



# BUILD UP

The European portal for energy efficiency  
and renewable energy in buildings

# WEBINAR



Book Launch

# OCCUPANT-CENTRIC SIMULATION-AIDED BUILDING DESIGN

Speakers: William O'Brien, Philip Agee, Clinton Andrews,  
Christiane Berger, Clarice Bleil De Souza, Isabella Gaetani,  
Burak Gunay and Farhang Tahmasebi

20 June 2023  
14:00 - 16:00 CET

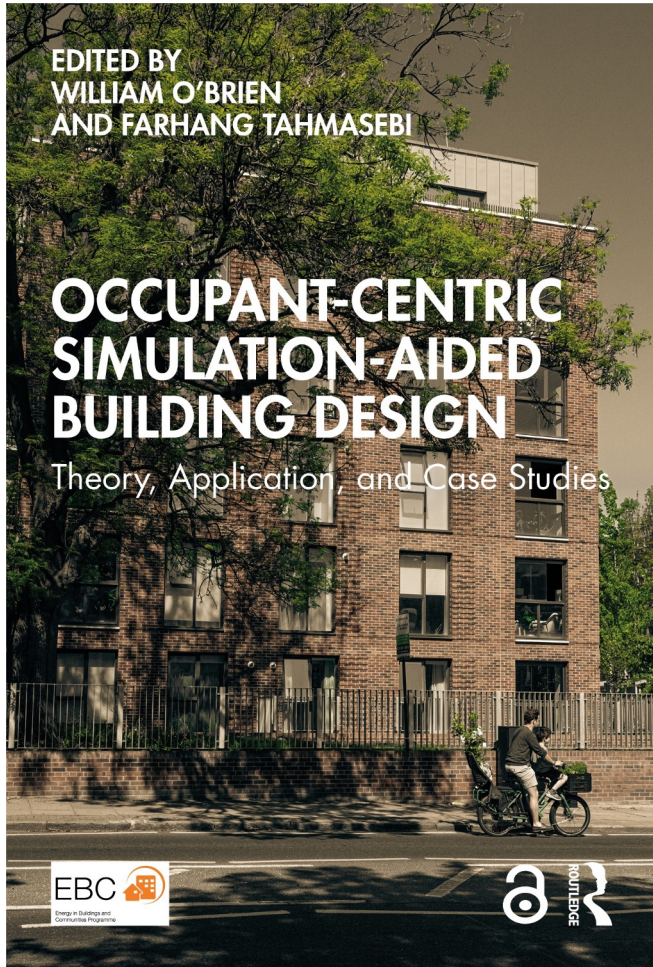
**BUILD UP**

The European portal for energy efficiency  
and renewable energy in buildings

Energy in Buildings and  
Communities Programme







**14:00 - 14:05** Introduction to webinar from *BUILD UP Team*

**14:05 - 15:30** Presentations

Introduction

*Liam O'Brien*

Fundamentals of IEQ and occupant needs

*Christiane Berger*

Occupants in building design decision-making process

*Clarice Bleil De Souza*

Methods to obtain the occupant perspective

*Clinton Andrews*

Occupant-centric performance metrics and targets

*Liam O'Brien*

*Questions and answers*

Introduction to occupant modelling

*Liam O'Brien*

Fit-for-purpose occupant modelling

*Isabella Gaetani*

Simulation methods for occupant-centric building design

*Farhang Tahmasebi*

Building interfaces: Design & considerations for simulation

*Philip Agee*

Design of sequences of operation for occupant-centric controls

*Burak Gunay*

Detailed case studies

*Liam O'Brien*

**15:30 - 15:55** Questions and discussion

*Moderated by Clarice, Liam, Farhang*

**15:55 - 16:00** Thank you from *BUILD UP Team*

# Introduction

*William O'Brien*

*Carleton University*





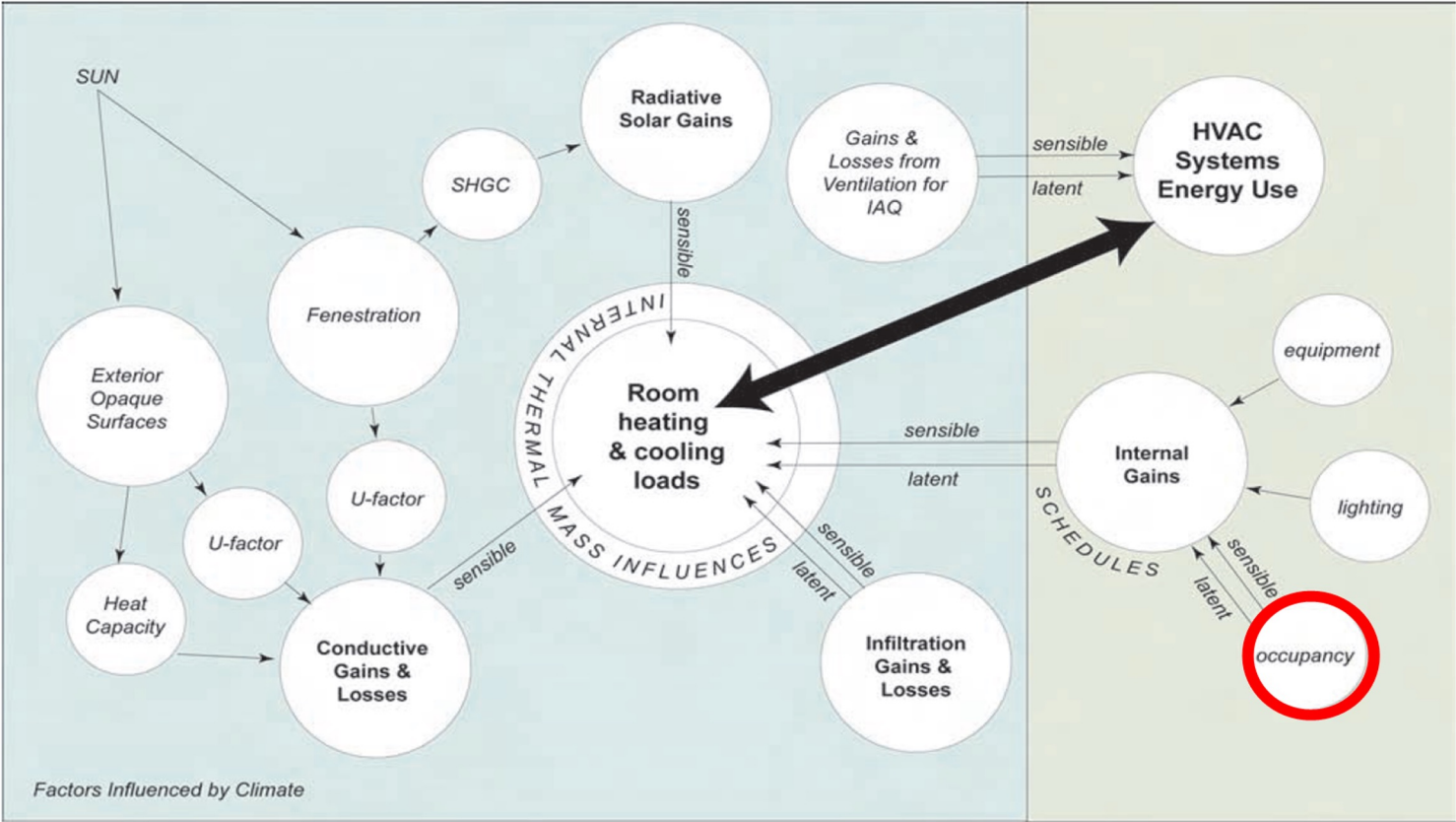
# Motivation

- Current design approaches are remarkably void of occupants
- Tremendous uncertainty about occupants ⇒ “performance gap”
- Common solution: take adaptive opportunities/affordances away from occupants



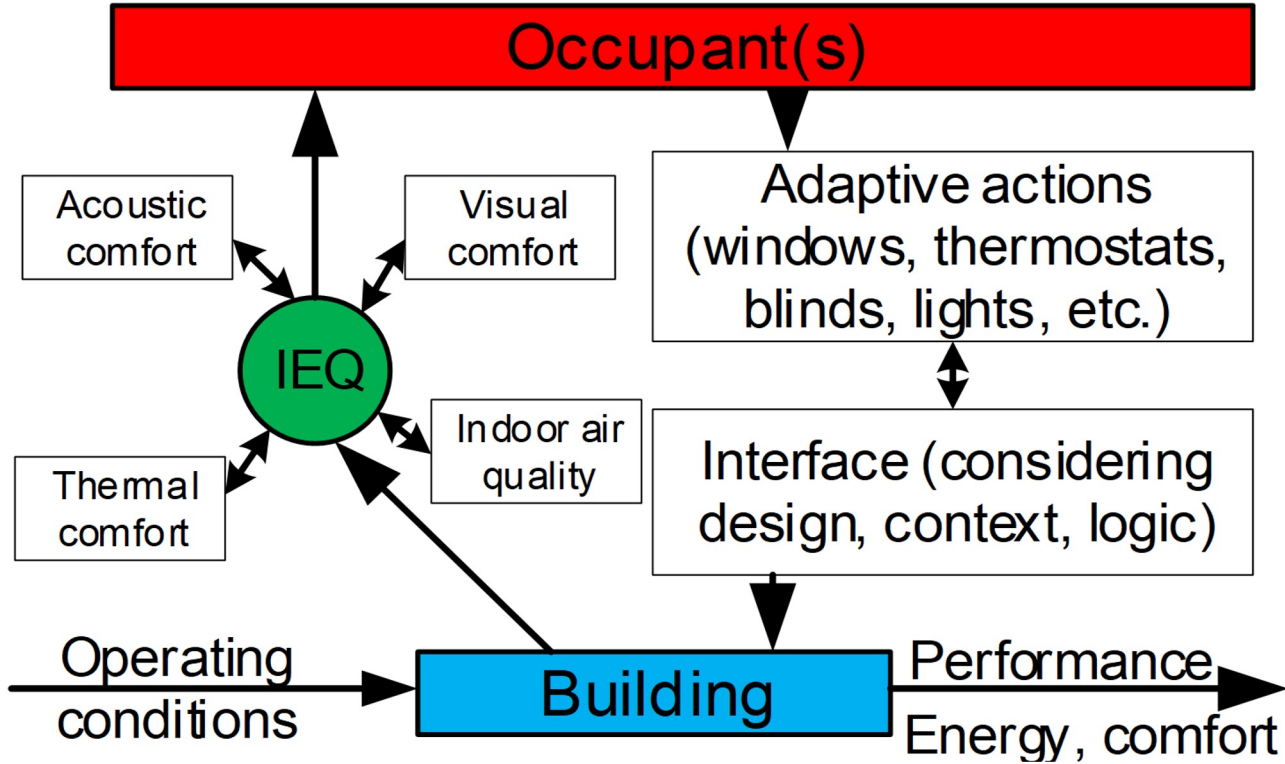


# Motivation



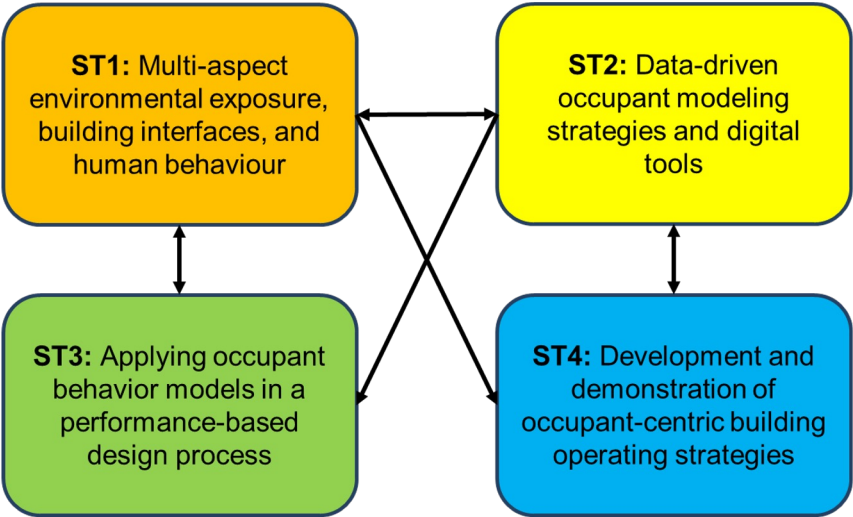


# Motivation





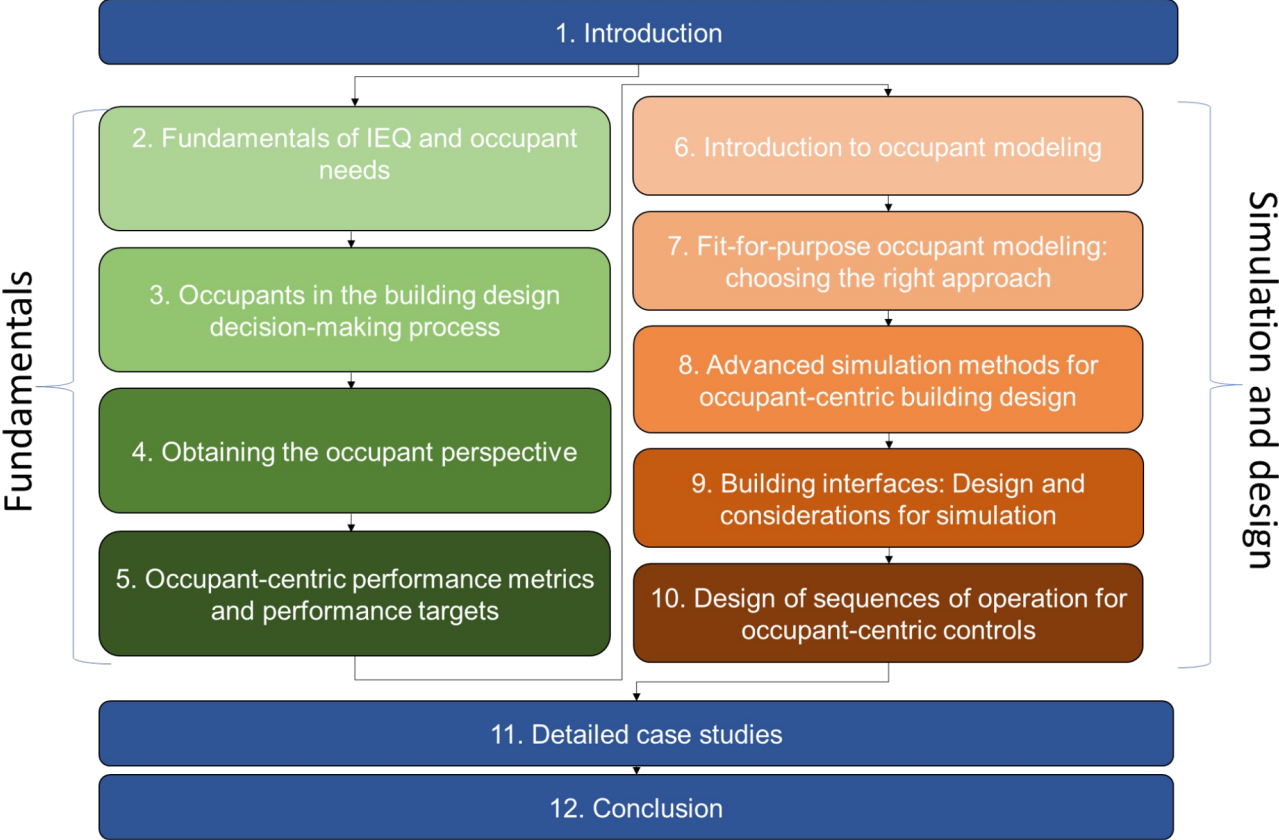
# IEA EBC Annex 79: Occupant-centric design and operation (2018-23)



Aachen, Germany  
June 9-10, 2023



# Structure





# Fundamentals of Indoor Environmental Quality and Occupant Needs

*Christiane Berger*  
*Aalborg University*



# Fundamentals of IEQ and Occupant Needs

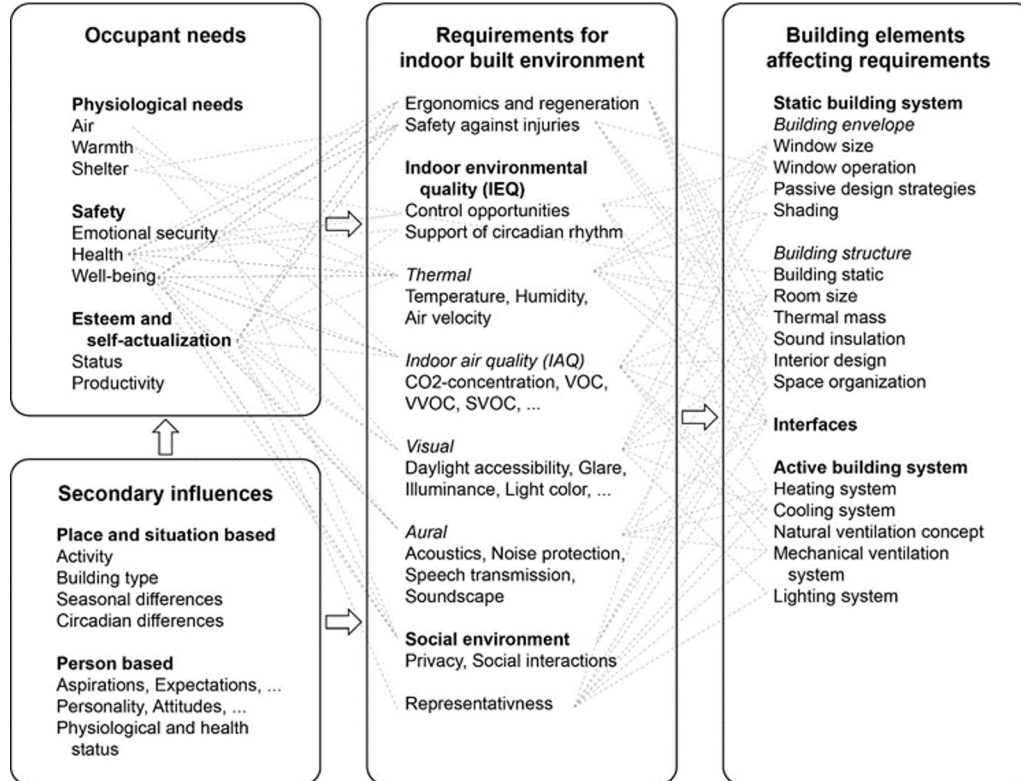
*... fundamental understanding of the relationship between the built environment and occupants' needs for health, well-being, and productivity*

- Introduction
- The human being in a built environment: Fundamentals and theories
- Common practices regarding specification of IEQ
- Ongoing work and open questions
- Conclusions and outlook



# Fundamentals of IEQ and Occupant Needs

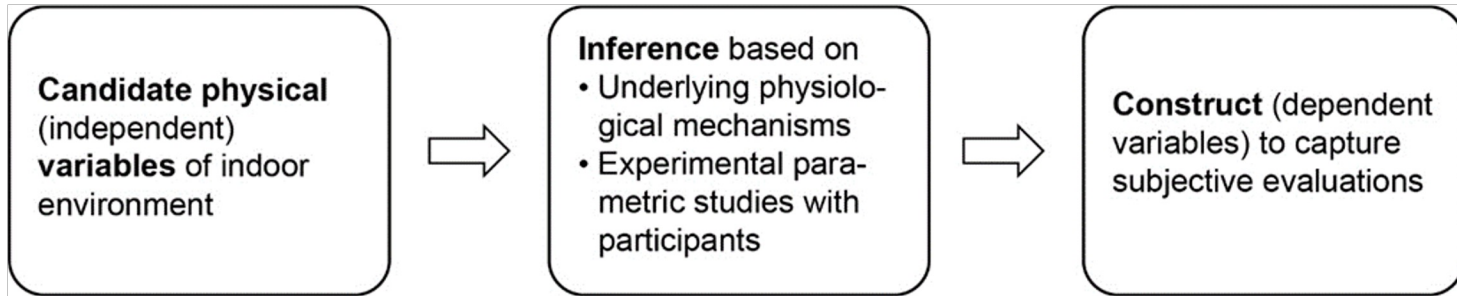
*The human being in a built environment: Fundamentals and theories*



# Fundamentals of IEQ and Occupant Needs

## *Common practices regarding specification of IEQ*

- IEQ codes, standards, and guidelines represent the main reference source for professionals and stakeholders
- Comfort equations:





# Fundamentals of IEQ and Occupant Needs

*Ongoing work and open questions*

- Adaptive Thermal Comfort, Perceived Control, and Personalized Control
- Energy, IEQ, and the Human-Building Interactions
- Interaction among IEQ domains and other factors

# Occupants in Building Design Decision-making Process

*Clarice Bleil De Souza*  
**Cardiff University**





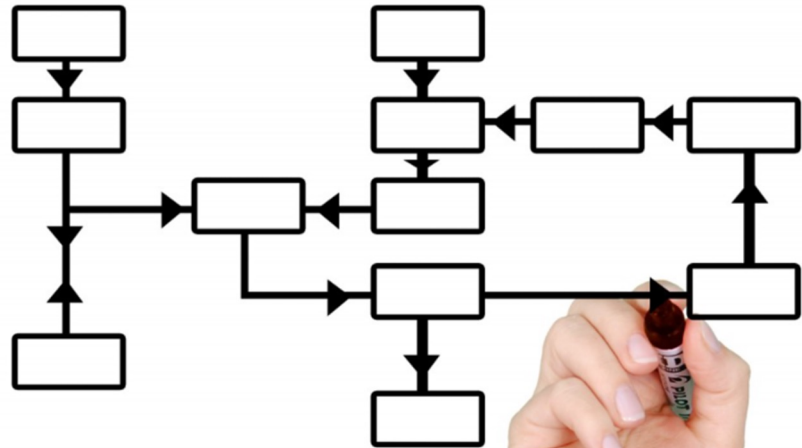
# Occupants in the Building Design Decision-making Process

## *Overarching Principle*

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Occupant considerations must be formally integrated into building information management systems !

Practice is a complex process of exchanging information *timely* between different team members and disciplines



# Occupants in the Building Design Decision-making Process

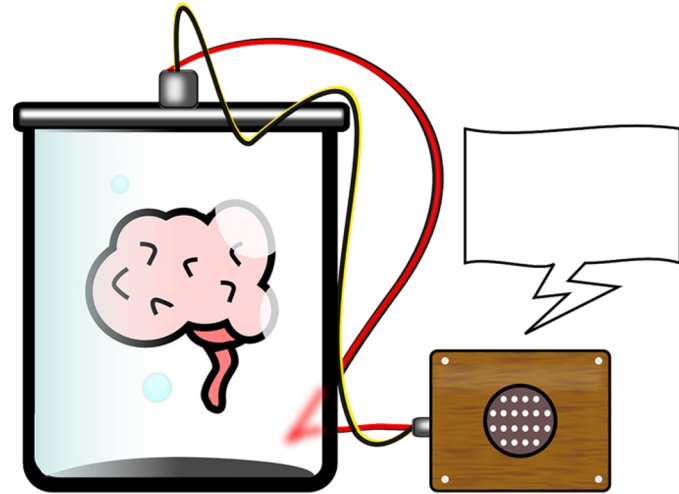
## *Design decisions on occupants within built spaces*

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- Constraints
- Persuasive strategies
- Affordances
- Adaptive opportunities



<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/house-home-lock-residence-chains-5560582/>



<https://pixabay.com/vectors/brain-lab-science-talking-153040/>



# Occupants in the Building Design Decision-making Process

## *Decisions affecting or affected by occupants*

Decisions undertaken in relation to 'Construction entities' and 'Built spaces'	Examples of design aims/requirements/considerations/decisions		
	Effects / effects of occupant <i>within</i> the building	Effects / effects of occupants <i>with</i> the building	Effects / effects of occupants <i>with environment</i>
Building form and volume	Convey a sense of place; Display the status of the building owner;	Create exhilarating spaces; Ensure the feeling of 'coziness'; Minimize heating/cooling costs of the building;	Help shaping the street; Configure outdoor courtyards; Integrated with landscape;
Building footprint on site & orientation	Provide places for children to play in the sun; Shape secluded spaces for people to interact outdoors and with each other;	Provide clarity of access; Create useful outdoor spaces integrated with the street;	Minimize environmental impact on the site; Protect from solar overheating; Low impact on neighbors' right of light and sun; Take advantage of cooling breezes;
Program distribution & orientation	Allow for flexibility in separating or joining rooms; Consider public / private interactions;	Relationship of noisy/ quiet, day / night spaces (isolate the bedrooms from the living area); Orientate spaces with regards to heating and cooling needs;	Provide daylight, natural ventilation, and view to the outside for main living spaces; Enable patients to see the day go by; Enable visual contact with nature;
Form and area of building spaces	Provide office workers appropriate visual / aural contact with each other (open plan cellular / offices); Mix of functions (e.g., bar, dance space and seating);	Efficient and clear circulation inside the building (functionality, escape and evacuation routes etc.); Spaces support functions;	Provide sense of connection to outside (shallow office spaces); Admit sun in the bedrooms in the mornings;
Fire & evacuation routes	Safe evacuation of building occupants	Provide safe route to the outside; Clarity on emergency access;	Provide required access to external services (e.g., emergency vehicles, hydrants)
Floor to ceiling heights	Convey status; Provide views from the top (mezzanine);	Improving sound dispersion; Manage overheating (stratification);	Improve daylighting and sky view (large glazing); Facilitate segregated natural ventilation (e.g., above the occupant);
Heating & cooling system choice	Consider running costs for the client; Charge energy bills at room level (e.g., care homes);	Position systems to minimize furniture disruption; Reduce response time on conditioning the building; Consider passive heating and cooling strategies; Shift peak demand in relation to energy tariff;	Minimize Greenhouse Gas emissions; Consider low energy technologies (e.g., heat pumps); Consider heat release and noise affecting pedestrians or outdoor recreation areas;
Heating & cooling system demand	Ensure thermal comfort for occupants, either working or not in the building (e.g., doctors and patients in hospital)	Ensure temperatures / humidity suitable for building contents; Provision of 'thermal delight'	Minimize demands by taking advantage of the climate;
Cooking system choice	Appropriate to occupant's lifestyle (food type)	Appropriate ventilation system and cooking facility	Consider environmental impact of fuel
Hot water system choice	Appropriate to occupant's lifestyle (e.g., run a bath and do the dishes at the same time);	Correct system sizing;	Consider low energy technologies (e.g., solar hot water);
Ventilation system choice & demand	Consider the different types of activities; Consider number of occupants & type of occupancy;	Consider occupant preferences (e.g., opening windows, HVAC, ceiling fans)	Consider natural/hybrid ventilation; Avoid outdoor noise; Filter outdoor air pollutants;
Heating, Cooling and Ventilation control type	Consider shared or individual control; Consider providing individual control;	Consider 'intelligent' controls; Controls appropriate to occupants (e.g., elderly, children); Appropriate to system type; Control customized to activity;	Provide climate responsive/efficient controls (temperature sensors Daylight responsive control;

# Occupants in the Building Design Decision-making Process

## *Occupant-centric decisions in context*


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<b>Index</b>	Index or code to store the proposed pattern in a database for retrieval into a BIM environment. Index could refer to building type, design actions, analytical methods, climate, type of human / building / environment relationship etc.
<b>Occupant-centric design pattern name</b>	Name should clearly reflect the abstract problem-solution pair and can refer to building typology, specific design actions, design goals to be addressed, analytical methods, outputs required, type of human / building / environment relationship etc.
<b>Introduction</b>	Situates the pattern in its design context and describes how it related to occupants.
<b>Problem</b>	A brief outline of the problem addressed by the pattern, including the aims of the design decision(s) to be undertaken.
<b>Context and examples</b>	Situates the use of the pattern in relation to occupancy, simulation, and design practice, explaining the context of the decision(s) to be undertaken by designers and providing examples. Information (e.g., on theory or practice) is provided that justify the advice given by the pattern.
<b>Solution</b>	A description of the occupancy models and simulation methods that will produce the information required by the designers with an indication of what BIM objects can affect or be affected by it
<b>Pattern elements</b>	Describes the simulation details (aim of simulation, model settings: simulation and occupancy, processing and analysis methods, simulation outputs, required user interaction with outputs)
<b>Further modelling details</b>	Further notes on modelling.
<b>Interpretation and Quality Assurance</b>	Instructs the designers on how to interpret results, what to expect from results and why, and which quality assurance patterns to use.
<b>Further patterns</b>	Information on other patterns that may potentially be relevant
<b>Comments and further development</b>	Further comments and observations for pattern development



# Occupants in the Building Design Decision-making Process

## Occupant-centric design patterns

<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>Low energy co-housing can provide a sustainable solution for affordable housing for low-income occupants. The requirements of this building type are low running costs and some shared rooms and facilities. A participatory design process is used to inform details of occupancy schedules for the project at hand as well as obtaining feedback on the design from its future occupants. This pattern is used to reduce energy demand and energy costs to occupants. It is a sub-pattern of the class 'Effect on thermal performance of occupants' and is used to test the effects on thermal performance of a range of building occupation schedules that can result from the variety of employment conditions that typical inhabitants may expect to encounter. It provides simulation output information that should more accurately reflect actual heating, cooling and ancillary energy use and therefore help address the 'performance gap' between simulation results and buildings in-use, which in turn can support decision making on heating, cooling and renewable energy system sizing. The pattern also affords custom inputs to schedules based on the availability of survey data. Such data can also be used to inform design decisions on shared building facilities. The pattern is intended to be used at a detailed design stage when the construction and form of the building are known. Earlier patterns are mainly from classes including 'low energy housing' in their titles (list of related patterns <a href="#">here</a>). If used at an early stage, building defaults are selected.</p>
<p><b>Problem</b></p>	<p>The problem here is to provide a range of occupancy schedules that describe the effect on thermal loads of differing occupancy patterns and to allow data input of survey results where available. There will be a measure of uncertainty concerning occupant behavior and it is part of the aim to inform the designer of this in the presentation of results.</p>
<p><b>Context and examples</b></p>	<p>Example 1: Apartment building in Budapest, Hungary. This research examined the effect of different occupancy profiles on heating and cooling loads (details <a href="#">here</a>)</p> 

Index	# / Building occupants, #low energy buildings, #heat load, #cooling load, #plug loads
Occupant-centric design pattern name	<b>Effect on building energy use of occupants in low energy co-housing apartment building</b>
Introduction	<p>Low energy co-housing can provide a sustainable solution for affordable housing for low-income occupants. The requirements of this building type are low running costs and some shared rooms and facilities. A participatory design process is used to inform details of occupancy schedules for the project at hand as well as obtaining feedback on the design from its future occupants. This pattern is used to reduce energy demand and energy costs to occupants. It is a sub-pattern of the class 'Effect on thermal performance of occupants' and is used to test the effects on thermal performance of a range of building occupation schedules that can result from the variety of employment conditions that typical inhabitants may expect to encounter. It provides simulation output information that should more accurately reflect actual heating, cooling and ancillary energy use and therefore help address the 'performance gap' between simulation results and buildings in-use, which in turn can support decision making on heating, cooling and renewable energy system sizing. The pattern also affords custom inputs to schedules based on the availability of survey data. Such data can also be used to inform design decisions on shared building facilities. The pattern is intended to be used at a detailed design stage when the construction and form of the building are known. Earlier patterns are mainly from classes including 'low energy housing' in their titles (list of related patterns <a href="#">here</a>). If used at an early stage, building defaults are selected.</p>
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Pattern elements	<p><b>Aims</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To inform the designer of effect on performance metrics of uncertainty in occupancy schedules. This information contributes to a robust design.</li> <li>- To be able to compare performance metrics for heating and cooling energy use for different occupancy schedules that are automatically run and/or defined by the designer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Model settings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Construction entity' = Whole building</li> <li>- 'Construction elements' and 'Construction properties' (discrete) = combination of designer defined and defaults for built spaces &amp; their respective services (e.g. plant load in early stages with detailed plant in later stages)</li> <li>- Climate file: full year (hourly)</li> <li>- Operation parameters = designer defined + defaults</li> <li>- Occupancy schedules: ASHRAE, UK NMC and French Th-BCI 2012, custom co-design</li> </ul> <p><b>Processing &amp; analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full year simulation</li> <li>- Comparative assessment of each metric across models</li> <li>- Metric 1: heating load (kW)</li> <li>- Metric 2: cooling load (kW)</li> <li>- Metric 3: heating energy (kWh)</li> <li>- Metric 4: cooling energy (kWh)</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p><u>Overview:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time series: occupant heat loads all profiles (W/person)</li> <li>- Bar chart: annual heat energy all profiles (kWh)</li> <li>- Bar chart: annual cooling energy all profiles (kWh)</li> <li>- Time series: typical summer day occupant heat loads - all profiles, cooling load - all profiles</li> </ul> <p><b>Interaction with model &amp; outputs</b></p> <p>Interaction afforded: Zoom in location and time.          Designer can select: individual space, occupant profile.          Outputs afforded: as for Overview (see above).</p> <p><b>Further Modelling Details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surrounding buildings should be modelled</li> </ul> <p><b>Interpretation and Quality Assurance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advice on heating and cooling load interpretation</li> <li>- Record of operational model settings (ventilation rates, internal gains, occupancy profiles)</li> </ul> <p><b>Further patterns</b></p> <p>Follow-up patterns include detailed design patterns for HVAC design and/or specific Q&amp;A model of occupant interaction with the building or its systems (e.g. # Opening windows to avoid overheating)</p> <p><b>Comments and further development</b></p> <p>An 'early design stage' version of this pattern could use a massing model and small range of default building constructions and parameters to give indicative figures on heating and cooling load variance</p>

# Occupants in the Building Design Decision-making Process

## Occupant-centric design patterns

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Comments and further development	An 'early design stage' version of this pattern could use a massing model and small range of default building construction and parameters to give indicative figures on heating and cooling load variance



# Methods to Obtain the Occupant Perspective

*Clinton Andrews*  
*Rutgers University*



# Methods to Obtain the Occupant Perspective: Life Cycle Needs

## Establish Occupant Needs

### Conceptual Design

Important to consider the types of occupants in the building. What are the major needs? Coordinate with team, early and often!



### Schematic Design (SD)

In programming stage, think through how occupants will actually use the space. Are smart devices needed? Signaling systems? Passive or active systems, windows, lights, etc. Careful interface selection based on needs and goals.

## Select Interfaces

## Define Engagement Goals

### Design Development (DD)

Work with owner and occupants (if possible) to include them in tenant engagement strategy selection and design. Consider apps, and integration w/ BAS/BMS. Set clear goals.



### Construction Documents (CD)

Be clear in CD's/specifications about expectations, goals, and strategies. For instance, if sustainability is a main goal, consider "green" cleaning specs. Continue to develop roll out plan and engagement strategies with owners/tenants.

## Develop Guidelines

## Manage Expectations

### Contract Administration (CA)

Continue to set future occupant expectations for how they can engage with the building. What should they do (or not)? Coordinate with tenants.



### Post-Occupancy

Implement post occupancy evaluations (POE) + Tenant engagement strategies such as feedback, education, and motivation through competitions, games, brown bag lunch+learns, blog posts, onboarding training, social media, etc.

## Tenant Engagement



# Methods to Obtain the Occupant Perspective: Nature of Occupant data

- Objective evidence: occupancy patterns, measuring indoor conditions, tracking occupants' adaptive responses, measuring physiological effects
- Subjective evidence: occupant perceptions of comfort, control & satisfaction; expressed preferences, mental models of systems



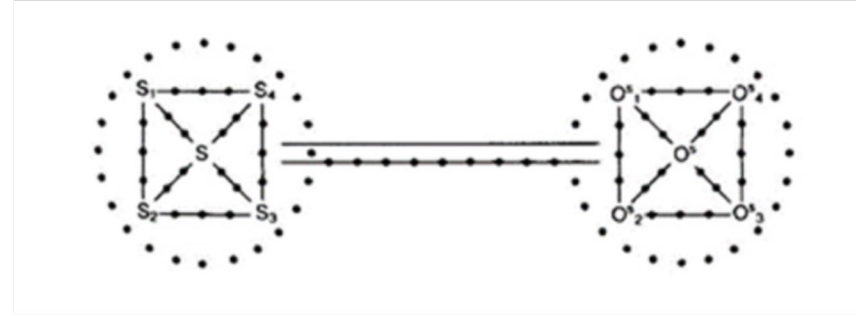


# Methods to Obtain the Occupant Perspective: Challenges

Problem: Both subject (researcher) & object of study (occupant) are people subject to social forces

Solutions:

- Be humble regarding what experts assume they know about people
- Acknowledge objective agreement on material facts of the physical world
- Let people speak for themselves
- Study people in their physical context

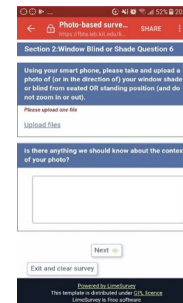
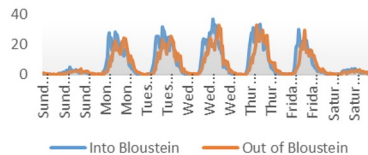


# Methods to Obtain the Occupant Perspective: Uses, Strengths, Weaknesses

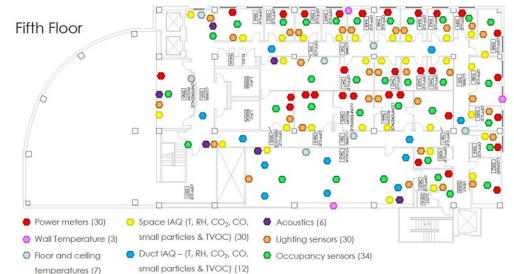
Self-reported & self-engaged methods	Observational & simulation methods
Interviews	Direct
Focus groups	Photography: still & time lapse, video
Charrettes	Occupancy & flow counters
Virtual reality (visualization, auralization, etc.)	CO2 and IAQ (building) sensors
Questionnaires	BMS logs
Diaries (traditional)	Occupant Behavior Models
Ecological Momentary Assessments	Digital Twins
Social Media Posts, Individual Sensing (posts)	Affinity Diagram



Average People Counted per 1/2-hour period during Oct - Dec (excludes holidays)



Fifth Floor

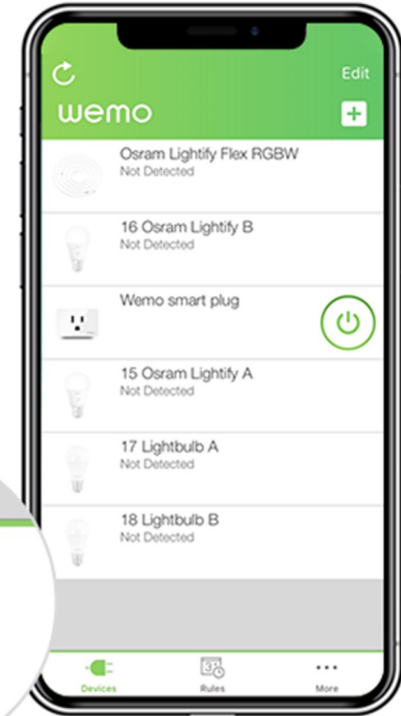


# Methods to Obtain the Occupant Perspective: Interface Design



Qualitative methods: *Affinity diagramming, cognitive walkthrough, contextual inquiry, heuristic evaluation, participatory design, personas*

Quantitative methods: *Ergonomic analysis, eye-tracking, task analysis, function allocation, think-aloud, usability testing*





# Methods to Obtain the Occupant Perspective: Final Thoughts

## Managing the occupant-professional relationship

- **Philosophy of control** (local vs centralized)
- **Usability** (comprehensible, efficient, effective?)
- **Which occupants?** (from other buildings vs based on standards or client perceptions)
- **Whose data?** (building owner/operator vs citizen science)

## Data Reduction Strategies

- **Statistical data reduction**
  - Central tendency, Dispersion
- **Personas**
  - Ideological types
  - Behavioral clusters
  - Preference profiles



## Conclusions:

- Valuable
- Feasible

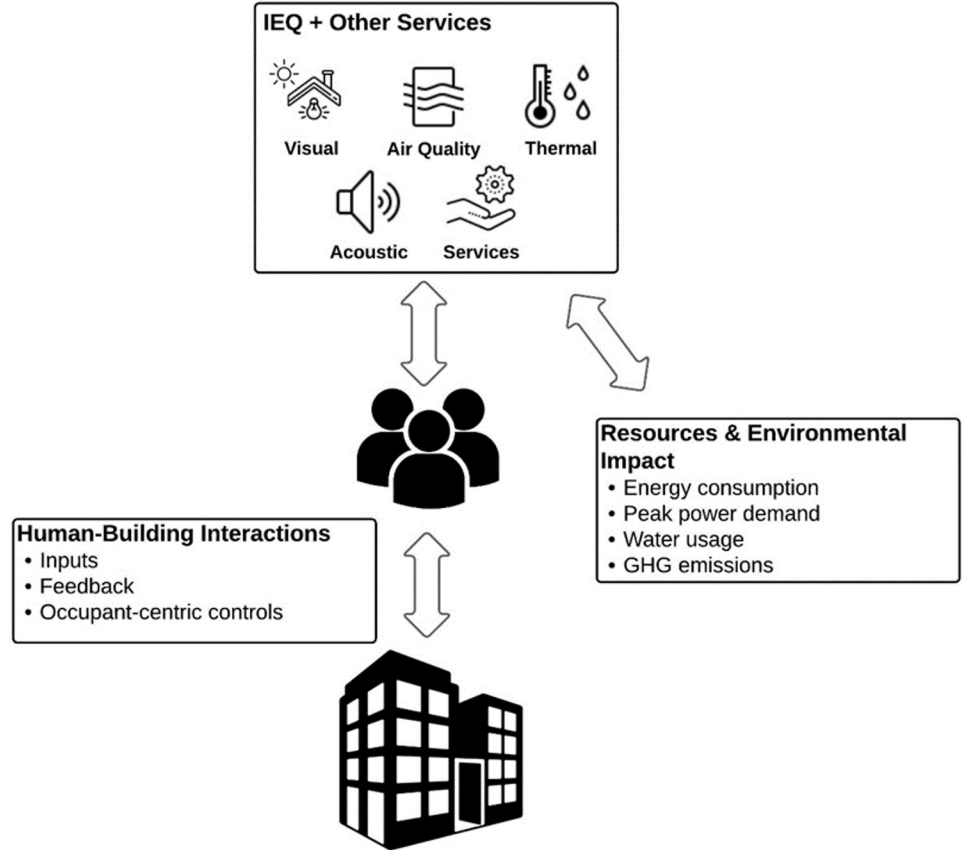
# Occupant-centric Performance Metrics and Performance Targets

*William O'Brien*  
*Carleton University*



# Occupant-centric Performance Metrics and Performance Targets

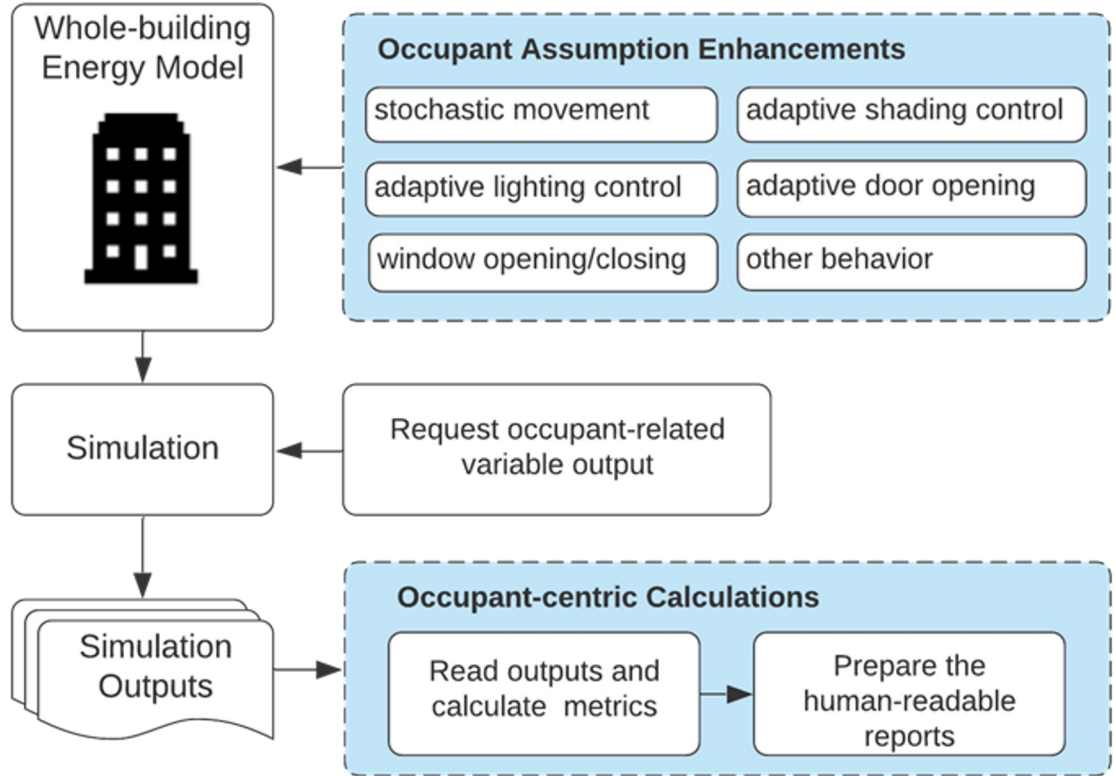
*Occupant-centric metrics*  
reframe building  
performance to be all about  
occupants (e.g.,  
normalization of energy use  
by occupants)



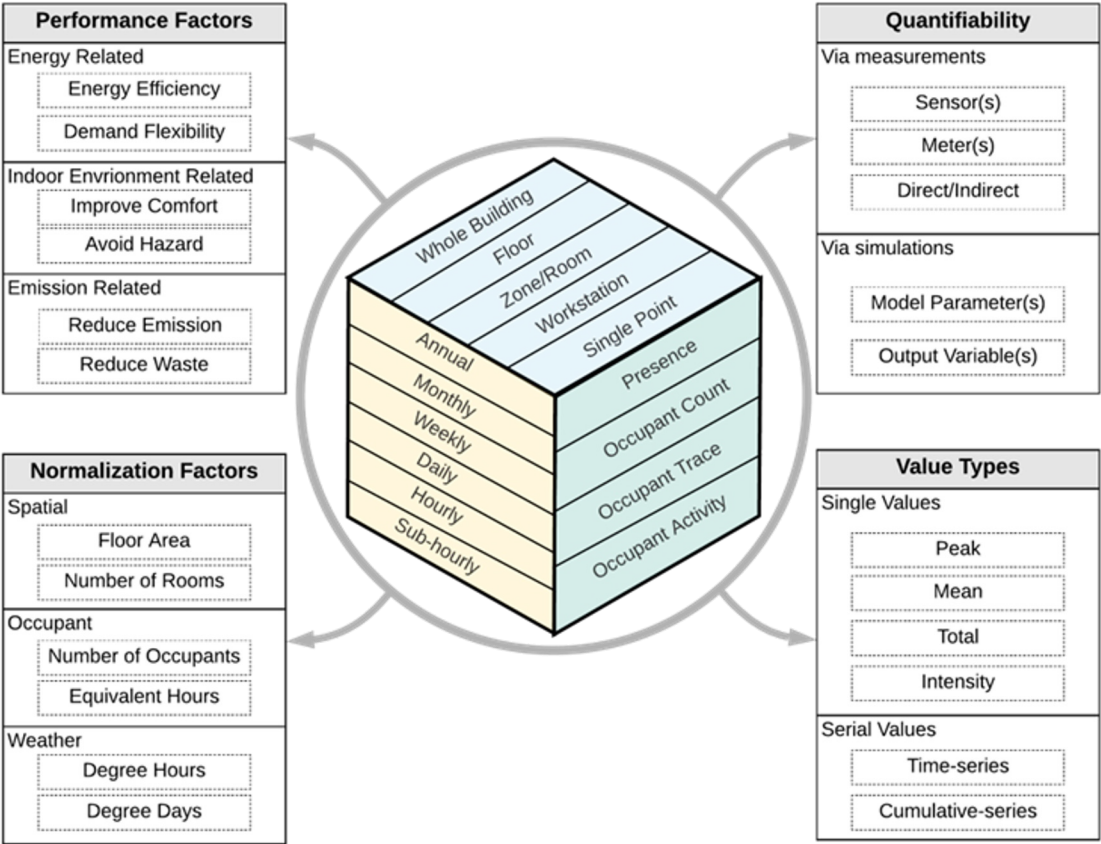


# Occupant-centric Performance Metrics and Performance Targets

Occupant-centric metrics have never been easier to model or measure

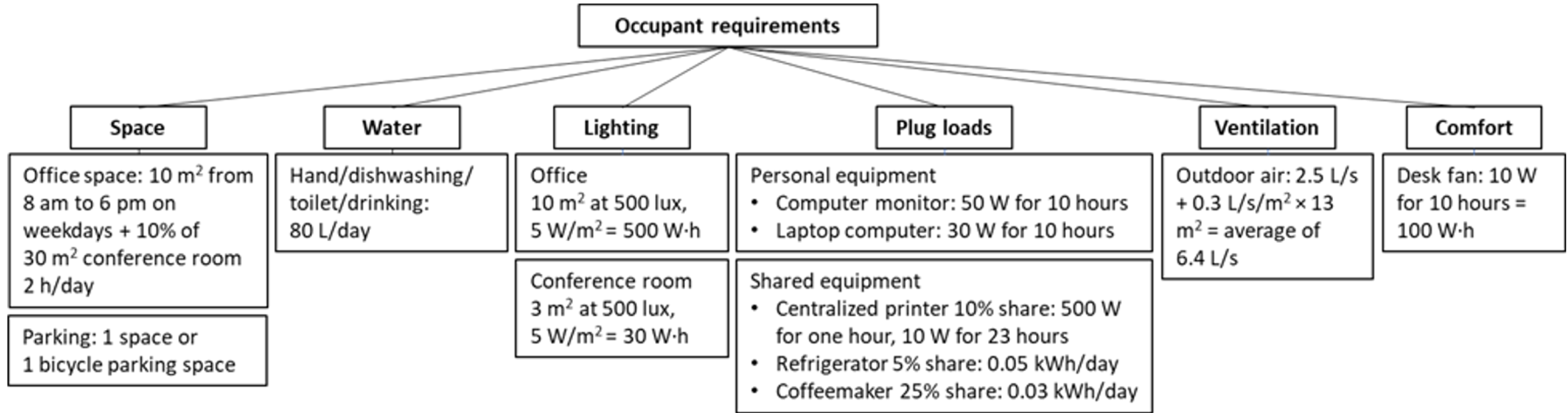


# Occupant-centric Performance Metrics and Performance Targets



# Occupant-centric Performance Metrics and Performance Targets

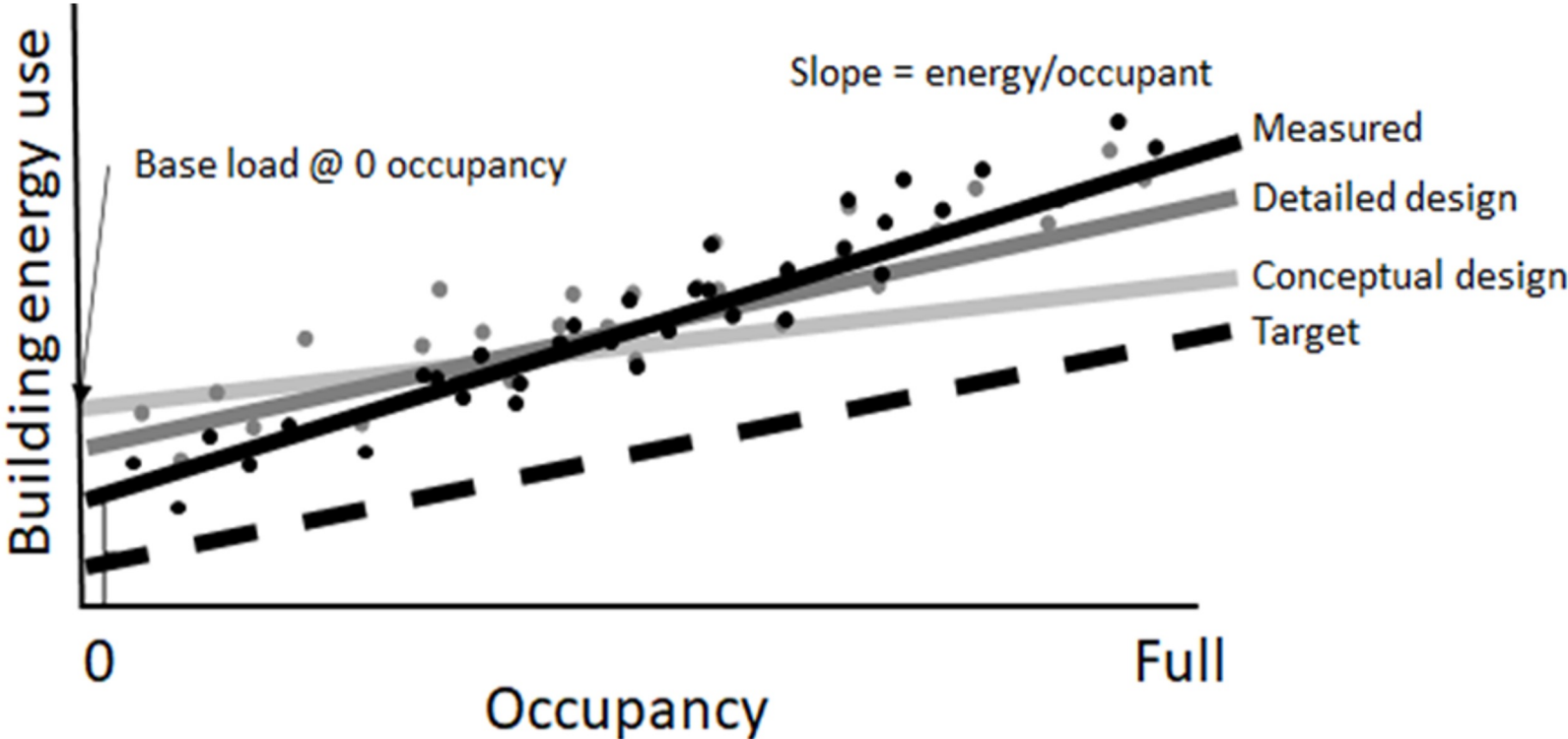
Bottom-up approach





# Occupant-centric Performance Metrics and Performance Targets

Top-down approach



# Questions and Answers





# Introduction to Occupant Modelling

*William O'Brien*

*Carleton University*

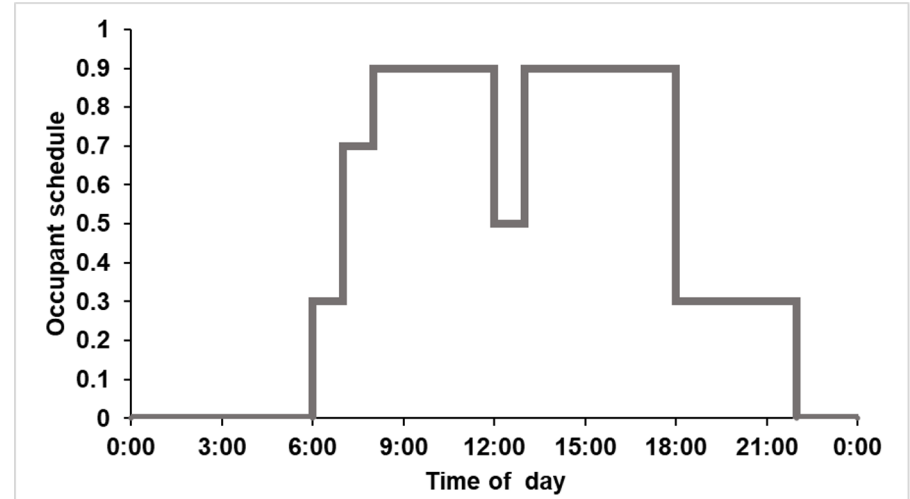
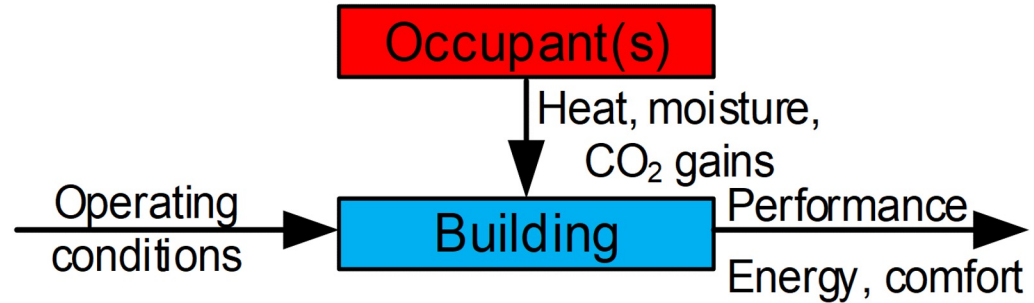




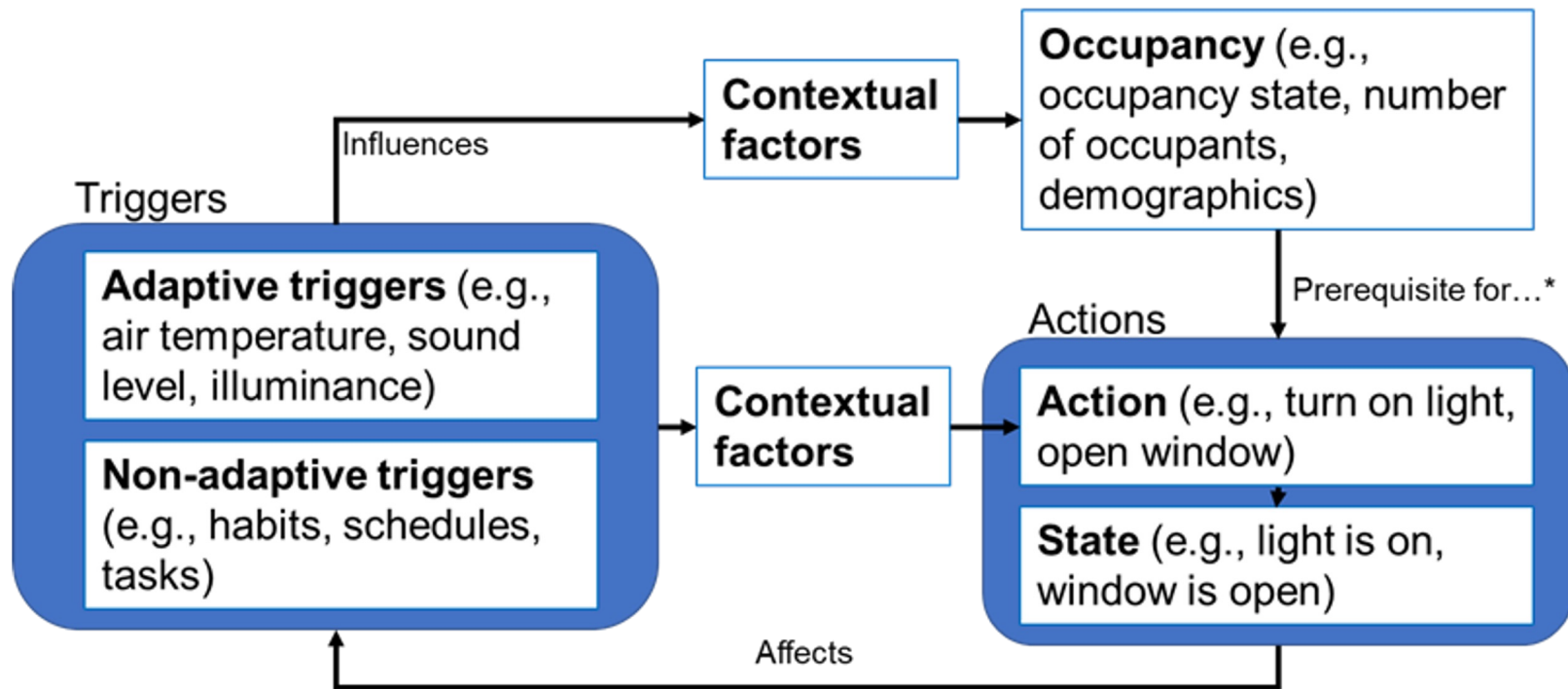
# Introduction to Occupant Modelling

## Why model occupants?

- Improve predictions (mean and variance) of building performance during design
- Improve building performance and design
- Account for how building design influences behaviour
- Understand behavior, comfort, human factors, etc.
- Elevate discussion about occupants during design process



# Introduction to Occupant Modelling



\*Occupancy is a necessary condition for actions unless a building system is controlled remotely

# Introduction to Occupant Modelling

## Desirable occupant model traits

- Stochastic: random
- Dynamic: two-way
- Data-driven: evidence-based

## Key domains

- Presence/mobility
- Use of appliances/equipment/lighting
- Use of doors, windows, blinds
- Thermostat adjustment

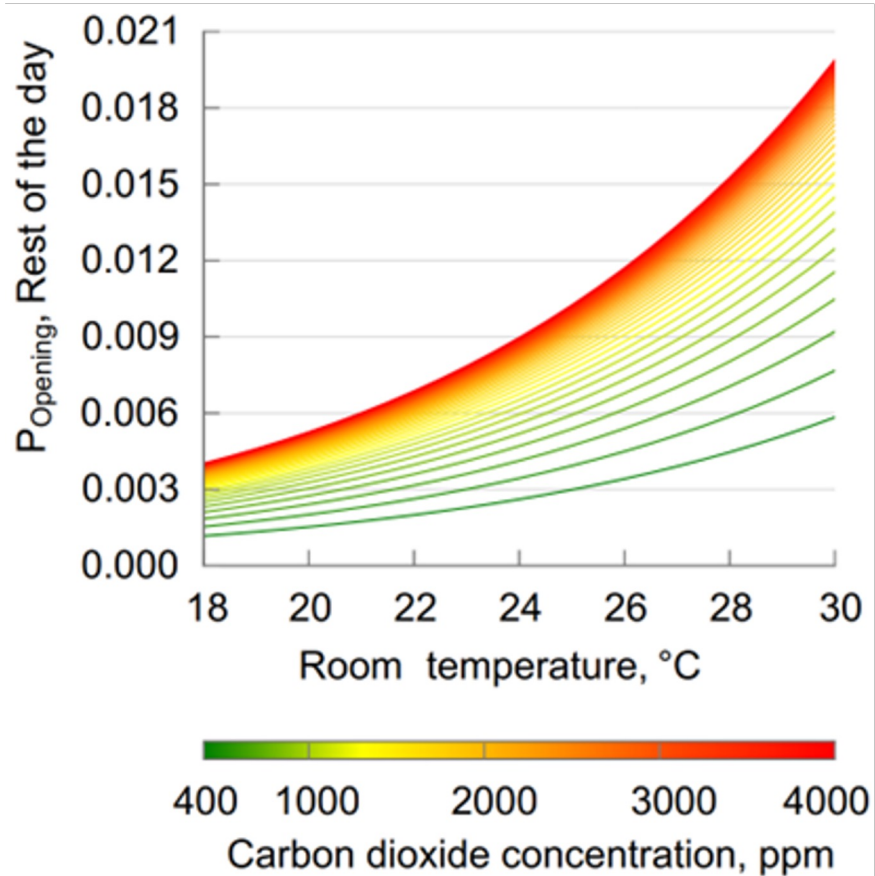




# Introduction to Occupant Modelling



Markov model



# Introduction to Occupant Modelling

## Personas

### Sadie

Senior Persona



Sadie is a 78-year-old retiree and widow. She lives by alone, but keeps a full schedule of commitments (e.g., with her church group, visiting with her grandkids, reading, and watching TV). She enjoys learning and keeping an active mind with a daily crossword puzzle and reading her Bible. She spends most of her day at home in her apartment. She lives alone, so feeling safe is important to her sense of well-being. She is cold-natured, and a cozy housing unit is one reason she is more satisfied with her current unit compared to her previous unit. She likes the heat pump in her apartment but is sensitive to direct air blowing on her. She sets her thermostat between 72-75°F (22-24°C). She uses 88 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr of energy. She has an Energy Star rated dishwasher, but cleans her daily dishes by hand. Inez feels the old ways of life are better. She doesn't like new technology and prefers the old ways of communicating.

**Physical Needs:** safety, easy to access and understand spaces and interfaces, level floor surfaces and transitions to avoid tripping hazards

**Physiological Needs:** her comfort is critical, she keeps thermostat between 72-75°F (22-24°C), she is keenly aware of drafts/air movement

**Psychological Needs:** safety, connection with community and family, continuing to stay active and involved in her family and community

**Attitude:** uses only what she needs, prefers traditional communication (e.g., talking face to face, writing letters), conserves energy to avoid wasting money, feels agnostic toward technology

**Behavior:** turns off lights and plug loads when not in the room, cleans dishes by hand, takes short to medium length showers, uses space heater to adapt indoor environment

# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

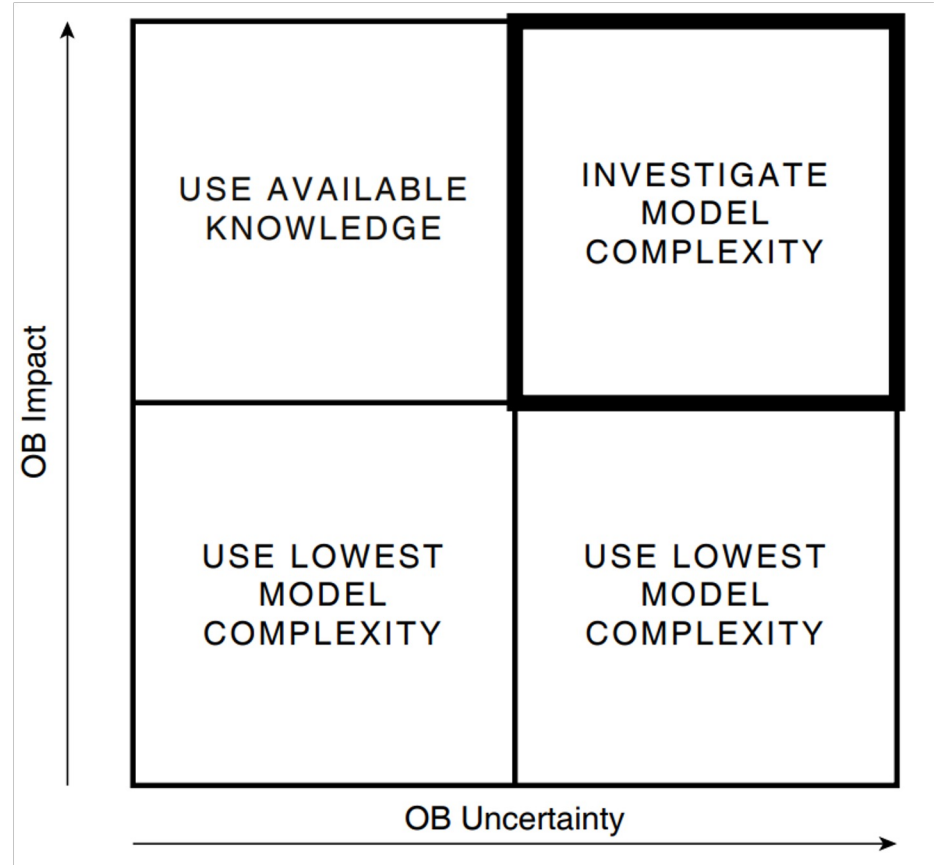
*Isabella Gaetani, PhD*  
**Arup Smart Buildings**





# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

*OB modeling should depend on the purpose of the simulation, the building, the granularity of the KPI, ...*



# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

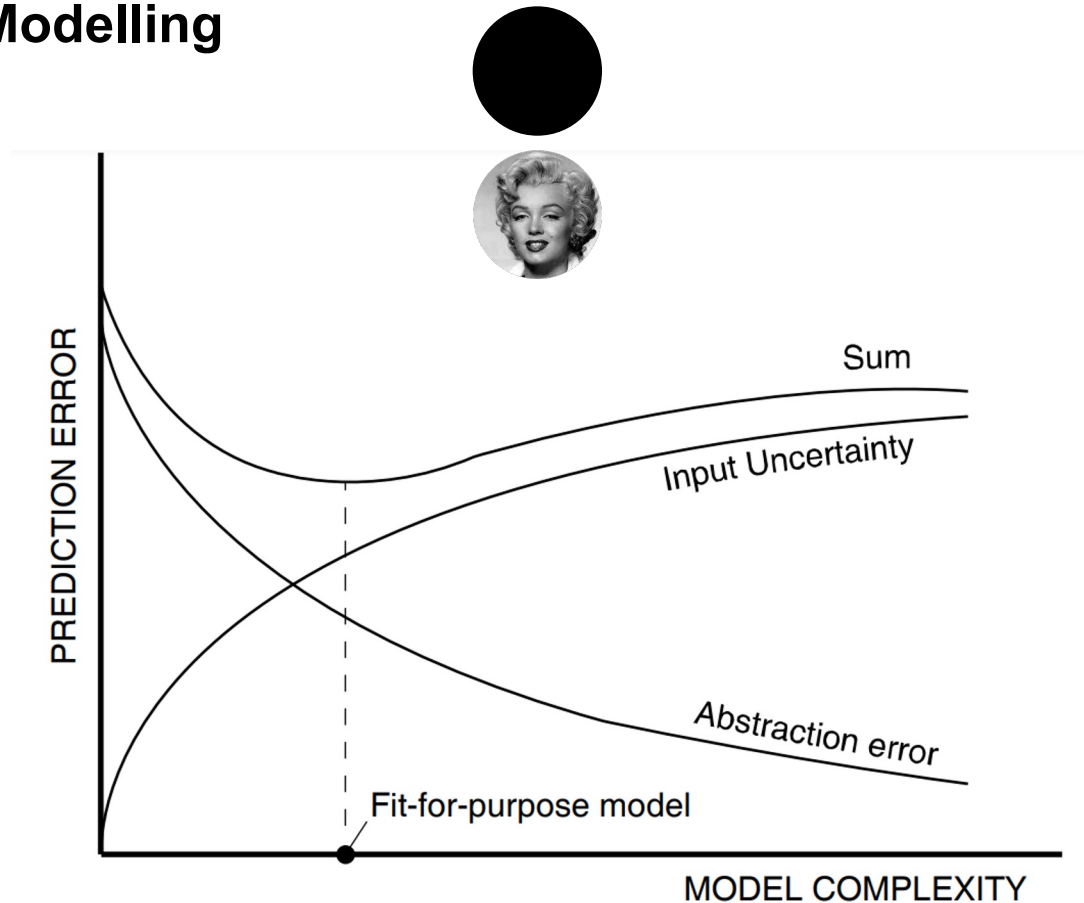
*Numquam ponenda est pluralitas sine necessitate.*

**Plurality must never be posited without necessity.**

William of Ockham

- Model simple, think complicated
- Be parsimonious, start small and add
- Divide and conquer; avoid megamodels

Pidd 1999



# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

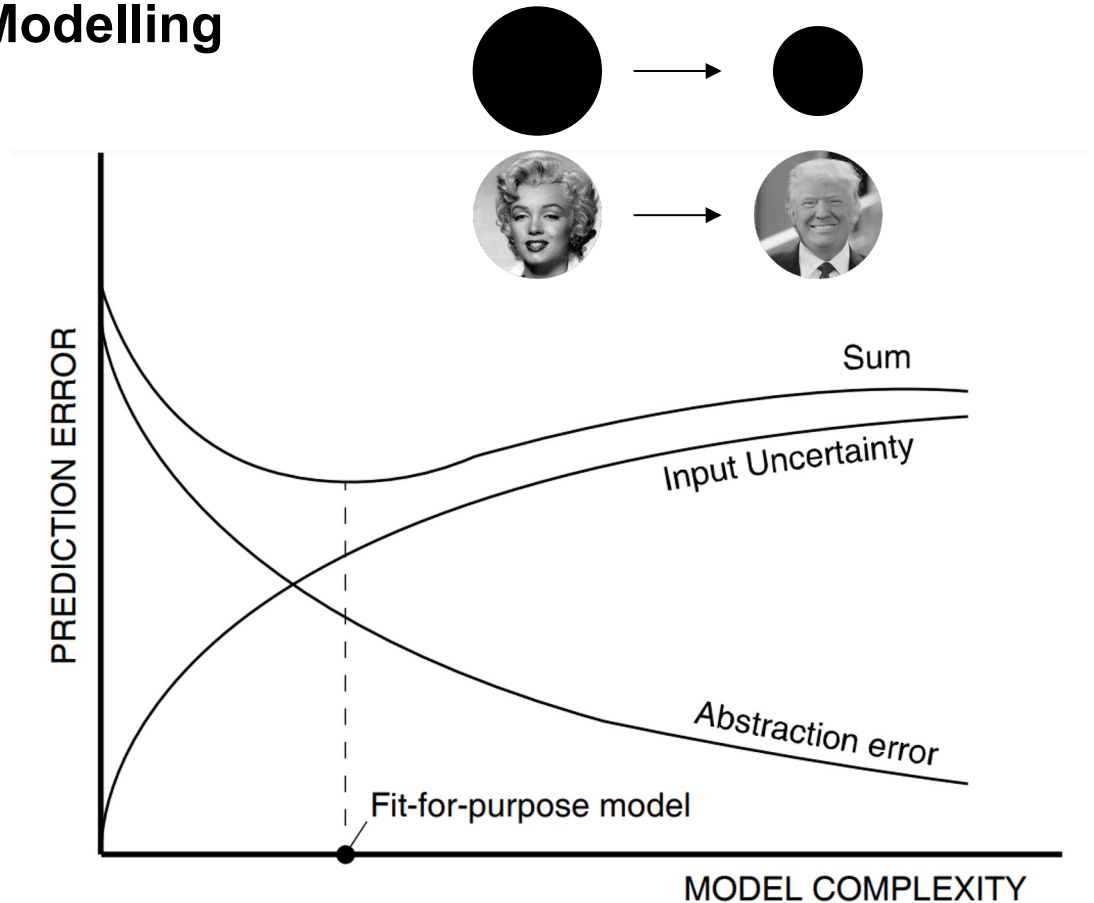
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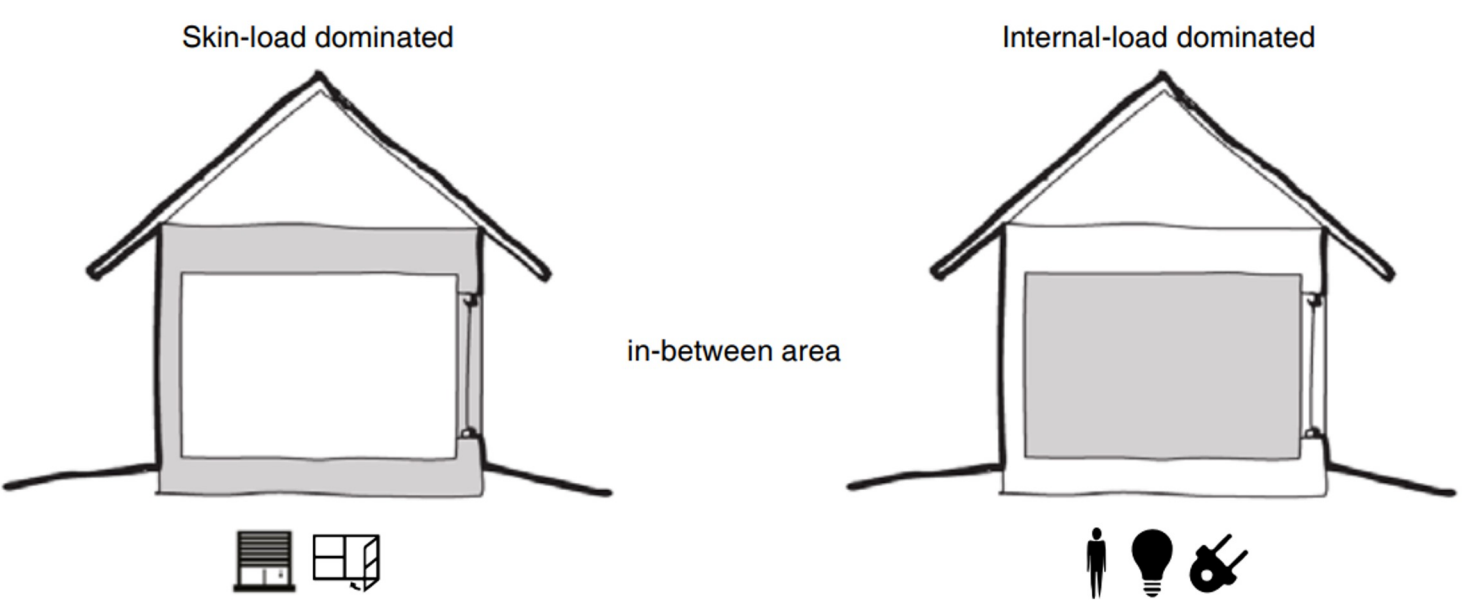




# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

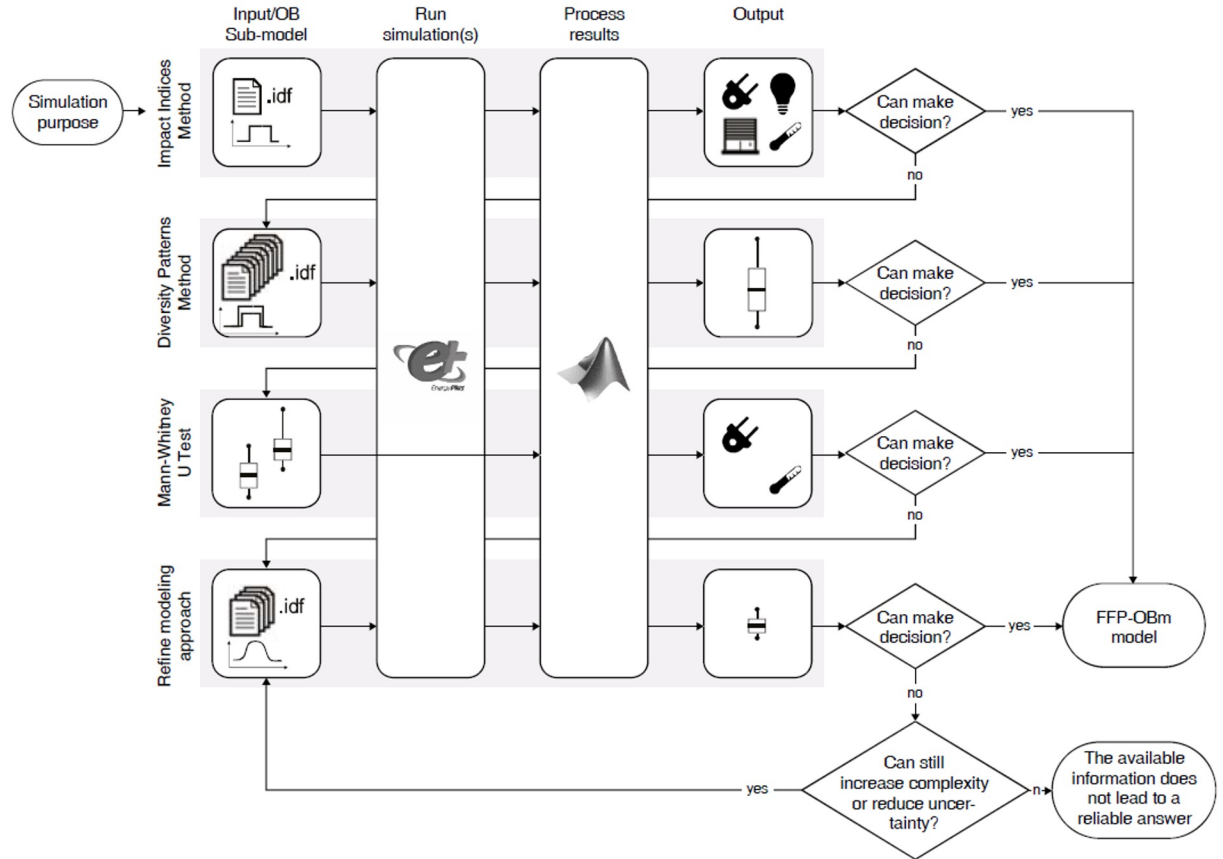
*But assessing the impact of occupant behavior is not as easy as it sounds*

...



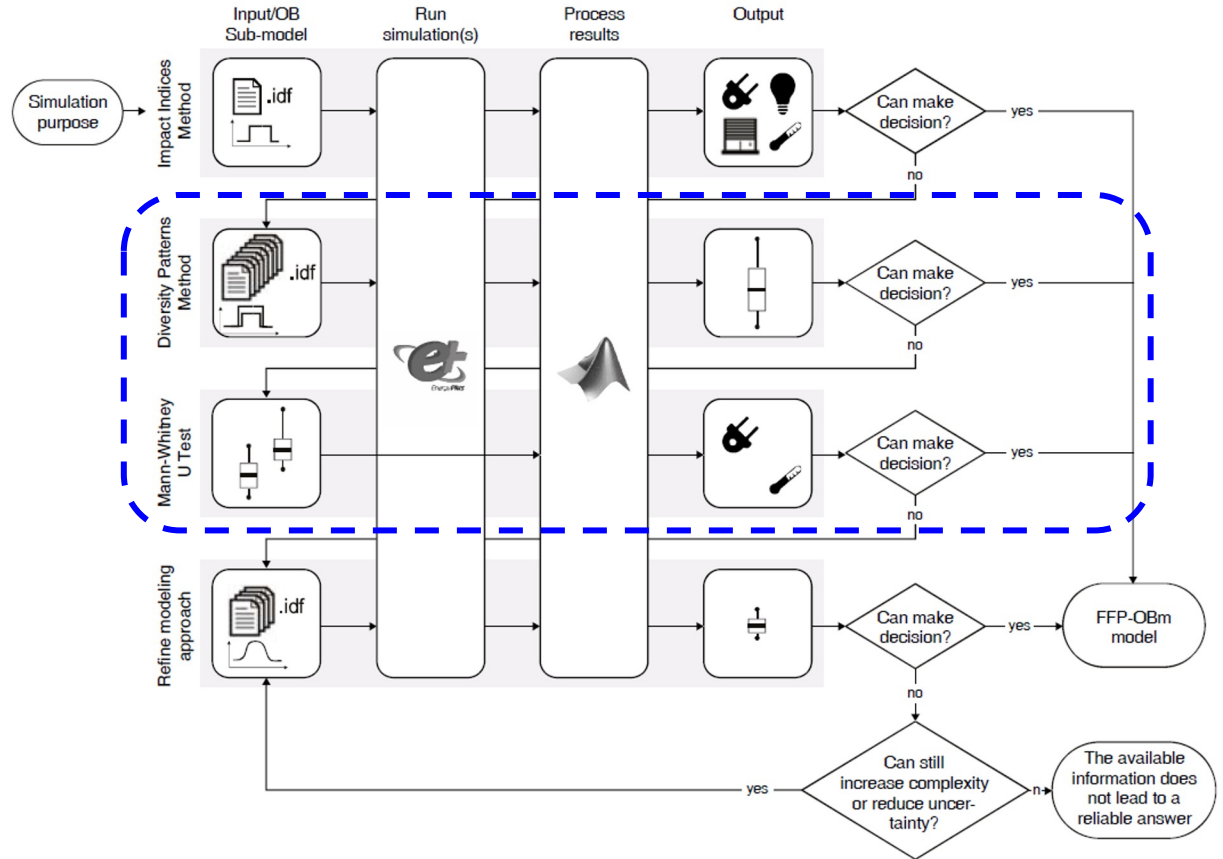
# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

*... a simulation approach is needed!*



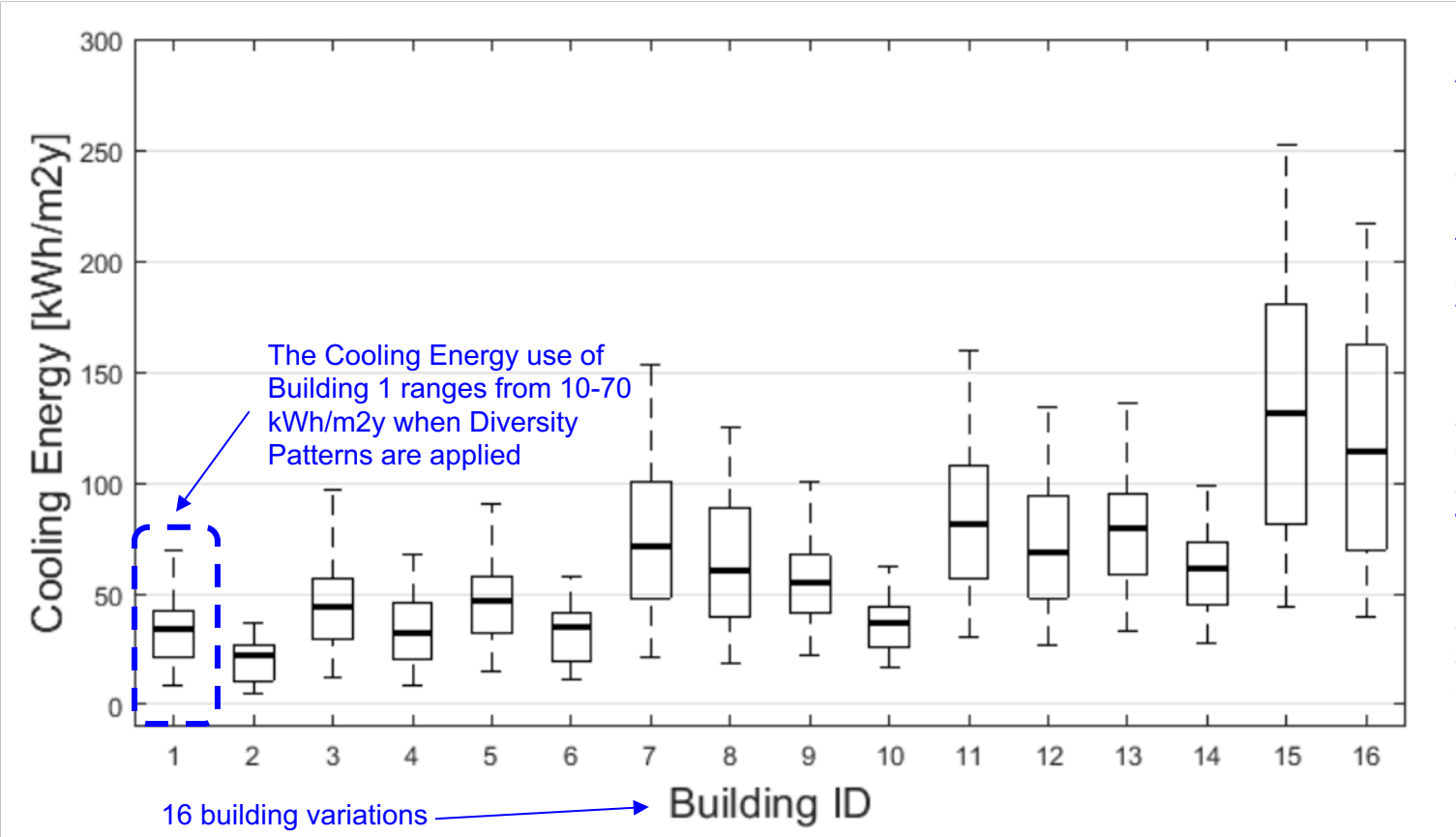
# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

*Diversity Patterns are all possible combinations of high/low variations of uncertain OB aspects*





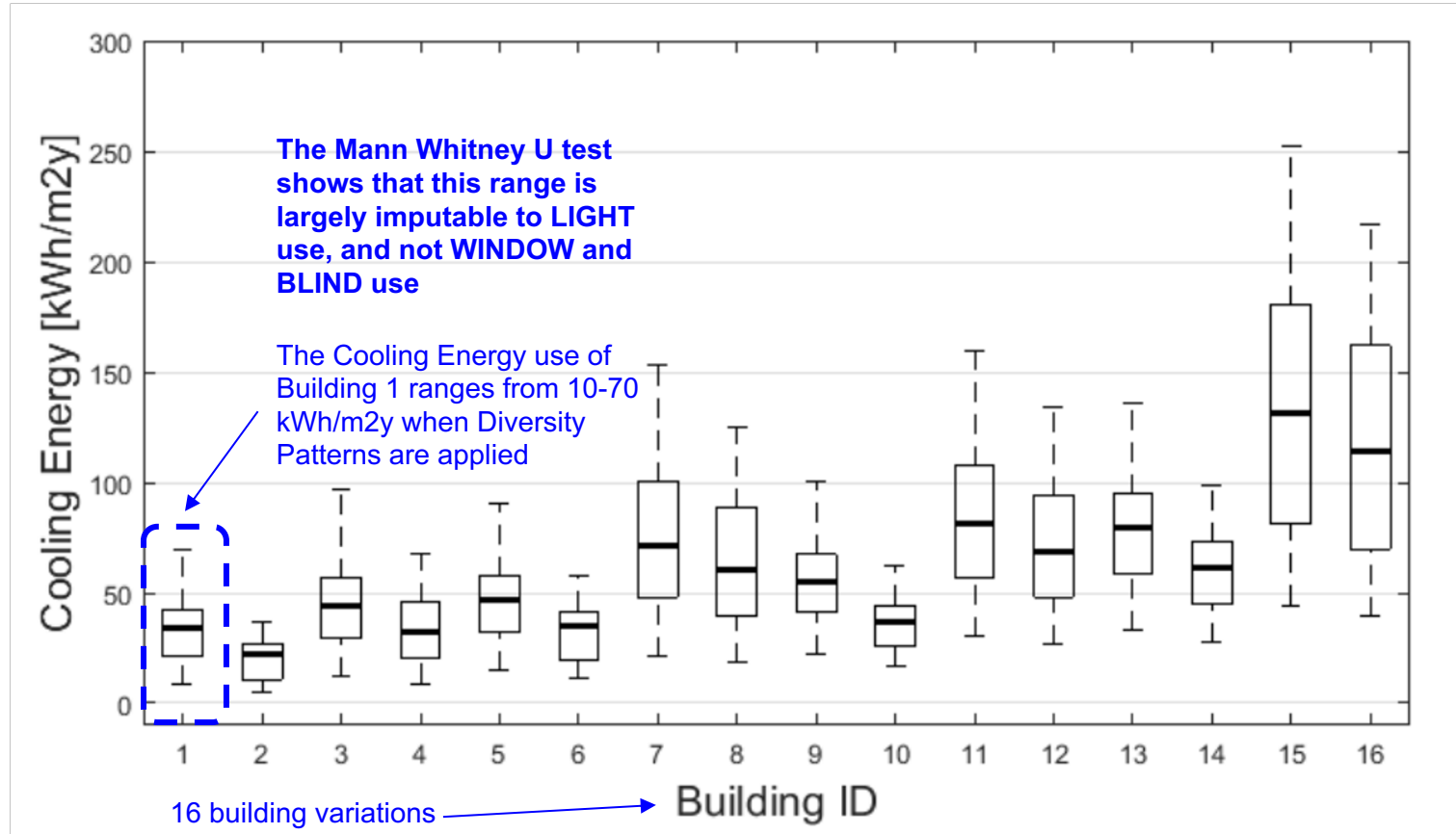
# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling



Applying Diversity Patterns causes the KPI to move from a single value to a spread

But the spread is different according to Building ID - some buildings are more sensitive to OB

# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

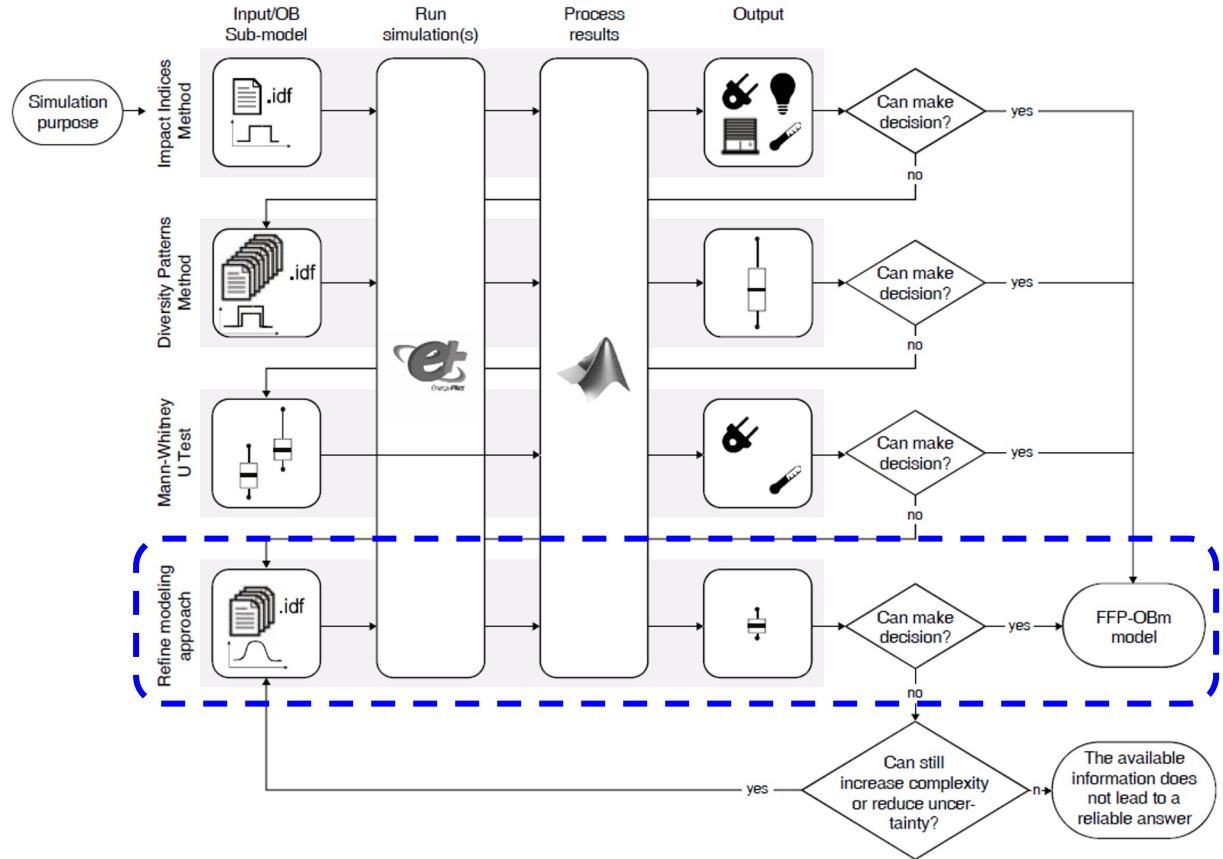


Applying Diversity Patterns causes the KPI to move from a single value to a spread

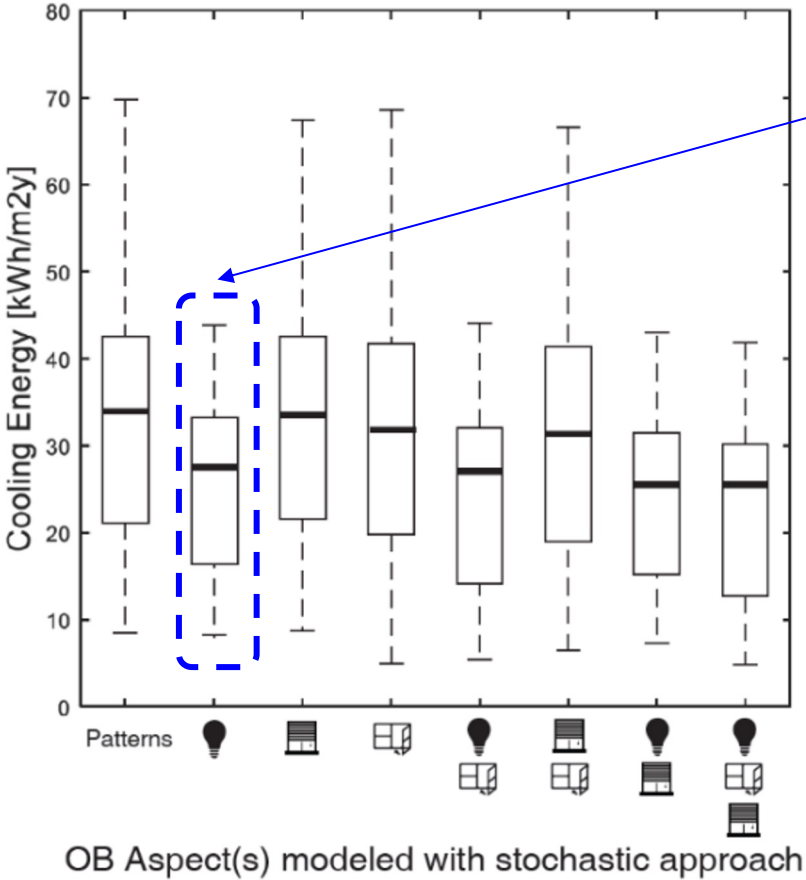
But the spread is different according to Building ID - some buildings are more sensitive to OB

# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling

*Refining the OB modelling approach has a different effect on the results depending on the impact of a given OB aspect (previous step)*



# Fit-for-purpose Occupant Modelling



Increasing the complexity of the Light use Occupant Behavior model has the strongest impact on the results



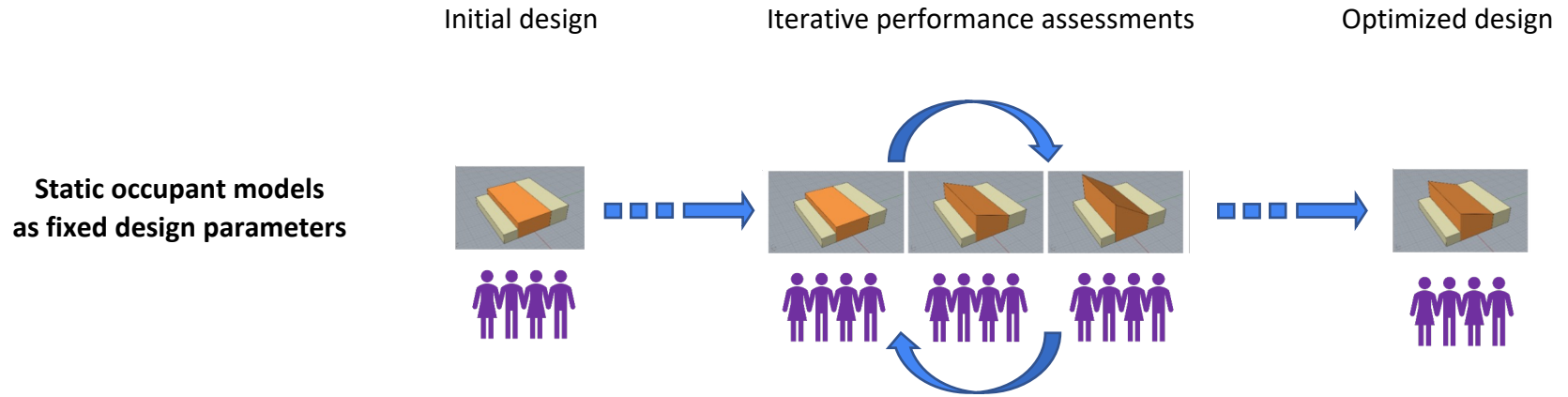
# Simulation Methods for Occupant-Centric Design

*Farhang Tahmasebi*

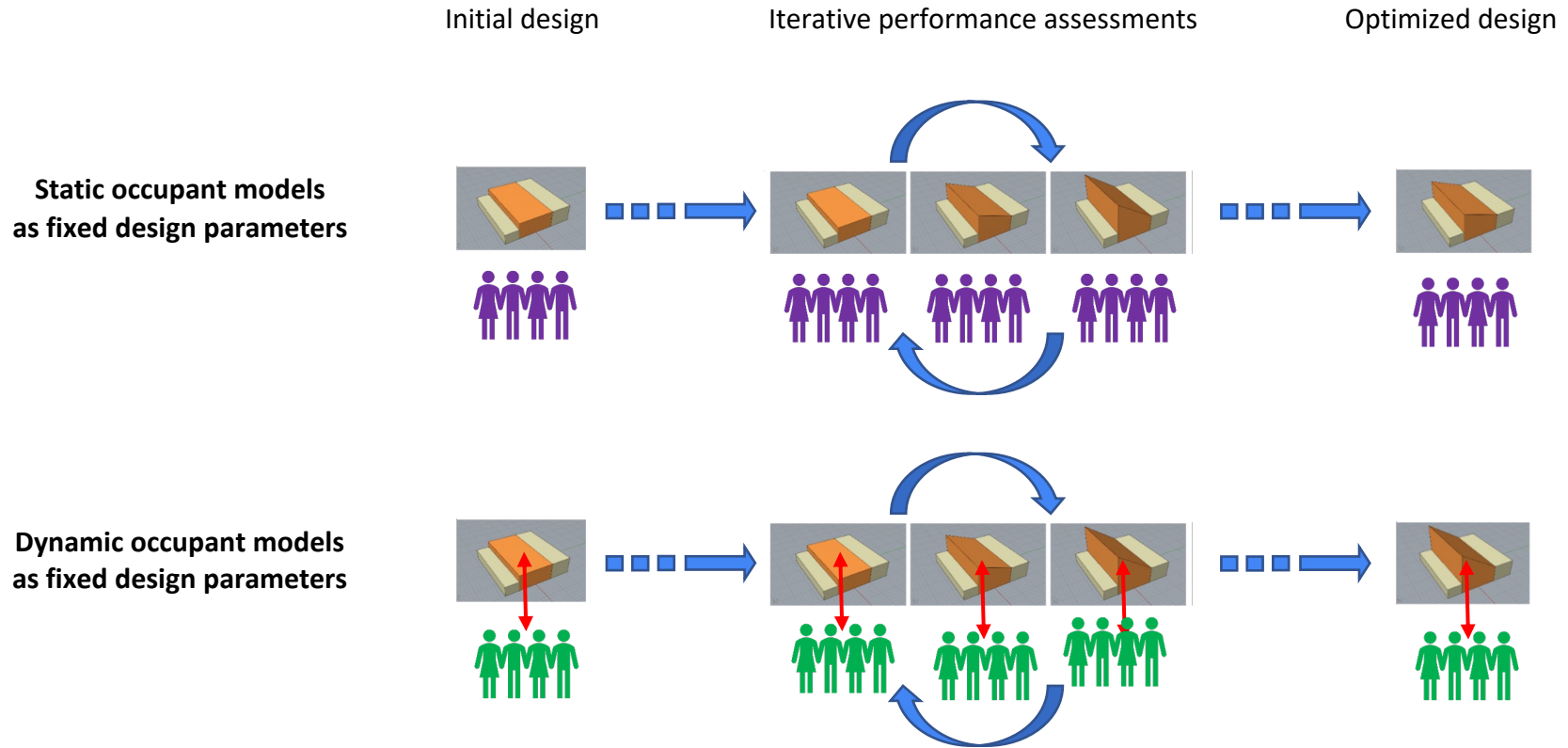
*University College London*



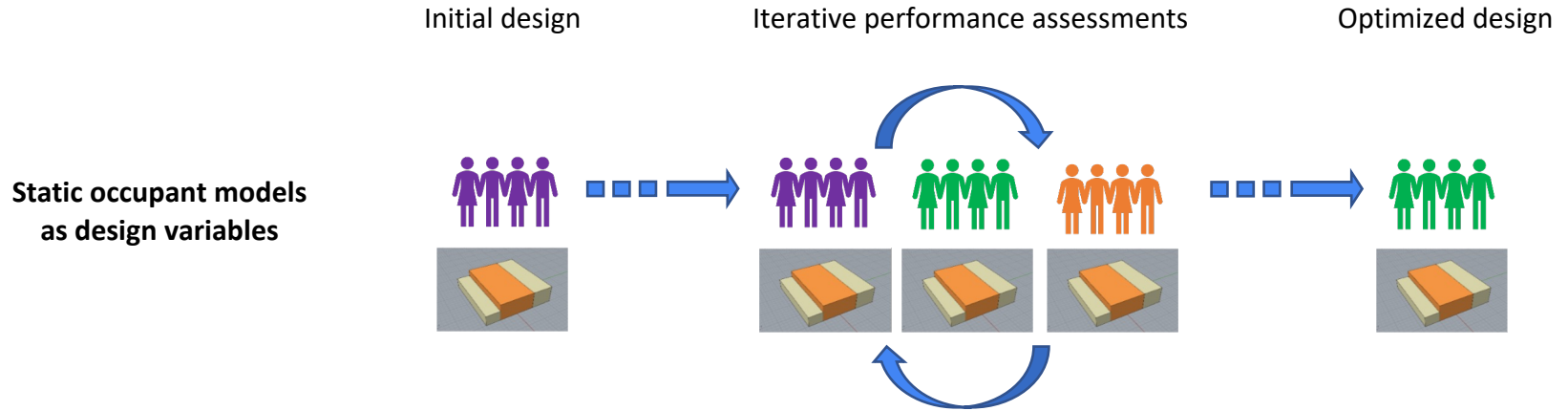
# Occupants in simulation-aided design



# Occupants in simulation-aided design

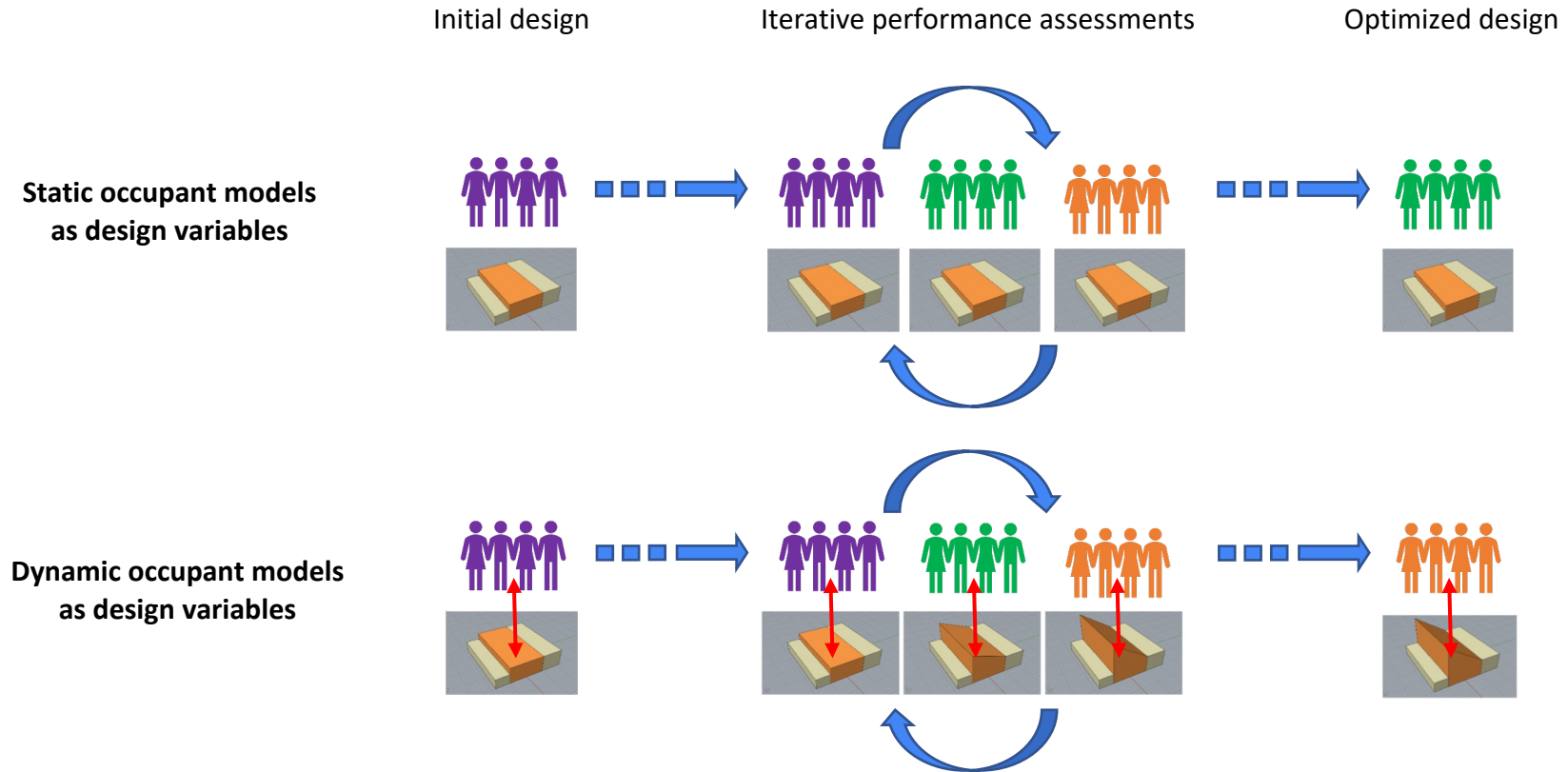


# Occupants in simulation-aided design



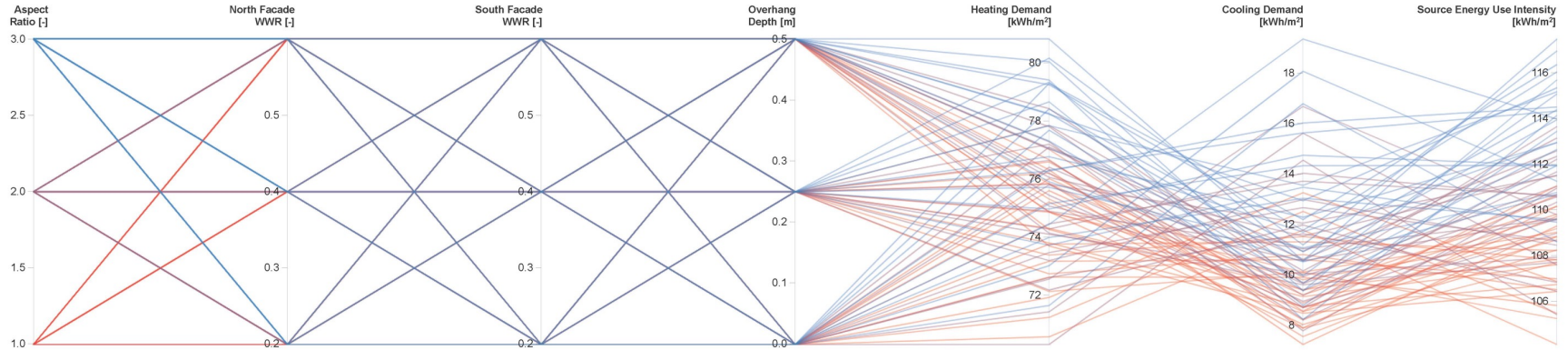
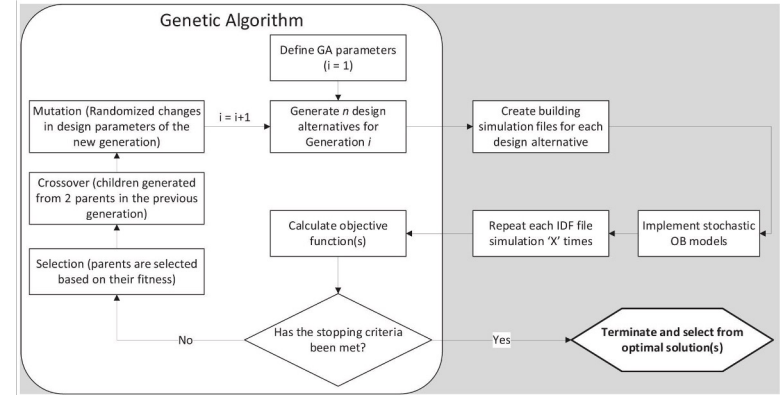


# Occupants in simulation-aided design



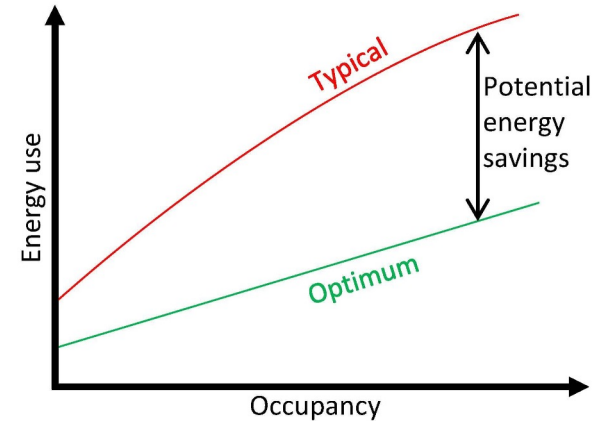
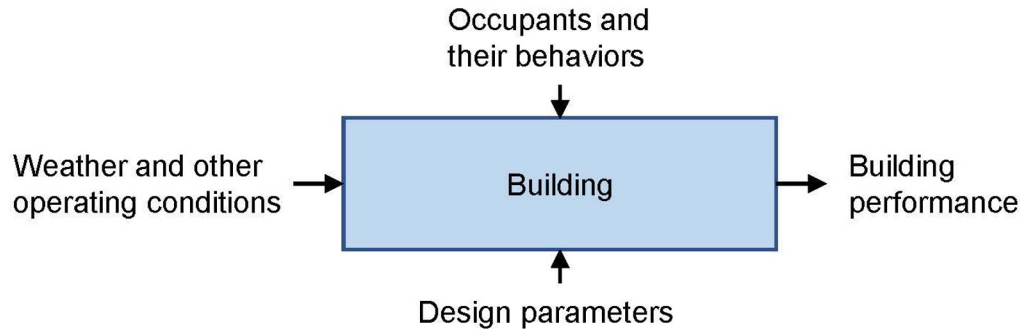
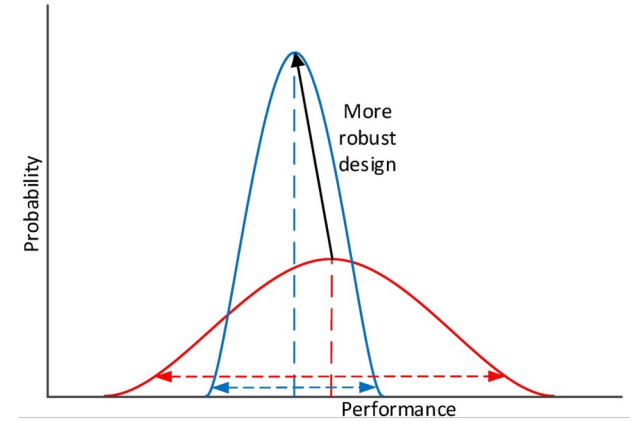
# Simulation-aided design methods

- Uncertainty assessment
- Sensitivity analysis
- Parametric design
- Optimization



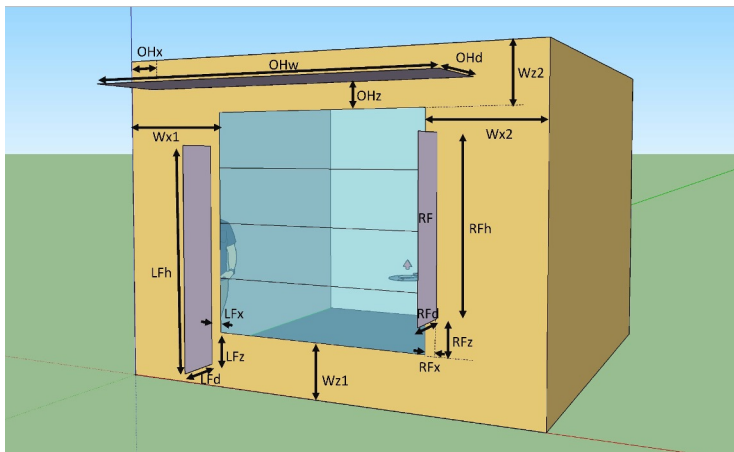
# Simulation-aided design objectives

- Performance compliant design
- Robust design
- Occupant adaptive design
- Resilient design

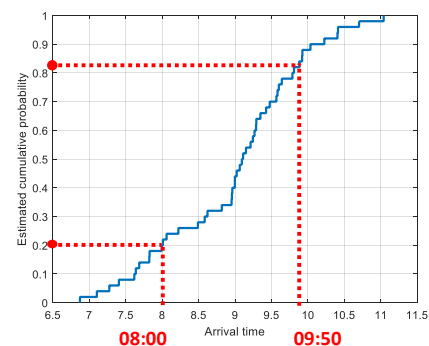
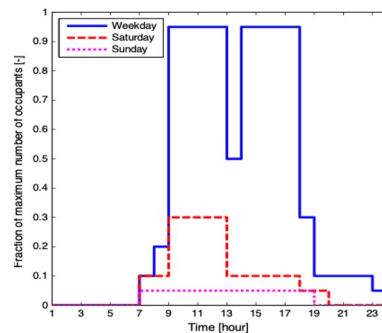


# A prototypical testbed for simulation-aided design

- Parametric shoe-box model
- With standard and advanced occupancy assumptions



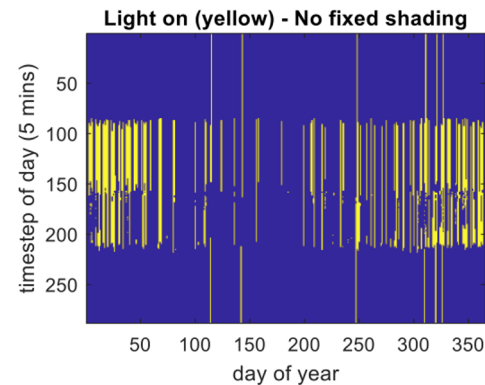
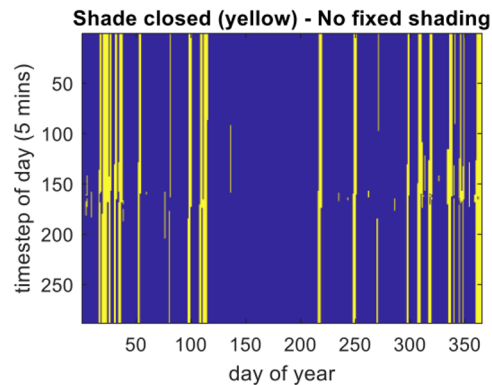
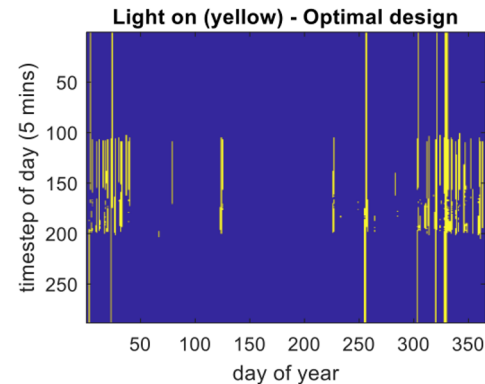
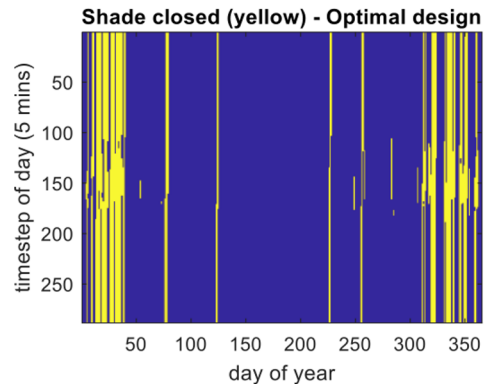
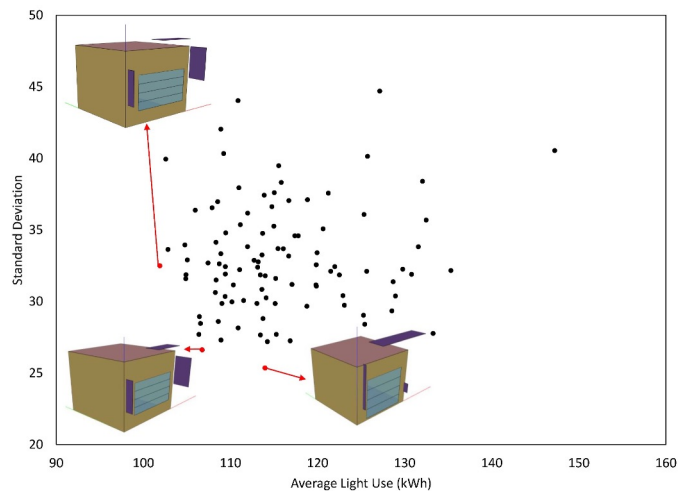
Domain	First version: ASHRAE Standard 90.1 schedules	Second version: occupant behavior models
Occupancy	Standard schedule for occupancy (Appendix G-I)	Randomly sample five arrival and departure times each day from pre-defined normal distributions (Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2005)
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard schedule for lighting (Appendix G-I)</li> <li>• Daylighting controls using continuous dimming</li> </ul>	Predict light switch behavior based on occupancy state and work plane illuminance (Reinhart, 2004)
Blinds	No blinds modeled	Predict blinds use behavior based on occupancy state, work plane illuminance, and outdoor illuminance (Haldi and Robinson, 2011)
Output	One simulation	50 simulations





# A prototypical testbed for simulation-aided design

## Robust design optimization



# Building Interfaces: Design and Considerations for Simulation

*Philip Agee, Ph.D.*  
**Virginia Tech**

*Chapter Authors:*  
*Julia Day, Philip Agee, William O'Brien, Tareq Abuimara*  
*Amir Tabadkani, Clinton Andrews*



# Building Interfaces: Design and Considerations for Simulation

## *Building Interfaces: What and why*

**building interface:** is a system component(s) where intentional or unintentional interaction occurs between a human, a building, and its subsystems (e.g., plumbing, electrical devices/controls, mechanical systems or thermostats, windows, blinds).

**Why building interfaces matter?** occupants have interactions with interfaces, the frequency and variety of interactions impact human and performance outcomes in buildings

**Context matters:** residential versus commercial re: design for control

**Human factors:** most building interfaces are designed for the visual sensory system  
combining visual/haptic is common interaction approach (e.g., identify target, press icon)



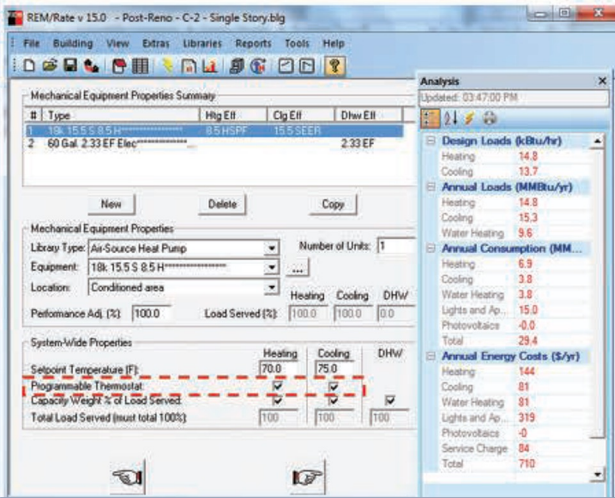


# Building Interfaces: Design and Considerations for Simulation

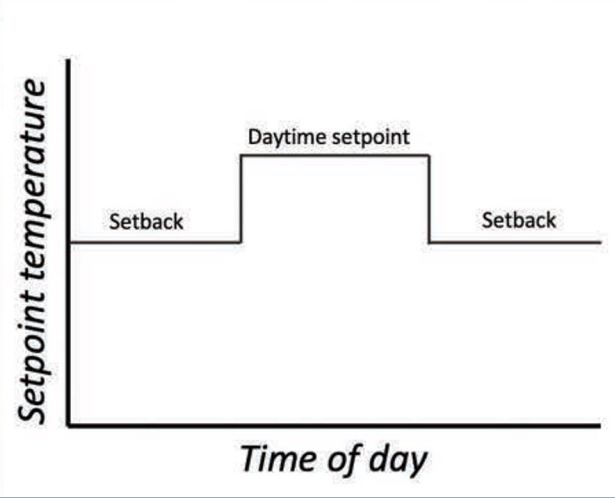
## Building Performance Simulations (BPS)

- Human-building [interface] interactions are a gap in BPS
- For examples: setpoint schedule approach does not account for complexity of user interaction(s)
- additional modalities (e.g., app-based, voice controlled) adds complexity/uncertainty

Simulator view: thermostat interface



Simulator output: thermostat interface



User view: thermostat interface





# Building Interfaces: Design and Considerations for Simulation

## Automation

Current view of building automation is technology-centered, over-simplified: *automated/not-automated*






Automation in other complex systems (e.g., aerospace, transportation) aims to support human performance

Current approach is a “leftover approach” to function allocation (e.g., we give the occupant what’s leftover)

*Function allocation model*

<b>Human-dominant (H)</b>	Manual	Technology-aided	Partnership	Supervisory Control	Autonomous	<b>Technology-dominant (T)</b>
	1. H	2. H-t	3. H-T	4. h-T	5. T	

*Function allocation: thermostats*

	Manual	Simple Programmable	Complex Programmable	Programmable and Communicating	Programmable, Sensing, Learning
THERMAL COMFORT INTERFACE EXAMPLE					
FUNCTION ALLOCATION	< HUMAN DOMINANT		TECHNOLOGY DOMINANT >		
LEVELS OF AUTOMATION	<u>H-t</u>	H-t	H-T	h-T	<u>h-T</u>

# Building Interfaces: Design and Considerations for Simulation

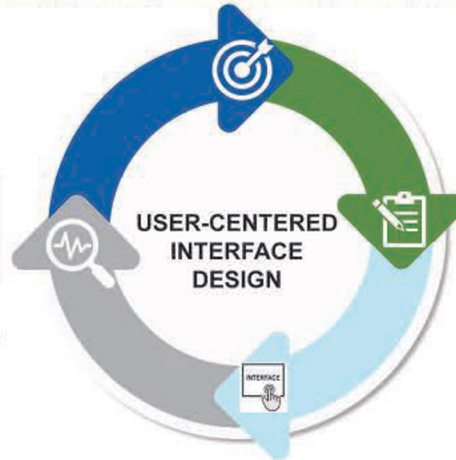
## Interface design and evaluation approach

### STEP 1. *Understand* and specify the context of use

- ✓ **Understand user type:** Consumer and/or occupational
- ✓ **Understand signal modality:** visual, auditory, haptic
- ✓ **Understand interface modality:** single or multi-modal interface(s)
- ✓ **Understand interface needs:** Fixed and/or mobile interface(s)

### STEP 4. *Evaluate* the designs against requirements

- ✓ **Evaluate** interface solutions developed in *STEP 3* using:
- ✓ **Formative evaluation** diagnose interface failures during the design phase
- ✓ **Summative evaluation** measures usability factors after the interface is deployed



### STEP 2. *Specify* the user requirements

- ✓ **Develop system requirements** based on user needs identified in *STEP 1*
- ✓ Reference relevant standards with goal of standardizing information and interaction(s)
- ✓ **Communicate** user needs and interface requirements across design team

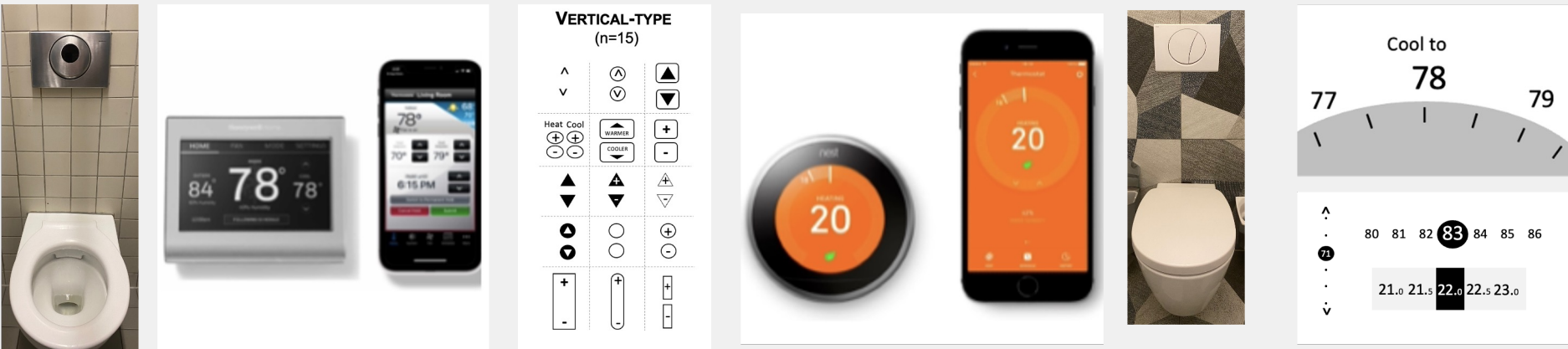
### STEP 3. *Produce* design solutions to meet user requirements

- ✓ **Prototype interface solutions** based on requirements developed in *STEP 2*
- ✓ **Iterate solutions** with increasing levels of fidelity

# Building Interfaces: Design and Considerations for Simulation

## Summary

- 1. Humans interact with buildings and their subsystems
- 2. These interactions occur at the building interface, predominantly as visual/haptic interactions
- 3. Lack of standards for building interfaces (icons, task-interaction relationships)
- 4. Current BPS approaches do not accurately represent the complexity of these interactions; adding additional modalities adds complexity and uncertainty to BPS





# Design of Sequences of Operation for Occupant-centric Controls

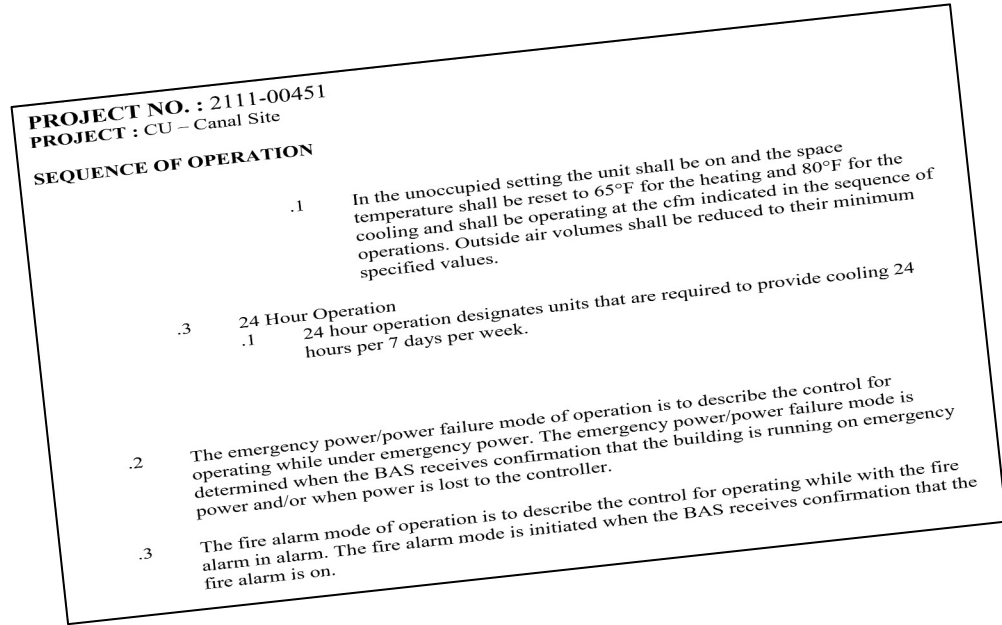
*Burak Gunay*  
*Carleton University*





# Design of sequences of operation

- Details the operating conditions for a building's energy systems
- One of the most influential design phases
- Often overlooked, rushed, and improperly implemented into the building automation system
- Occupant sensing technologies can be inappropriately selected, and occupant data is typically not optimally used.

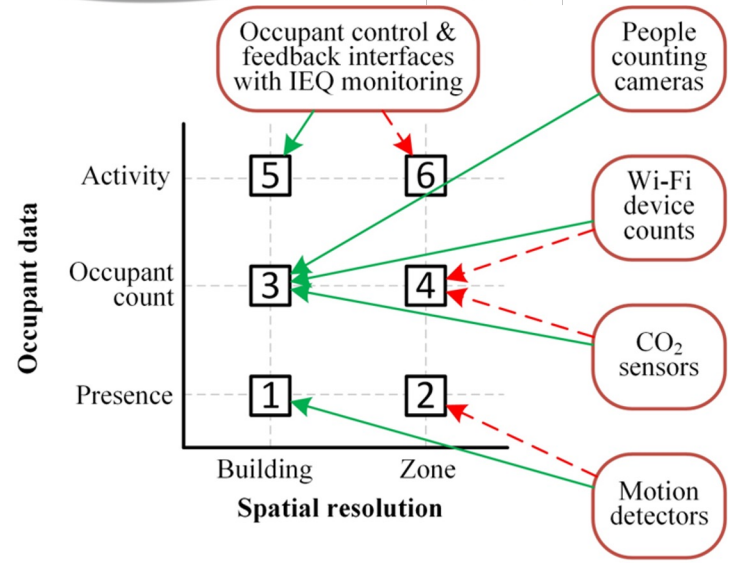


# Chapter Structure

1. Introduces **occupant-centric controls (OCC)** as part of the development of **sequences of operation phase** in design
2. Controls-oriented **occupant data**
  - Different grades of occupant data
  - Most promising current sensing technologies
3. **Occupant-centric control (OCC) variables**
4. **Sequences of operation** using OCC variables
5. Illustrative **examples** for OCC variables and sequences
6. Integration of **OCC in the BPS-based design process**
7. **Energy savings potential** of OCCs

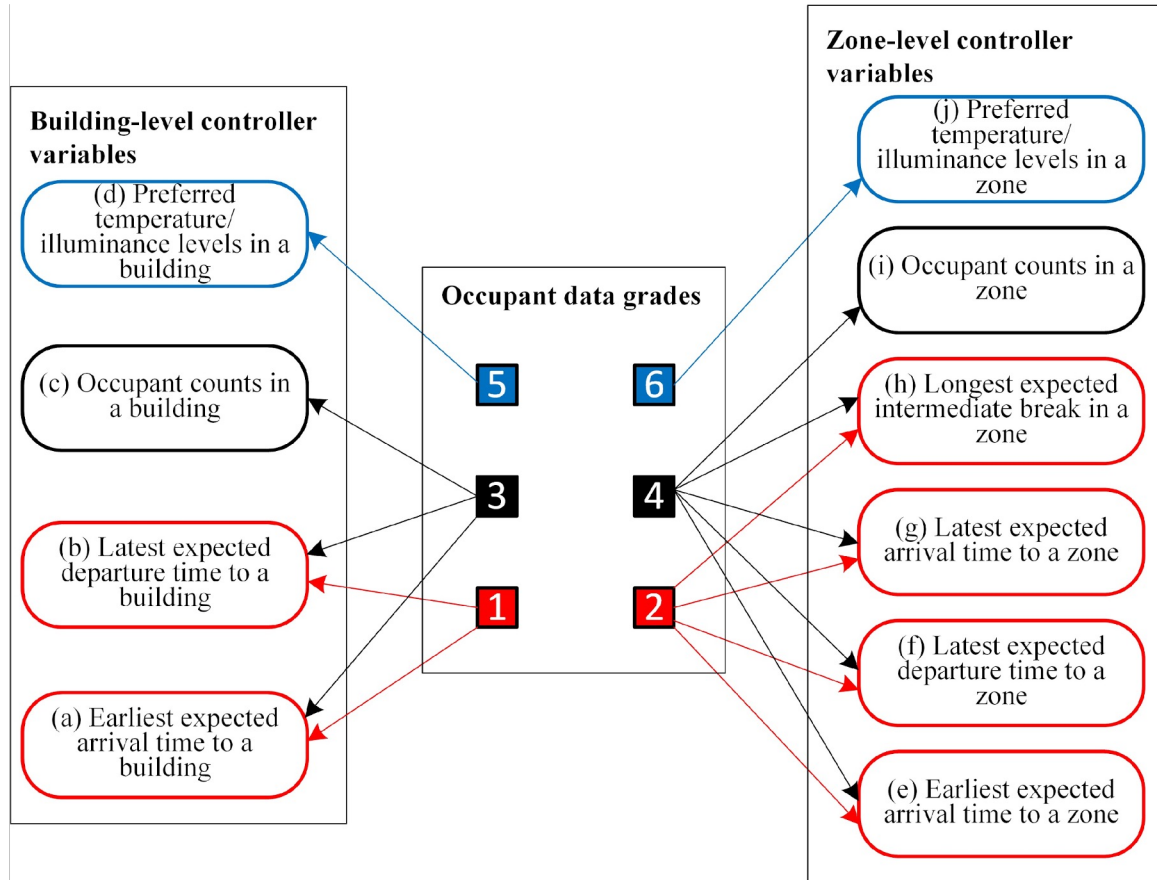
# Controls-oriented occupant data

BACnet thermostat Window contact sensors



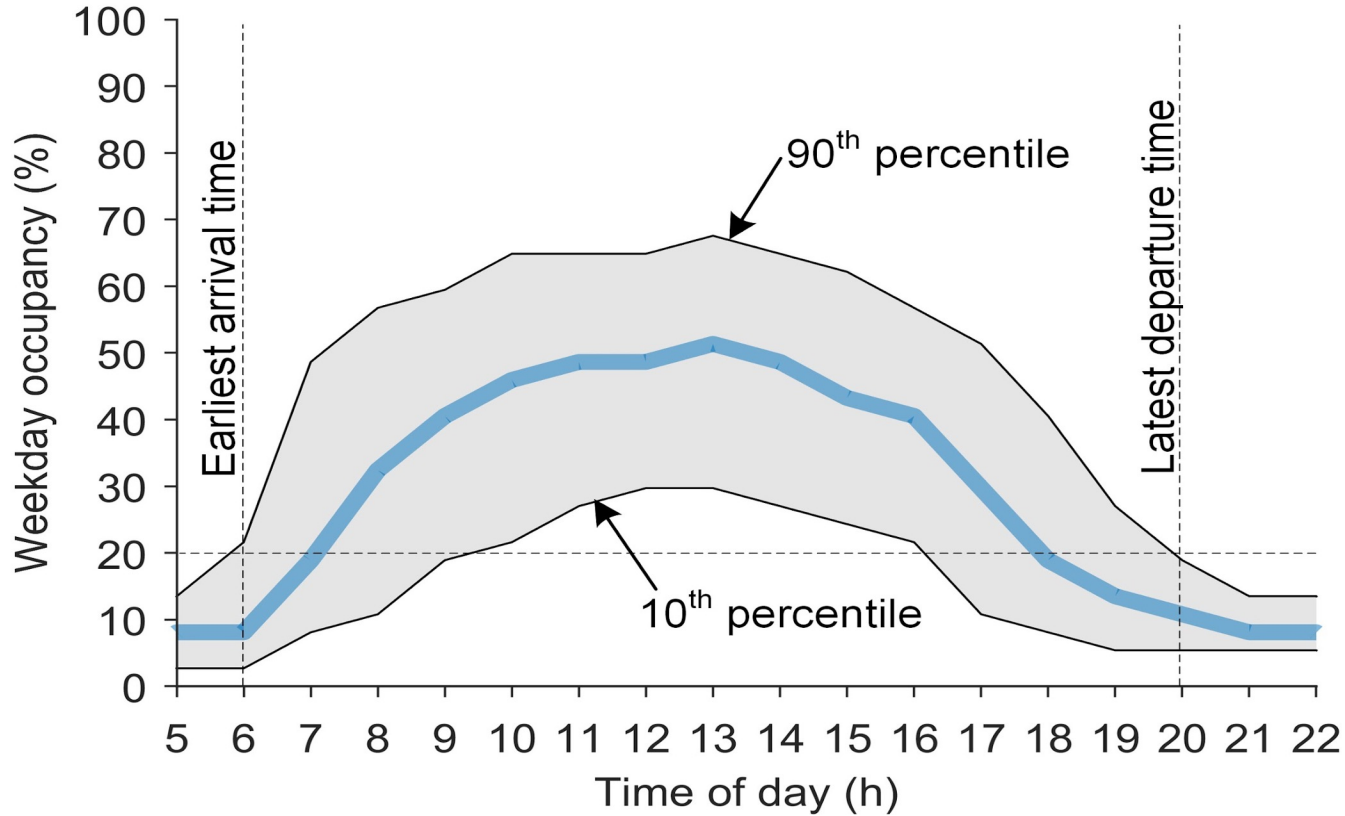
- Red dashed lines require sensor deployment to accommodate zone-level coverage.
- Green solid lines require sensor deployment only at a few locations in a building such as entry points.

# OCC Variables

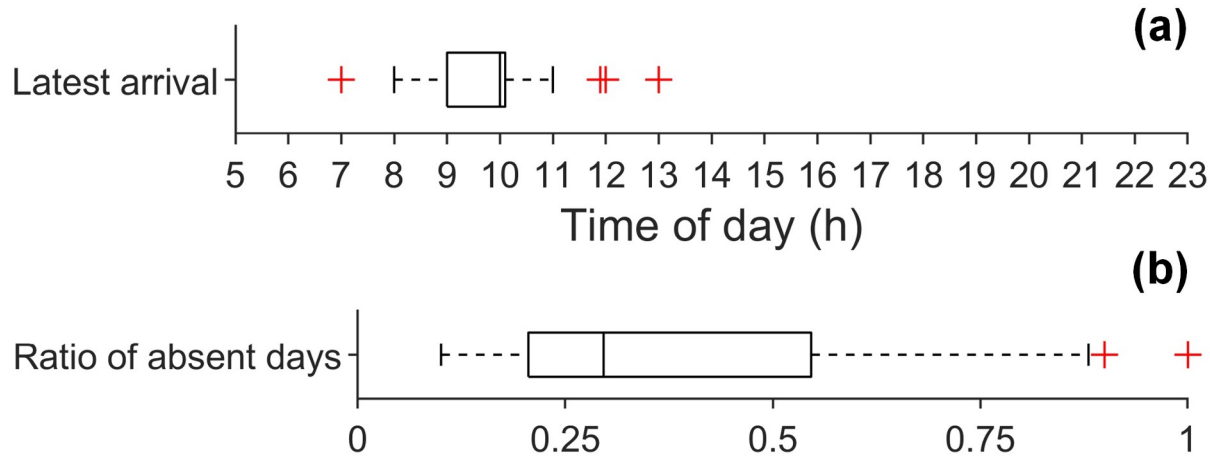




# Examples for OCC variables and sequences

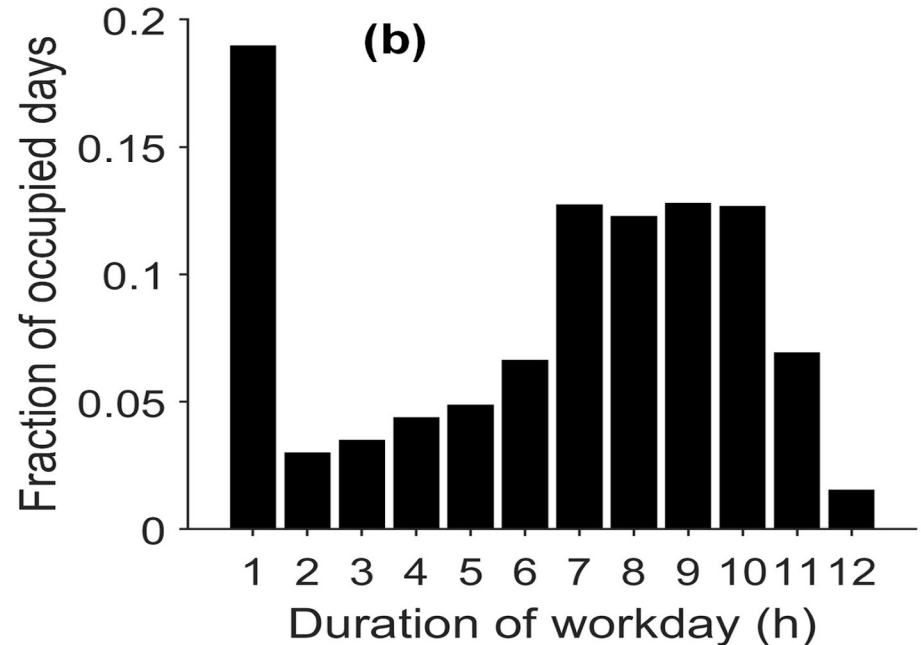
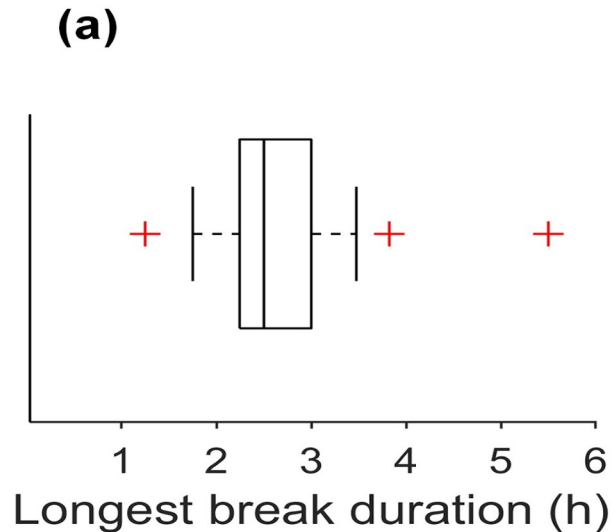


- Some zones in a building can be frequently empty.



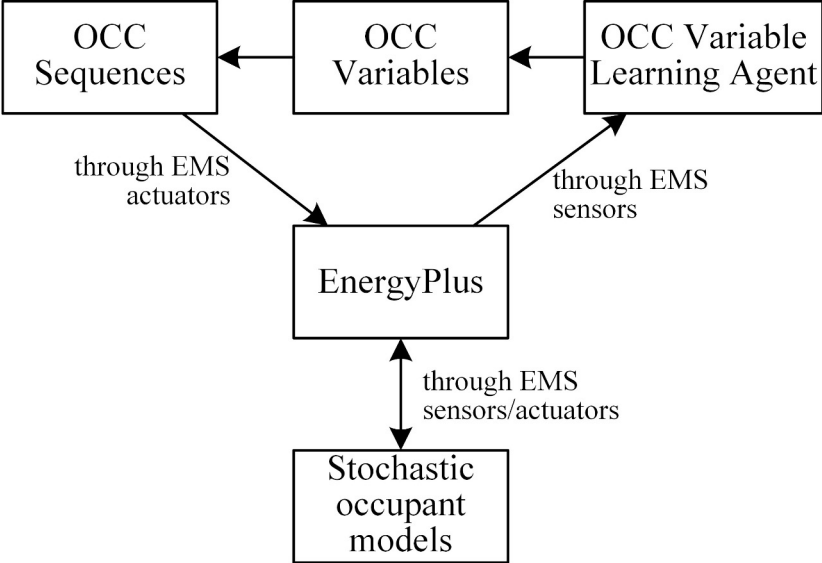
- A simple, yet very effective sequence can exploit this:
  - If a **motion detector** has not been triggered until noon, the space will likely remain empty for the rest of the day.
  - Revert to zone to unoccupied mode & apply a 2-3°C temperature setback

- On many days, occupants drop in for brief periods – just for meetings, pick up a delivery, etc.
- If the motion detector in a room hasn't been triggered for longer than the four hours, apply a 2-3°C temperature setback.

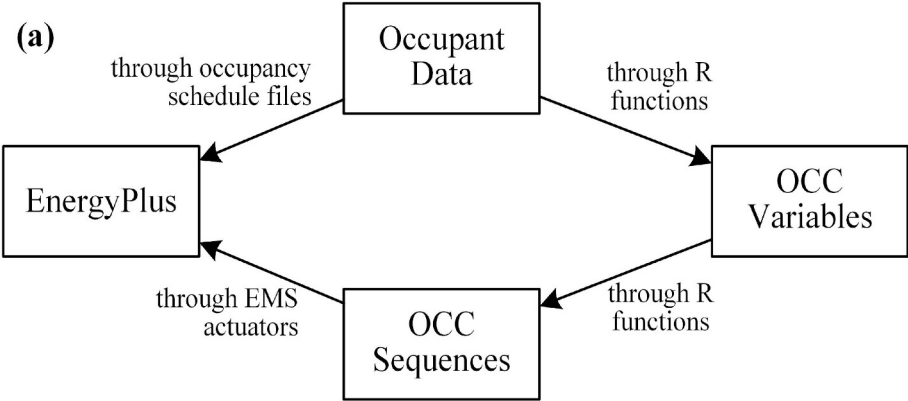


# OCC in the BPS-based design process

(b)

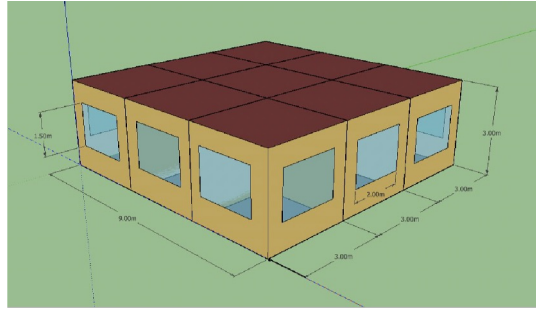


(a)





# Energy savings potential of OCCs



OCC combination	Spatial resolution	OCC intervention	Average EUI reduction (%)
1	Building	Occupancy-based AHU start/stop	-4%
2	Building	Occupancy-based AHU minimum outdoor air fraction	10%
3	Zone	Occupancy-based VAV start/stop and setback	24%
4	Zone	3 + individual occupants' preferred temperature setpoint	31% (+7%)
5	Zone	4 + individual occupants' preferred illuminance setpoint	35% (+4%)

# Detailed Case Studies

*Tareq Abuimara*

*United Arab Emirates University*



## Detailed case studies

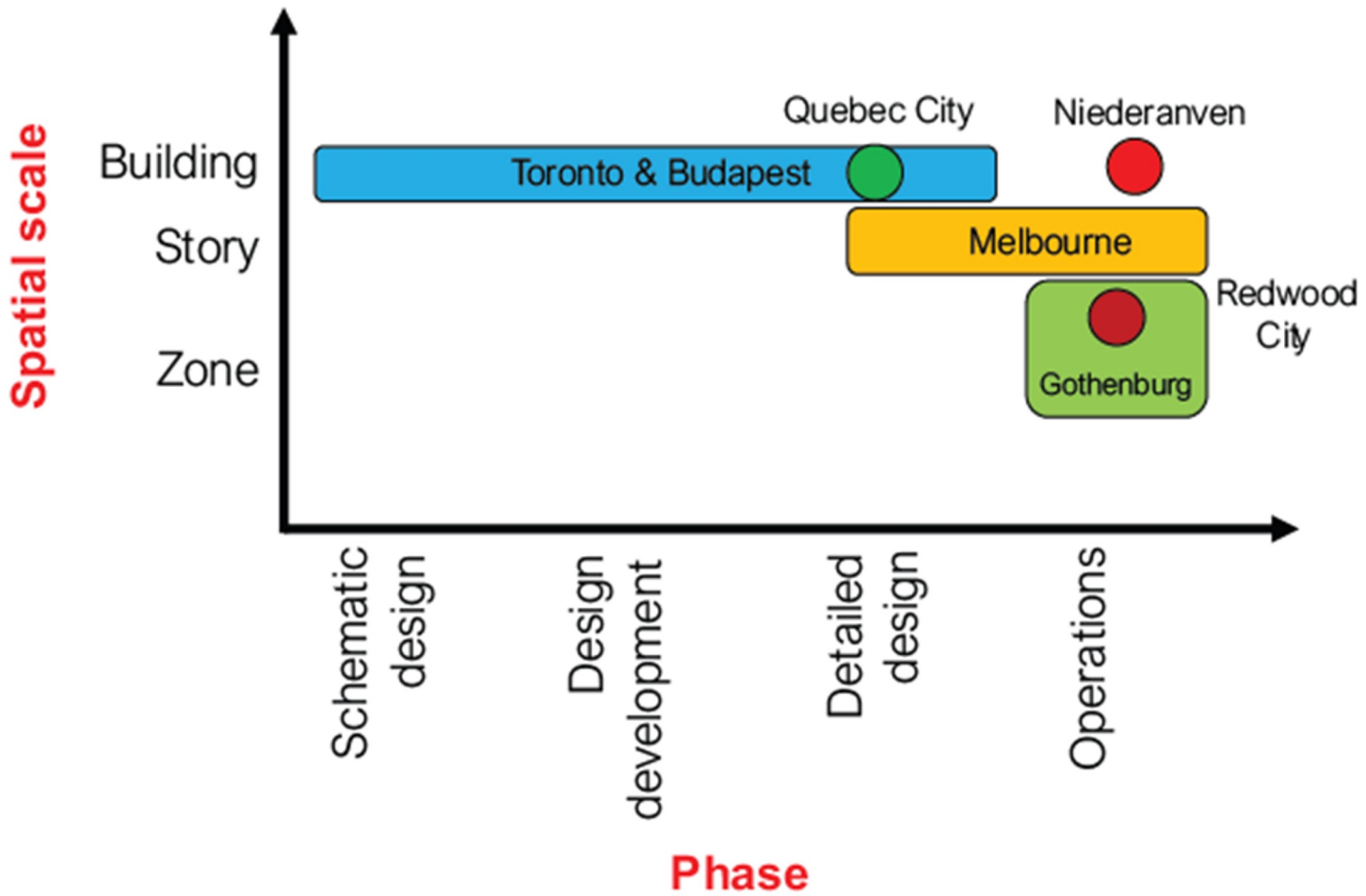
- Case studies demonstrate the real-world application of the occupant-centric design methods
- We provide analysis of seven unique case study buildings
- We demonstrate how occupant-centric design can assist in developing better designs
- We demonstrate alternative approaches for considering OB and occupant-related assumptions throughout the building design process
- Analysis involves simulation, field studies, surveys, and interviews with design stakeholders and occupants

# Geographical distribution





# Spatial and phase distribution

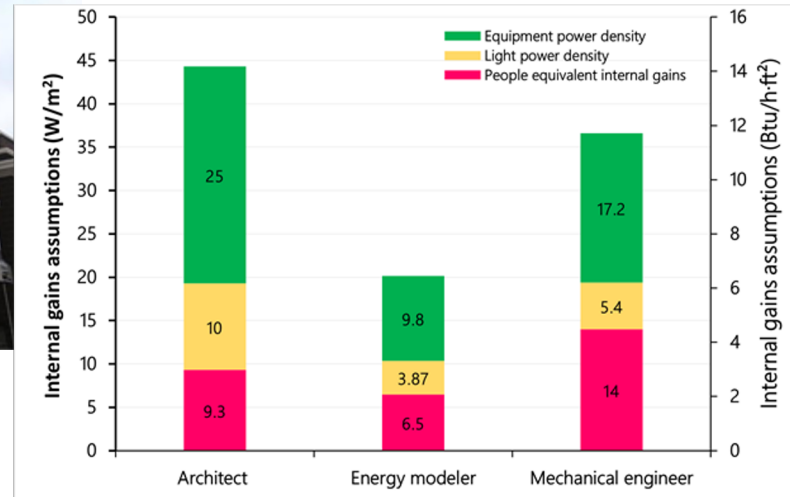


# Case study 1: Toronto, Canada [Design phase]

By: Tareq Abuimara, William O'Brien, Burak Gunay, & Juan Sebastian Carrizo



- Mid-rise office building
- Document the current practices of occupant modeling
- Alternative methods for occupant considerations



## Case study 2: Budapest, Hungary [Design phase]

By: Attila Kopányi, Viktor Bukovszki, & András Reith



- A 27-unit apartment building
- Method to create occupancy schedules based on participatory design



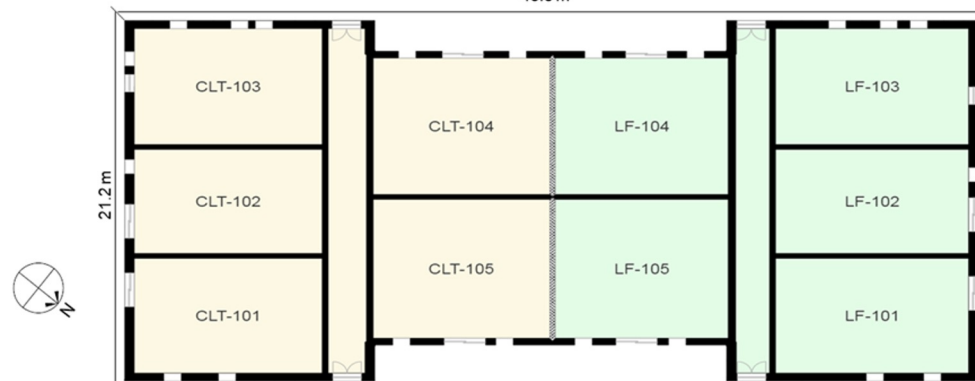
# Case study 3: Quebec City, Canada [Operation phase]

By: Jean Rouleau, & Louis Gosselin



43.5 m

- A forty-unit, four-story social housing building
- Explore the causes of performance gap
- Develop occupant-centric performance evaluation methods





# Case study 4: Melbourne, Australia [Operation phase]

By: Ye Kang ,& Jenny Zhou



- Multi-story student accommodation
- Timber structure built to Passivhaus standard
- Occupants' presence and Interactions with equipments and lighting were evaluated
- Thermal comfort was assessed

# Case study 5: Redwood City, USA [Operation phase]

By: Andrew Sonta, Thomas Dougherty, & Rishee Jain



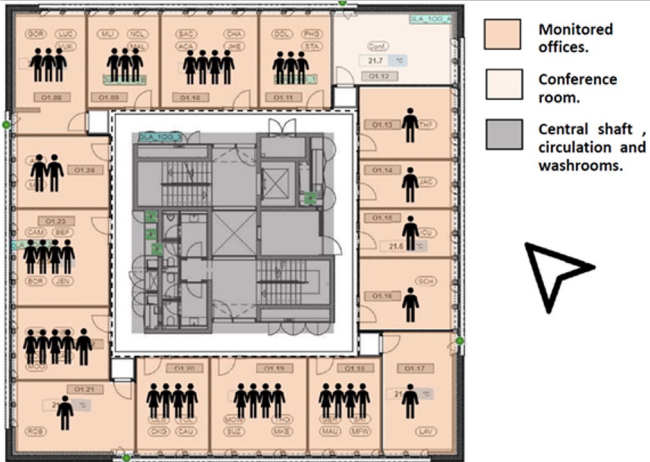
- A three-story commercial office building
- leveraging OB data to optimize a commercial building's layout to save energy.

# Case study 6: Niederanven, Luxembourg [Operation phase]

By: Ghadeer Derbas, Karsten Voss, & Tugcin Kirant Mitic



- Mid-rise office building
- Occupants' interaction with automated exterior shading system
- Identify occupant-centric rules for optimal shading design



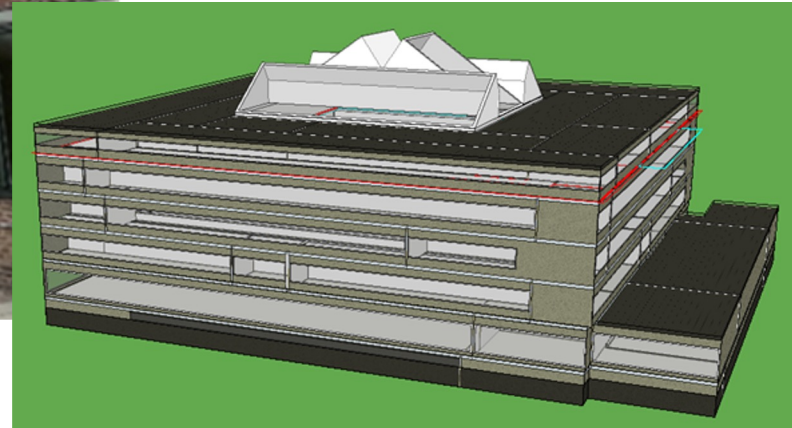


# Case study 7: Gothenburg, Sweden [Operation phase]

By: Quan Jin, & Holger Wallbaum



- Newly renovated office building
- Compare the predicted and actual indoor environmental performance





# Questions and Discussions

*William O'Brien, Farhang Tahmasebi  
And Clarice Bleil De Souza*



# Thank you!

## BUILD UP

The European portal for energy efficiency  
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