

BREATHE

## School of Design, Building 4 at the National University of Singapore

September 2019,  
NZEB Knowledge Series Webinar,  
MAITREE Program, India  
Dr. Wolfgang Kessling, Transsolar München

**TRANSSOLAR KLIMAENGINEERING**

Technologies for energy efficient design  
and thermal comfort in buildings  
Stuttgart - Munich - New York - Paris

## SDE4 - Net Zero by Design

Comfortable and Energy Efficient, Building Performance by Design



**School of Design at NUS**

**Client**  
National University Singapore

**Architect**  
Serie Multiply, London and Singapore

**MEP and Architects of record**  
Surbana, Singapore

### Framework for net-zero energy concept



**VISION**  
high-comfort  
net-zero  
energy building

# WHAT IS A NET ZERO ENERGY BUILDING?

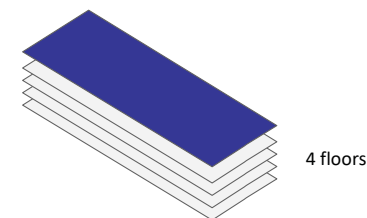
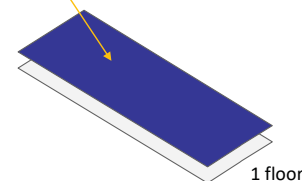
**The building has to  
produce its energy  
on its own  
footprint.**



Net zero quick check, Singapore



TYPICAL PRODUCTION ROOF  
**260 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>a**



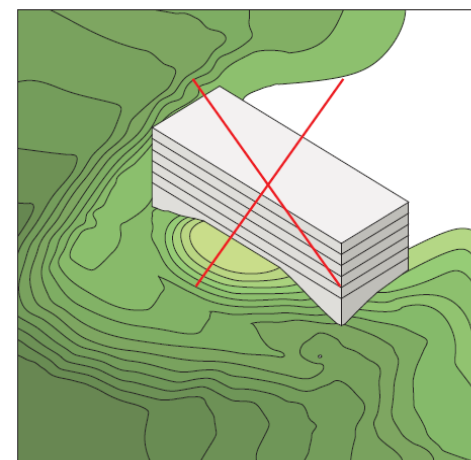
OFFICE, AVERAGE EUI  
**252 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>a**

OPTIMIZED BUILDING  
**70 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>a**

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**THE  
ARCHI-  
TECTURAL  
IDEA**

Rejection of the standard form



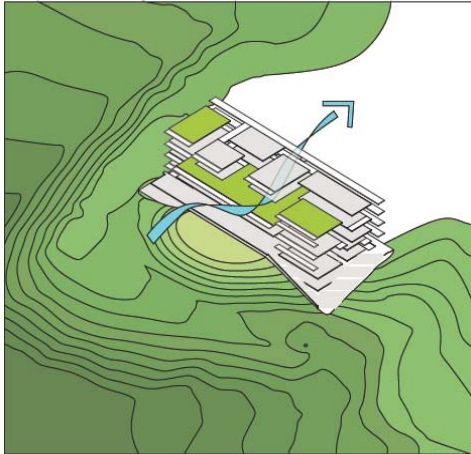
Credits: Serie

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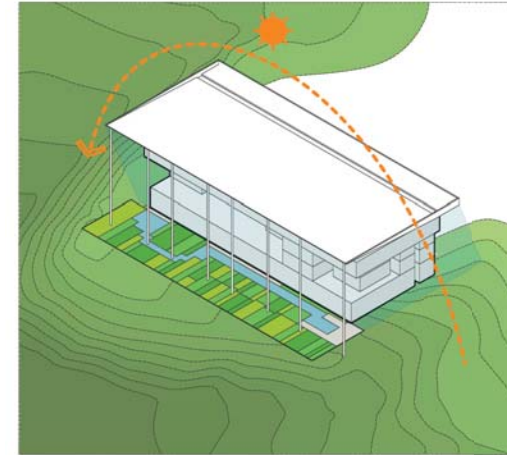
## Language of stacked planes, platforms and boxes



Credits: Serie

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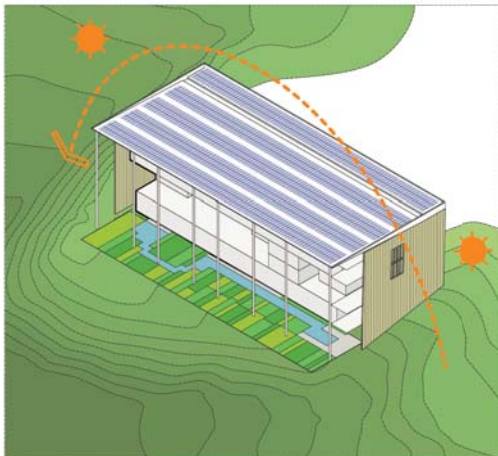
## Over-sailing roof, shade ...



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## ... and renewable electrical energy production



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Image: Rory Gardner







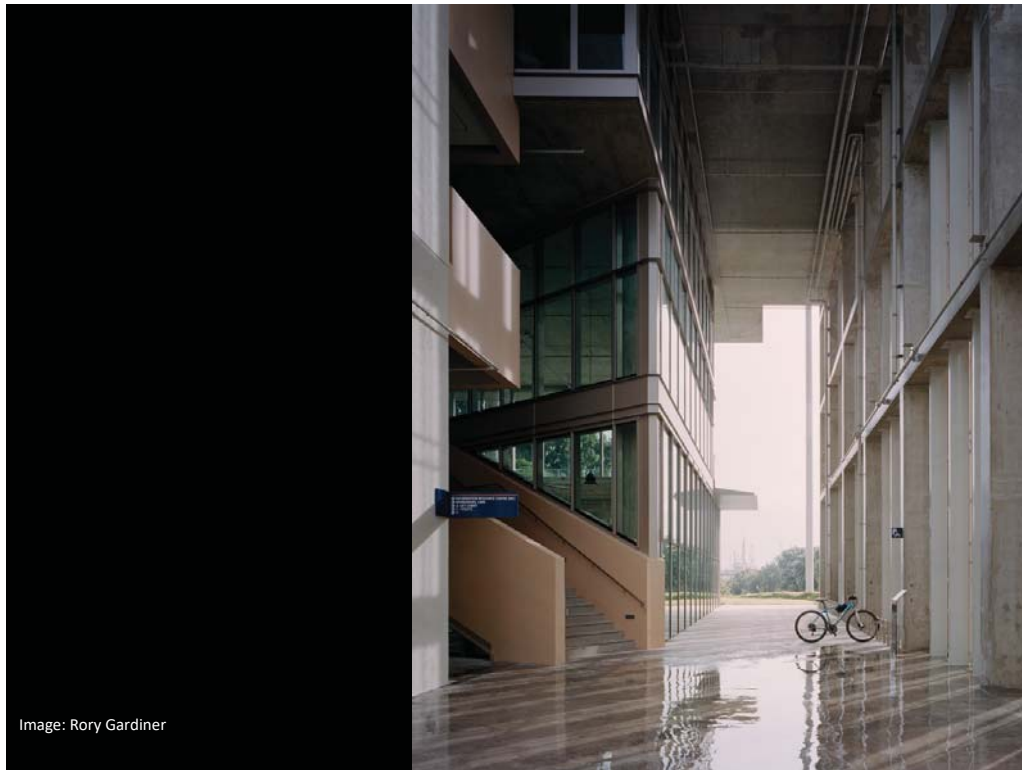


Image: Rory Gardiner



Image: Rory Gardiner



Image: Rory Gardiner



Image: Rory Gardiner





Image: Rory Gardiner



Image: Rory Gardiner

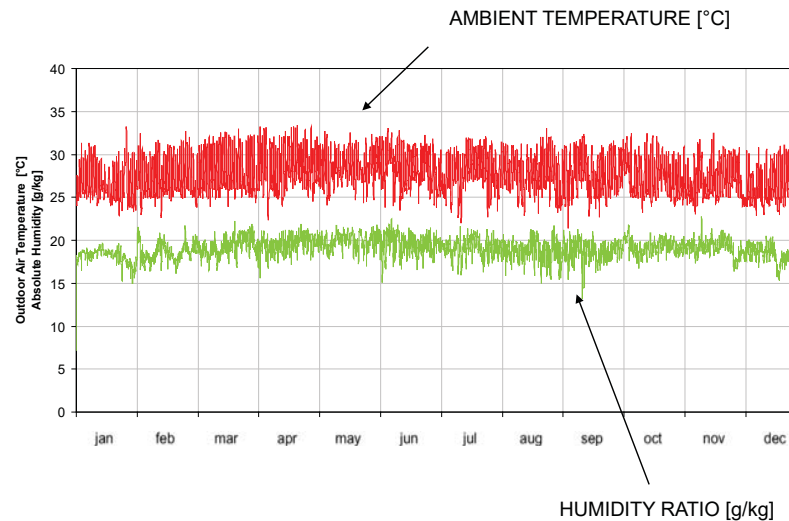






Image: Rory Gardiner

## Climate Singapore



# COMFORT ?

"Air conditioning was a most important invention for us, ...

Without air conditioning you can work only in the cool early-morning hours or at dusk.

The first thing I did upon becoming prime minister was to install air conditioners in buildings ...

This was key to public efficiency."

- Lee Kuan Yew

Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore Prime Minister (1959 - 1990), [The East Asian Way—With Air Conditioning](#), 2009



# COMFORT!

## Implement adaptive comfort approach

conventional approach



operative Temperature  
24°C

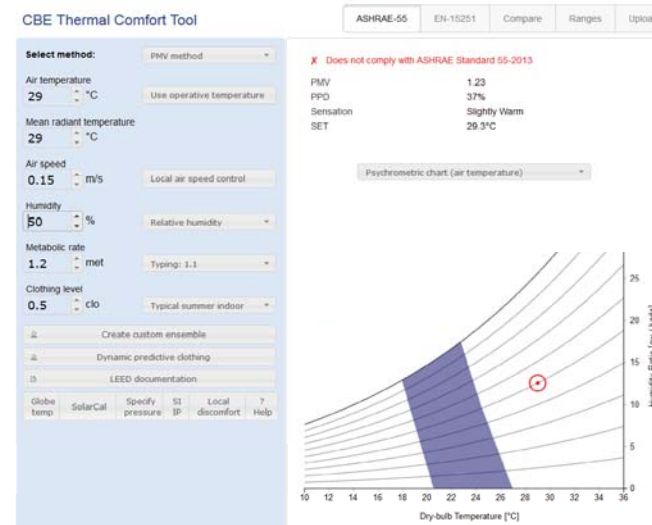
adaptive comfort approach



operative Temperature 29°C  
tempered air + elevated air speed

## Thermal comfort comparison with online tool of Berkeley University

Thermal Comfort **without** elevated air speed



Operative Temperature 29°C  
Air speed 0.15 m/s

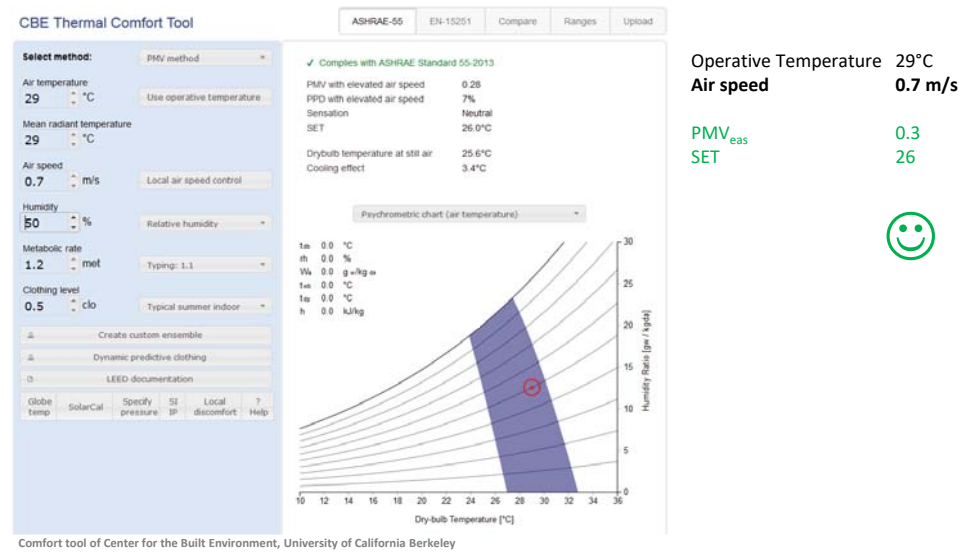
PMV 1.2  
SET 29.3



Comfort tool of Center for the Built Environment, University of California Berkeley



Thermal Comfort **with** elevated air speed



Parameter

Mean Radiation Temperature

Air Velocity

Air Humidity

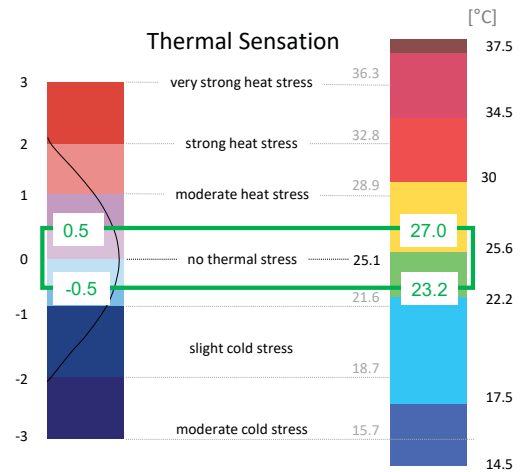
Air Temperature

Clothing

Activity

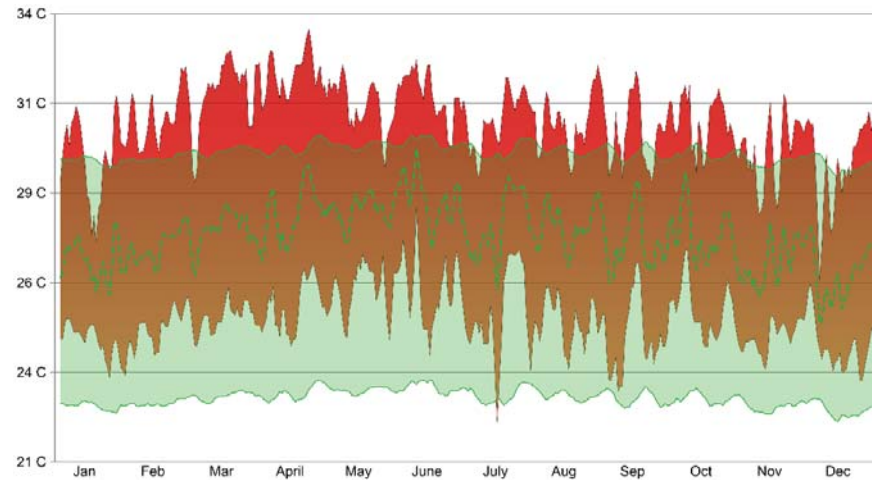
Model Predicted Mean Vote (PMV)

Model Standard Effective Temperature (SET)



Climate Singapore

ADAPTIVE COMFORT RANGES IN SINGAPORE



FULL AC

VS

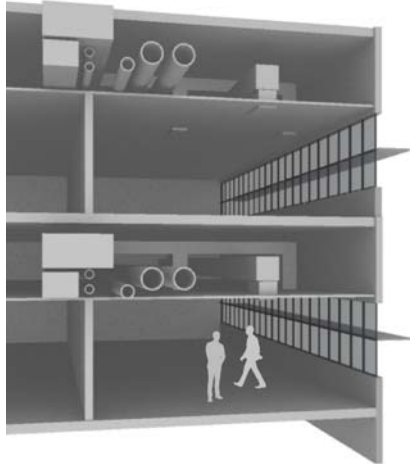
ADAPTIVE



## Basic characteristics: Conventional Full AC Design versus Adaptive Comfort Design

### Full AC

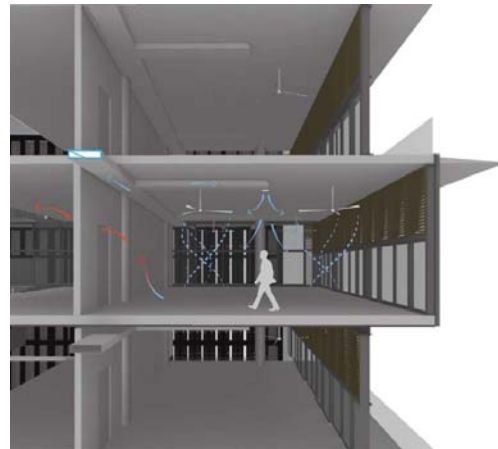
#### Typical Conventional Design



- fresh air supply with heat recovery to be energy efficient
- return air system for cooling, central mech rooms
- substantial space in false ceiling
- closed façade is required

### Adaptive Comfort

#### Example: School of Design 4

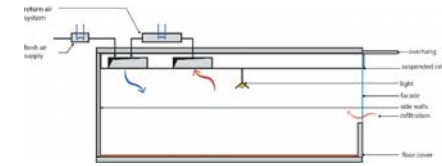


- supply air system with tempered air
- ceilings fan
- no return air, spill over
- window opening is possible

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## Comparison: Conventional Full AC Design versus Adaptive Comfort Design

### Full AC



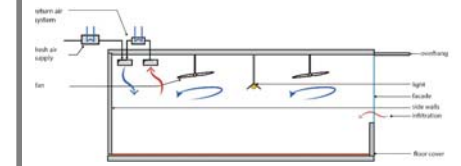
#### mechanical ventilation:

Tair 15°C  
T<sub>dew</sub> 12°C  
fresh air per person 35m³/h (1.2 ACR)  
specific fan power 2 \* 2500 Ws/m³

cooling setpoint: operative temperature 24°C  
rel. Humidity 60% +/- 5%

return air system: range 4.9 ACR to 0.5

### Adaptive Comfort



#### mechanical ventilation:

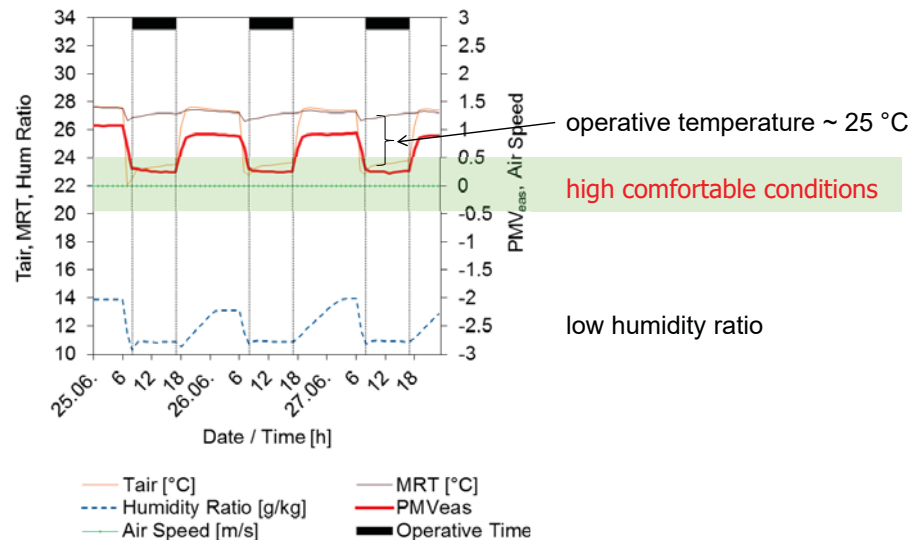
Tair 18°C  
T<sub>dew</sub> 18°C  
fresh air per person 35m³/h (1.2 ACR)  
specific fan power 2 \* 2500 Ws/m³

cooling setpoint: operative temperature 29°C  
Standard Effective Temp. 27°C  
ceiling fan max 1 m/s  
rel. Humidity not controlled

return air system range 1.9 ACR to 0

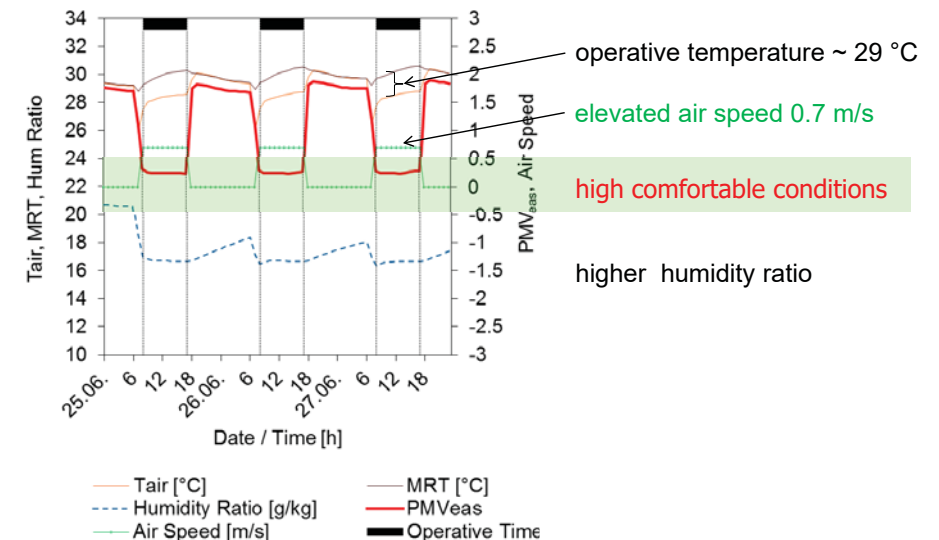
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## Comfort for design day: Conventional system – Full AC



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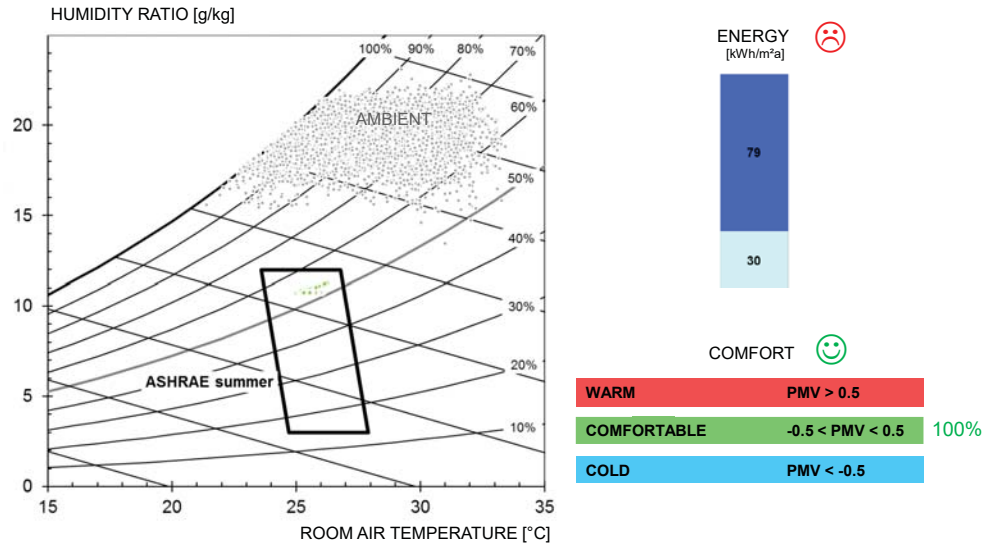
## Comfort for design day: Hybrid system for Adaptive Comfort Design



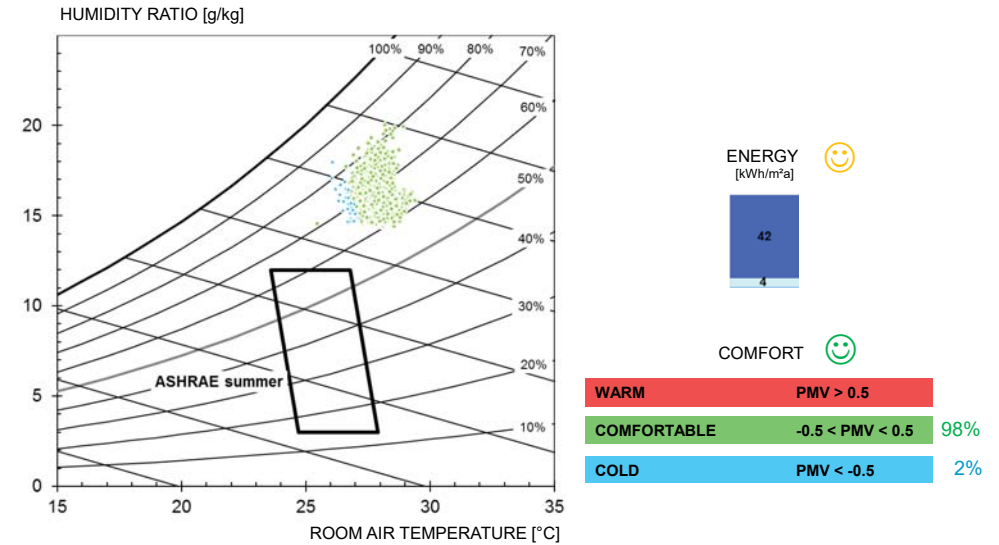
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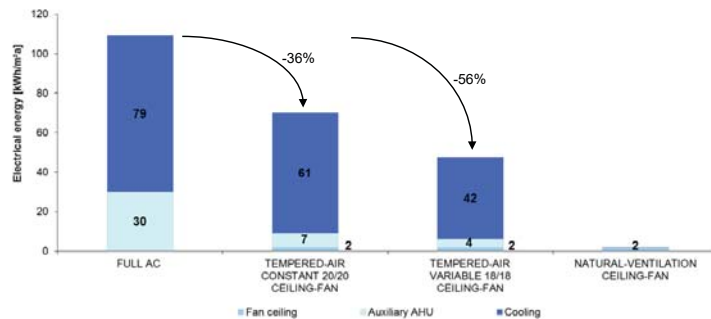
AC Comfort



Adaptive Tempered Comfort



Electrical energy demand for cooling of compared options



DOES ADAPTIVE COMFORT WORK?



Testing of Adaptive Comfort with measurements and perception studies at UWC



Typical classroom at UWC

**Occupancy:**  
24 pupils  
1 teacher

**Room characteristics:**  
area = 72 m<sup>2</sup>  
room height ≈ 2.9 m

fully air conditioned  
supply: 15°C  
9 g/kg

exhaust:  
spill over into floor

2 ceiling fans



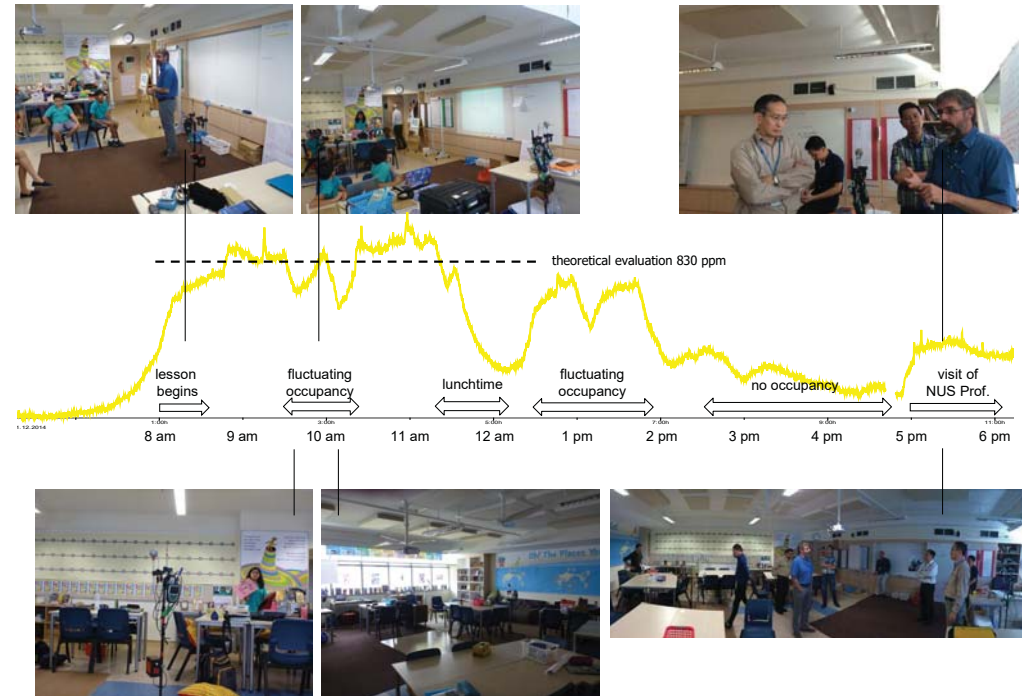
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Typical utilization of an UWC classroom



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CO<sub>2</sub> concentration as indicator for utilization

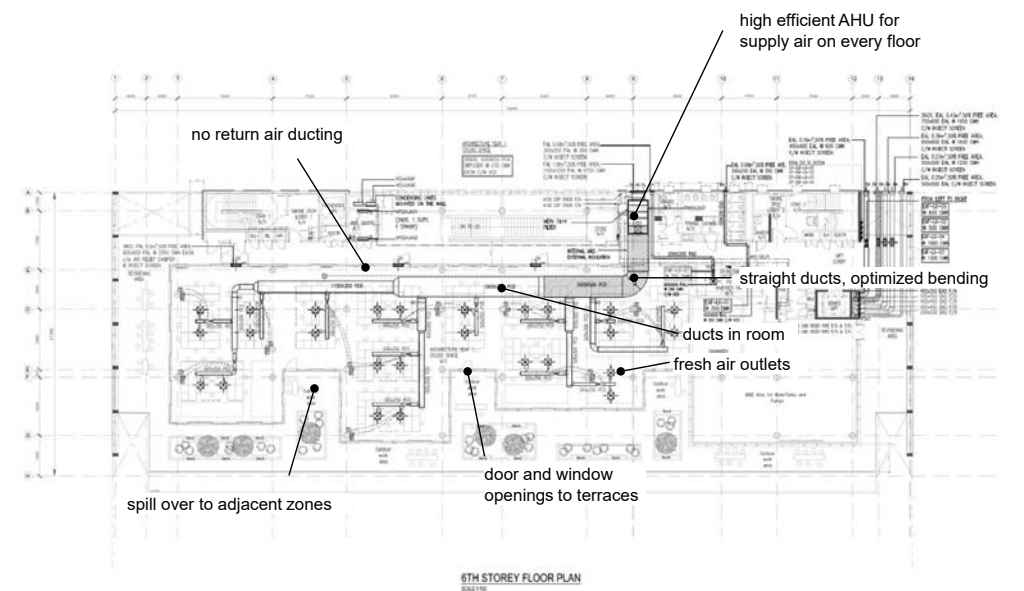


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Simple mechanical system, example of drawings SDE4



Thermal zoning of School of Design building, overview

- Photovoltaic**  
renewable energy
- Hybrid Tempered, 26%**  
library, design studios  
Theatre, offices
- Full AC, 17%**  
green building technology lab  
energy lab, computer lab
- Natural Cross Ventilated, 46%**  
with elevated air speed  
social Plaza and social  
interaction spaces  
modeling areas, work shops  
smart green home
- Circulation**  
micro climate, wind  
vegetation, green and blue
- mech and aux rooms 10%**

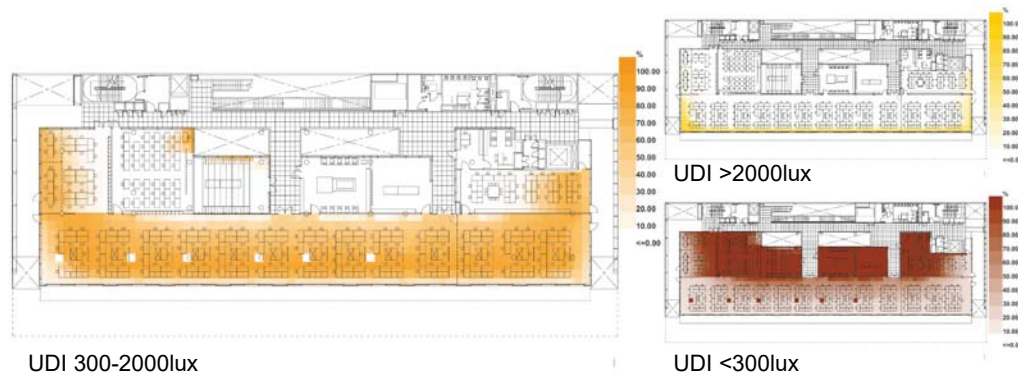
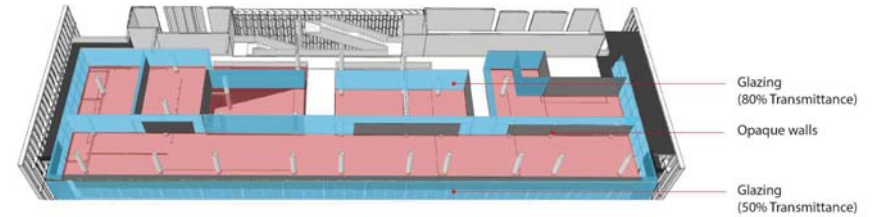
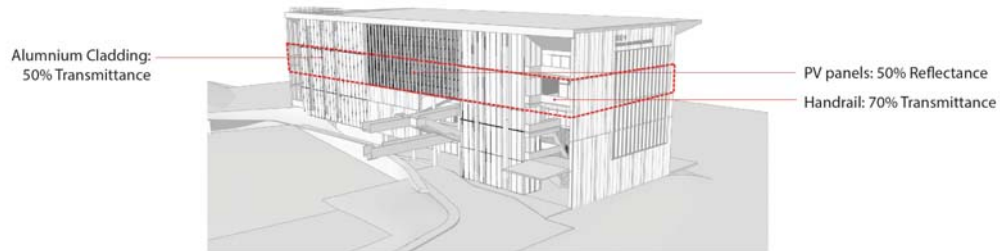


FACADE

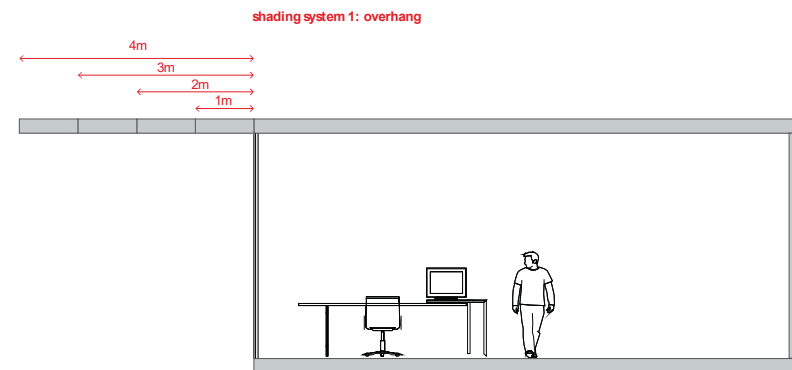
View from South-West



View from North-West

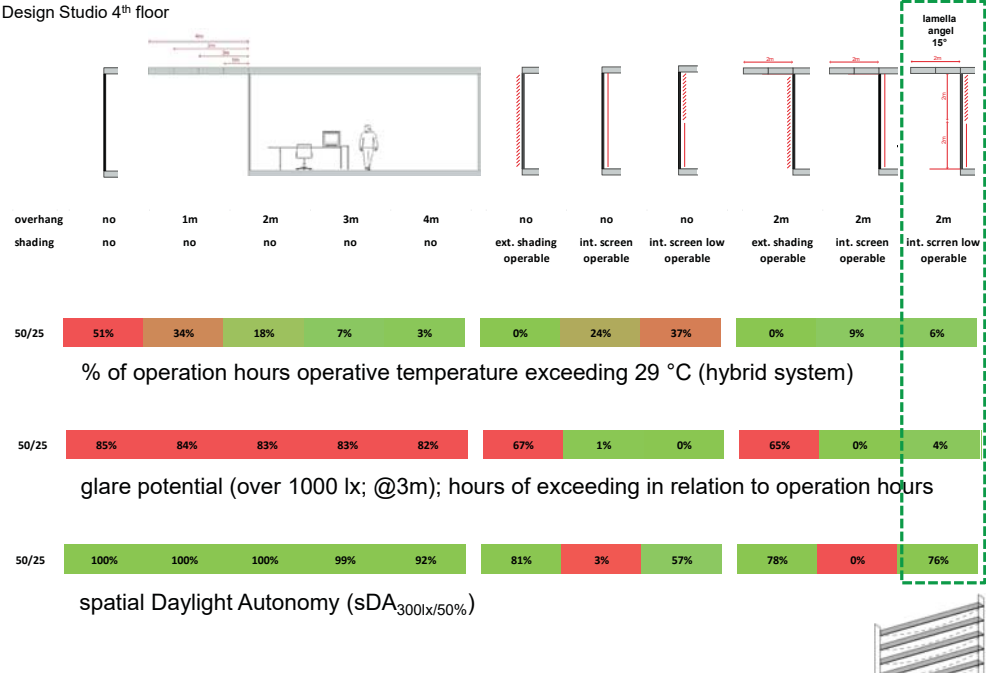


Concept Sketch





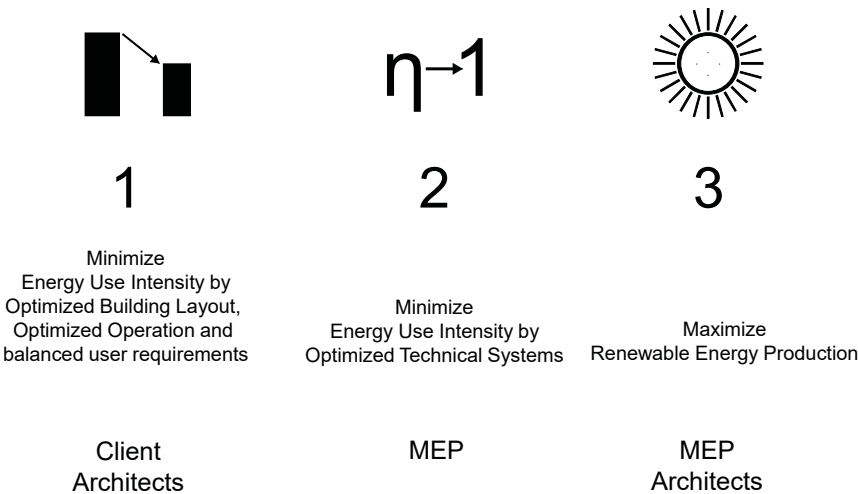
## Final overview of options to inform the design



# PROCESS

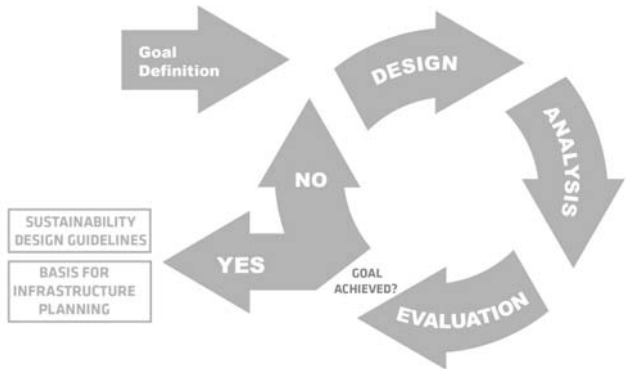
## Framework for net-zero energy concept

### STRATEGY and PROCESS



## Generic Strategy: Iterative Process

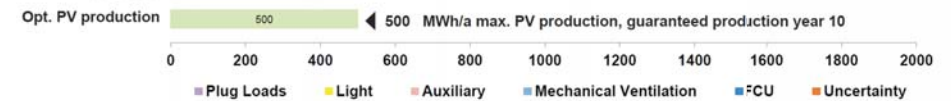
The nature of the set of **multiple requirements** for a sustainable development, with many of them being competitive, requires an **iterative design process** in order to find the best solution. In addition, the multidisciplinary design thinking has to overlap the different scales of the development.



# NET ENERGY STORY

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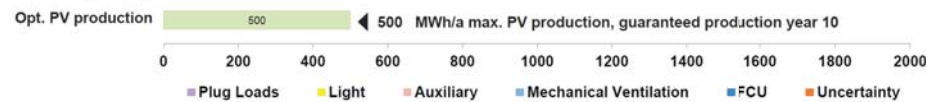
## Net Zero Energy story



⇒ Maximal renewable energy production with PV system defines the available electrical energy to operate the building on net zero.

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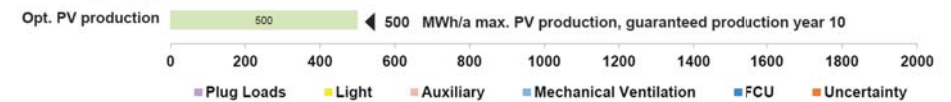
## Net Zero Energy story



⇒ Challenge the client design brief

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## Net Zero Energy story

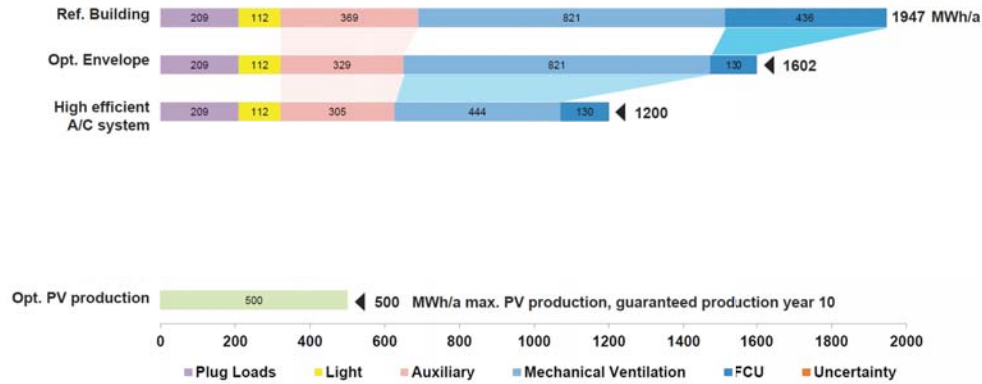


⇒ Optimize the envelope for thermal comfort and energy and glare and daylight

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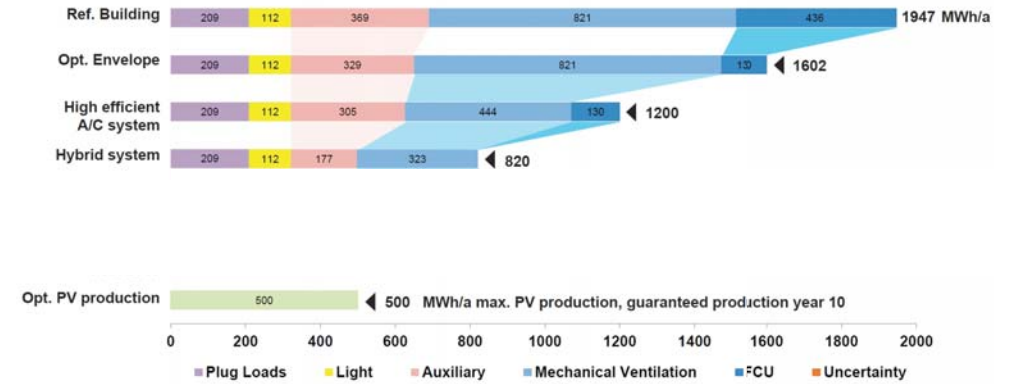
## Net Zero Energy story



⇒ Maximal energy efficiency of a/c systems

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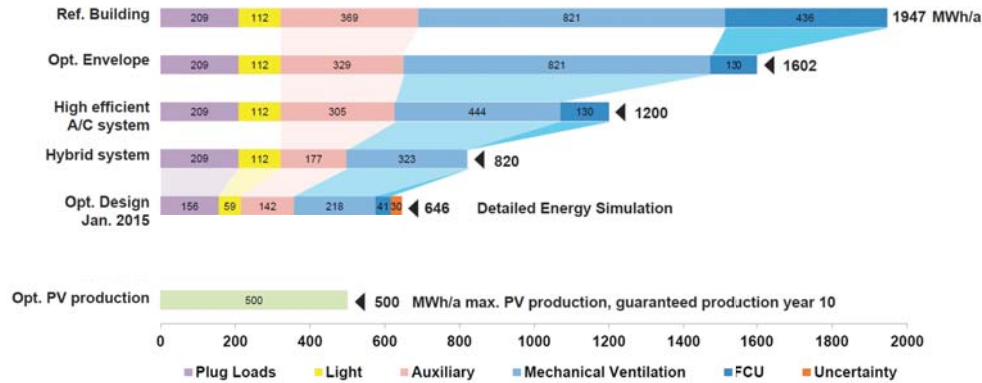
## Net Zero Energy story



⇒ Design for adaptive comfort with hybrid system  
great fresh air, tempered and elevated air speed

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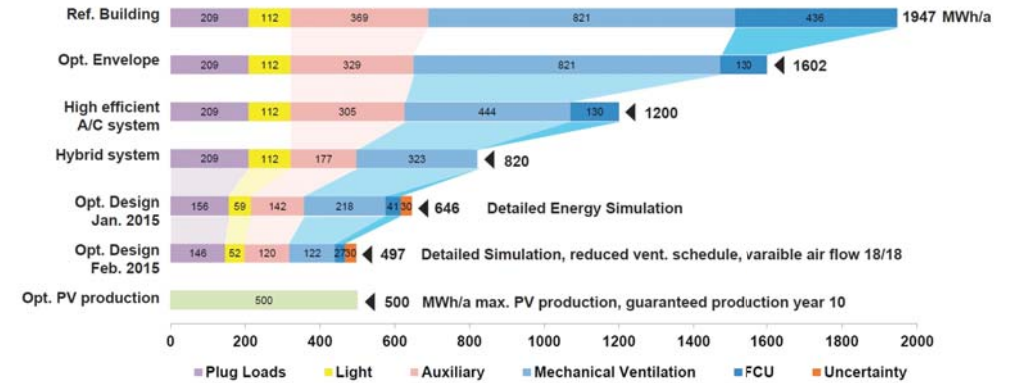
## Net Zero Energy story



⇒ Get the details right

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## Net Zero Energy story



⇒ Inform and improve the building design step by step  
with design charrettes

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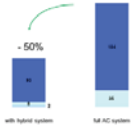
university building  
in the tropics...



tempered air and  
elevated air speed...



highly comfortable  
spaces...



energy efficient and  
low investment cost...



100% powered by  
photovoltaic on own footprint.

# THE BIGGER PICTURE





## PACE OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT

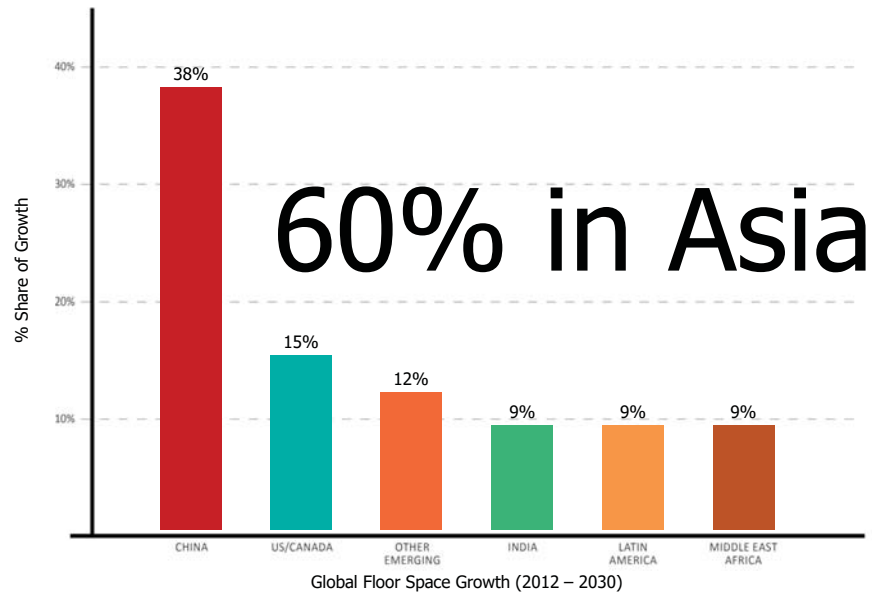
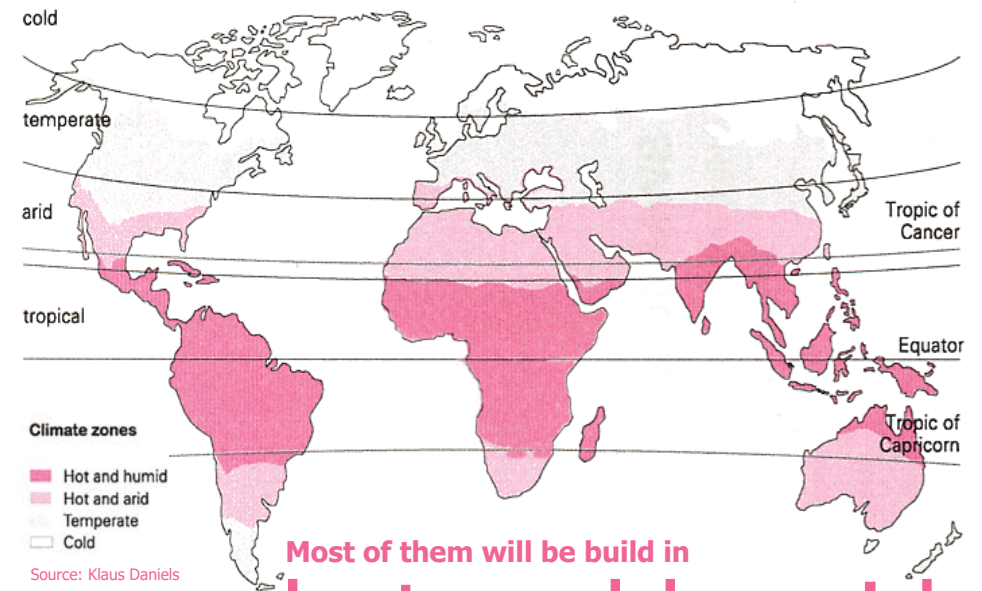


Illustration: [Sean Quinn](#), Head of Sustainable Design, 10 DESIGN  
Source: Mckinsey.com, 'Urban World: Cities And The Rise Of The Consuming Class'. N.p., 2015.



Most of them will be build in  
**hot and humid**  
climates

The way  
we  
design  
buildings

...



The way  
we  
define  
comfort

...



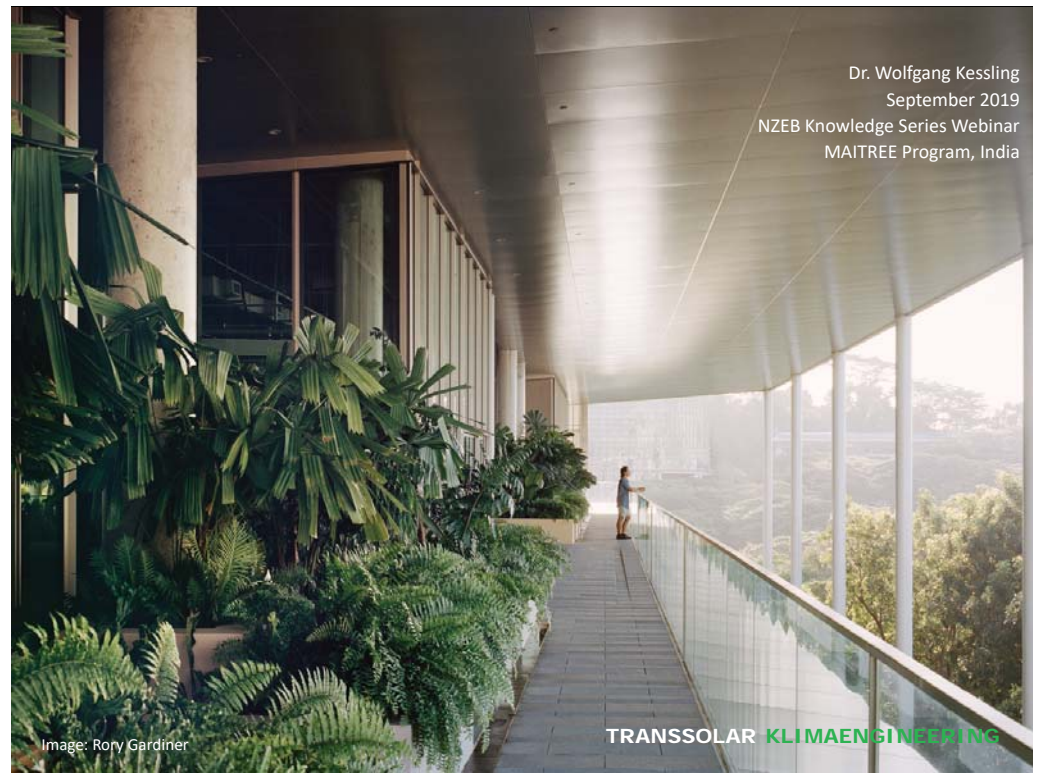


... has  
significant  
impact

Buildings in the  
Tropics designed  
for adaptive  
comfort consume

50%

less energy



Dr. Wolfgang Kessling  
September 2019  
NZEB Knowledge Series Webinar  
MAITREE Program, India

Image: Rory Gardiner

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