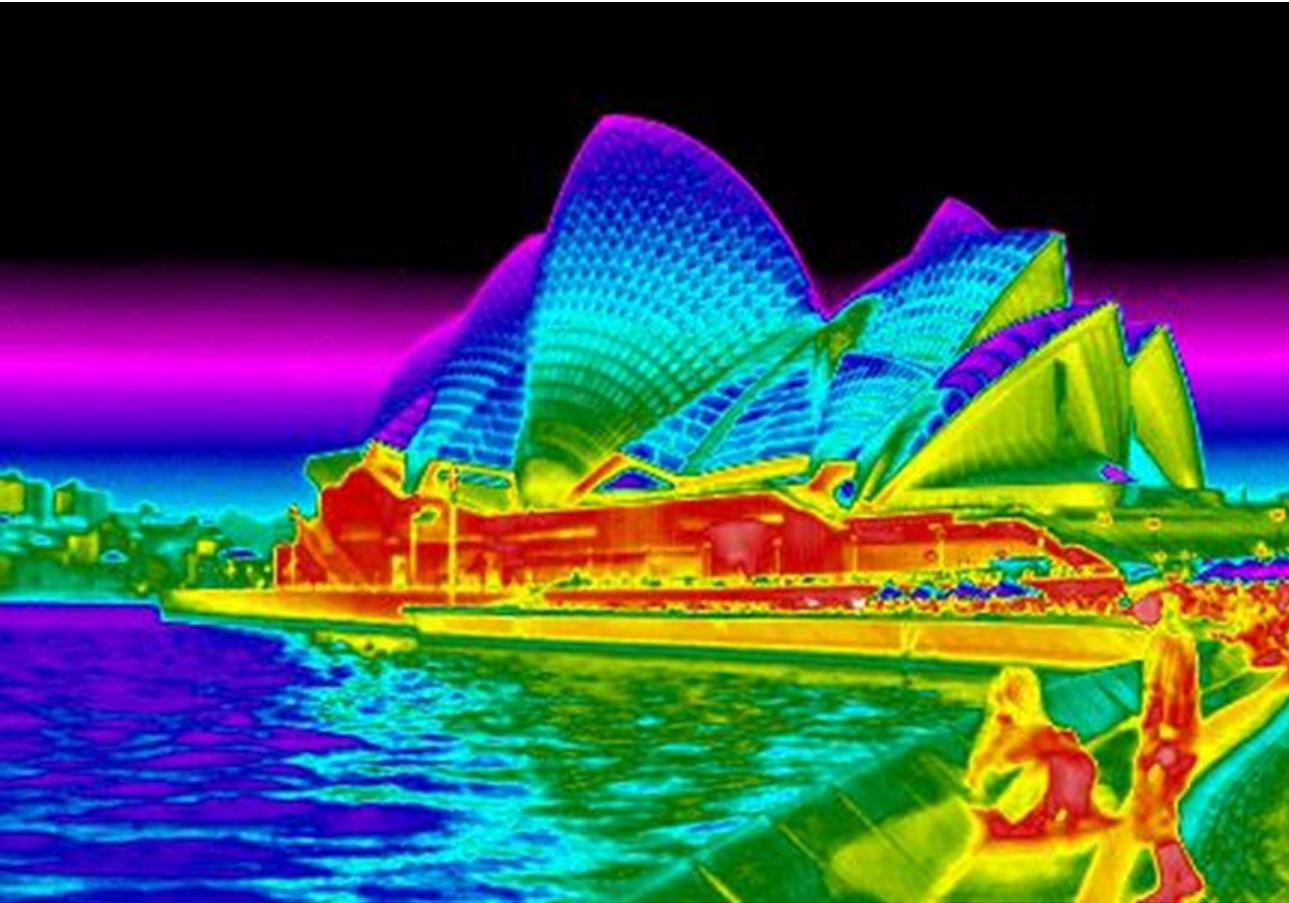


# Welcome

Observing Building Enclosures Leaking; Heat, Air and Water Using Infrared Thermography



**SWA** CONSULTING  
Scott Wood Associates, LLC





# Your Presenter

**Scott D. Wood** is the president at SWA Consulting. Since 2003 he created and provides a Level I and II Building Science Thermography course. His training course has provided thousands with knowledge in build applied thermography. In addition to his thermography building envelope and electrical evaluations he provides building consulting and investigations. Mr. Wood is also the Senior Building Scientist with the VaproShield team, providing lab testing on competitor and VaproShield's products including investigation/testing of properties for new product development.

He provides technical support for the company's representatives, client inquiries, and assists in development--updating product literature and creating VaproShield's AIA presentations.

# DISCLAIMER

This Presentation reflects the opinion of the author based on professional experience. The author reserves the right to modify opinions should additional (factual) information be made available that is contrary to the opinions expressed herein.



# COURSE DESCRIPTION

- The enclosure envelopes the building separating the conditioned from the exterior environments. Within that enclosure are Heat, Air, Liquid Moisture and Moisture vapor (HAMM) controlling elements.
- Infrared thermography can be utilized to visualize Heat, Air and Moisture (HAM) by the energy emitted from building surfaces affected by HAM.
- We will explore the benefits, limitations and physics behind the use of infrared thermography or thermal science, it's partnering with building science and infrared's use in "seeing" Heat, Air and Moisture at the enclosure.
- By showing and describing thermal imagery, we will demonstrate how thermal patterning shows Heat, Air and Moisture flow. In the end, our audience will better understand how this technology can be applied to the enclosure, minimizing risk, determining retrofit needs, evaluating energy performance and much more.

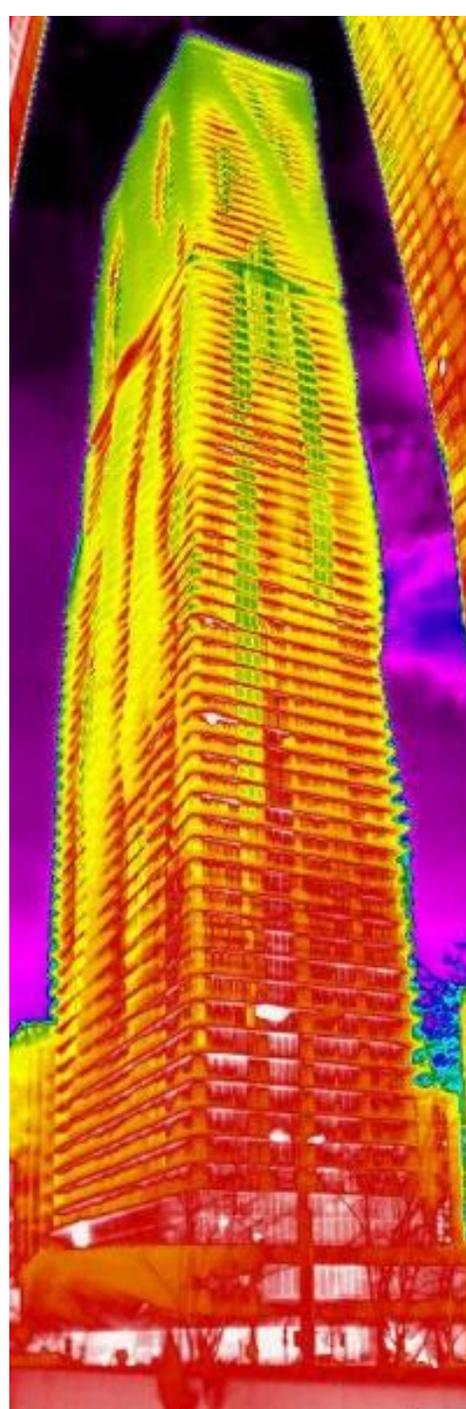
# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance of the enclosure, its basic functions and what drives the functional relationships between the occupants and the environment
- Identify reasons for the enclosure and its importance in sustainability
- Recognize the enclosure barriers, their importance and their characteristics
- Identify thermal patterns associated with Heat flow, Air flow, Bulk moisture and Vapor flow

# OVERVIEW

- Building Enclosure
  - Reasons for the Enclosure
- Building Science Basics
- Building Barriers
  - Heat or Thermal
  - Air (Heat and Vapor Transport)
  - Moisture (Bulk or Liquid)
  - Moisture (Vapor)



# Building Enclosures for net zero

AIA 2030 Commitment provides a set of standards and goals for reaching net zero emissions in the built environment



Joyce Centre for Partnership & Innovation Ontario Canada



Bullitt Center Seattle Washington, USA

# When Net Zero?

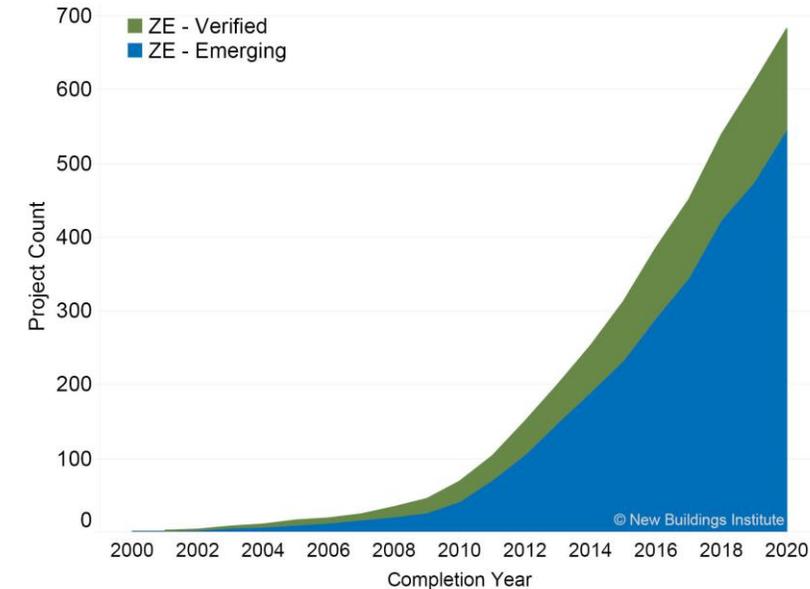


- By 2030... now a 50-52% reduction from 2005 levels
- Currently by 2050 *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*

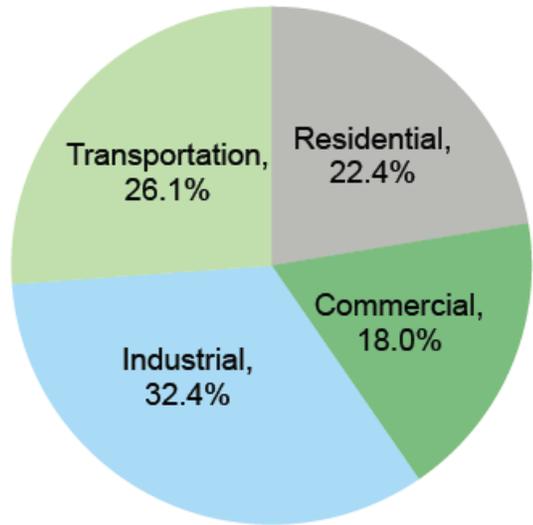
Net zero buildings in North America



2020 ZERO ENERGY PROJECT GROWTH



Net Zero building: American Geophysical Union (AGU)  
Washington DC

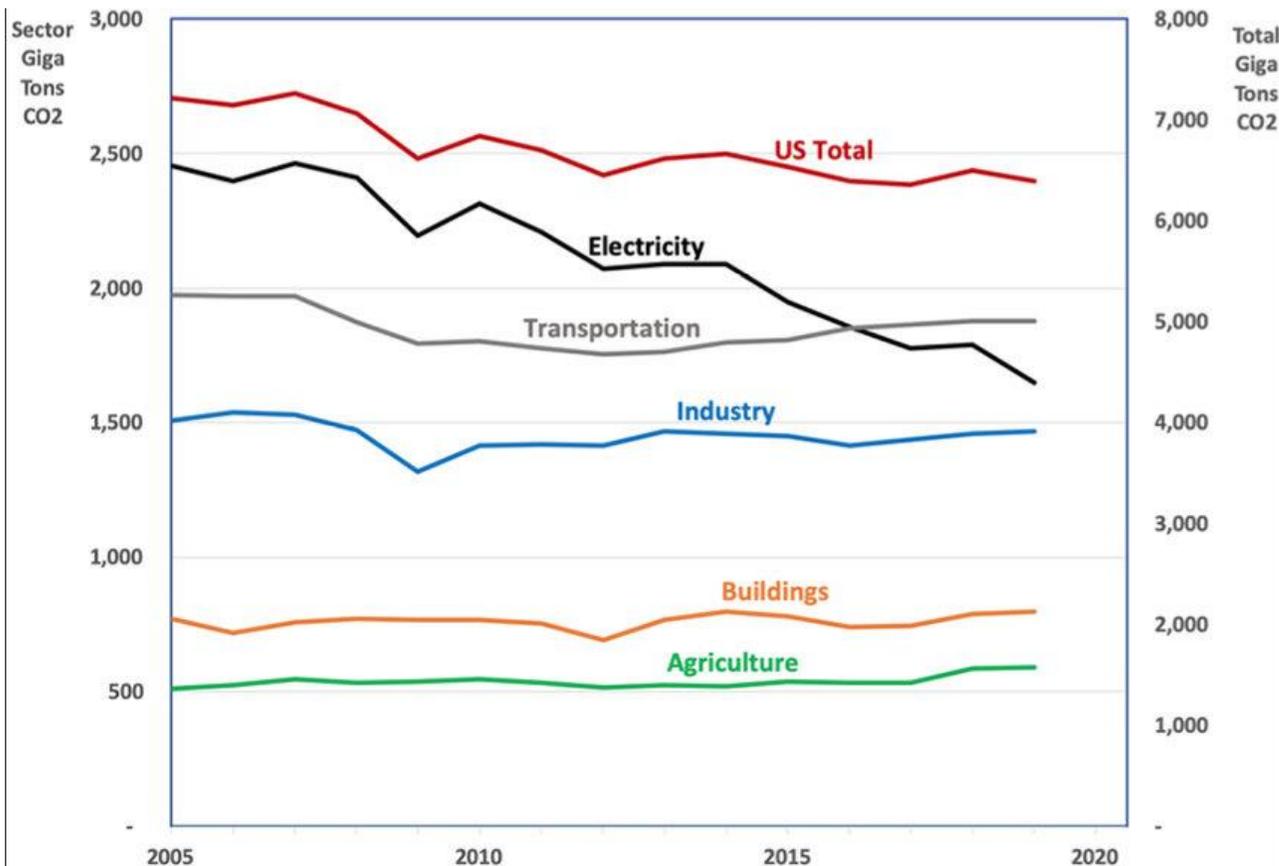


# US Energy Information Administration



## 2020 US Energy Consumption

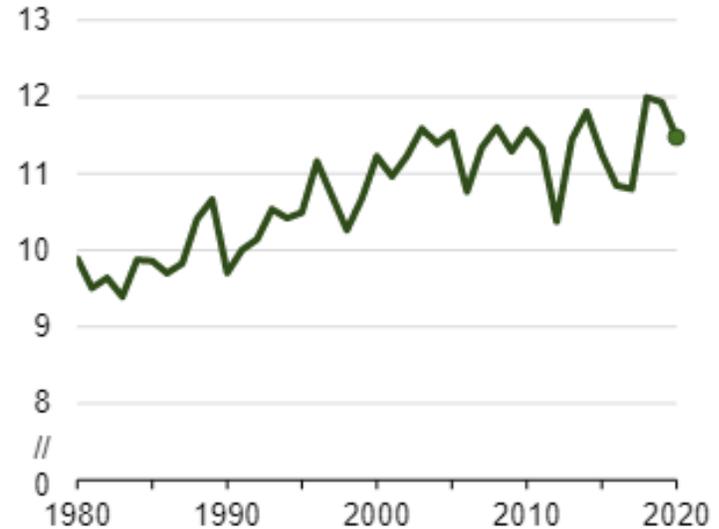
## Greenhouse-Gas Emissions



# Residential and Commercial Energy Consumption

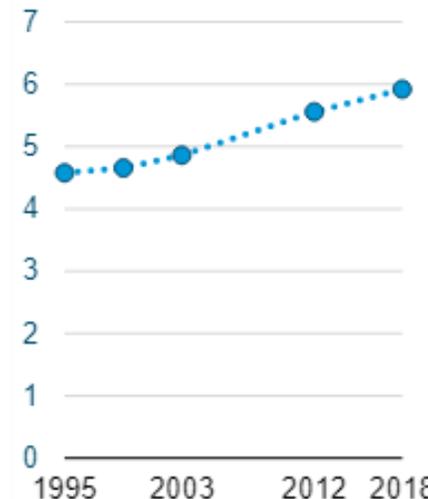
- 40% 2020
- Buildings produce nearly half of all greenhouse gas emissions

U.S. residential sector energy consumption  
annual values (1980–2020)  
quadrillion British thermal units

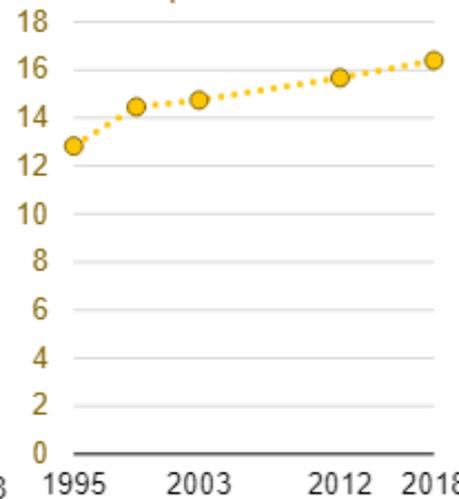


U.S. commercial buildings and square footage (1995–2018)

number of buildings  
millions



square footage per building  
thousand square feet



commercial floorspace  
billion square feet





2021 Solar house by students from the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) and Caltech Institute of Technology (Caltech)

# The Enclosure Envelopes the Building

## It Is an Environmental Separator

# Basic Requirement

Separator between  
conditioned space  
and the exterior  
environment

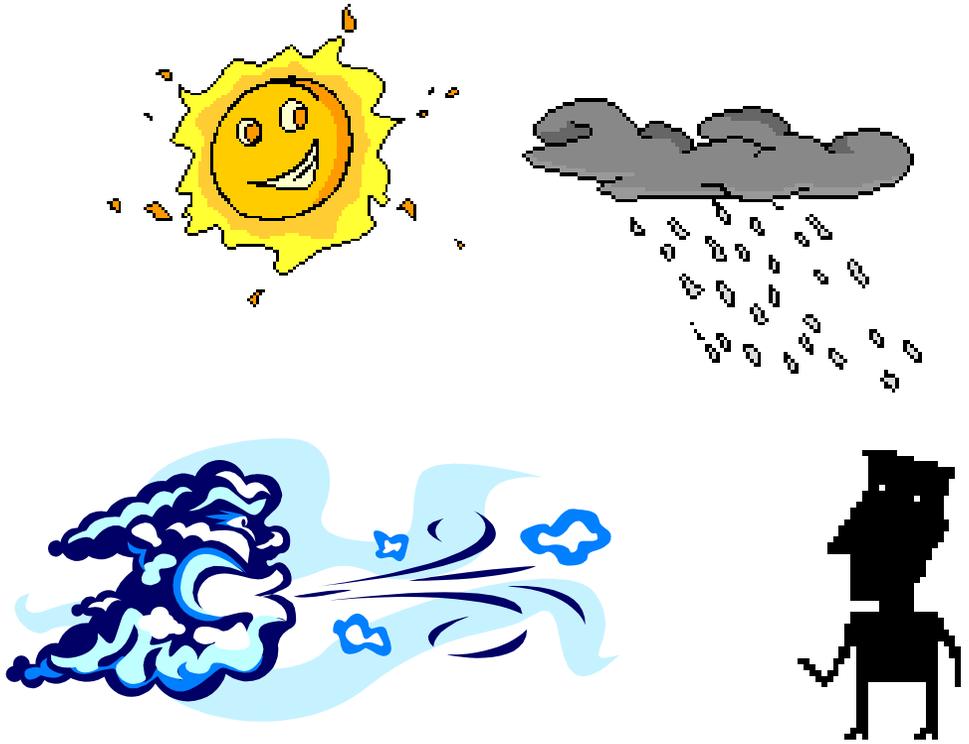


## Dr. Neil Hutcheon 1963

### They need to:

- Control Heat, Air, Moisture flow
- Control rain
- Control vapor
- Control rain penetration
- Control light, solar & other radiation
- Control noise & vibration
- Control fire
- Provide strength and rigidity
- Be durable
- Be of economic value
- Be of aesthetic value

# Building Interacts With:



The occupants and the environment.

The functional relationships are driven by physical, chemical and biological reactions.

Controlled by:

➤ **Heat** flow

➤ **Air** flow

➤ **Moisture** flow

# The Enclosure Envelopes the Building

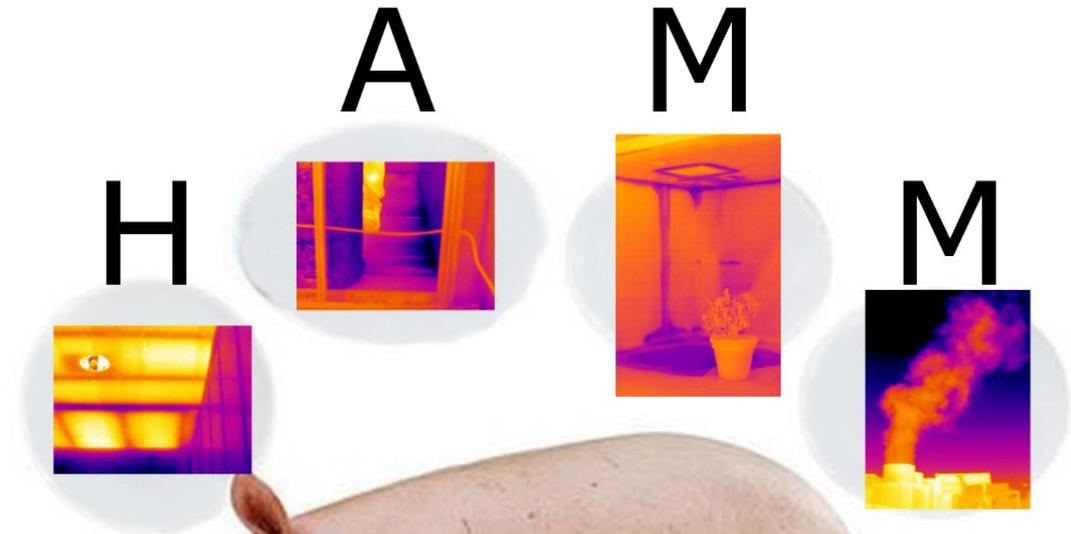
Including the shell, the building enclosure has four major functions.

**H: Thermal control**

**A: Air control**

**M<sub>liquid</sub>: Rain control**

**M<sub>vapor</sub>: Vapor control**





# The Wall Assembly's Four Controlling Elements HAMM

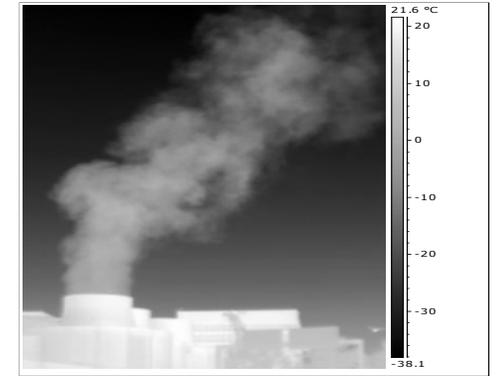
What is The Order of Importance of HAMM?

Polling

# The Enclosure Envelopes the Building

The controlling elements order of importance include:

1.  $M_{\text{liquid}}$ : Rain control
2.  $A$ : Air control
3.  $M_{\text{vapor}}$ : Vapor control
4.  $H$ : Thermal control



How do we control these elements?

Do we Hermetically Seal?

1. Rain control
2. Air control
3. Vapor control
4. Thermal control



Image Courtesy of Robert Fegan Jr., DTE Energy

# The Cladding Provides

1. Aesthetics (Ugly buildings don't seem to last)
2. Protection from UV
3. Protection from Water and Heat

Unless maybe a museum



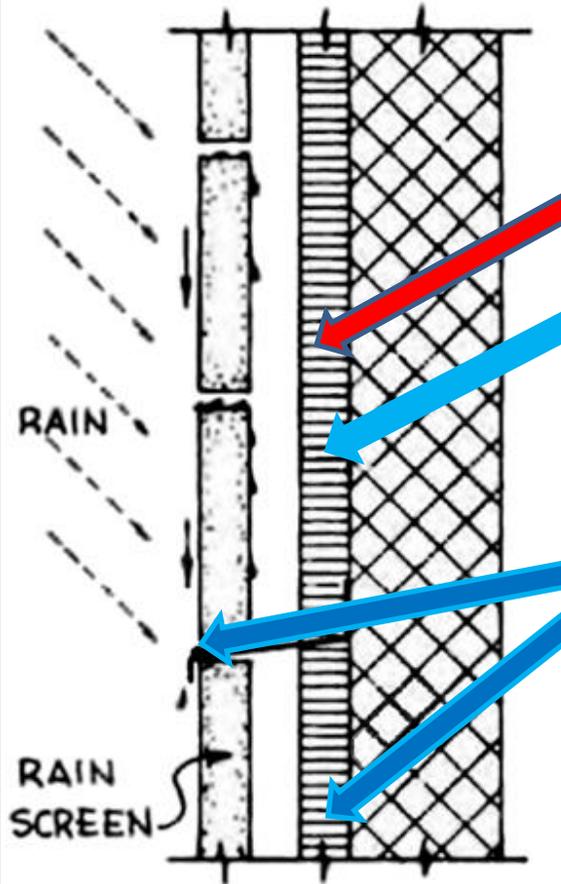
# The Wall, Old? To New

## Must Block:

• Heat

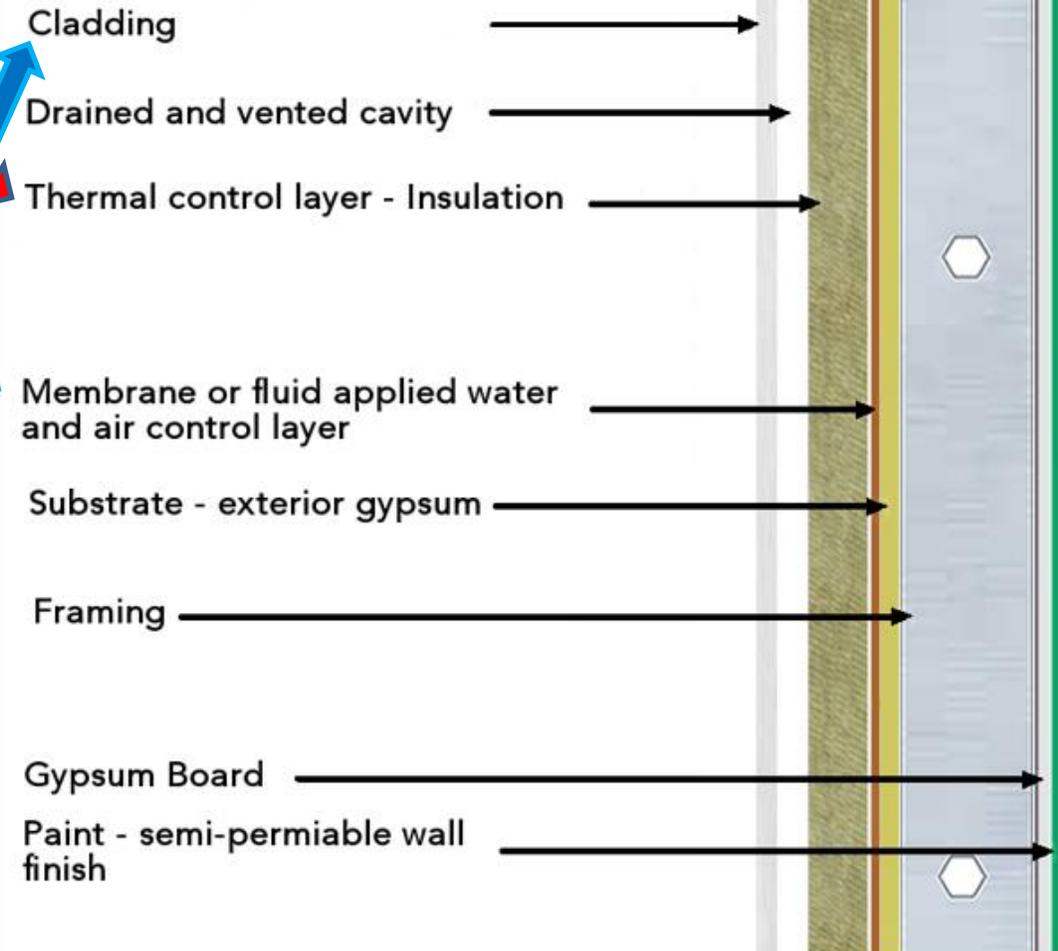
• Air

• Moisture

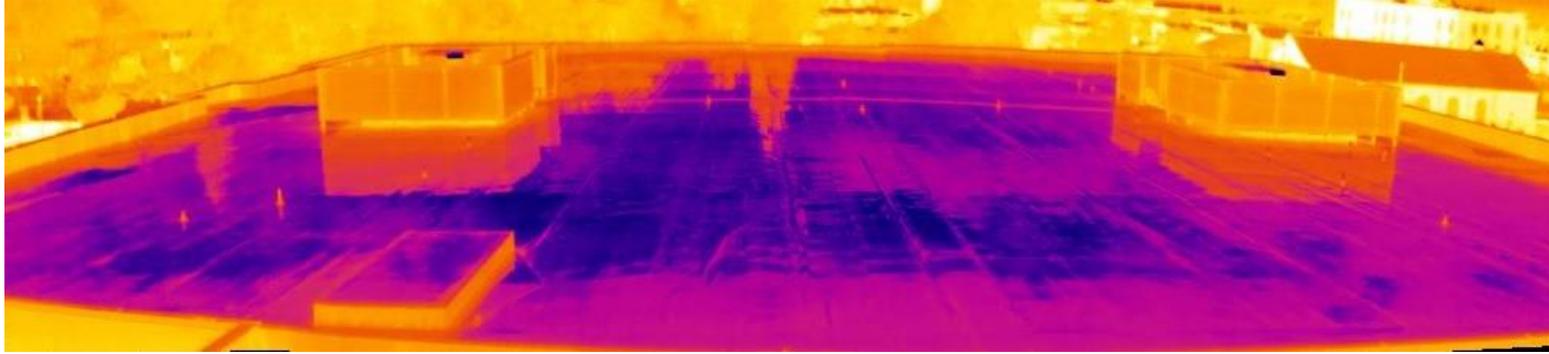


WATER THAT PENETRATES IS DIVERTED OUTWARD BY FLASHINGS

1964 Hutcheons'



# Building Science and Thermography

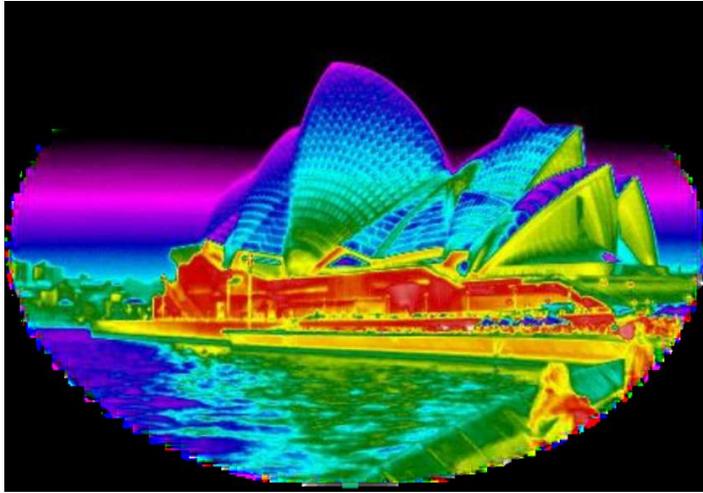


Thermography  
“sees” radiation

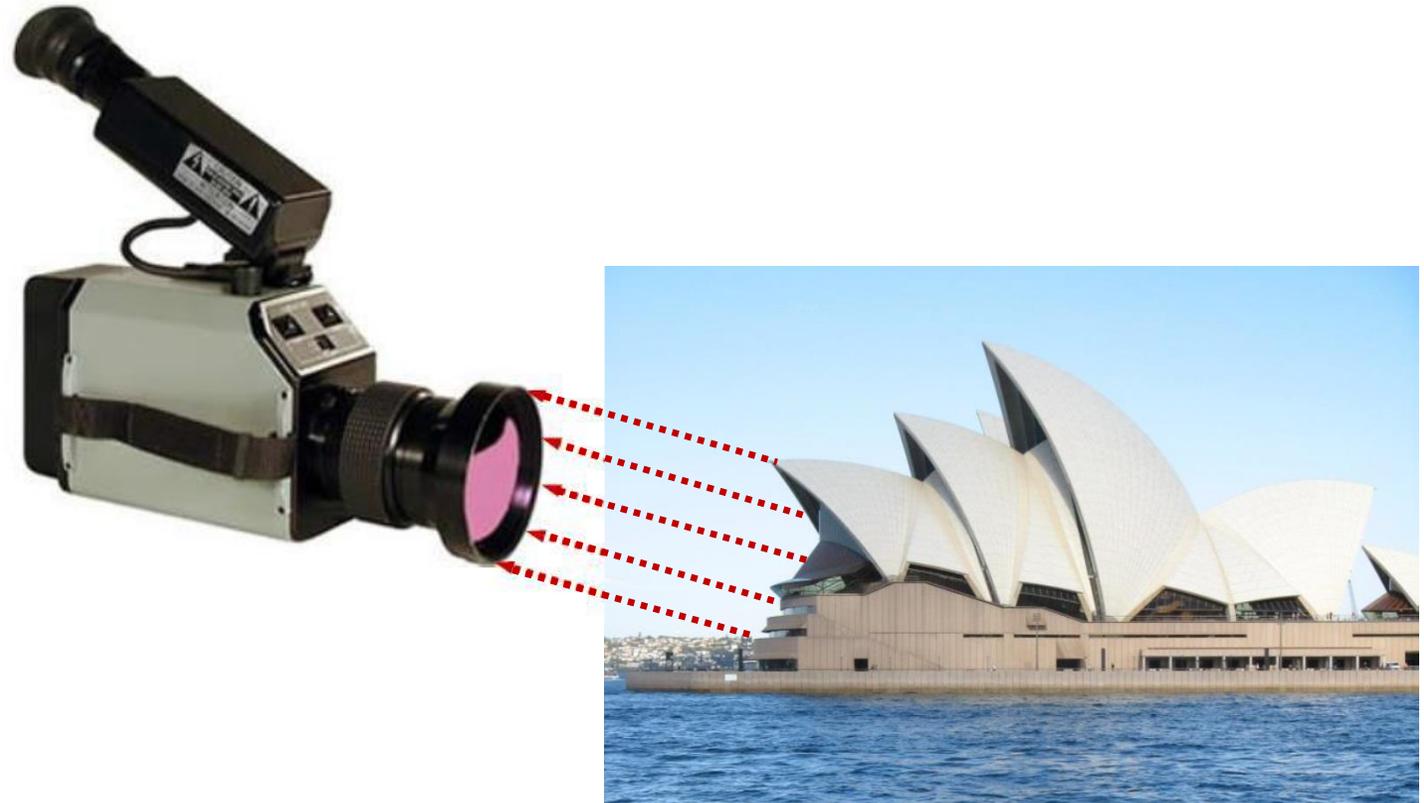
We “see”  
reflections

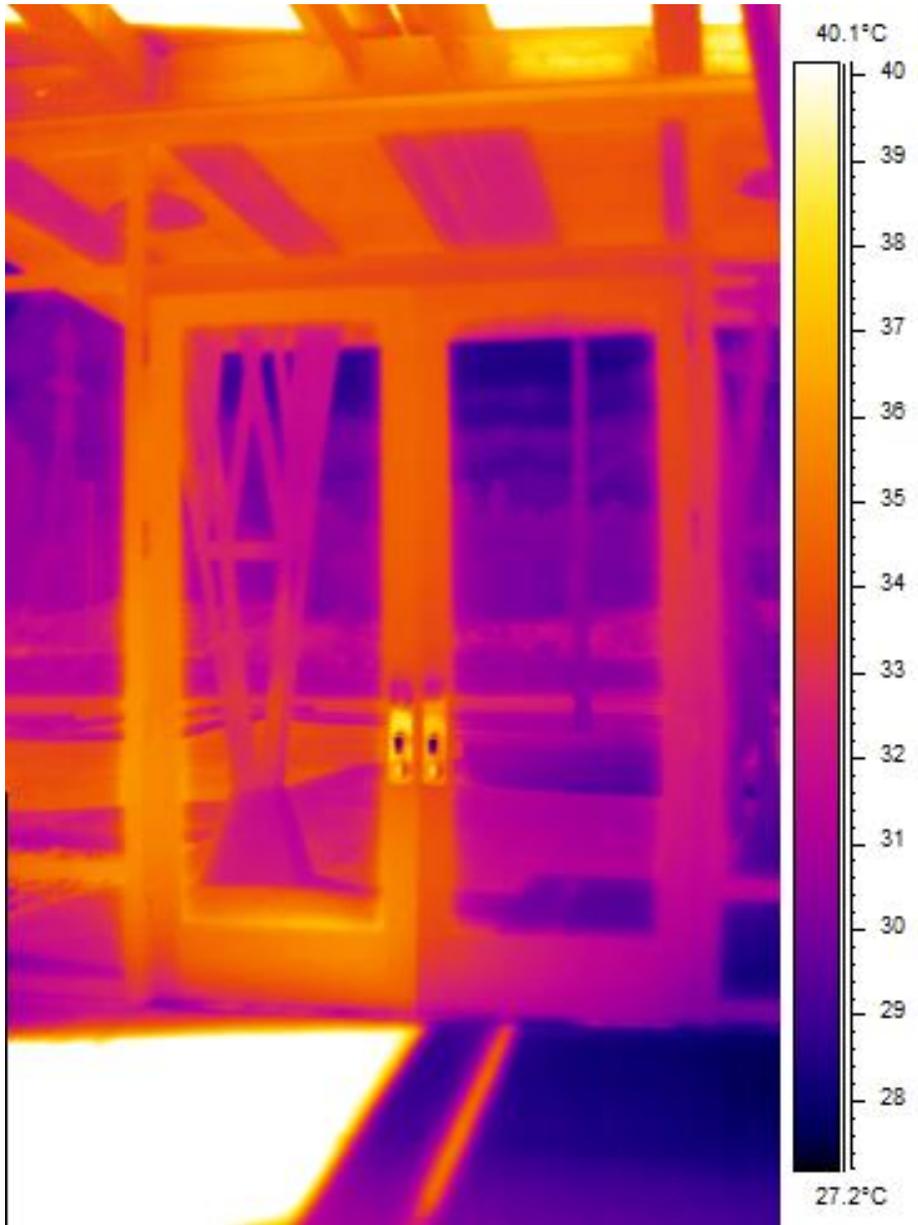


# Thermal Imager



Converts invisible infrared radiation into a visible image.



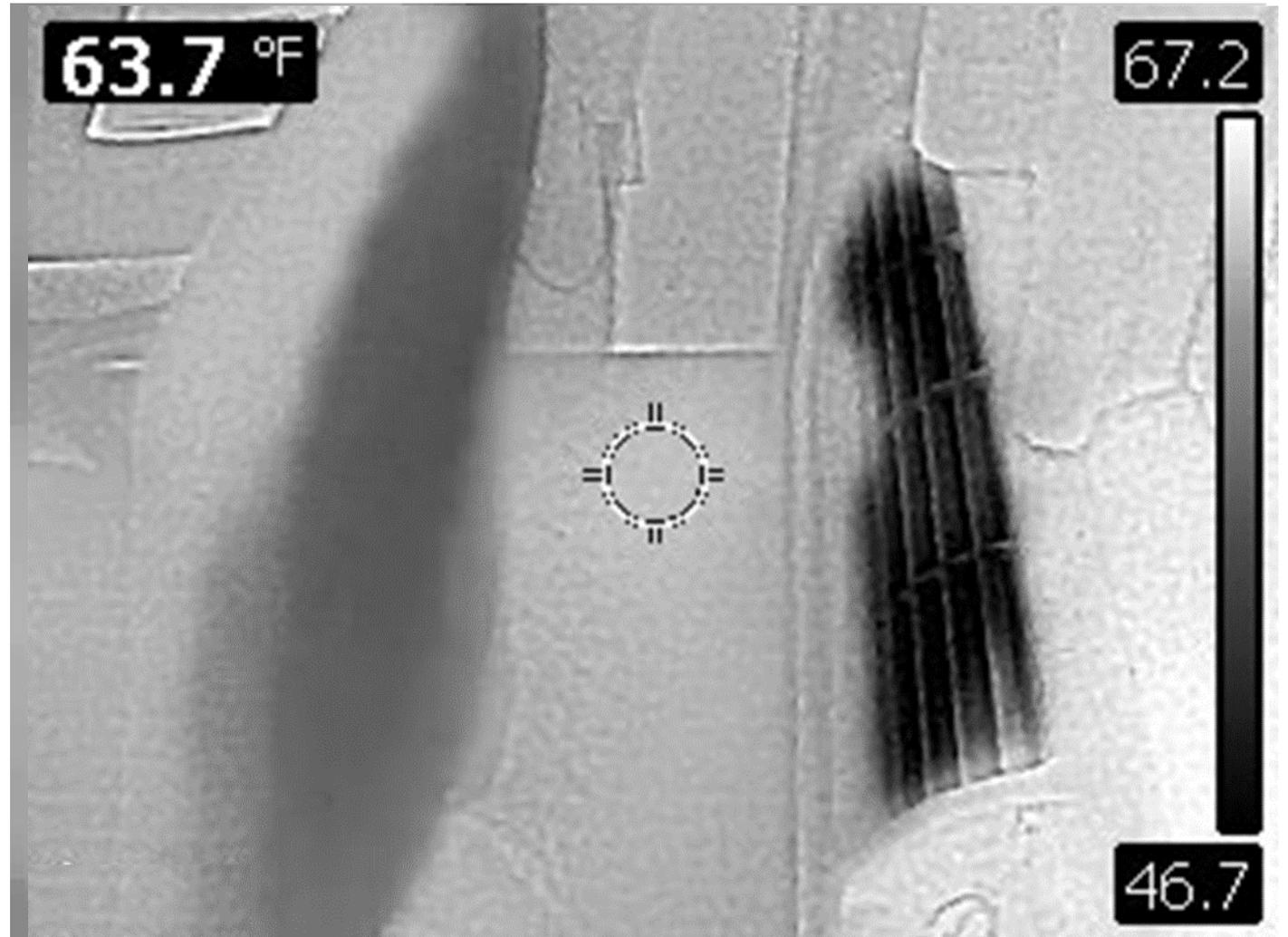


Interpreting the Thermal Image is KEY



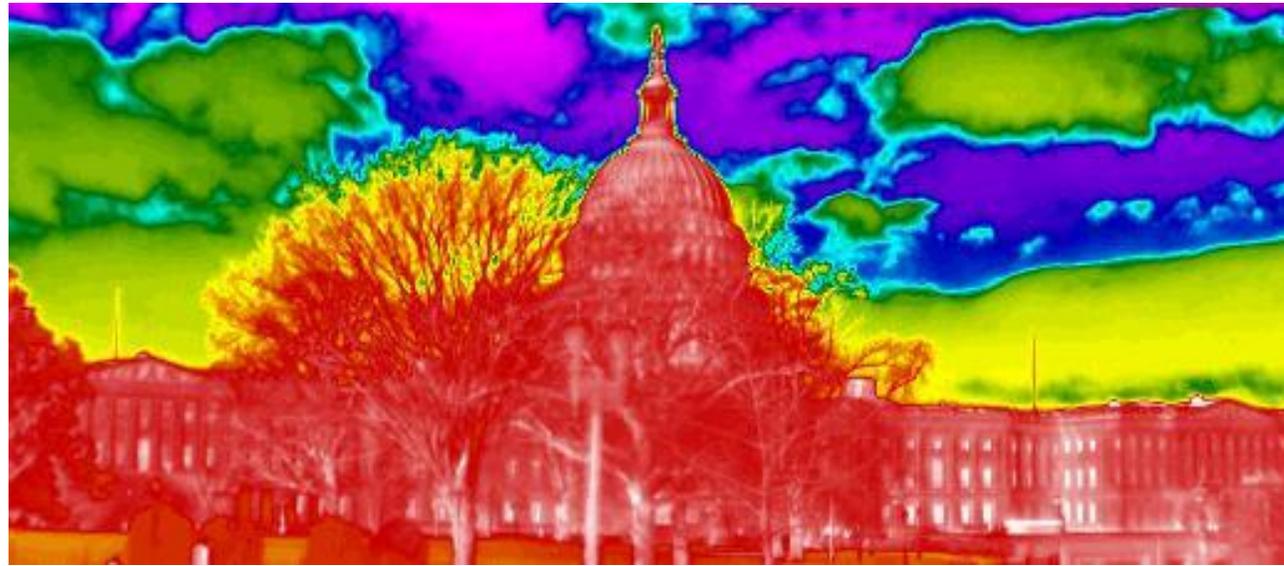
# “Enhancements”

- Visual “Overlay”
- “Smoothed” IR
- Raw IR Image



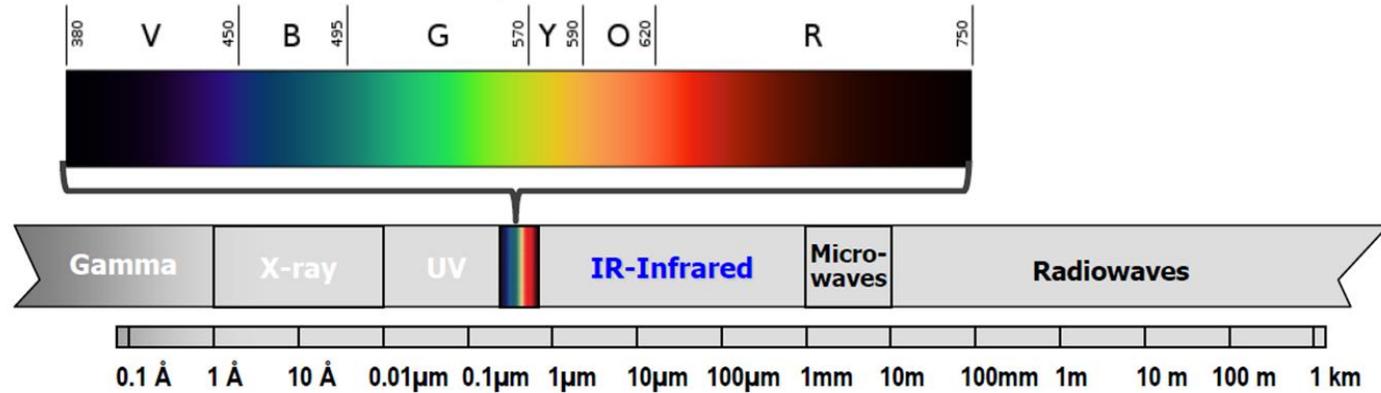
# “Enhancements”

- Color?

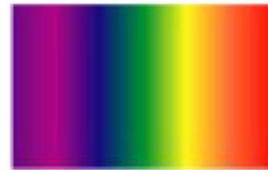


# “Enhancements”

- Color?
- Is a specific wavelength of visible electromagnetic energy



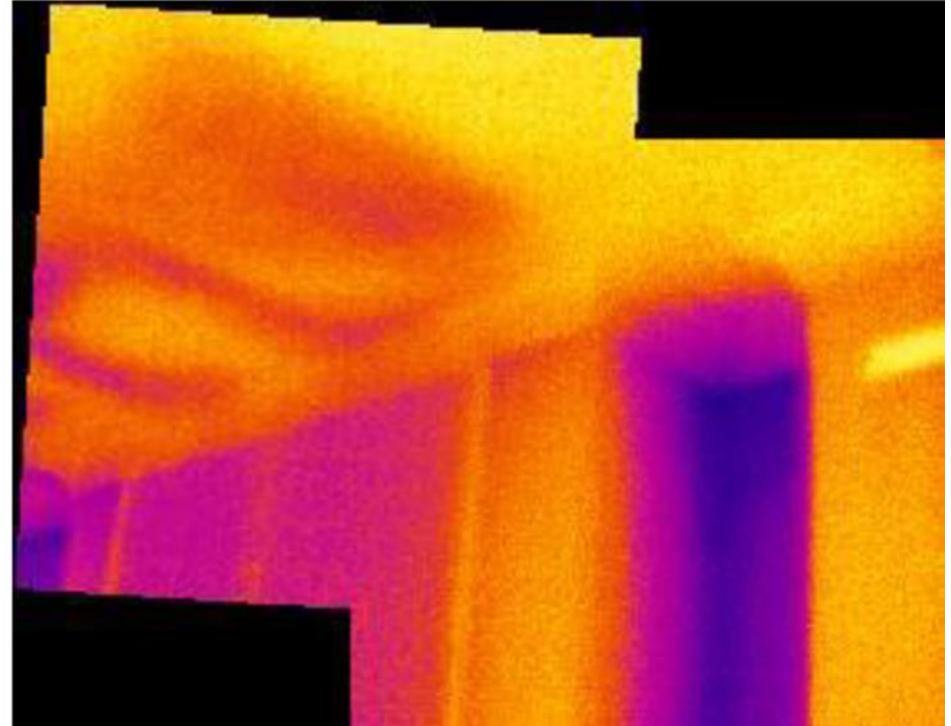
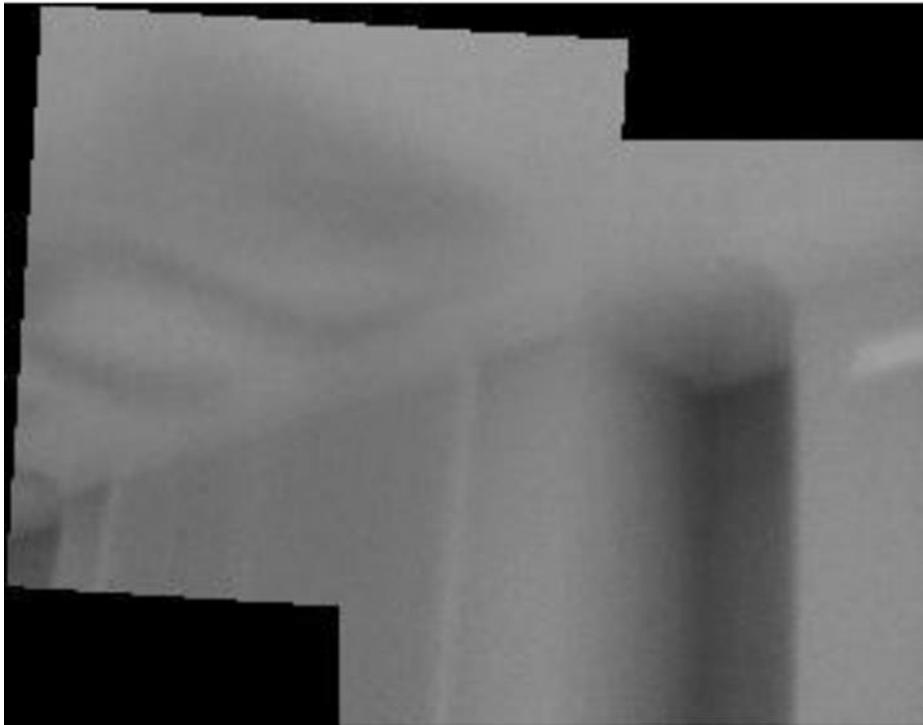
Sight 0.490 - 0.750 $\mu$ m



Visible Spectrum 0.400 - 0.790 $\mu$ m



# Typical Thermal image (240x240)



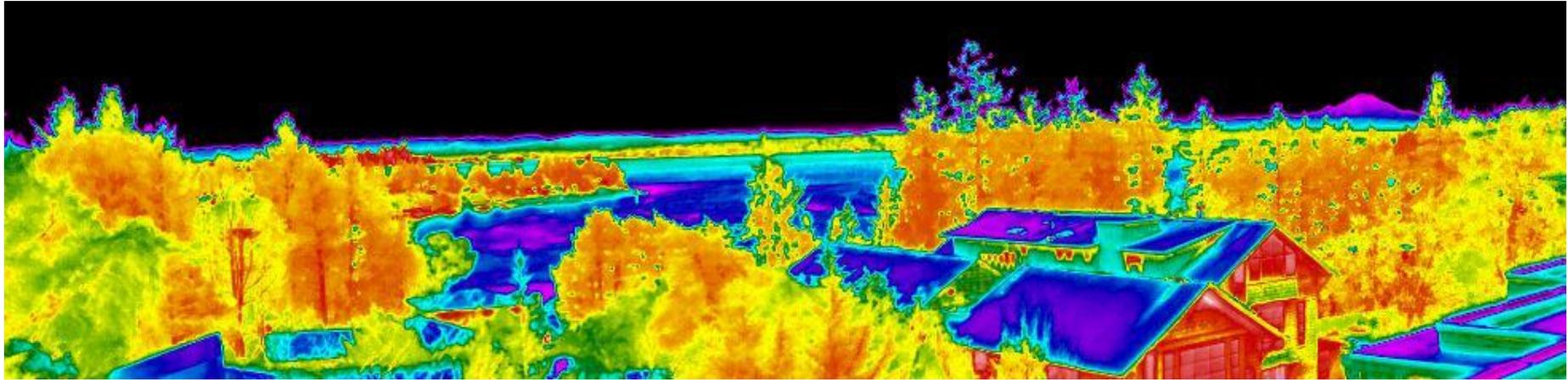
Images from Blair Freeman, Energy Leaks,  
Melbourne Australia

# High Resolution Thermal image?

- Smart Phone 7-16 megapixels



# High Resolution Thermal image?

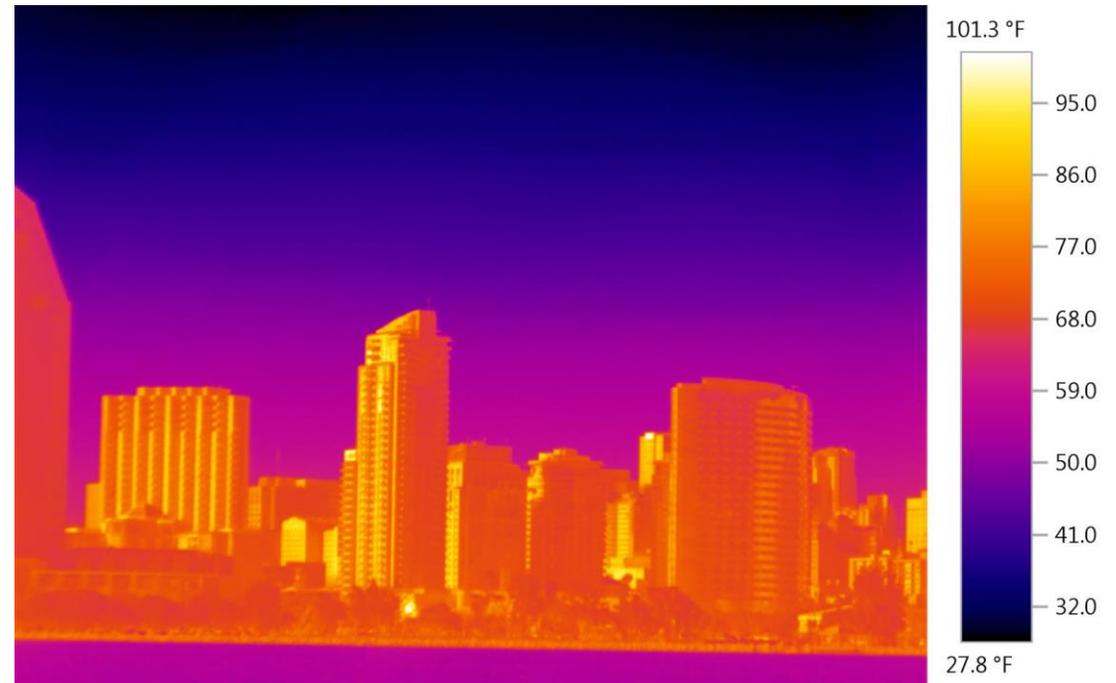


320x240 Composite

**984x248 0.24 MP**

**640x480**

**0.3 MP**

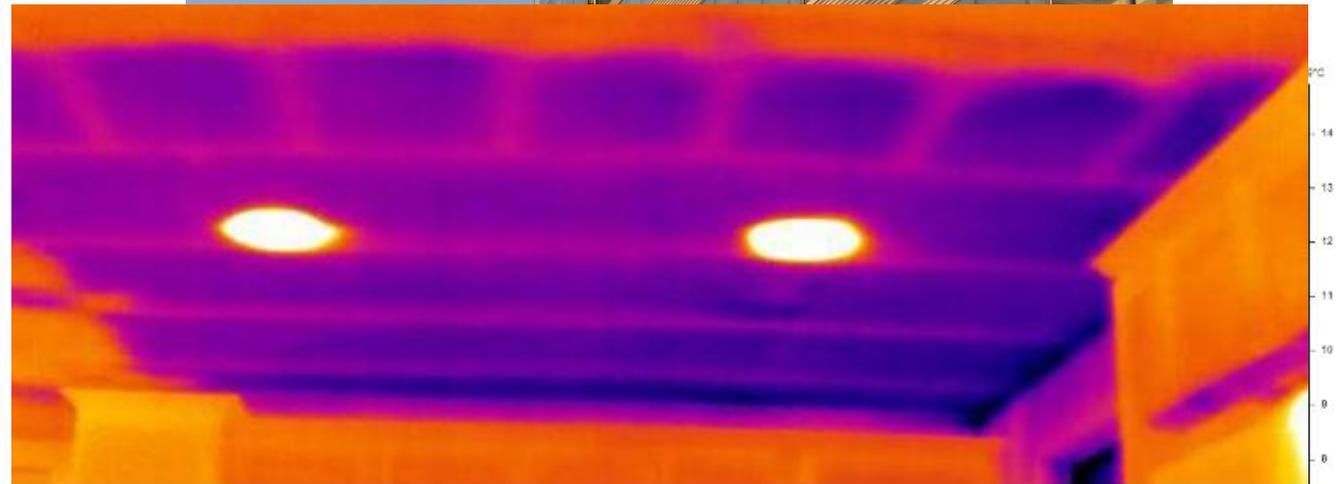
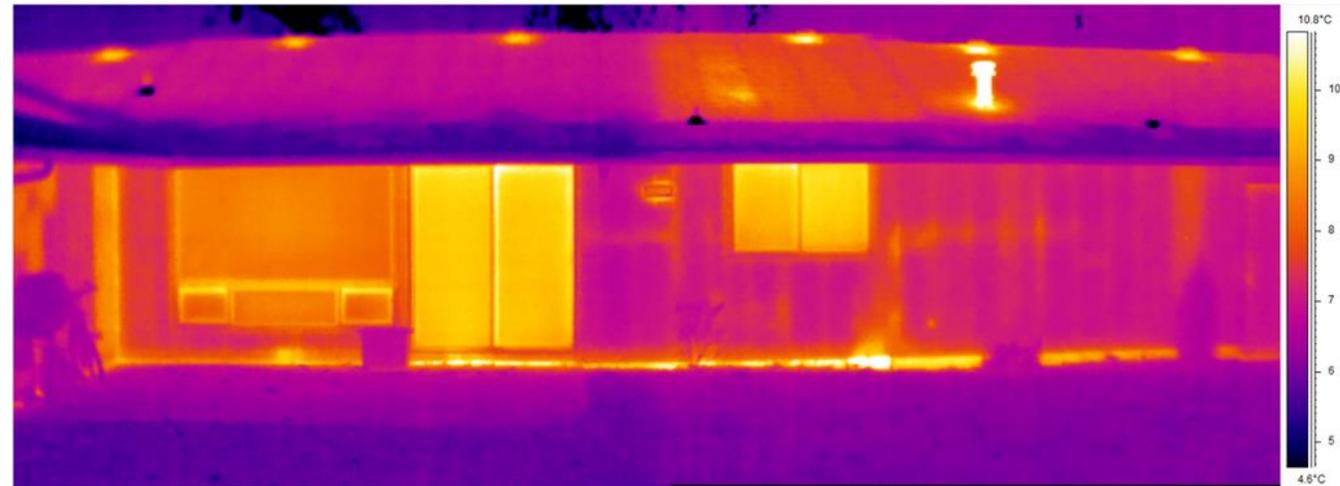


# Buildings Leak:

➤ Heat

➤ Air

➤ Moisture



# Radiant Heat Barriers



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

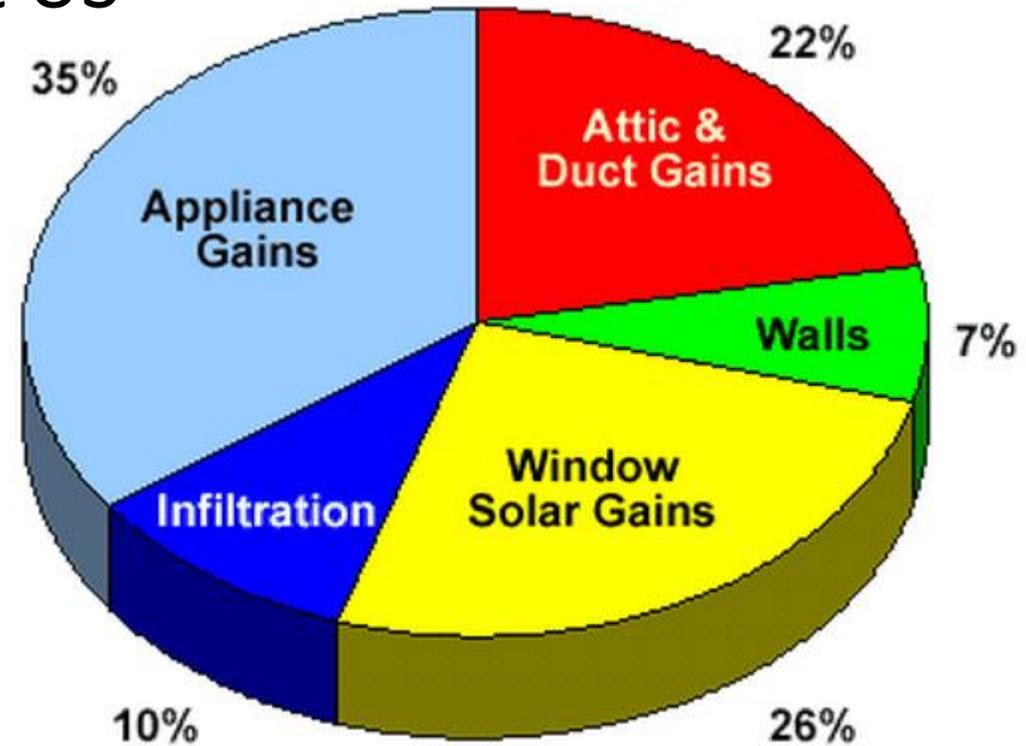
Office of  
Science



Radiant Barrier – Foil Low  
emissive surfaces

# Radiant Barriers – Cooling Climates

- Provides 8-12% savings for cooling costs in the South East US (cooling climates)
- 6-7 year payback



# Radiant Barriers – Heating Climates

- 1" air gap and 1" foil faced EPS
- Foil increased the R-value only 1.4%
- And is a vapor barrier



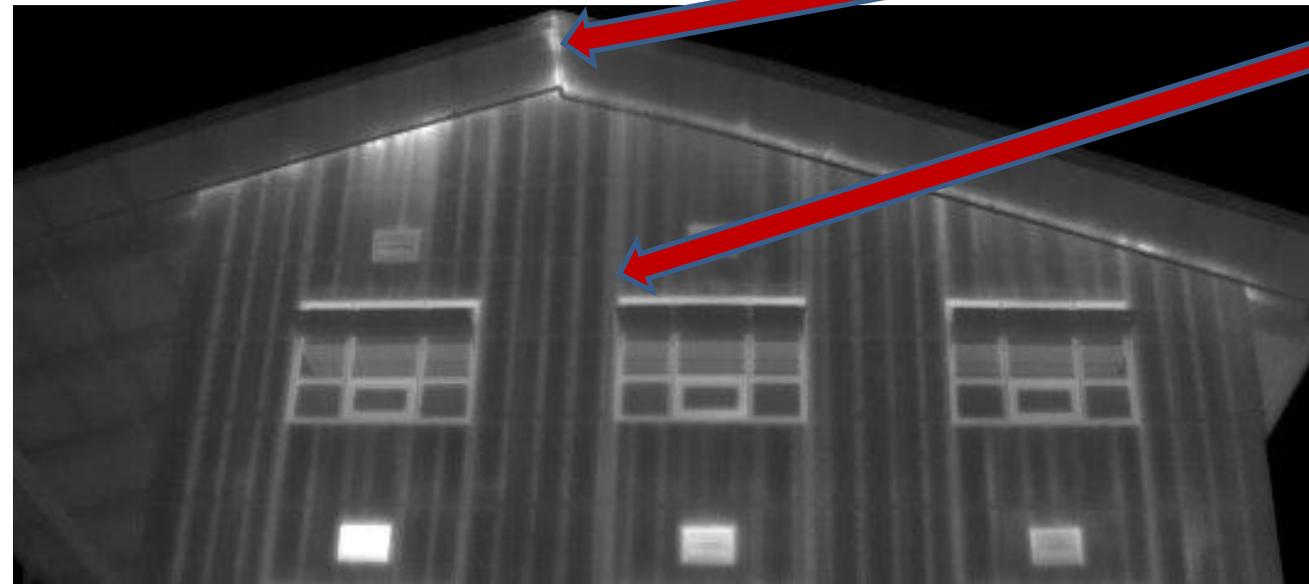
2011.04.12 Cold Climate Housing Research Center,  
Reflective Insulation in Cold Climates



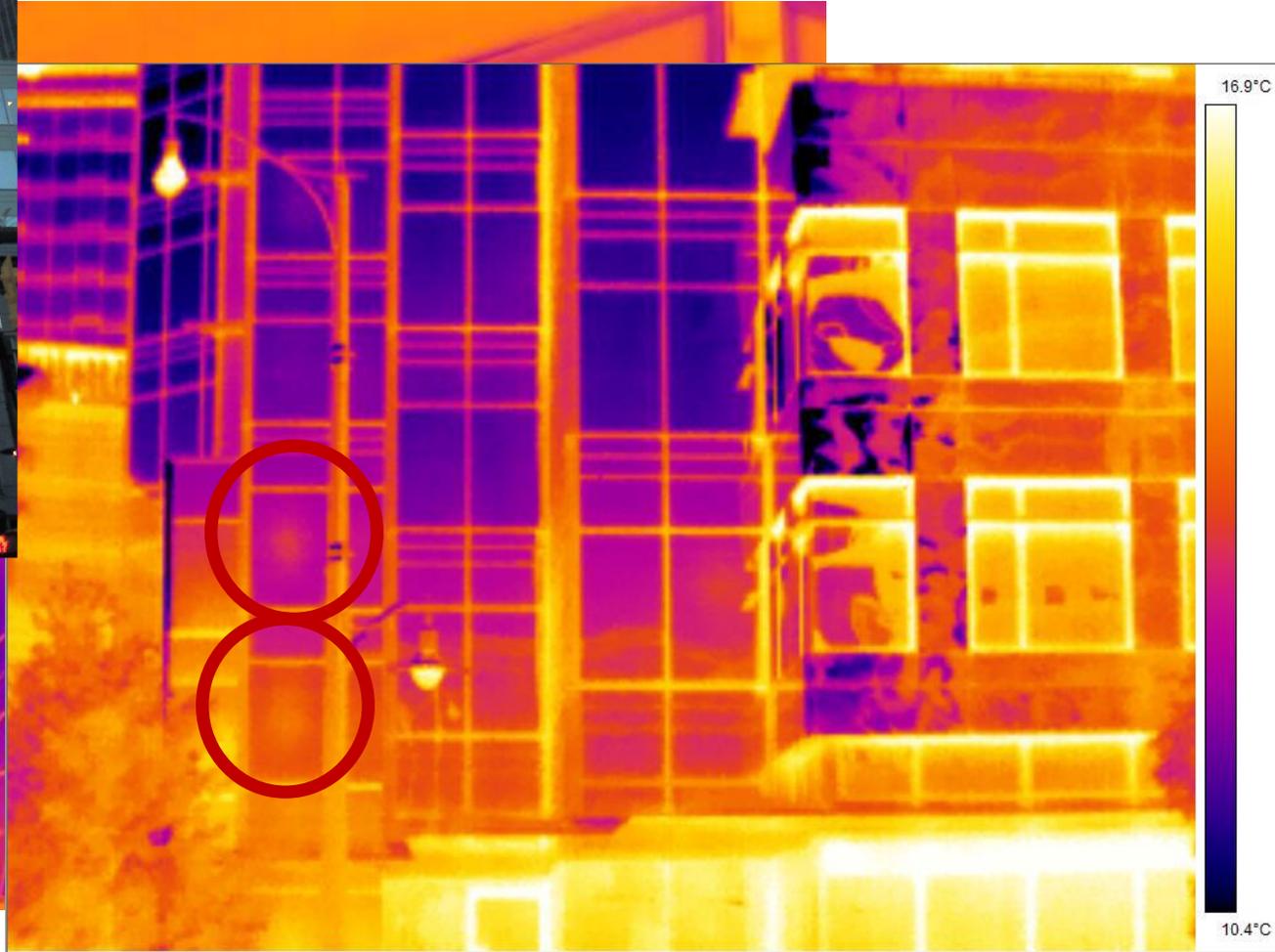
## ➤ Heat

Modes of Heat transfer:

- Radiation
- Convection
- Conduction



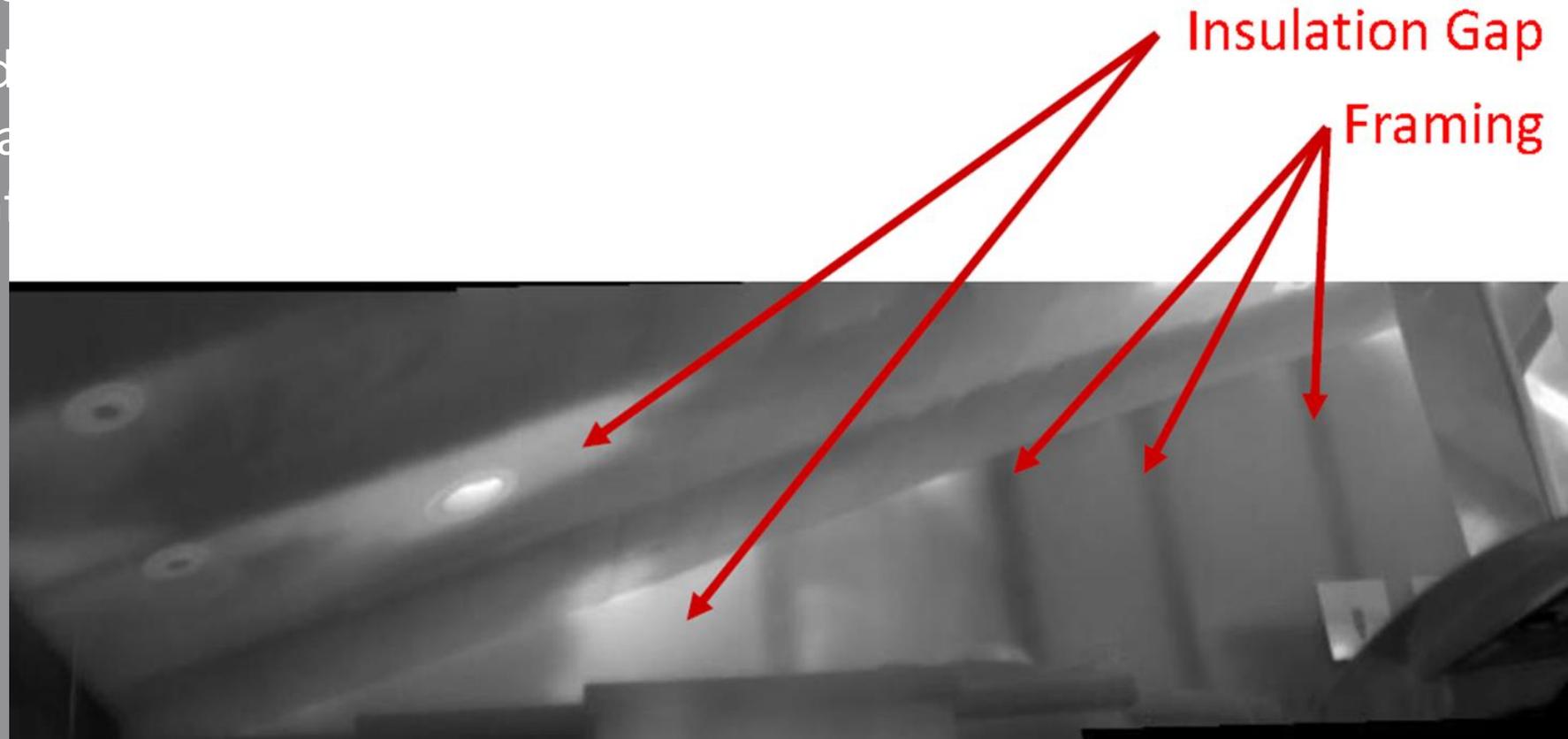
# Conductive Heat Transfer



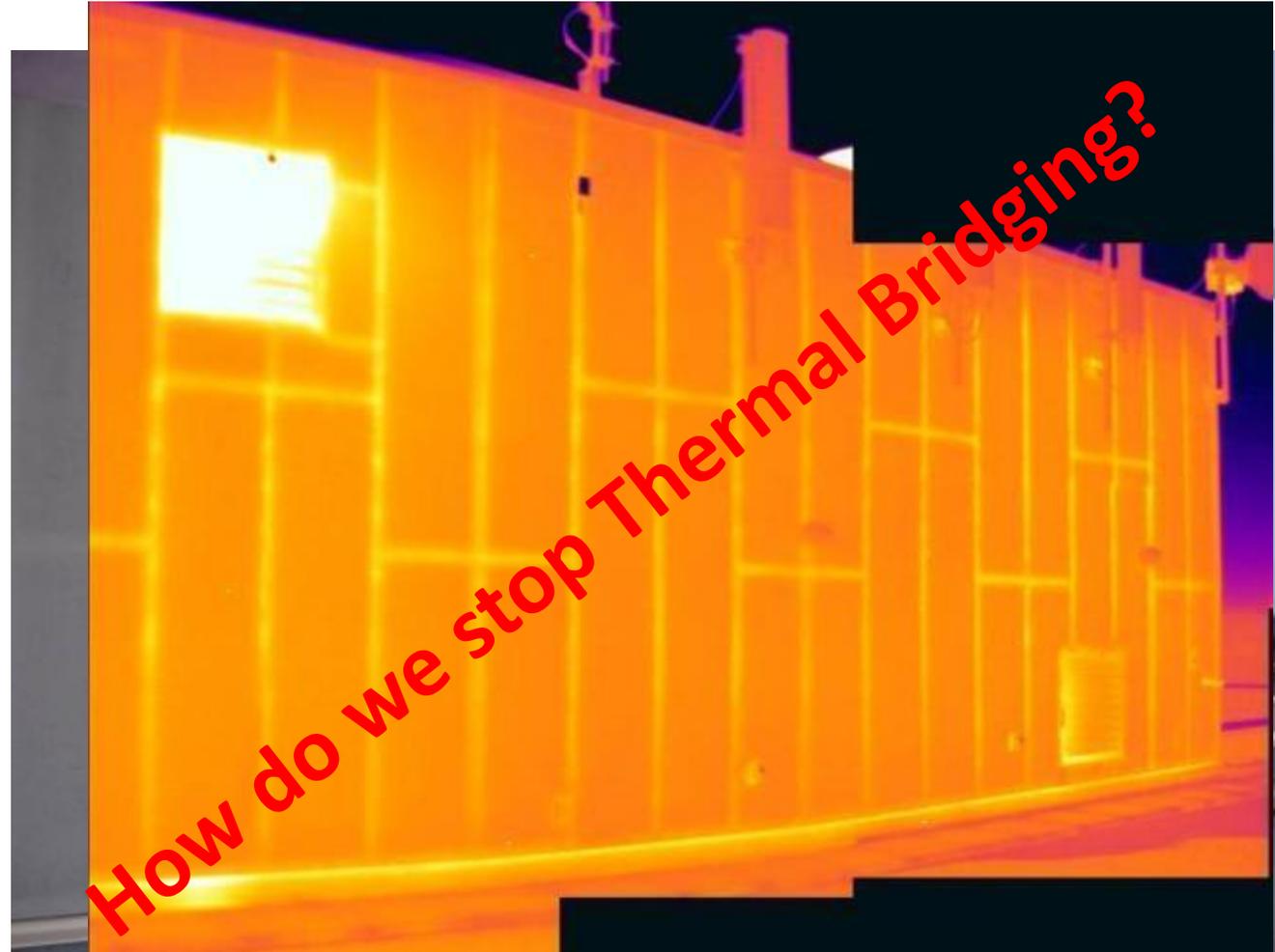
# Standards

- Walls: ASTM C1060 Standard Practice for Thermographic Inspection of Insulation Installations in Envelope Cavities of Frame Buildings
- Roof: ASTM C 1153 Standard Practice for Location of Wet Insulation in Roofing Systems Using Infrared Imaging

- Mottled looking variation in the thermal patterns
- Framing should be visible



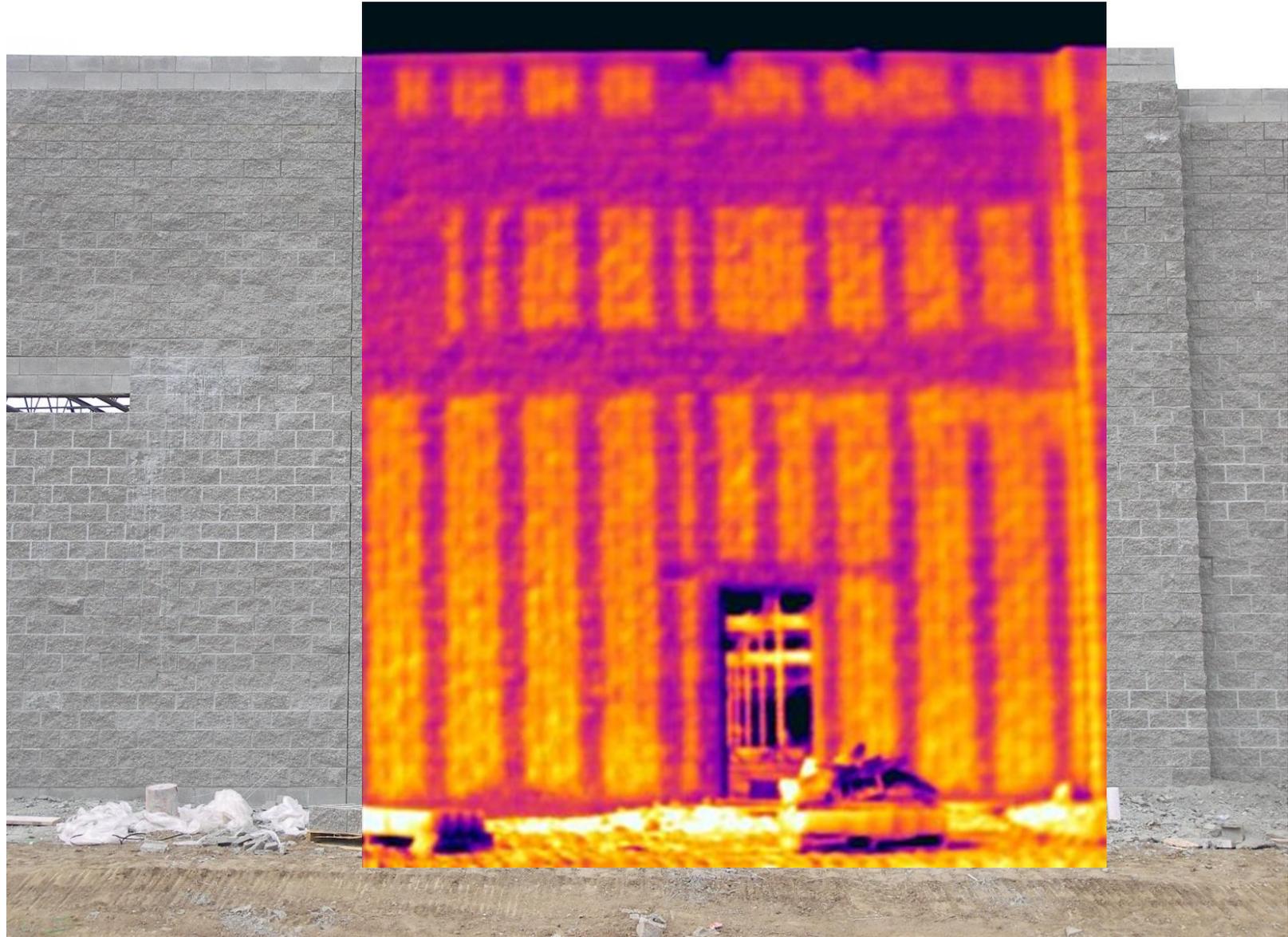
# Thermal Bridging

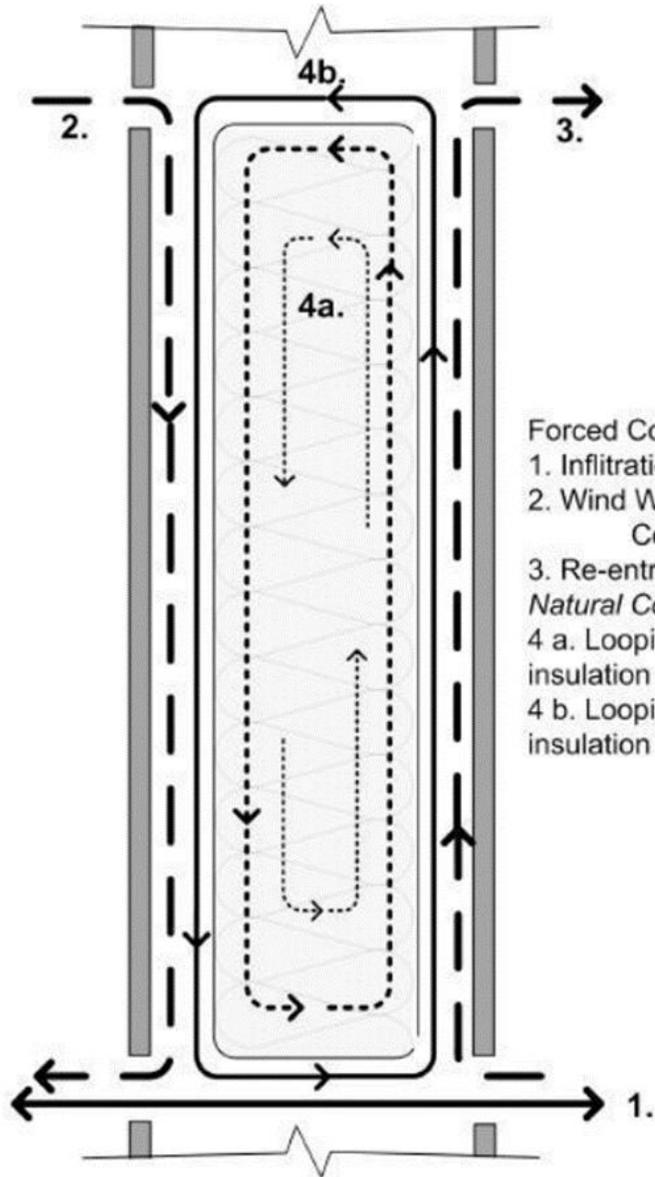


# Continuous Insulation



# Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU)



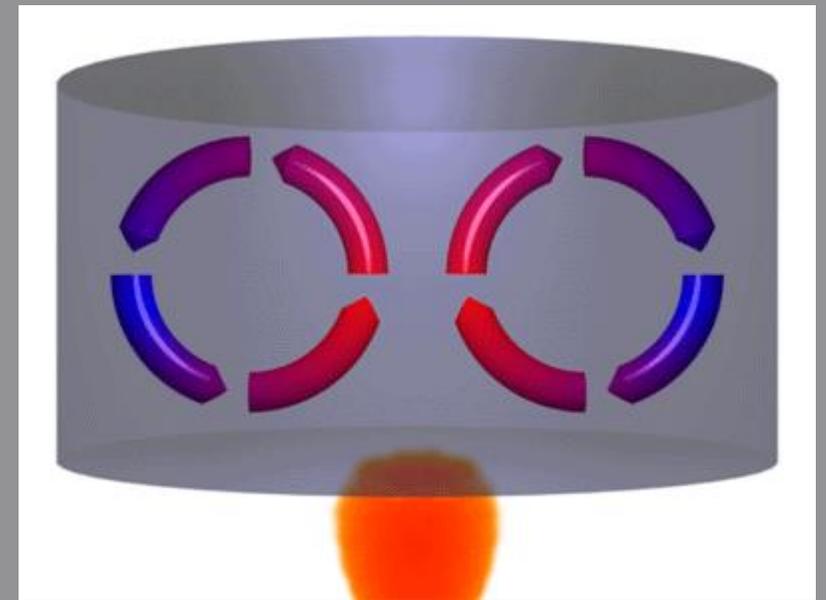


- Forced Convection
1. Infiltration / Exfiltration
  2. Wind Washing (Forced Convection)
  3. Re-entrant Loop
- Natural Convection
- 4 a. Looping in air permeable insulation
  - 4 b. Looping through gaps around insulation



## ➤ Heat

- Convection (Air Movement)



# The Enclosure Envelopes the Building

H: Thermal control

A: Air control



# Air Barrier

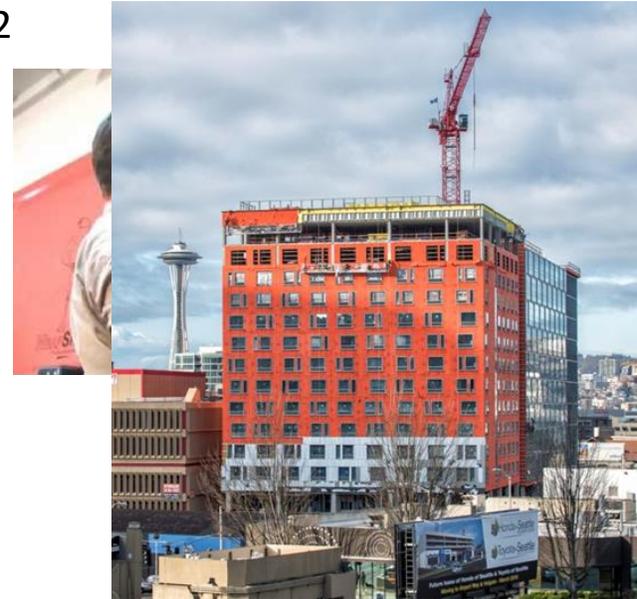
- Material prevents air movement as tested by **ASTM E2178-13**, Standard Test Method for Air Permeance of Building Materials
- Assemblies: **ASTM E2357-11**, Standard Test Method for Determining Air Leakage of Air Barrier Assemblies
- Buildings: **ASTM E779** Standard Test Method for Determining Air Leakage Rate by Fan Pressurization

< 0.004 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> @ 1.57 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>  
(0.02 L/s•m<sup>2</sup> @75 Pa)

< 0.04 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> @ 1.57 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>  
(0.02 L/s•m<sup>2</sup> @75 Pa)

< 0.4 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> @ 1.57 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>  
(0.25 L/s•m<sup>2</sup> @75 Pa)

Must be a Continuous System  
six sides to a building





## Air Leakage Reduction

- Studies have shown that air barriers can reduce air leakage by up to 83%
- Energy consumption for heating & cooling savings up to 40%

# Air Transported Moisture

- 1961, A. G. Wilson at the NRC
- 1965, Kirby Garden at the NRC
- 1977, G. Handegord at the IRC-NRC concluded in a paper entitled, “The need for Improved Airtightness in Buildings”, that air leakage through construction is “the principle means by which water vapor moves to cold surfaces and is the major cause of condensation in buildings.

*“Seal tight, Ventilatae right”*





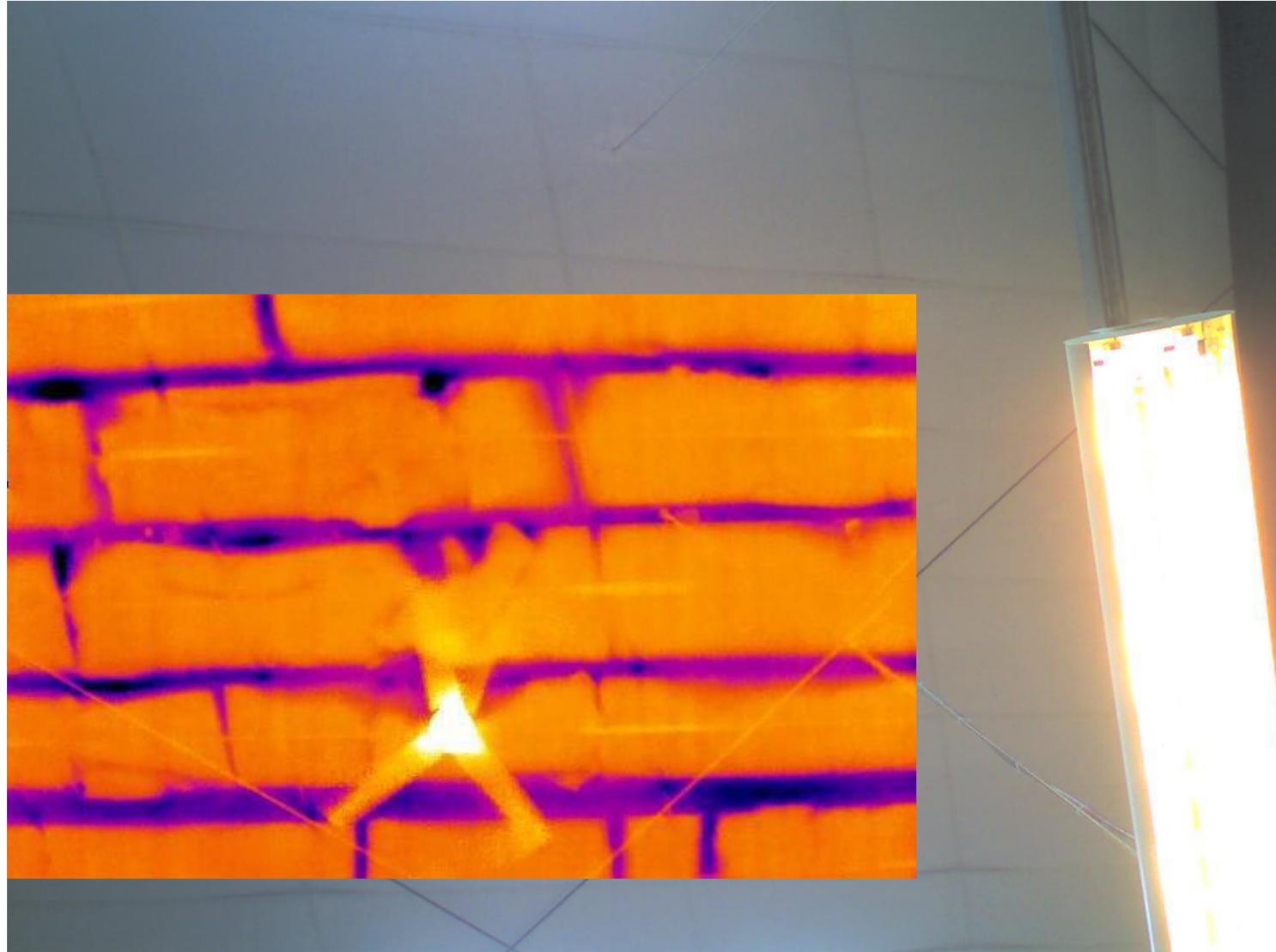
- Infrared Thermography

## Viewing Air Leaks

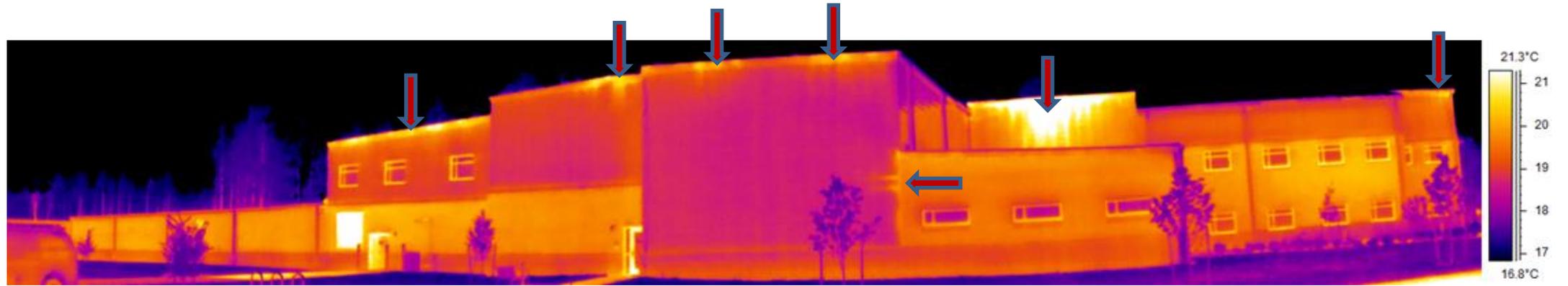
- Traditional smoke generator



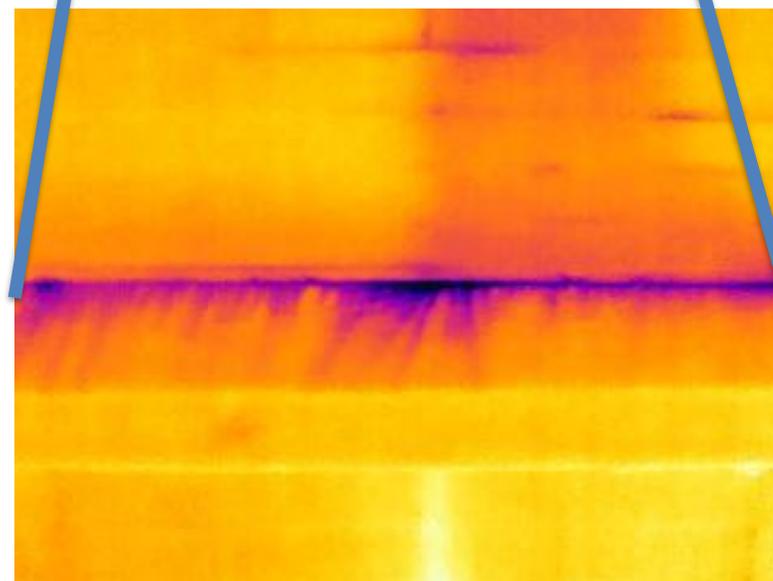
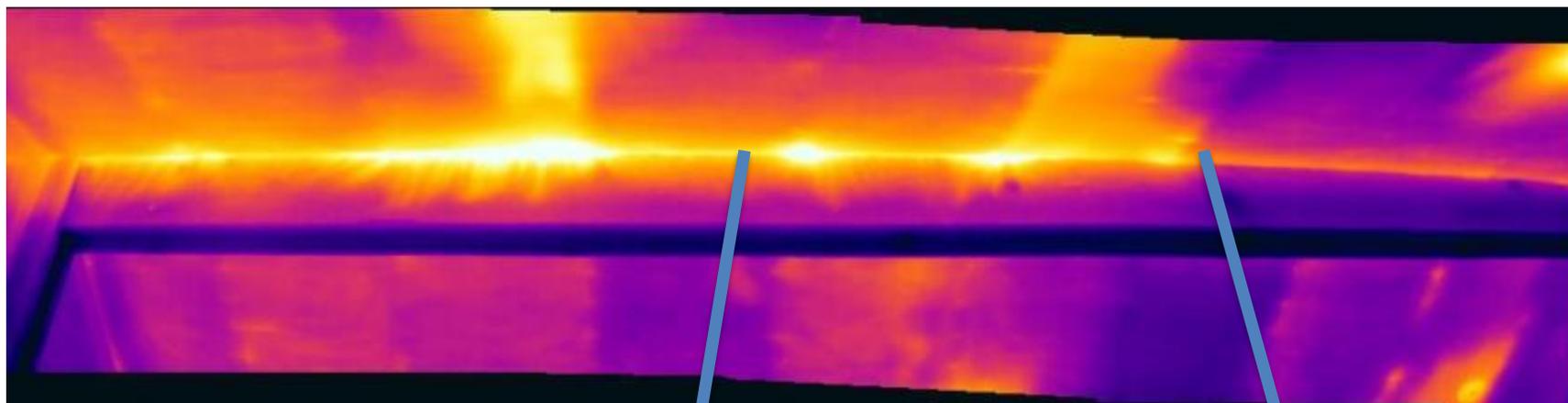
Is it continuous?



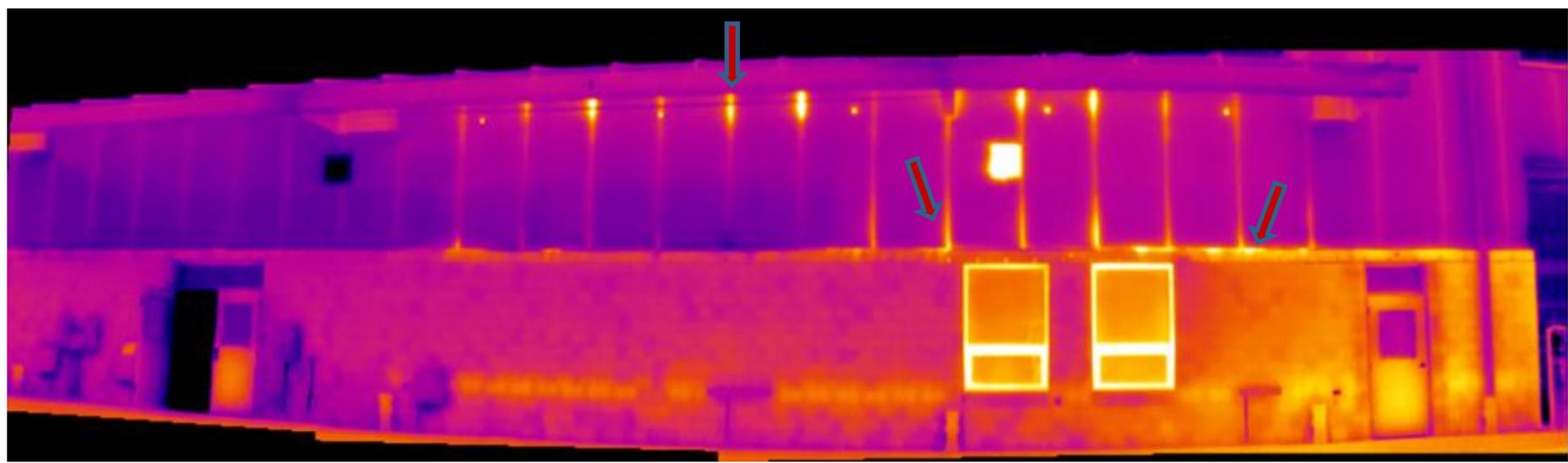
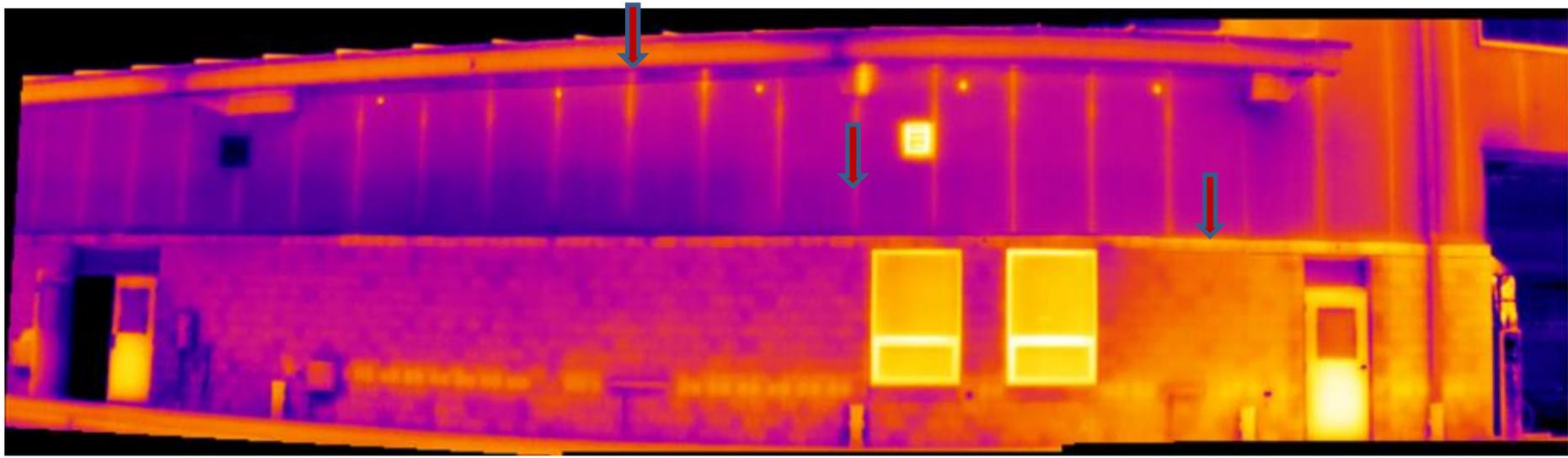
# It Passed Air Barrier Tightness but...



# Warm or Cold



# It's just conduction?

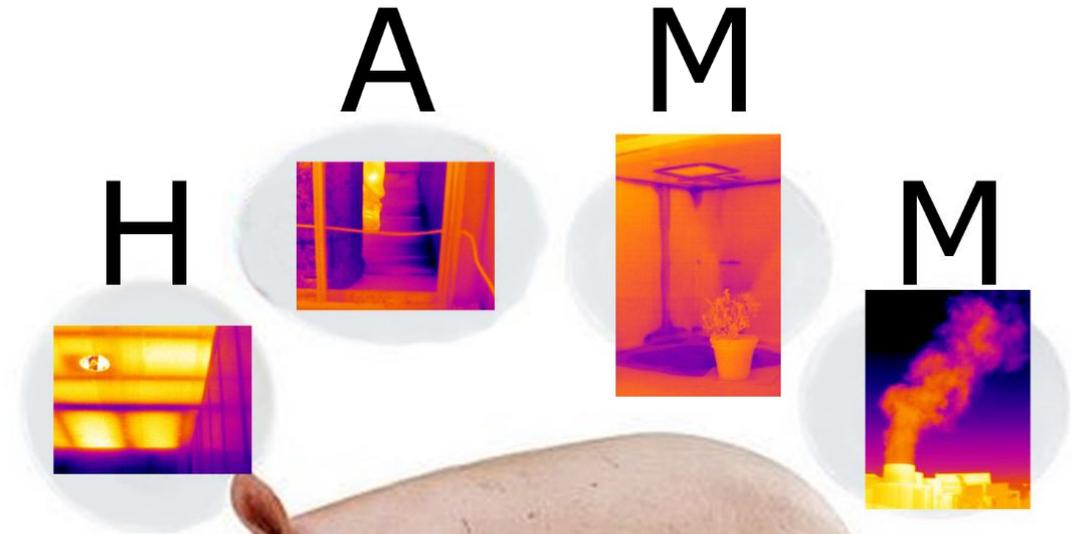


# The Enclosure Envelopes the Building

H: Thermal control

A: Air control

M<sub>liquid</sub>: Rain control

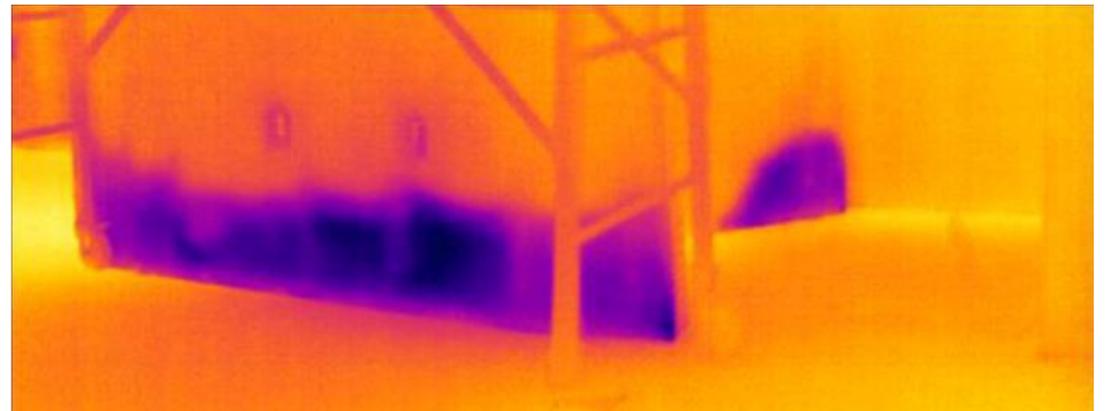
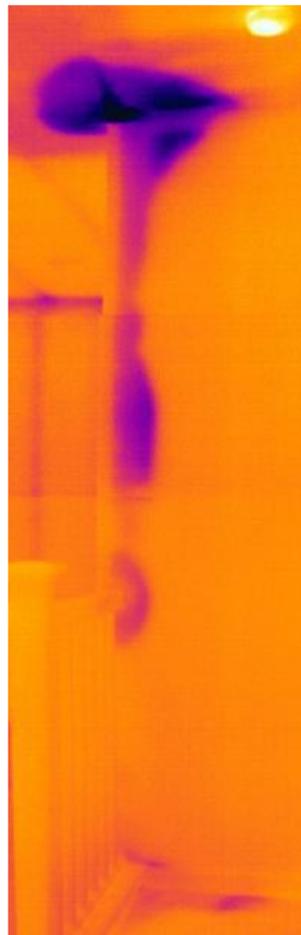
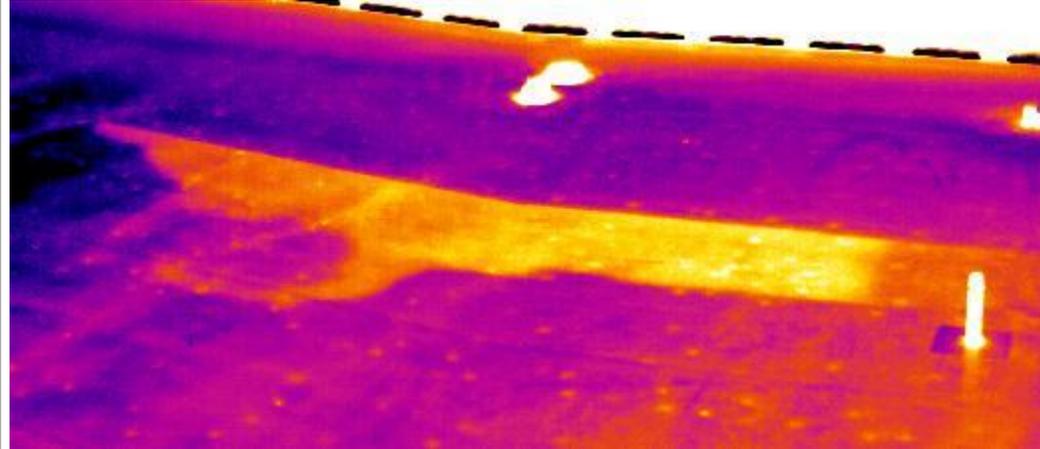


# Moisture Meters or Thermography



# Thermography's Moisture Detection

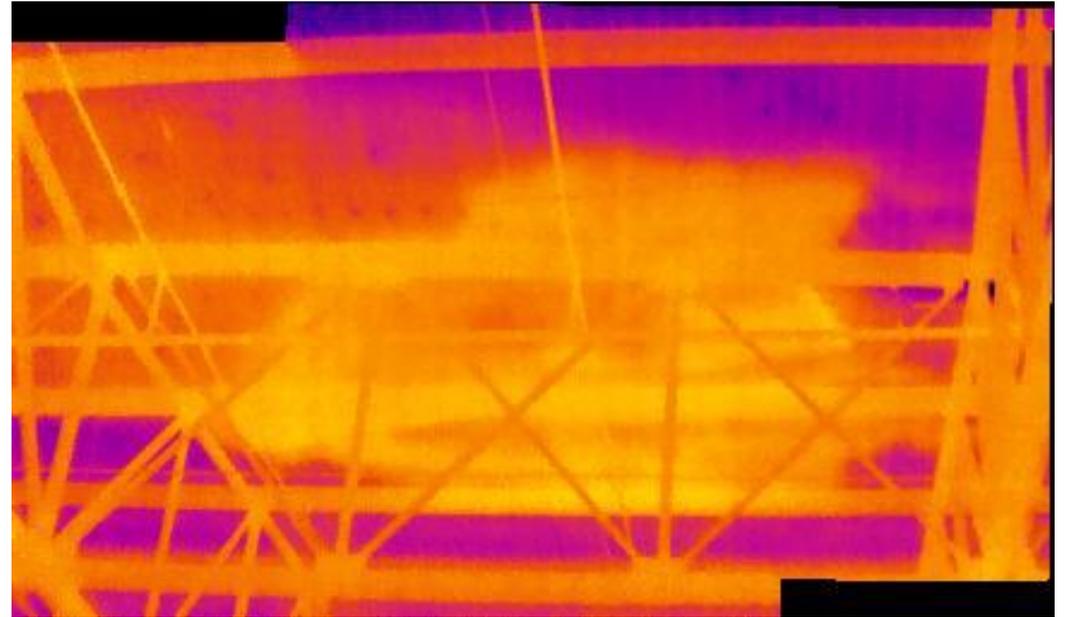
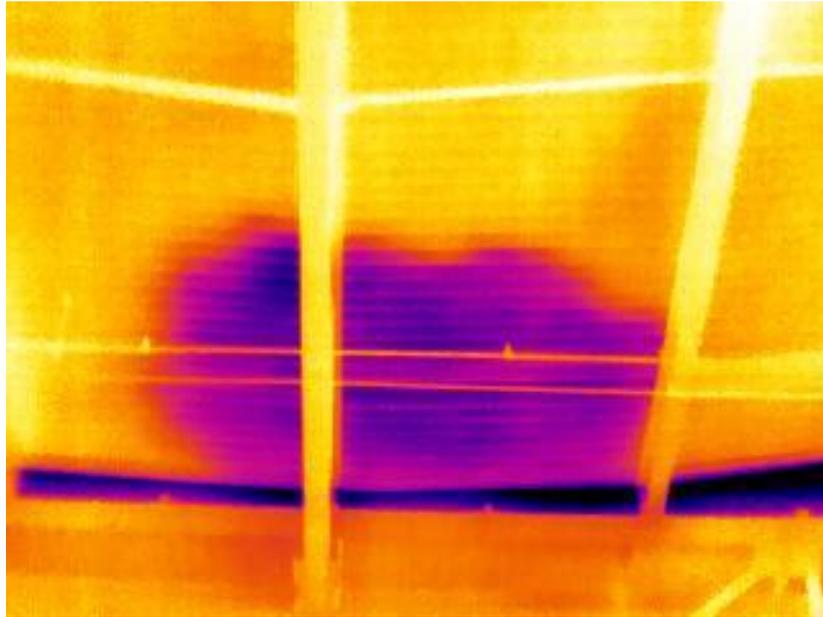
- Evaporative Cooling
- Thermal Capacitance



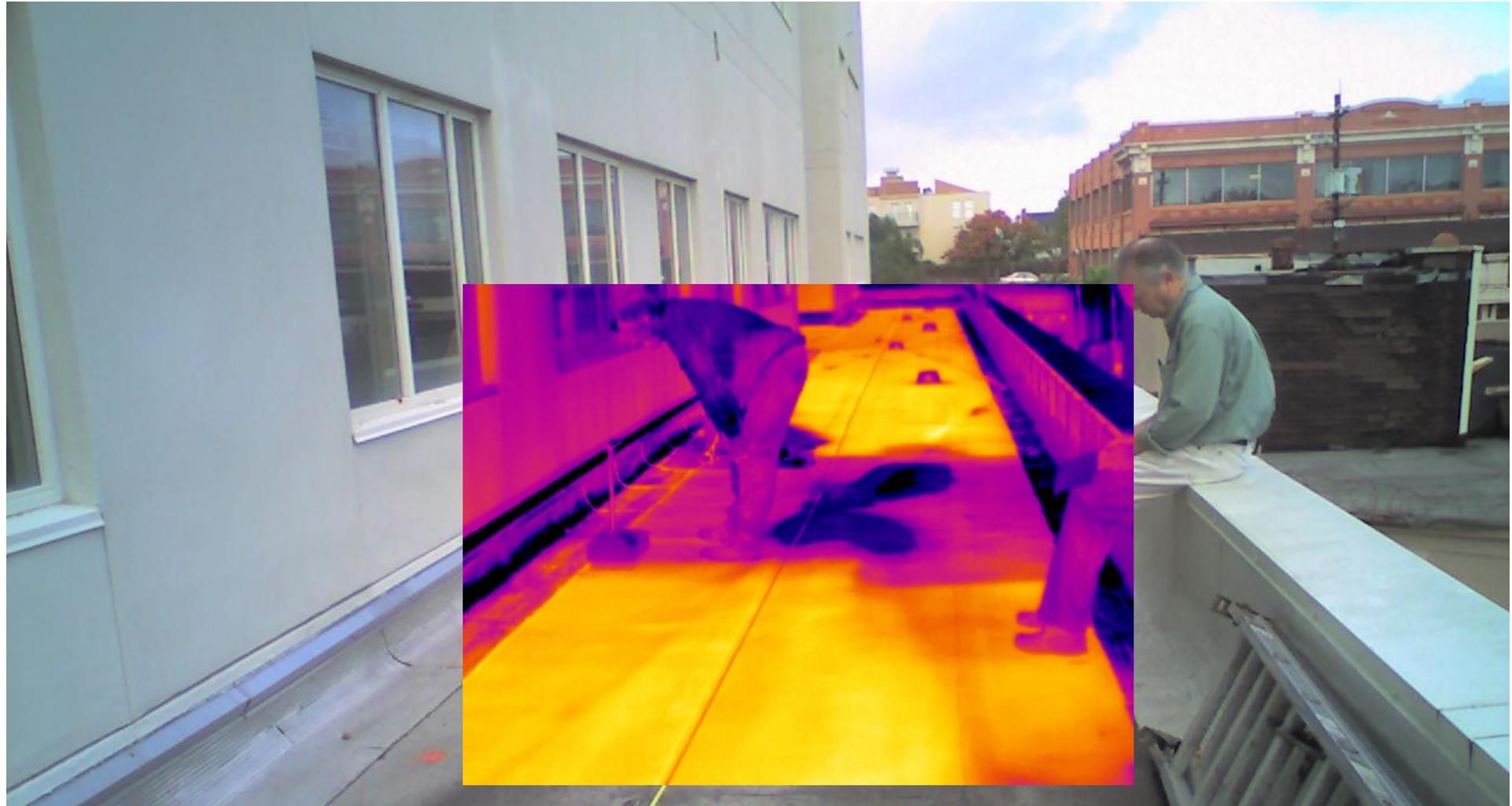
# Capacitance Moisture Meter and Thermography



# Thermal Capacitance Slows Cooling and Heating

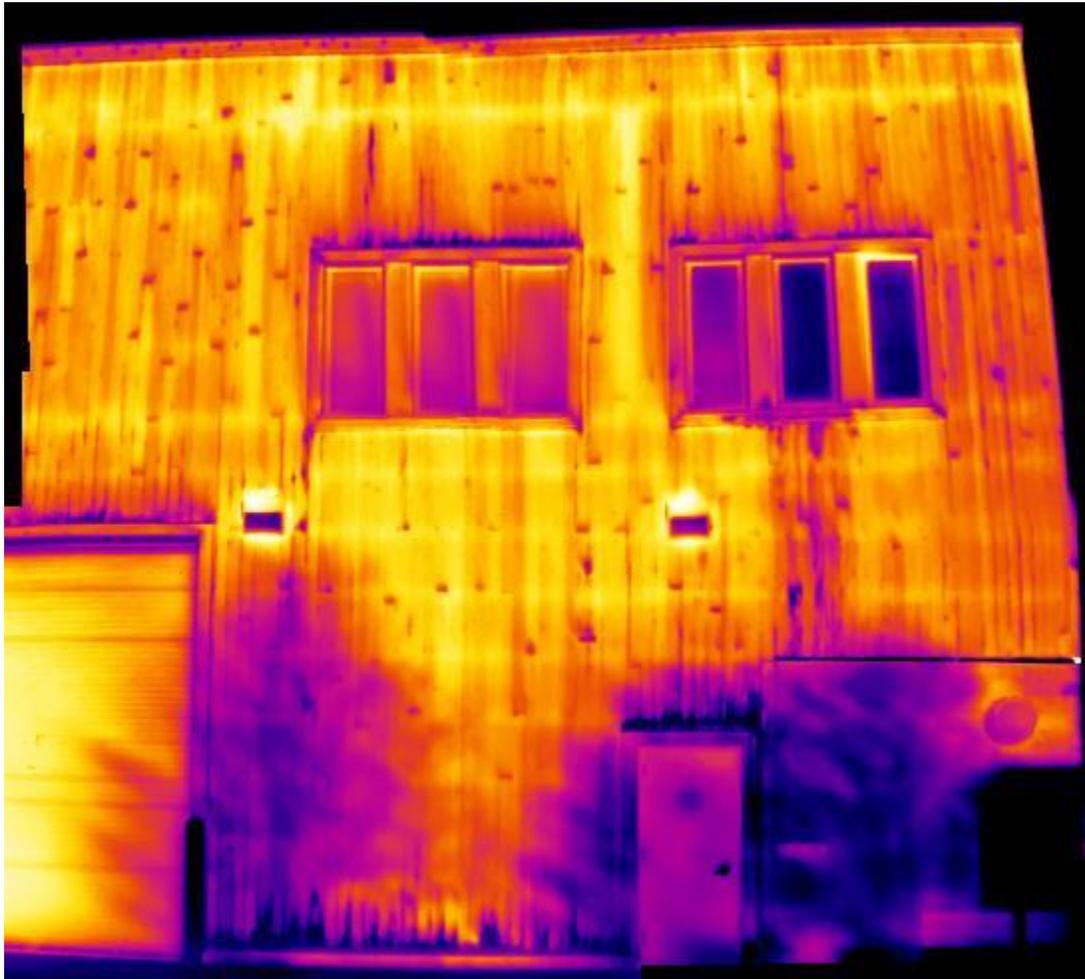


# Nuclear Moisture Survey and Thermography

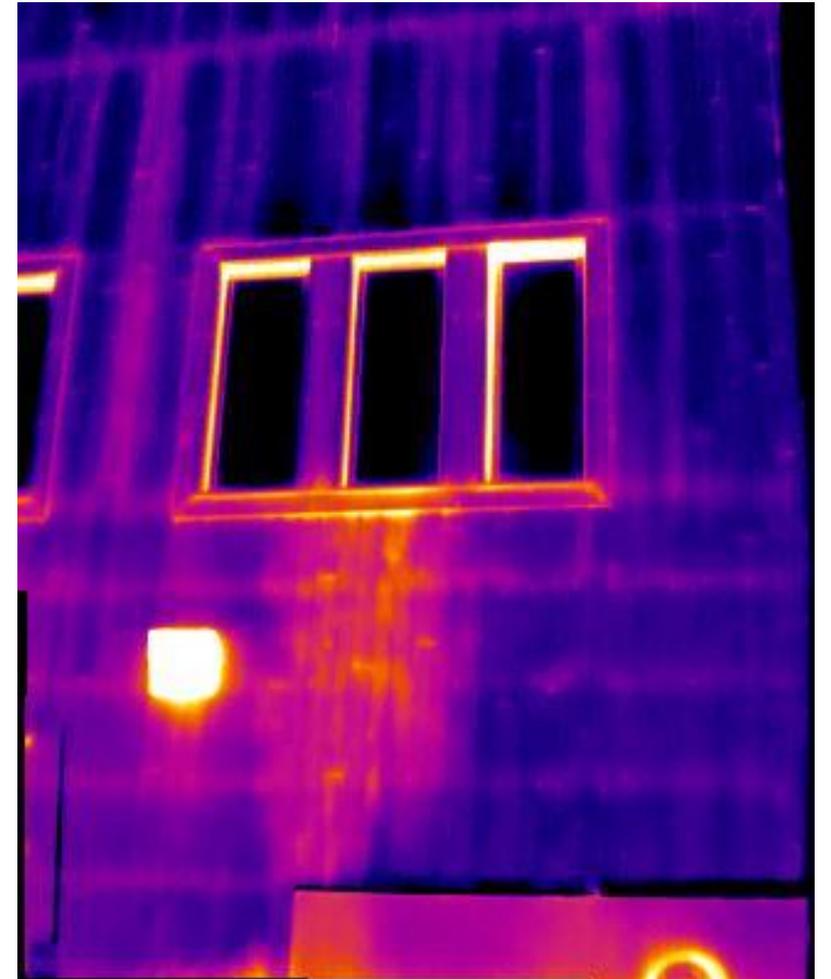


# Trapped Moisture Within Walls

Morning



Evening



# The Enclosure Envelopes the Building

H: Thermal control

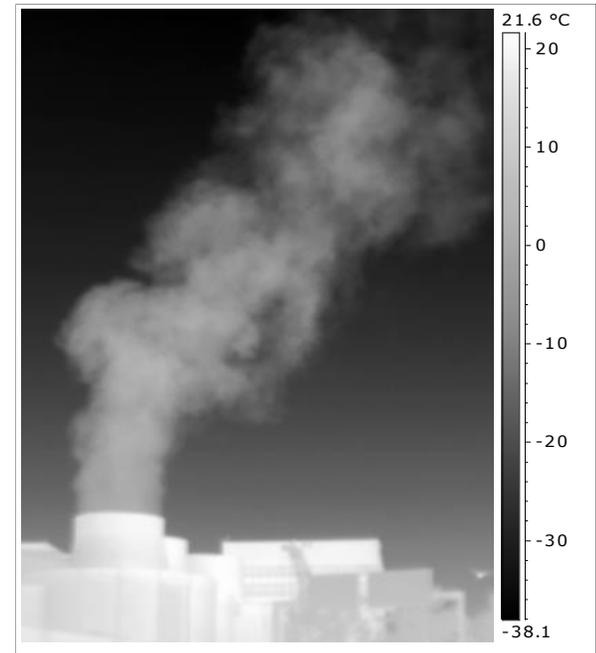
A: Air control

$M_{\text{liquid}}$ : Rain control

$M_{\text{vapor}}$ : Vapor control

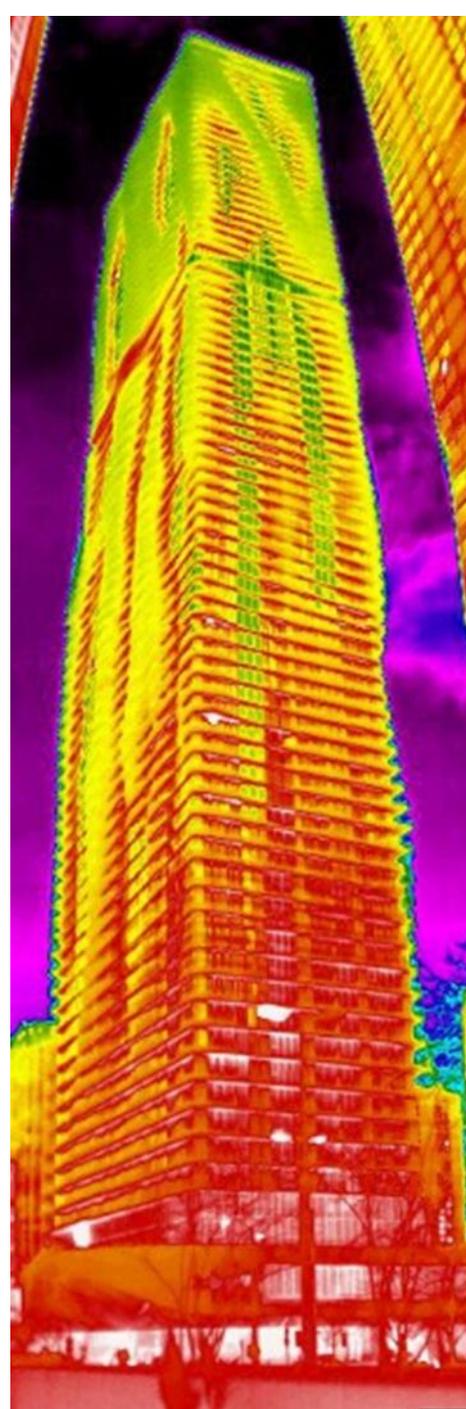


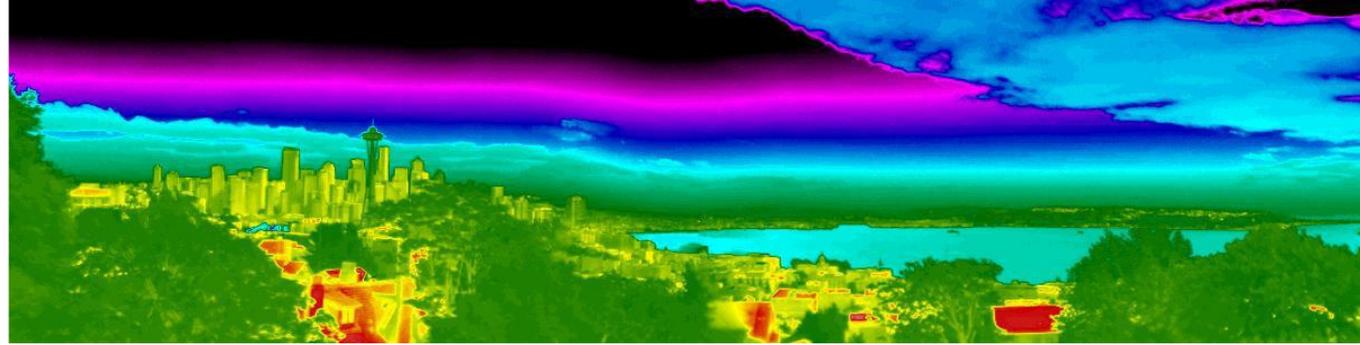
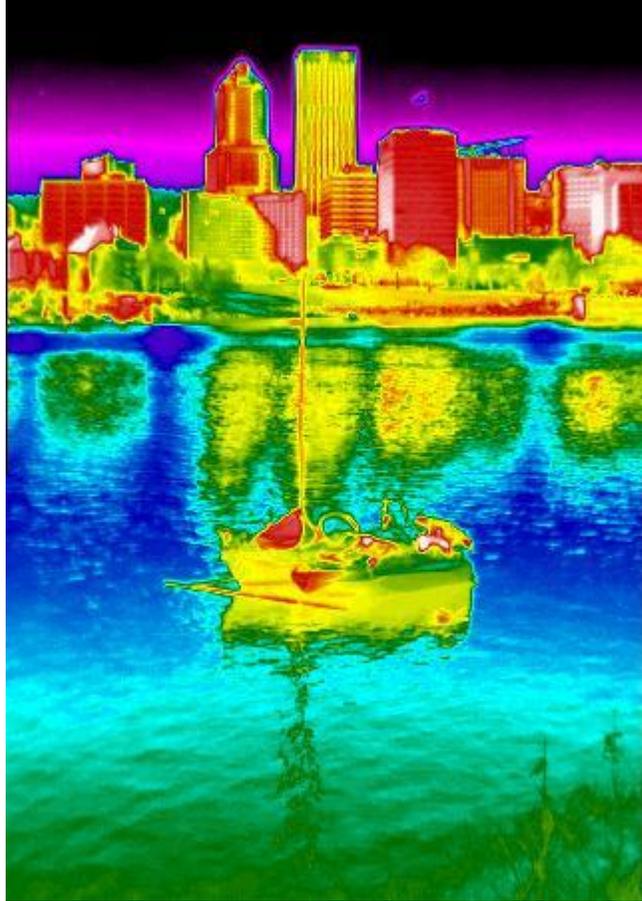
# Vapor?



# Summary

- Building Enclosure
  - Environmental Separator
  - Energy Use Net Zero
- Building Science Basics
- Building Barriers
  - Heat or Thermal
  - Air (Heat and Vapor Transport)
  - Moisture (Bulk or Liquid)
  - Moisture (Vapor)





# Observing Building Enclosures Leaking: Heat, Air and Water Using Infrared Thermography

Thankyou for Your Time

**SWA CONSULTING**  
Building Science Thermography  
Consulting & Training Excellence

