

# Aim High: High-performance buildings of the future

John Straube Ph.D. P.Eng.

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# Changes ...

- · Expectations are rising
  - Lower operating costs
  - less energy consumption (same cost?)
  - more comfort
  - Better IAQ
- In short ...

better buildings at less total cost



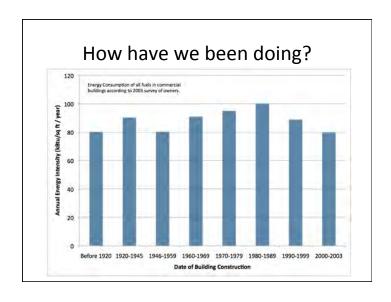


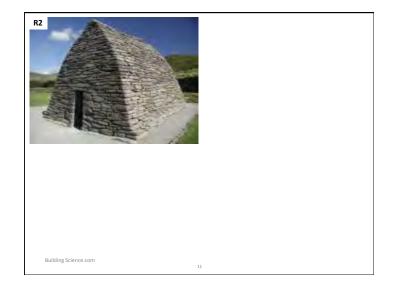






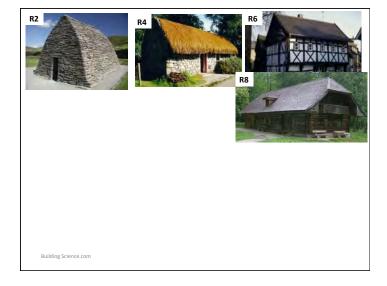
# Measuring Performance • Performance metrics - Beauty - Awards - On-time - Utility - On budget - Green, LEED - Healthy - Productive - Operating costs - Operational energy use

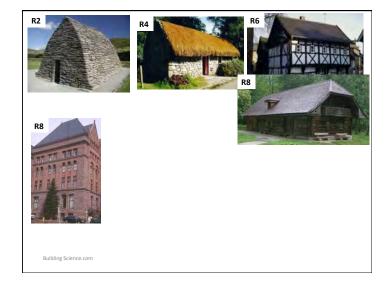


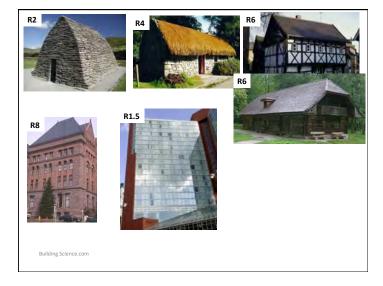


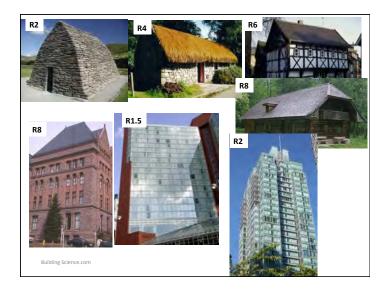












#### **Enclosures in Context**

- Enclosures reduce space heating/cooling
  - and help with lighting, ventilation
- We still need **energy** for other things
  - Lights, appliances, computers, elevators, etc
- But
  - Bad enclosures ruin good HVAC
  - Bad HVAC can ruin good enclosures

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# Unintended consequences

- Better insulation
  - Makes inside/outside surfaces colder
- Often better airtightness
- White roofs / green roofs
- Solar control windows
- More efficient lighting

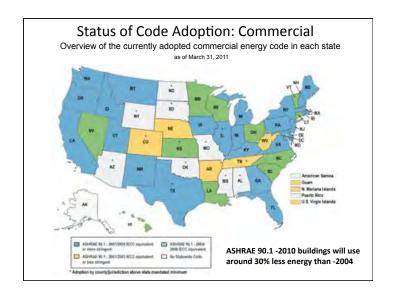
# Complexity

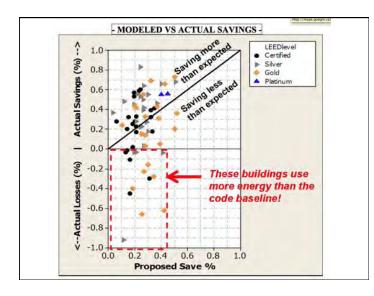
- Modern buildings and systems are complex
  - Good design must manage complexity
  - Allows for focus on the big things
    - e.g., program, massing, quality
- Enclosure and HVAC can be made simpler and more robust by early design-stage decisions

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#### **New Solutions**

- Step change in performance required
- Different approach to design& construction
  - Target, predict, measure performance
  - Quality assurance/control in drawings, on site
- Different assemblies and systems
  - More robust of operational/construction errors
  - Less complex, easier to manage





# Prescription of High Performance

- Good skin
  - Rain, air, heat, vapor control
  - Simple to understand/analyze assemblies
- Good HVAC
  - Control temperature, RH, Fresh air seperately
  - Simple to understand/analyze systems
- Good design
  - Daylight, view, program, enjoyment
  - Assume future changes will occur

### Top Ten List

Commercial and institutional mid-size buildings, Zone 5-7 climates

- Limit window-to-wall ratio (WWR) to the range of 20-40%, 50% with ultra-performance windows
- Increase window performance (lowest U-value affordable in cold climates, including frame effects)
- Increase wall/roof insulation (esp. by controlling thermal bridging) and airtighten
- · Separate ventilation air supply from heating and cooling.
- Use occupancy and daylighting controls for lights and equipment
- · Reduce equipment/plug & lighting power densities
- Don't over ventilate, use heat recovery & demand controlled ventilation
- Improve boiler and chiller efficiency & recover waste heat (eg IT rooms!)
- Use variable speed controls for all large pumps and fans and implement low temperature hydronic heating and cooling where appropriate.
- Use a simple and compact building form, oriented to the sun, with a depth that allows daylight harvesting.
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#### This seminar

- Enclosure
- HVAC (after lunch)

# The Enclosure: An Environmental Separator

- The part of the building that physically separates the interior and exterior environments.
- Includes all of the parts that make up the wall, window, roof, floor, caulked joint etc.
- Sometimes, interior partitions also are environmental separators (pools, rinks, etc.)

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Enclosures No. 27 /

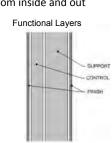
#### Climate Load Modification

- Building & Site (overhangs, trees...)
  - Creates microclimate
- Building Enclosure (walls, windows, roof...)
  - Separates climates
  - Passive modification
- Building Environmental Systems (HVAC...)
  - Use energy to change climate
  - Active modification

#### Basic Functions of the Enclosure

- 1. Support
  - Resist and transfer physical forces from inside and out
- 2. Control
  - Control mass and energy flows
- 3. Finish
  - Interior and exterior surfaces for people
- Distribution a building function

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**Functional Layers** 

# Basic Enclosure Functions Support Resist & transfer physical forces from inside and out Lateral (wind, earthquake) Gravity (snow, dead, use) Rheological (shrink, swell) Impact, wear, abrasion Control Control Interior and exterior surfaces for people

#### **Basic Enclosure Functions**

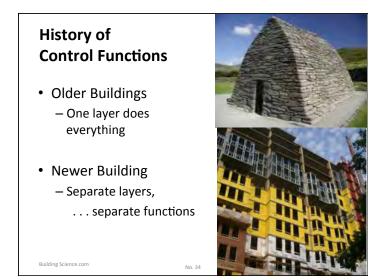
- Support
  - Resist & transfer physical forces from inside and out
- Control
  - Control mass and energy flows
    - Rain (and soil moisture)
      - Drainage plane, capillary break, etc.
    - Air
    - Continuous air barrier
    - Heat
      - Continuous layer of insulation
    - Vapor
      - Balance of wetting/drying
- Finish
  - Interior and exterior surfaces for people

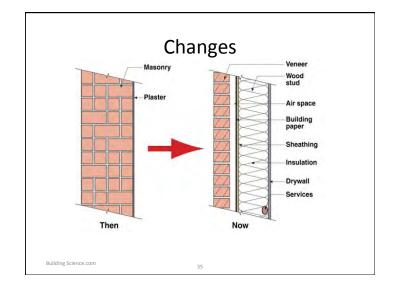
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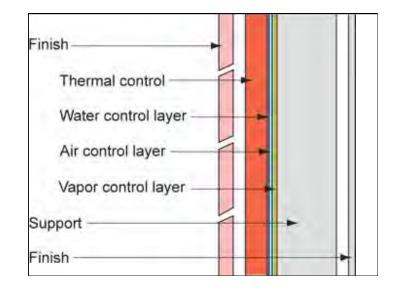
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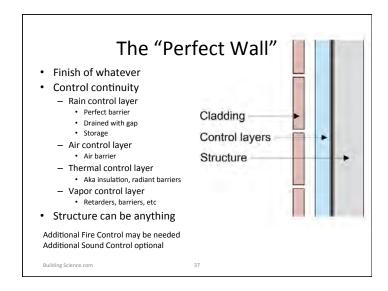
#### Other Control . . . Support Control Fire **Functional Layers** Penetration Propagation Sound Penetration Reflection CONTROL - Light Diffuse/glare View Finish Building Science.com Enclosures No. 32 /

# Support Resist & transfer physical forces from inside and out Control Control mass and energy flows Finish Interior & exterior surfaces for people Color, speculance Pattern, texture





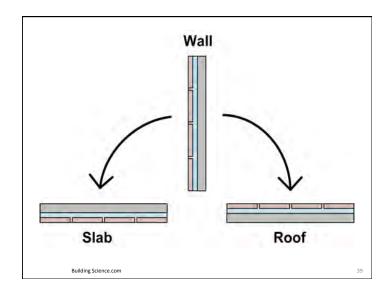


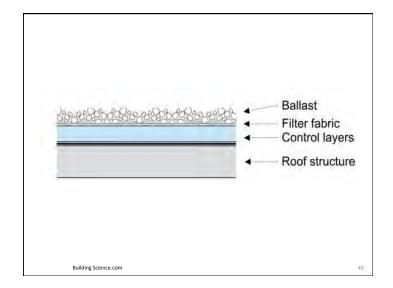


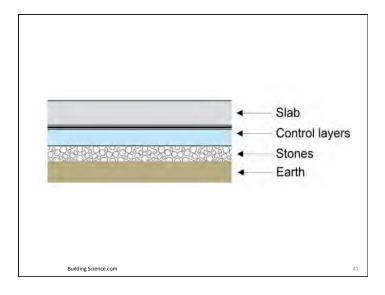
# What is a high performance enclosure?

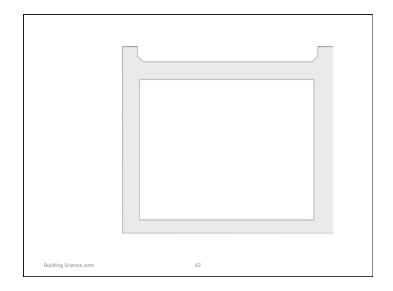
- One which provides high levels of control
- Poor continuity limits performance
- Poor continuity causes most problems too:
  - E.g. air leakage condensation
  - Rain leakage
  - Surface condensation
  - Cold windows
- Thus: continuity + high levels of control

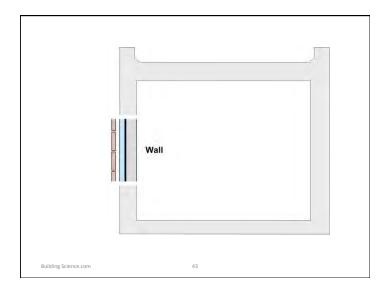
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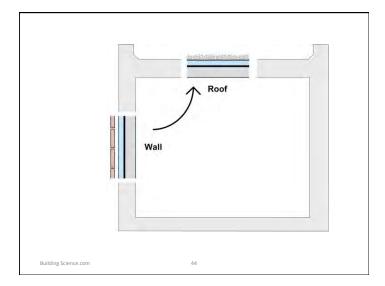


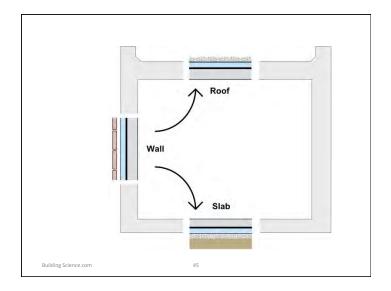


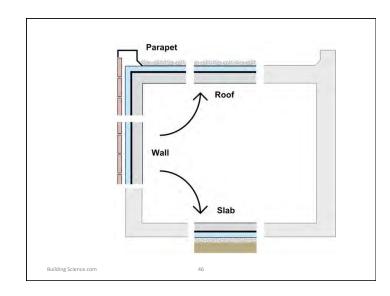


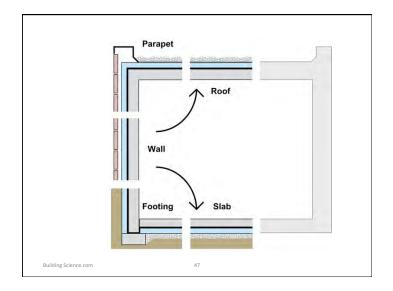


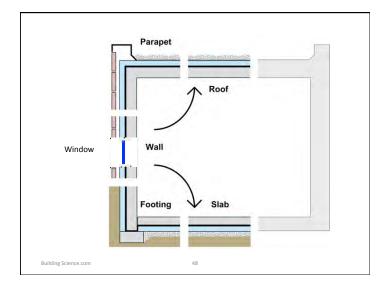


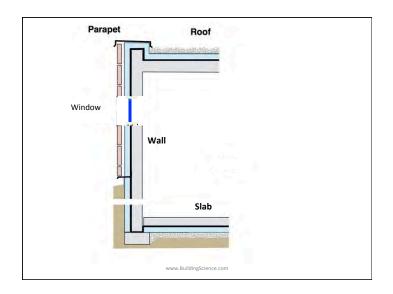




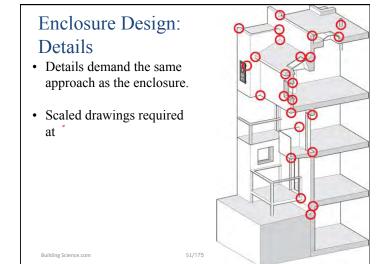


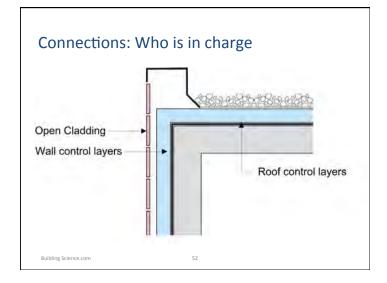


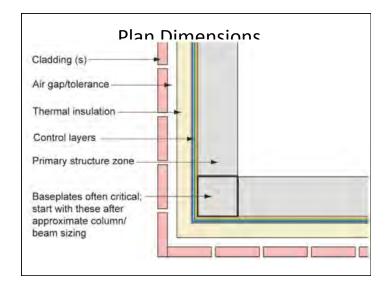


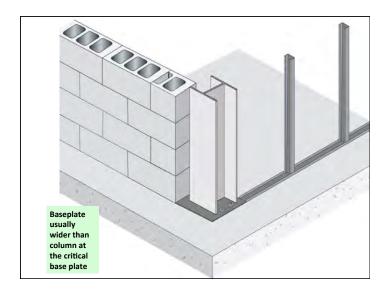


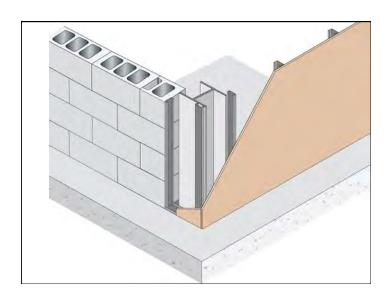


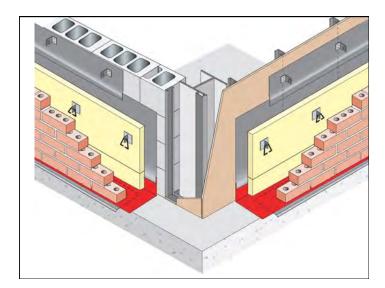


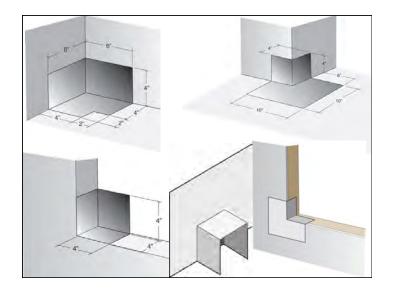


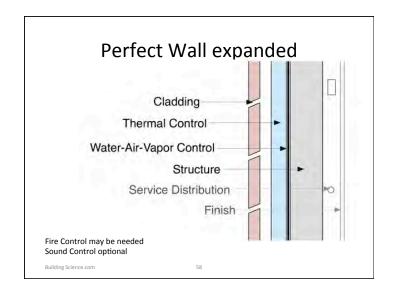


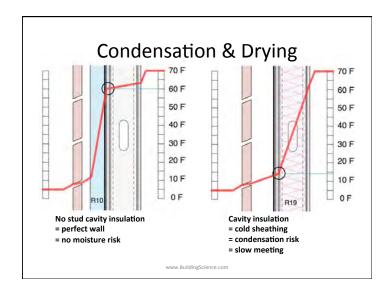


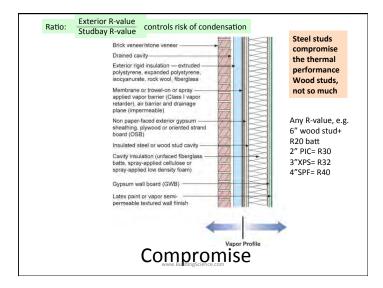


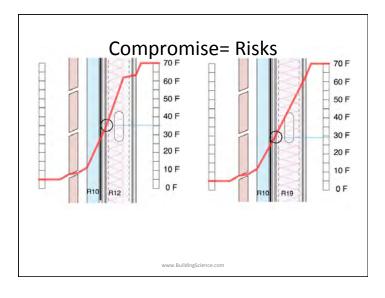












# Continuity is key!

- Must ensure no rain leaks, no holes
- Airflow control should be as continuous as practical
- Thermal control

Energy

- We live with penetrations
- Minimize steel and concrete to small local points
- Vapor control
  - Not that important to ensure continuity

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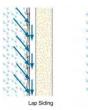
# 1. Rain Control layer

- Three available strategies for walls, roofs, basements, windows, etc
  - Mass or storage
  - Perfect barrier
    - Face-sealed, concealed barrier, waterproofing
  - Drained
    - Rainscreen, pressure equalization, ventilation

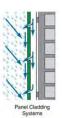
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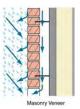
#### Drained

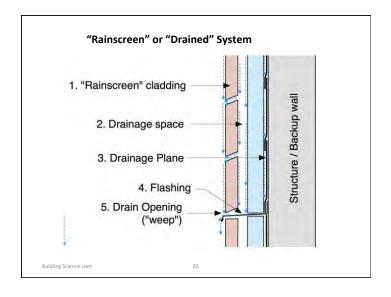
- · Drained systems preferred
- Account for joints and penetrations as well as installation defects and material failure

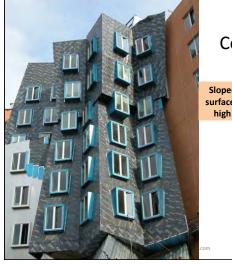


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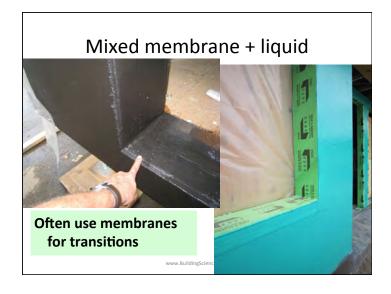
# Air-Water Control Layers

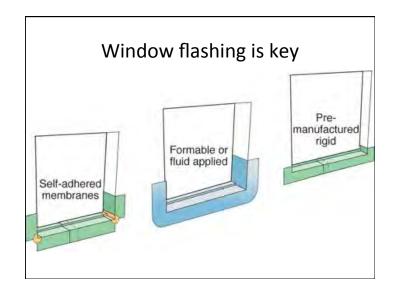
Sloped and complex surfaces demand very high performance

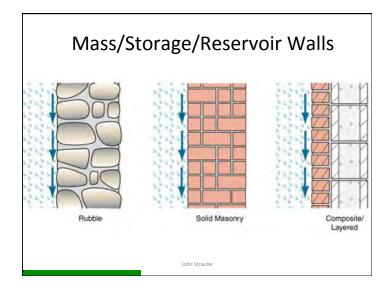




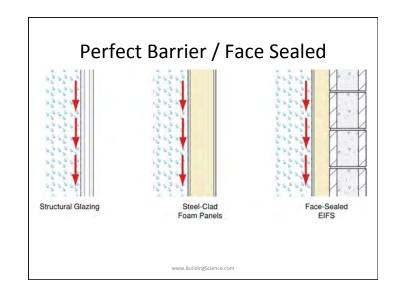














### 2. Airflow control

- · Airtightness critical for all climates
  - Control condensation and energy waste critical in cold climates
- Airflow Control Layer
  - Practically, an air barrier system
- Cant be TOO tight
  - But must provide ventilation

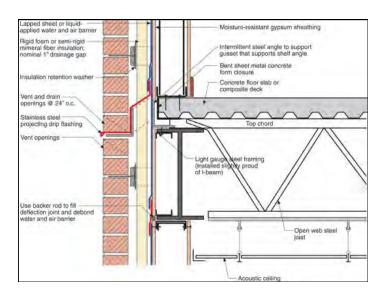
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# Airtightness

- Materials not important, system is
- GSA and Army Corp requiring testing to tightness targets now
  - 0.40 and 0.25 cfm/sf@75 Pa respectively
- IECC/IRC likely to require soon
  - Measured at 50 Pa in houses

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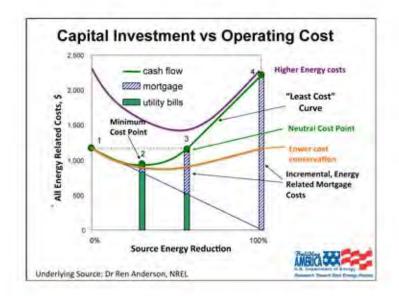
#### 3. Thermal control

- Resists heat loss/gain = energy savings
  - Large temperature differences: cold and hot climates, roofs (hot)
  - Less important in warm-humid and mixed climates
- Warms surfaces = durability
  - Avoids condensation in hot and cold weather
  - = a durability and health strategy
  - Keep structure warm and dry and stable

11-04-08

#### Insulation

- . How much? Use much more than normal practise
- · Comfort & condensation resistance:
  - True R5-10 is usually enough, but .....
- · For energy / environment:
  - "As much as practical", eg R10-R20
- · Practical constraints likely the limit
  - How much space available in studs?
  - Fastening, windows: exterior sheathing of 1.5"/4"
- Increased insulation should reduce HVAC capital as well as operating!



### It's More Than Insulation!

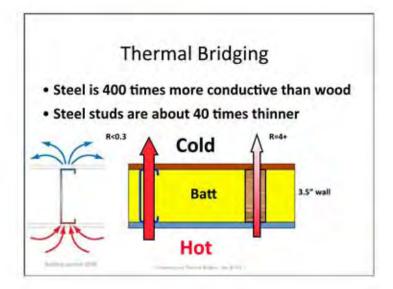
- Thermal bridges provide shortcut for heat through insulation
- Heat passes through the structural members
- · Common offenders
  - Floor and balcony slabs
  - Shear walls
  - Window frames
  - Steel studs

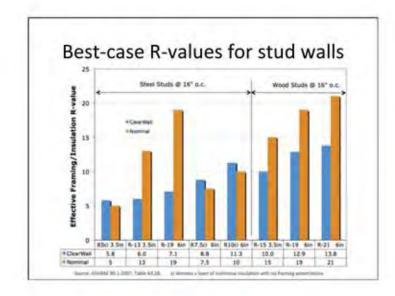














# Thermal Bridge Examples

- Aluminum framed
- Balconies, Exposed slab edges



# Thermal Continuity

- Some short circuiting is normally tolerated.
- High-performance walls tolerate few
- Major offenders / weak spots
  - Penetrating slabs (<R1)</p>
  - Steel studs (<R1)
  - Windows (R2-R3)
- Both Area and Low R matter
  - to overall energy use, and local problems of comfort and condensation

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