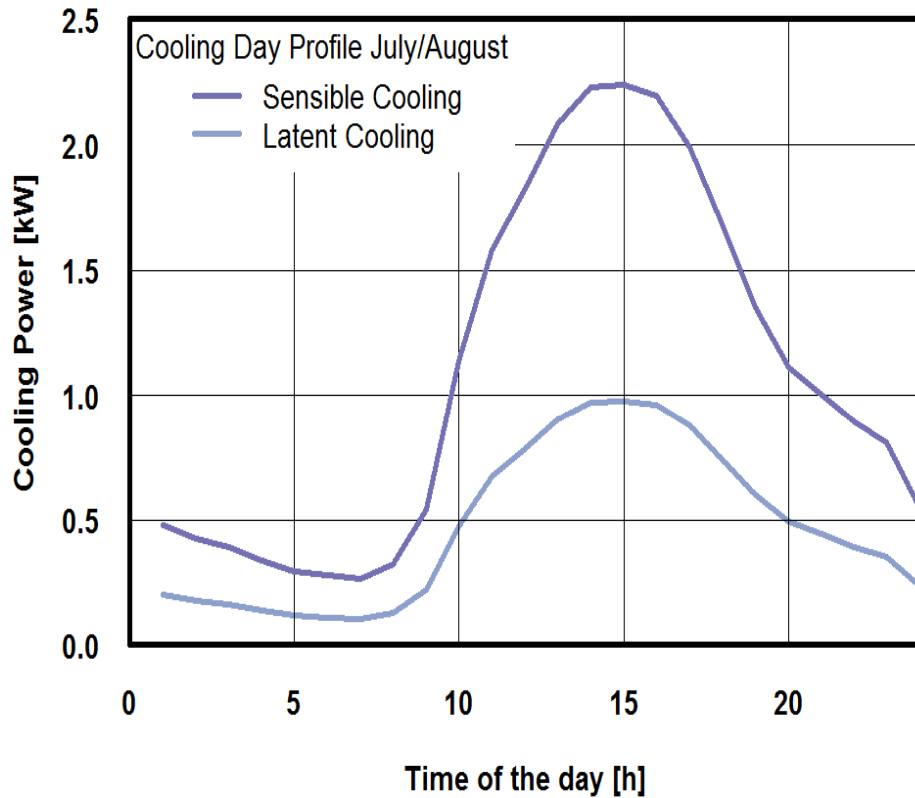
- Low Building Standard:  $U\text{-wall} = 1.2 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2\text{K})$ ,  $U\text{-window} = 2.7 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2\text{K})$ ,  $g=0.45$
- High Building Standard:  $U\text{-wall} = 0.26 \text{ W}/\text{m}^2\text{K}$ ,  $U\text{-window} = 1.3 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2\text{K})$ ,  $g=0.3$
- Ventilation: 0.6 ACH
- Set-Points: 25°C; 50 % RH

Improving the building standard reduces SHR of the cooling load

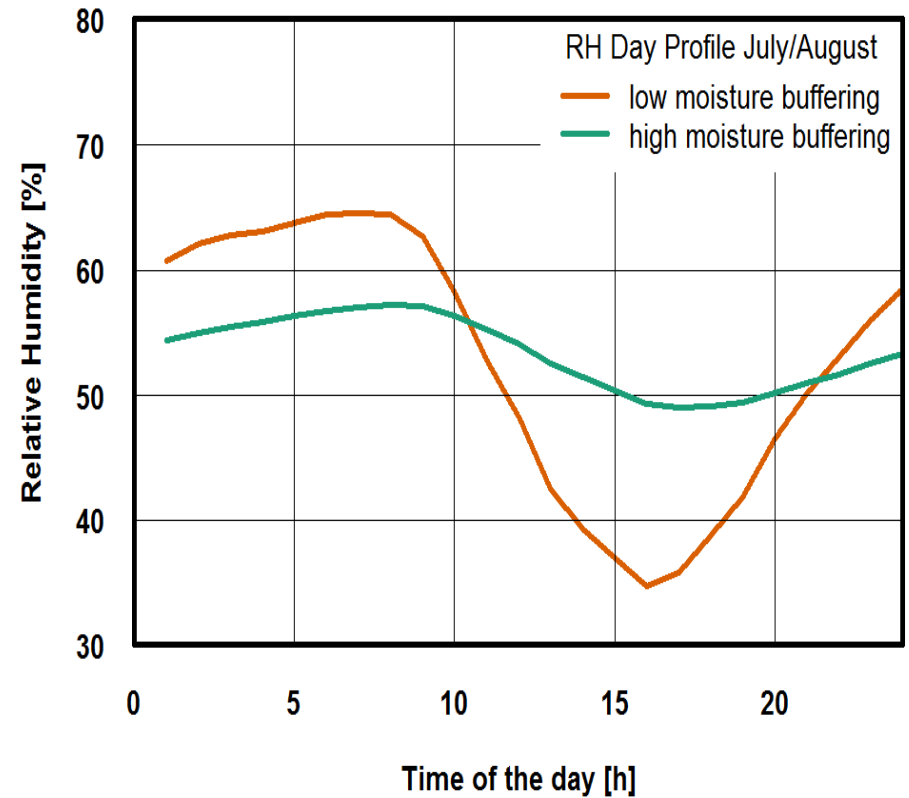
# Static vs. dynamic

## Cooling loads and indoor RH in apartment building July / August

Beijing



Beijing



Moisture buffering capacity of the envelope dampens daily indoor RH fluctuations

## Static vs. dynamic

### Energy efficiency measures and moisture control

In 2003 ASHRAE created a new TC on **Moisture Management in Buildings**

They sponsored a Forum dealing with the topic: **Solving Moisture Problems Created By Energy Retrofits**

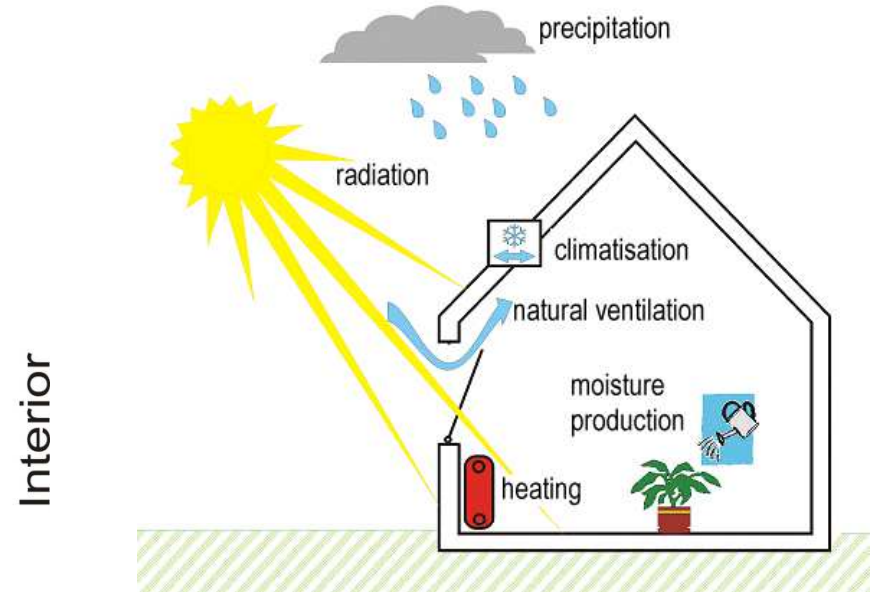
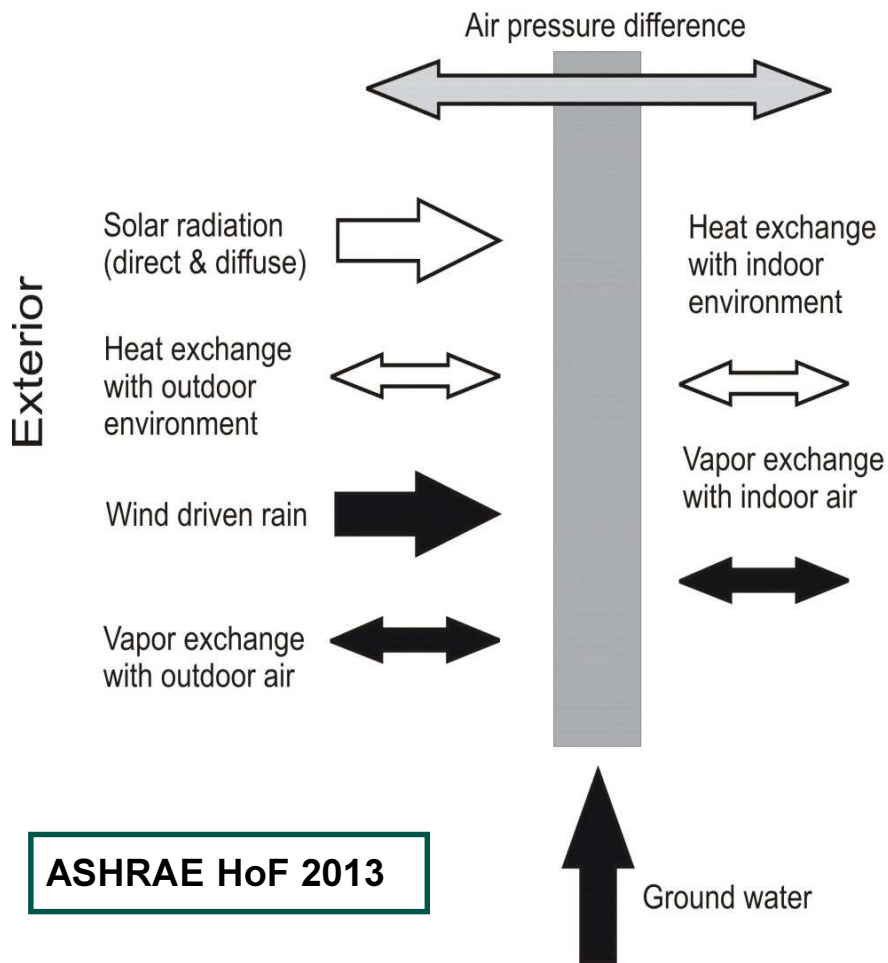
General problems / challenges associated with energy efficiency:

- better insulation >> colder exterior surfaces & less heat available to evaporate water in the assembly
- better air-tightness >> less air infiltration (cold climate problem)
- HVAC dehumidification capacity at part load conditions

Most problems can be solved by appropriate moisture control design

# Moisture control

## Hygrothermal envelope loads



### Moisture control:

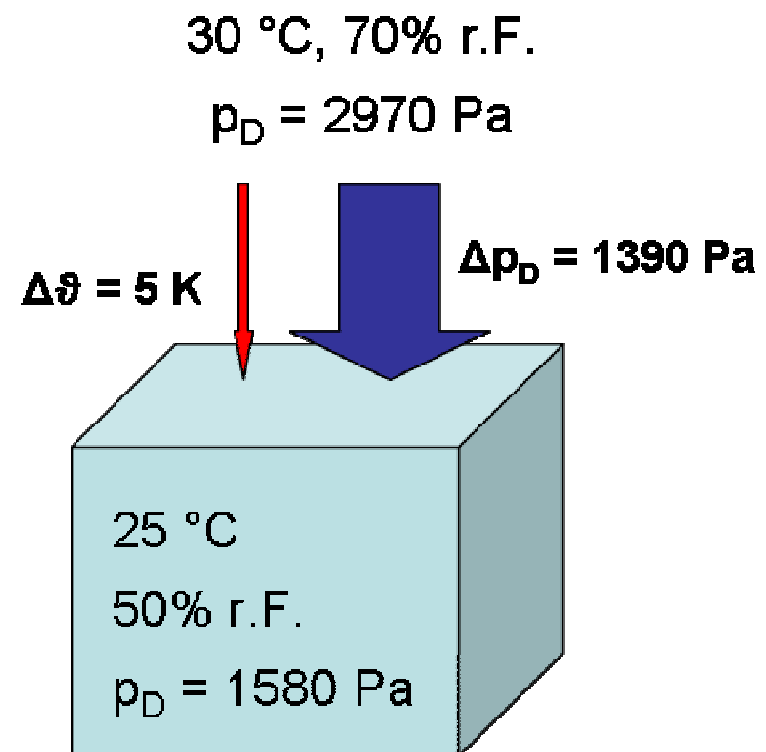
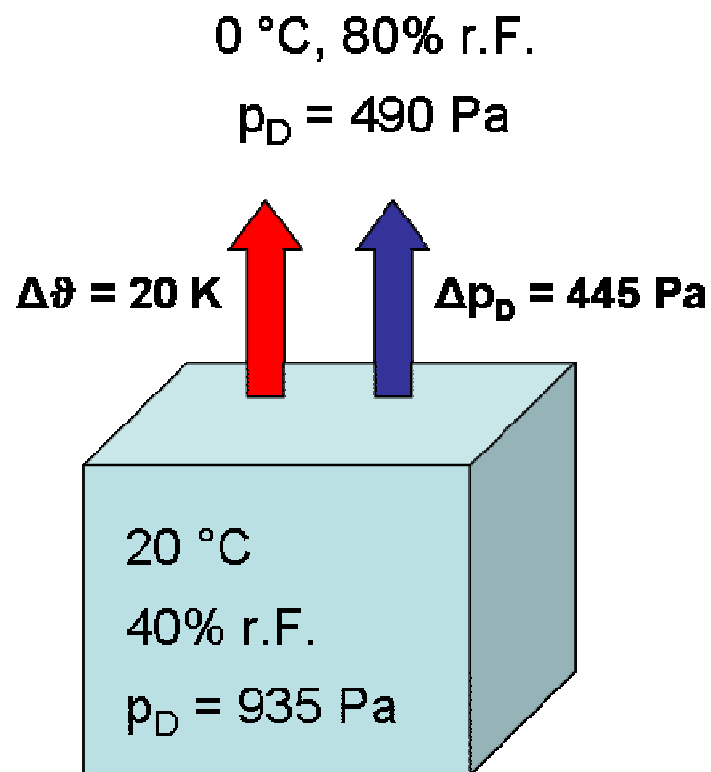
Protecting buildings and building systems from exterior and interior moisture loads

# Moisture control

## Temperature and vapor pressure gradients

Heating period: outdoor temp. 0 °C

Cooling period: outdoor temp. 30 °C

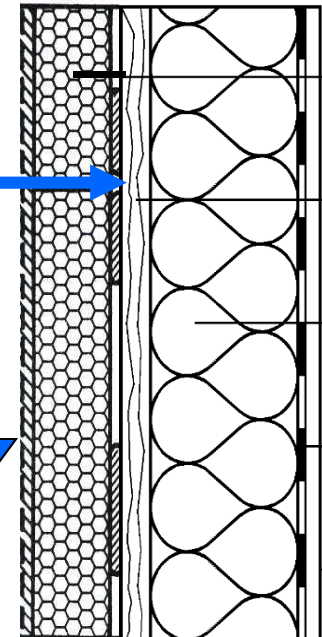
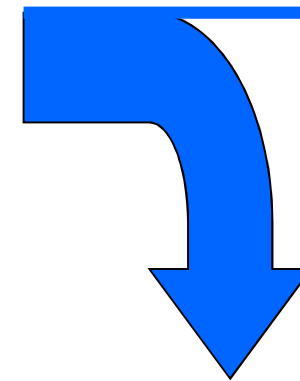


# Moisture control

## Driving rain



Wind  
driven  
rain



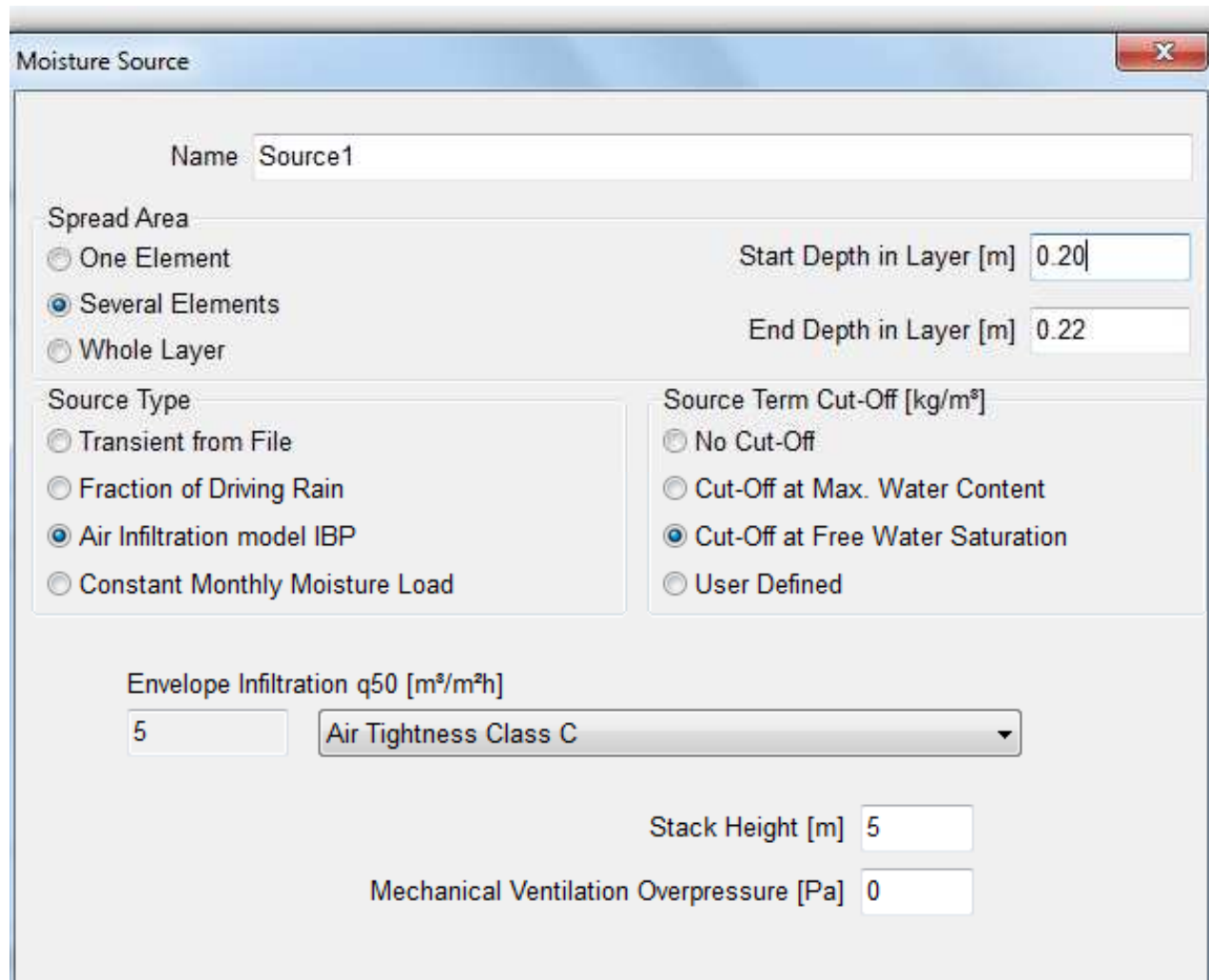
Driving rain is a major cause  
for building envelope failure





# Moisture control

## Air flow through the envelope



Moisture Source

Name Source1

Spread Area

One Element

Several Elements

Whole Layer

Start Depth in Layer [m] 0.20

End Depth in Layer [m] 0.22

Source Type

Transient from File

Fraction of Driving Rain

Air Infiltration model IBP

Constant Monthly Moisture Load

Source Term Cut-Off [kg/m³]

No Cut-Off

Cut-Off at Max. Water Content

Cut-Off at Free Water Saturation

User Defined

Envelope Infiltration q50 [m³/m²h]

5

Air Tightness Class C

Stack Height [m] 5

Mechanical Ventilation Overpressure [Pa] 0

Options to consider moisture sources in WUFI®

# Moisture control

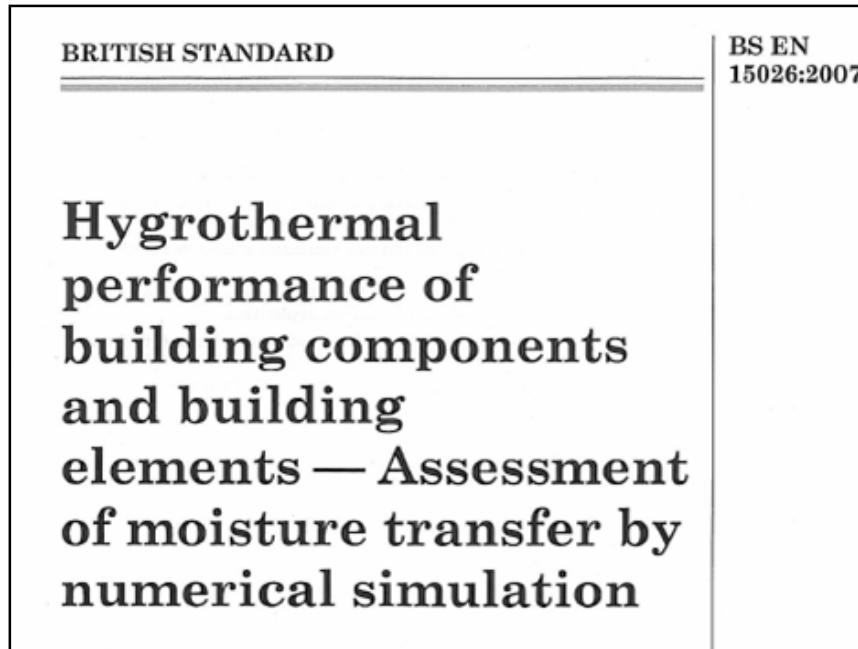
## Construction moisture



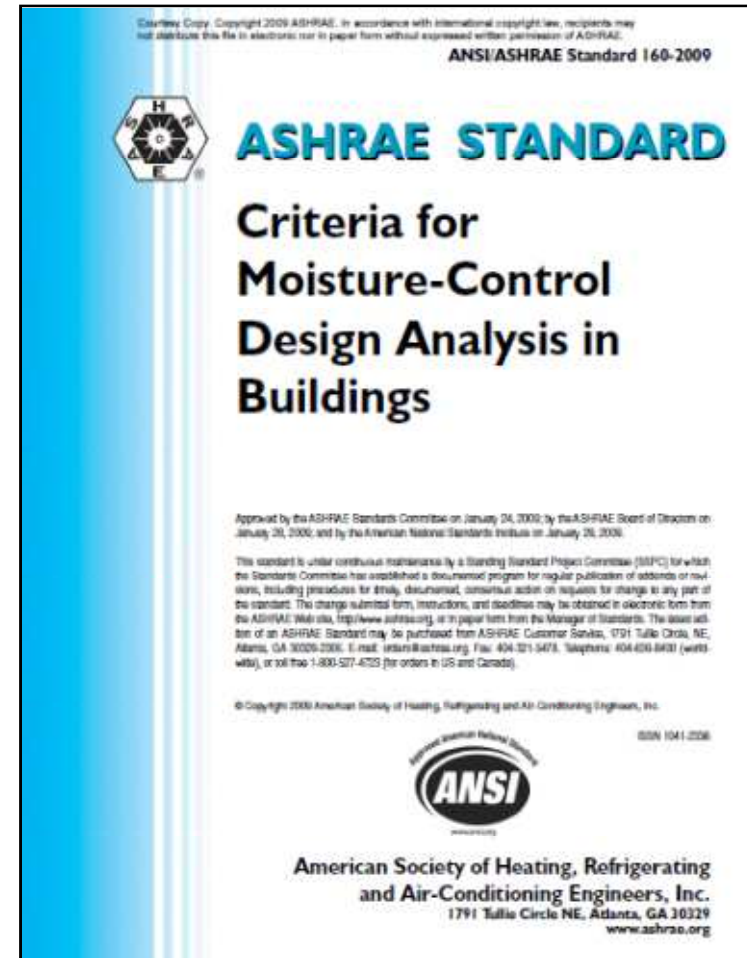
Masonry moisture may move upwards into the roof

# Moisture control

## Moisture control design by hygrothermal simulation



Hygrothermal behavior may be determined by validated simulation models ref. to EN 15026 or ASHRAE Std 160

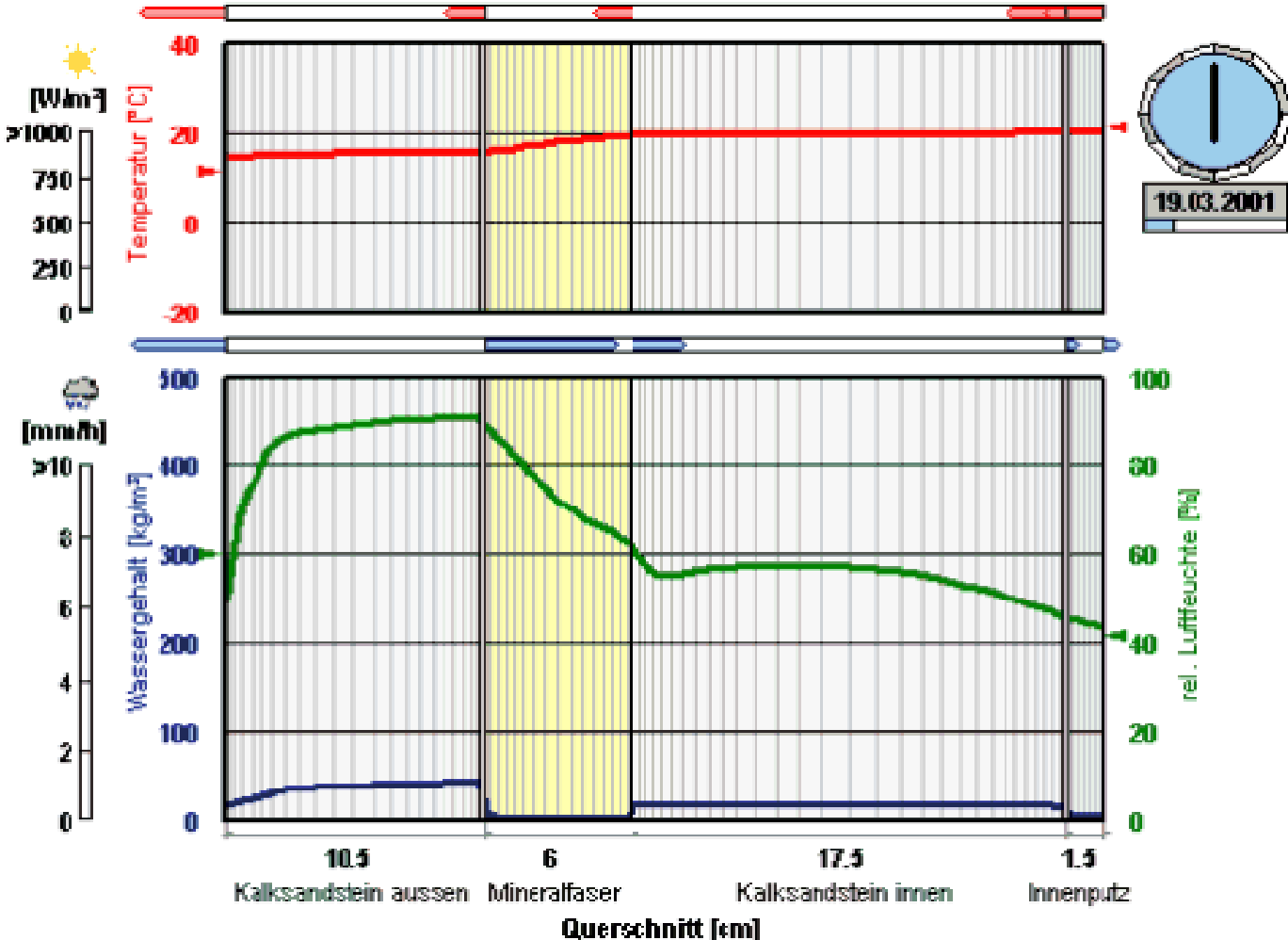


# Moisture control

Klimaort: Holzkirchen

WUFI®

berechnetes zweischaliges Mauerwerk aus Kalksandstein

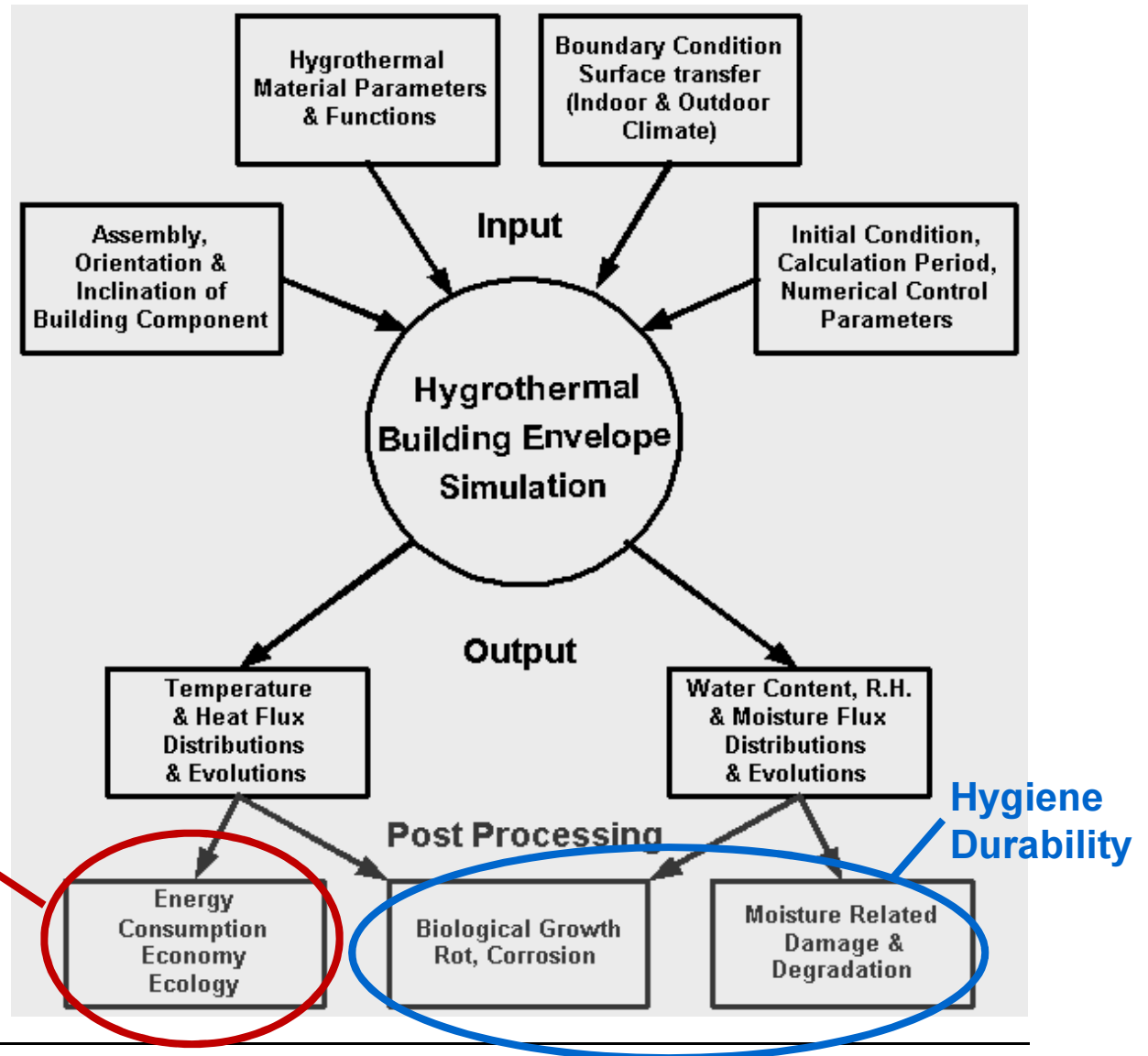


Hygrothermal simulation of dynamic temperature and moisture conditions in a cavity wall

# Moisture control

## Evaluation of transient hygrothermal simulation results by post process models

Flow chart in prEn 15026 showing how to perform hygrothermal simulation and how to evaluate the results



Energy related consequences

Hygiene Durability

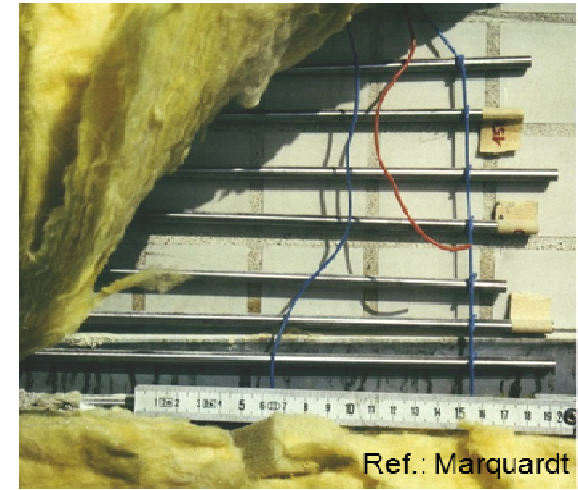
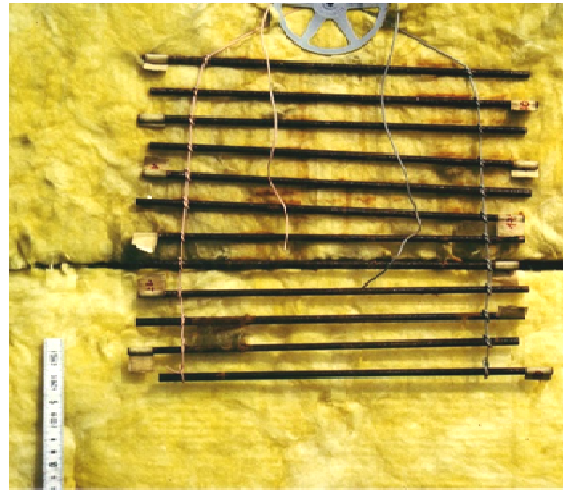
# Moisture control

## Assessing durability

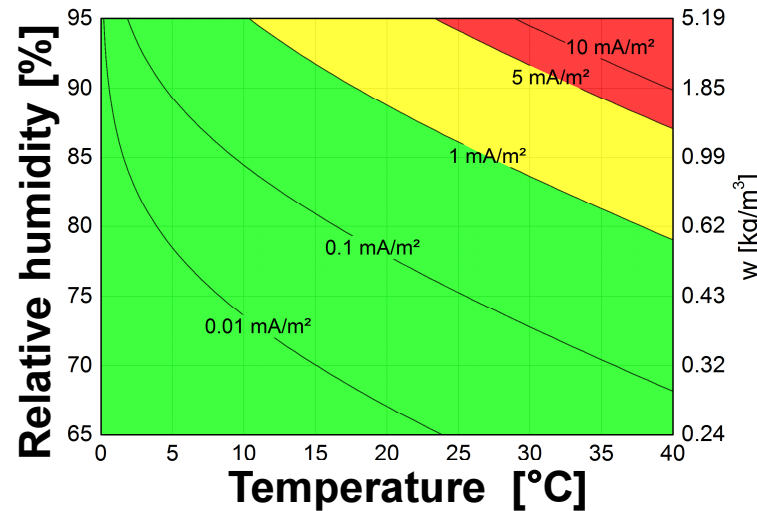


# Moisture control

## Predicting corrosion (WUFI® Corr)



Steel bars behind cladding & behind insulation

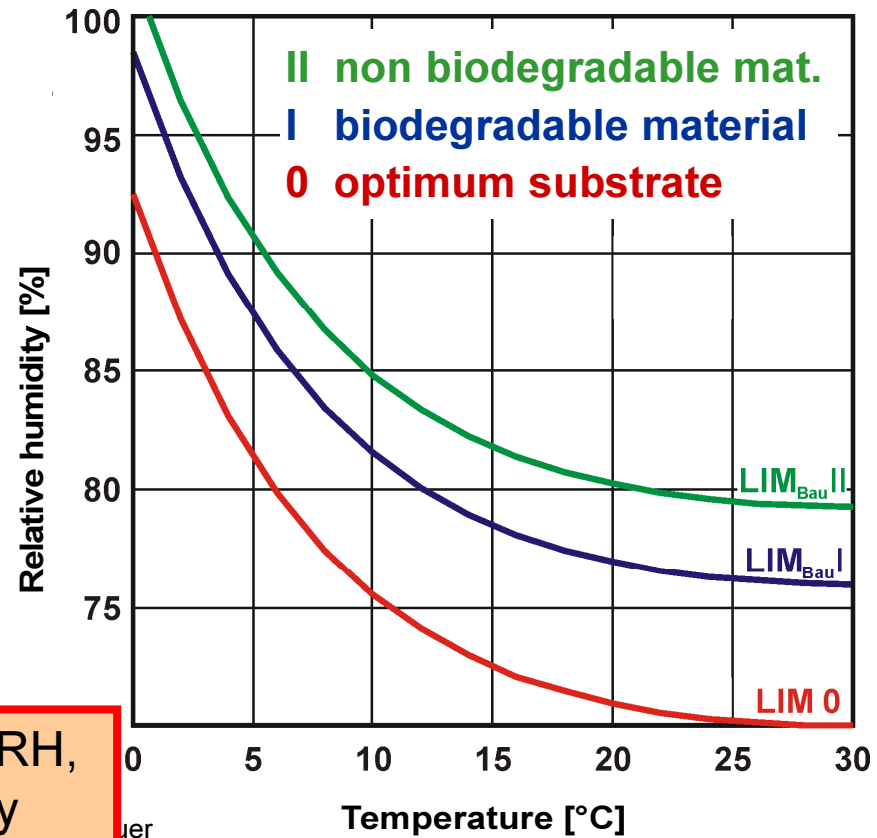
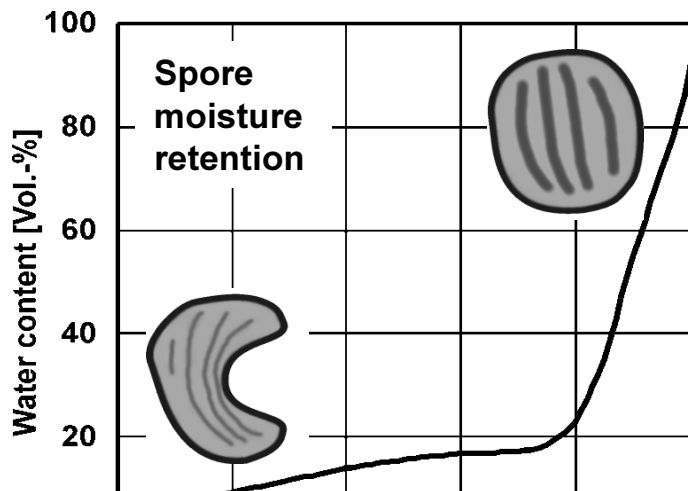
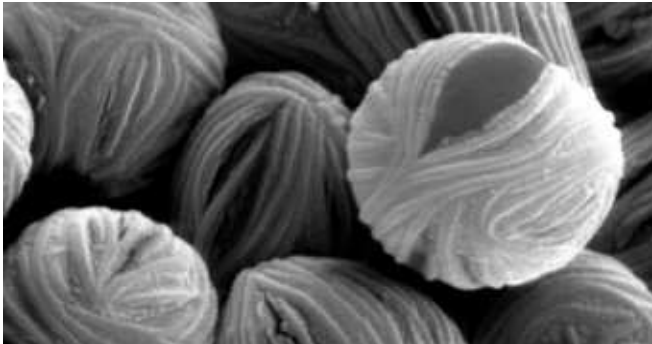


**Corrosion rate =  
f (temp., RH)**

**Corrosion rates  
of steel in mortar  
determined as  
function of temp.  
and RH**

# Moisture control

## Modeling mold growth

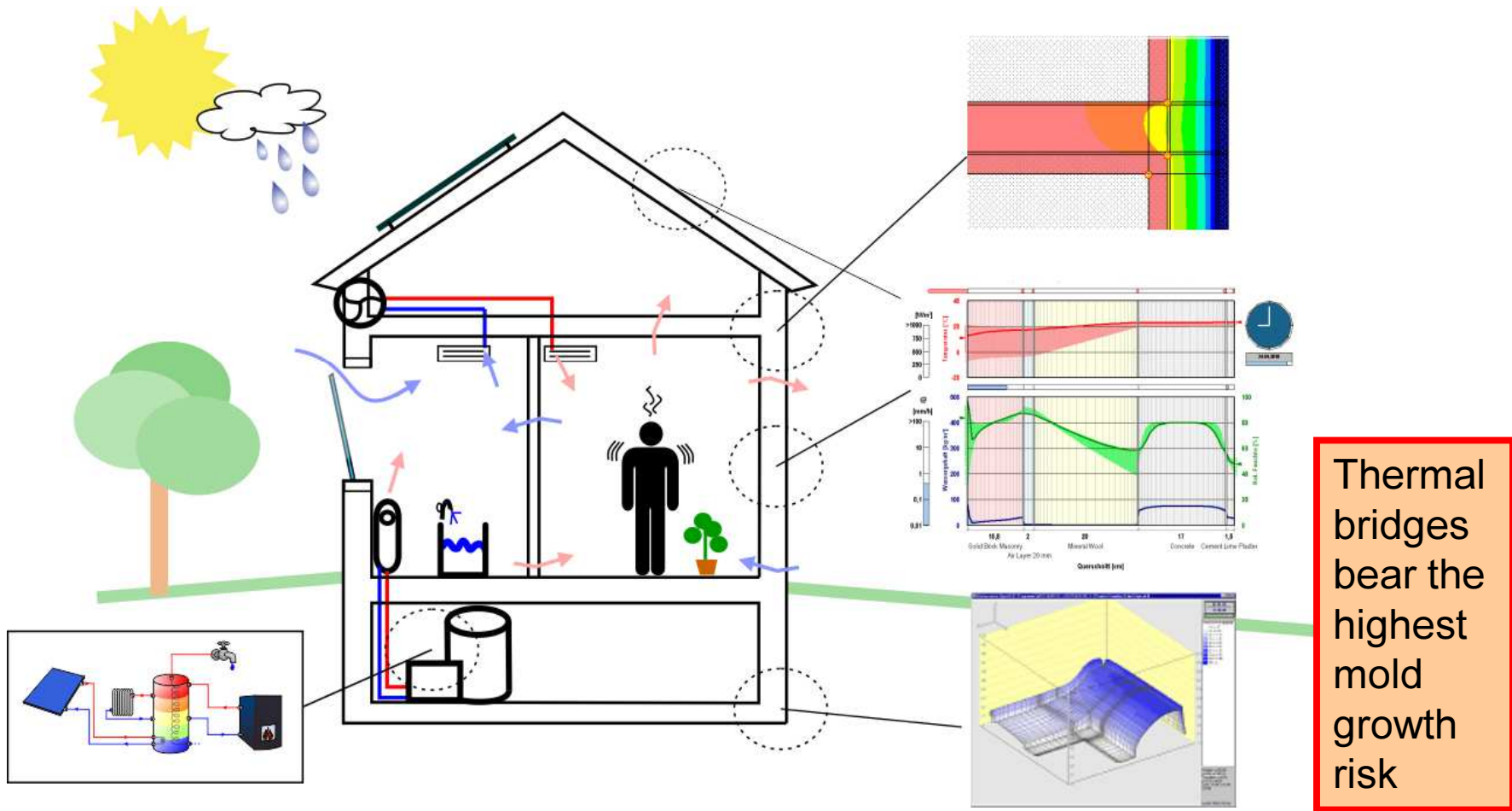


Mold growth depends mainly on RH, temperature and substrate quality



# Hygrothermal whole building simulation

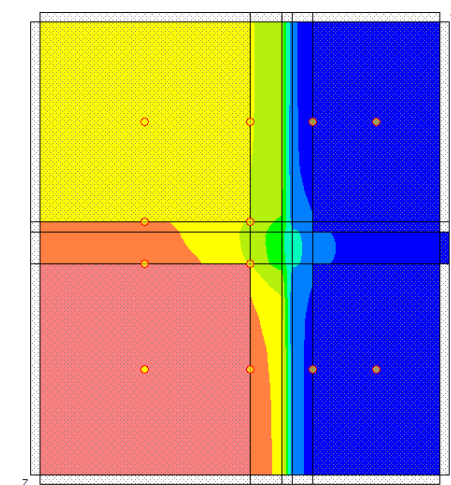
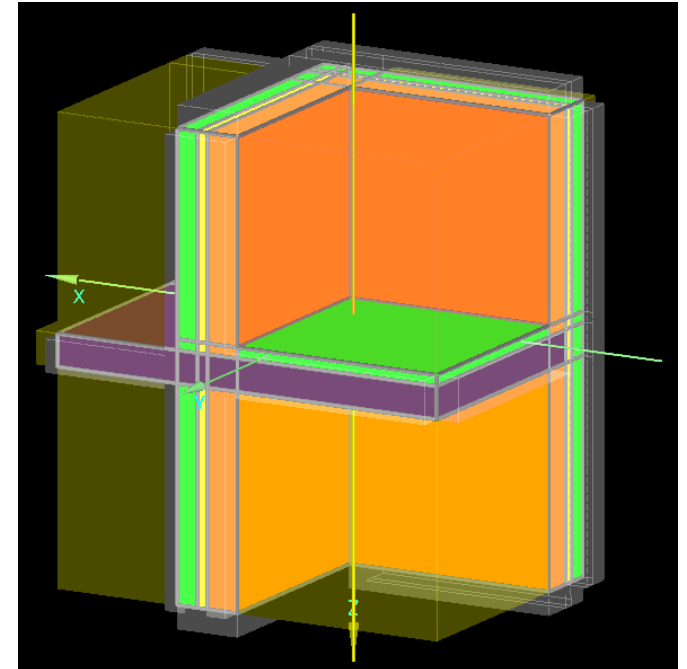
WUFI® Passive includes all heat and moisture exchange processes between the interior spaces and the building envelope



# Hygrothermal whole building analysis

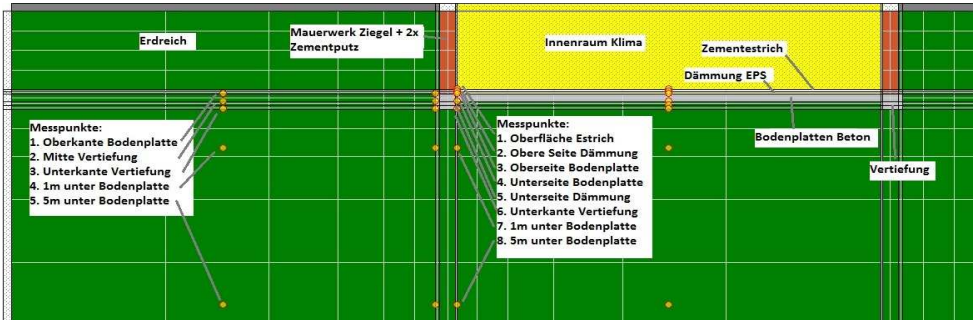
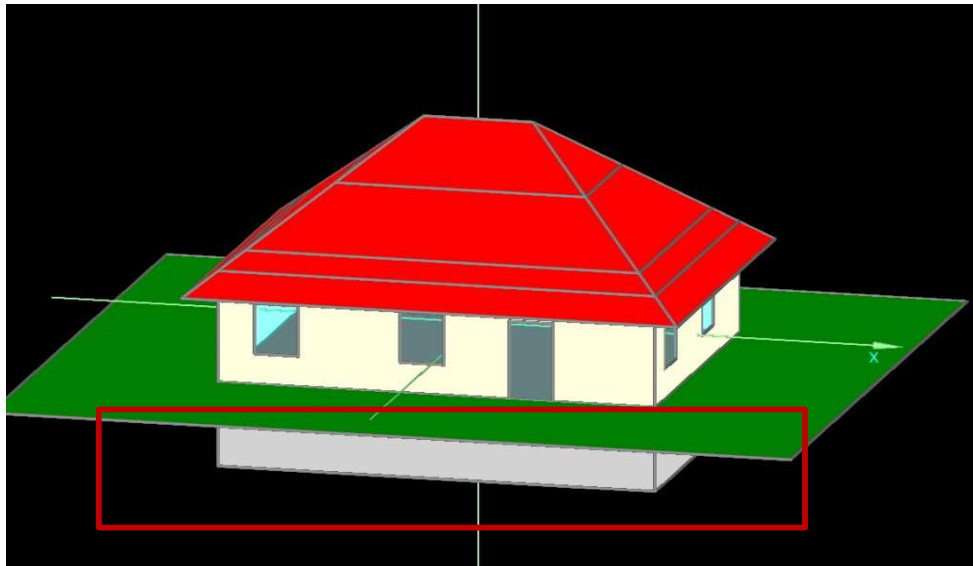
## Dynamic thermal bridge calculation

- 2- and 3-dimensinal thermal bridges
- With temperature and solar radiation as boundary conditions
- Dew point assessment on monitor positions
- Additional heat flux due to thermal bridge

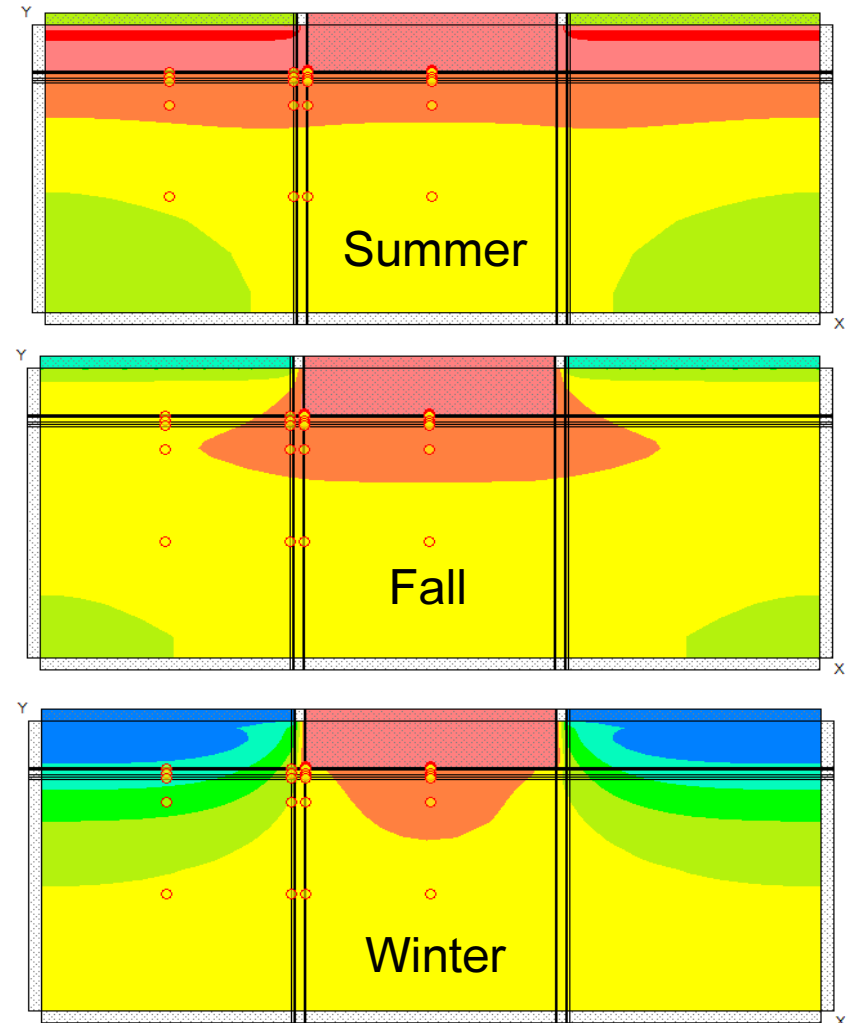


# Hygrothermal whole building analysis

## Ground heat transfer (3D simulation)



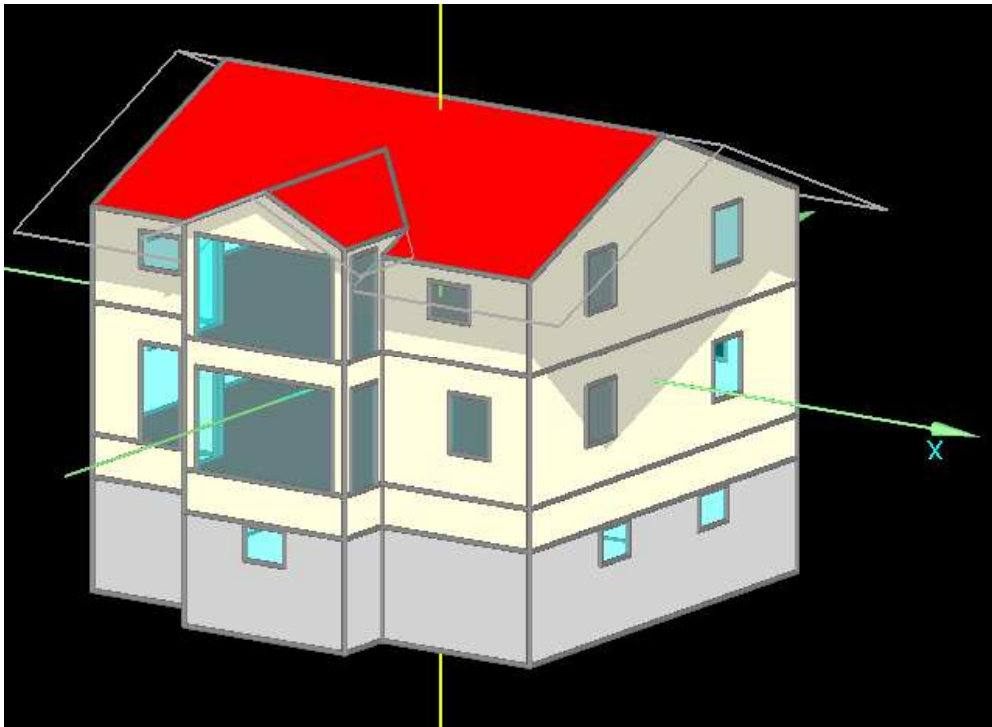
Temperature and solar radiation on the ground as boundary conditions



Results for heating dominated climate

# Hygrothermal whole building analysis

## Shading (never static or constant)



- Specification of elements to be shaded
- Self shading and exterior elements
- Calculated shading factors for each hour of the simulation period

# Hygrothermal whole building analysis

Shading or art – complex thermal bridges

J. Gang



Entering the details of the structure for thermal bridge calculations may be time-consuming

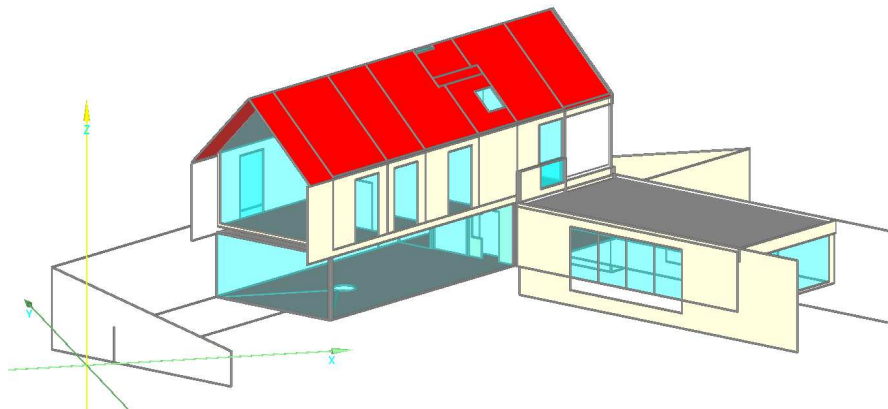


# Hygrothermal whole building analysis

## Data import for easy use of WUFI® Passive

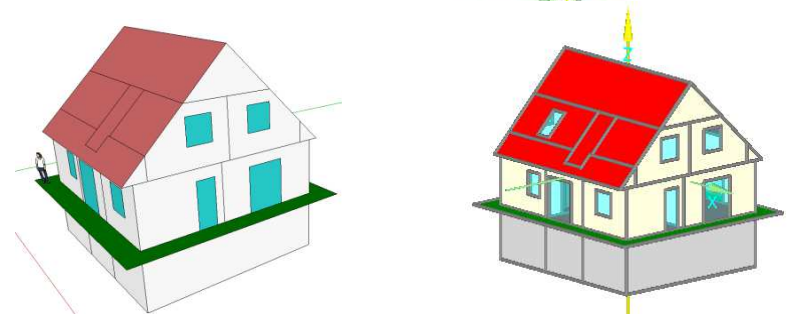
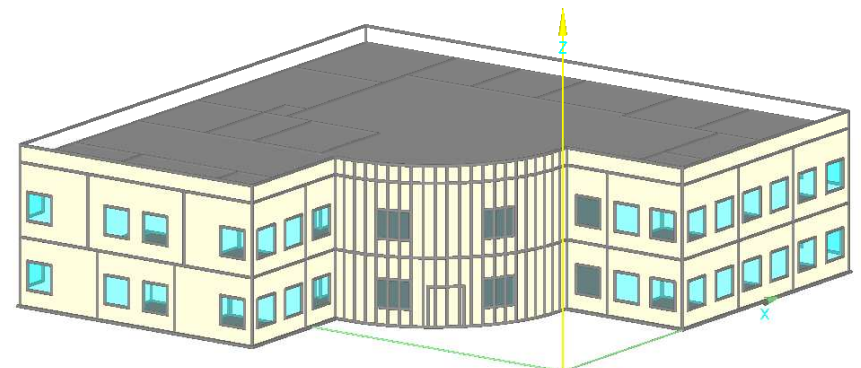
### Revit import

- Export Revit Model as gbXML
- Import any gbXML in WUFI Plus
- Predefined Zone definition



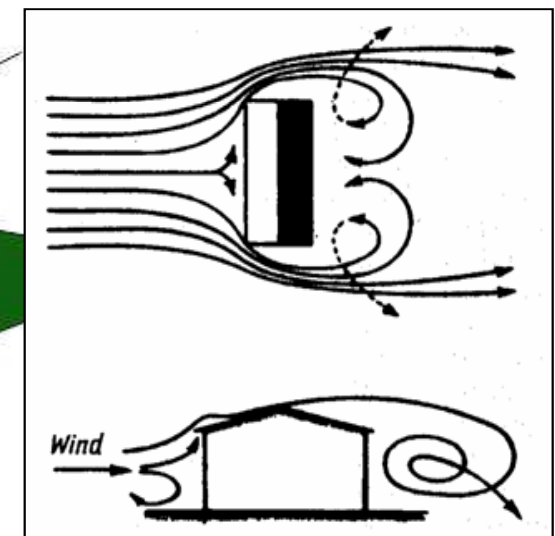
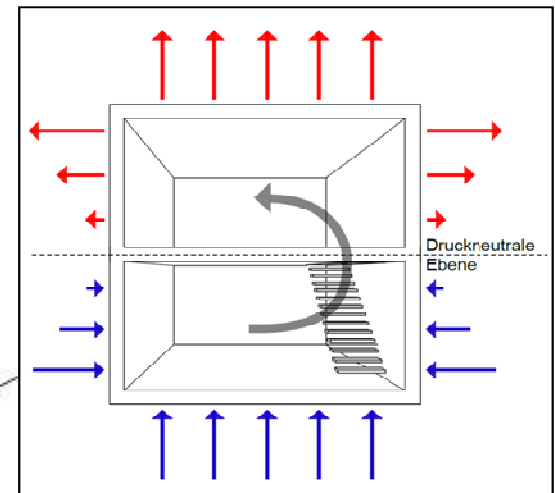
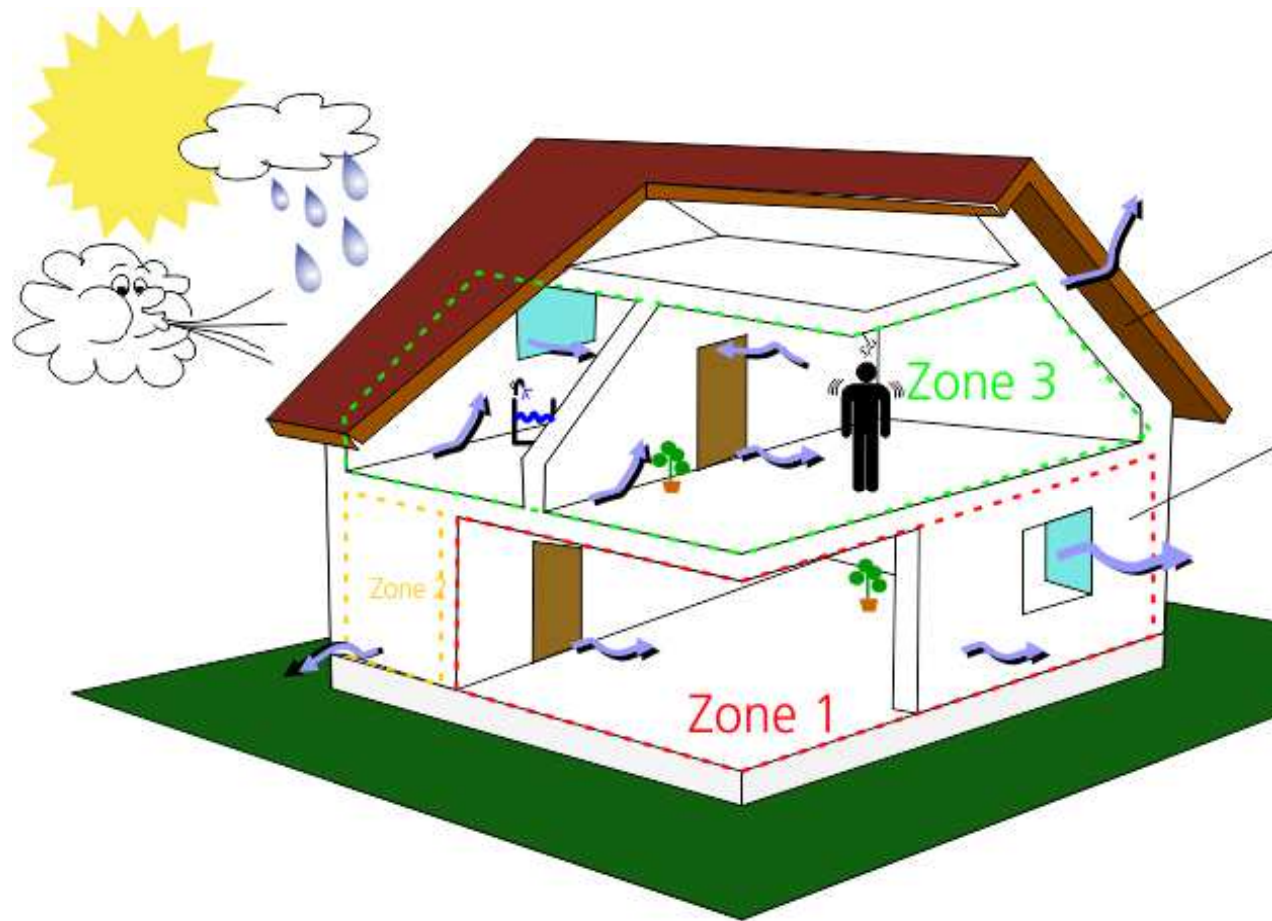
### Sketch-Up import

- Additional Sketch-Up Plug-in
- One- and multi-zone Buildings
- With and without shading elements



# Hygrothermal whole building simulation

WUFI® Passive includes interzonal air exchange



Warm & humid air entering a cold zone may cause mold problems

# Hygrothermal whole building analysis

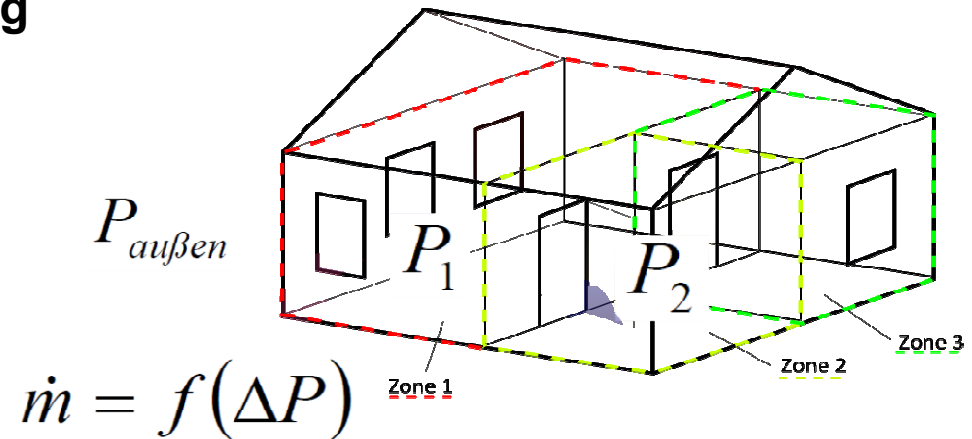
## Multi-zone airflow model

### Specification of airflow paths responding to pressure difference due to

- density difference (stack effect)
- wind pressure
- mechanical ventilation systems

### Implemented so far:

- small openings, cracks
- large openings / doors, windows (two way flow)
- fans (constant massflow-, volumeflowrate, fan-graphs)
- ducts
- effective leakage area





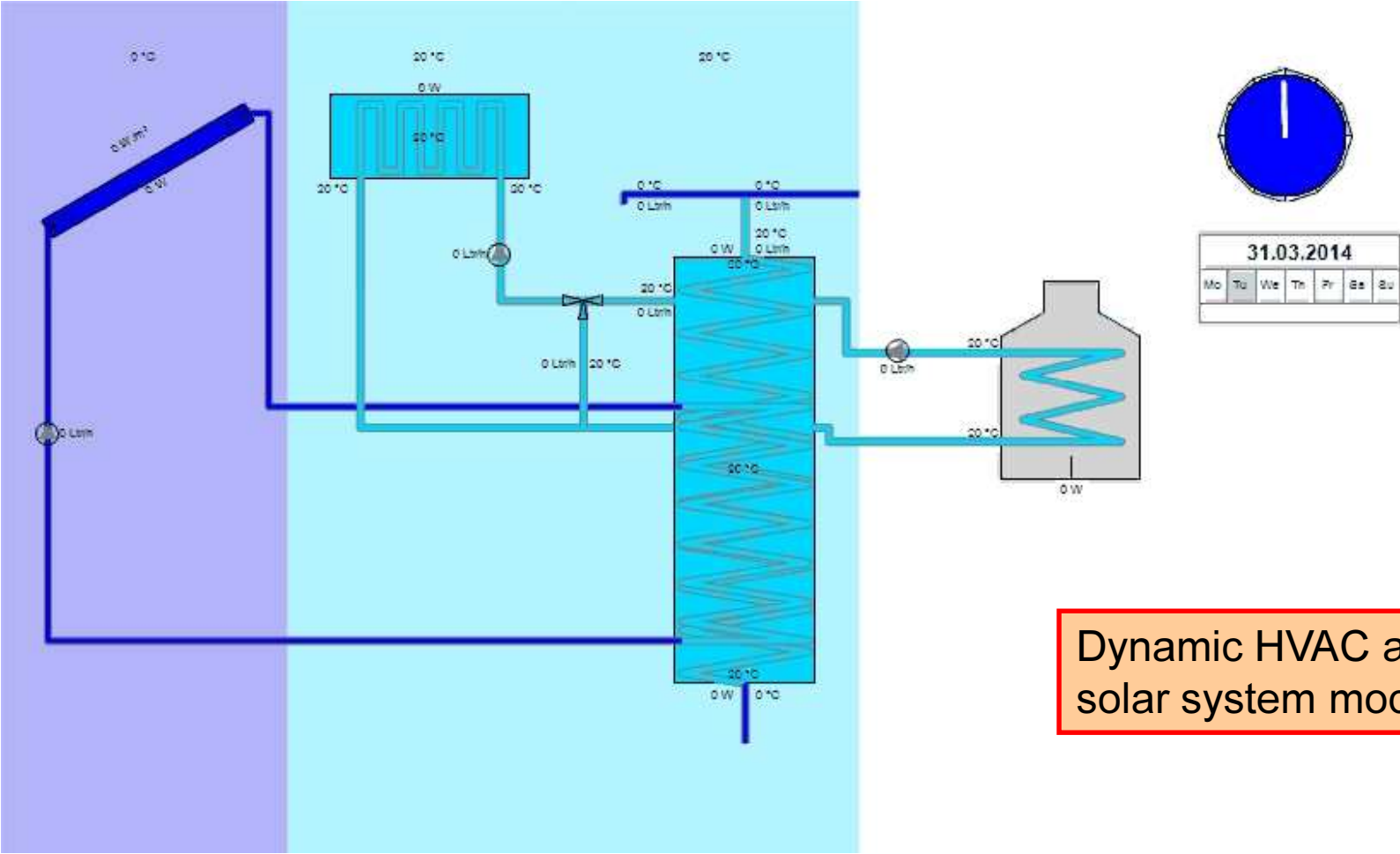
# Hygrothermal whole building analysis

Solar Thermal

Tabs

Storage and DWH

Gas Condensing Boiler

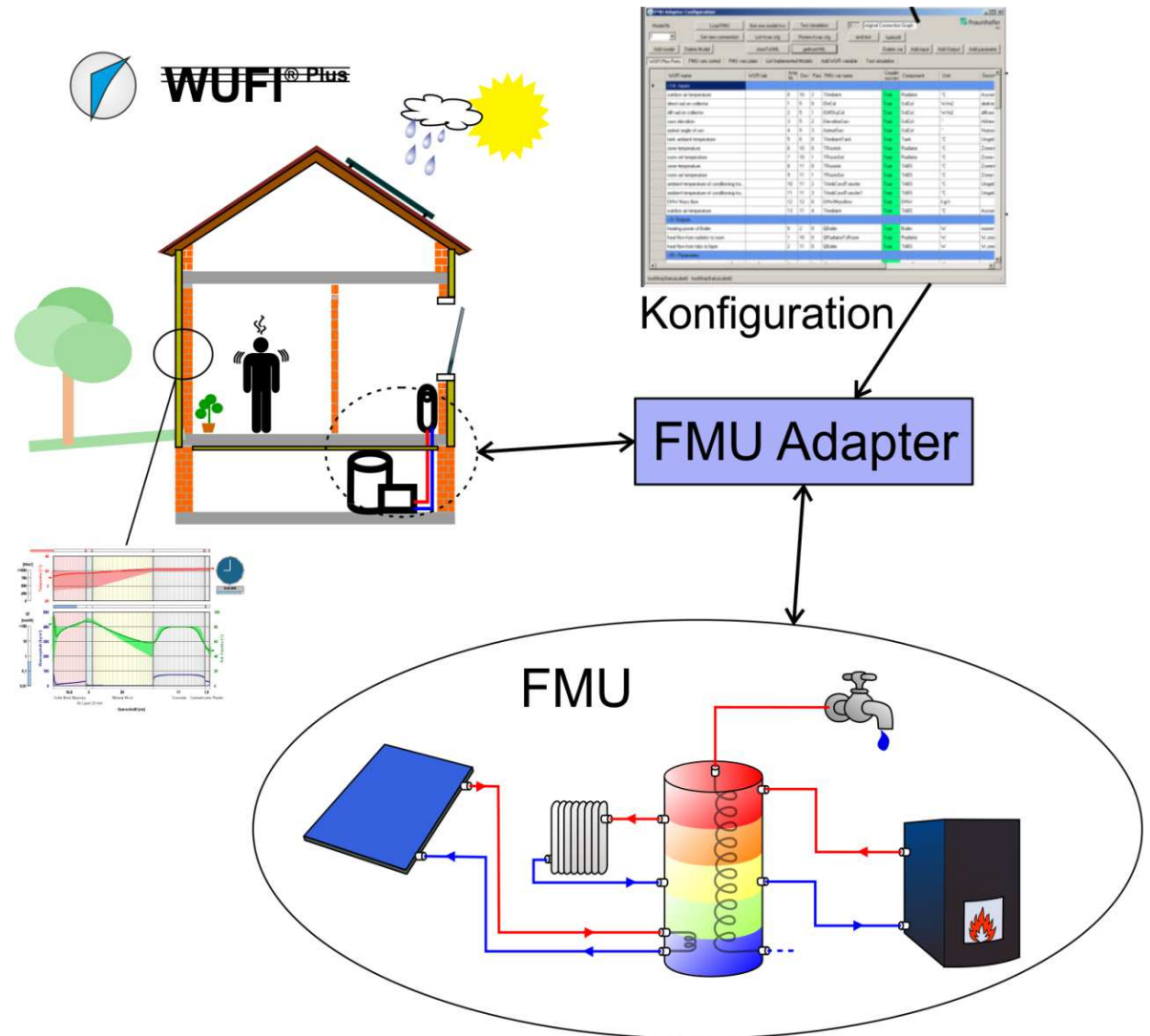


Dynamic HVAC and solar system modeling

# Hygrothermal whole building analysis

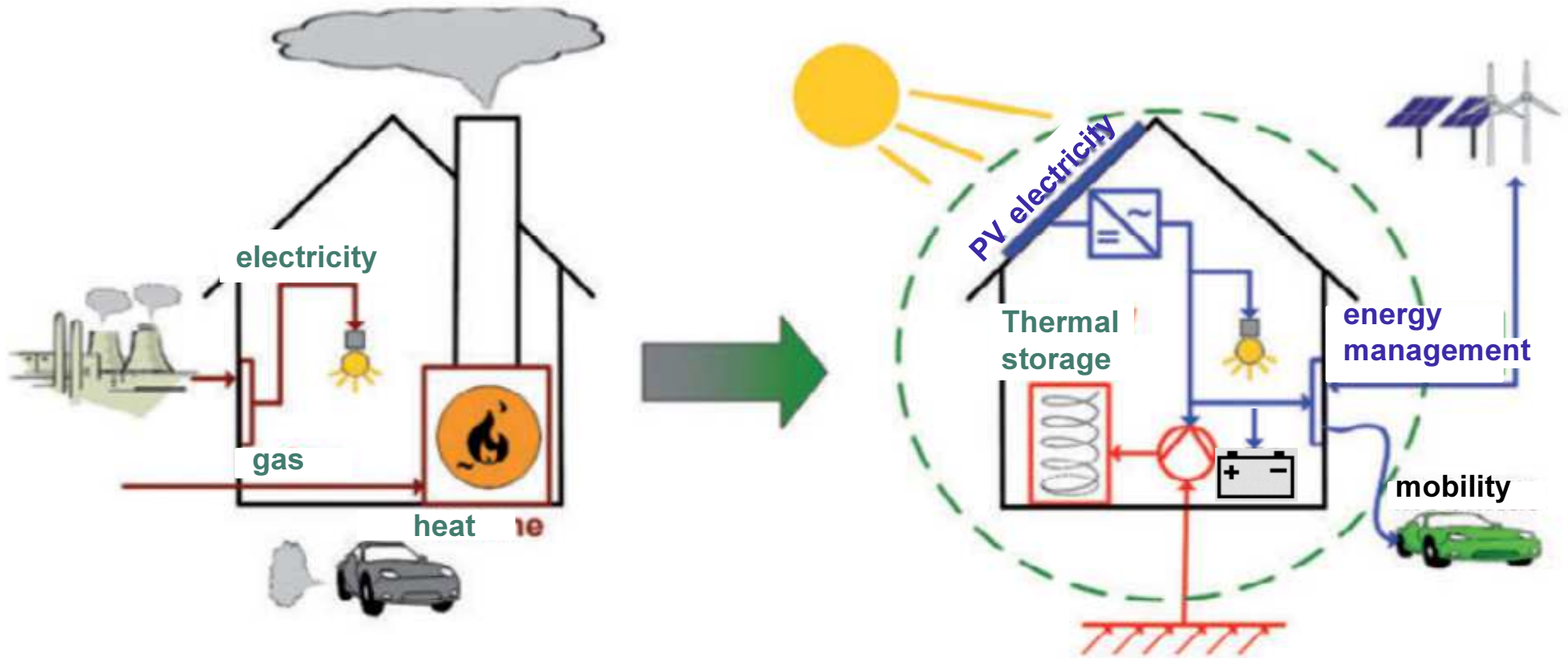
## HVAC system integration

- Implementation via FMI (Funktional Mock-up Interface)
- Heating and Cooling
  - production
  - storage
  - distribution
- Currently only systems for residential buildings



# Renewable energy sources an alternative for passive design?

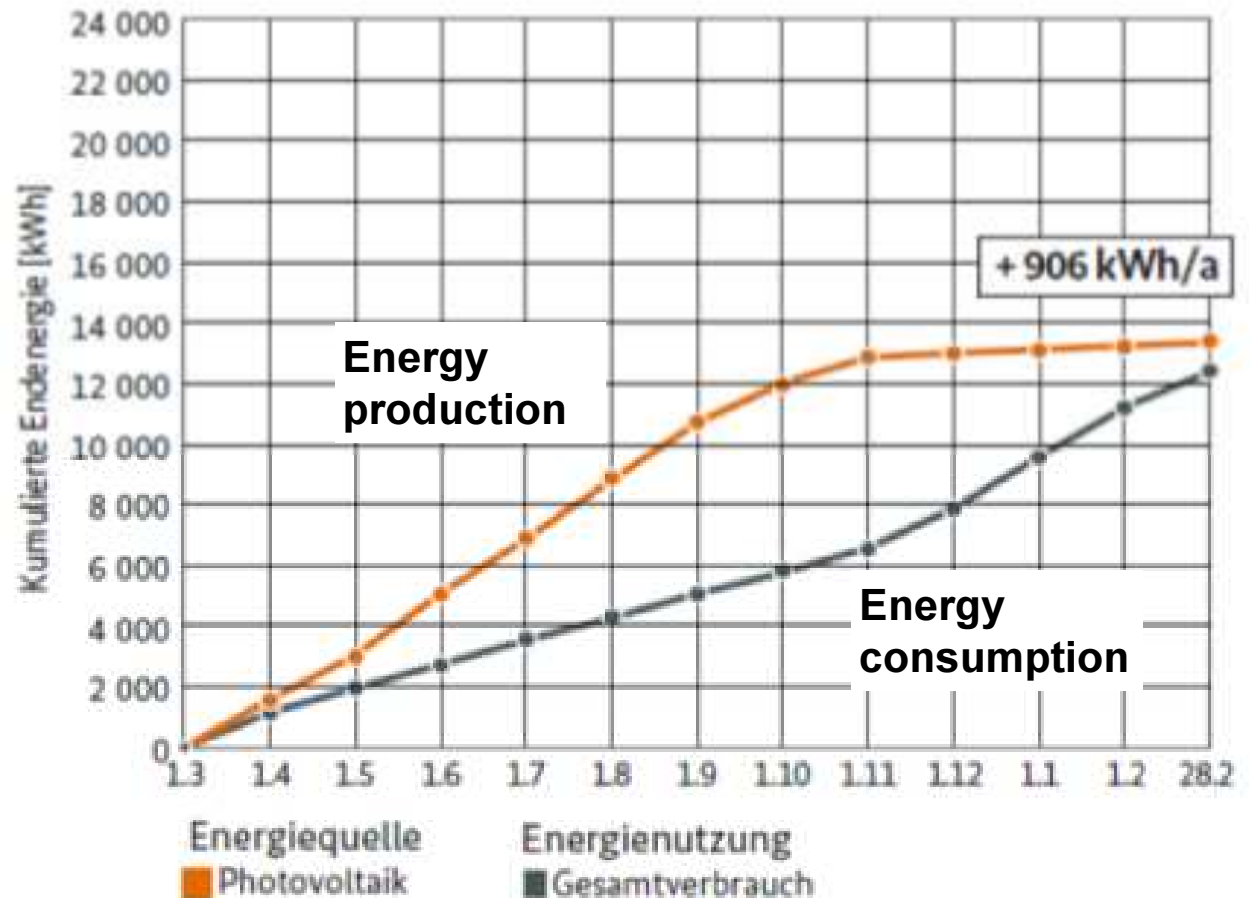
Do we need sophisticated energy savings measures if the building uses only renewable energy sources (RES)?



From energy consumer to energy producer

# Renewable energy sources an alternative for passive design?

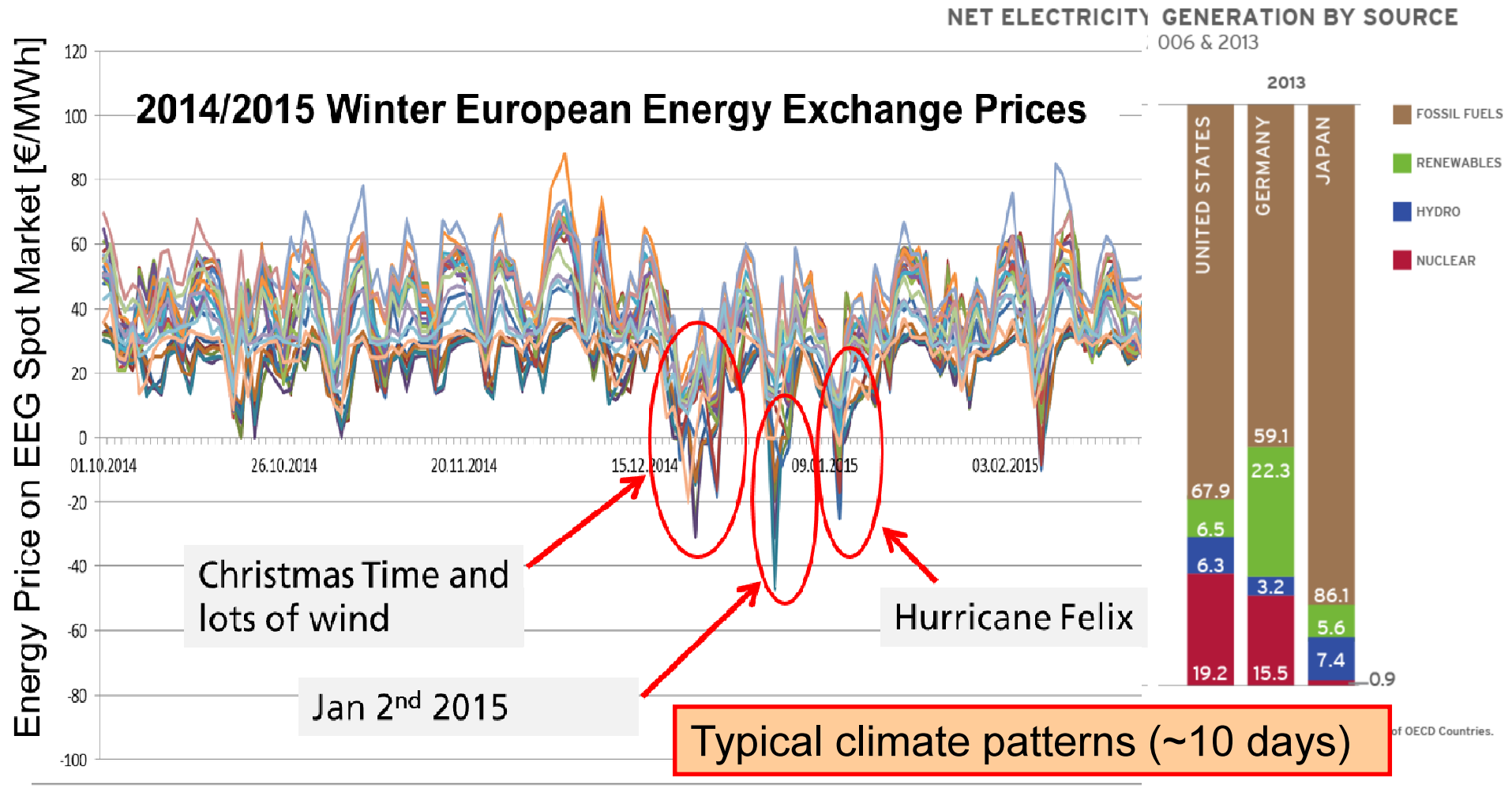
## Example: German Plus Energy House Project in Berlin



How do you transfer excess power from summer to winter ???

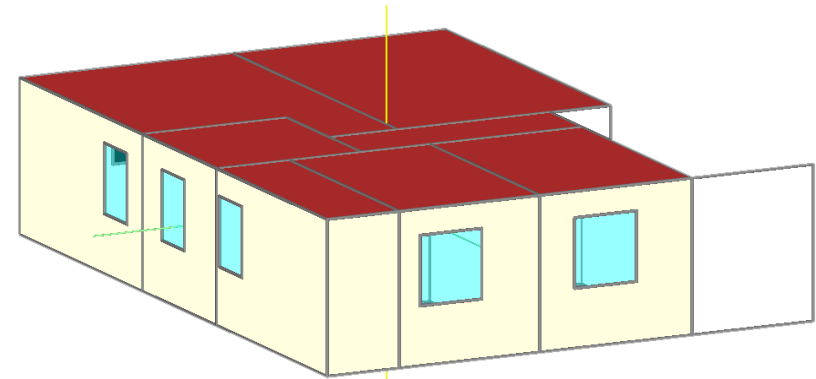
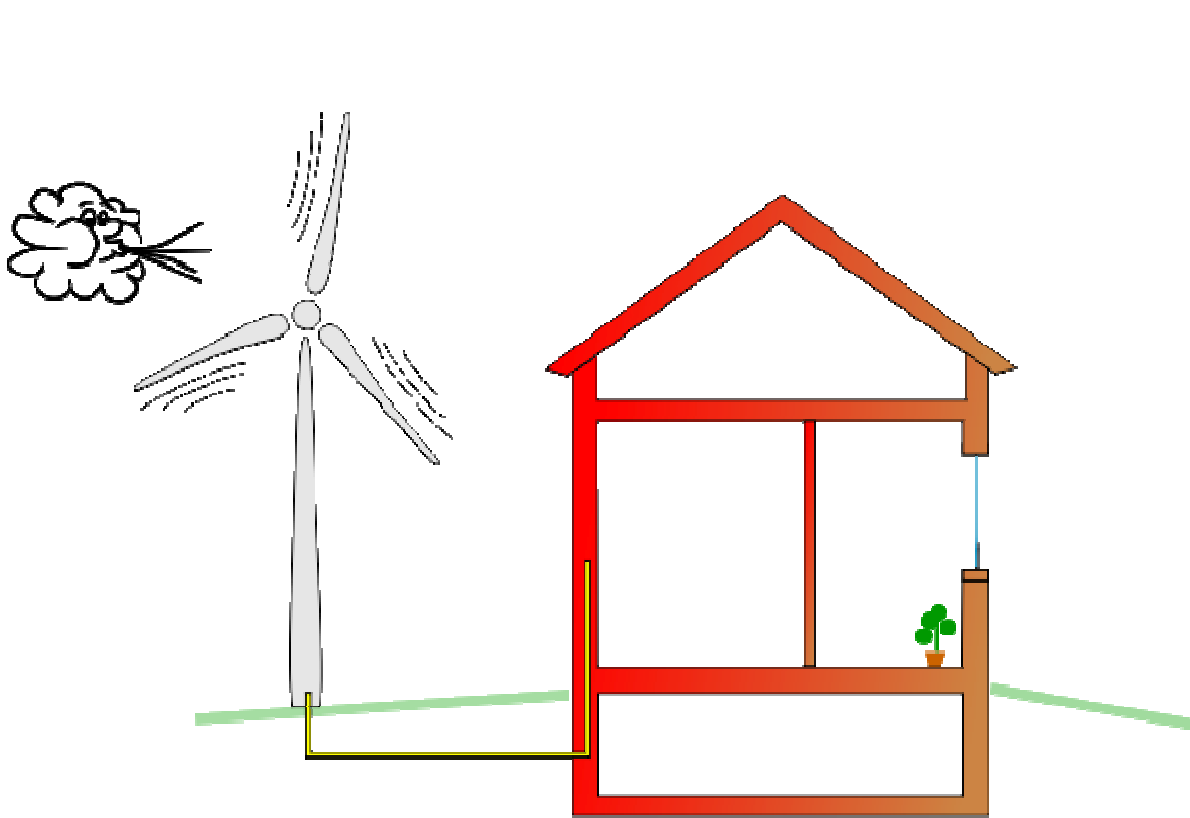
# Renewable energy sources an alternative for passive design?

Fluctuating power supply by RES becomes a problem for the grid



# Renewable energy sources an alternative for passive design?

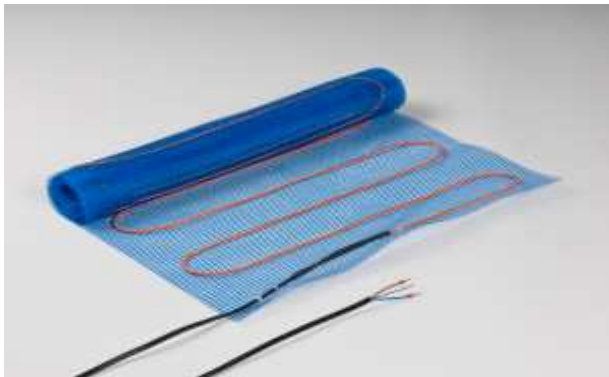
Power to heat: power peaks serve as sole heating supply



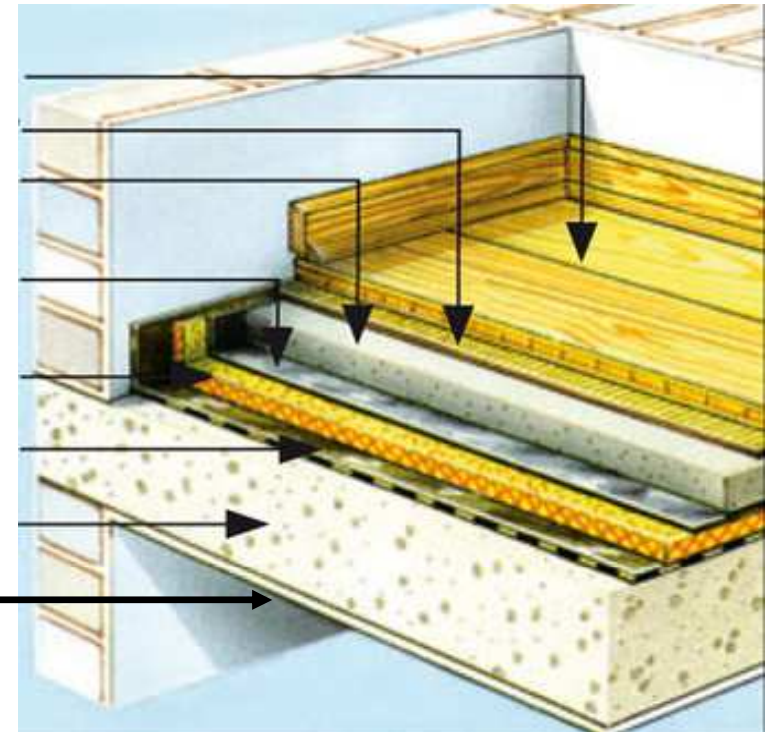
- Apartment in a multi-family building (7 Zones)
- Same conditions in apartment above and below
- Seperate interior load profiles per zone
- Climate conditions: Germany

# Renewable energy sources an alternative for passive design?

## Modeling of heat storing component



Electrical Panel Heating



Flooring

Concrete screed

Sound insulation

Reinforced concrete

Homogenous layers  
 Thermal resistance: 3,332 m<sup>2</sup>K/W  
 Heat transfer coefficient (U-value): 0,28 W/m<sup>2</sup>K  
 Thickness: 0,4 m

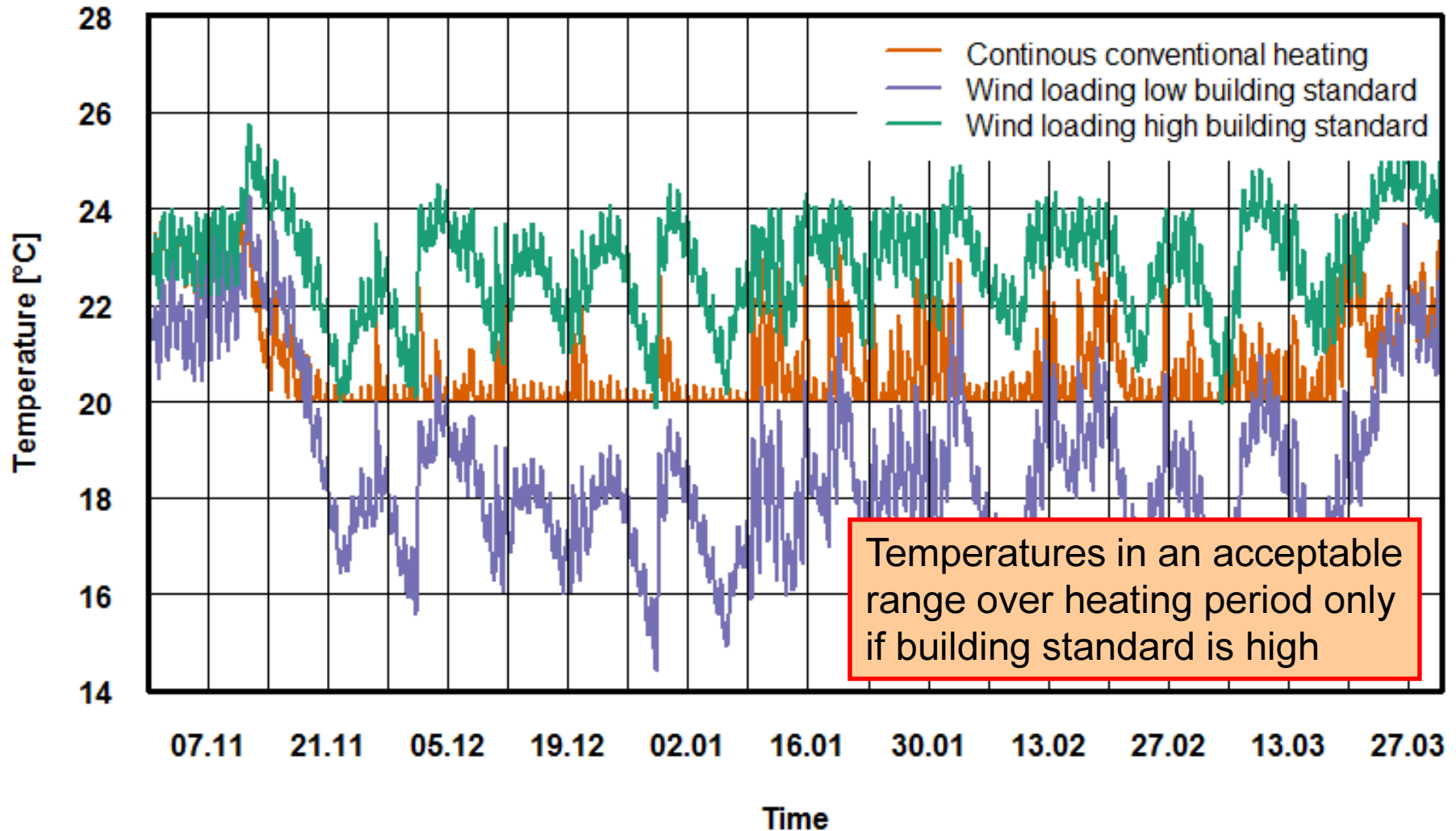
Nr.	Material/Layer (from outside to inside)	$\rho$ [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]	$c$ [J/kgK]	$\lambda$ [W/mK]	Thickness [m]	Color
1	EPS (heat cond.: 0.04 W/mK - density: 15 kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	15	1500	0,04	0,08	Yellow
2	Concrete, C12/15	2200	850	1,6	0,02	Grey
3	Concrete, C12/15	2200	850	1,6	0,2	Grey
4	Mineral Insulation Board	115	850	0,043	0,05	Light Grey
5	Concrete Screed, mid layer	1970	850	1,6	0,05	Dark Grey

Panel Heating as Source in Component

Additional Insulation below

# Renewable energy sources an alternative for passive design?

## Resulting living room temperature





## Conclusions

Monthly balance methods work well for heating climates and should be complemented by dynamic building simulation if:

- cooling and/or moisture loads are high
- heating is discontinuous (during the heating period)
- occupancy and indoor conditions vary considerably
- comfort and overheating have to be assessed

WUFI® Passive calculates the monthly balances and simulates the dynamic heat and moisture transfer in the building, building envelope & HVAC systems

Renewable energy sources are no alternative for passive design – however, the importance of **hygrothermal storage** may increase

**Challenge:** designing passive buildings for all climates that are comfortable, durable (**moisture tolerant**) & economical

# Multi Climate Global Passive House



**20<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
rebate on all WUFI<sup>®</sup>  
tools from Oct. until  
the end of the year**

**Thank you for  
your attention !**

**More information:**

**[www.phius.org](http://www.phius.org)**

**[www.wufi.com](http://www.wufi.com)**