

Breathing New Life into Aging Homes

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Building Science Corporation

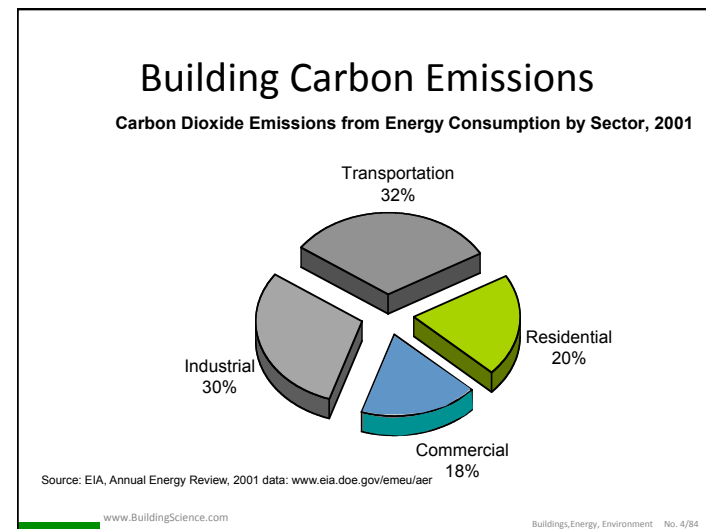
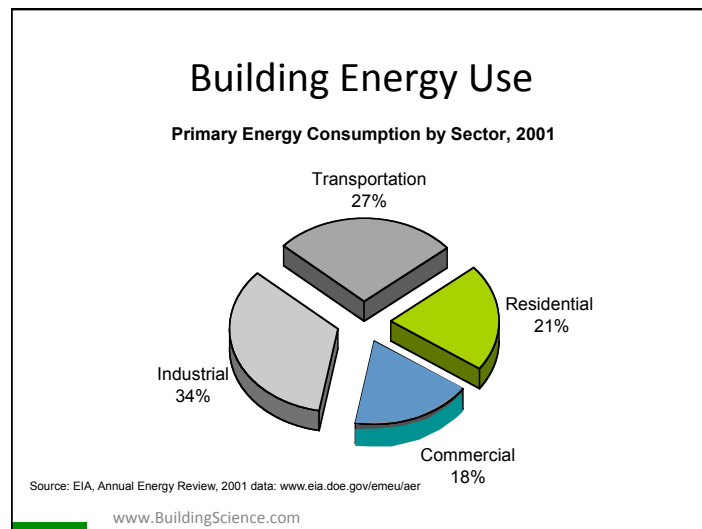


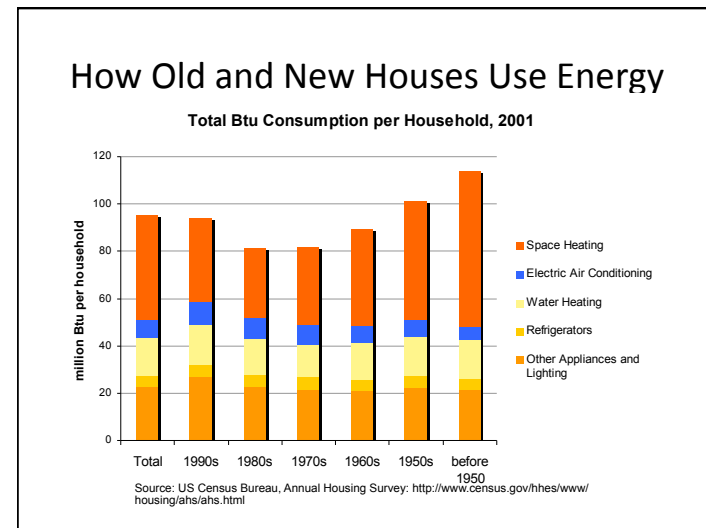
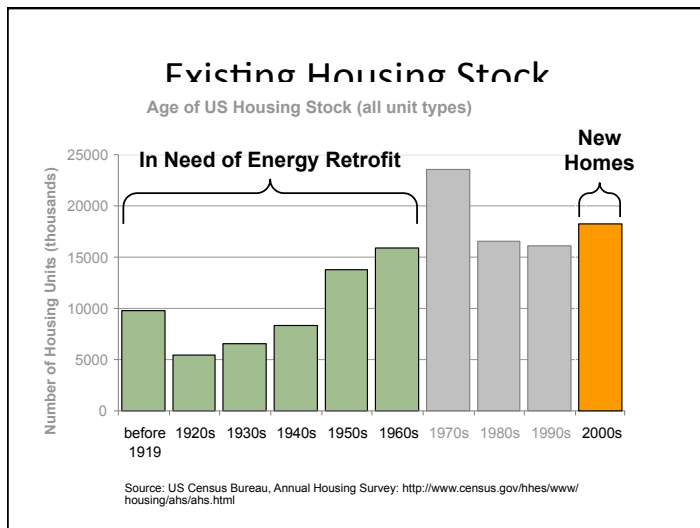
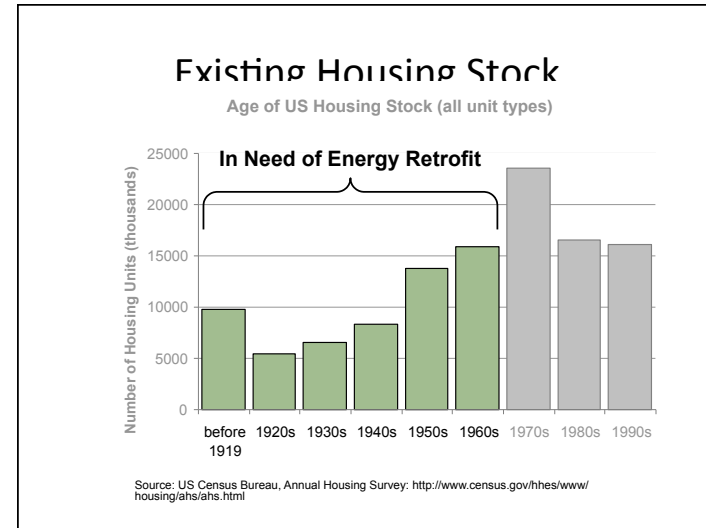
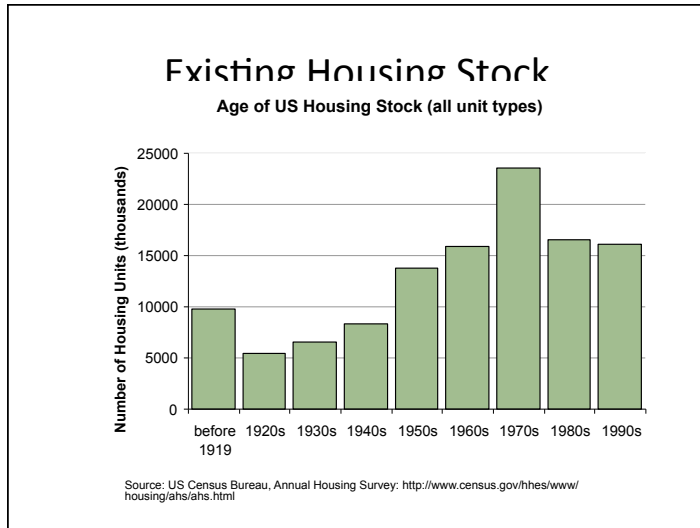

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Assessing the Impact of US Housing

- Background:
- Total Housing Units in 2001 (millions):
- Single-Family Homes 73.7
- Apartments (all buildings) 26.5
- Mobile Homes 6.8
- 107.0 million units¹
- Total Residential Primary Energy Use in 2001:
- 7,200,462 million Btu²

• 1. Energy Information Administration, Residential Energy Consumption Survey, 2001 data: www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs
• 2. EIA, Annual Energy Review, 2001 data: www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/aer





Existing buildings

- About ¼ of all households were built before 1950
- Almost ¾ before 1980
- 80% of residential energy is consumed by homes built 1980 or earlier
- This is a *huge* energy consumption sector
- Retrofit solutions need to address this!
- Good news: some low-hanging fruit
 - Attics, airtightening, efficient furnaces, windows, insulated over clad



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Green Buildings No. 9/51

National Policy Implication

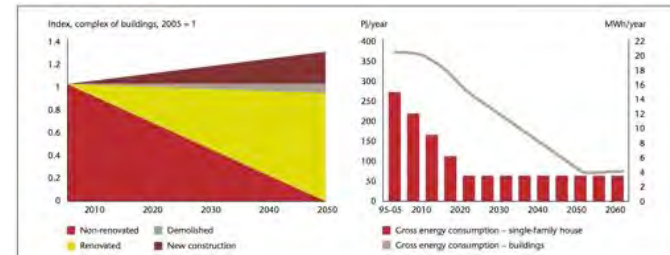


Figure 8: Possible future energy savings in Denmark's housing stock (left), and gross energy consumption in buildings during the same period (right).

California

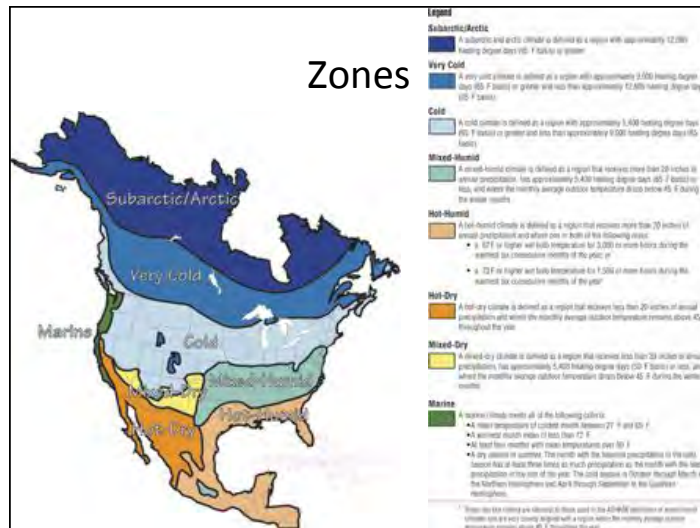
- Residential Energy Consumption
- California
 - 5746 Btu/Degree Day
- National
 - 3262 Btu/Degree Day

Energy Economics

More than 12 times increase since 1970
Compound annual rate 6.8% per year
Future?

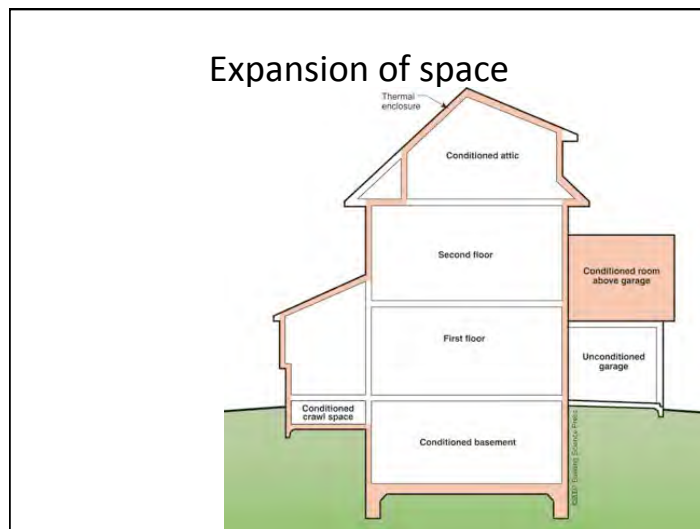
Table 2. Residential Sector Energy Price and Expenditure Estimates, Selected Years, 1970-2008, California

Year	Primary Energy							Retail Electricity	Total Energy ¹	
	Coal	Natural Gas ²	Petroleum			Biomass	Total ³			
			Distillate Fuel Oil	Kerosene	LPG ⁴					
Prices in Dollars per Million Btu										
1970	11.01	0.93	1.27	2.57	2.81	2.43	0.52	0.88	6.58	1.01
1975	—	1.00	2.63	5.58	4.46	6.14	1.82	1.60	19.88	1.51
1980	38.75	3.37	8.52	13.94	8.15	9.14	4.05	4.53	37.18	4.25
1985	4.54	3.31	5.25	11.55	6.66	9.36	4.00	3.58	37.85	3.84
1990	2.77	0.82	3.72	7.44	17.68	11.02	6.79	6.77	29.26	12.36
1995	3.74	0.68	6.92	5.94	12.50	11.46	2.86	4.42	34.25	14.88
1998	4.23	0.23	7.54	5.32	13.18	12.51	4.43	6.31	33.25	14.79
1999	3.71	0.70	6.13	4.65	13.73	12.65	4.41	6.79	33.71	14.65
1999	3.88	0.82	4.88	4.83	12.42	11.88	3.82	6.67	31.94	18.63
1999	2.68	0.52	7.68	6.58	12.77	12.09	3.02	4.60	31.55	15.84
2000	3.72	0.34	10.77	9.97	16.29	15.38	3.88	6.79	31.92	16.48
2001	3.48	0.27	10.98	8.96	18.59	16.21	3.62	6.81	36.43	18.40
2002	3.67	0.68	6.75	8.19	16.37	15.04	3.39	7.13	37.95	18.81
2003	3.77	0.85	13.64	9.15	18.40	17.65	6.11	8.21	35.84	18.21
2004	2.81	0.87	19.62	11.49	20.89	19.07	6.80	6.69	39.35	18.67
2005	3.58	11.58	18.85	13.71	24.13	23.25	3.23	12.17	36.46	20.52
2006	3.75	11.63	18.32	22.13	27.64	26.62	10.93	11.34	42.95	23.04
2007	—	11.43	20.72	24.26	29.63	28.28	11.82	12.28	42.27	23.16
2008	—	12.36	26.71	30.27	38.60	30.61	14.43	11.69	45.44	23.38



Drivers of Retrofits

- Performance/Needs not Energy \$ drive Retrofit:
 - Comfort
 - Health
 - Durability
 - New/better uses
 - Marketing / Aesthetics
 - Operating Costs
 - Energy Efficiency



Retrofit: How to reduce energy?

BSI-014

- Changing mechanical systems is least invasive
 - Lifespan is moderate, say (20 yrs)
 - 10% eff improvement = 10% operating savings = easy
- Lighting appliances and ventilation
 - Change is easy at any time, lifespan <20 yrs
 - Appliances/lighting often payback quickly
- Enclosures
 - Windows last 30-50 yrs
 - Insulation lasts 100+ yrs
 - Cladding lasts 35-200+ years
- **MUST** have clear idea of enclosure upgrades **before** deciding on mechanical!

Deep Retrofit

- Simple upgrades have great paybacks
- but have little impact
 - Small upgrades very cost effective, but small (10-25% reductions)
- Mid-range upgrades (15-50%)
- usually quite expensive per energy saved
- Deep retrofits (>50%) secure buildings future
 - Cost a lot, save a lot.
 - But ... allow for new styles, repair/replace, more use, etc.
 - Leap frog current housing

Enclosure Retrofit

- An important target for many buildings
 - Walls
 - Roofs
 - Basements/Slabs
 - Windows
- Airtighten and control moisture
- Prioritize by Ease (\$) and Impact (Energy and other benefits)

DANGER!

- House is a system
- Change the insulation, airtightness, mechanical system, etc impacts
 - Durability
 - Health
 - Safety
 - Indoor Air Quality

Energy Efficiency & Durability

- Better insulation means
 - Cold exterior and/or interior surface
 - More extreme variations at exterior
 - Colder surfaces mean
 - more likely condensation
 - And/or higher RH = higher moisture content
 - And slower drying
- So... More insulation reduces durability!
- Air leakage dried as well as wets
 - Airtightness increases indoor humidity

Enclosures

Building Components

- Buildings are made of several large systems
- The systems that make up a a building can be grouped in four categories
 - Superstructure
 - Enclosure
 - Service Systems
 - Fabric

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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, etc... from the innermost to the outermost layer.
- Sometimes, interior partition also are environmental separators (pools, rinks, etc.)

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Building Enclosure Components:


Where is inside?
Where is outside?

1. Basement Floor System(s)
2. Foundation Wall System(s)
3. Above Grade Wall System(s)
4. Windows and Doors
5. Roof System(s)

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Climate Si

- Design for
 - Climate zone
 - Site
 - Building height, shape, complexity

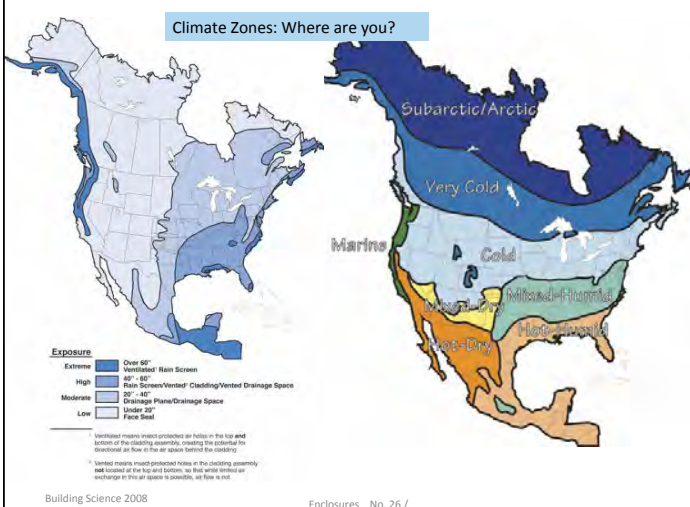


Seattle ≠ Sacramento
Miami ≠ Minneapolis
Edmonton ≠ Toronto

Marcus Vitruvius Pollio
 These are properly designed, when due regard is had to the country and climate in which they are erected. For the method of building which is suited to Egypt would be very improper in Spain, and that in use in Pontus would be absurd at Rome: so in other parts of the world a **style suitable to one climate, would be very unsuitable to another**: for one part of the world is under the sun's course, another is distant from it, and another, between the two, is temperate.

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Climate Zones: Where are you?



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Climate Load Modification

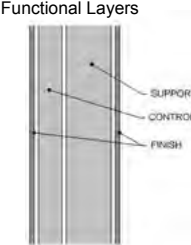
- Building & Site (overhangs, trees...)
 - Creates microclimate
- Building Enclosure (walls, windows, roof...)
 - Separates climates
 - Passive modification
- Building Environmental Systems (HVAC...)
 - Use energy to change climate
 - Active modification

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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

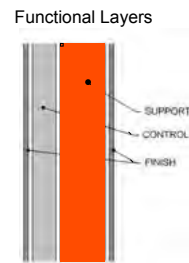
Functional Layers



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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 mass and energy flows
- **Finish**
 - Interior and exterior surfaces for people

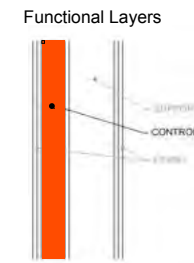


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Basic Enclosure Functions

- **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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Retrofit

- Need to assess what is doing what
- May be able to change functions of layers
- Often need to improve, replace, or add support, control or finish

Fundamental Enclosure Functions

- **Support**
- **Control**
 - Rain
 - Air
 - Heat
 - Vapor / condensation
 - Fire
- **Finish**

Walls

Walls

- Major aesthetic element
 - Curb appeal and satisfaction
- Expensive to change
 - Cant usually pay just for upgrade
- Usually need a reason to retrofit
 - Cladding past service life
 - Comfort / durability problems
 - Major interior renovations

34



Targets

- R20-40+ True R-value
 - Climate and energy sources matter
- Airtightness
 - ACH@50 <3?? 2??
 - Depends on energy target
- R40 wall with 5 ACH50 makes little sense
- R20 wall with 1 ACH50 makes little sense

35



Wood-framed Walls

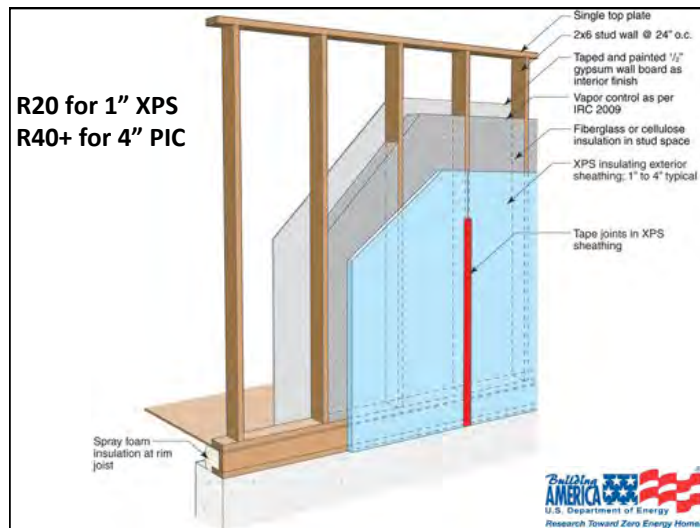
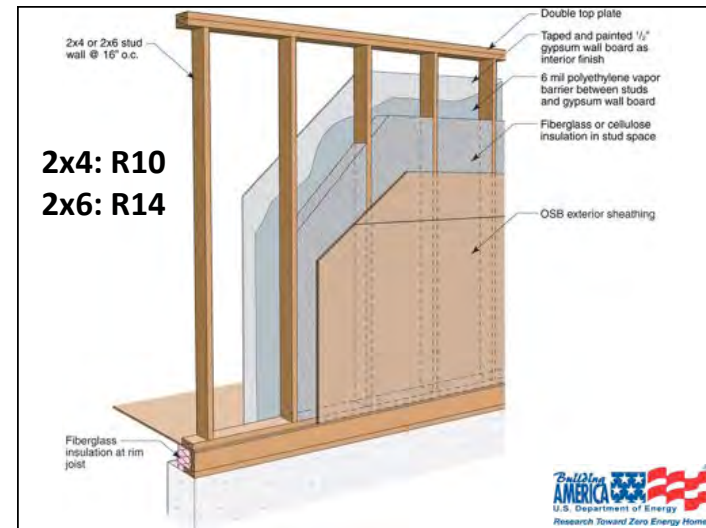
- Can add insulation if voids empty
 - Experience with weatherization
 - Should do everytime as a start
- Airtightness & Insulation level improvements are limited
 - Hard to get to “modern” levels
 - R20+ and < 2 ACH@50
 - May be as far as some can afford
- Can't improve RAIN control from inside cavity

36



Above grade walls

- *Interior retrofit* limits improvements to airtightness, rain control, thermal bridge
- *Exterior retrofit* allows excellent improvements and increased durability
- Windows should be done at the same time! Risky
- Installation cost \$200+/- so get good windows, eg vinyl triple glazed for \$30/sf

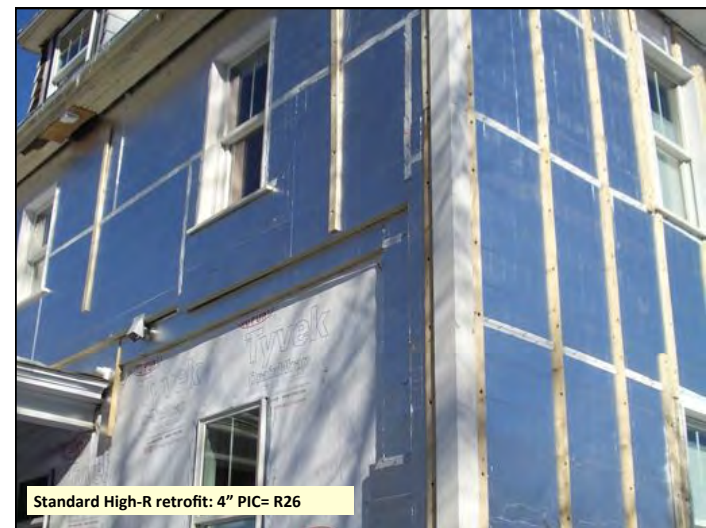
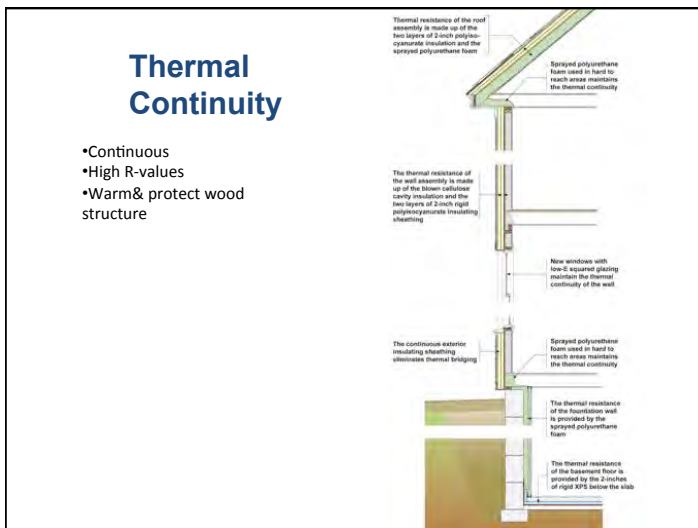


Exterior Insulation Retrofit

- Any reasonable level of insulation can be provided
 - Final R of 20, 30, 40, 50
- Almost all penetrations of air, heat, and rain can be improved
- New drainage plane
- Critical to deal with windows
- Significant reductions in moisture risk





- Old Aluminum siding recycled
- New pre-finished wood siding over furring strips for 20 year paint life
- Cellular PVC trim (no painting)
- New 100 year roof



Thermal Continuity

The thermal resistance of the wall assembly is made up of the blown cellulose cavity insulation and the two layers of 2-inch rigid polyisocyanurate insulating sheathing


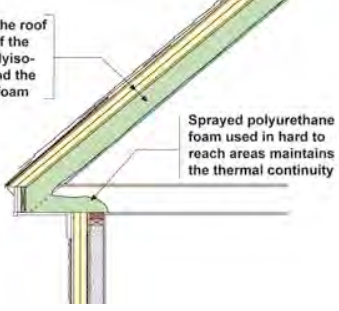



New windows with low-E squared glazing maintain the thermal continuity of the wall

Today, we would recommend triple-glazed with compression seals for airtightness

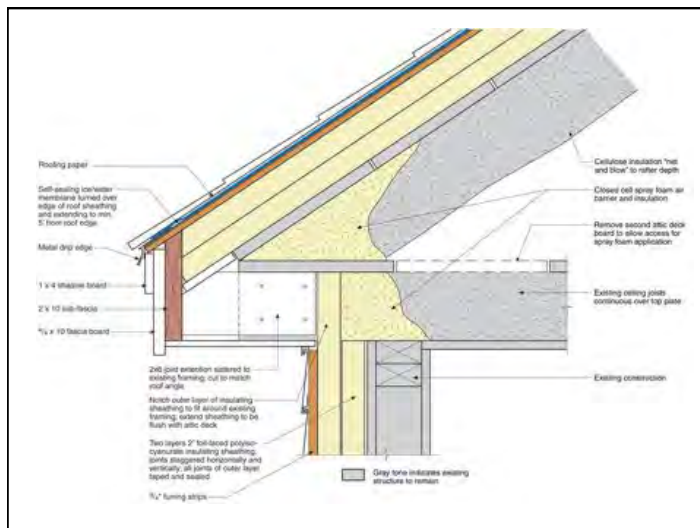
Roof to wall

Thermal resistance of the roof assembly is made up of the two layers of 2-inch polyisocyanurate insulation and the sprayed polyurethane foam

Normally we would use blown cellulose or fiberglass in rafter space, foam for airsealing


Sprayed polyurethane foam used in hard to reach areas maintains the thermal continuity

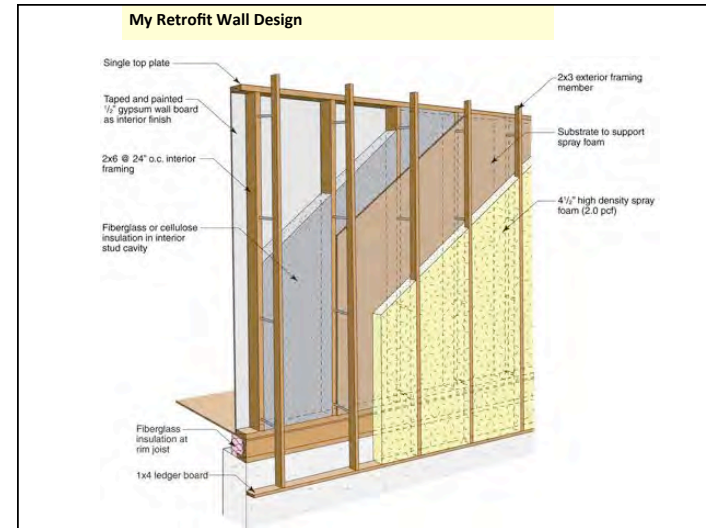


Exterior Insulation Retrofit

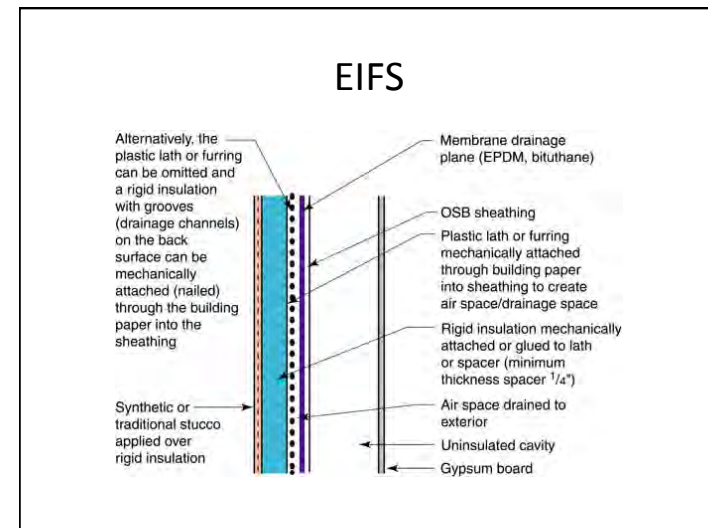
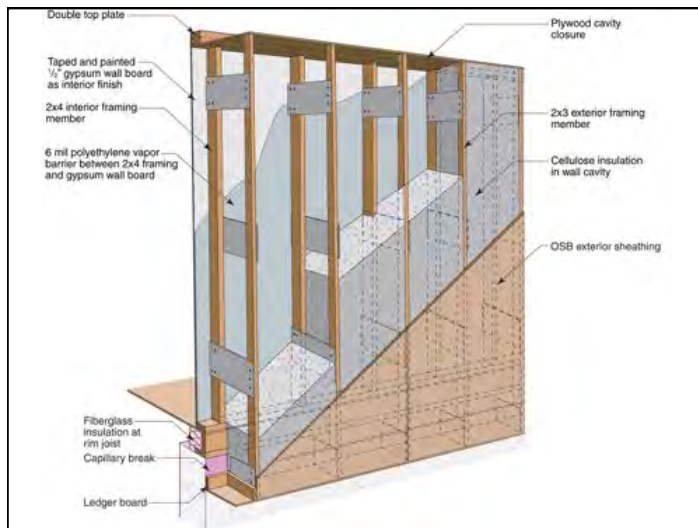
- Challenges
 - How to attach cladding
 - How to detail windows
 - Porches
 - Overhangs
 - Foundation transition

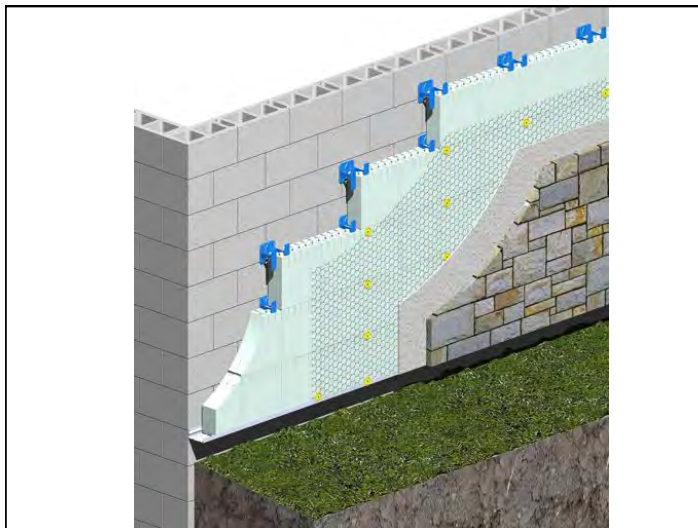
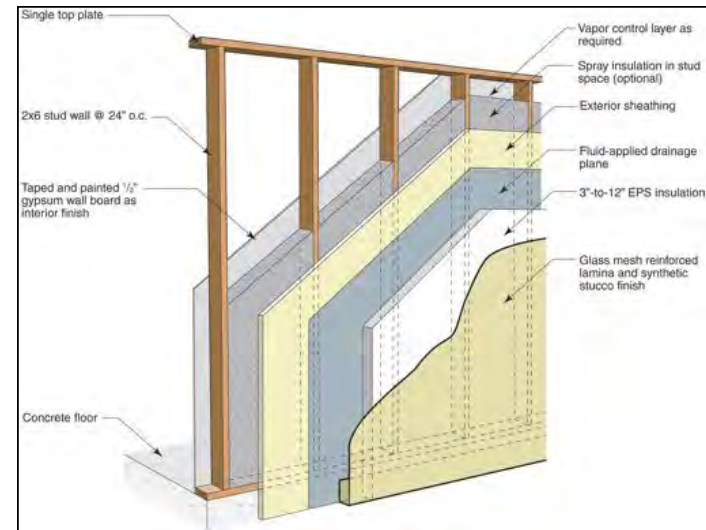
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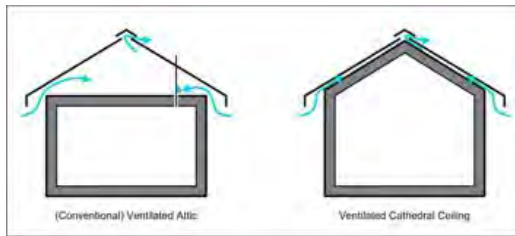


Roofs

A large empty rectangular box with the word "Roofs" centered inside it.

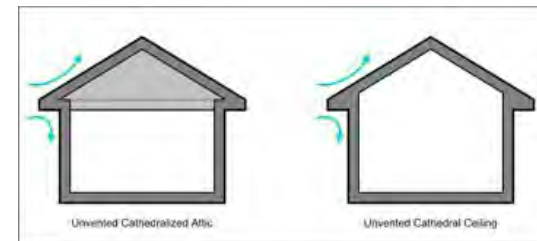
Pitched Roof Types

- Vented Attic
 - Insulation/air barrier at ceiling plane
- Cathedral Ceiling
 - Insulation/air barrier at roof plane



Pitched Roof Types

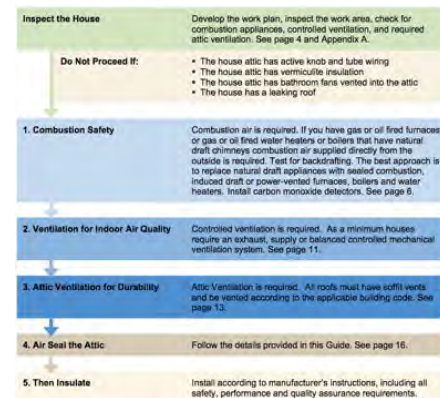
- Unvented Cathedralized Attic
 - As cathedral but no venting above insulation
- Unvented Cathedral

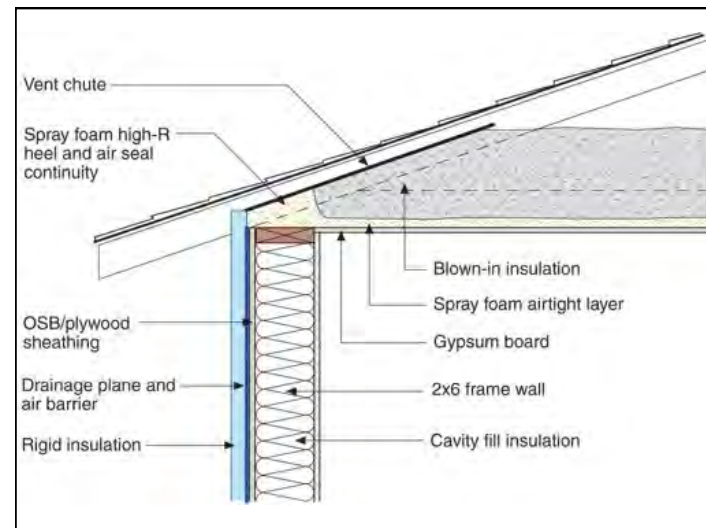
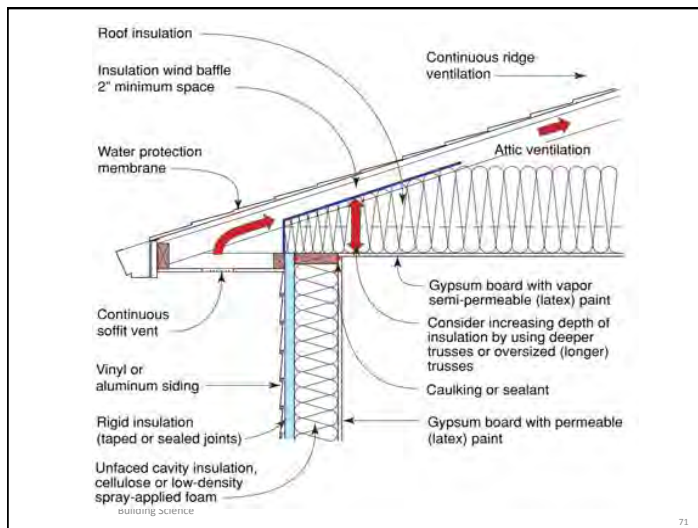
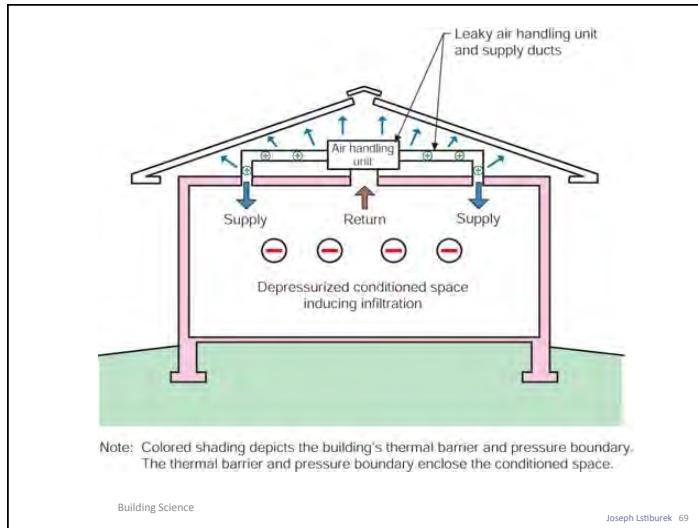


Fully Ventilated Attics

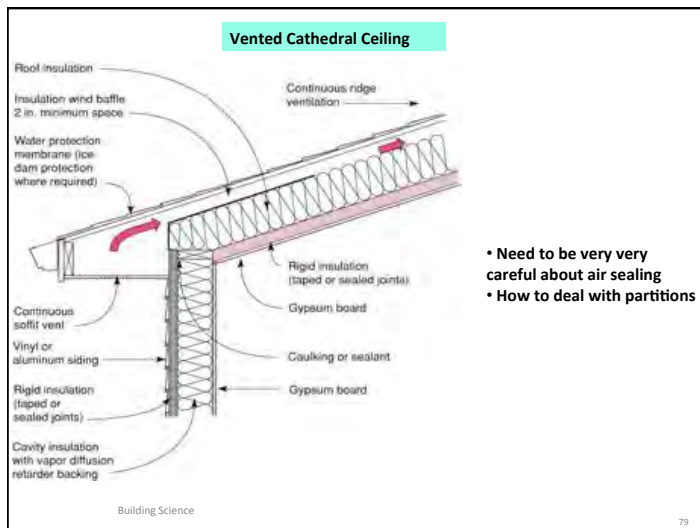
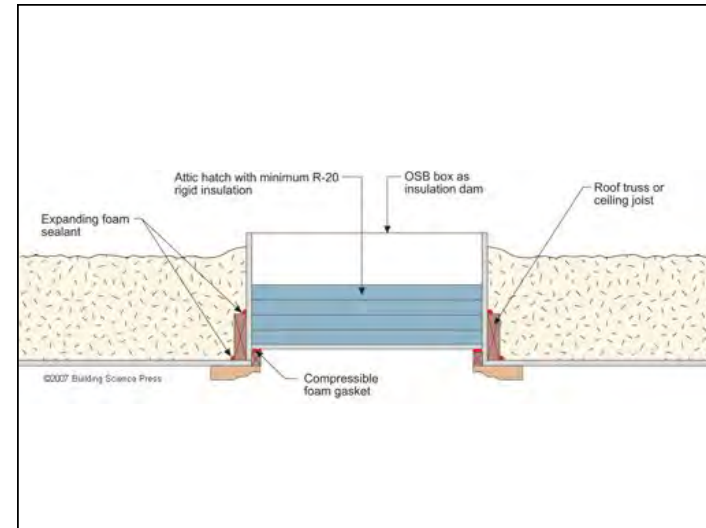
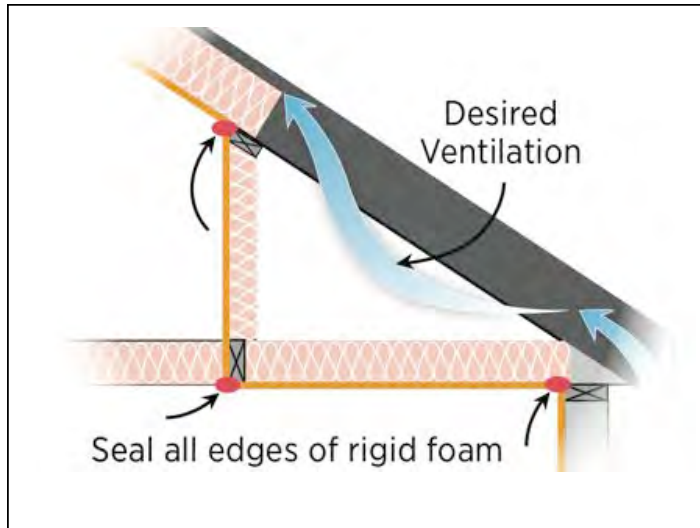
- Can re-roof whenever, with whatever
- Deal with moisture, then add insulation
 - Rain leaks, air leaks
- Easy to upgrade by adding blown insulation
- Challenge: Low height at eaves
 - Solution: spray foam and vent chutes
- If possible, keep ventilated attic
 - Inspect ceiling plane, plug all holes with caulking and foam
 - Consider 1” of spray foam ceiling air barrier
 - Blow in minimum R60 cellulose, R75-R100 sensible

BuildingScience.com Attic Sealing Guide









- Need to be very very careful about air sealing
- How to deal with partitions



Conditioned Attics

- Needs a good new roof
 - Top quality underlayment needed
- Unvented roofs best for complex shapes
 - Air sealing is critical
- Venting if you can easily achieve this
 - Ensure real venting!

Vented complex roof



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Unvented Cathedralized Attics

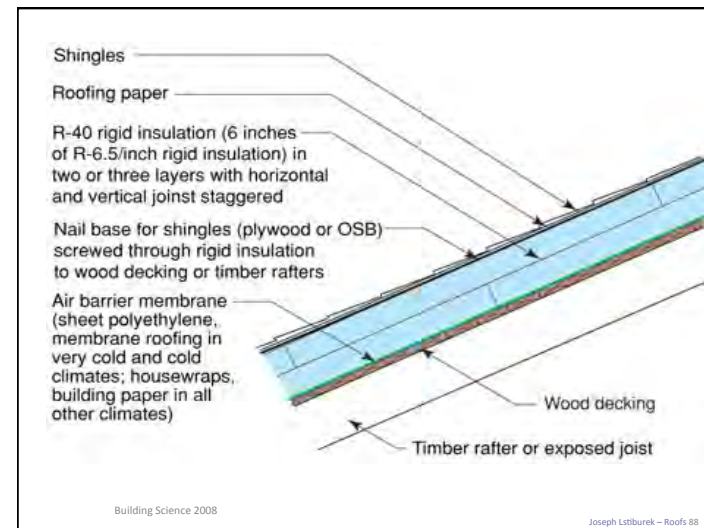
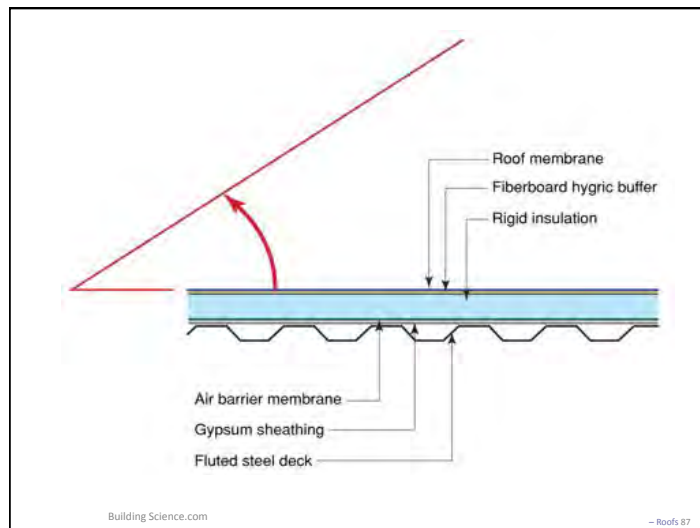
- Move air and insulation control from ceiling plane to roof plane
- Moves HVAC into conditioned space
 - Saves lots of energy, reduce problems with comfort, extends life of equipment
- Avoids wind blown rain, snow, and burning wildfire embers

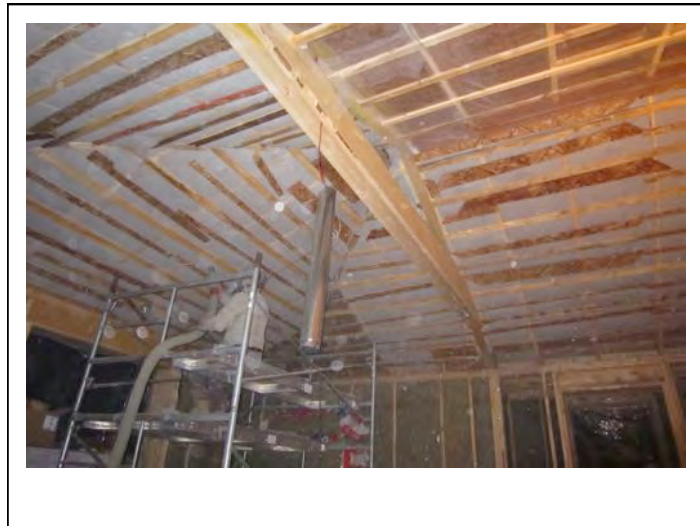
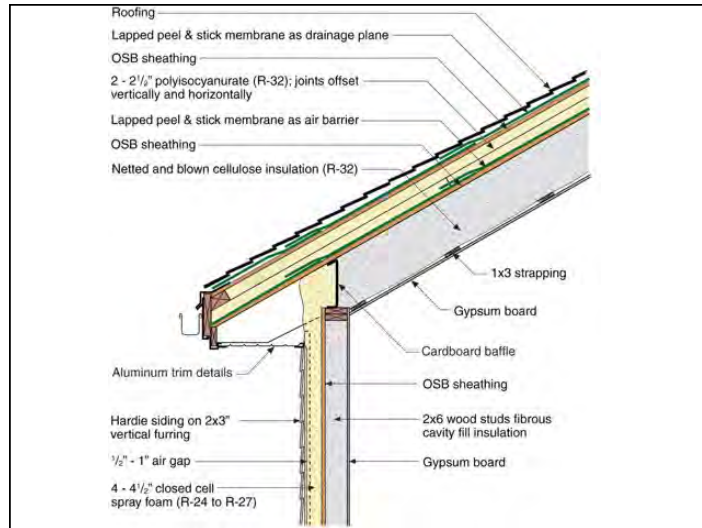
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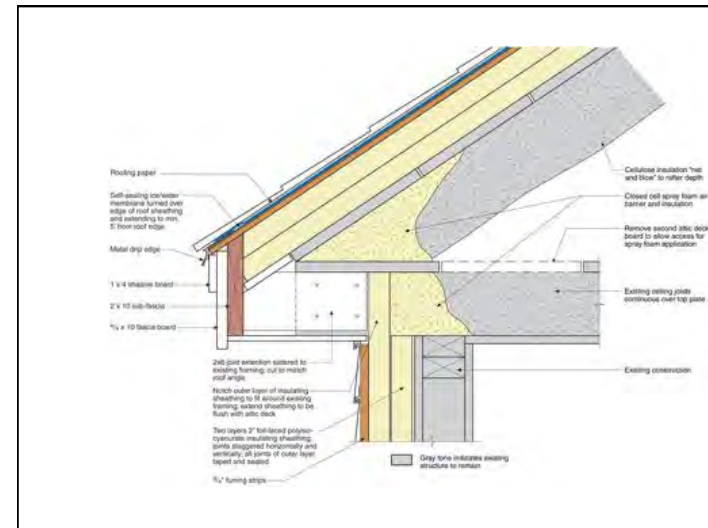
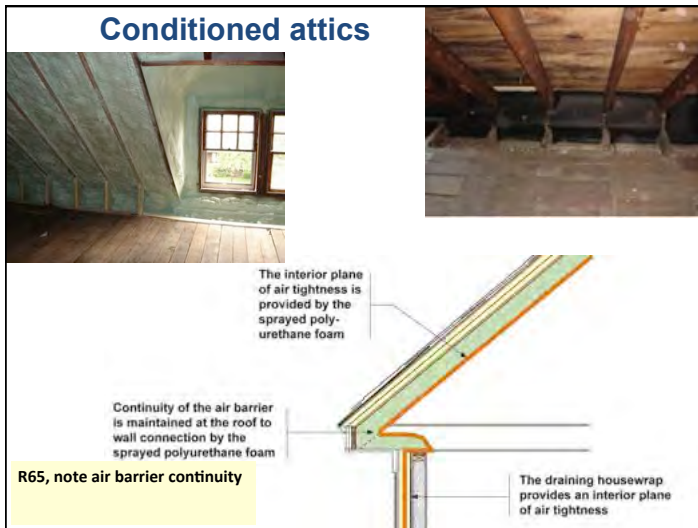
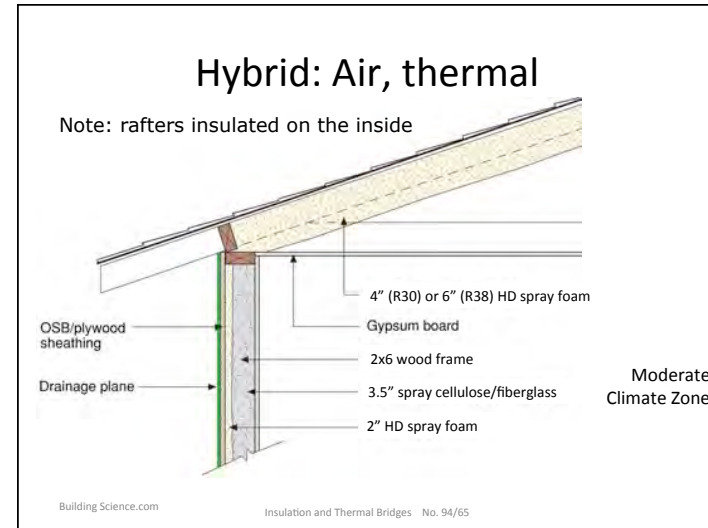
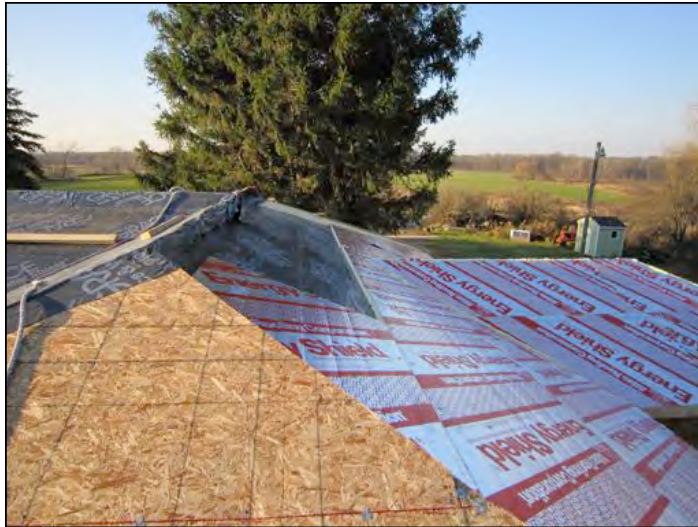
Unvented Cathedral Ceilings

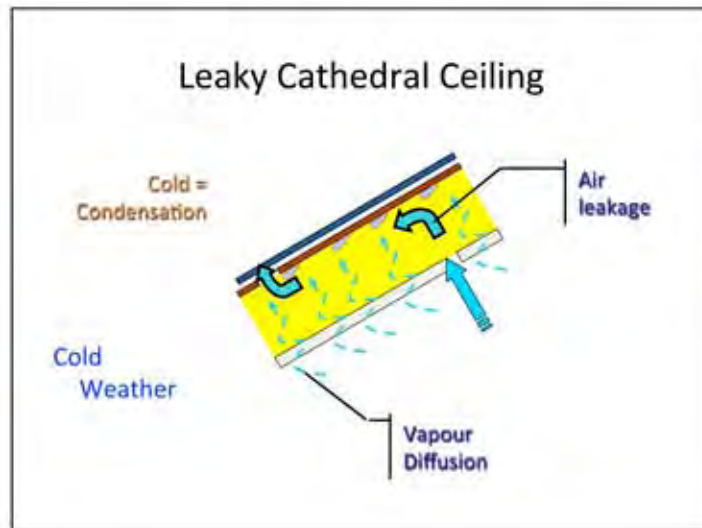
- Not absolutely necessary to vent if airtight and vapour tight material,
 - e.g. spray foam.
 - Or insulated sheathing
- May be most practical in retrofit
- If no wetting, little drying required
 - Demands very high performance
 - >R40, no penetrations
 - spray foam is a practical solution
 - beware thermal bridges

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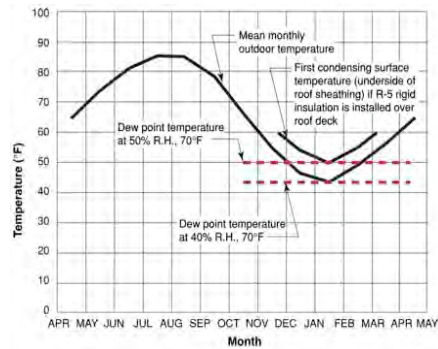








E.g. Calculation



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Hybrid Roofs with code levels of insulation

- IRC

TABLE R806.4
INSULATION FOR CONDENSATION CONTROL

CLIMATE ZONE	MINIMUM RIGID BOARD OR AIR-IMPERMEABLE INSULATION R-VALUE ^a
2B and 3B tile roof only	0 (none required)
1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 3C	R-5
4C	R-10
4A, 4B	R-15
5	R-20
6	R-25
7	R-30
8	R-35

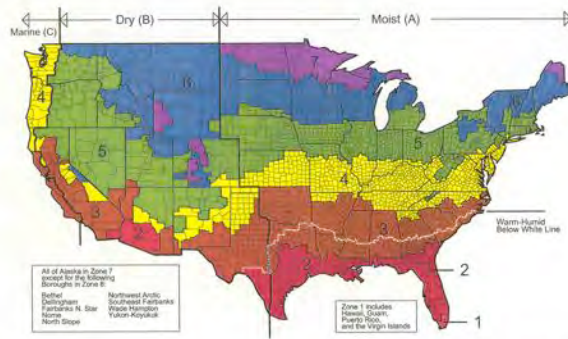
a. Contributes to but does not supersede Chapter 11 energy requirements.

... or air impermeable insulation

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- Roofs 102

Map of DOE's Proposed Climate Zones



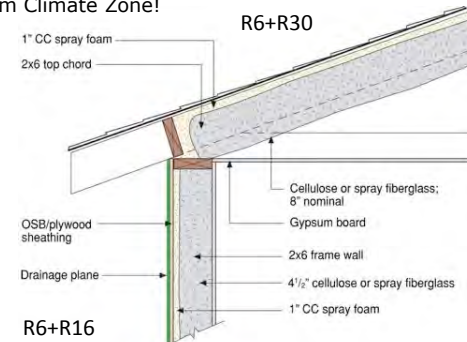
March 24, 2003

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103

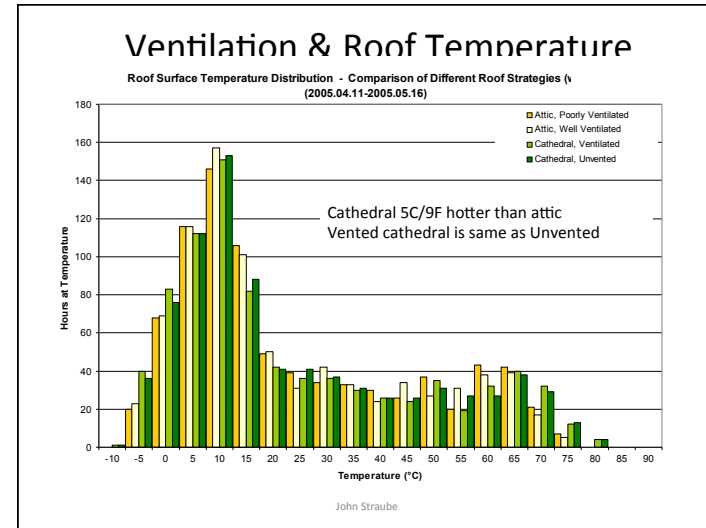
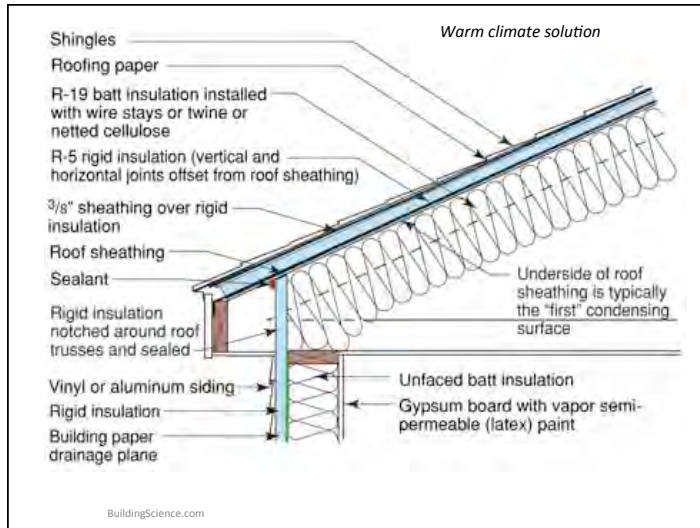
Hybrid: Air, thermal, fire

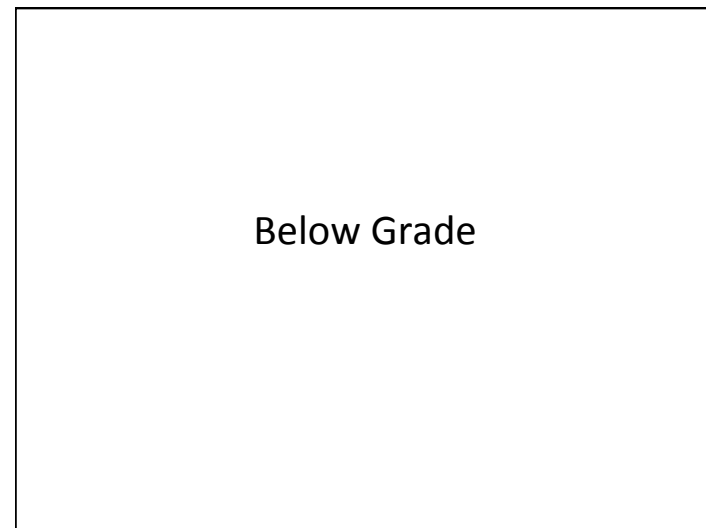
Warm Climate Zone!



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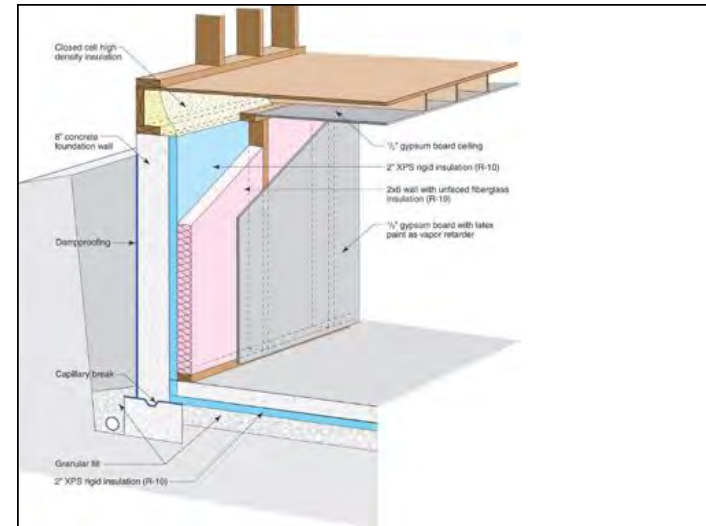
Insulation and Thermal Bridges No. 104/65



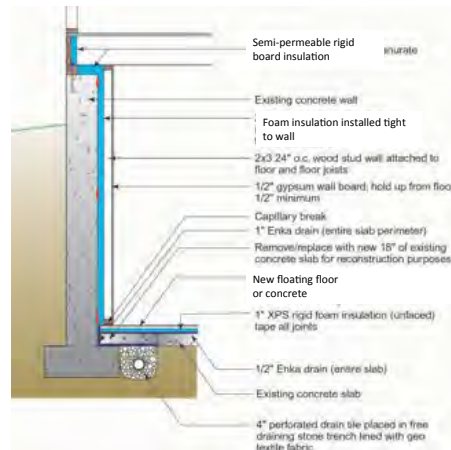


Basements & Crawlspaces

- Easy to retrofit and improve from the interior
- Ceiling height is the big restriction for slab solutions
- Crawlspaces: best to seal & Condition
- Slabs: insulate, control moisture

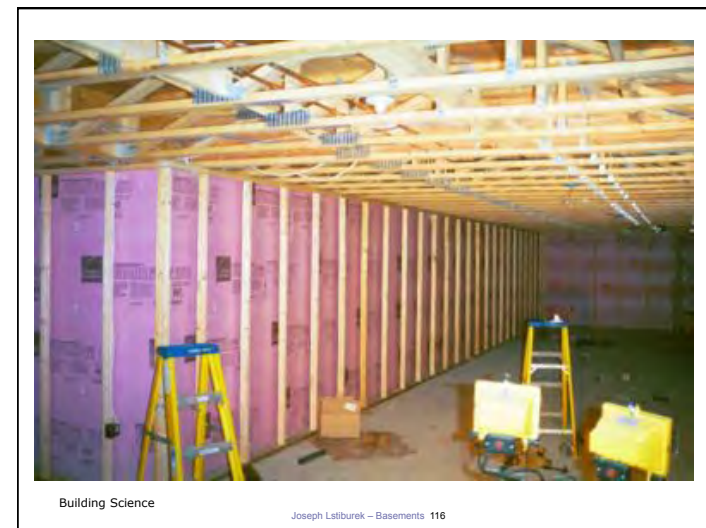


- Retrofit
- Solves slab wetness & cold



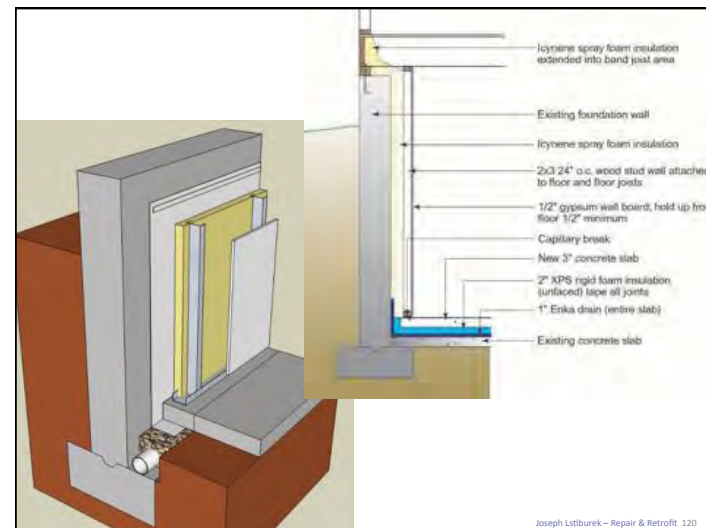
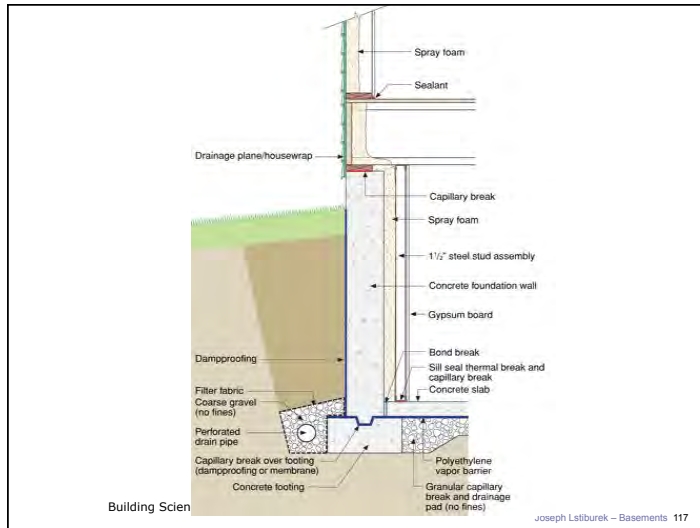
www.BuildingScience.com

Basements No. 115/73

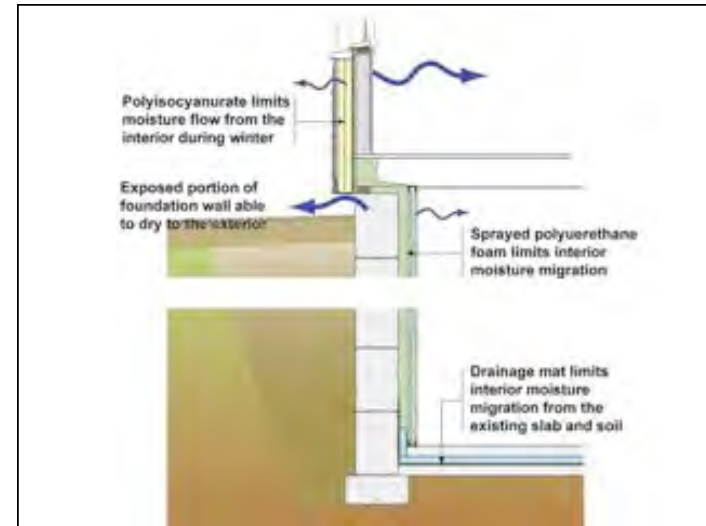
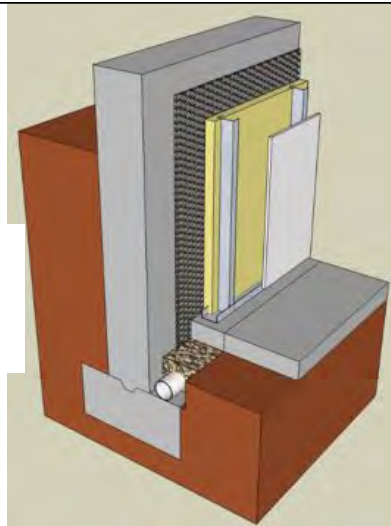


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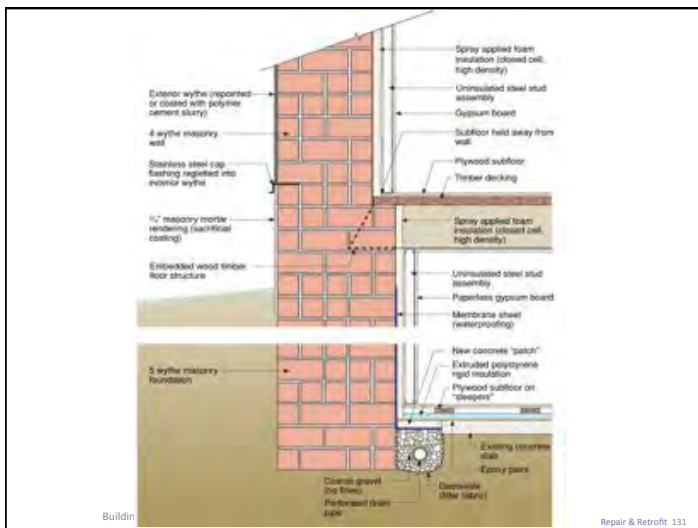
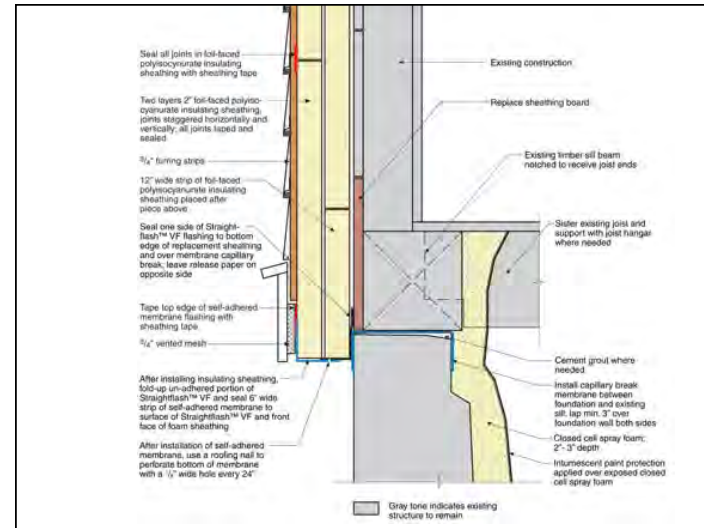
Joseph Lstiburek - Basements 116



- Full drainage layer rarely needed
- Fasten lath through to masonry to increase adhesion of foam
- Beware leaching of lime if too much leakage is allowed



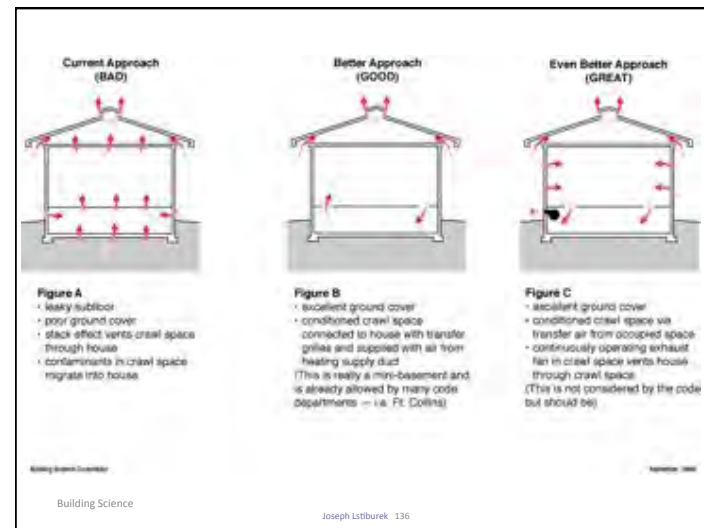
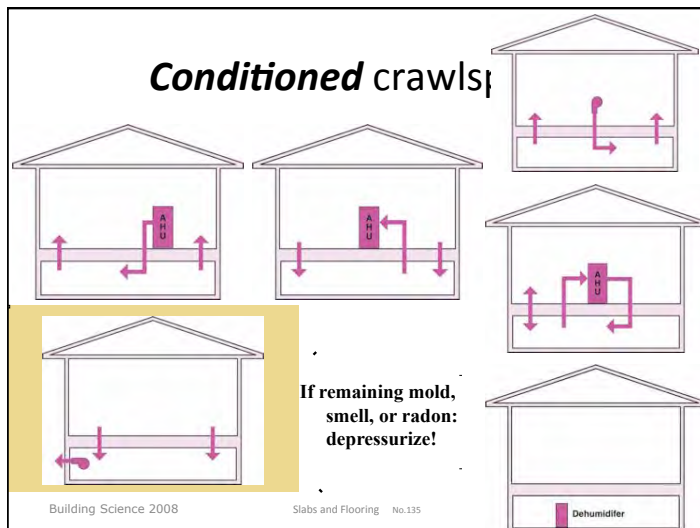
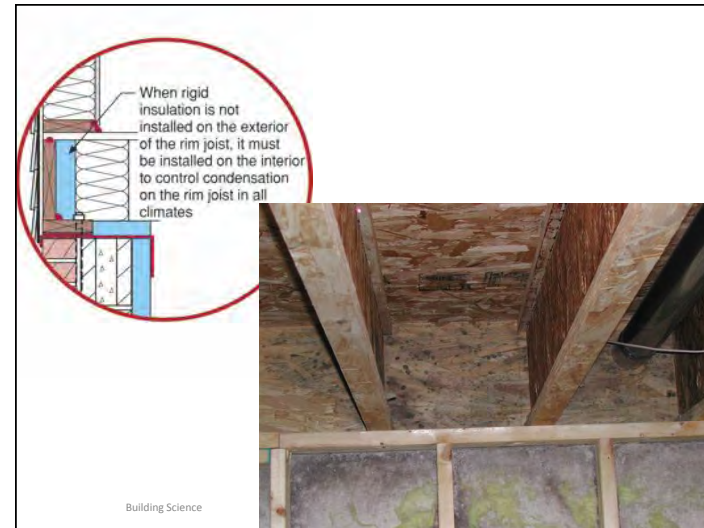
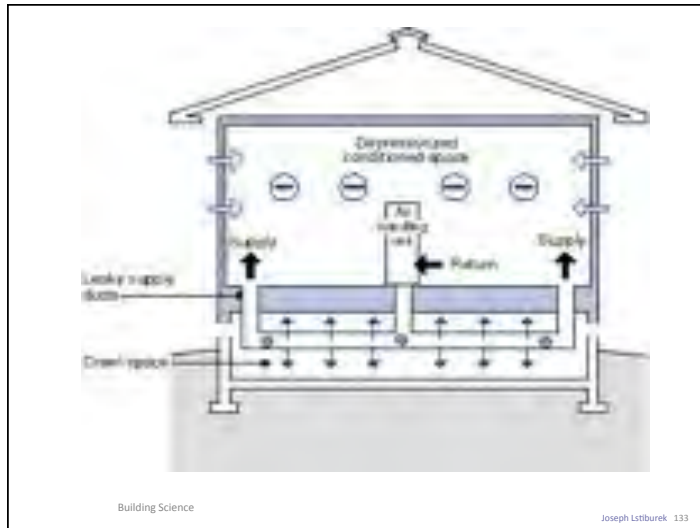




Crawlspace

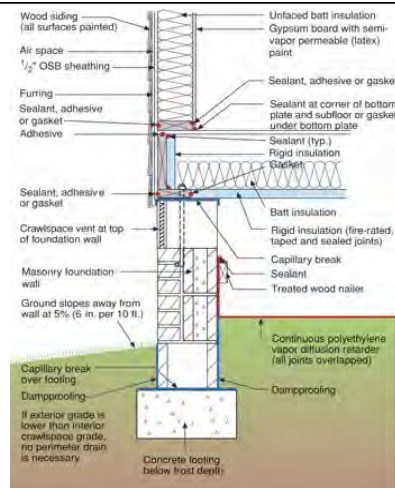
- Act as short basements
- Unvented
- **But Conditioned!**
 - Must have conditioned air to/from space
 - Air movement from conditioned space via fans, HVAC
- Airtight and vapor tight floor covering
- Floor drain?

Building Science 2008
Slabs and Floors



Vented

- Need to vent some times
- Poly on soil
- Wall upside down
- Flood drains
- Animal control



Building Science 2008

Slabs and Flooring No.137



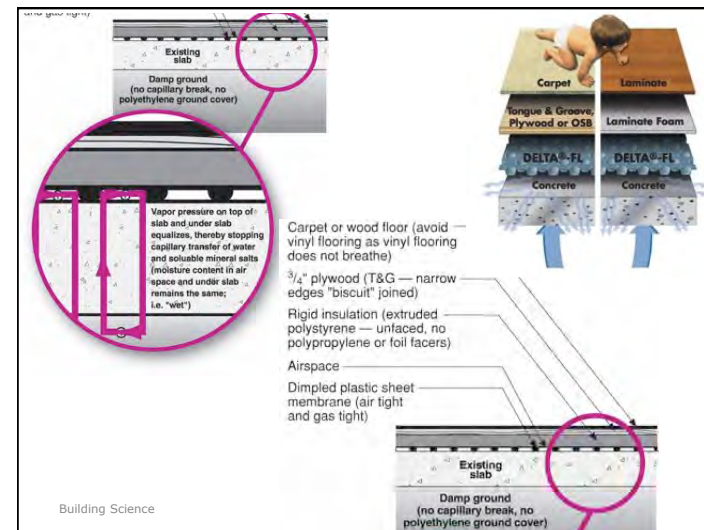
Building Science

Joseph Lstiburek 138



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Joseph Lstiburek 139



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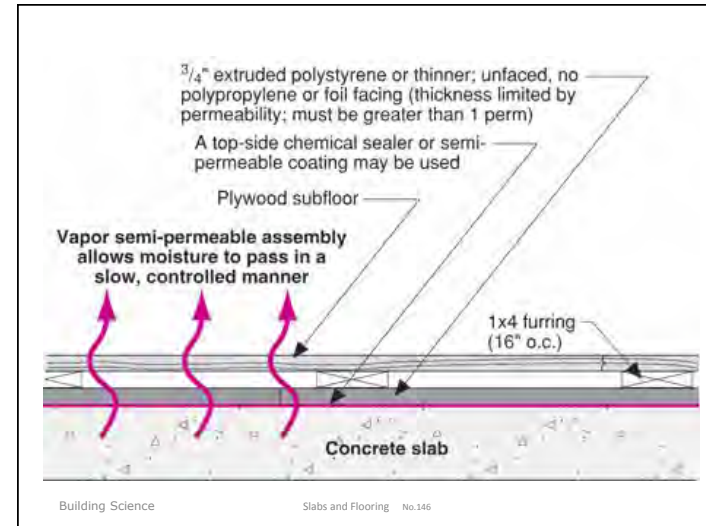


Slab Treatment – floor over existing slab
 Step 4: floating subfloor – tongue and groove sides, ends biscuit joined



10/19/2009

145



Windows

- ## Replacement & Over-Insulation
- Details vary
 - “innie” OR “outie”
 - Flanged OR Unflanged
 - Drainage plane at sheathing OR insulation exterior face
 - Eight variations

Drainage

- Add subsill drainage when new windows installed





New Windows

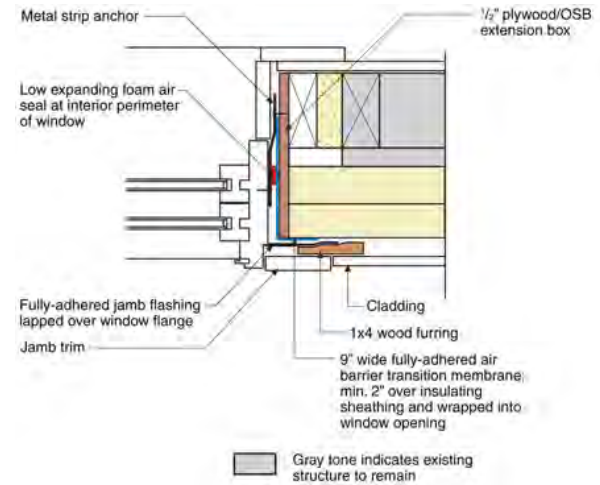
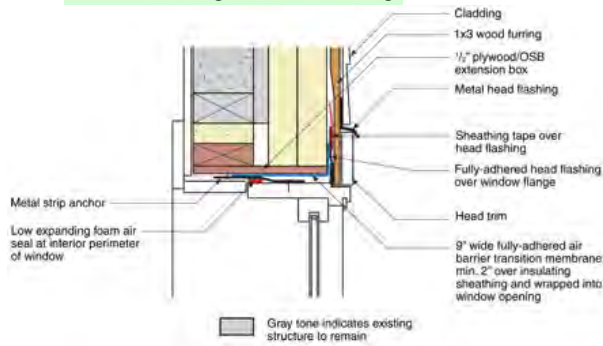


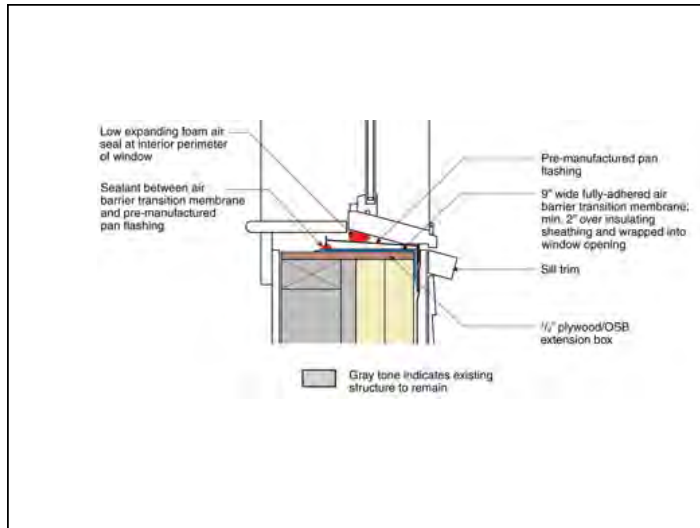
Photos courtesy of Dan Morrison, *Fine Homebuilding Magazine*

New Windows



Windows: add a window buck is best Control rain leakage, use subsill flashing





Deep Energy Retrofit Details

- Windows
 - Replacement in concrete wall

Building America Expert Meeting
12 March 2010

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Deep Energy Retrofit Details

- Windows
 - Replacement in brick and CMU wall

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- Windows
 - Replacement in wood framed wall – with flange – “innie”

3 WINDOW HEAD DETAIL
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

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12 March 2010

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- Windows
 - Replacement in wood framed wall – with flange – “innie”

1 WINDOW SILL DETAIL
SCALE: 2" = 1'-0"

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- Windows
 - Replacement in wood framed wall – with flange – “innie”

2 WINDOW JAMB DETAIL
SCALE: 2" = 1'-0"

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Deep Energy Retrofit Details

- Doors
 - Replacement in wood framed wall

1 DOOR SILL DETAIL
2 DOOR JAMB DETAIL
3 DOOR HEAD DETAIL

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Deep Energy Retrofit Details

- Windows
 - Replacement in brick wall

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Storms

- Interior and Exterior
- Key issue is operability
 - Fixed are easy and high performance
- Can improve R1 single glazing to R3 with low-e interior storms
- Storms on interior must be tight
- Exterior must be leaky (5:1 ratio)

Storms

- Airtight interior low-e storms preferred



Vent Ratios

Outside Temp. °F	Minimum Ratio of Outside to Inside Air Flow to Window Space
40	7
20	9
0	16
-20	25
-40	41



