

# Good Building Design

July 20, 2006

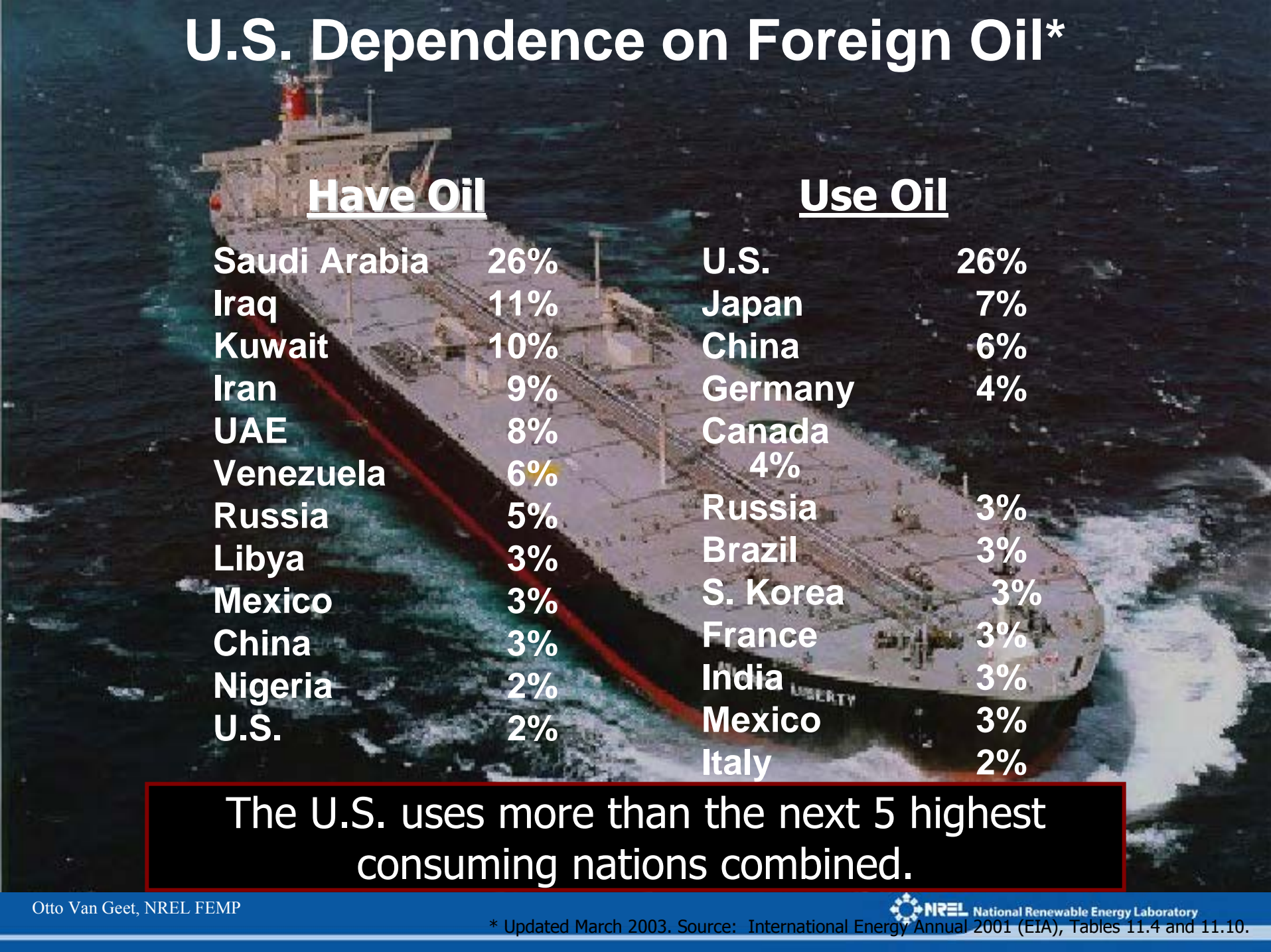
Otto Van Geet, P.E.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

[otto\\_vangeet@nrel.gov](mailto:otto_vangeet@nrel.gov)



# U.S. Dependence on Foreign Oil\*



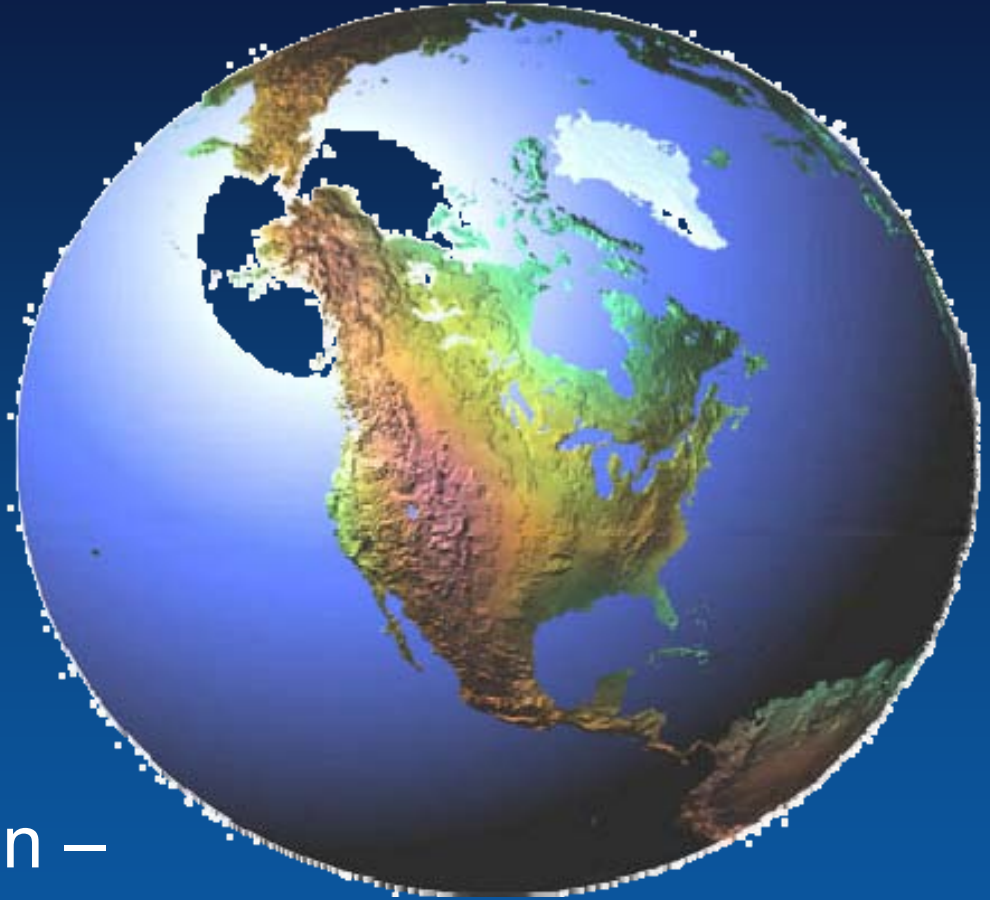
<u>Have Oil</u>		<u>Use Oil</u>	
Saudi Arabia	26%	U.S.	26%
Iraq	11%	Japan	7%
Kuwait	10%	China	6%
Iran	9%	Germany	4%
UAE	8%	Canada	4%
Venezuela	6%	Russia	3%
Russia	5%	Brazil	3%
Libya	3%	S. Korea	3%
Mexico	3%	France	3%
China	3%	India	3%
Nigeria	2%	Mexico	3%
U.S.	2%	Italy	2%

The U.S. uses more than the next 5 highest consuming nations combined.

# Humanity's Top Ten Problems

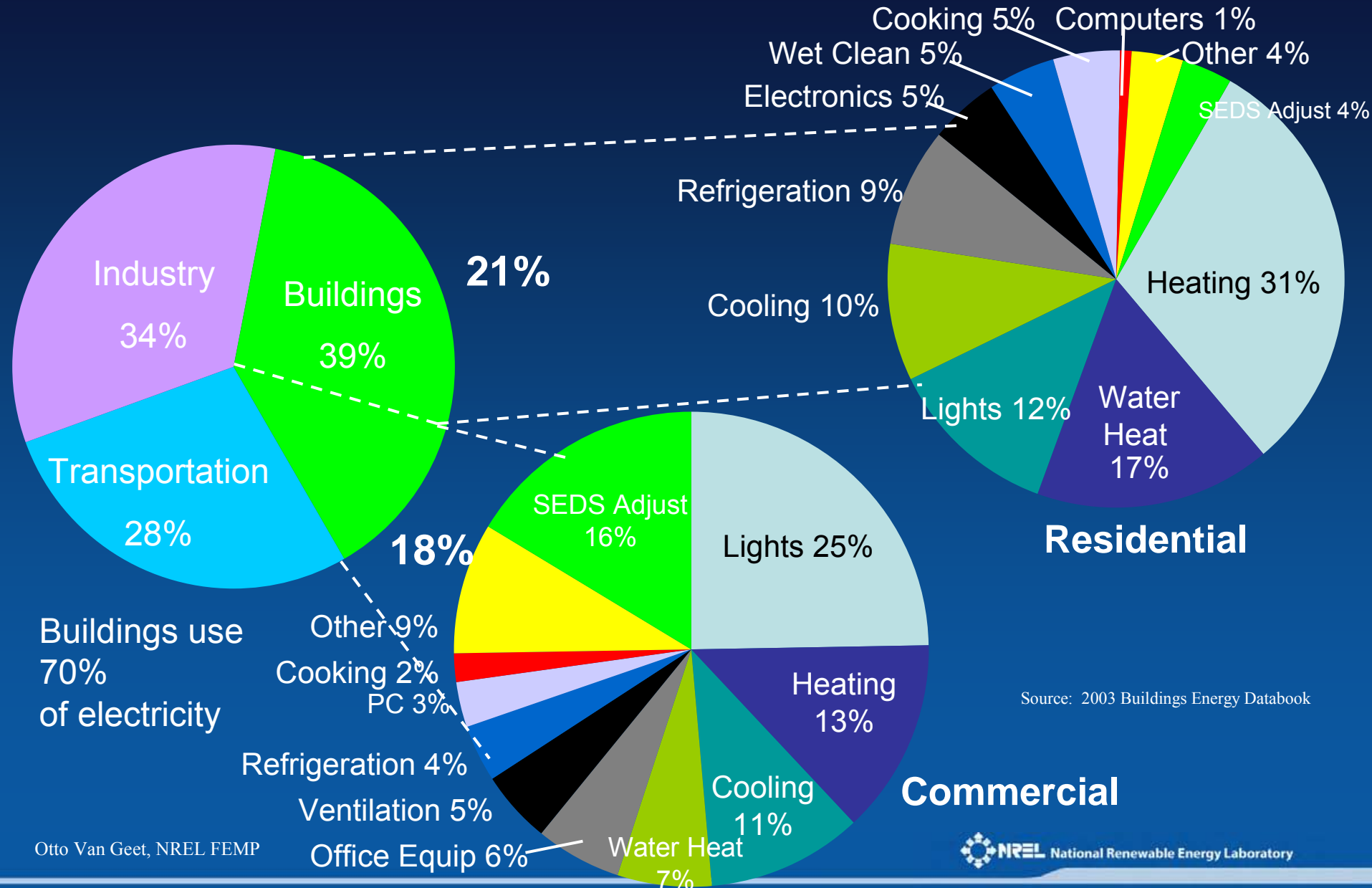
Robert Smally, Nobel Laureate

- Energy
- Water
- Food
- Environment
- Poverty
- Terrorism/War
- Disease
- Education
- Democracy
- Population (6.3 billion – 2003; 9-10 billion – 2050)



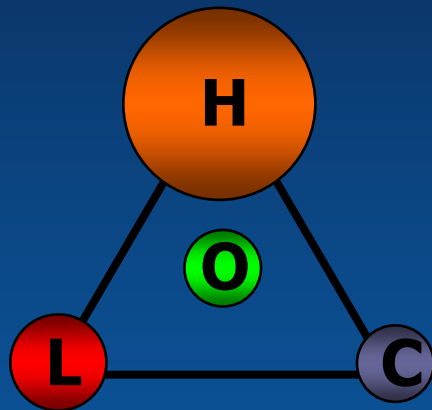
Don't ever forget the bottom line – what we do matters!

# Building Energy Use

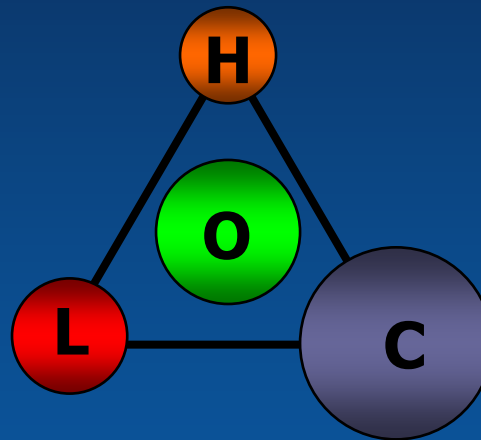


# Integrated Design Problem

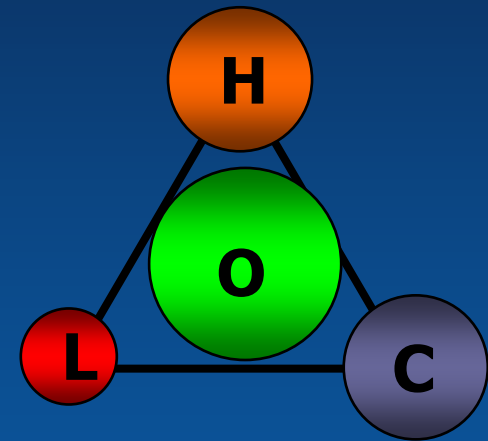
Skin-Load  
Dominated (small  
building in a cold  
climate)



Internal-Load  
Dominated (large  
building in any  
climate)



Ventilation &  
Process-Load  
Dominated (any  
climate)



H = Heating load

L = Lighting load

C = Cooling load

O = Other, including ventilation & plug loads

# Energy Efficiency then Renewables

- Every \$ spent on efficiency saves at least as much as \$2 spent on renewables
- Climate sensitive design (passive solar)
- Long axis of building faces south, south glass with overhangs, 7 – 12% glass area of building floor area
- Limit east, west and north glass

# Vision



- Engineer *whole-building systems* that effectively integrate passive solar and efficiency strategies to optimize energy consumption such that minimal renewable energy sources can meet remaining needs.

# A thought...

- Buildings mortgage the energy and environmental future of this country





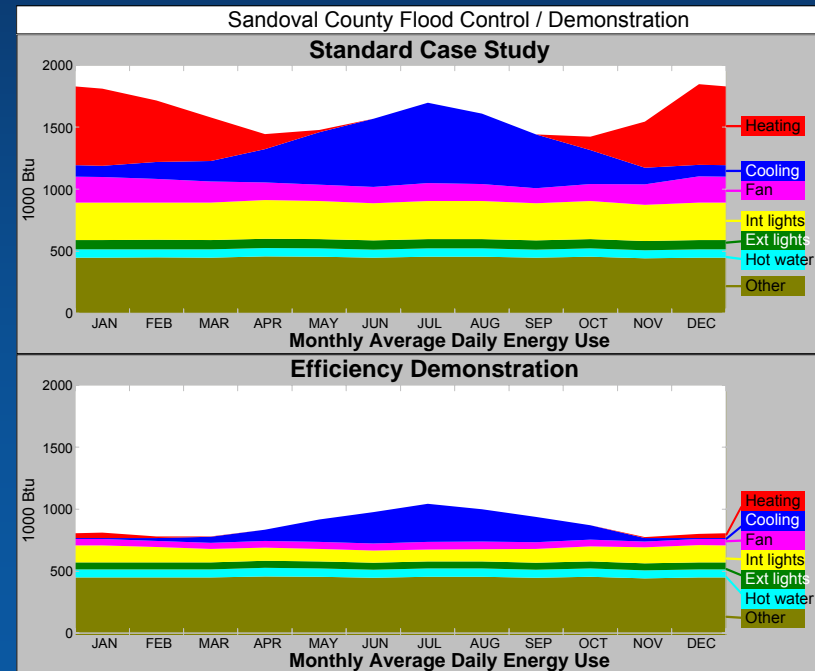
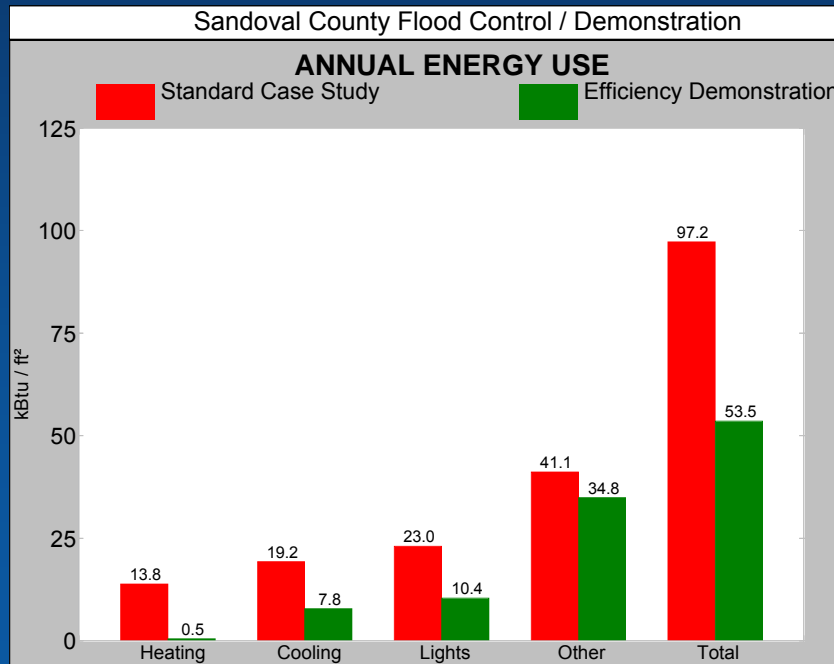
# Design Considerations

- Integrate energy efficiency and renewable energy early
- Use hourly energy simulations
- Architecture should work with the building's energy needs
- Don't sacrifice program
- Nine-step process created that integrates with the traditional design process

# Gather data for Intelligent Decision Making...

## Energy Modeling

- Considers building energy consumption during design phase to optimize energy use
- Several programs: eQuest, DOE2, Energy 10, etc.
- <http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/highperformance/toolbox.html>





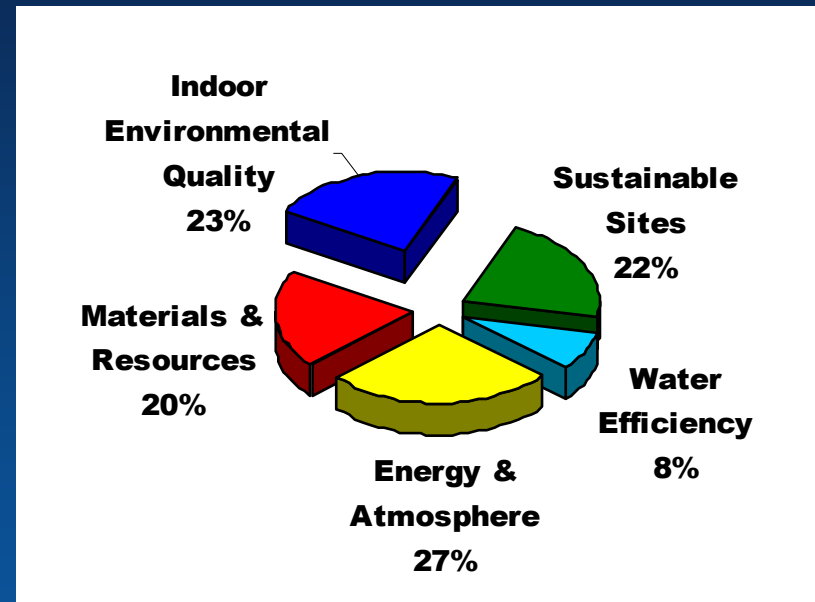
# Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design

*A leading-edge system for designing, constructing, and certifying the world's greenest buildings.*

*Provides a measure of success related to a national standard.*

*Similar to DOE program, Sustainable Building Council Guidelines and others*

*Be aware of LeED  
- Energy performance*

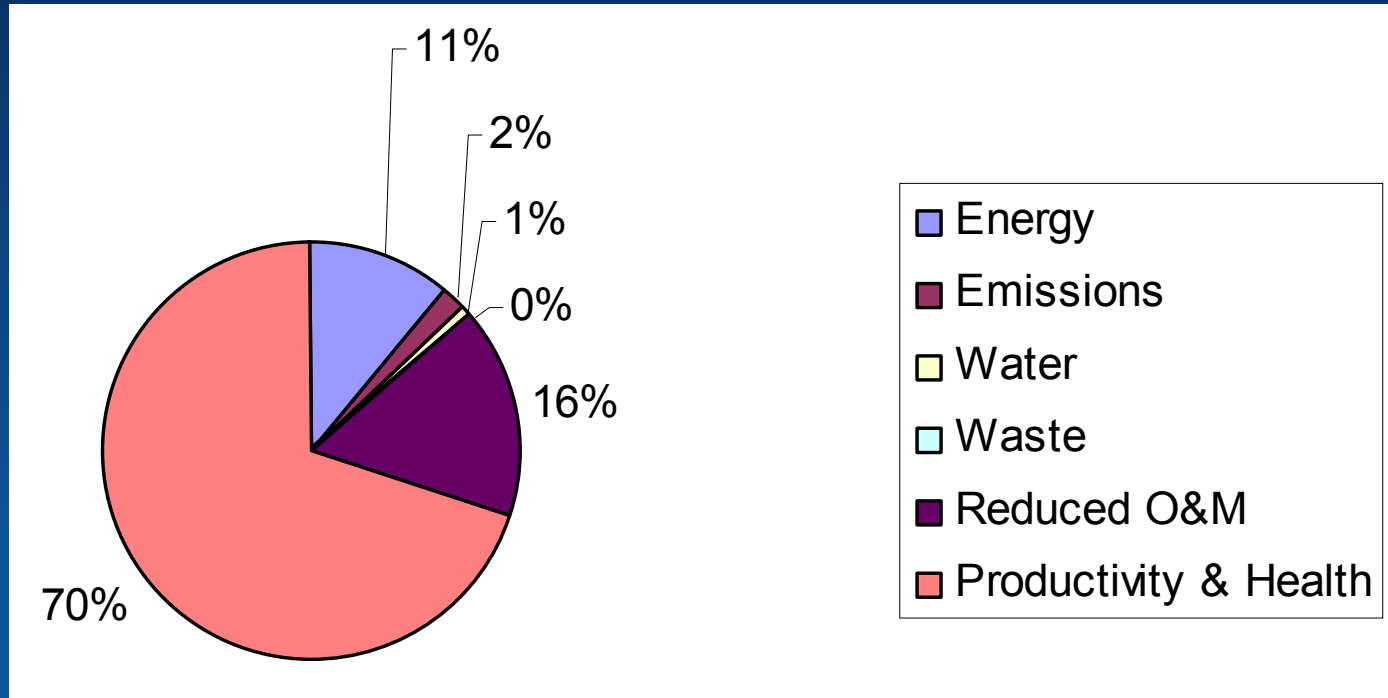


# Values and “Cost-Effective”

- What is cost-effective?
- Economic
- Operational reliability and power stability
- Higher user satisfaction and lower HR costs
- Environmental Impact
- Integrated the energy efficiency and architecture

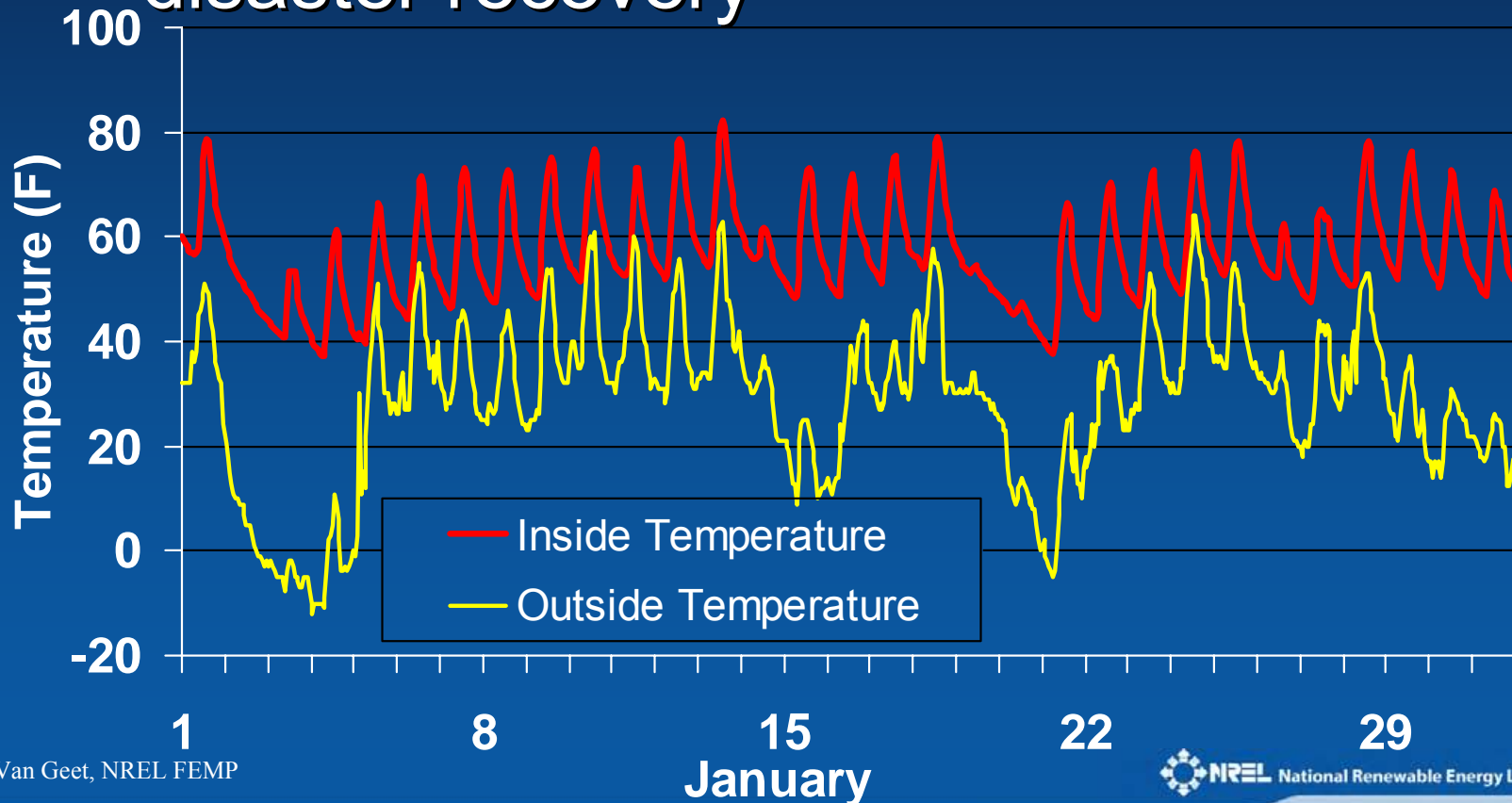


*On average, over a 30-year lifespan of a building, only 2% overall investment goes towards construction.*



# Values and “Cost-Effective”

- Risk management and disaster recovery



# Nine-Step Design Process

ASHRAE Journal, December 1999

## Pre-Design

1. Simulate a base-case building model and establish goals
2. Complete parametric analysis
3. Design team brainstorms solutions
4. Perform simulations based on base-case variants

## Design

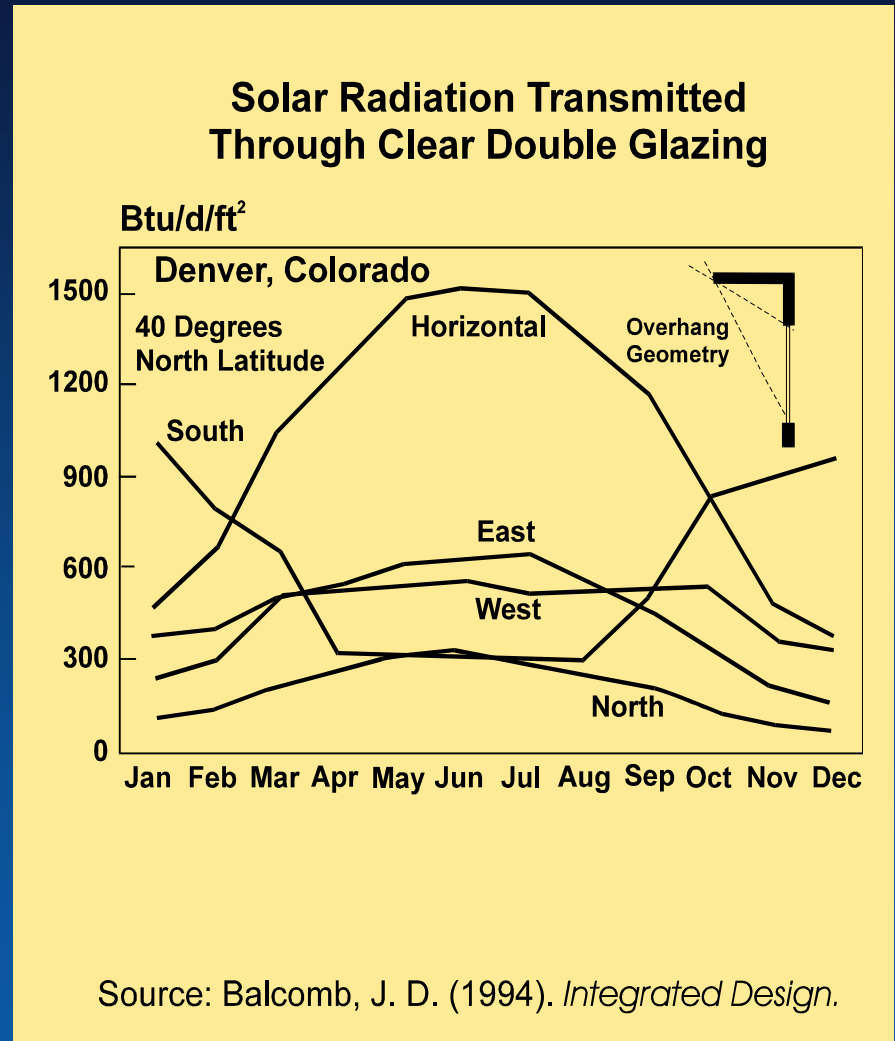
5. Architectural team prepares preliminary drawings
6. Design the HVAC system
7. Finalize plans and specifications

## Construction & Commissioning

8. Rerun simulations before construction design changes
9. Commission all equipment and controls. Educate building operator

# Glazing Orientation is Important

South glazing is uniquely capable of providing heat in winter and blocking heat gain in summer

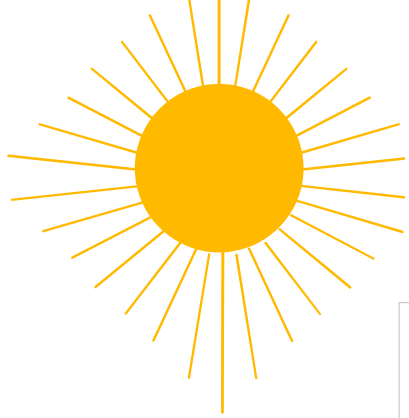




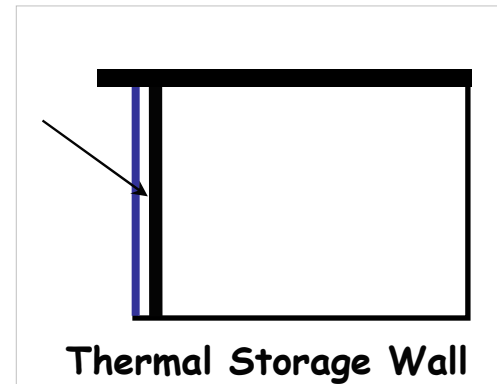
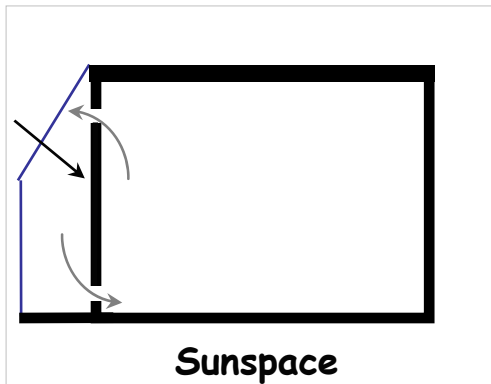
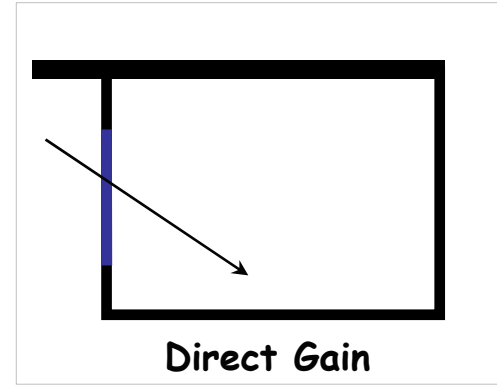
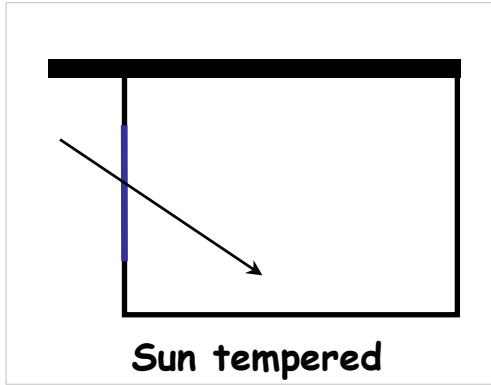
# Glazing Considerations

- Climate
- Application
- Orientation
- Technology

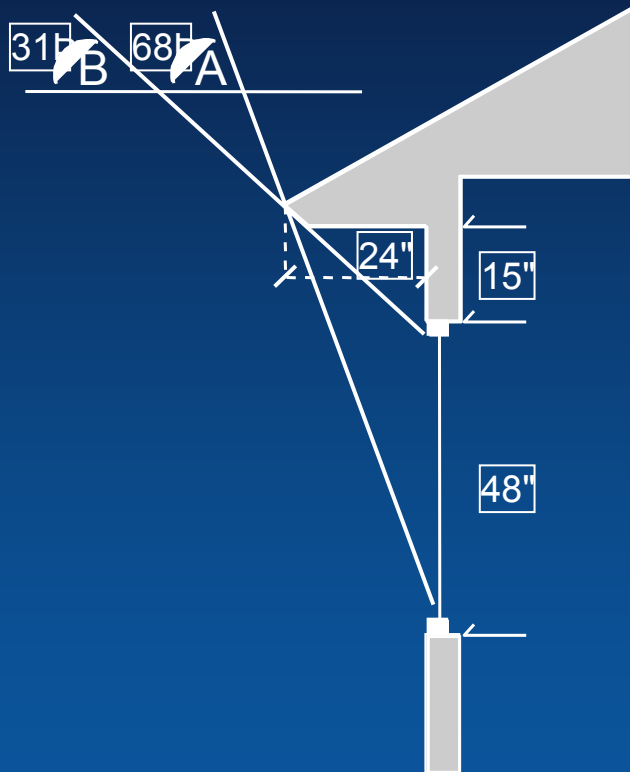
- Insulative Properties
  - Heat flow due to temperature difference (U-value)
- Solar Heat Gain Coeff.
  - Fraction of solar radiation that enters a building thru the window as heat gain
- Visible Transmittance
  - Fraction of total light transmitted in the visible portion of solar spectrum
- Visual Reflectivity
- National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC)
- <http://www.nfrc.org/>



# Passive Solar Strategies



# Shading Geometry

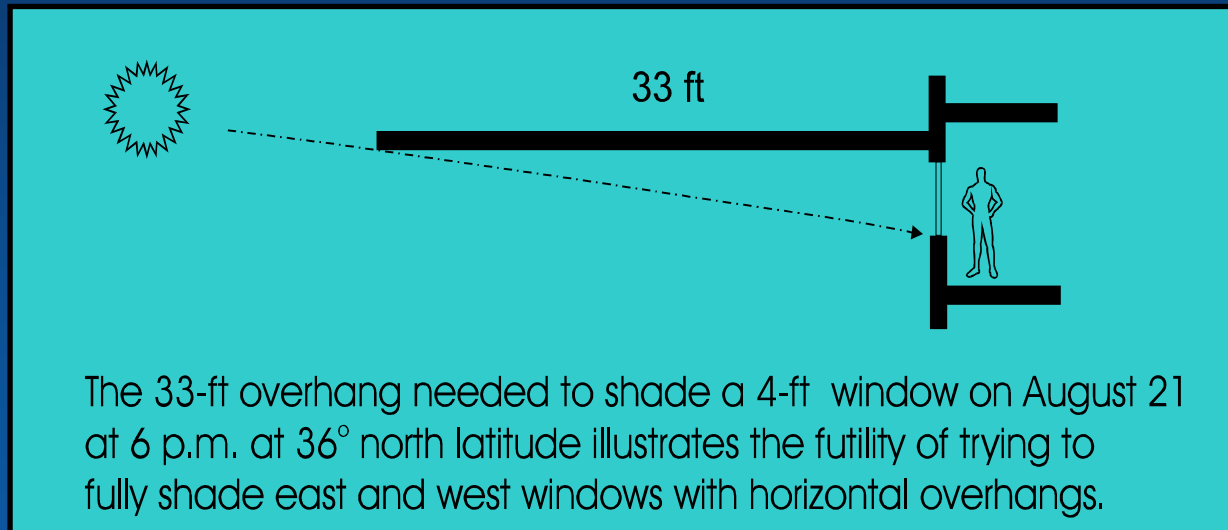


A.  $68^\circ$  angle with horizon fully shades the window in the summer ( $76.6^\circ =$  sun's altitude @  $40^\circ$  N latitude on June 21)

B.  $31^\circ$  angle with horizon allows full exposure of the window in winter ( $26.6^\circ =$  sun's altitude @  $40^\circ$  N latitude on Dec. 21)

# Shading Orientation

- South facades
  - Simple overhangs
- North facades
  - No shading
- East & west facades
  - Minimize windows
  - Vertical fins
  - Awnings

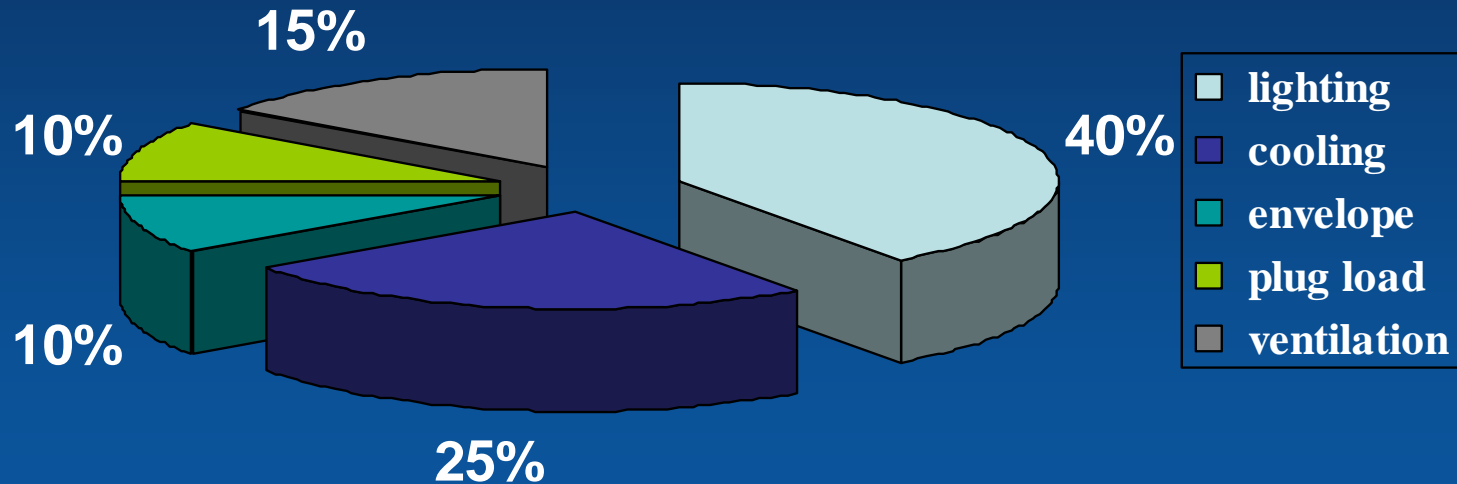


# Daylighting & Efficient Lighting



# Lighting Energy Consumption

In a typical commercial office building, lighting can be the largest energy load.

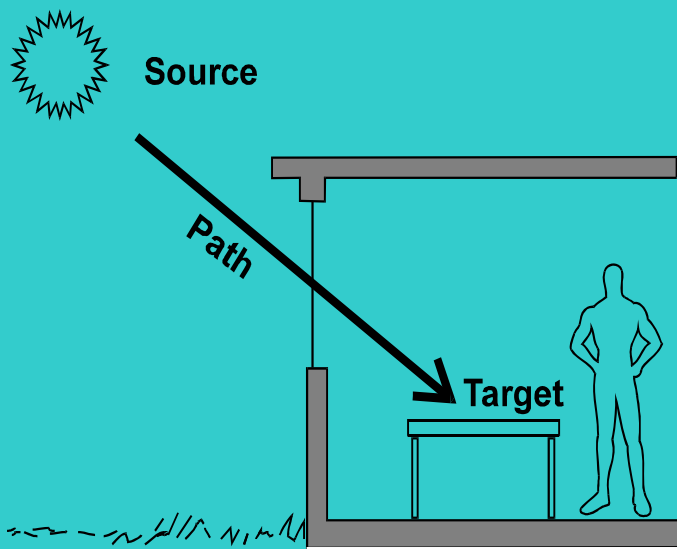


# What is daylighting?

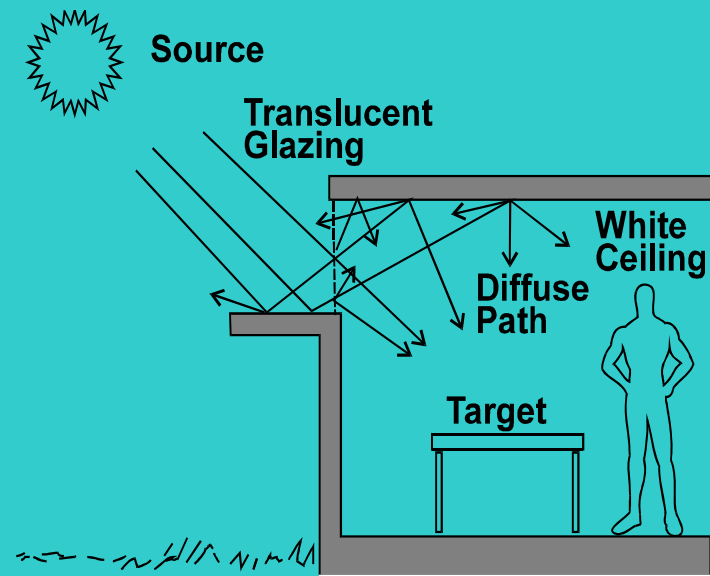
- Daylighting is the controlled admission of natural light into a building with artificial light fixtures dimmed or turned-off to save energy
- A well daylit space has relatively even brightness and reduced contrast ratios
- More windows do not make better daylighting



# Principles of Daylighting



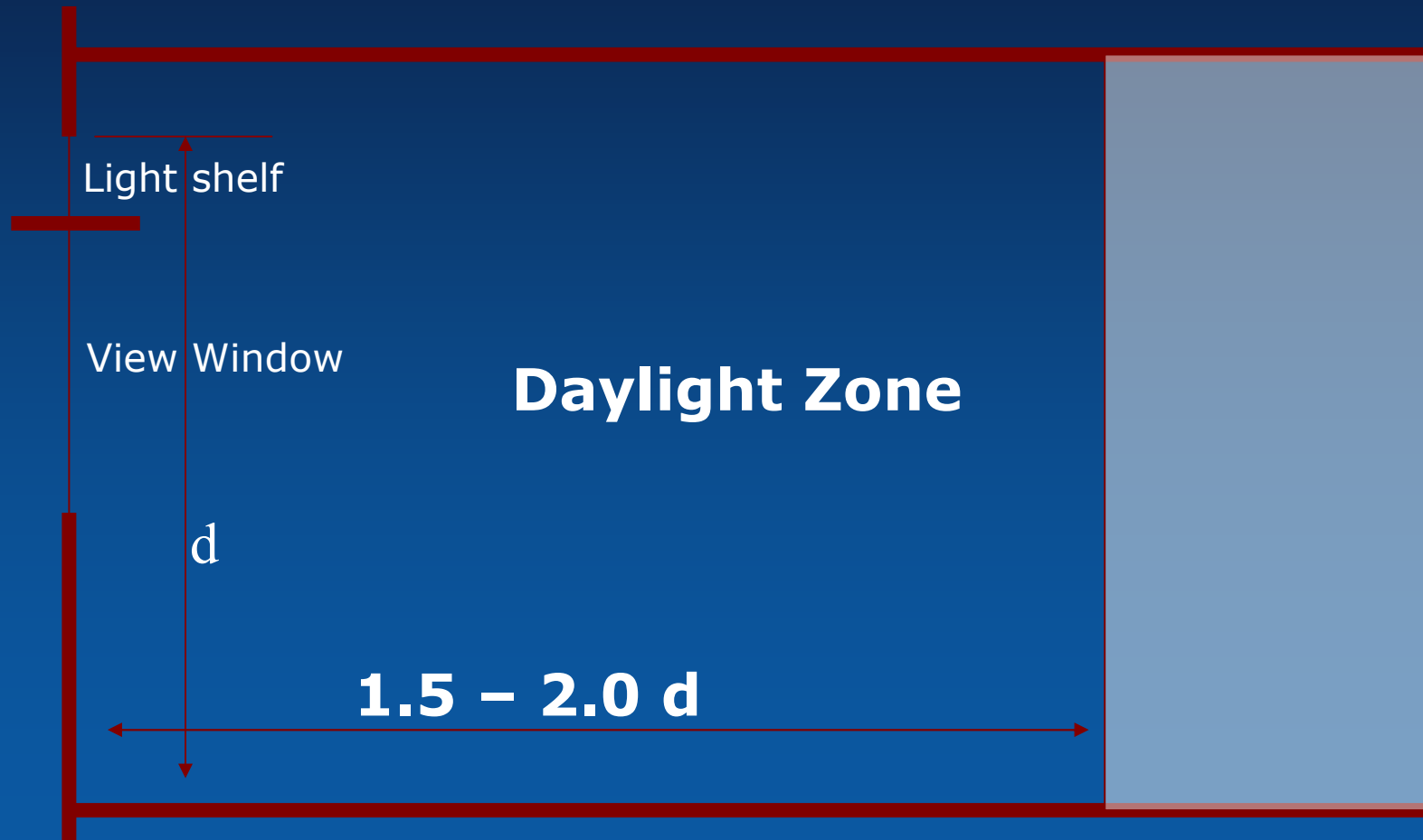
Direct sunlight is a potential source of glare and excess contrast.



Light shelves and other diffusing surfaces create more even illumination.



# How far can you throw daylight?



# Lighting Integration

Integration is the key to success!

- Natural & artificial light sources
- General ambient lighting & dedicated task illumination
- Lighting equipment & controls
- Schedules & energy management control system
- Commissioning for installation & operation
- Training for occupants & maintenance personnel

# Daylighting Design

- Good access to south and north light; minimal east and west light
- Minimize direct beam sunlight on the task
- Reduce window glare and excess contrast ratios in the field of view
- Integrate with electric lighting through luminous controls to achieve energy savings
- Assure excess solar heat gain through windows is controlled



# Good daylighting ...



# Case Studies

# Passive Solar Design



West side



East side



Inside



South side

Carlisle\Prythero residence,  
Lakewood, CO

# Tierra Concrete Homes



45% savings



# Van Geet Residence



90% savings (modeled)







- 9300 ft
- 9600 HDD
- 0 CDD
- 3000 sqft.
- 4 bedroom; 3 bath
- 1.0 mile to power grid
- ASHRAE 2001 1<sup>st</sup> Place Technology Award winner
- Winner of CRES Housing Award



## Glazing Selection

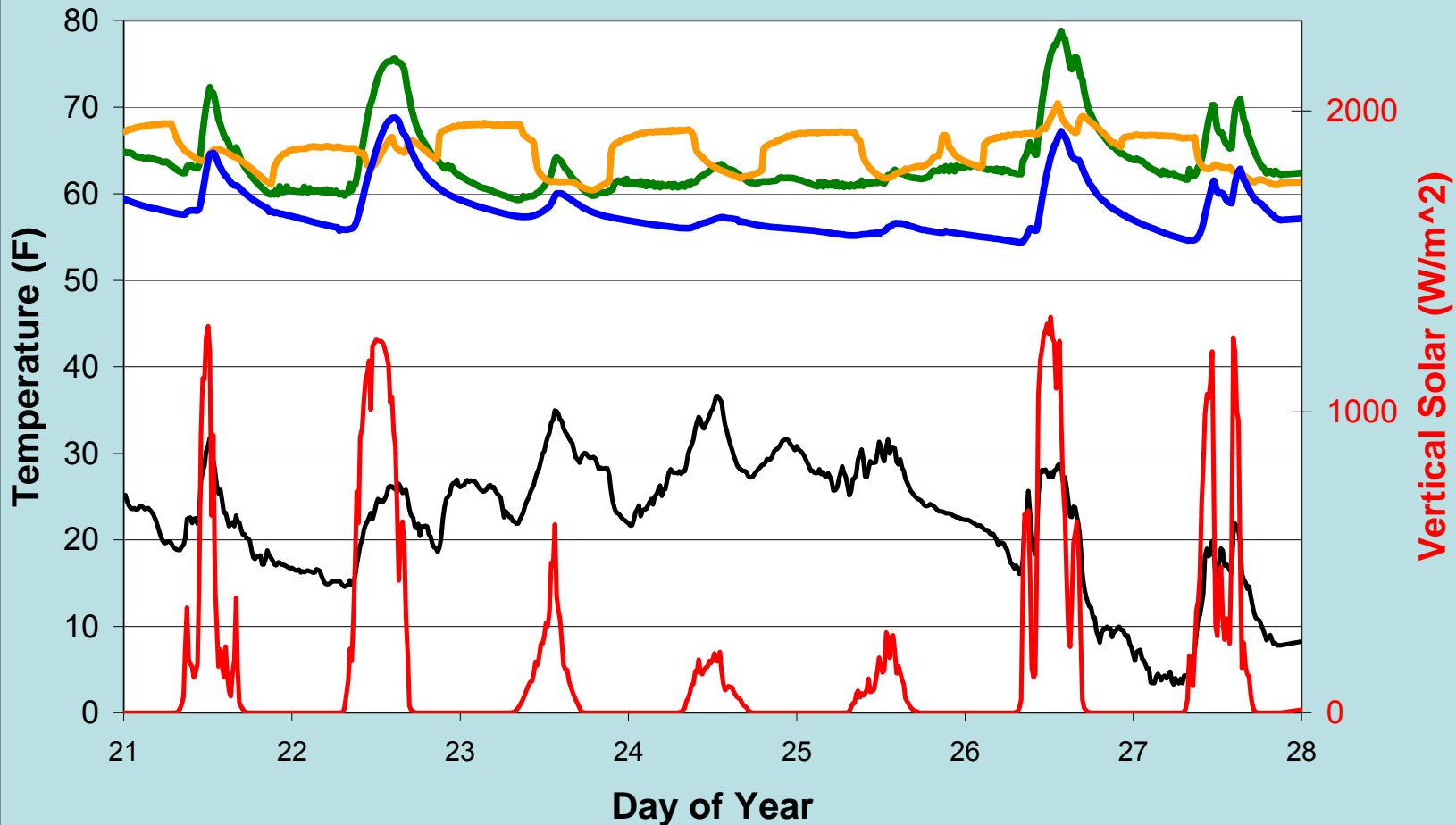
- Determined by simulation
- South and East:  
 $U=0.31$ ;  $SC=0.75$ ;  
 $SHGC=0.64$
- All others:  $U=0.30$ ;  
 $SC=0.47$ ; $SHGC=0.41$
- 151 sq. ft. south glass, 12% glass to floor area
- Trombe wall integrated with view glass

- Reach temperatures of 100°F inside house
- Cavity temperatures reach 160°F
- Provide delayed heating (6-8 hour delay)
- Double clear for Trombe walls, 144 sq. ft.
- Selective surface
- 16.5% glass and Trombe to house, 14% if garage included

## Trombe Walls



# Performance Jan. 22-28, 2000



— Master BR — North BR — Downstairs Living — Outdoor Temp — Vertical Solar

# Energy Efficient Appliances



- Low energy DC refrigerator (500 Wh/day-80% savings)
- Compact fluorescent fixtures or better (T-8)
- Switches to manage parasitic or phantom loads
- Energy Star appliances
- Horizontal Axis cloth Washers (1/2 energy, water, and soap)

# Van Geet Summary

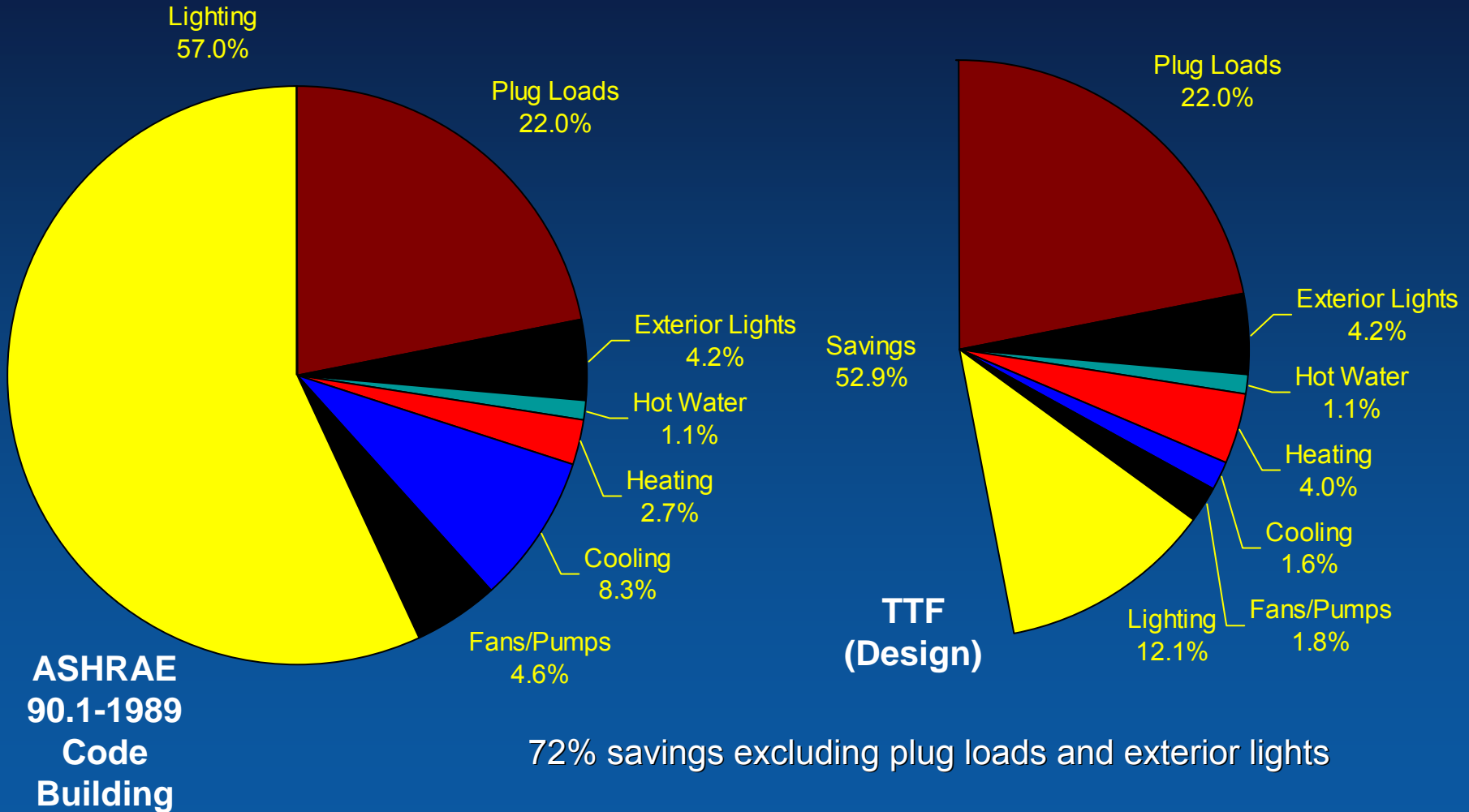
- Less cost to build (wrt running utility line)
- 77% reduction from MEC1995 house as designed, 89% reduction as operated
- 87% of electricity from PV
- \$200 average fuel (256 gallons propane average)

# TTF (Thermal Test Facility)

- Completed in 1996 at a cost of \$1 million dollars
- 10,000 sqft of laboratory and office space
- Building research laboratory
- Serves as a technological development and optimization testbed



# TTF Energy Costs and Savings





# TTF (Thermal Test Facility)

- Energy Features
  - Daylighting (75%)
  - Direct/indirect evaporative cooling
  - Possibility of active solar hot water
  - Managed solar gains (overhangs)
  - High efficacy lighting with lighting control
  - Energy management system
  - Ceiling fans
  - Separate ventilation system
  - Passive solar gain with good thermal envelope
- 63% energy cost savings



# Philip Merrill Environmental Center

- 4 kW PV
- LEED Platinum (V.1)
- 19% Energy Savings below ASHRAE 90.1-1999
- 27% Energy Cost Savings

Use of native landscaping further reduces water consumption.

Otto Van Geet, NREL FEMP



# Philip Merrill Environmental Center

- 31,200 ft<sup>2</sup> Office Building
- Owner – Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Architect – SmithGroup
- Energy Consultant – SmithGroup
- LEED 1.0 Platinum Certified
- Annapolis, MD
- HDD [65°F] – 4911
- CDD [65°F] – 1134



# Philip Merrill Environmental Center (Chesapeake Bay Foundation)

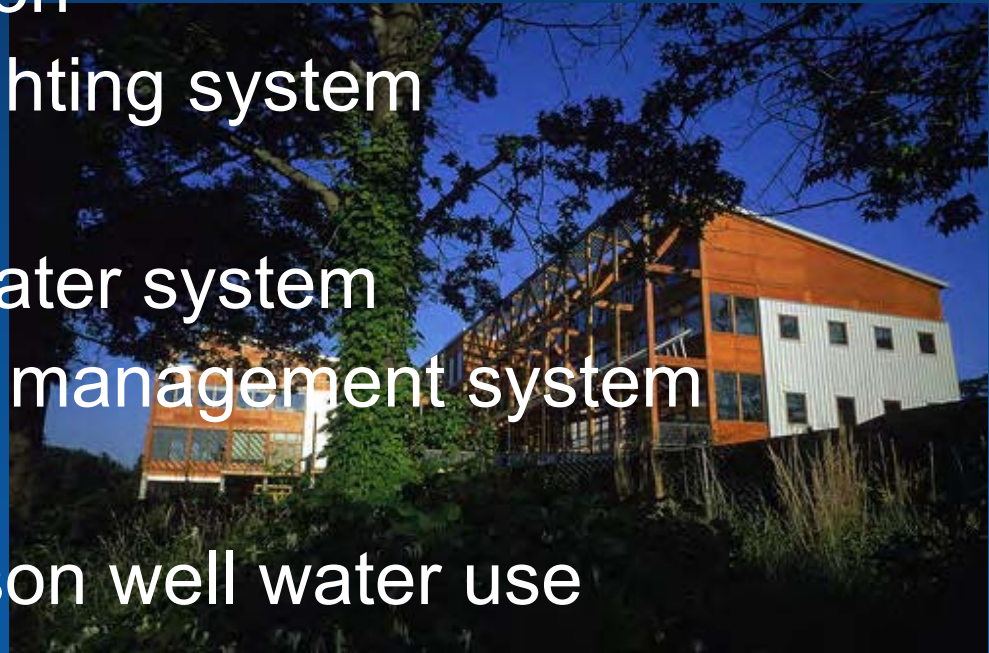


The center's toilets are non-flushing units that recycle waste and reduce the amount of water needed.



# CBF Energy Efficient Features

- Well insulated envelope
- Ground-source heat pumps with desiccant wheel
- Natural ventilation
- Daylighting / Lighting system
- PV system
- Solar thermal water system
- Building energy management system
- 0.8 gal/day/person well water use

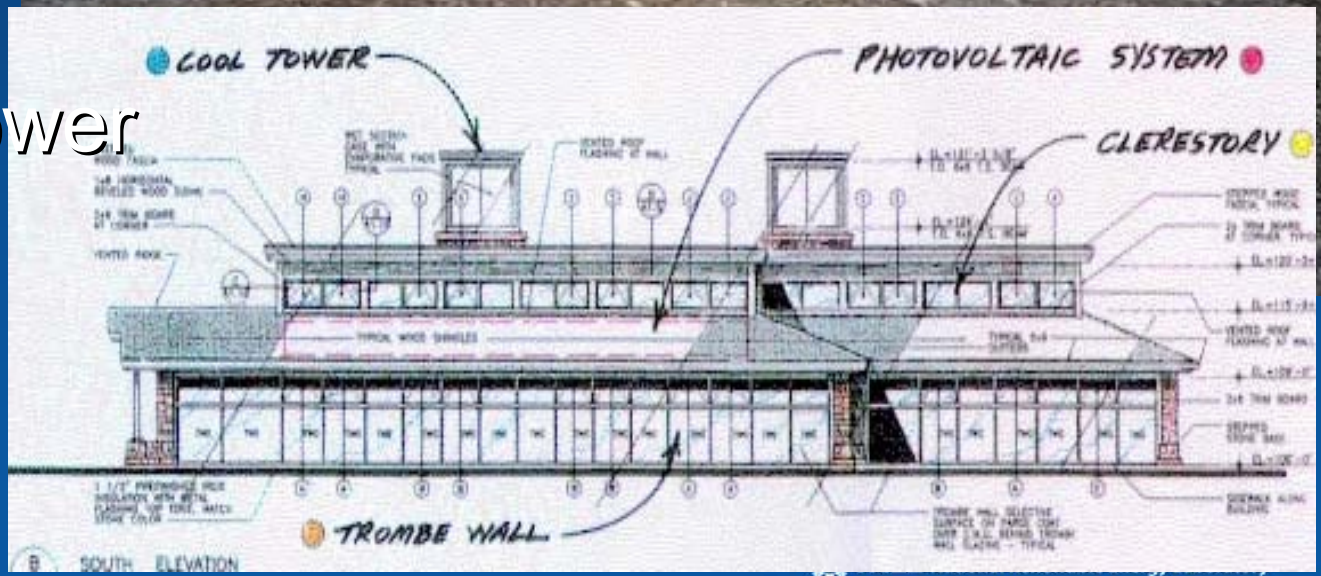


# Zion National Park Visitor Center



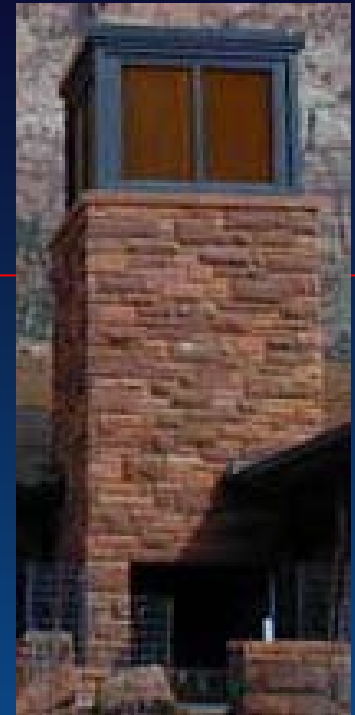
# Zion National Park Visitor Center

- 70% energy cost savings and 30% capital cost reduction
- 10% PV power



# Zion Energy Features

- Daylighting
- Downdraft evaporative cooling
- Trombe wall
- Radiant heating
- Roof photovoltaic (7.2 kW)
- Operation without grid power





# Pinnacles National Monument (California)

- Remote PV-hybrid system
  - 9.6 kW PV with 20 kW propane backup generator provided an elegant solution for electricity in sensitive area (installed 1996)
  - LCC analysis: system costs \$83k less than 2 replacement propane generators over 20-years
- **New GMP Project:** move facilities above flood plain
  - Sizing off-grid hybrid system
  - New efficient building design



*"The PV system ... costs a fraction of what we used to pay each month to operate and maintain the diesel generators it replaces." —Gary Candelaria, former Pinnacles Superintendent*

# Renewable Energy at Pinnacles National Monument

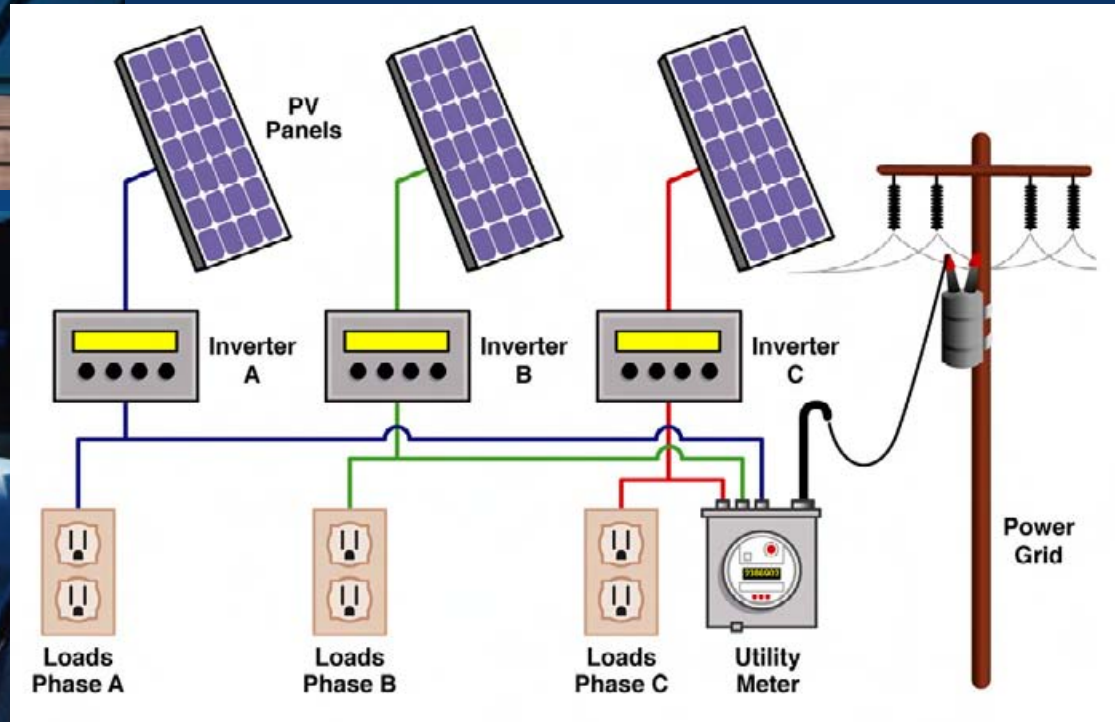


# BigHorn Center

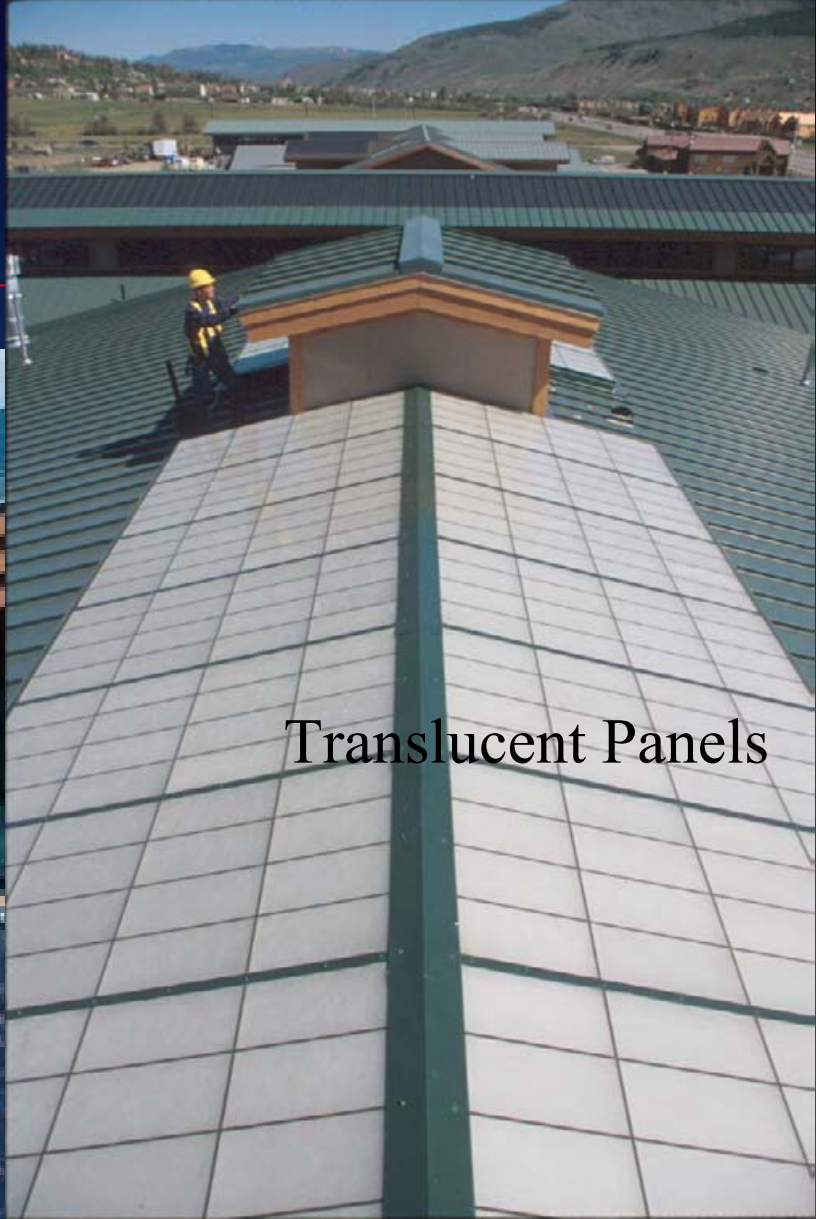


62% savings  
projected

# BigHorn Center (BIPV)



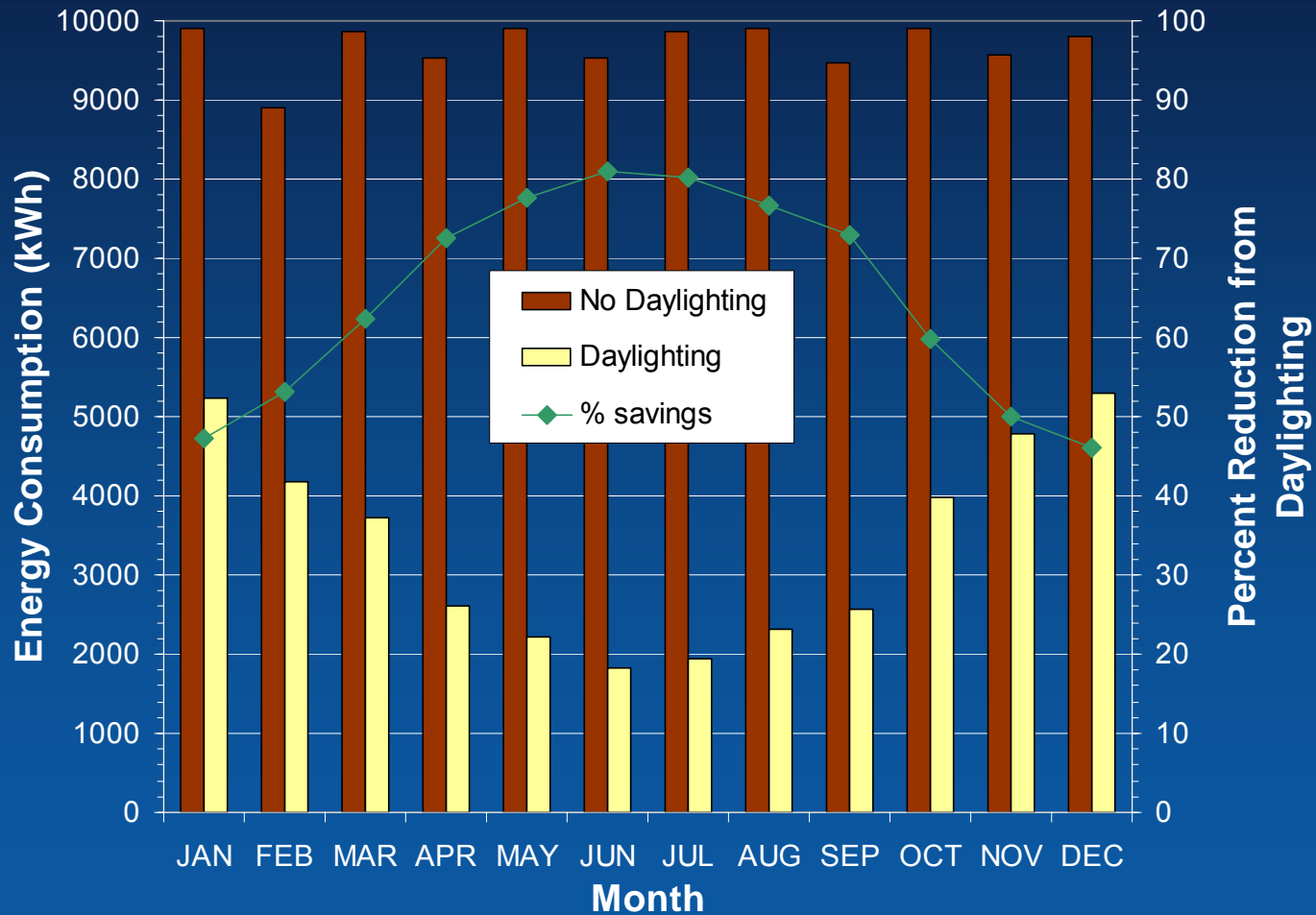
# Daylighting



# Electric Lighting and Daylighting

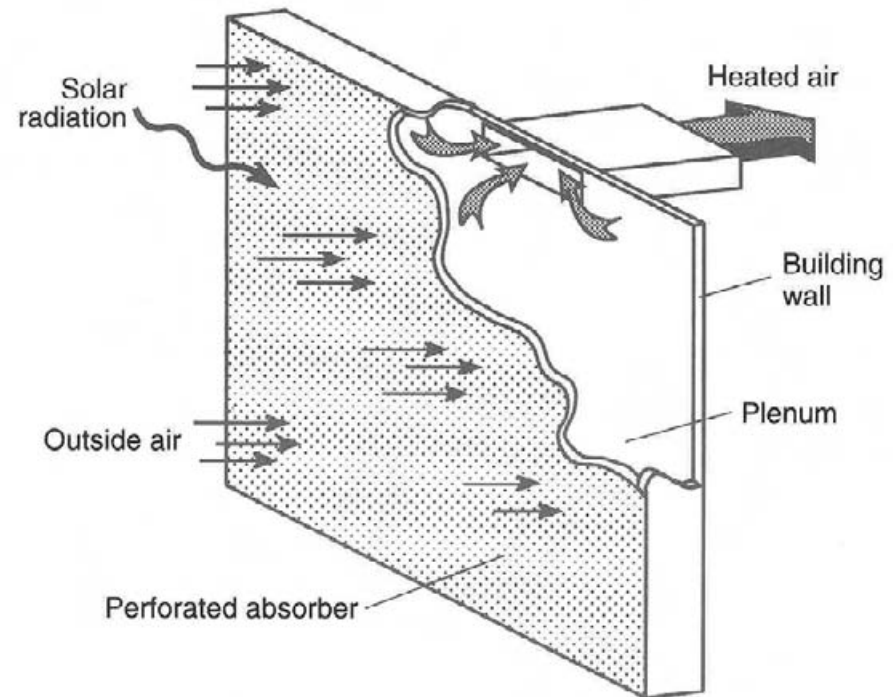


# Daylighting System Expected Performance



# Transpired Solar Collector

- Ventilation Preheat
- Over 70% efficient
- Acts as a building skin
- 1¢/kWh heat production





# Some Resources

- [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com)
- [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) (LEED ratings)
- [www.highperformancebuildings.gov](http://www.highperformancebuildings.gov)
- [www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org)
- [www.nrel.gov/data/pix](http://www.nrel.gov/data/pix)
- <http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/>

# What to look for...

- General Rules for Buildings
- Long axis of building faces south
- Minimal **East and West** Windows
  - Should have low SHGC (<0.40)
- Maximize **South** Glazing with high glass for daylighting
  - Design overhangs to shade surfaces in summer
  - Use high SHGC (>0.60)
- Use **North** glass for daylighting and view glass
  - SHGC does not have big energy impact
- Motion and Daylight Sensors to harvest daylighting

# What to look for... part II

- Good Insulation Packages
- Energy Star Appliances
- No incandescent lights
- Effective Energy Design
- HVAC sized for the building, type appropriate for climate (Evap cooling in SW, etc)
- Low-Energy is in the Building, not the HVAC system.
- Pay for added building costs with reduced HVAC.
- Use simulations to design building.

# What to look for... and how to accomplish

- Low Maintenance design (Stucco, Masonry, clad windows, metal roof, etc.)
- Low water use design
- WHO ELSE IN YOUR TRIBE OR COMMUNITY CAN HELP?
- Who can provide required goods and services?
- How will project be funded?
- Sketch a project time line.

# Discussion & Questions

Which of these strategies would you consider for your next building?

