

# High Performance Glazing

Technologies, Applications & Resulting Performance

Presented by Mike Florence, DUXTON Windows & Doors



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# Presentation Overview

- Window vs. Overall Wall Performance
- Performance Specifications
  - Insulating low conductivity frames
  - Insulating glass coatings and spacers
  - Operable window types
  - Durability
  - Installation details
- Selective Glazing by Orientation
- Occupant Considerations
- Emerging Technologies





# Food for Thought

*Responsibility towards our environment*

Design  
Respon-  
sibility



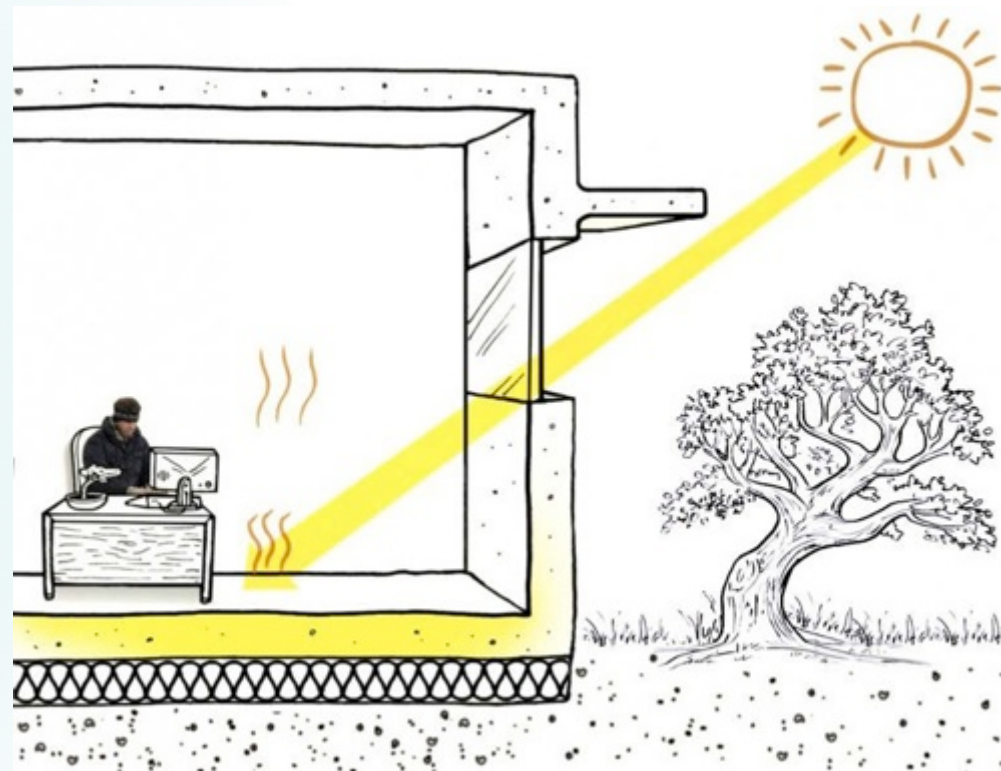
**RESPONSIBILITY**

No single drop of water thinks it is responsible for the flood.

*~ Author Unknown*

# How do Windows Contribute to Overall Building Performance?

- Windows in the U.S. consume 30% building heating and cooling energy
- Focus on the building envelope 1<sup>st</sup> – heating & cooling 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Windows can be “net energy gainers”  
 Windows with high solar heat gain coefficients (SHGC) can admit more useful solar gain than the conductive energy lost





# Net Zero Home – Passive Solar Gain Application

Habitat Studio, Edmonton, AB

Building  
Envelope

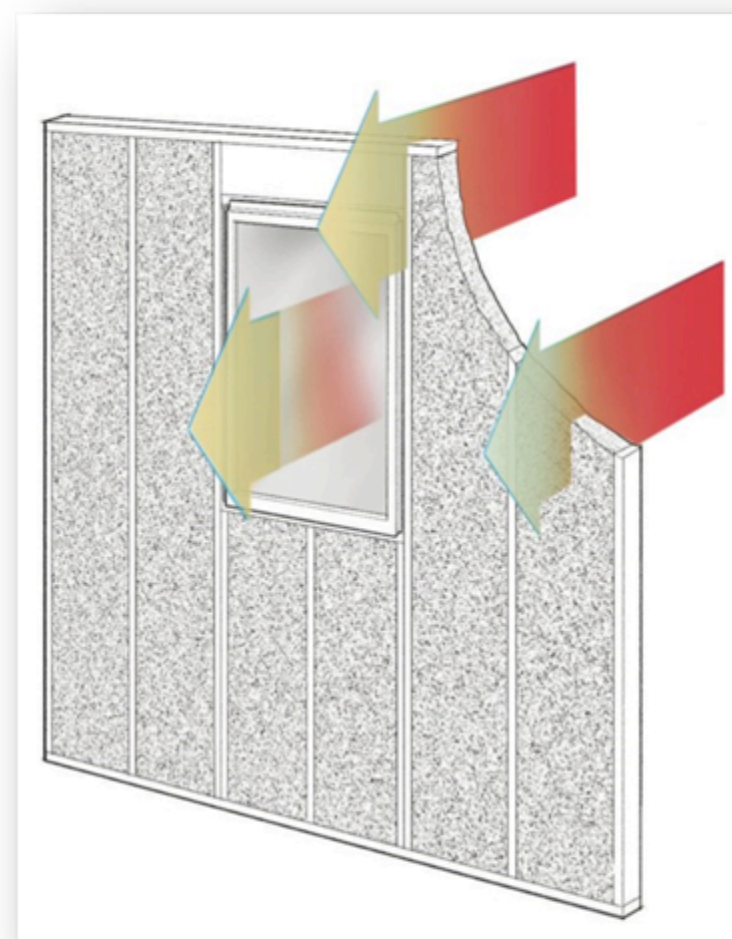


"One of the reasons this house has such a simple mechanical system is because **it is getting over 50 per cent of its energy just from the sun coming through those south-facing windows,**" says Amerongen. "So once you reduce your total heating load it's small enough we can get all of the energy we need from those solar panels."



# Impact of Window R-Value on Overall Wall R-Value

Window 15% of Wall Area	Wall R-Value with Windows w/Variied Wall Insulation Levels			
U-Value	R-0	R-18	R-39	R-60
0.30	R-5	R-11	R-15	R-17
0.20	R-5	R-13	R-19	R-23
0.15	R-5	R-14.5	R-23	R-28
0.10	R-5.5	R-16	R-27	R-34



## Sources:

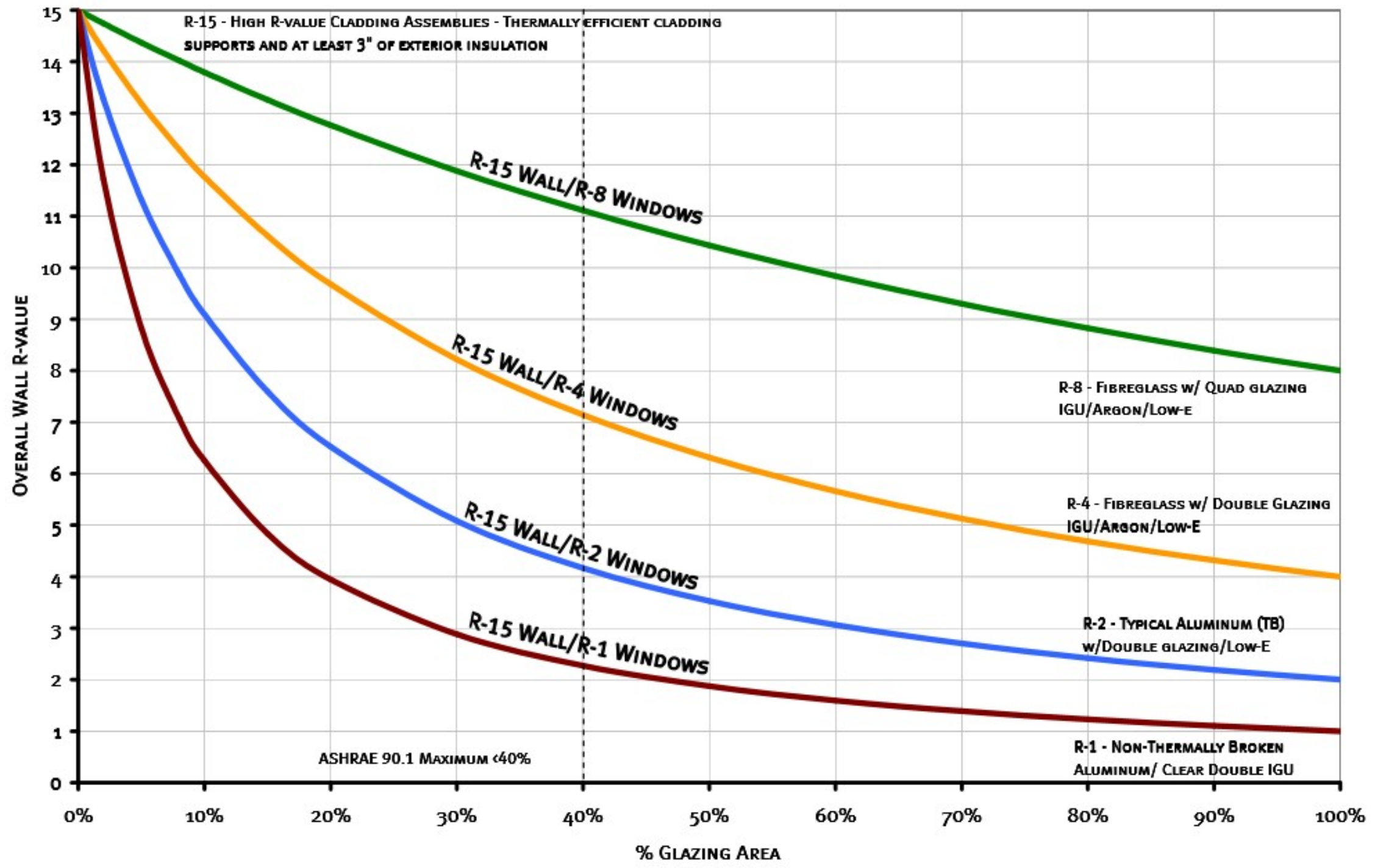
*"Holes in the Wall: To Improve the Energy Performance of Walls, Look at the Total R-Value,"*  
Journal of Light Construction, February 2014;

Multi-Assembly R-Value / U-Value Calculator – Cascadia Windows and Doors;

Michael Blasnik Presentation, 2014 ACI Conference

# Impact of Window R-Value on Overall Wall R-Value

OVERALL WALL R-VALUE FOR HIGHRISES - BASED ON WINDOW TYPE AND % GLAZING AREA



The more glazing, the bigger the impact of window performance



# Keeping Heat In (or Out)

## U. Value (U-Factor)

The measure of a window's **rate of non-solar heat loss or gain** (Btu/hr.-sq.ft.-°F in imperial).

- Consider *overall* u-value

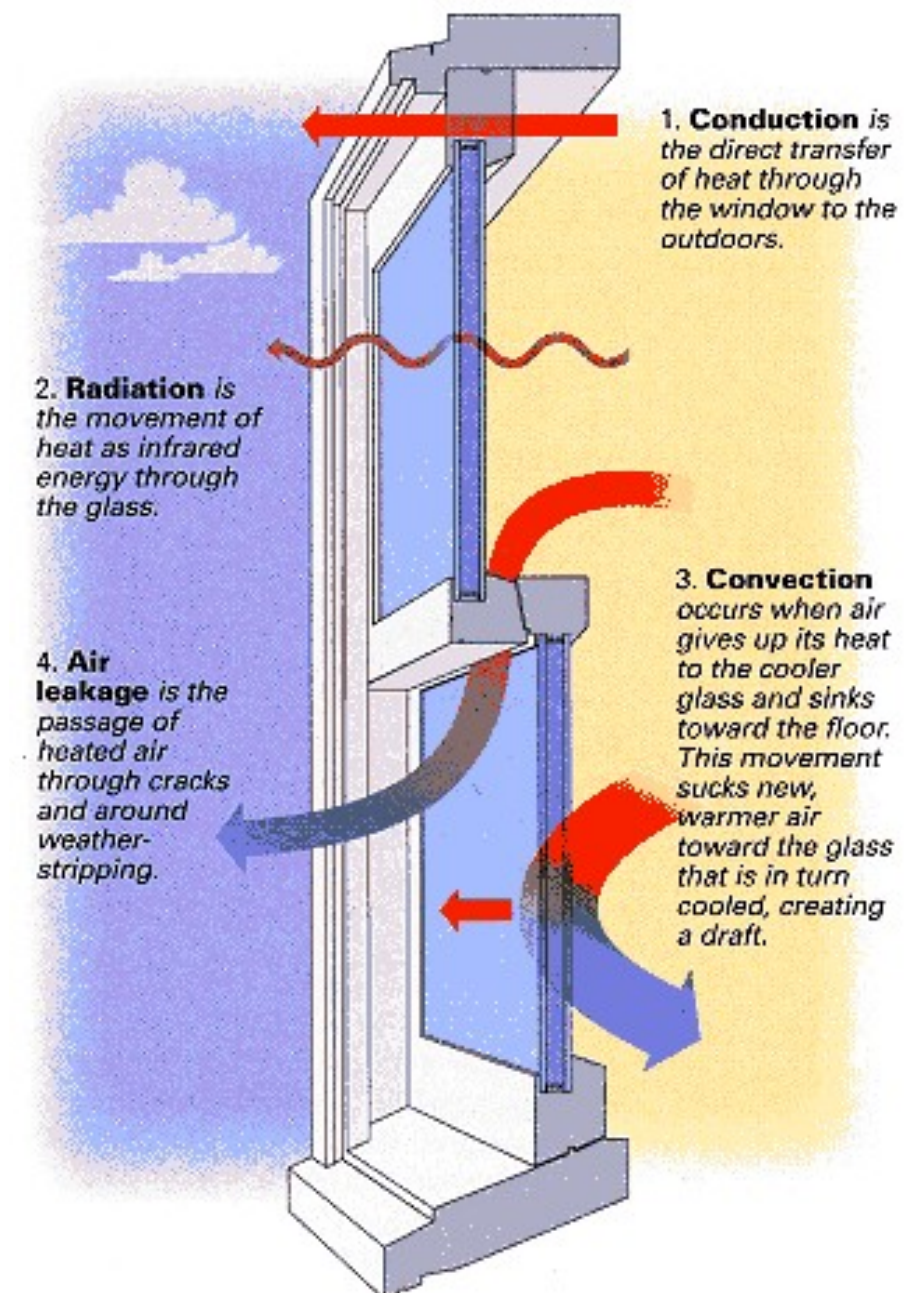
## R. Value:

The measure of a window's **resistance to heat flow**.

- The inverse of U-value, or  $R = 1/U$ .

## Windows lose and gain heat by:

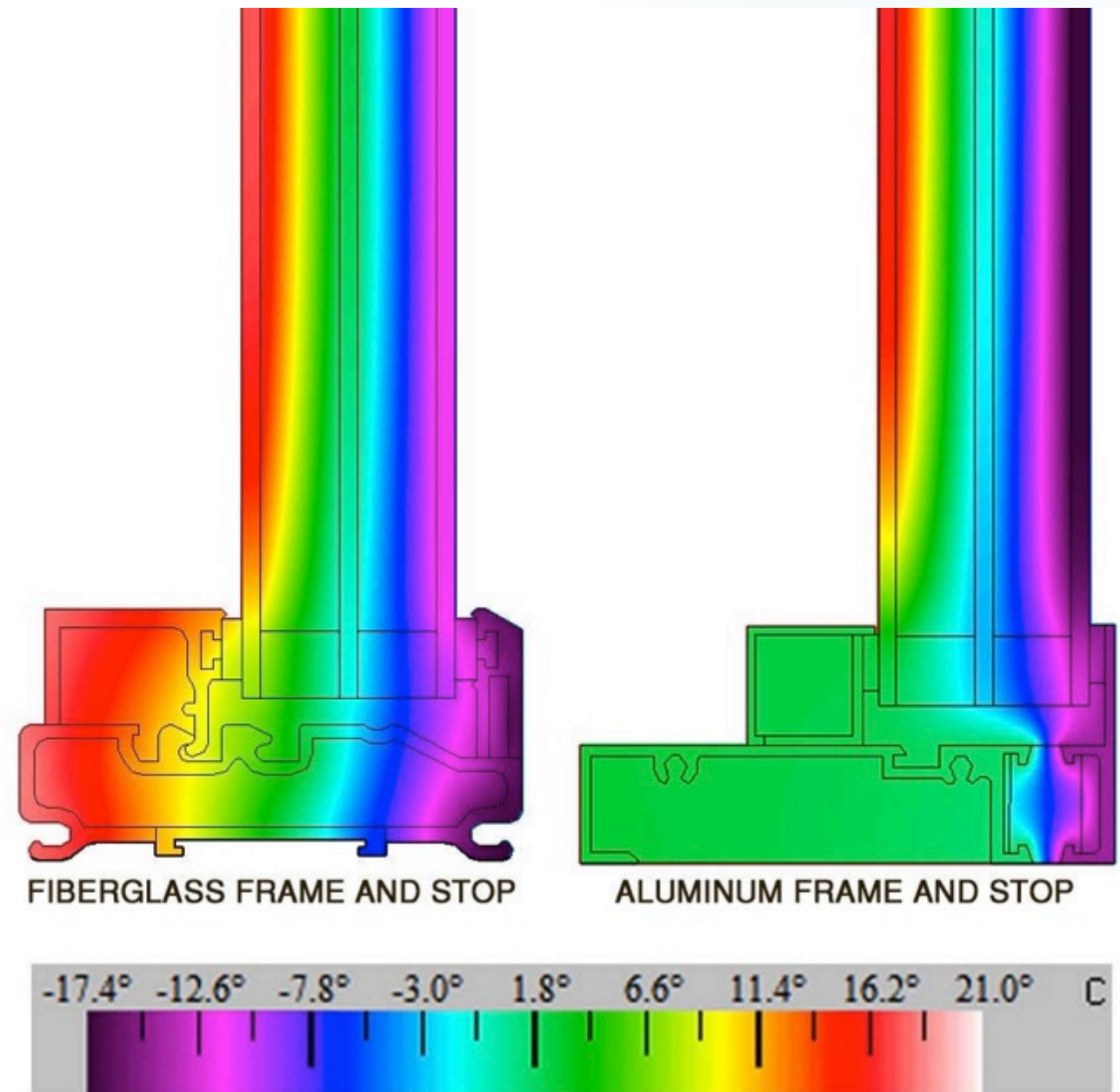
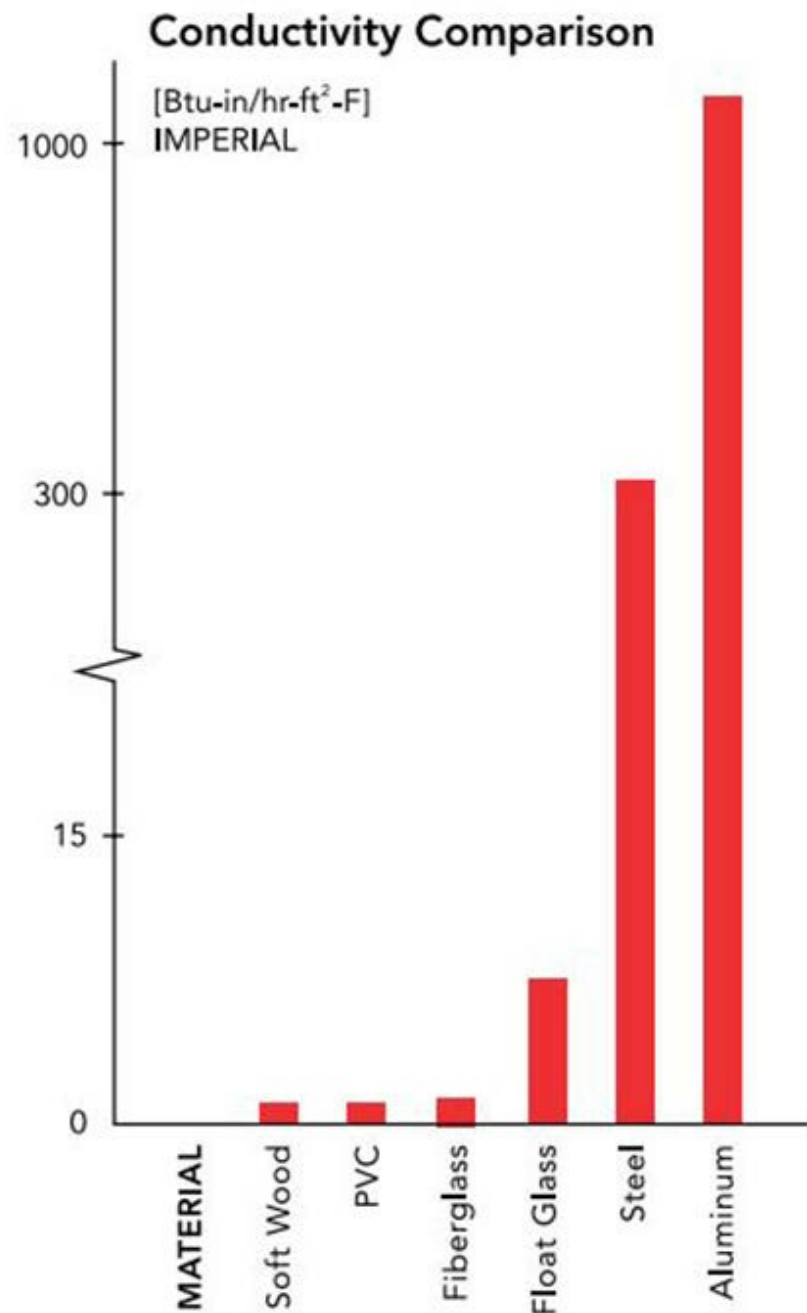
- Conduction
- Convection
- Radiation
- Air Leakage



# Conduction

Definition: Movement of heat through a solid material – like touching a hot skillet

*Aim for a less conductive frame material*



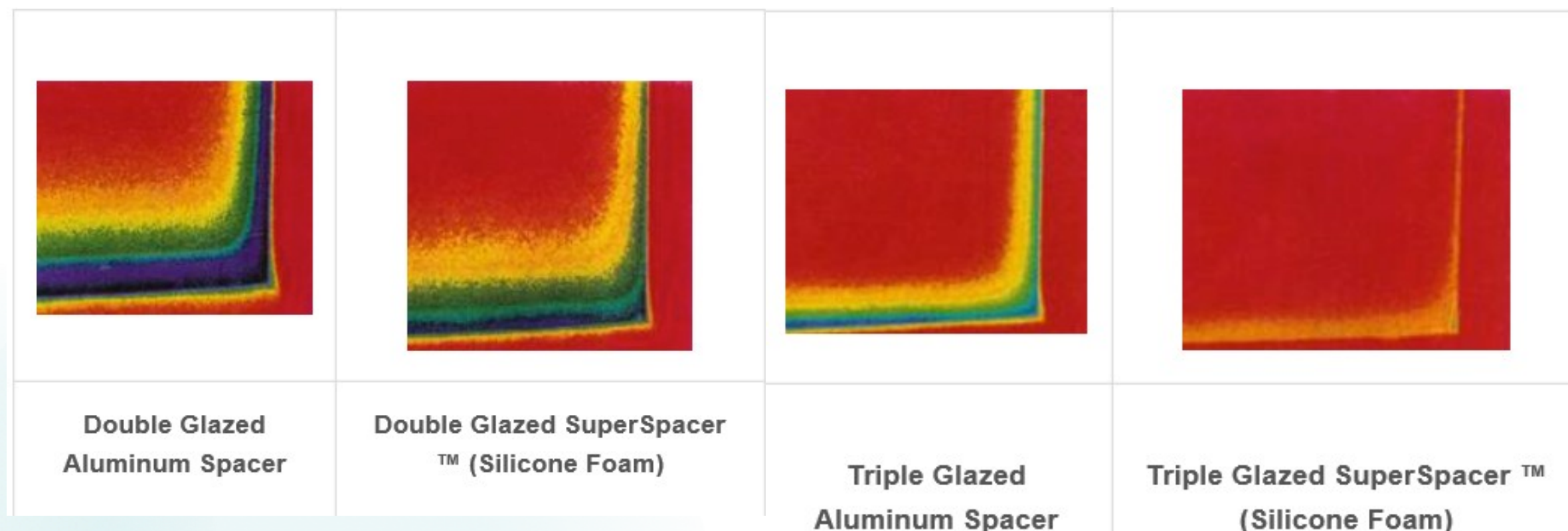
Both simulated with a Tripane 2 Low-E Silver Coatings (2&5), Argon, Warm Edge Spac



# Conduction

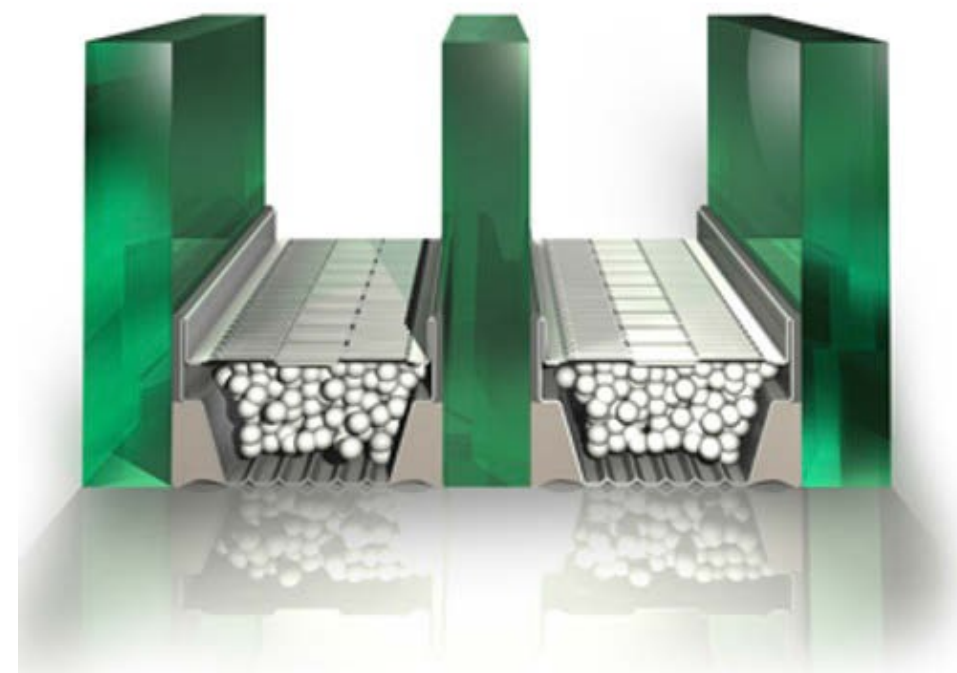
Definition: Movement of heat through a solid material – like touching a hot skillet

*Aim for a less conductive spacer*



**The difference between spacers is less meaningful in triples.**

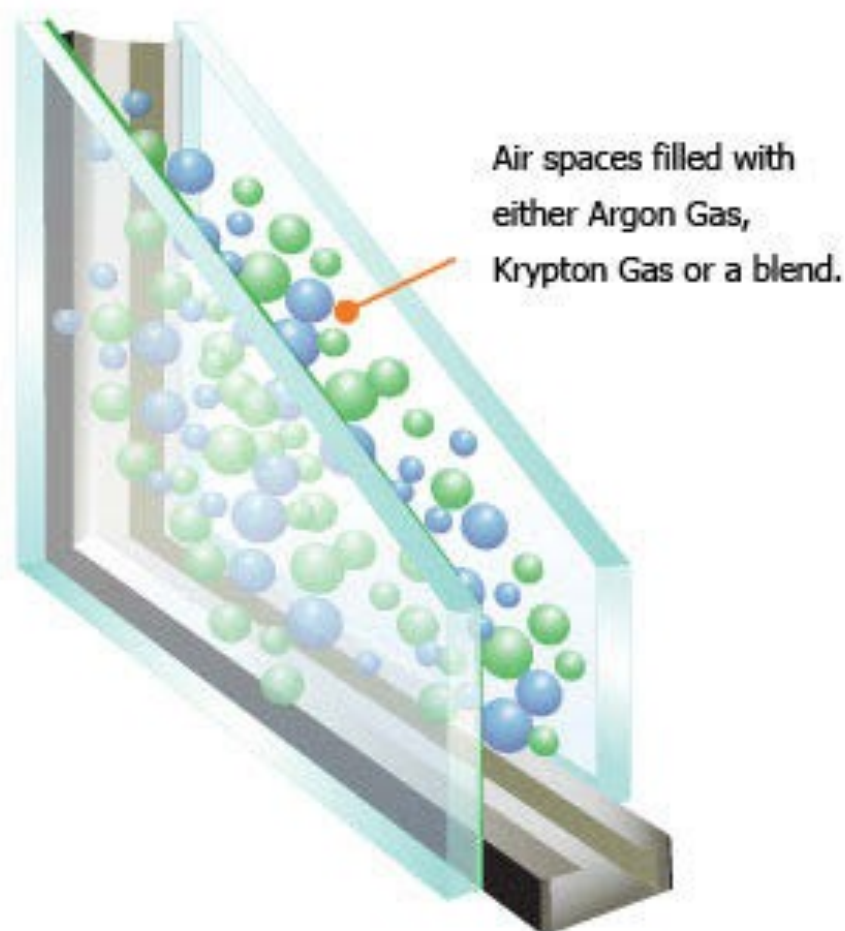
- Typical warm edge triple is at least 8°F warmer than dual equivalents
- Lowest performing spacers in a triple will be equal or better than the best performing double pane.



# Convection

Definition: Heated indoor air contacts the interior window surface, the air cools, drops, warm air takes its place, and creates a loop recognized like a draft.

- ∅ Use a gas fill to reduce the convection within the Insulating Glass (IG) unit.
- ∅ Same process between layers of glass and in frame cavities



Insulating Glass Unit	U-Factor (Btu/hr/ft <sup>2</sup> /°F)	
	Air	Argon
2-Pane Clear	0.48	0.46
2-Pane with 1-Low E272	0.30	0.25
3-Pane Clear	0.31	0.29
3-Pane with 1-Low E272	0.22	0.19



# Radiation

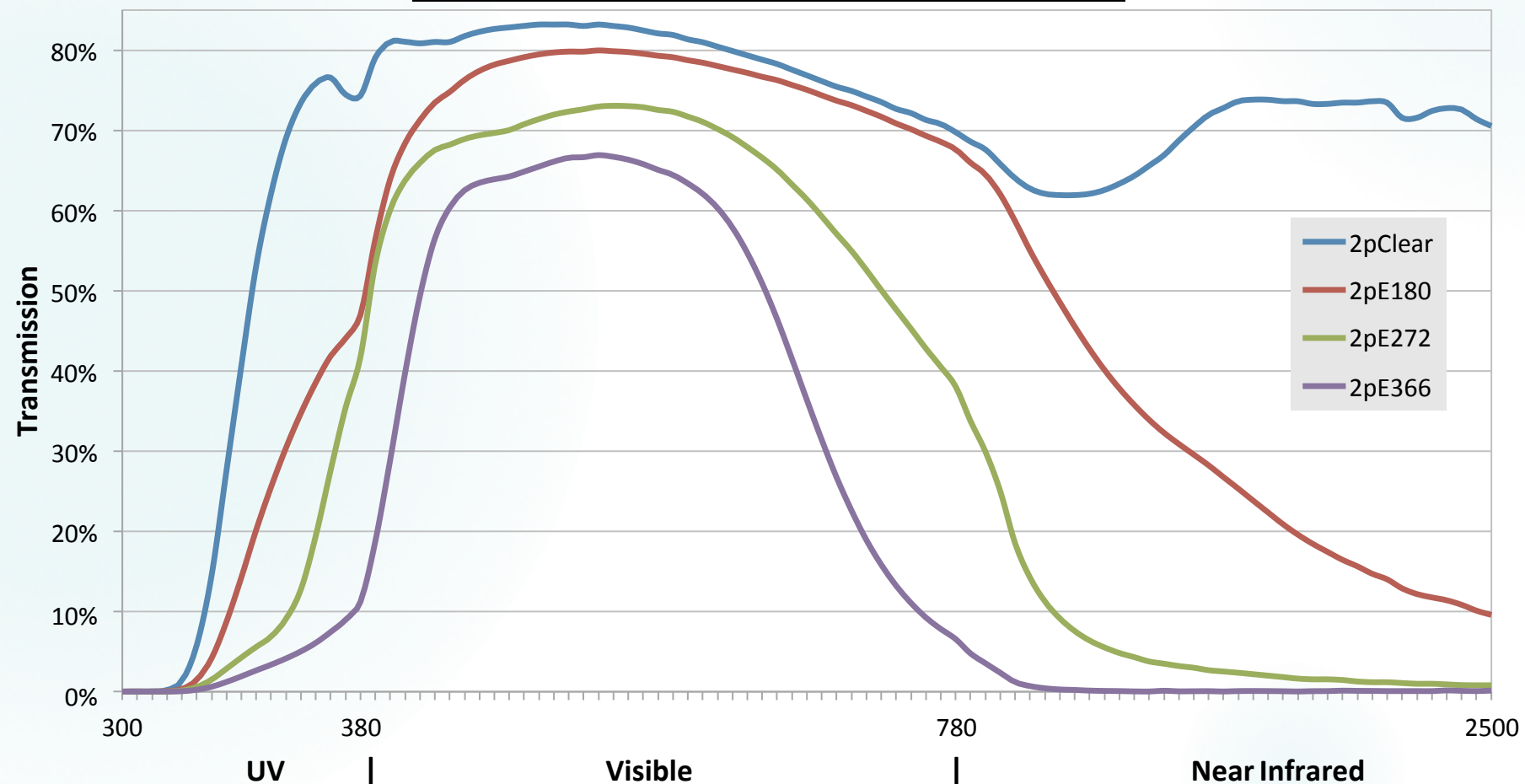
Definition: Movement of heat – like standing near a woodstove

∅ Consider the most appropriate type of low emissivity (Low E) coating to reduce radiation.

- Types of Soft Coat Low E's:

- ∅ 1 coat of Silver – High solar gain, High visible light
- ∅ 2 coats of Silver – Mid-to-low solar gain, Low U-value
- ∅ 3 coats of Silver – Low solar gain, Low U-value, Low visible light

**Spectrally Selective LoE Coatings**  
**% Transmission per Wavelength**



# Selective Glazing by Orientation

Customizing Low E Coatings by Elevation

## Typical Objectives in North America

### North:

*Minimize U-value (Maximize R-value) for reduced heat loss.*

### South:

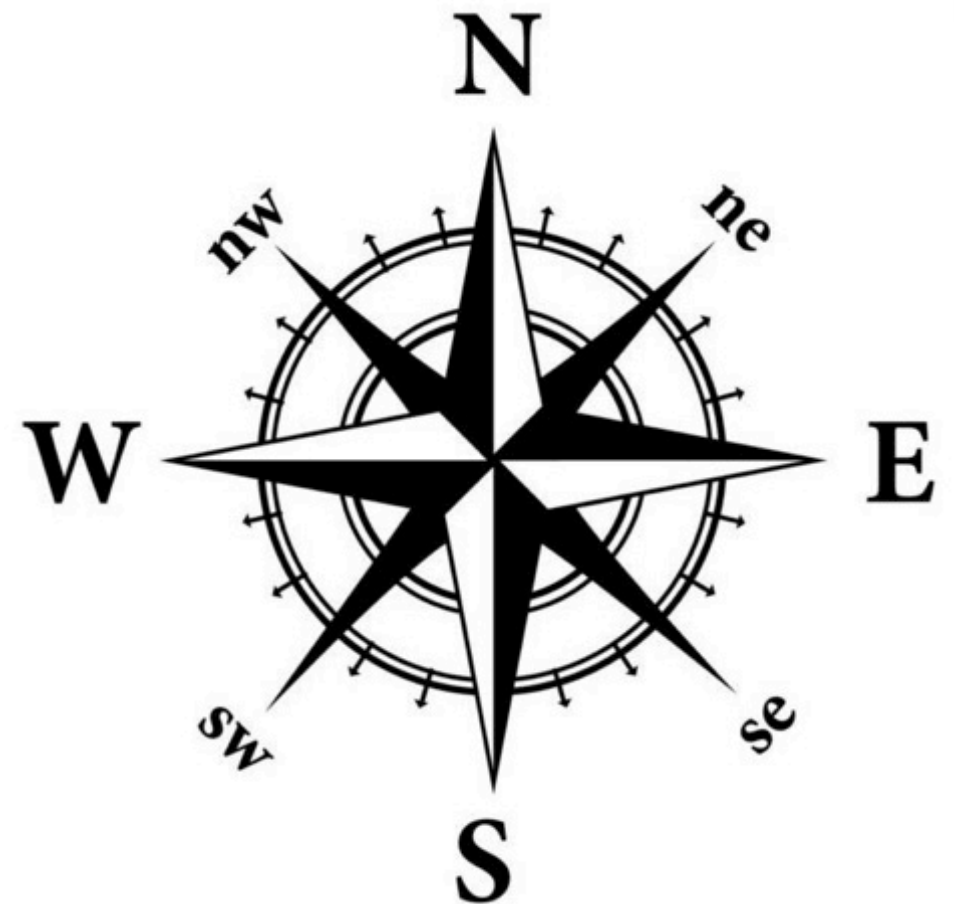
*Take advantage of optimal solar heat gain and visible light.*

### East:

*Aim for a mid-range product.*

### West:

*Control solar heat gain.*





# Air Leakage

Air  
Leakage

Definition: Infiltration of outside air into the building

∅ Reduced by compression (over sliding) seals and durable multi weatherstripping.

Best



Worst



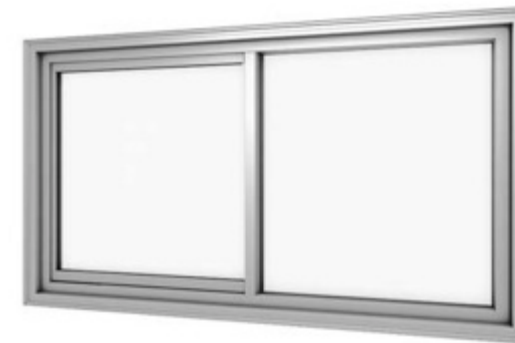
**Fixed**



**Casement**



**Awning**



**Horizontal Slider**



**Single/Double  
Hung**

# Performance Advancements on Doors

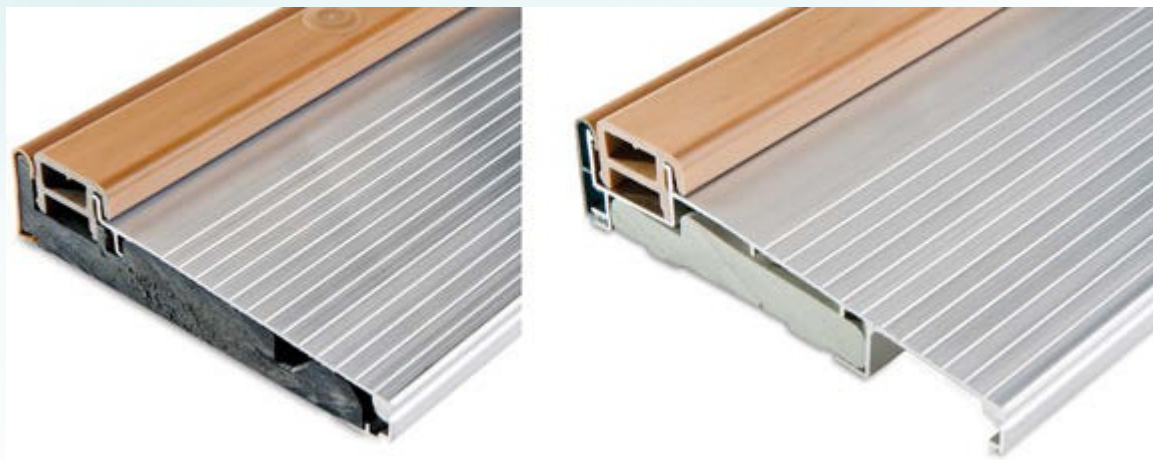
Air  
Leakage



**Insulated Door Slabs**



**Automotive  
Weatherstripping**



**Thermally Broken Adjustable  
Sills**



**Multi-Point Locks**



# Real-World Application:

## Window Upgrade Allows for Smaller HVAC System



**Amber Trails School, Winnipeg, MB  
Prairie Architects Inc.**



# Condensation Resistance

Definition: The measure of a window's **resistance to condensation** on the inside surface.

- ∅ Condensation Resistance Factor (CRF) is the AAMA rating, ranging 30 to 80 – measured data
- ∅ Condensation Resistance (CR) is the NFRC rating, ranging 1 to 100 – simulated data







- Not directly correlated to U-values which is an area-weighted calculation – more related to thermal bridging
  - ∅ Coldest part of most modern windows is the bottom 1/2“ of glazing
- Condensation Variables
  - ∅ Buildings with high humidity
  - ∅ Thermal bridging in the wall construction
  - ∅ Installations near the outside of the wall plane reducing interior air flow
  - ∅ Blinds / Draperies reducing interior air flow
  - ∅ House plants
  - ∅ Hobbies



# Condensation Resistance

- Impact of Reducing the Relative Humidity
  - Ø Increased discomfort
  - Ø Drying of skin – chapping and irritation
  - Ø Increased static electricity
- Factors to Improve Condensation Resistance
  - Ø Triple pane glazing
  - Ø Warm edge spacers
  - Ø Low E coatings and Argon gas fill
  - Ø Insulated frames
  - Ø Placement of the window in the wall assembly

Condensation for typical glazing types occur at points in the following shaded areas on the graph.

-  1. Triple glazed low-E coating
-  2. Double-glazed low-E coating
-  3. Double-glazed clear/tinted glass
-  4. Single-glazed clear/tinted glass

Condensation potential on glazing (center of glazing) at various outdoor temperatures and indoor relative humidity conditions.

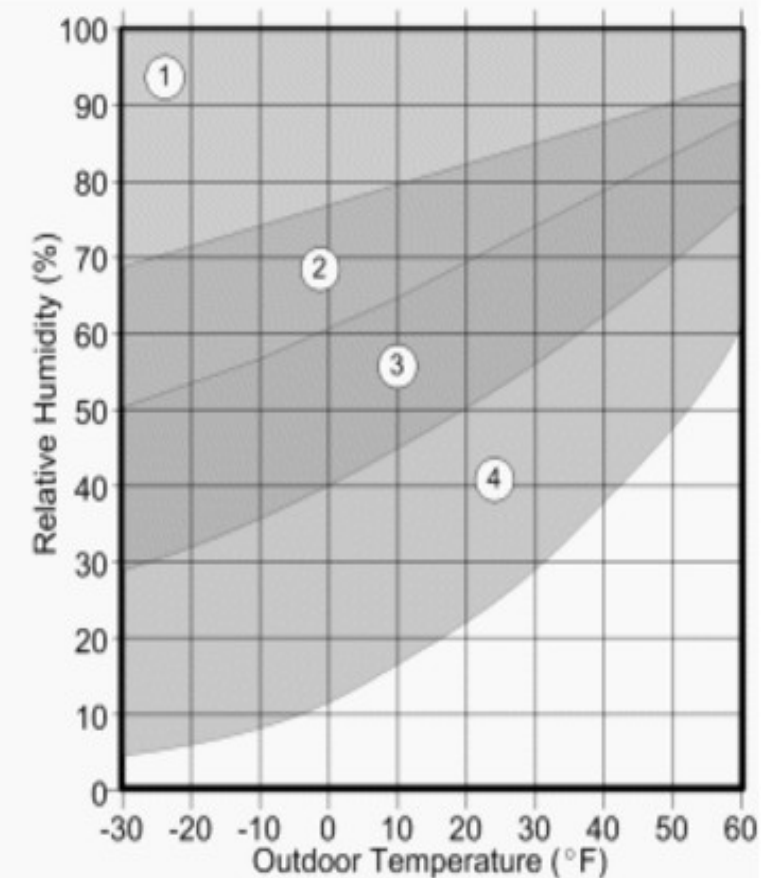
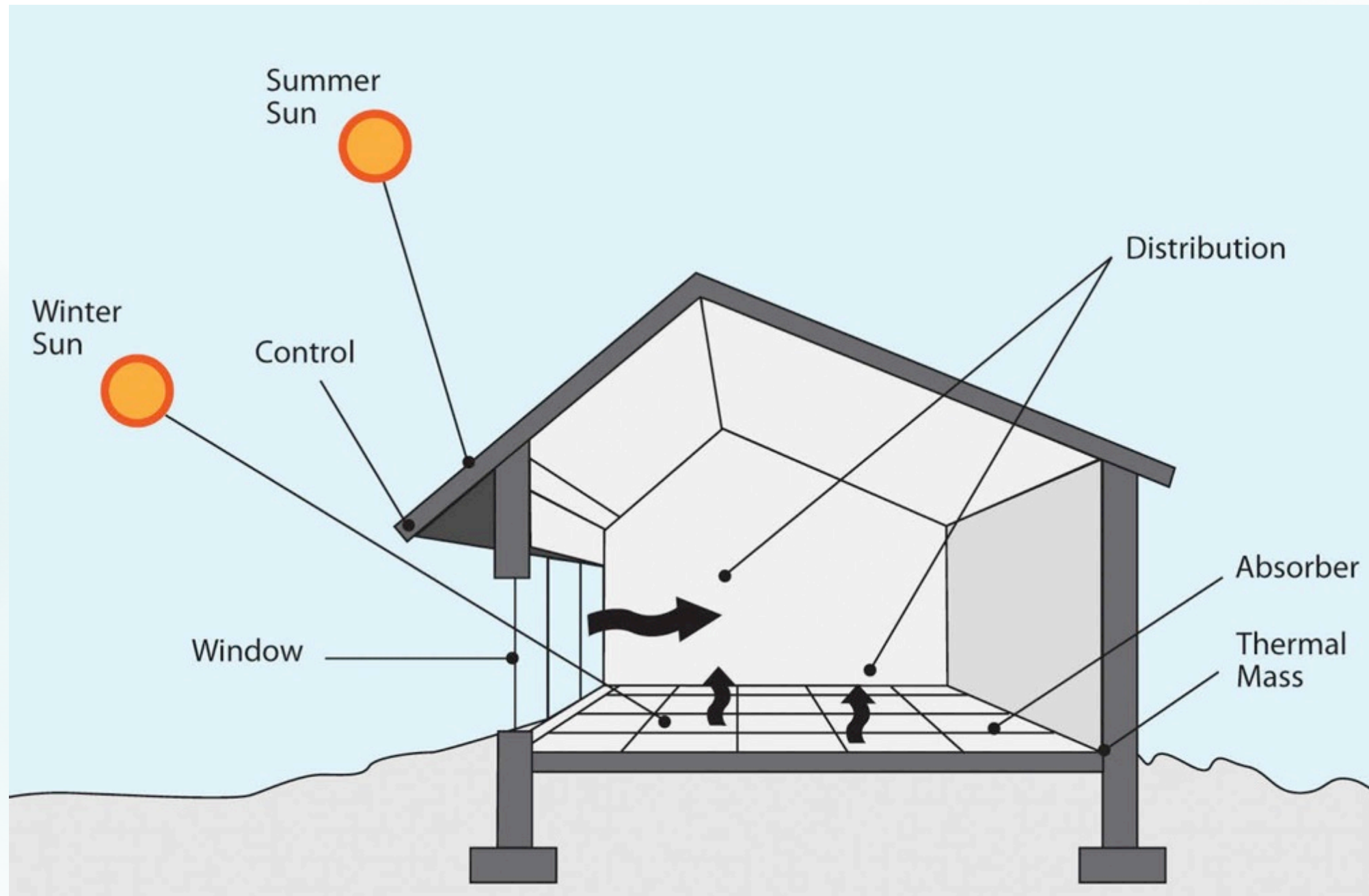


Figure 1a. Window type performance at various humidities and outdoor temperatures. Source: THERM5.2/Windows5.2 NFRC Simulation Manual, Fenestration Heat Transfer Basics, Condensation Resistance

# Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)

Definition: The fraction of the **solar radiation admitted** through a window.

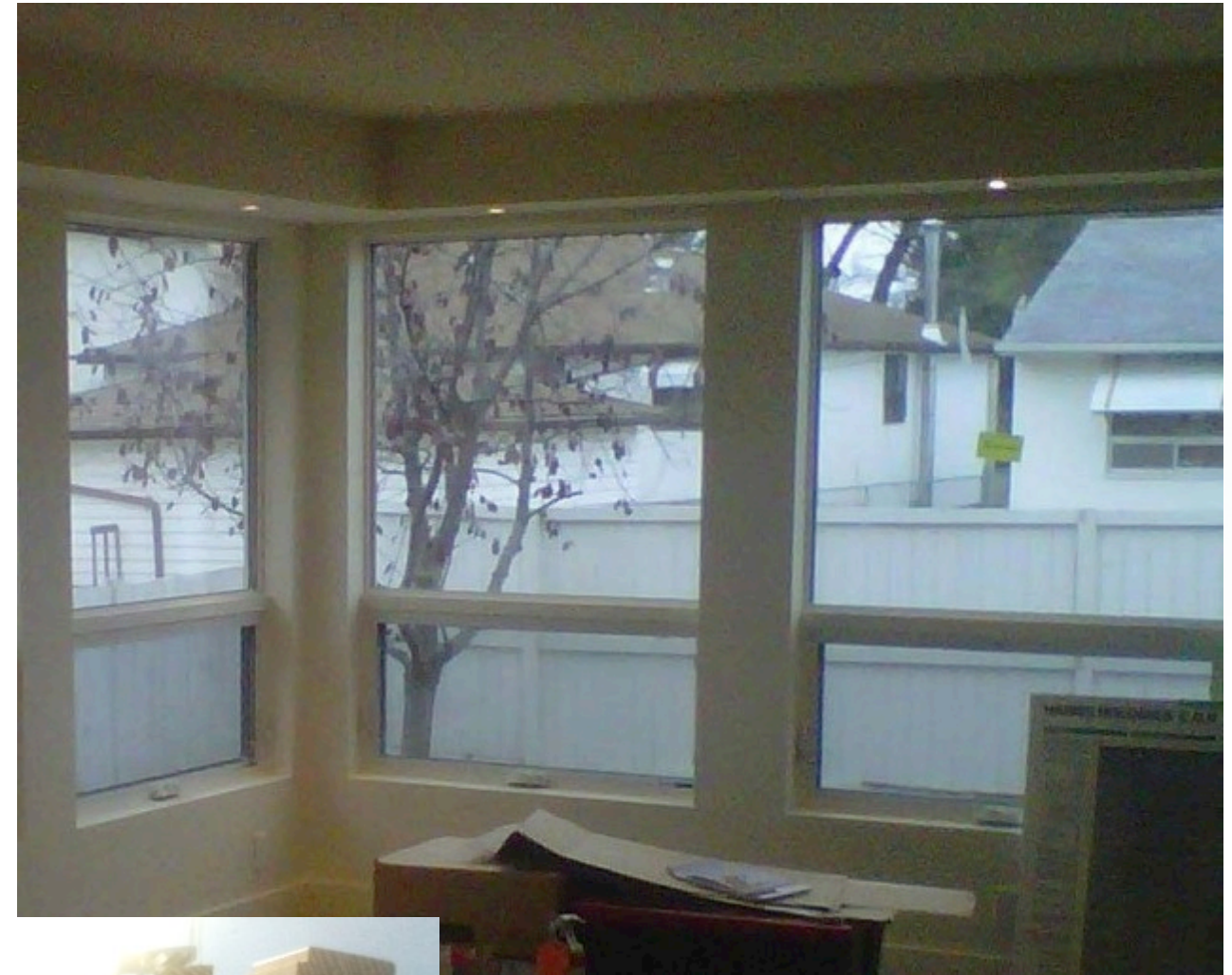
∅ Look for passive solar gain opportunities on south elevations and use large glazing





# Real-World Application:

Slim Frames for Maximum Gain and Viewing Area





# Real-World Application:

## Passive Solar Gain Glazing with Exterior Shading



*Design for a few large windows vs. many small windows to give more light and reduce cost.*



# Real-World Application: Passive Solar Gain with Patio Access

Solar  
Heat  
Gain





# Real-World Application:

## Selective Glazing by Orientation



Glass type	LoE Surface #	Spacer	Gas	R-Value (cog)	Overall U-Value	S.H.G.C.	Visible Light
Cardinal LoE-180							
Tripane 2 Coatings	2 and 5	Warm Edge Stainless Steel	Argon	7.69	0.16	0.56	70%
Cardinal LoE <sup>2</sup> -272							
Tripane 2 Coatings	2 and 5	Warm Edge Stainless Steel	Argon	7.69	0.15	0.35	58%
Cardinal LoE <sup>3</sup> -366							
Tripane 2 Coatings	2 and 5	Warm Edge Stainless Steel	Argon	8.33	0.15	0.24	47%



# Visible Light Transmittance (VLT)

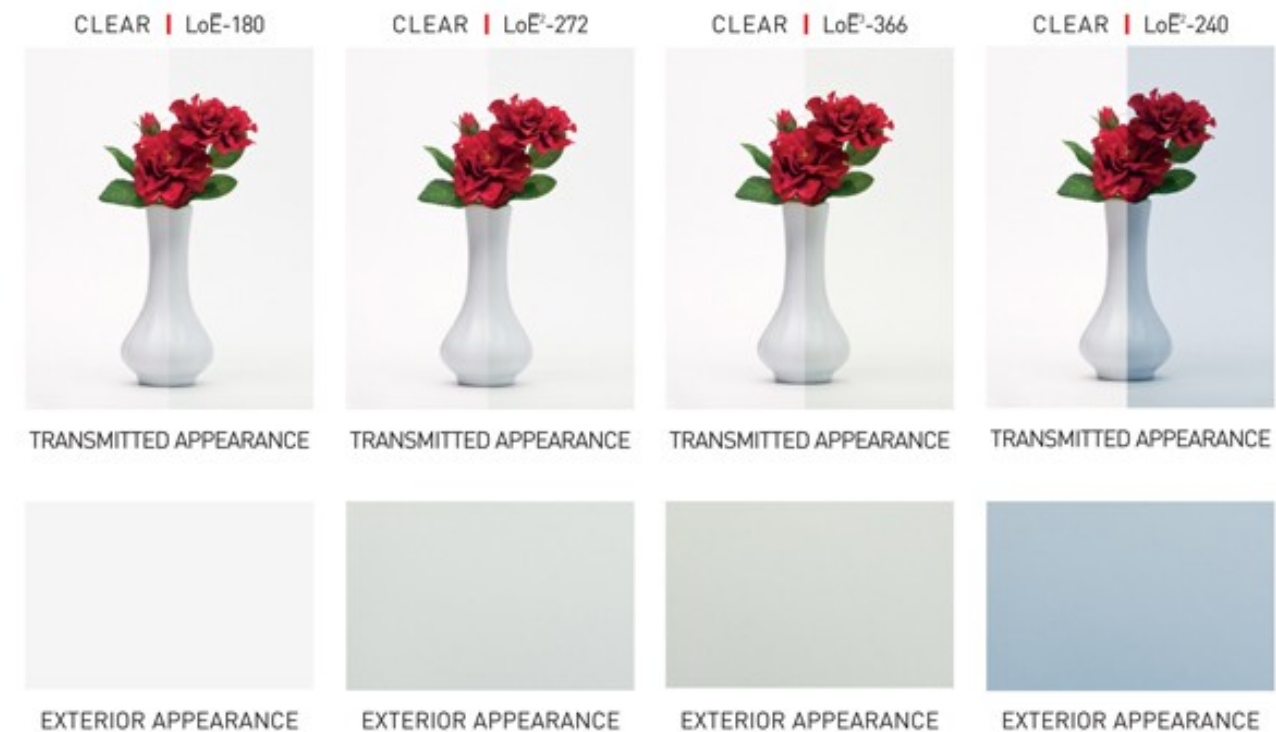
Visible  
Light

## Definition:

The measurable amount of solar **visible light** (daylight) that travels through a glazing system.



*Note the changes in Visible Light with changes in Solar Heat Gain*





# Real-World Application:

## Selecting the Right Glass for the Setting

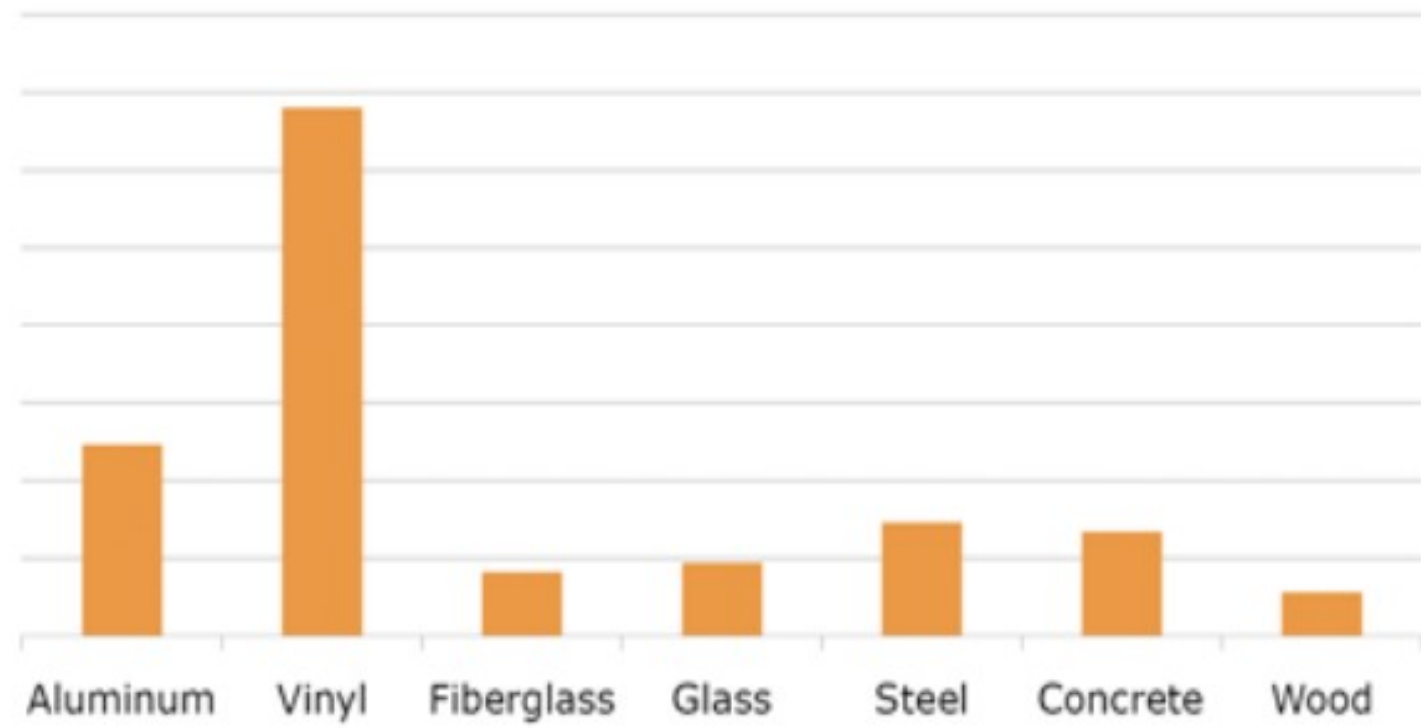
Visible  
Light





# Durability by Frame Type

**COEFFICIENT OF THERMAL EXPANSION FOR COMMON BUILDING MATEREALS**



Material	Coefficient of Thermal Expansion ( x 10 <sup>-6</sup> per degrees Celcius )
Wood (1st generation)	0.0 (Wood expands with changes in humidity)
Aluminium (2nd generation)	23.0
Vinyl (3rd generation)	62
Fiberglass (4th generation)	7.4
Glass	8.7



# Real-World Applications:

## Window Selections for Longevity and Reduced Maintenance

Durability





# Characteristics by Frame Type

Frame  
Types



**Aluminum**



**Composite**



**Vinyl**



**Fiberglass**

## **Aluminum**

- Strong, low maintenance, high conductivity, requiring thermal breaks

## **Wood**

- Good thermal performance, expand/contract in response to weather conditions, require regular maintenance

## **Composite**

- Composite wood products / metal clad vinyl / metal clad fiberglass
- Stable, with better resistance to moisture

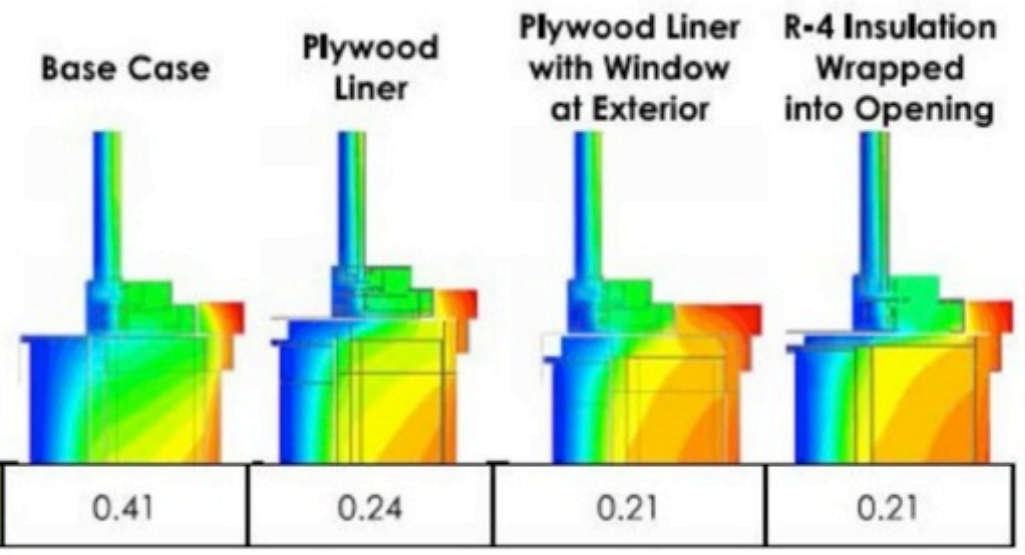
## **Vinyl**

- Low maintenance, good thermal performance, less dimensionally stable / shorter life span

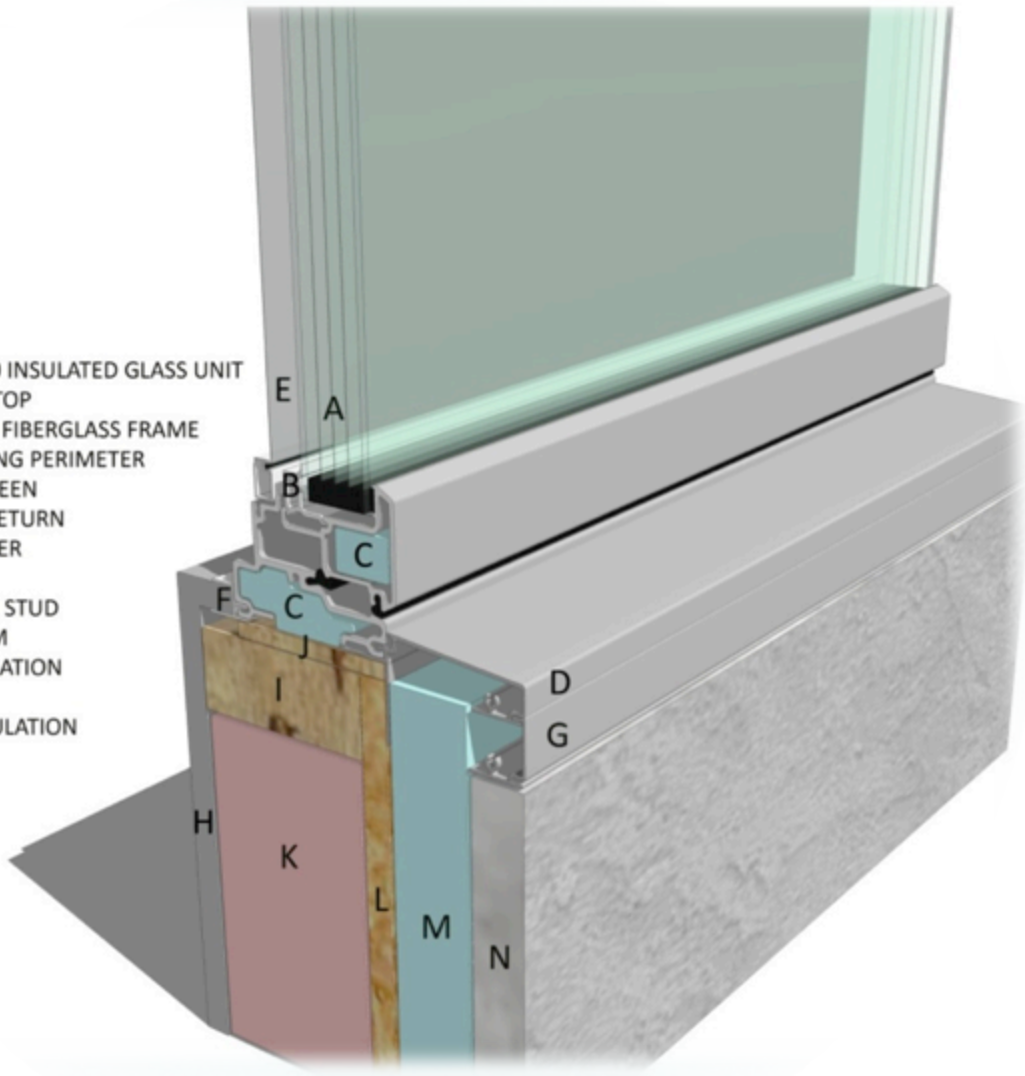
## **Fiberglass**

- Low maintenance, dimensionally stable, with superior thermal performance to aluminum

# Impact of Installation Placement Within the Wall System

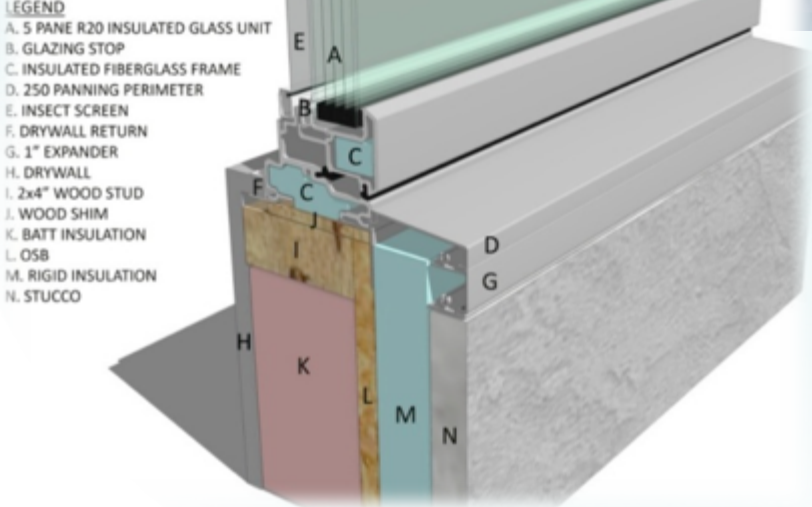


- LEGEND**
- A. 5 PANE R20 INSULATED GLASS UNIT
  - B. GLAZING STOP
  - C. INSULATED FIBERGLASS FRAME
  - D. 250 PANNING PERIMETER
  - E. INSECT SCREEN
  - F. DRYWALL RETURN
  - G. 1" EXPANDER
  - H. DRYWALL
  - I. 2x4" WOOD STUD
  - J. WOOD SHIM
  - K. BATT INSULATION
  - L. OSB
  - M. RIGID INSULATION
  - N. STUCCO





# Real-World Applications: Careful Consideration of the Building Envelope as a Whole



# Net Zero Projects

The Alberta Sustainable House, Calgary, AB

Projects



Fig. 1: View from S.W.



Fig. 2: Masonry Heater in living room



Fig. 3: Solar Oven on front porch

The total purchased energy requirements per year averages 6% of an ordinary house (0.75 wh/DD/m<sup>3</sup>).



# Net Zero Projects

Riverdale by Habitat Studio, Edmonton, AB

Projects



Built back in 2007 the [Riverdale net-zero home](#) was a 5,000 square foot duplex. It also had a complex space heating system that depended on an over-built solar thermal set-up with a lot of extra engineering bells and whistles.



# Net Zero Projects

The House Company, Edmonton, AB

Projects



“A tough blend of large glazing areas, tight venting windows and innovative triple pane glazing configurations.”



# Window Walls with Non-Conductive Frames

Projects





# Punched Openings with Casements

Triple Low E Glazing

Projects





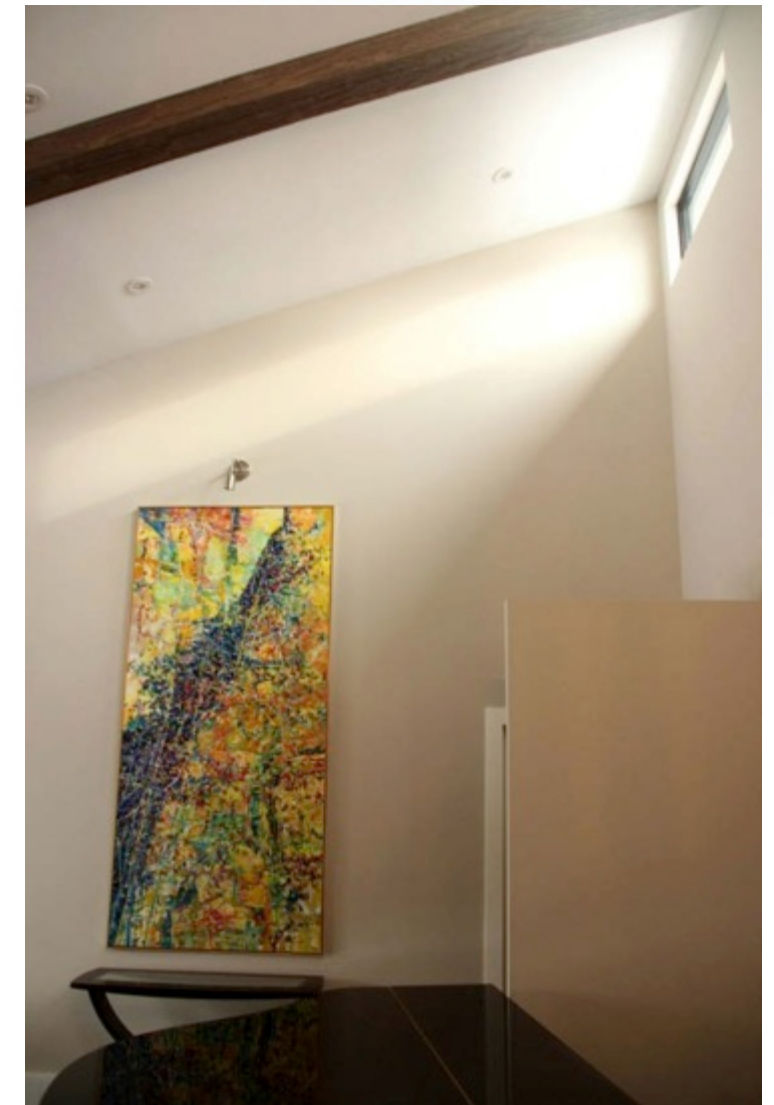
# Occupant Considerations

## Quality of Living Spaces

Occupant  
Consider-  
ations



**Views – Comfort all Year-Round**



**Privacy**



# Occupant Considerations

## Quality of Living Spaces

Occupant  
Considerations



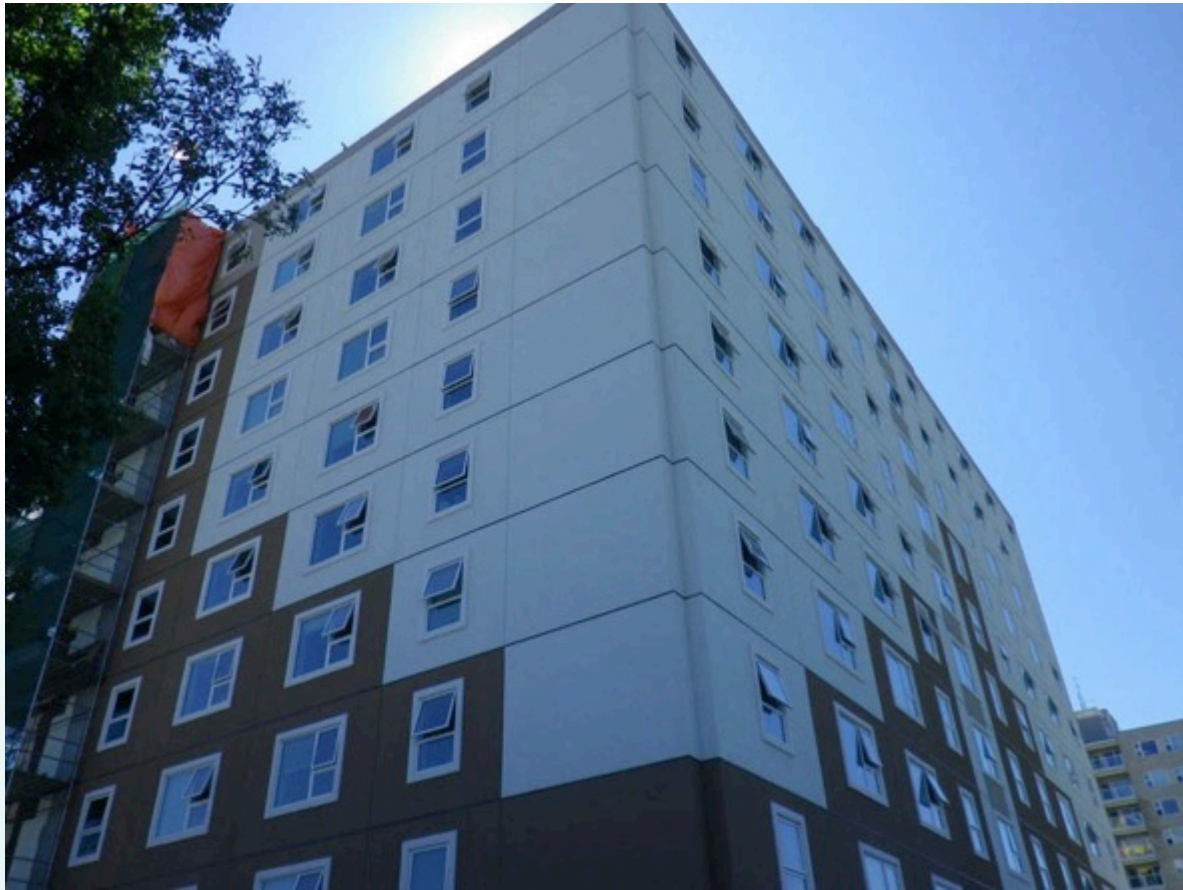
**Natural Lighting**





# Occupant Considerations

## Quality of Living Spaces



**Natural Ventilation**



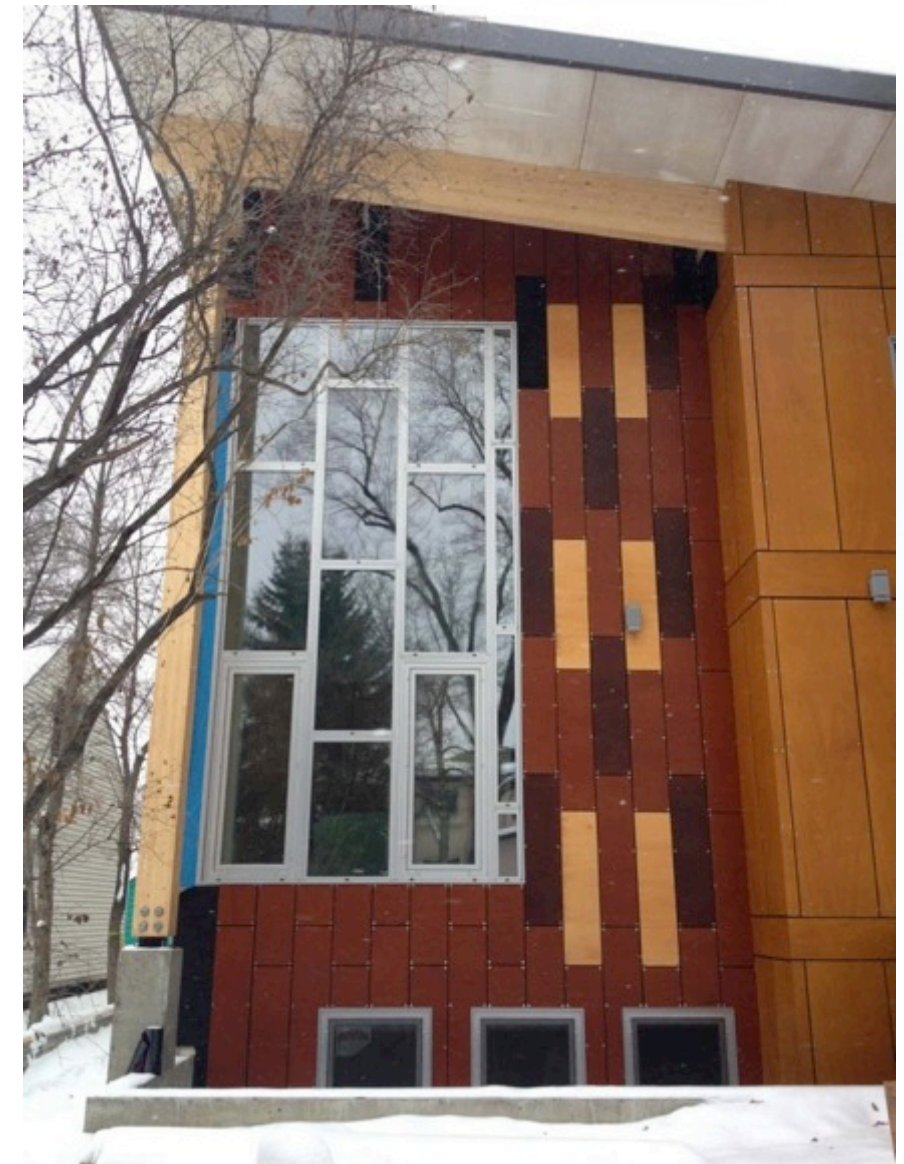
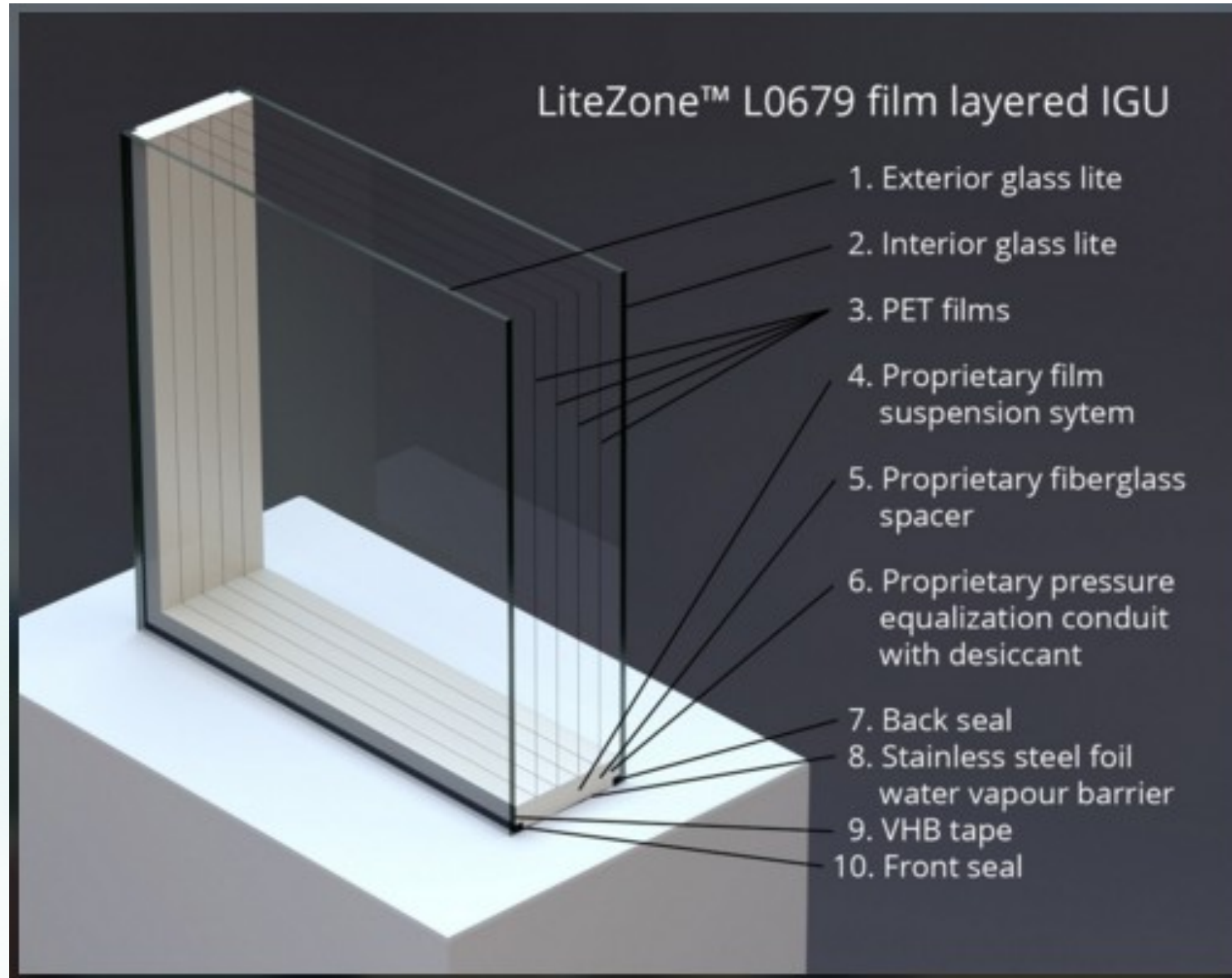
**(Dis) Comfort**



# Emerging Technology

## R-20 Centre-of-Glass Sealed Units

New





# Emerging Technology

## Dynamic Glazing

New



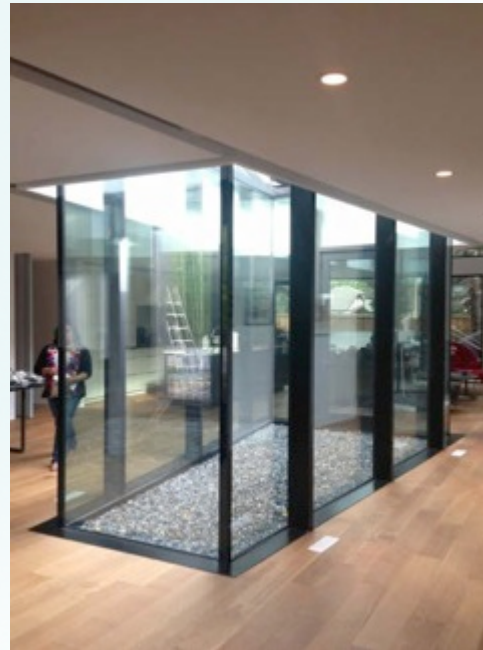
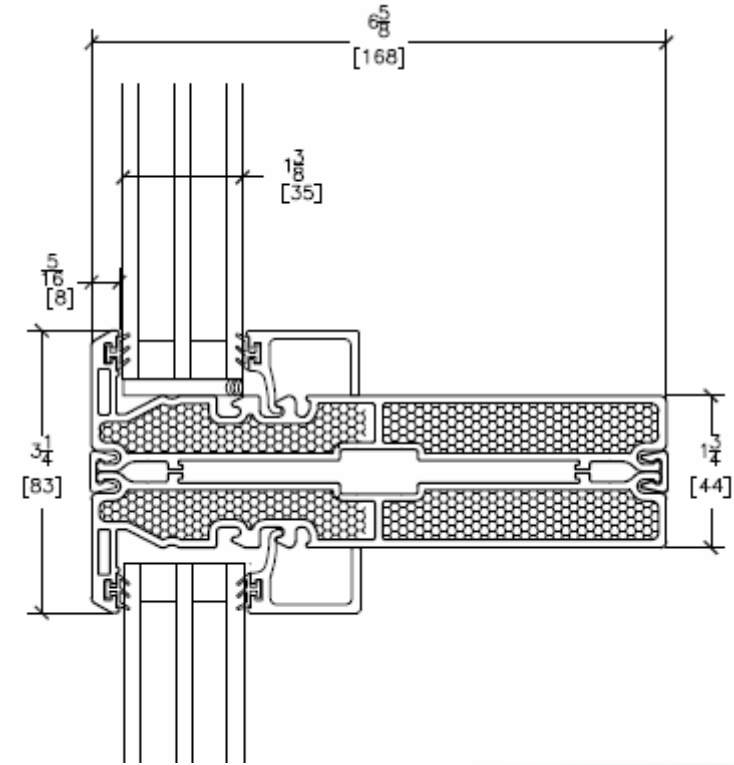
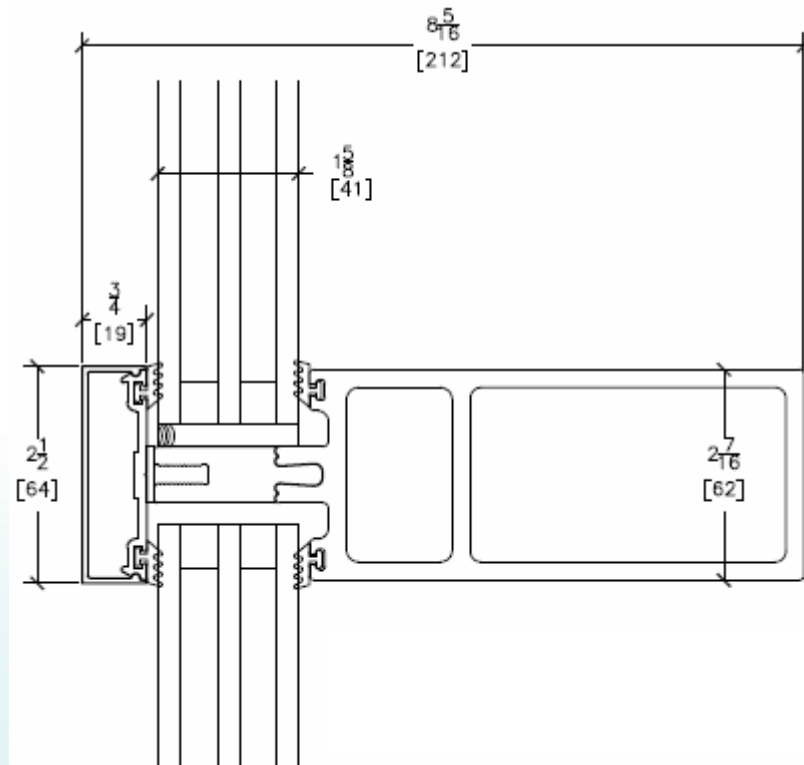
Green Build Toronto



# Emerging Technology

## Fiberglass Curtain Wall

New





# Summarized: Window Shopping Tips

## Low Overall U-Value

- Consider low conductivity insulated frames, triple pane glass & warm-edge spacers

## Good Air Tightness

- Triple weatherstripping / Compression seal

## Slim Frames

- Typically the glass has a better u-value over the frame

## Solar Gain Opportunities

- South elevations

## A Few Large Windows vs. Many Small Windows

- Use less energy, give more light, and reduce cost

## Durability

- A “cheap” investment today can result in expensive operating & replacement costs in the future.

