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IRC/NRC Residential Heating, Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Research Facility

Ouazia, B.

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*Institute for
Research in
Construction*



IRC/NRC Residential Heating, Ventilation, and Indoor Air Quality Research Facility

Boualem Ouazia

Indoor Environment Research Program

Canada-Japan Workshop October 03 & 04, 2006



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Introduction

One focus of IRC research is aimed to improve Canadian housing in terms of:

- better quality construction,
- healthy indoor air quality,
- comfortable indoor thermal environment,
- energy-efficiency and durability.

IRC/NRC Vision

- residential HVAC systems
- innovative building envelopes designs,
- indoor environments contained by those envelopes and created by the HVAC systems,
- interaction between those indoor environments, the building envelope and real Canadian weather.
- improved moisture management strategies for houses to avoid mould problems.

V&IAQ Research House

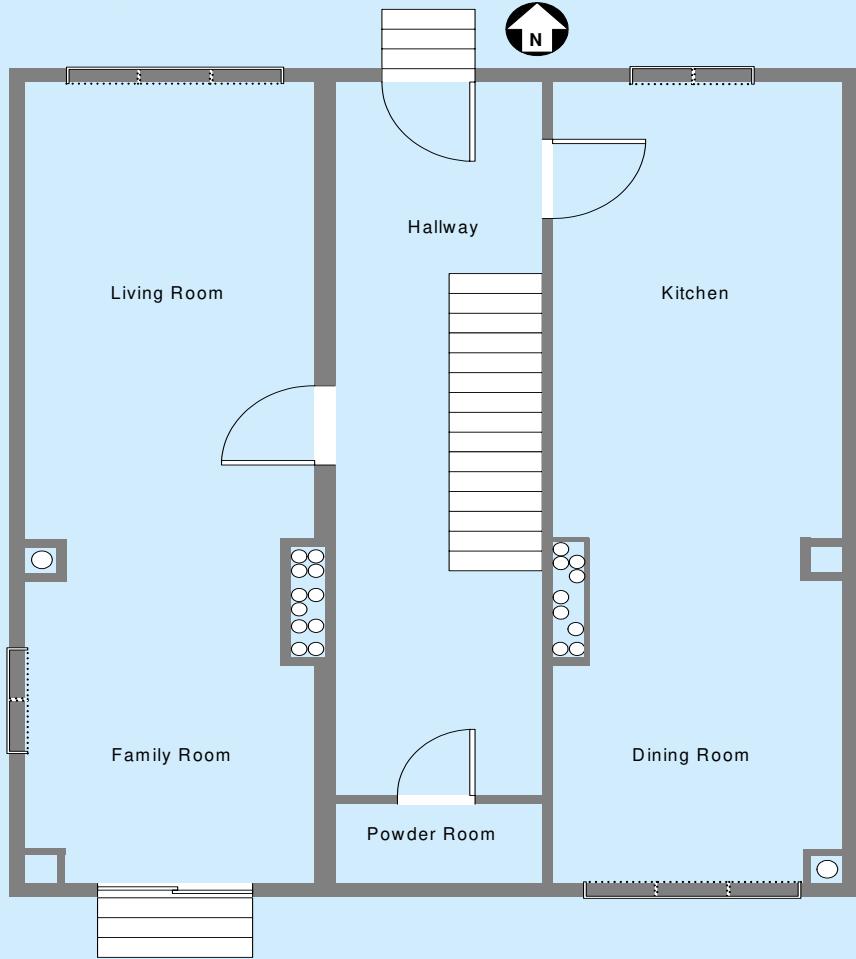
- Ventilation
- Air infiltration
- Space heating & cooling
- Efficient energy use
- Indoor air quality
- Thermal comfort



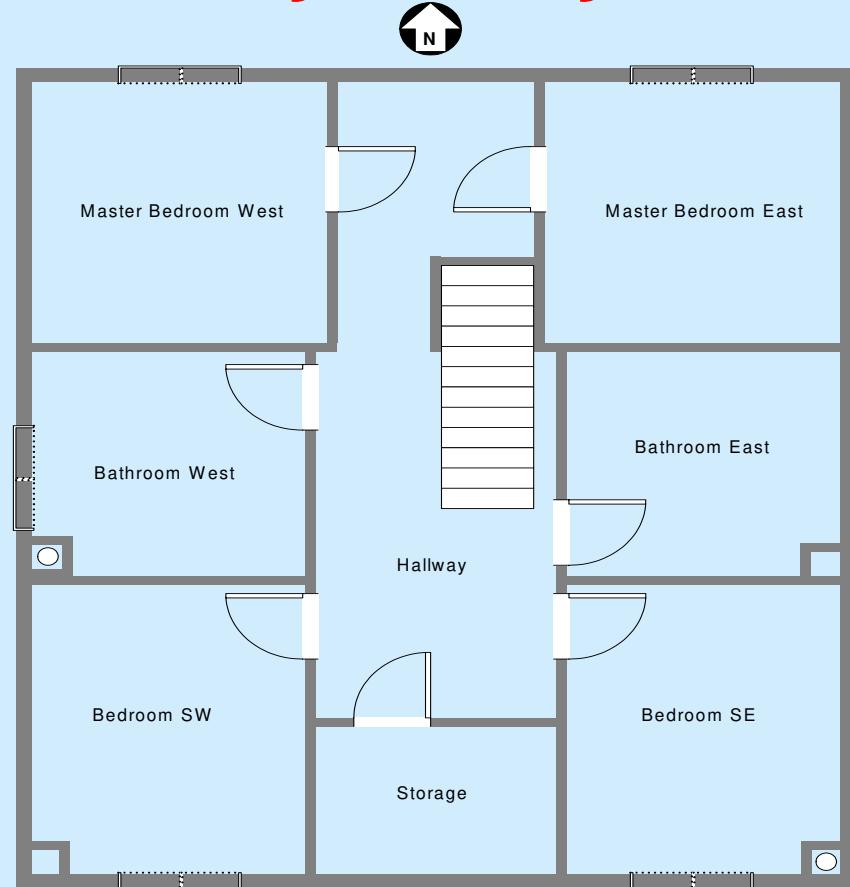
Research House Description

- Completely flexible room configuration
- Forced-air heating system now fully-zoned, configured for east-west symmetry and connections for two furnaces
- Automated zone-by-zone control for radiant floor and forced-air heating
- Fully-zoned automated tracer gas sampling & dosing system with multiple tracer gas capability.

Room Layout Reconfigured for E-W Symmetry



First Floor



Second Floor

Heating and Cooling Systems

- High-efficiency propane or electrical furnace for forced-air system
- Central air-conditioning with R-410A, 13 SEER
- Instantaneous water heaters for radiant system

Dual Forced-Air Furnace Connections



East-West

Split Configuration



Fully-zoned Reconfigured Forced-Air System Capable of East-West Split Operation

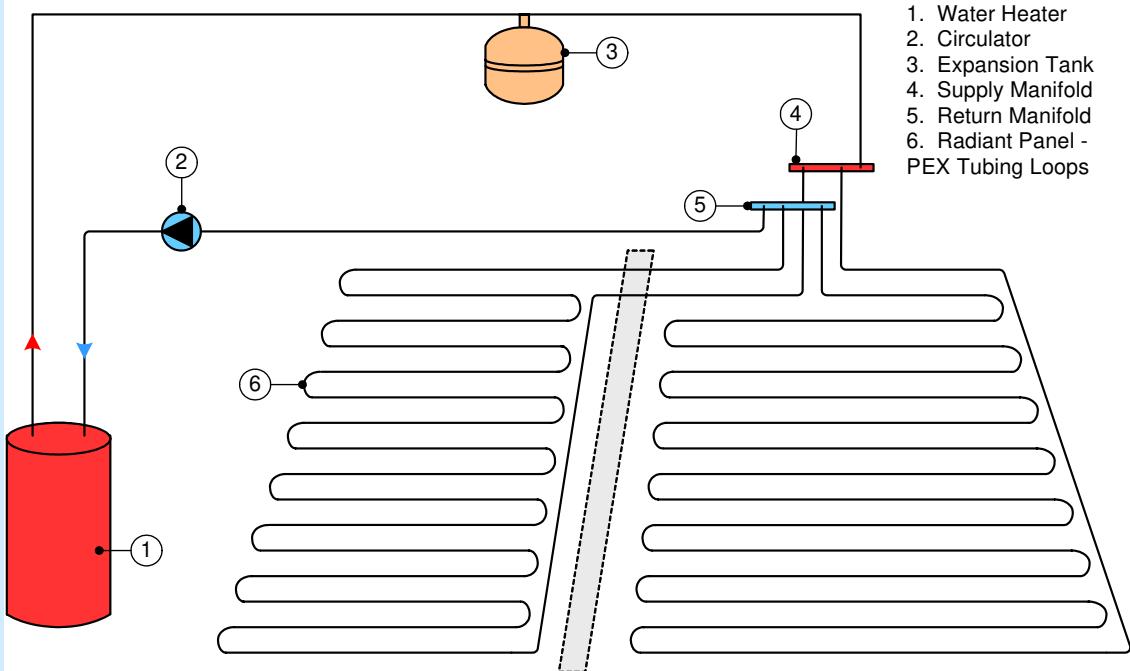
Ducts, Flow Meters & Actuators



High-Efficiency 13 SEER R-410A Air Conditioning

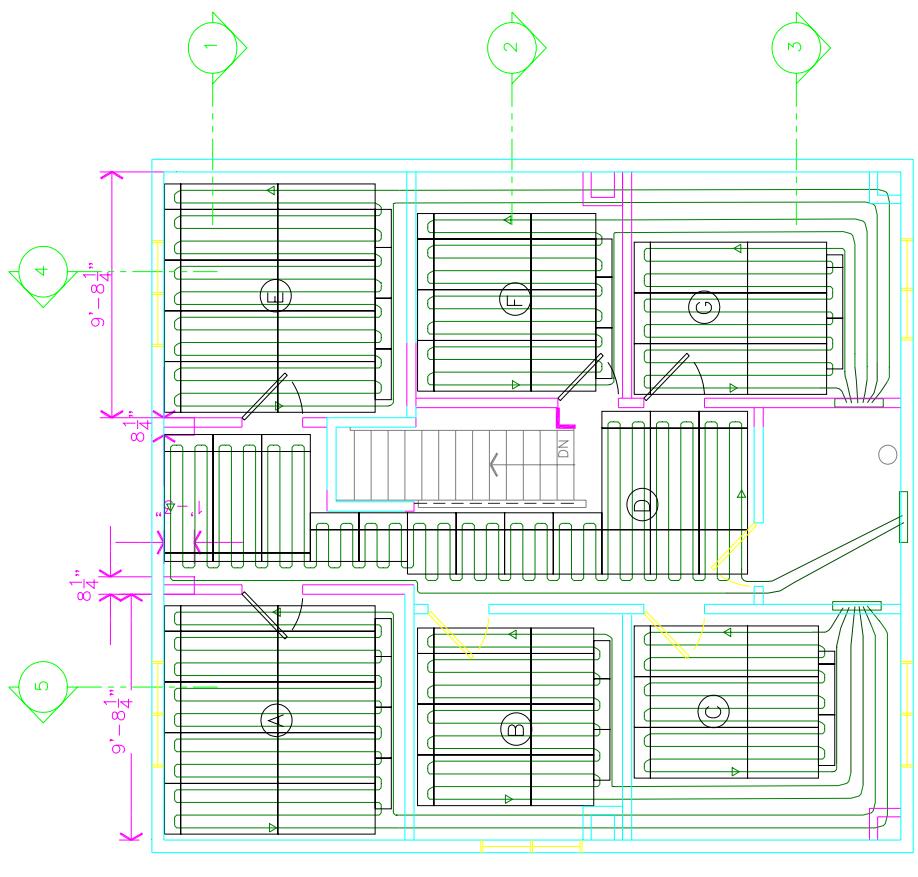


Hydronic Radiant Floor Heating system

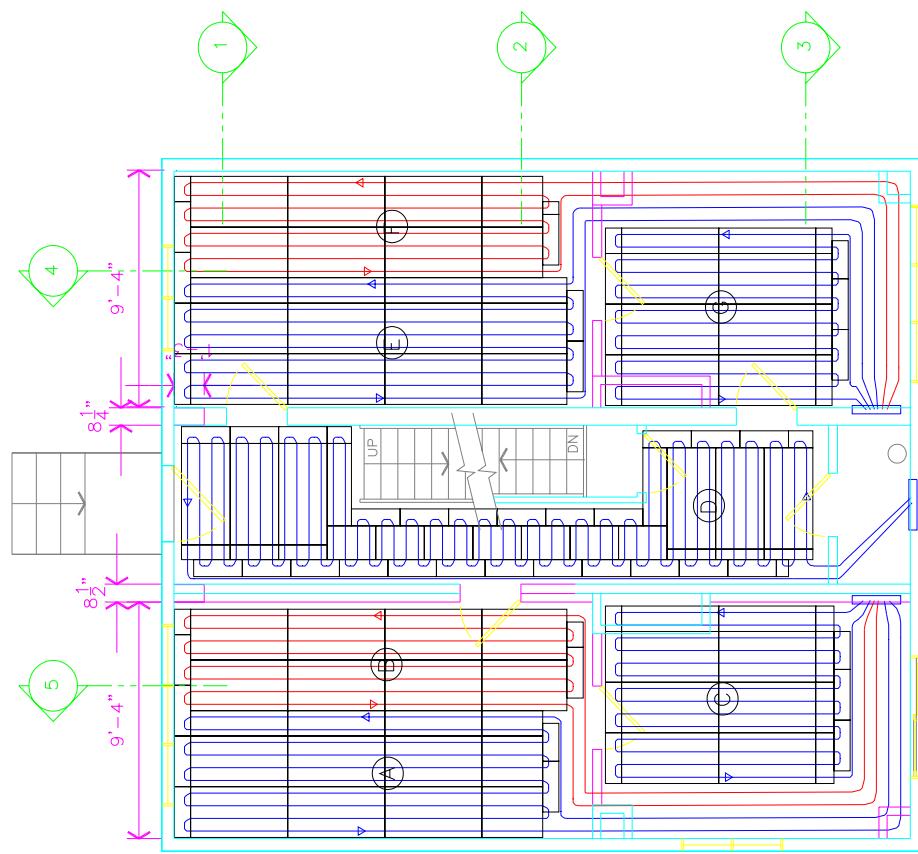


Boiler Circuit

Fully-Zoned Radiant Floor Heating System

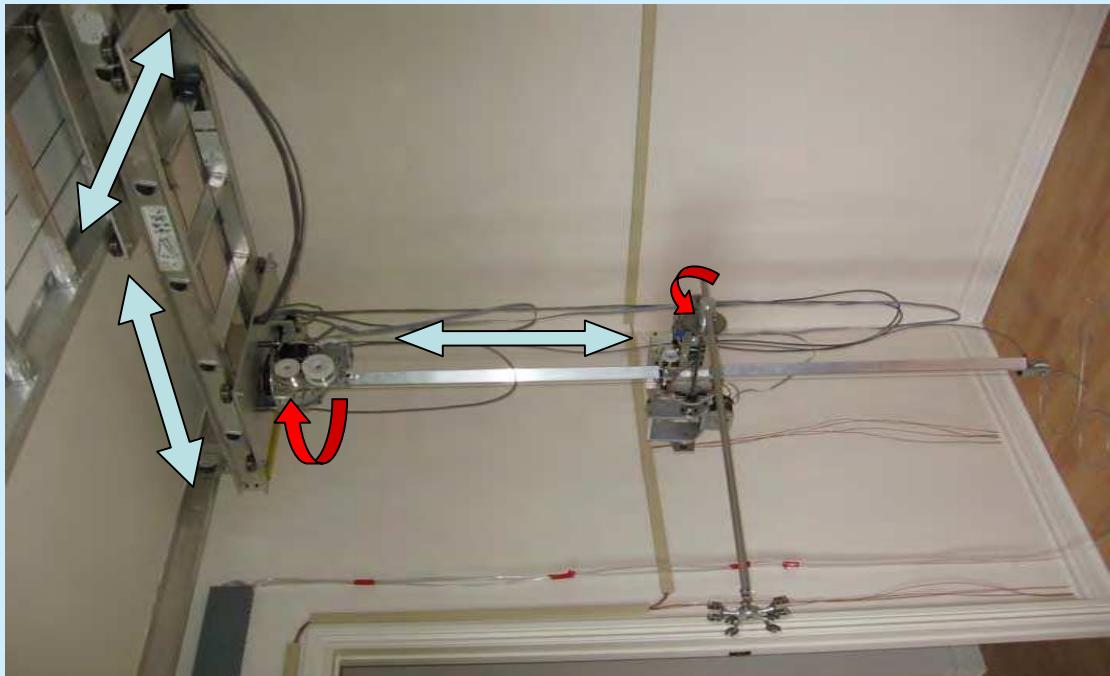


SECOND FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Automated 3-D System & IR Camera



- Relative humidity
- Air speed
- Dry bulb
- Mean radiant and,
- Operative temperature

Current Research Projects in Research House Facility

Project 1 - Energy-efficient Hybrid Heating

(IRC/NRC, PERD, NRCan, Roth Canada & Flexco)

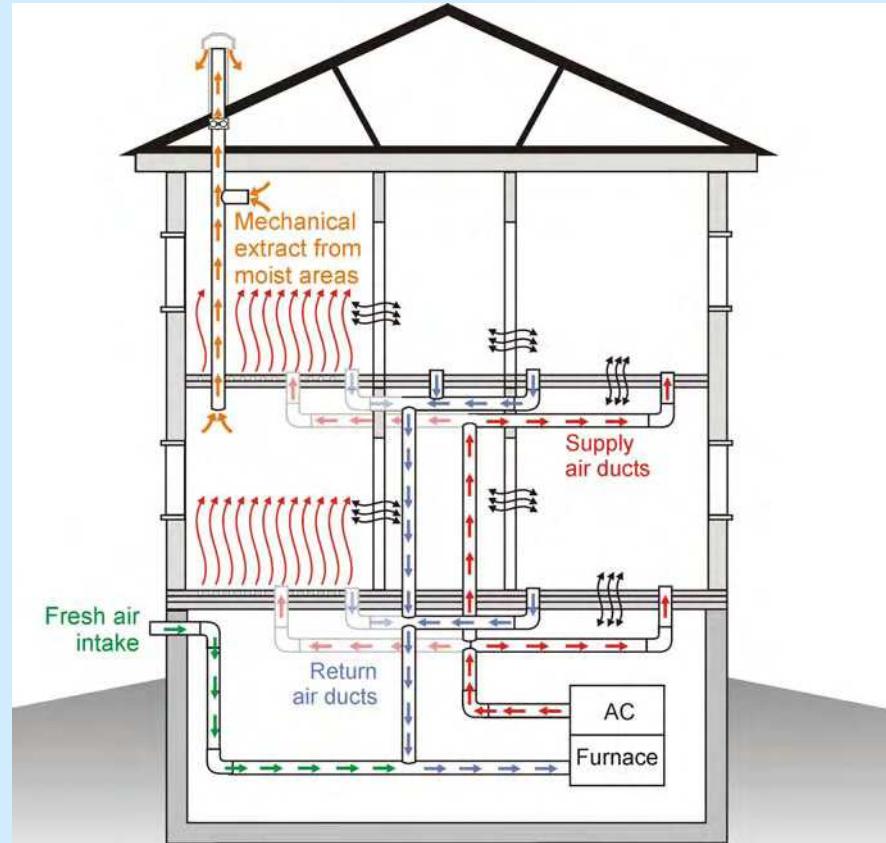
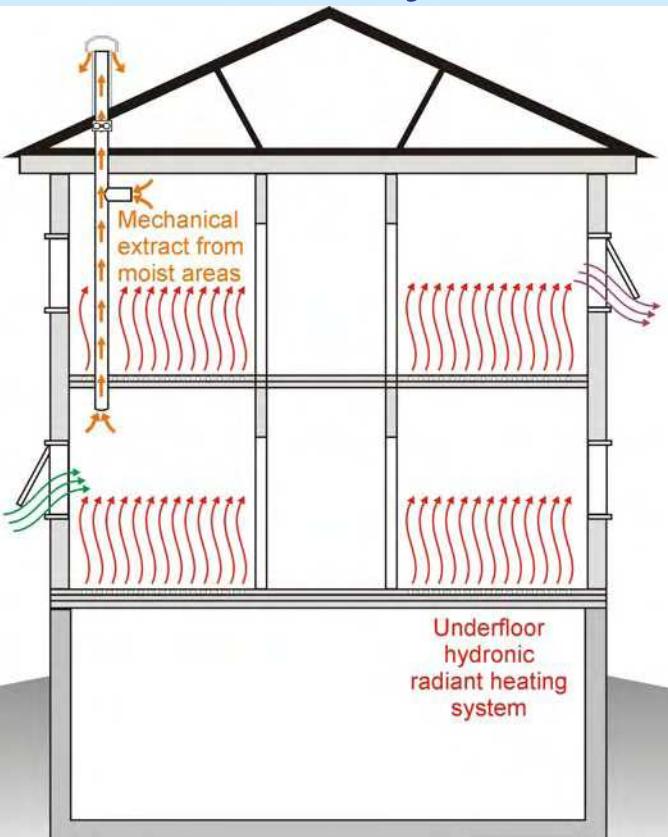
Project 2 - Energy-efficient Hybrid Ventilation Systems

(IRC/NRC, PERD, NRCan & CMHC)

Project 1

Energy-efficient Hybrid Heating

Compare radiant floor heating vs. forced-air heating
& examine hybrid combinations of both



Experimental Approach

- Compare total energy consumption for whole house heating by each of forced-air and radiant floor systems.
- Assess thermal comfort quality delivered by each heating system.
- Determine energy required by each system's components to deliver the thermal comfort achieved.
- Investigate influence of required supplemental ventilation on overall energy consumption.
- Assess envelope transmission losses for each heating system.
- Assess control strategies and potential further system optimization.

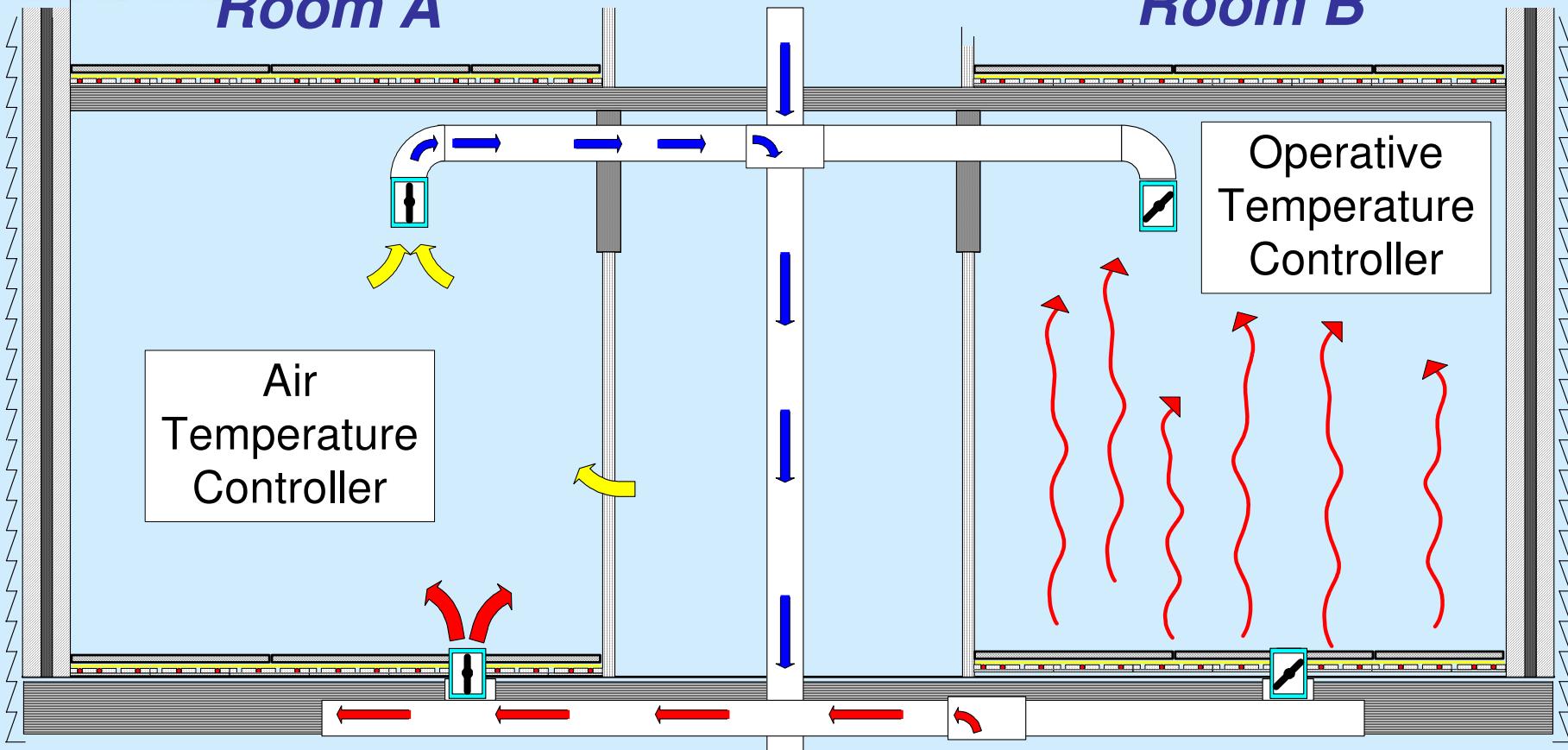
Comparative System Analysis

Room A

Air
Temperature
Controller

Room B

Operative
Temperature
Controller



Forced-Air Heating

Radiant floor Heating

Side-by-Side Comparison

Thermal Comfort / Acceptability Criteria

International standards and guidelines
(ISO 7730 1994, CR 1752 1998, ASHRAE 55-1994)

General thermal comfort

- Operative temperature (air temperature & mean radiant temperature)
 - Winter (heating season)
 $20^{\circ}\text{C} - 24^{\circ}\text{C}$ for people at 1.2 met & 1.0 clo

Local thermal comfort

- Floor surface temperature range $19^{\circ}\text{C} - 29^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Vertical air temperature difference (head-feet $< 3^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Air speed $< 0.2 \text{ m/s}$

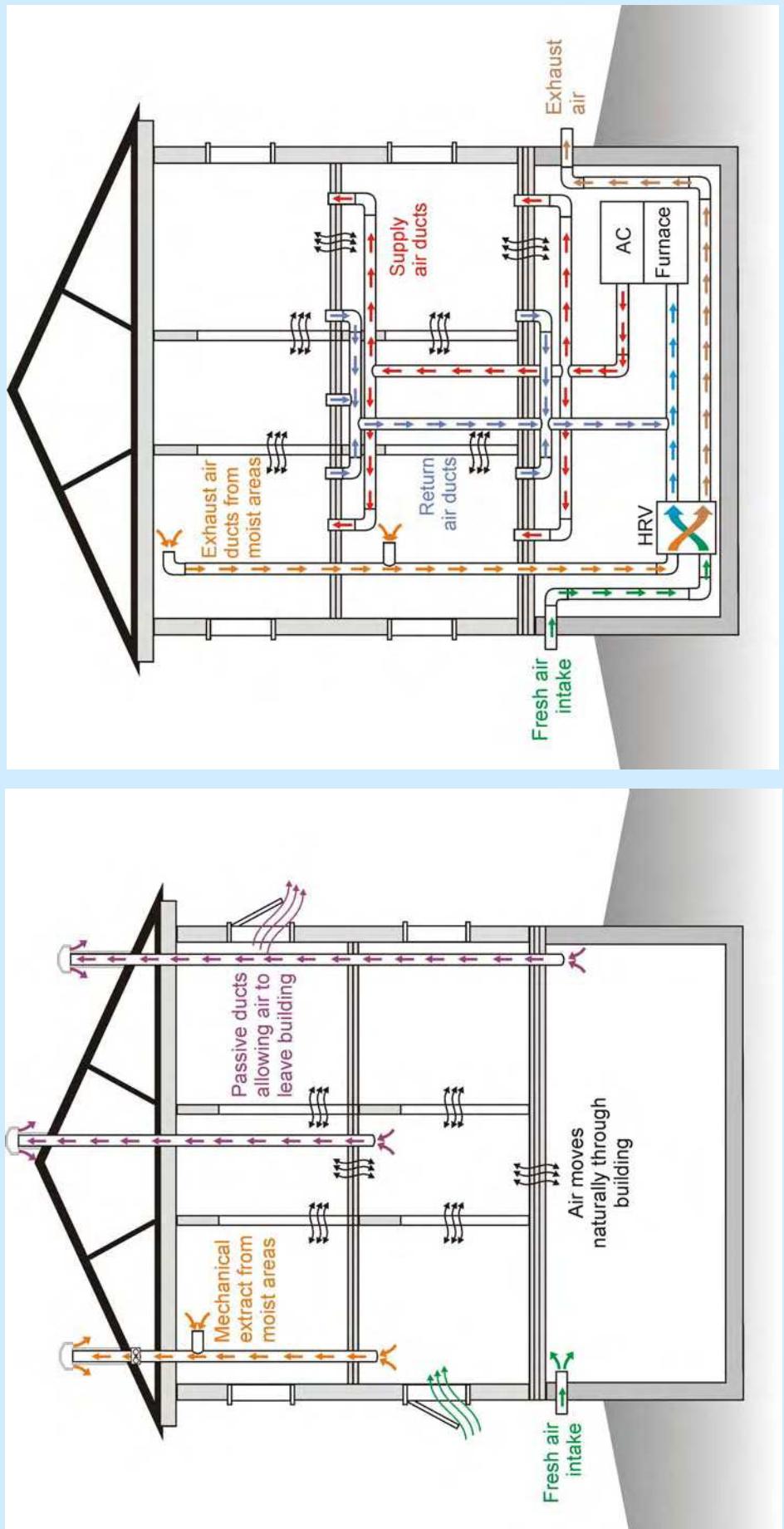
Project 2

Energy-efficient Hybrid Ventilation Systems

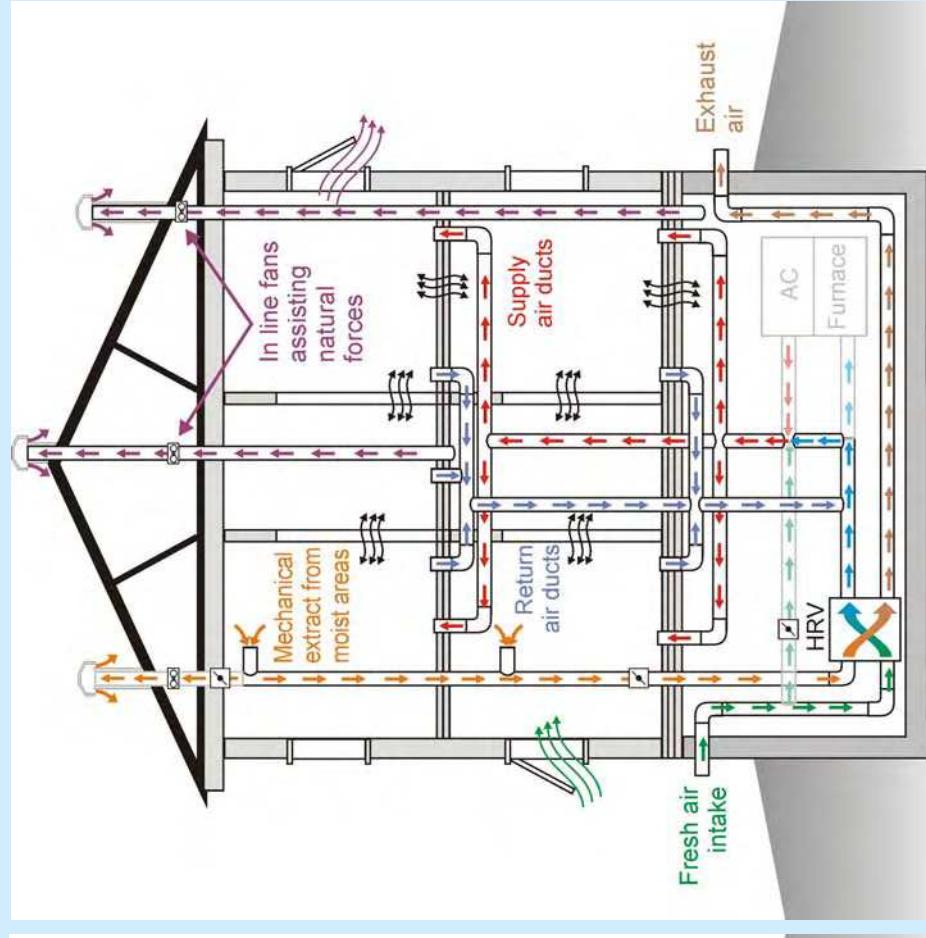
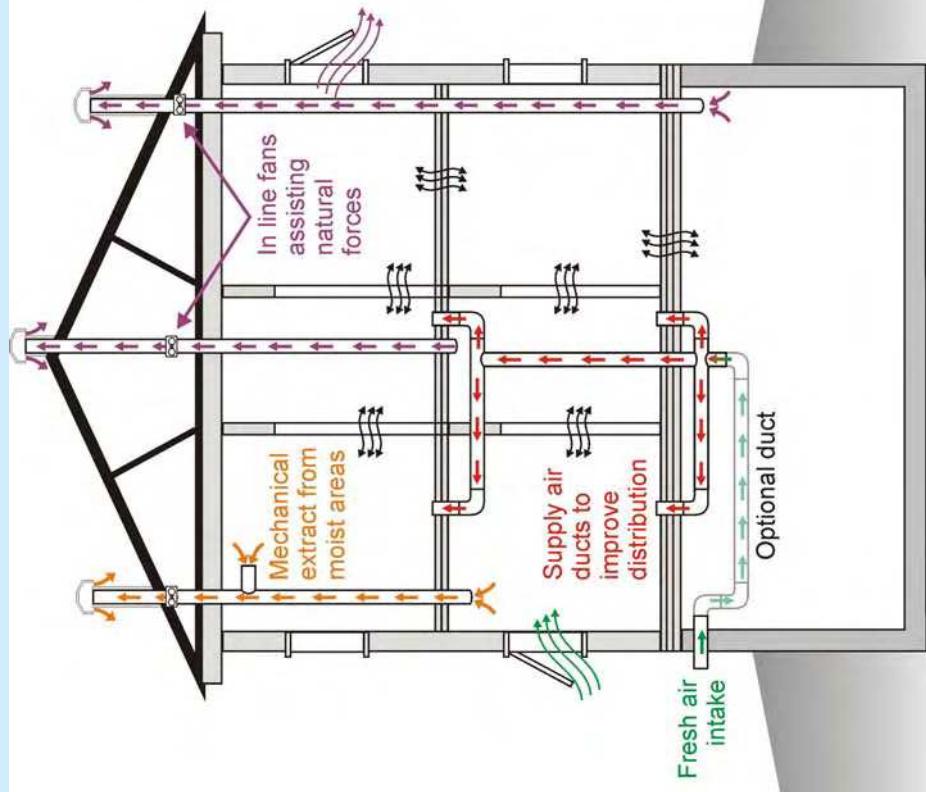
Comparison monitoring, for wide range of weather conditions:

- Mechanical ventilation system alone,
- Natural ventilation system alone, and
- Hybrid ventilation
 - mechanically-assisted natural
 - passive-supplemented mechanical

Passive Stack Ventilation Mechanical Ventilation



Mechanically-Assisted & Passive-Supplemented Mechanical Ventilation

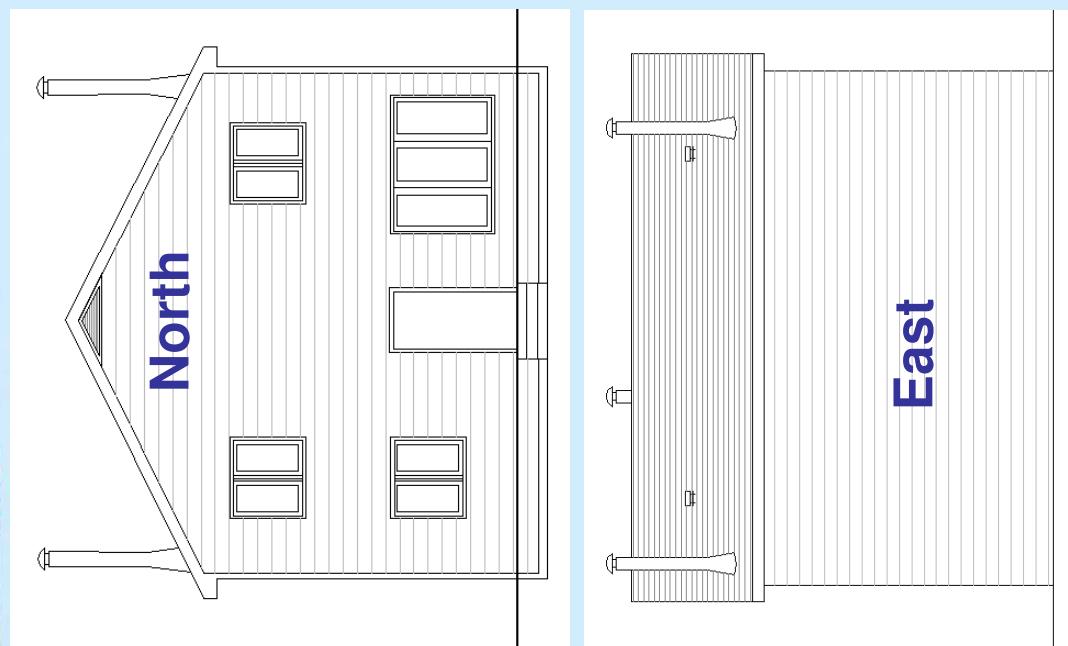
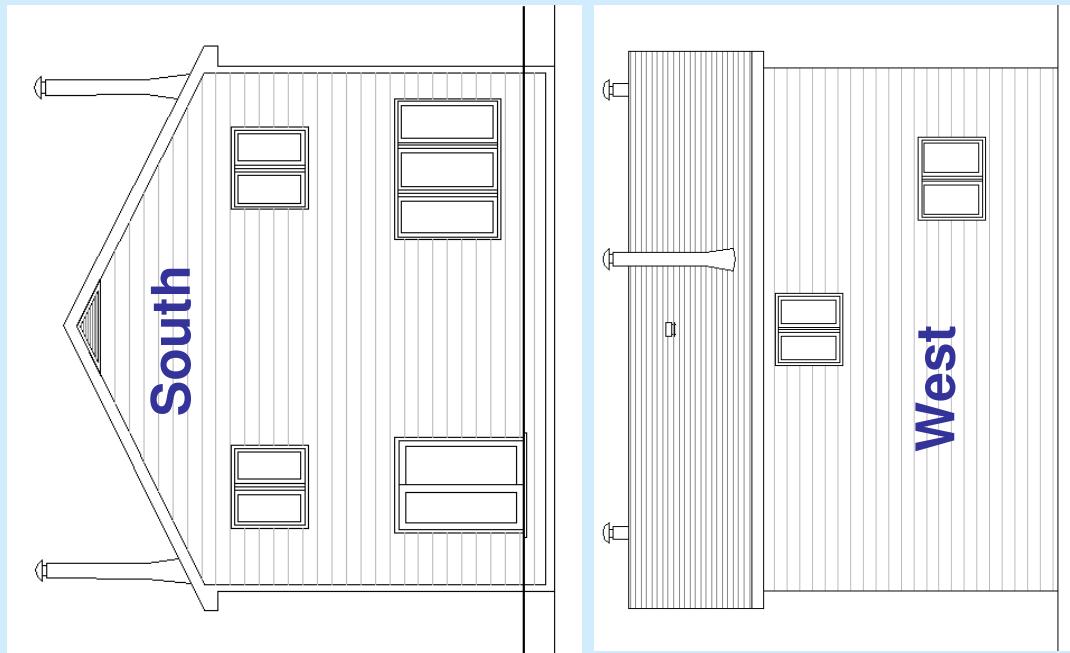


Experiments, Simulation & Expected Results

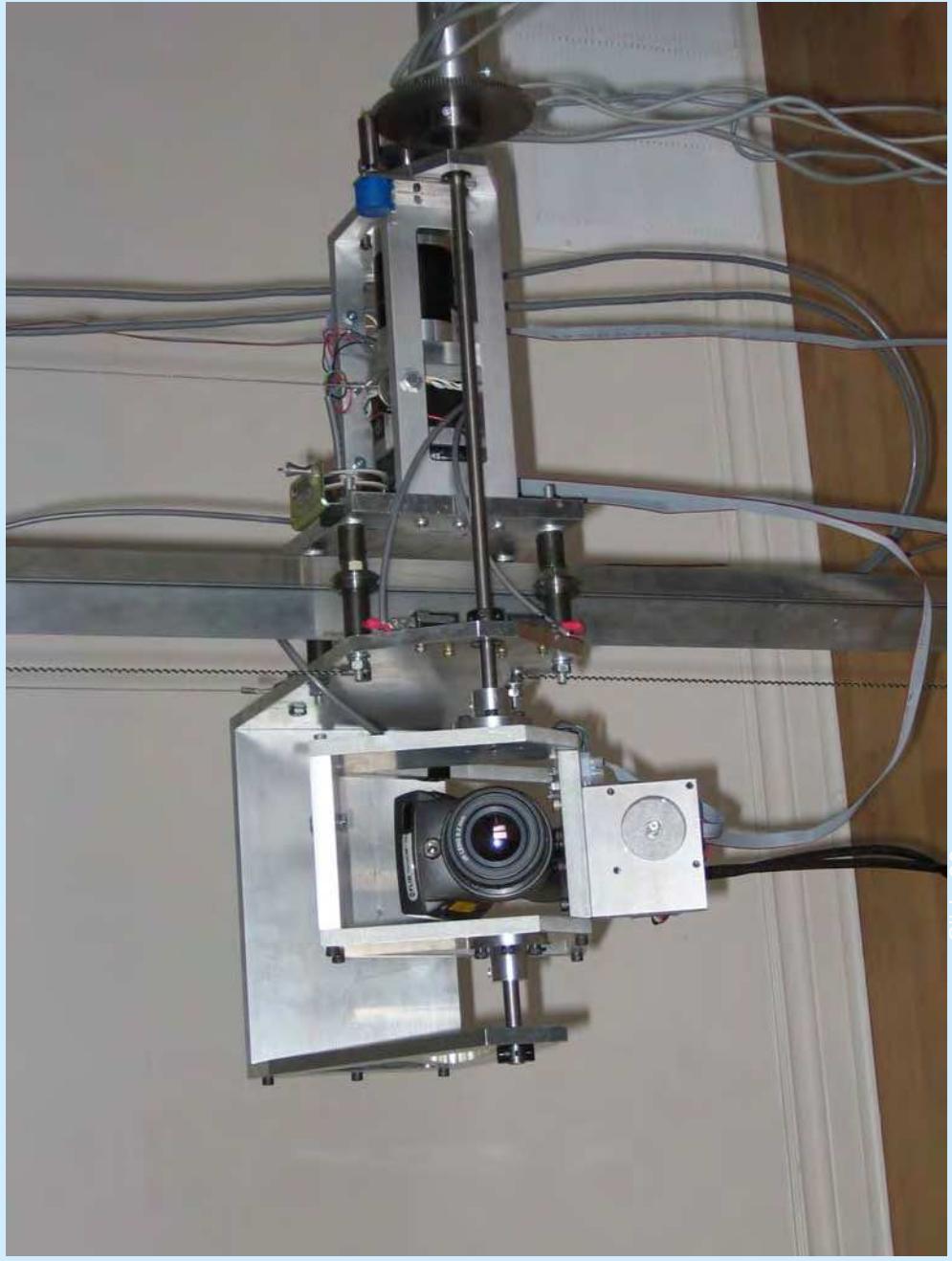
- Hybrid Heating - Fall, winter & spring 2006/2007
 - Experiments to evaluate performance of radiant floor heating system vs forced-air heating system.
- Hybrid Ventilation – Spring, summer & fall 2007 and Winter 2007/2008
 - Experiments to evaluate performance of providing ventilation for houses using hybrid approach (using mechanical assistance to supplement natural ventilation when required).
- Building Energy Simulation and CFD Modeling

THANK YOU

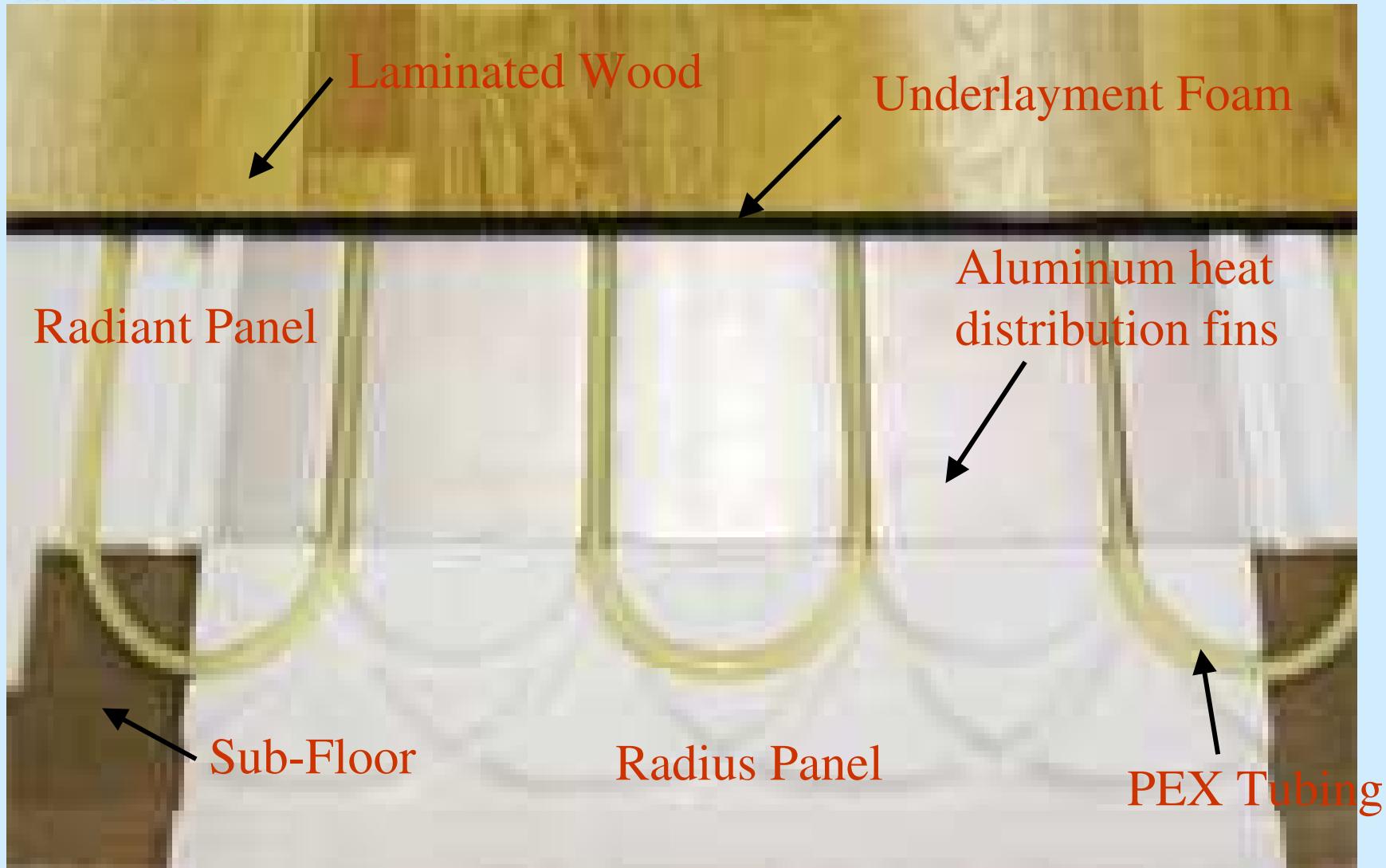
Facades



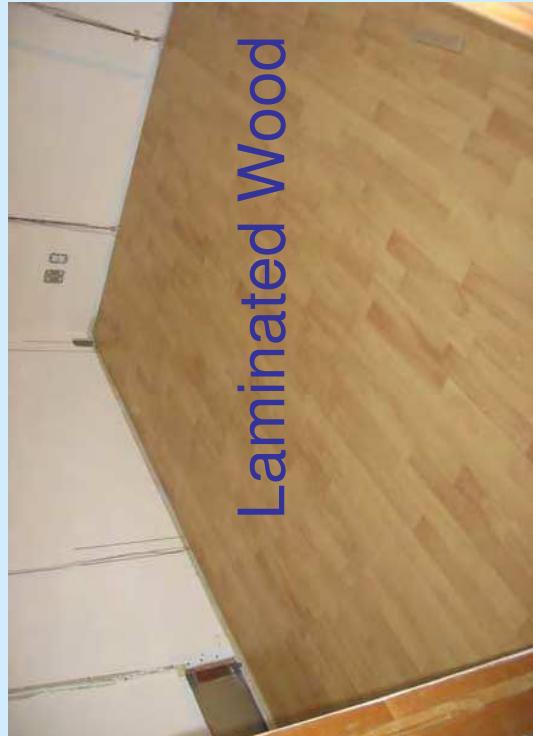
Infrared Camera for Thermographic Imaging



Roth Hydronic Radiant Panel System



Radiant Flooring Installation



Issues Related to Radiant Floor Heating

- Thermal comfort delivered to zone demand
- Energy consumption to deliver thermal comfort
- Energy savings potential by reduced $T_{DryBulb}$
- Thermal mass impact on start-up, overheating, set-back
- Control strategies and sensor input
- Indoor environment impact of warm flooring
- Ventilation air distribution without forced-air ducts and circulation

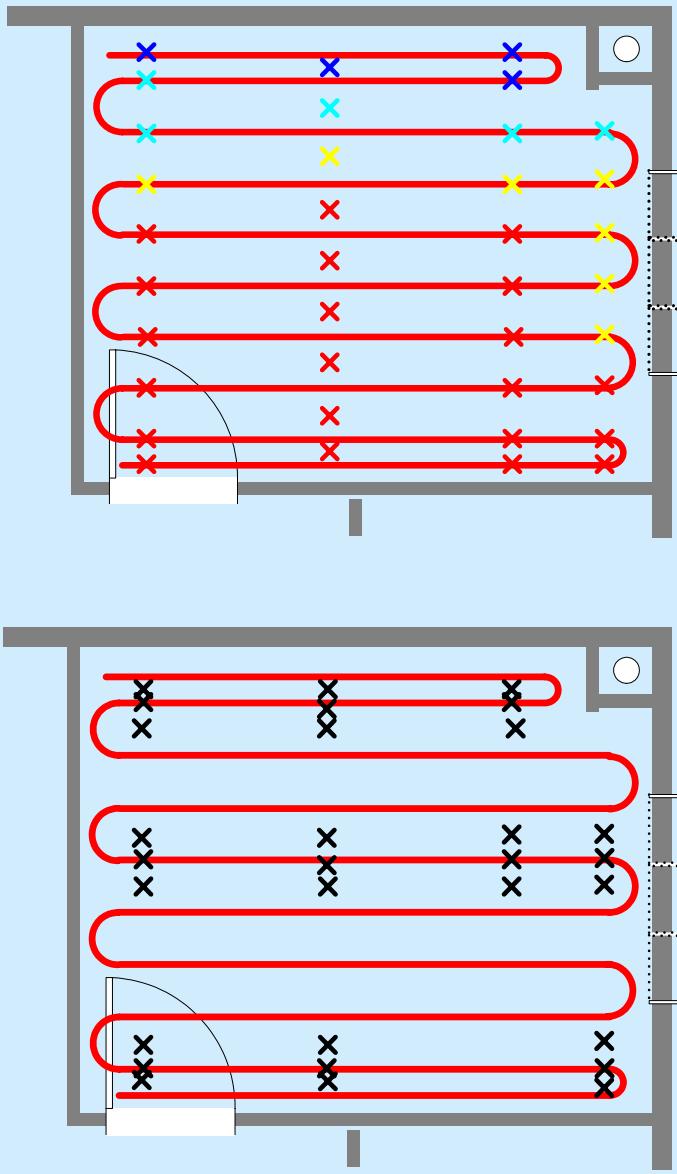
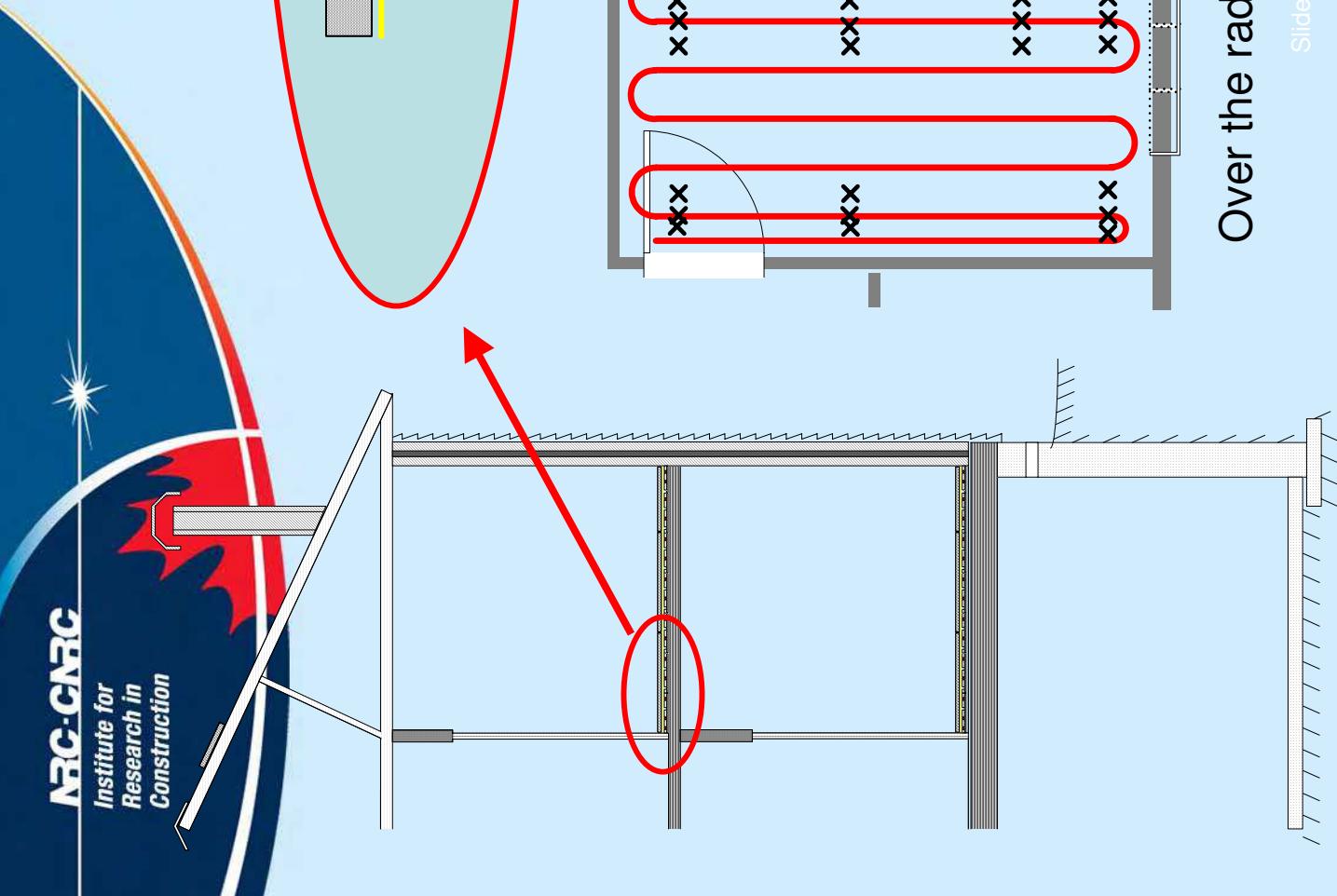
Multiple Tracer Gas System with Automatic Sampling & Dosing



Data Acquisition System

- Flows and temperatures in radiant floor heating circuits and forced-air ducts.
- Water supply, propane supply and electrical supply rates for each system.
- External conditions including: wind velocity, humidity, temperature and solar radiation.
- Two robotic thermal environment measurement systems.
- Relative humidities and temperatures at air and surface locations.

Floor Temperature Distribution



Over the radiant panel

Over the laminate flooring

Air Temperature Distribution

