

# Welcome

We Should Know Better: Top 10 Multifamily Design Mistakes



**EEBA**<sup>TM</sup>



HIGH PERFORMANCE  
HOME SUMMIT 2019

OCTOBER 1-3 \ DENVER, CO

Energy & Environmental Building Association  
**Certificate of Completion**

*is hereby granted to:*

*Steven Klocke*

---

*to certify completion of 8 hours of training  
AIA Provider Number G138, Program Number 000HTW*

***Houses That Work™***

*June 12, 2006*

*Cedar Rapids, IA*



*Dona Schneider*

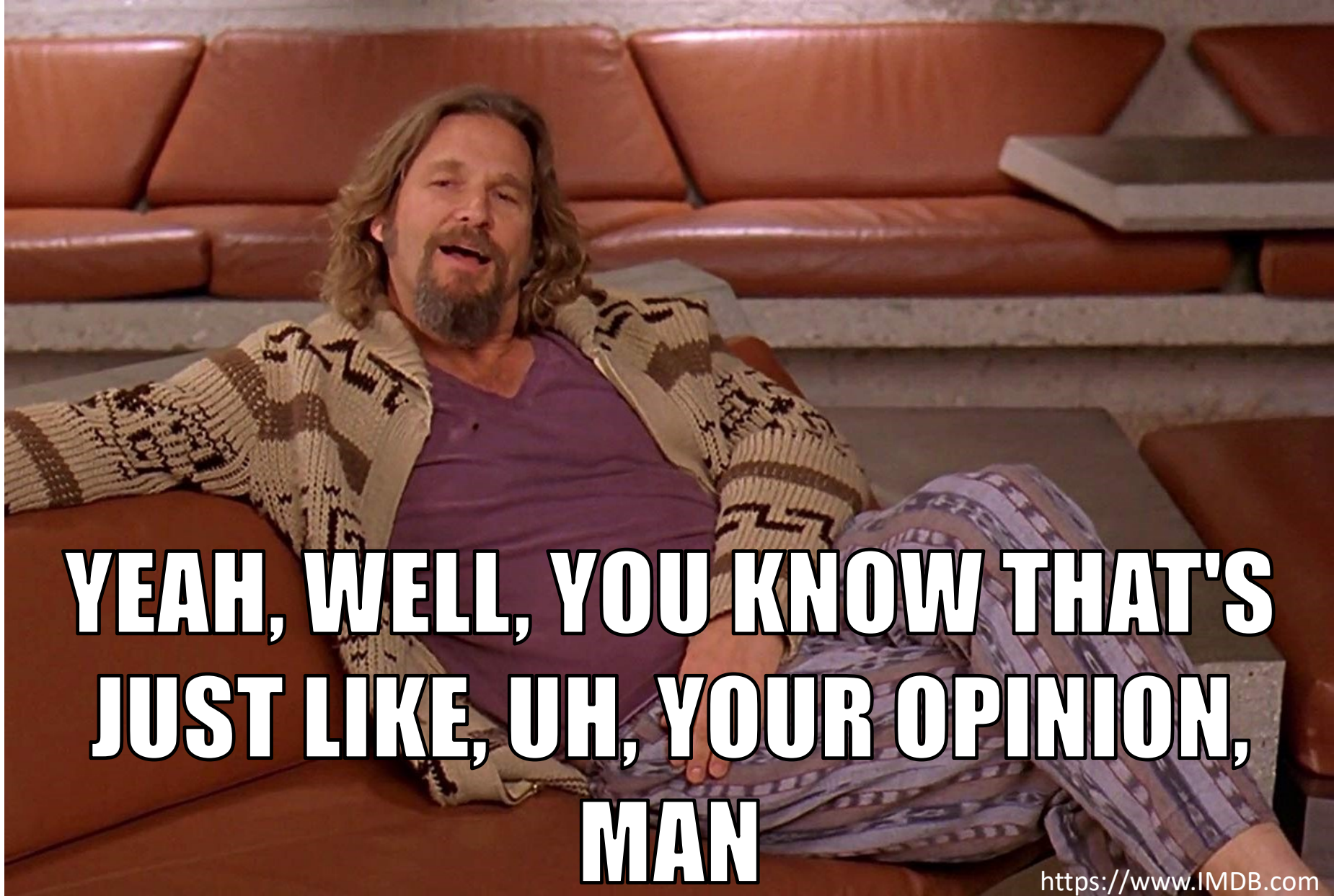
*Dona Schneider, Conference and Program Administrator*



1. Overcomplicated Geometry
2. Design Irregularities
3. Thermal Bridging: Roofs & Walls
4. Thermal Bridging: Slabs
5. Poorly Detailed Air Barrier
6. No Lighting Controls
7. Improperly Sized HVAC
8. Antiquated Ventilation
9. Oversized DHW Distribution
10. Poor Communication

We  
Should  
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Top 10 Multifamily  
Design Mistakes



**YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW THAT'S  
JUST LIKE, UH, YOUR OPINION,  
MAN**

<https://www.IMDB.com>



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Top 10 Multifamily  
Design Mistakes



9247-E

9247-E

9247-E

9248-G

9248-E

9247-C

9247-D

92

9247-E

9247-E

9247-E

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187 6th Ave

New York



Google, Inc.



Street View - Dec 2017

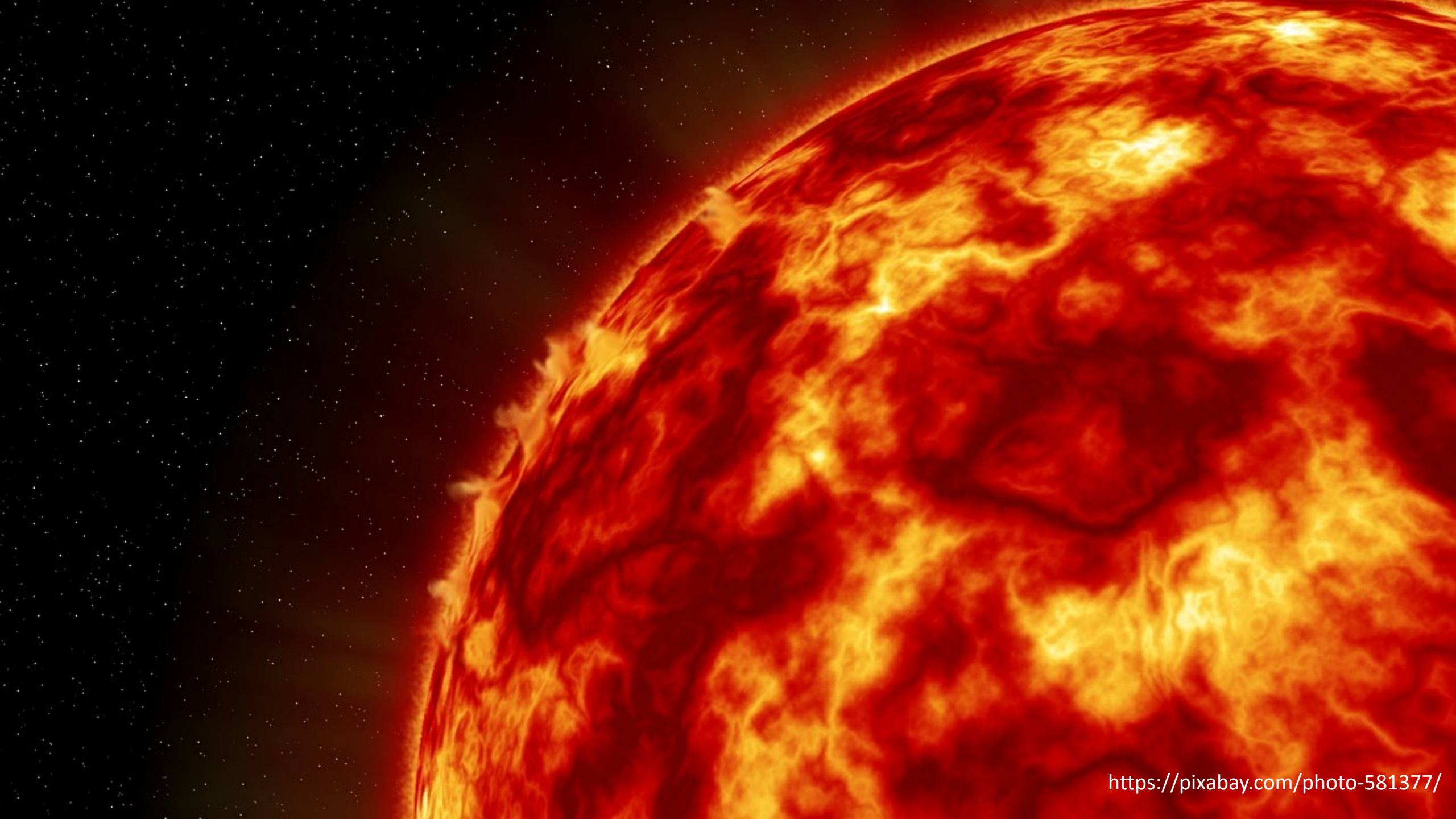














By JD Lasica from Pleasanton, CA, US (John Mayer)  
[CC BY 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)]

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<https://www.amazon.com>





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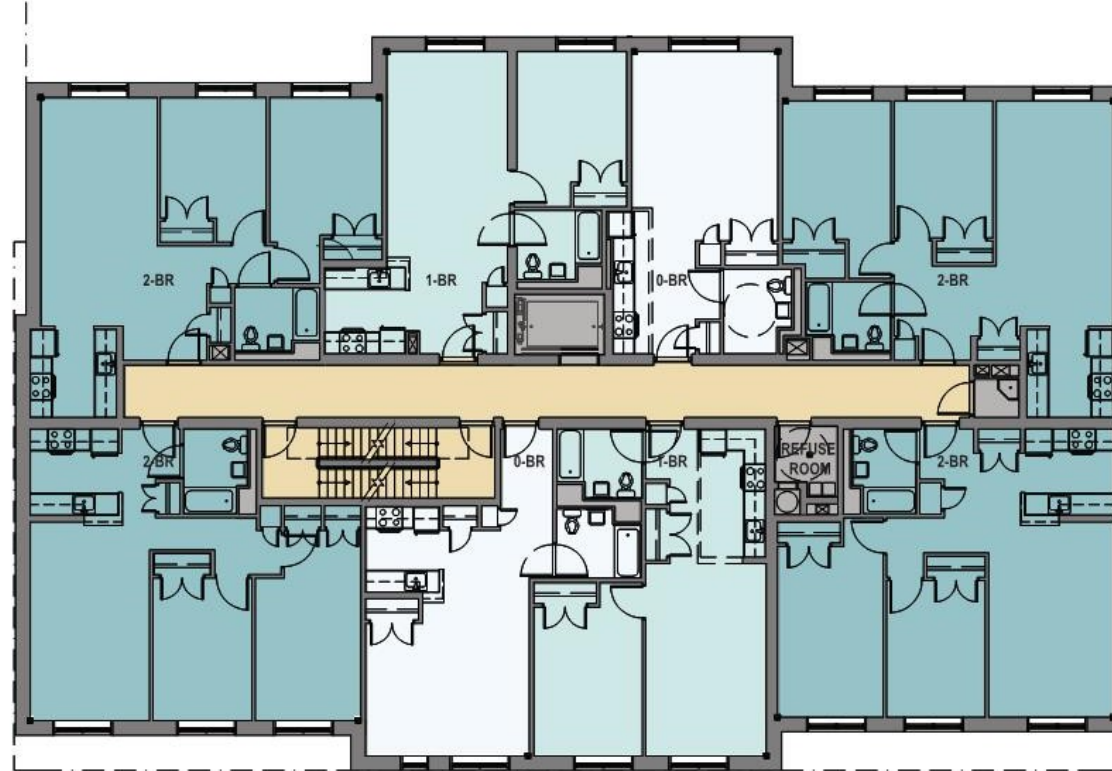
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**LEGEND**

-  0-BR
-  1-BR
-  2-BR
-  CIRCULATION
-  UTILITY

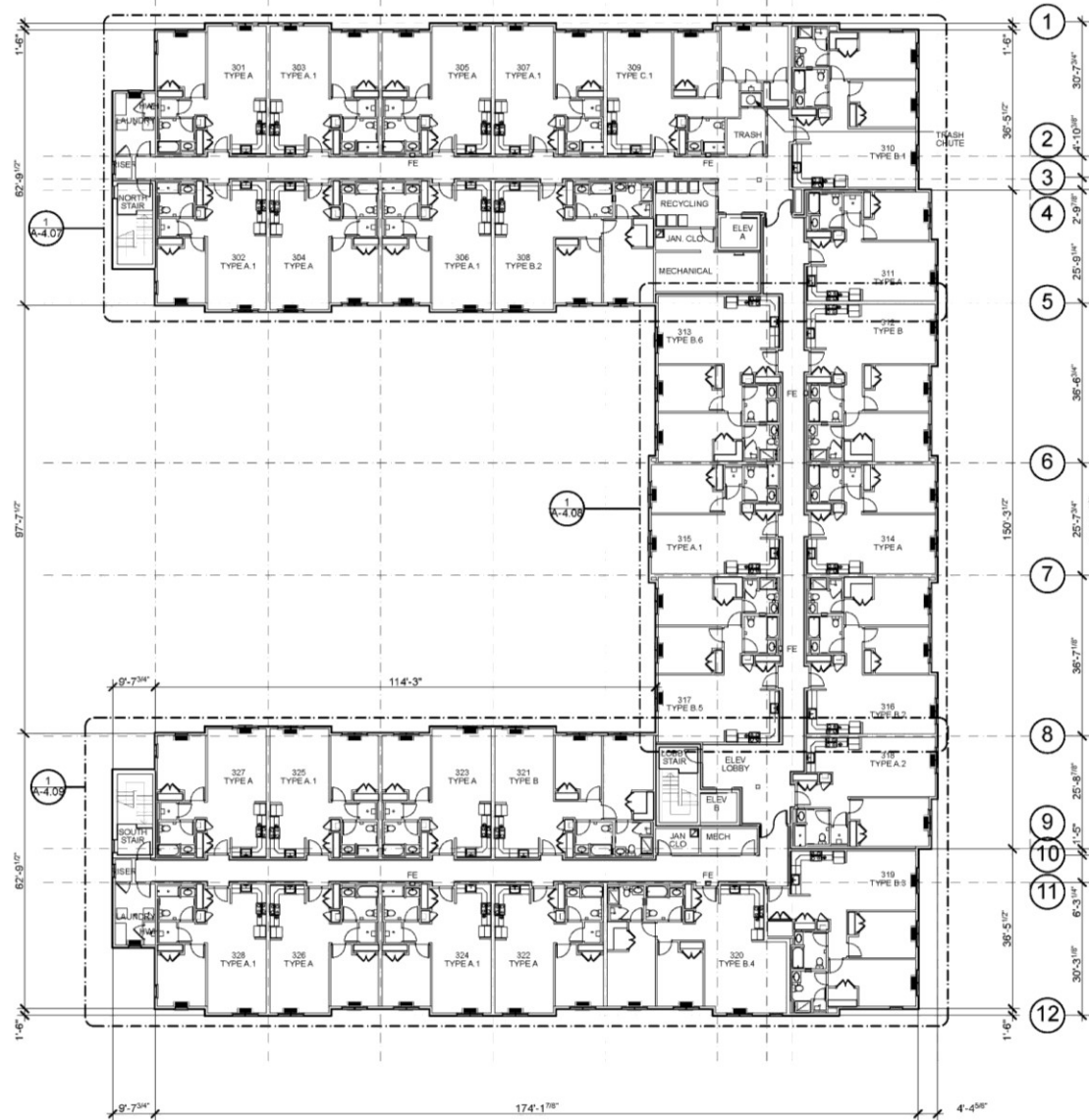


Typical Floor Plan

Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP







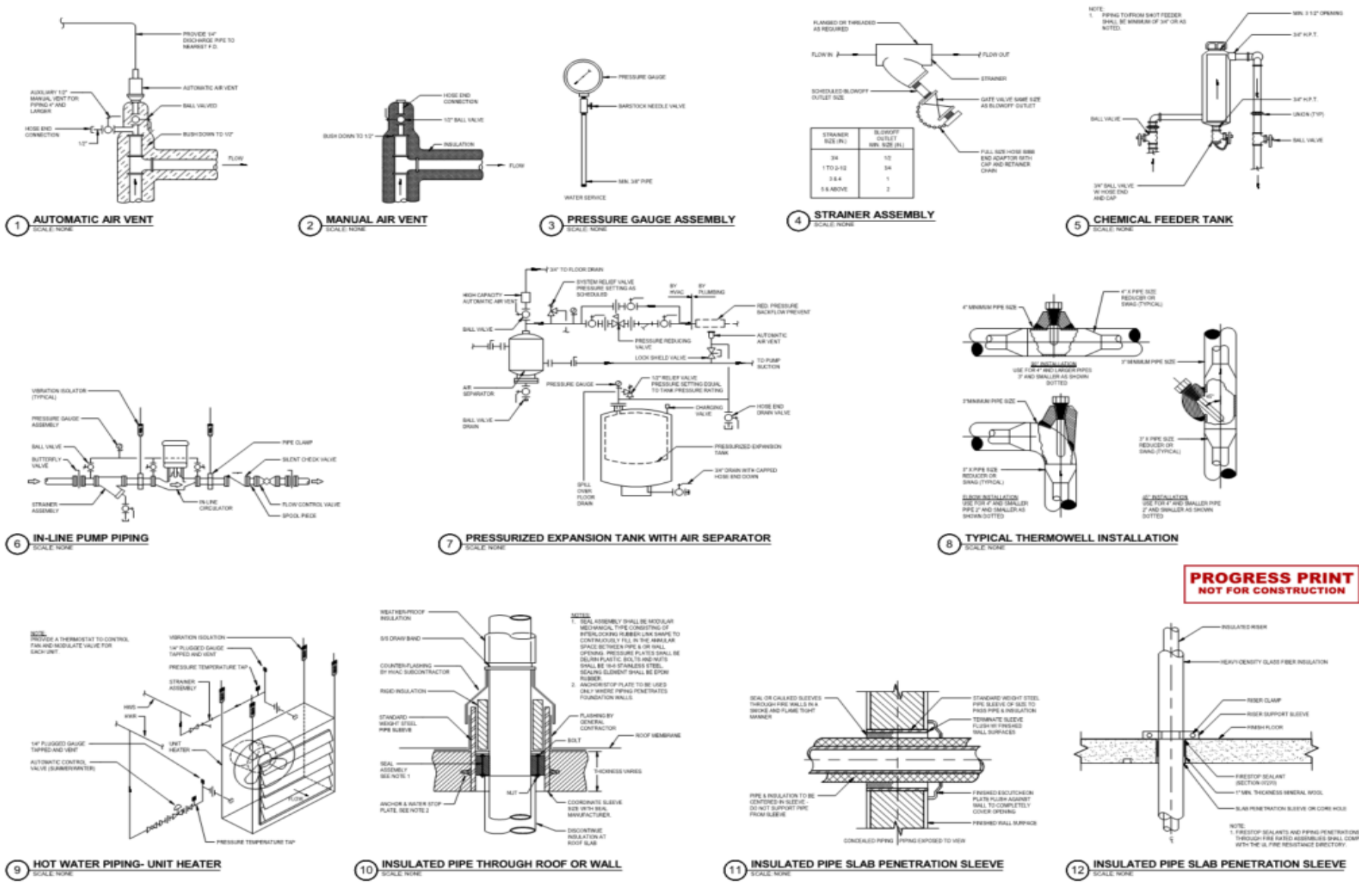
THIRD FLR APT COUNT  
 18 ONE-BED/ONE-BATH  
 9 TWO-BED/TWO-BATH  
 1 TWO-BED/ONE-BATH

1 THIRD FLOOR PLAN   
 1/16" = 1'-0"

Marsh & Woods Architects







**PROGRESS PRINT**  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

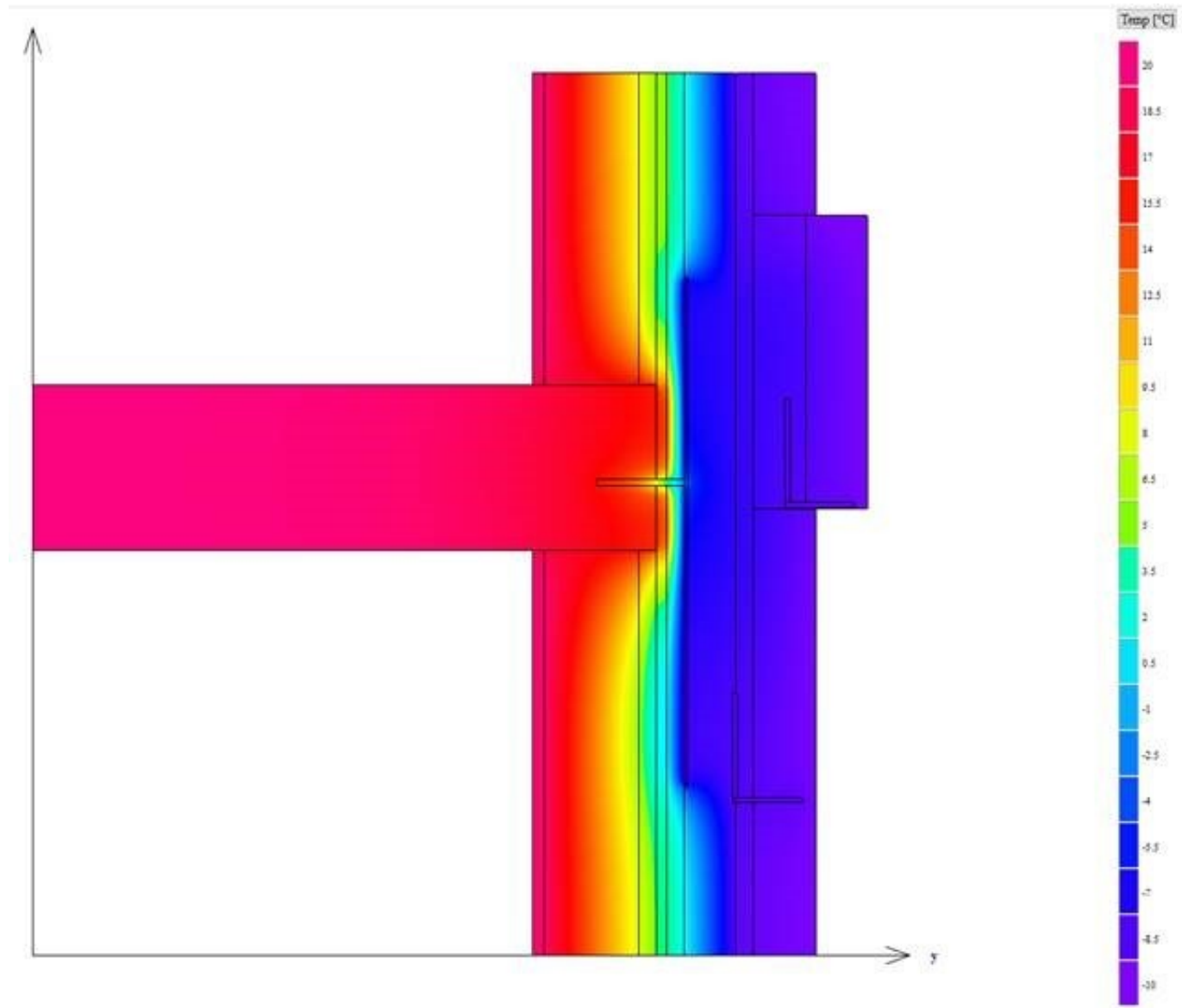


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**TABLE 1203.3  
INSULATION FOR CONDENSATION CONTROL**

CLIMATE ZONE	MINIMUM R-VALUE OF AIR-IMPERMEABLE INSULATION <sup>a</sup>
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, thermal resistance requirements for attic and roof assemblies in Section C402.2.1 of the *International Energy Conservation Code*.







**TABLE A9.2-2 Effective Insulation/Framing Layer R-Values  
for Wall Insulation Installed Between Steel Framing**

Nominal Depth of Cavity, in.	Actual Depth of Cavity, in.	Rated R-Value of Airspace or Insulation	Effective Framing/Cavity R-Value at 16 in. on Center	Effective Framing/Cavity R-Value at 24 in. on Center
<b>Empty Cavity, No Insulation</b>				
4	3.5	R-0.91	0.79	0.91
<b>Insulated Cavity</b>				
4	3.5	R-11	5.5	6.6
4	3.5	R-13	6.0	7.2
4	3.5	R-15	6.4	7.8
6	6.0	R-19	7.1	8.6
6	6.0	R-21	7.4	9.0
8	8.0	R-25	7.8	9.6

Penalty

Penalty

50%

40%

54%

45%

57%

48%

63%

55%

65%

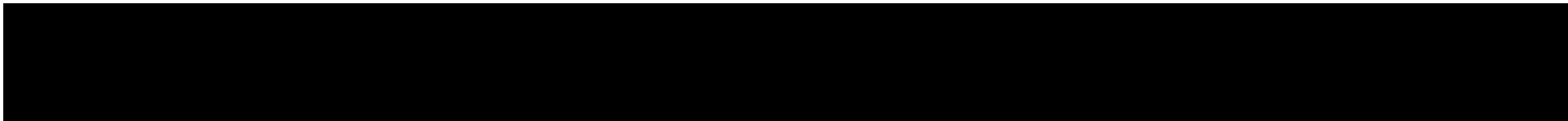
57%

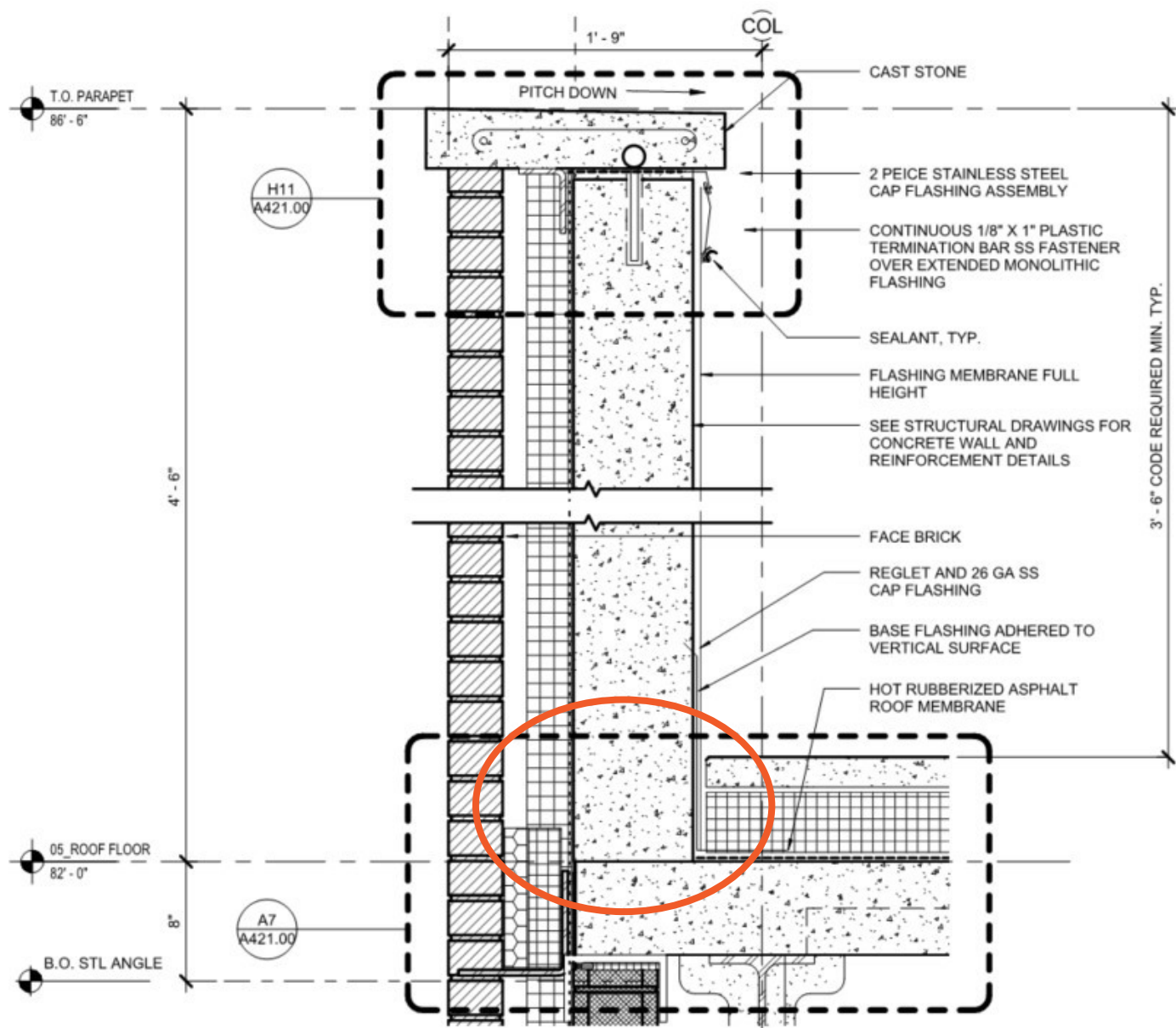
69%

62%



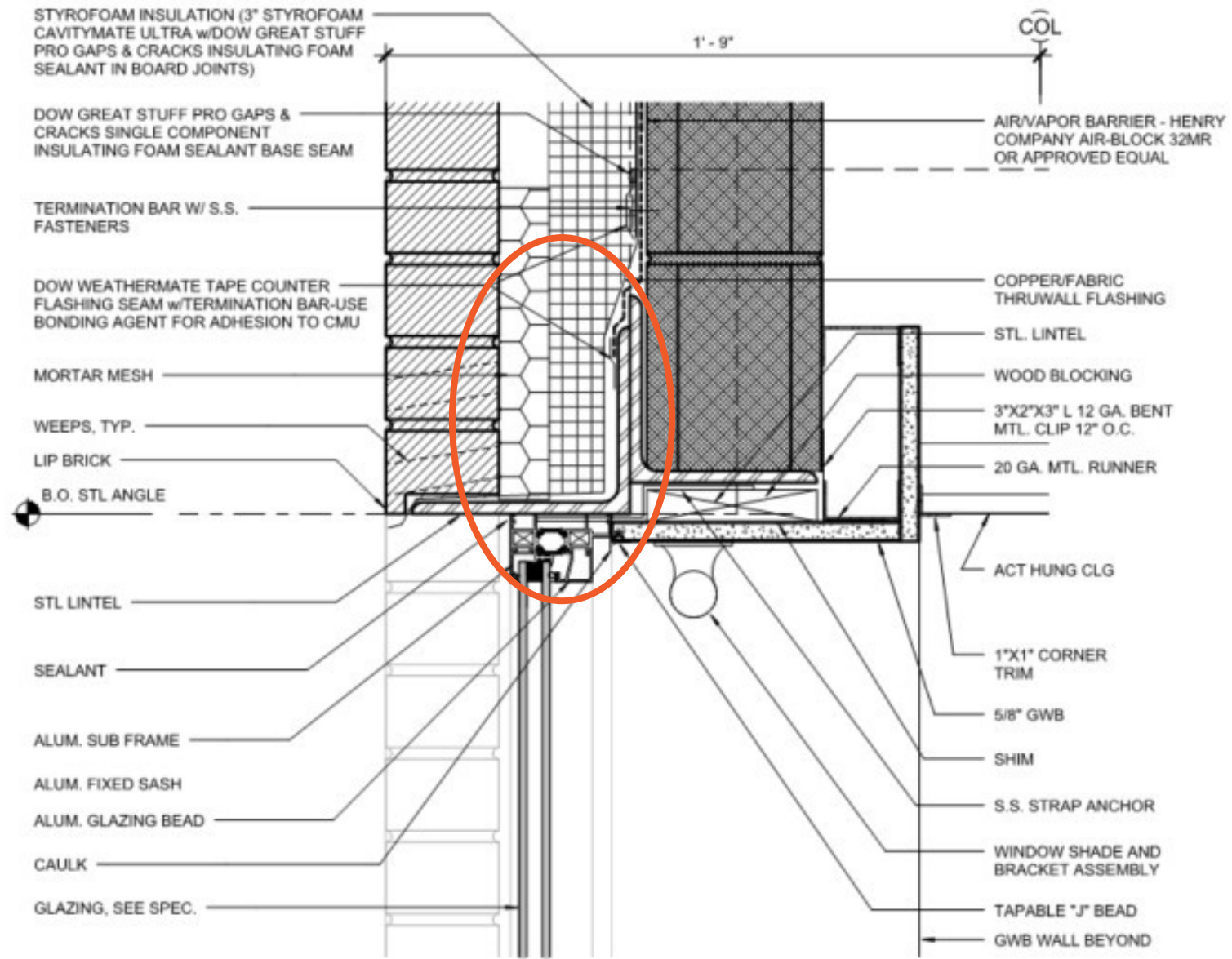
ASHRAE 90.1-2013 Appendix A





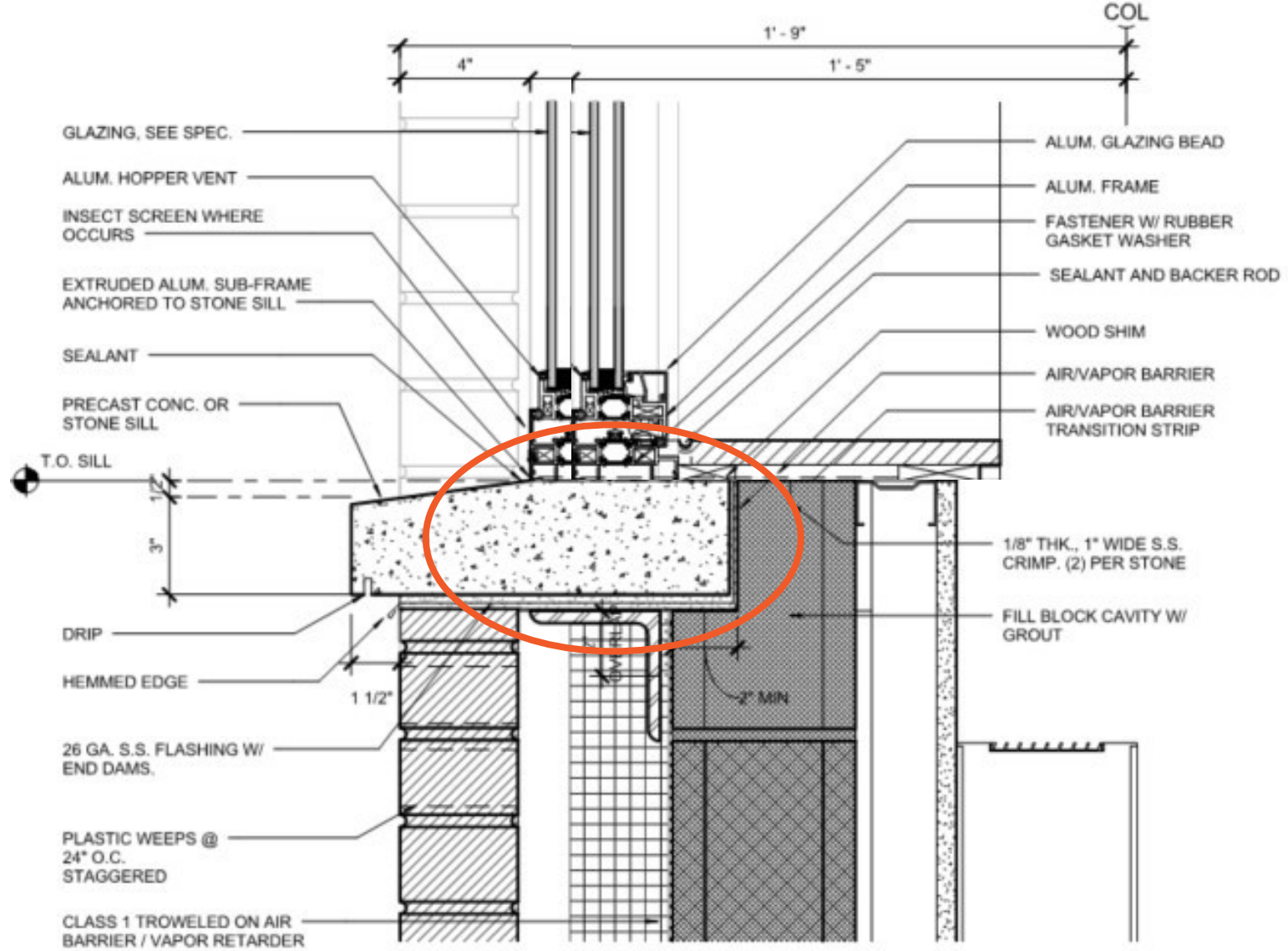
FXFOWLE





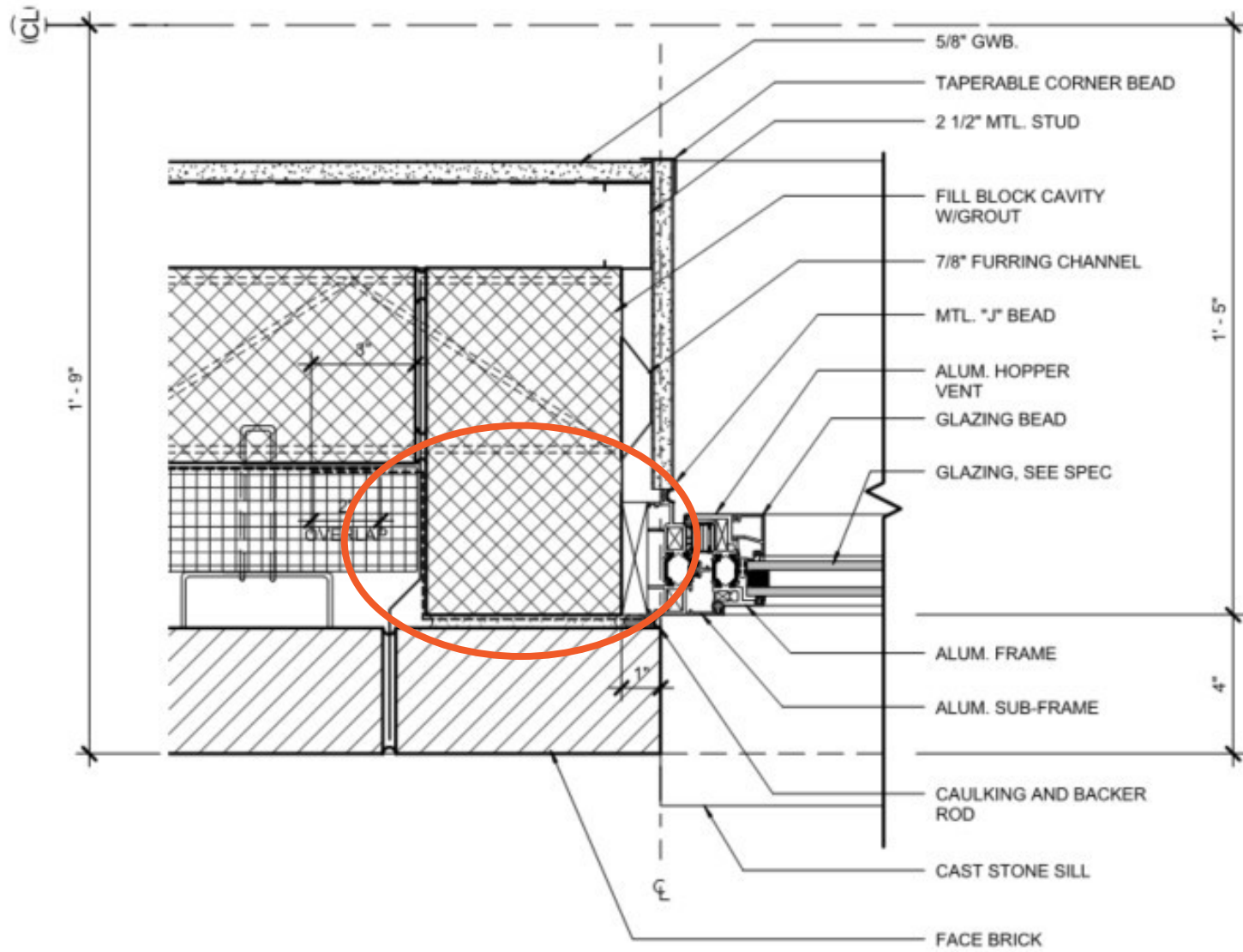
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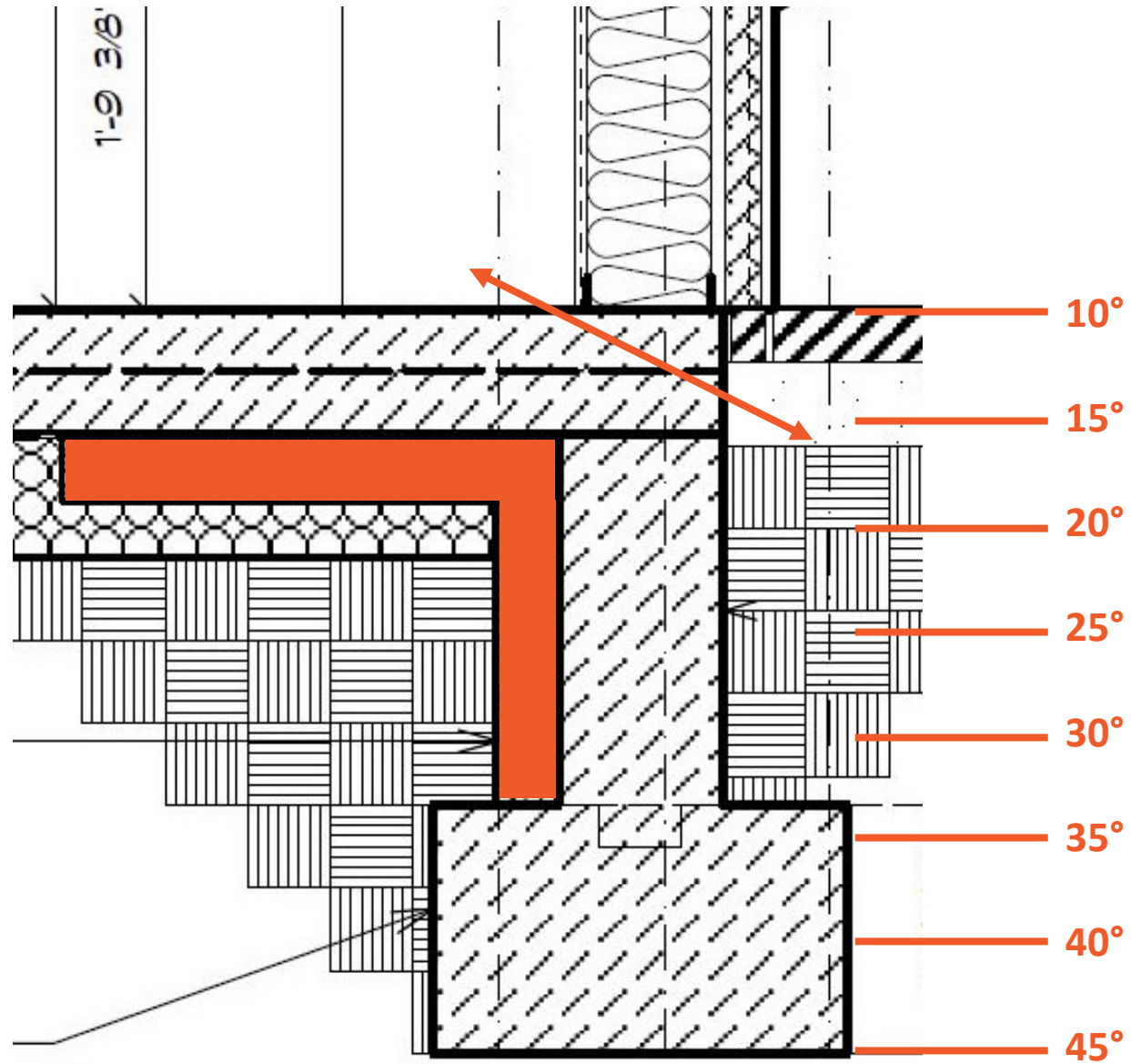




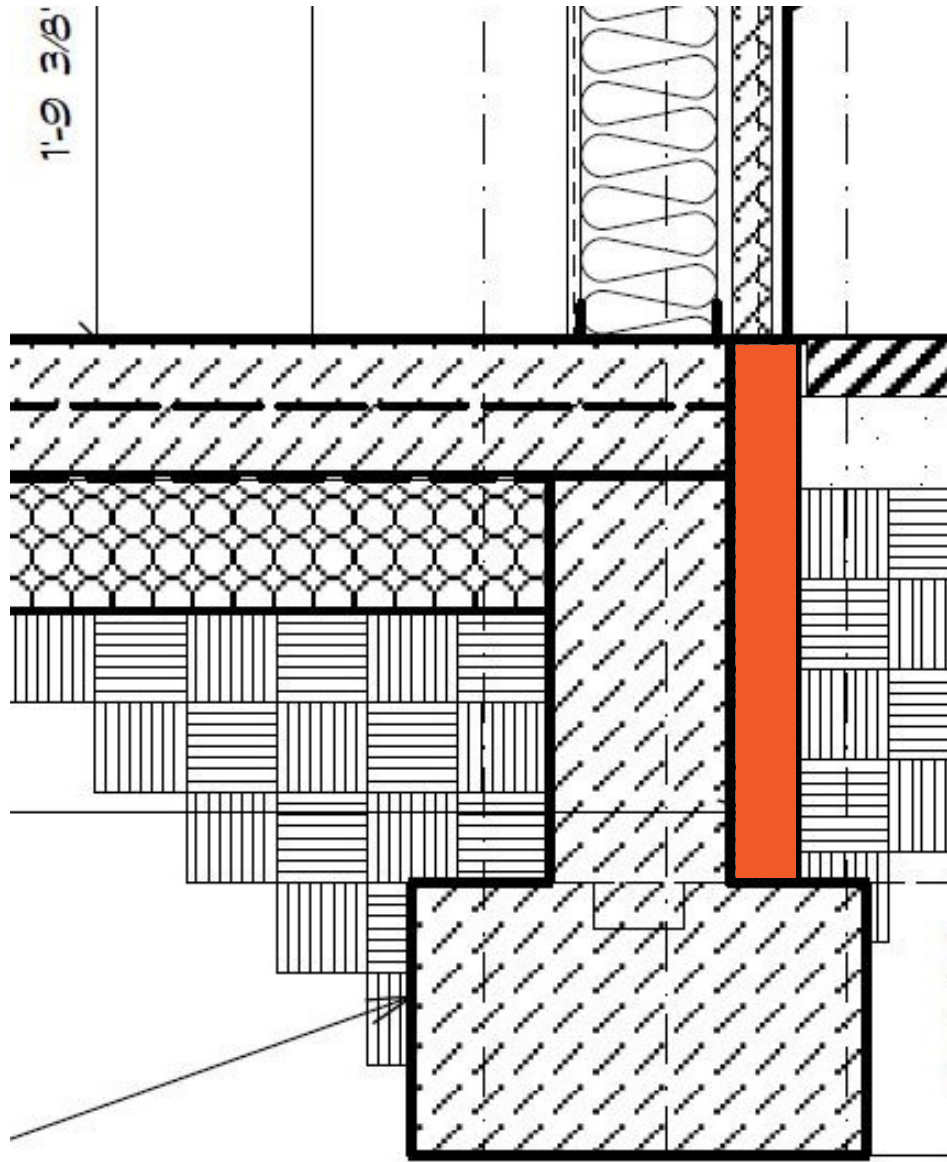
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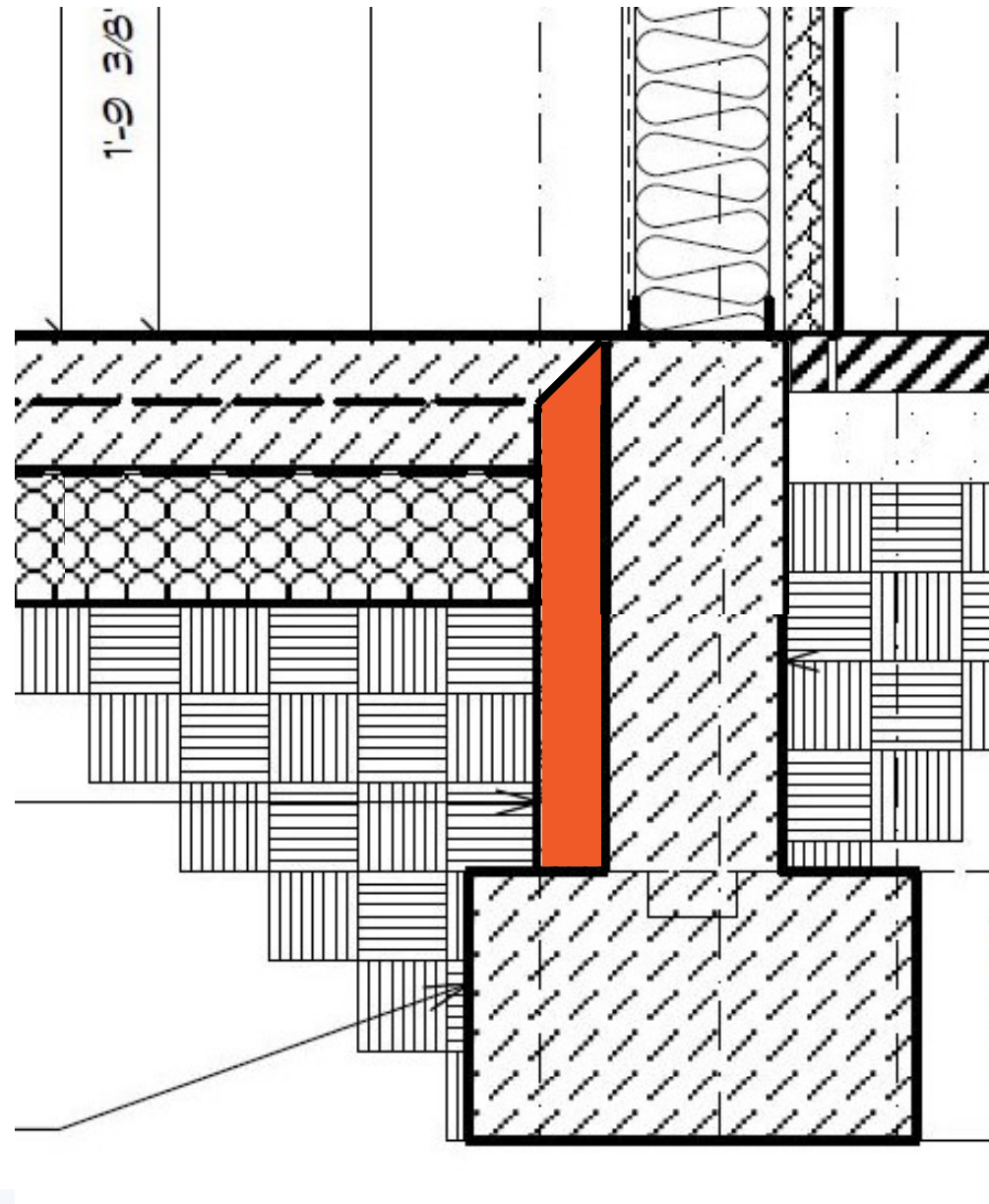
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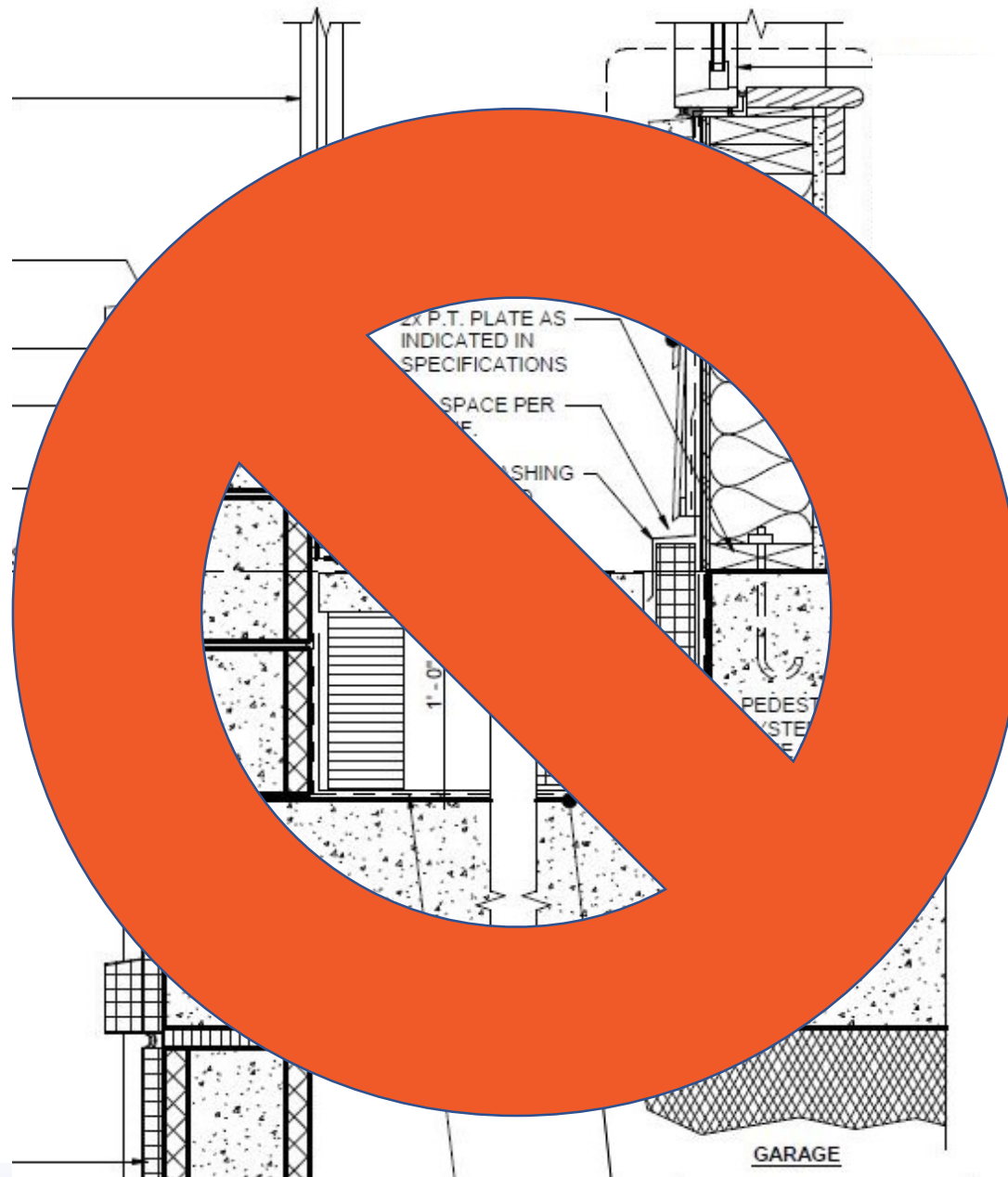
Top 10 Multifamily  
Design Mistakes













**bsc Building Science Corporation**

Home | Building Science Insights | BSI-062: Thermal Bridges Redux


**BSI-062: Thermal Bridges Redux**

Joseph Lstiburek


JUNE 2, 2015

It is a beautiful building. Quite stunning actually. It is an embodiment of everything that is right and wrong with architecture.<sup>1</sup> An orgy of glass and concrete. It is a thermodynamic obscenity while it takes your breath away. An 82-story heat exchanger in the heart of Chicago<sup>2</sup> (Photograph 1a, b, c, d, e, f, g).

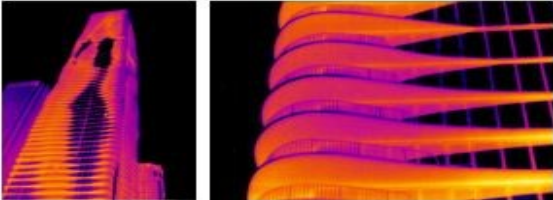
**Aqua-Naught\***



Photograph 1a (left): Baseboard Radiator; Photograph 1b (right): Liquid Gas Heat Exchanger



Photograph 1c (left): Extended Finned Surface - Aluminum; Photograph 1d (middle): Extended Finned Surface - Concrete; Photograph 1e (right): Aqua Tower Balcony's



Photograph 1f (left): Infra-red of Aqua Tower - Image courtesy of Dave Robley, Thermographer, Fluke Corp and Michael Stuart, L3 TI/IRT, Fluke Corp.; Photograph 1g (right): Infra-red of Aqua Tower Balcony - Image courtesy of Dave Robley, Thermographer, Fluke Corp and Michael Stuart, L3 TI/IRT, Fluke Corp.

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Participating Organizations: NASA, ASCE, etc.

Design / Green Architecture

# Gimme A Thermal Break Redux: Engineer Calls Chicago's Aqua Tower "Architectural Pornography"

Lloyd Alter [@lloydalter](#) February 27, 2012



John Pickem/CC BY 2.0



SFI teams plant more than **200,000 trees in 1 hour** *(and that's a record)*

learn more

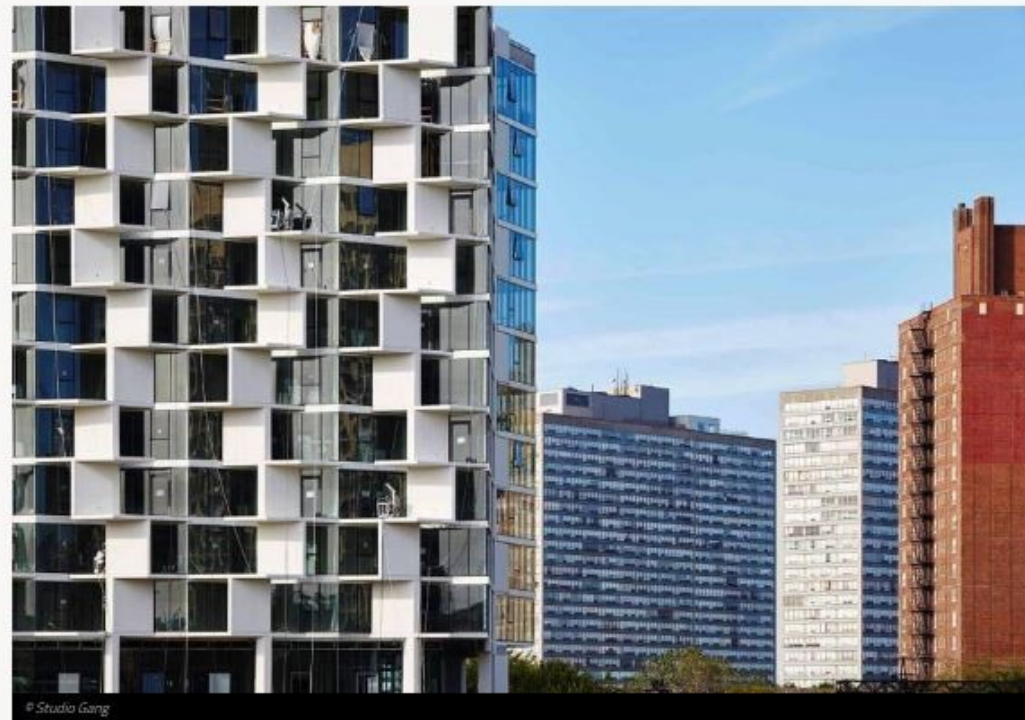
Design / Green Architecture

# Studio Gang is going to gimme a thermal break in new Chicago project



Lloyd Alter [@lloydalter](#)

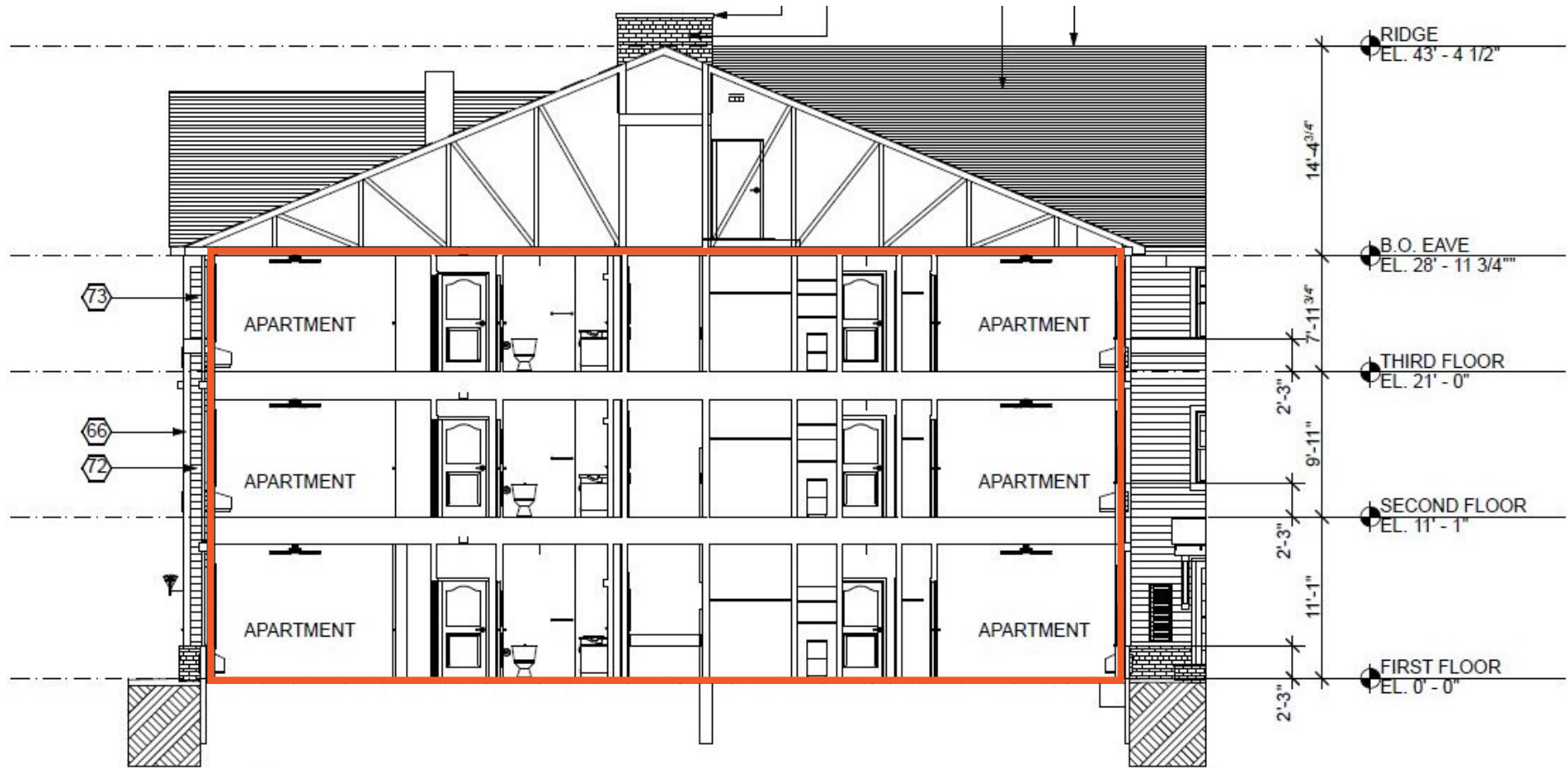
October 20, 2015



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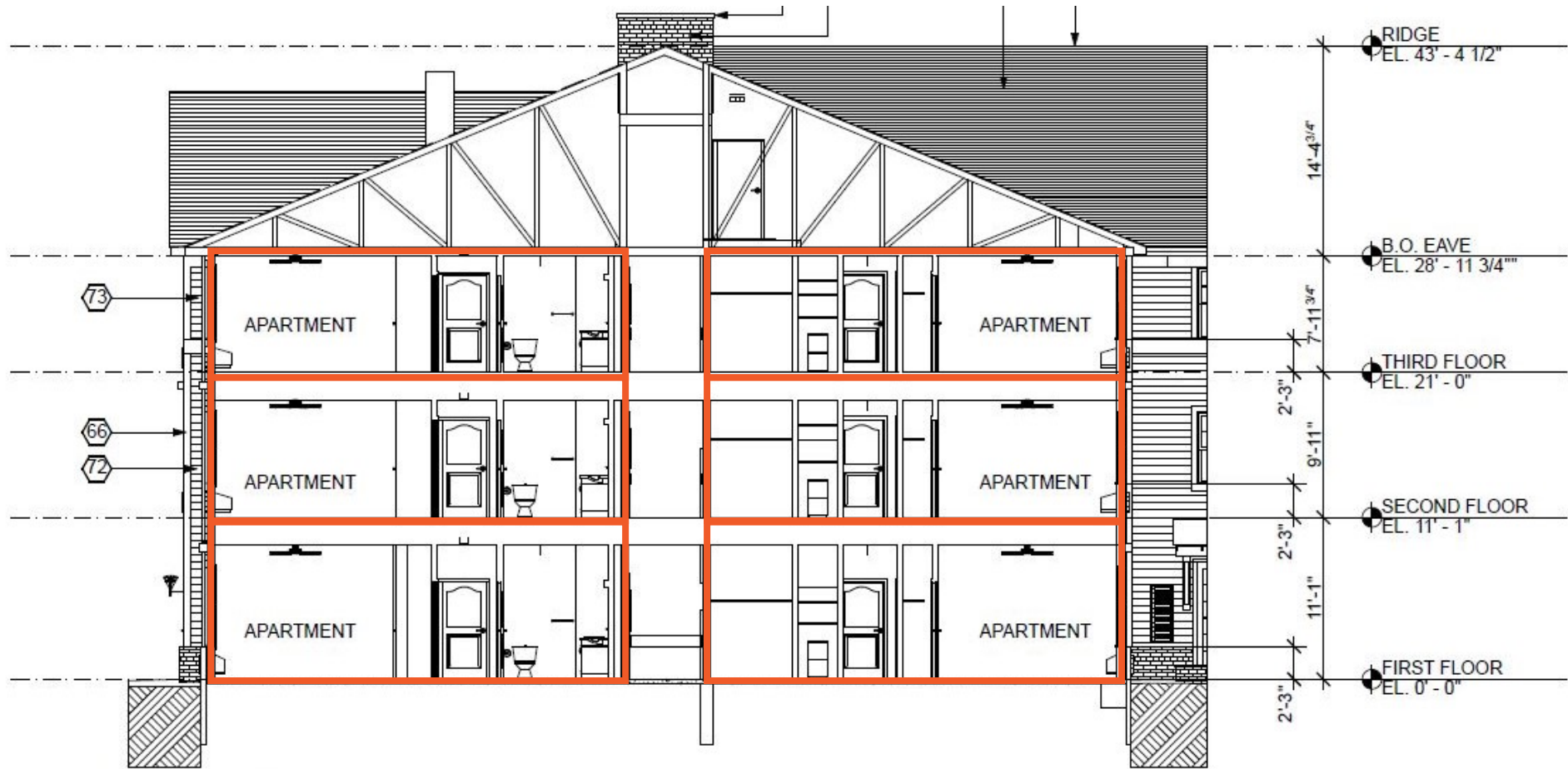
Top 10 Multifamily  
Design Mistakes



1 Typical Wing Section  
 1/8" = 1'-0"

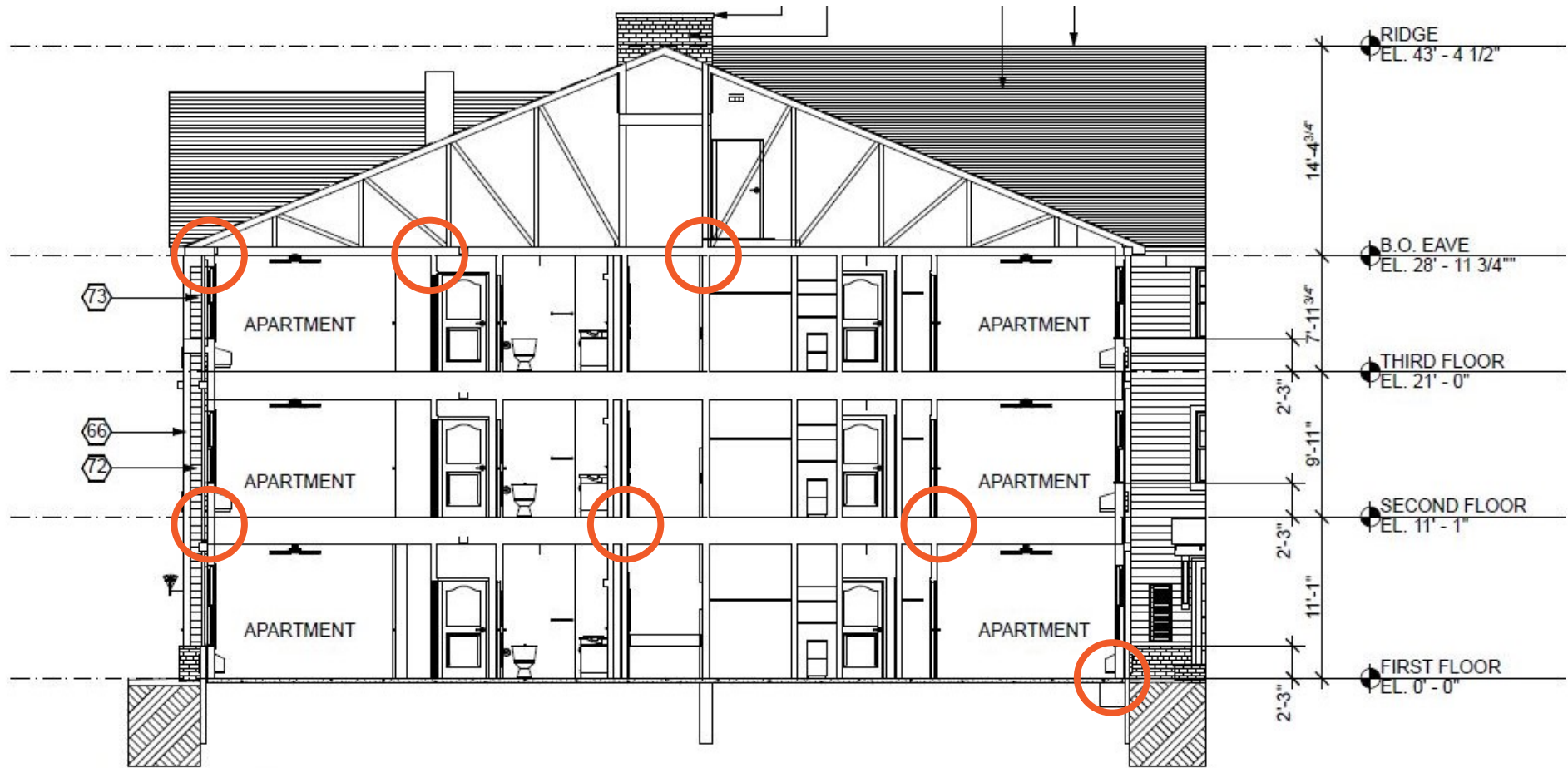






1 Typical Wing Section  
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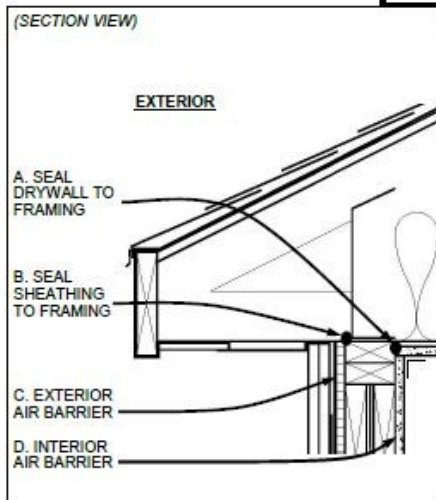


1 Typical Wing Section  
 1/8" = 1'-0"



1

## EXTERIOR WALL - TOP

**Notes:**

A, B. Intent: reduce leakage between unconditioned attic and wall cavities

A. Option: apply drywall adhesive to framing BEFORE installing drywall ("screw & glue")

**C. Options:**

- Sheathing with seams sealed (i.e. ply wood or rigid foam board)
- Fluid-applied/adhesive membrane on sheathing (i.e. Grace / Henry products)

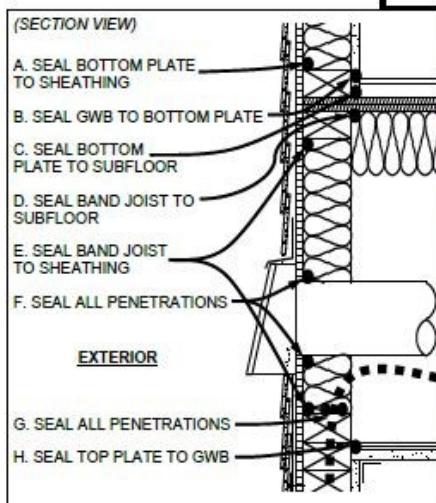
D. Typically drywall

**Responsibilities:**

Framing: B, C  
Drywall: A, D

2

## EXTERIOR WALL - PENETRATIONS, BOTTOM AND TOP PLATE

**Notes:**

A, C. Intent: reduce leakage between floor and wall cavities

B. Intent: reduce leakage between wall cavity and apartment

B, C. Option: self-leveling subfloor (i.e. gypcrete)

E, H. Intent: reduce leakage between floor and wall cavities

E. Continuous seal of the rim/band joist to sheathing, if a TJI joist seal at top and bottom

F, G. Includes ducts, pipes, wires, etc.

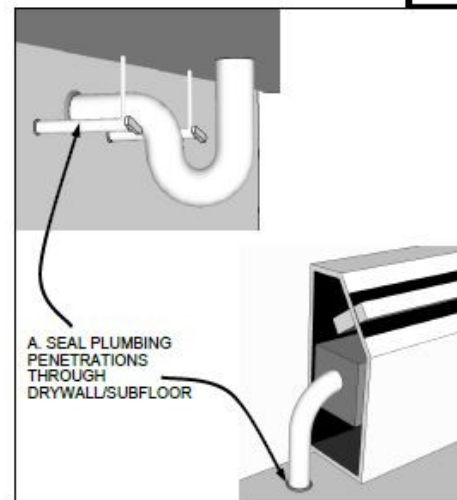
H. Option: apply drywall adhesive to framing BEFORE installing drywall

**Responsibilities:**

Framing: A, C, D, E  
Drywall: B, H  
Mech/Elec/Plumb: F, G

19

## PLUMBING PENETRATIONS

**Notes:**

A. Seal all penetrations BEFORE installing cabinetry and escutcheons

A. Intent: reduce leakage between wall cavities and apartment

Typical plumbing penetrations include:

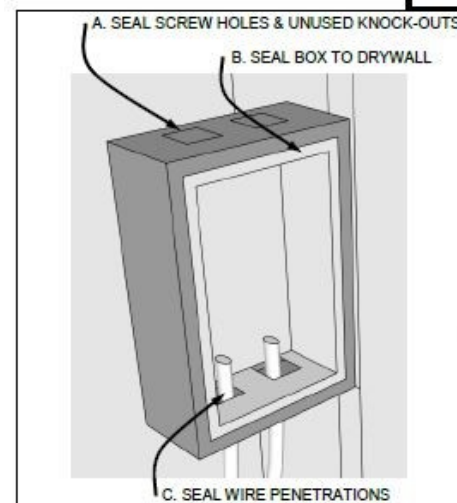
- Sink faucet supplies & drain
- Toilet supply
- Showerhead stub-out
- Heating supply/return
- Gas supply
- Sprinklers

**Responsibilities:**

Drywall: A

20

## ELECTRICAL BOXES

**Notes:**

A, B, C. Intent: reduce leakage between framing cavities and apartment

A, B, C. Includes boxes in floors, walls and ceilings

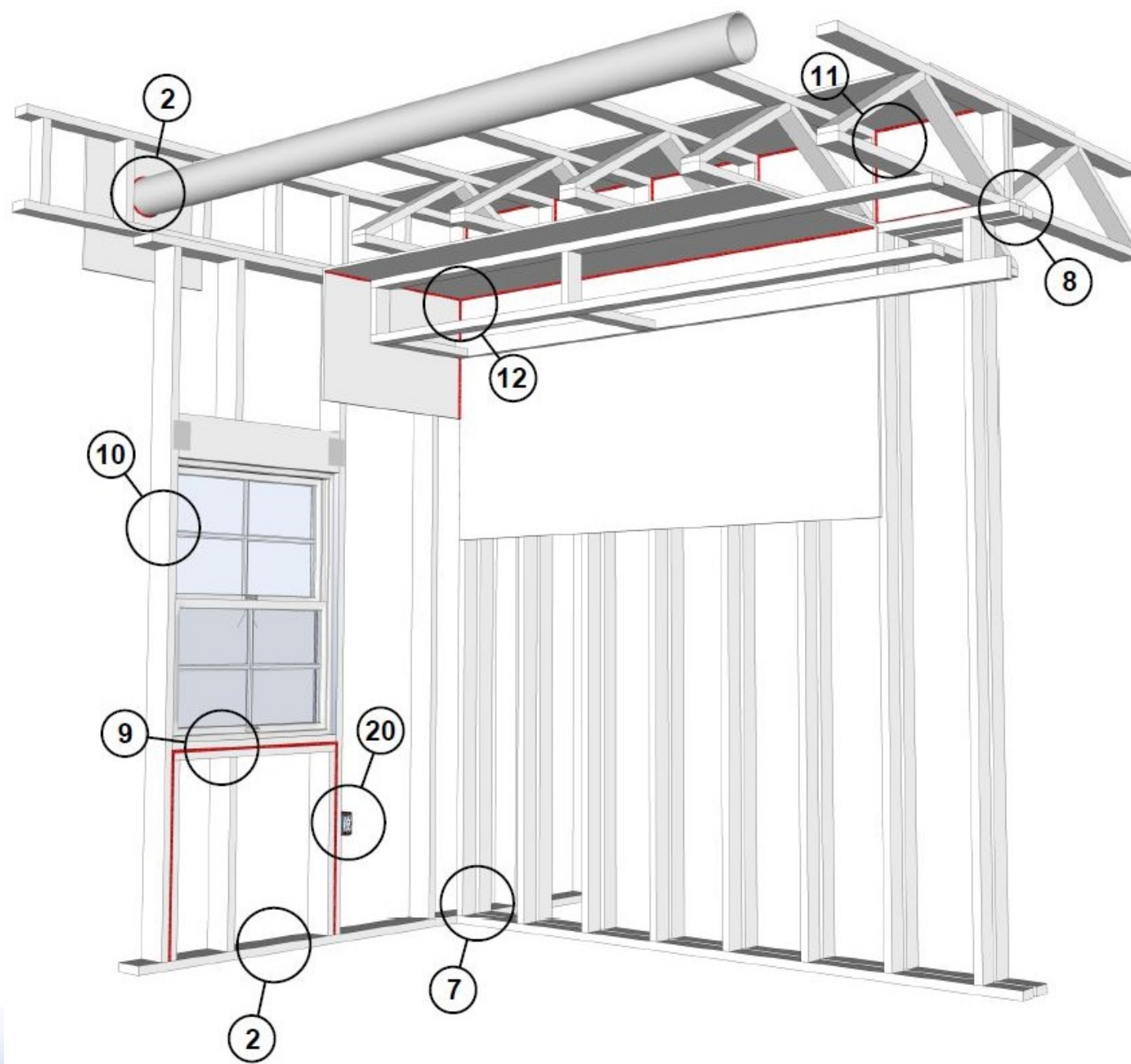
A, C. Options:

- Caulk
- Foam
- Mastic (over entire box)
- Putty pack

**Responsibilities:**

Drywall: B  
Electrical: A, C





**R402.4 Air leakage (Mandatory).** The *building thermal envelope* shall be constructed to limit air leakage in accordance with the requirements of Sections R402.4.1 through R402.4.4.

**R402.4.1 Building thermal envelope.** The *building thermal envelope* shall comply with Sections R402.4.1.1 and R402.4.1.2. The sealing methods between dissimilar materials shall allow for differential expansion and contraction.

**R402.4.1.1 Installation.** The components of the *building thermal envelope* as listed in Table R402.4.1.1 shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the criteria listed in Table R402.4.1.1, as applicable to the method of construction. Where required by the *code official*, an *approved* third party shall inspect all components and verify compliance.

**R402.4.1.2 Testing.** The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate not exceeding five air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and three air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8. Testing shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM E 779 or ASTM E 1827 and reported at a pressure of 0.2 inch w.g. (50 Pascals). Where required by the *code official*, testing shall be conducted by an *approved* third party. A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the *code official*. Testing shall be performed at any time after creation of all penetrations of the *building thermal envelope*.



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Design Mistakes



Occupancy



Vacancy



**1205.3 Artificial light.** Artificial light shall be provided that is adequate to provide an average illumination of 10 footcandles (107 lux) over the area of the room at a height of 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor level.

### SECTION 1008 MEANS OF EGRESS ILLUMINATION

**1008.1 Means of egress illumination.** Illumination shall be provided in the *means of egress* in accordance with Section 1008.2. Under emergency power, means of egress illumination shall comply with Section 1008.3.

**1008.2 Illumination required.** The *means of egress* serving a room or space shall be illuminated at all times that the room or space is occupied.

**Exceptions:**

1. Occupancies in Group U.
2. *Aisle accessways* in Group A.
3. *Dwelling units* and *sleeping units* in Groups R-1, R-2 and R-3.
4. *Sleeping units* of Group I occupancies.

**1008.2.1 Illumination level under normal power.** The *means of egress* illumination level shall be not less than 1 footcandle (11 lux) at the walking surface.

**C405.2 Lighting controls (Mandatory).** Lighting systems shall be provided with controls as specified in Sections C405.2.1, C405.2.2, C405.2.3, C405.2.4 and C405.2.5.

**Exceptions:** Lighting controls are not required for the following:

1. Areas designated as security or emergency areas that are required to be continuously lighted.
2. Interior exit stairways, interior exit ramps and exit passageways.
3. Emergency egress lighting that is normally off.

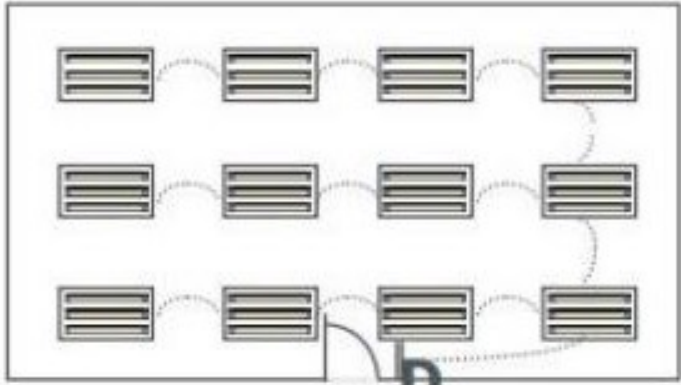
**C405.2.1 Occupant sensor controls.** Occupant *sensor controls* shall be installed to control lights in the following space types:

1. Classrooms/lecture/training rooms.
2. Conference/meeting/multipurpose rooms.
3. Copy/print rooms.
4. Lounges.
5. Employee lunch and break rooms.
6. Private offices.
7. Restrooms.
8. Storage rooms.
9. Janitorial closets.
10. Locker rooms.
11. Other spaces 300 square feet (28 m<sup>2</sup>) or less that are enclosed by floor-to-ceiling height partitions.
12. Warehouses.





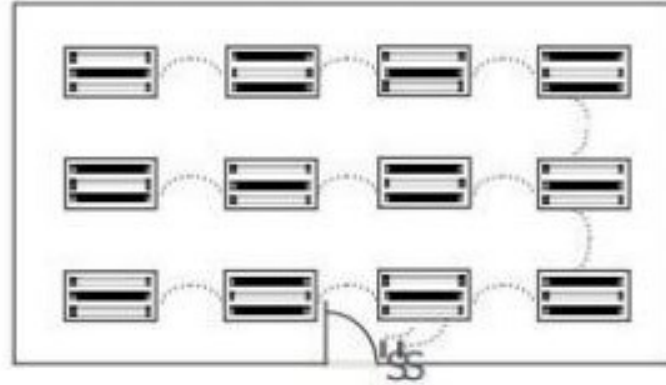
### Dimming



Dimmer Switch

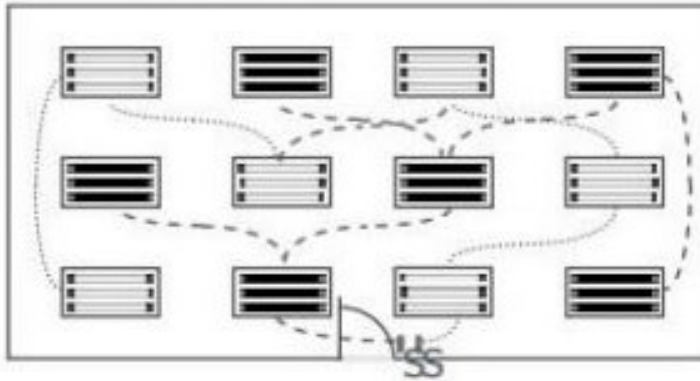
**a) Control of all lamps/luminaires**

### Alternating Lamps



**c) Switching middle lamp luminaires Independently**

### Alternating Luminaires



**b) Dual switching of alternate rows of luminaires**

Source: [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/buildings/pdf/h2g\\_all.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/buildings/pdf/h2g_all.pdf)



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# SHORT-CYCLING

SHORT-CYCLING  
= QUICK ON/OFF  
= BAD!

DECREASES:

Efficiency  
Durability  
Indoor Air Quality  
Comfort



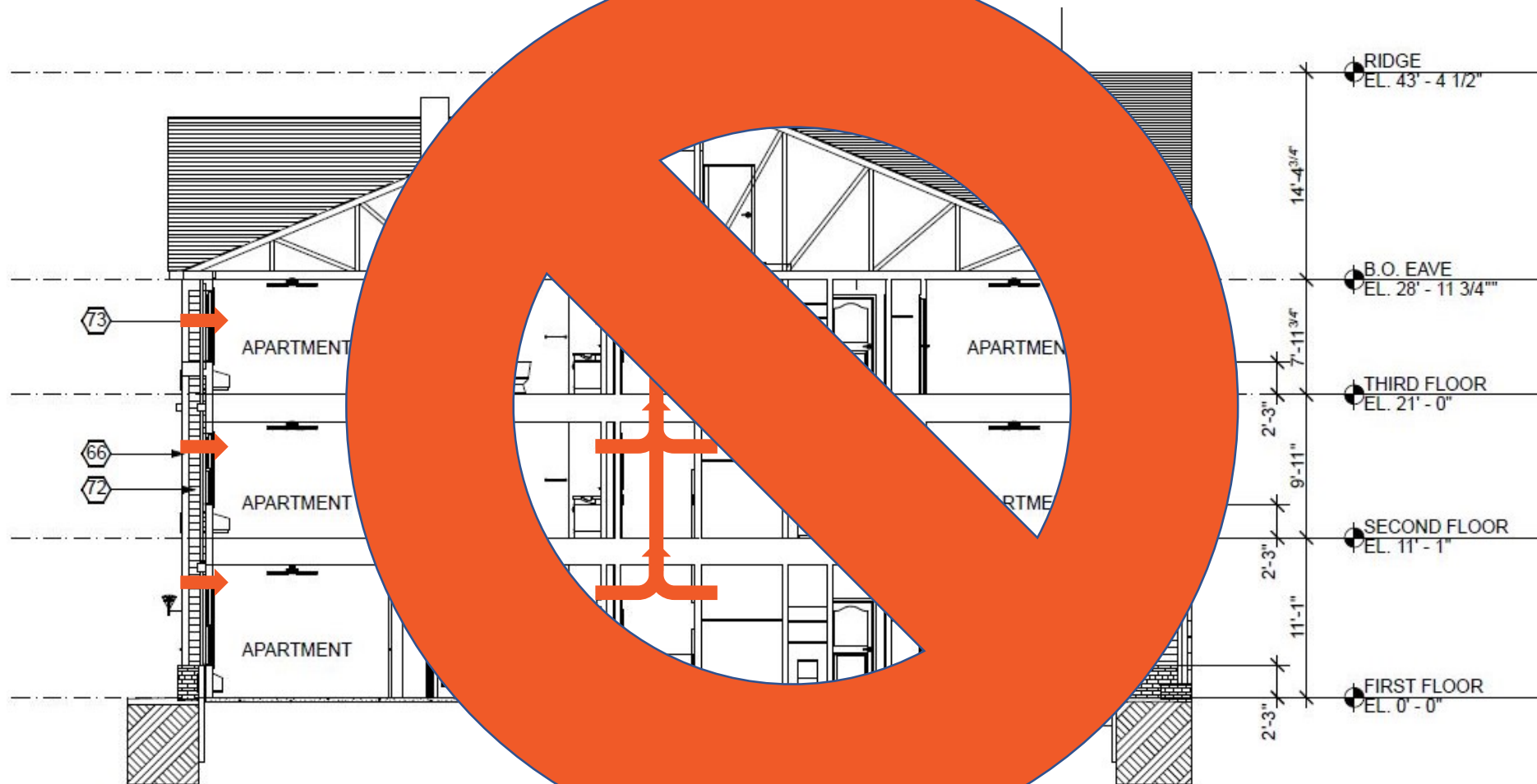
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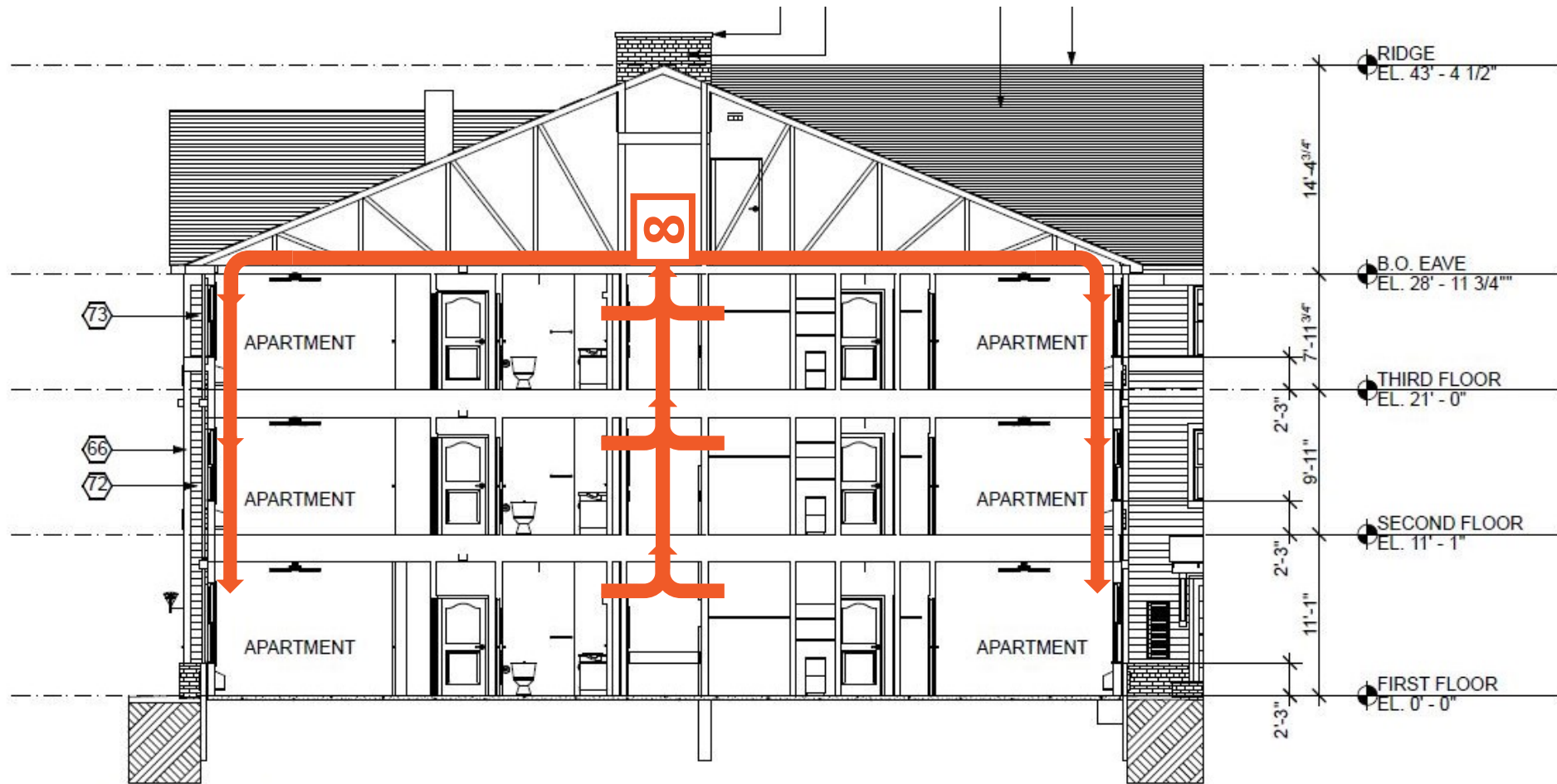


1 Typical Wing Section  
 1/8" = 1'-0"



1 Typical Wing Section  
 1/8" = 1'-0"





1 Typical Wing Section  
 1/8" = 1'-0"

NEWS CENTER

## Hidden Dangers in the Air


Feature Story [Julie Chao](#) (510) 486-6491 • APRIL 2019



For decades, no one worried much about the secondhand smoke or radon present. Then scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) discovered health consequences of poor indoor air quality, such as asthma, accidents or infectious diseases in the United States. The home is cooking.

The Berkeley Lab scientists are now working on developing better based solutions, including better standards for indoor air quality. The hazardous pollutants. These efforts are the subject of a new article in *Health Perspectives* in 2012 that described a number of indoor air pollutants. That research uncovered that cooking is recognized as a cause for concern—fine particulate matter.

<http://newscenter.lbl.gov/2019/04/08/hidden-air-pollution-in-our-homes/>



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### Pollutant Exposures from Residential Natural Gas Cooking: A Simulation-Based Assessment

Jennifer M. Logue, Neil E. Klepeis, Agnes B. Lobsenz

First Published: 5 November 2013 | Cited by: 4

Sections | View Article

#### Abstract

**Background:** Residential natural gas cooking is a major source of indoor air pollution. They are typically used without venting range hoods.

**Objective:** We quantified pollutant concentrations in homes.

**Methods:** A mass-balance model was applied to homes in Southern California and the exposure to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in summer and winter for a representative sample of homes. We quantified emissions from NGCBs as well as NO<sub>2</sub> and CO emissions from available databases. We inferred ventilation characteristics. We also explored proximity to major roads. We also explored proximity to major roads. We also explored proximity to major roads.

<https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/>



DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## THE HIDDEN AIR POLLUTION IN OUR HOMES

*Outdoor air has been regulated for decades, but emissions from daily domestic activities may be more dangerous than anyone imagined.*

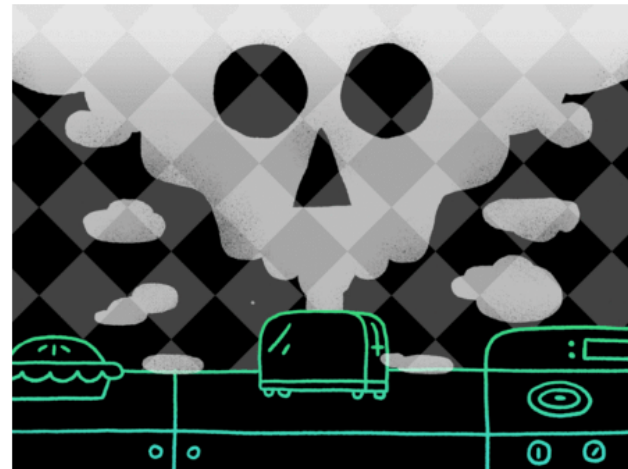
HEALTHY CONSUMER

### The Kitchen as a Well

BY PETER ANDREY SMITH JULY 2019

By midday, the kitchen is a well of tightly sealed buildings. In a pan, the heat is caustic and esophageal. Woody I in glasses, bean and kitchen: his screen flue. A screen for indoor

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<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/04/08/the-hidden-air-pollution-in-our-homes>





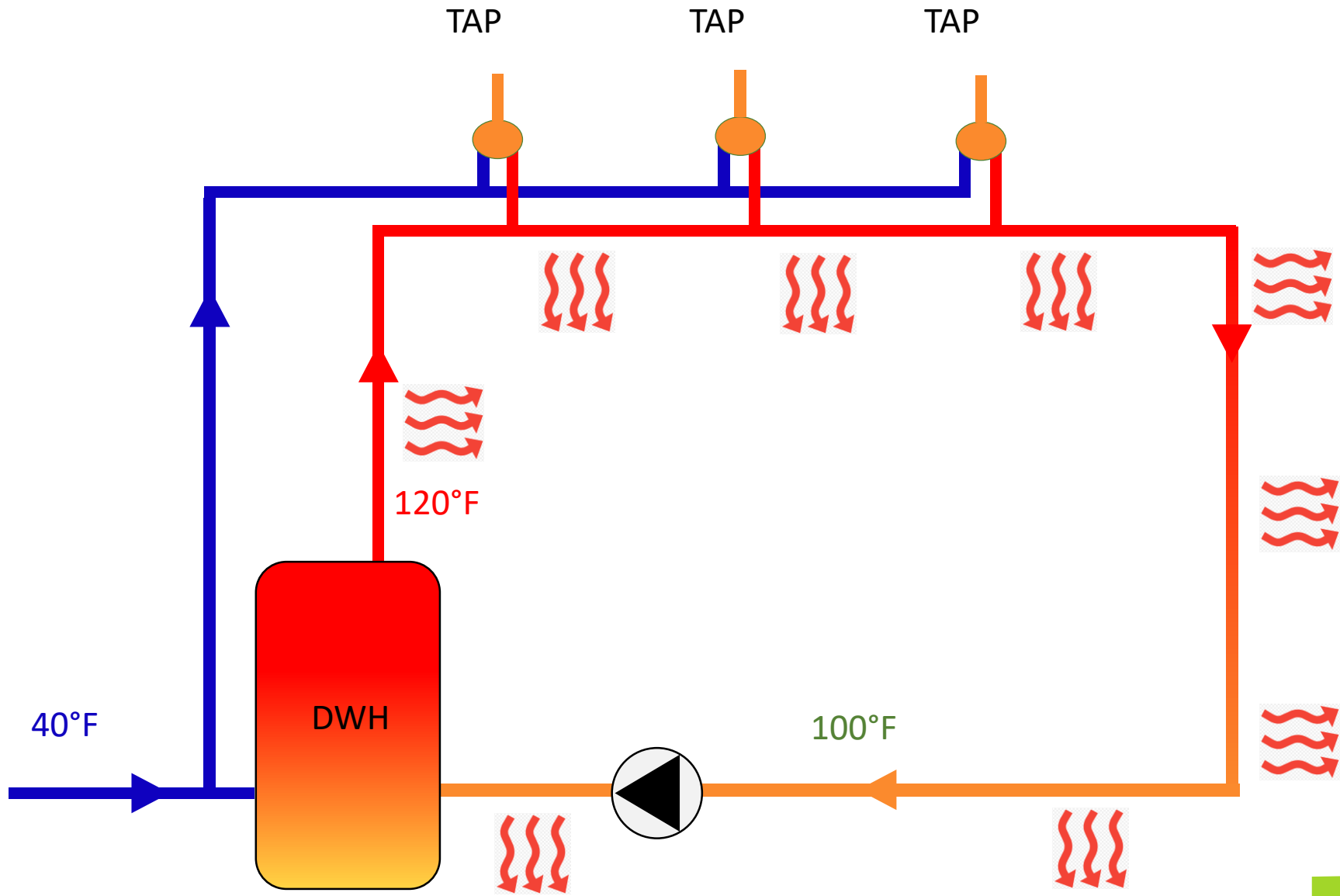
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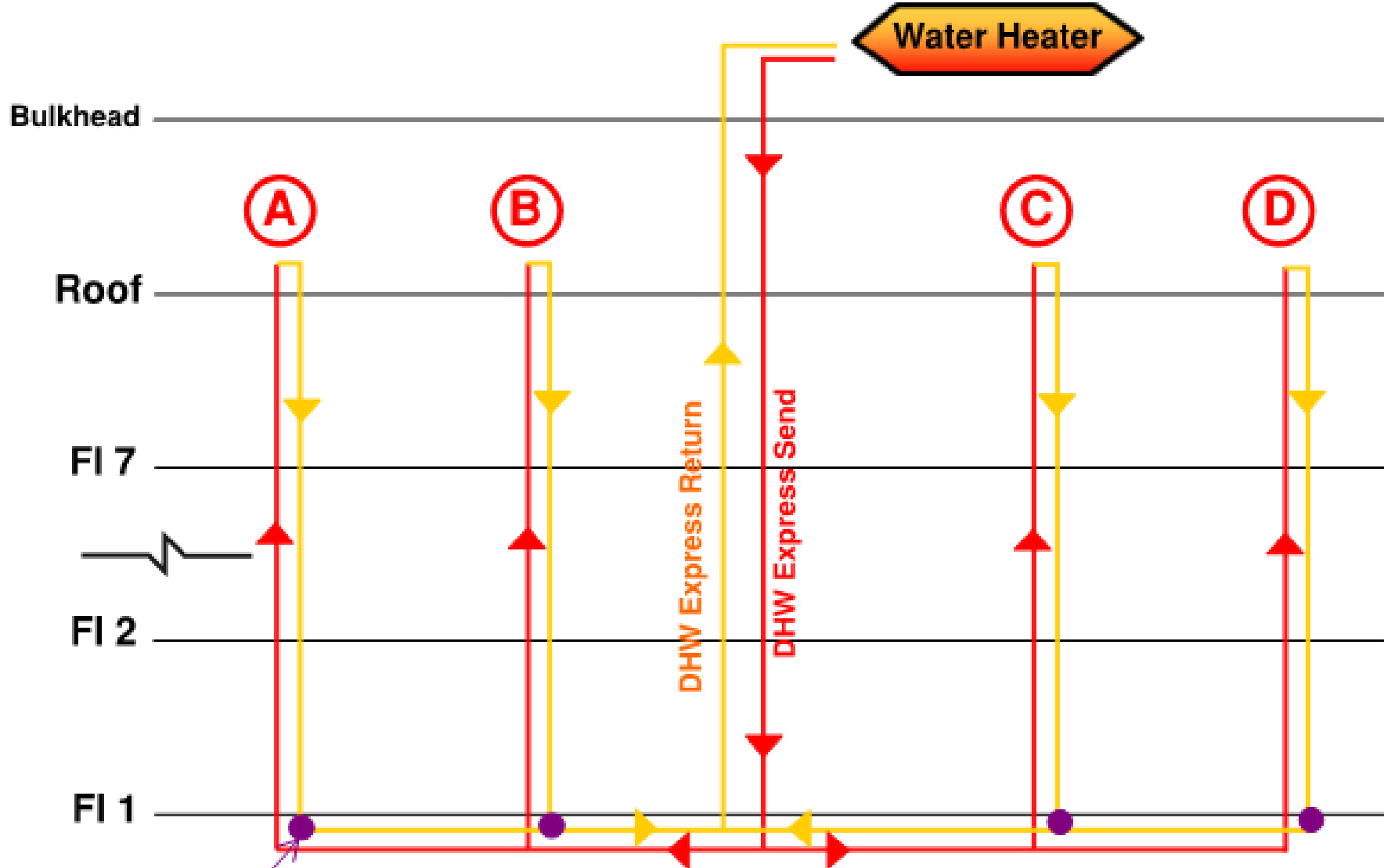


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Top 10 Multifamily  
Design Mistakes

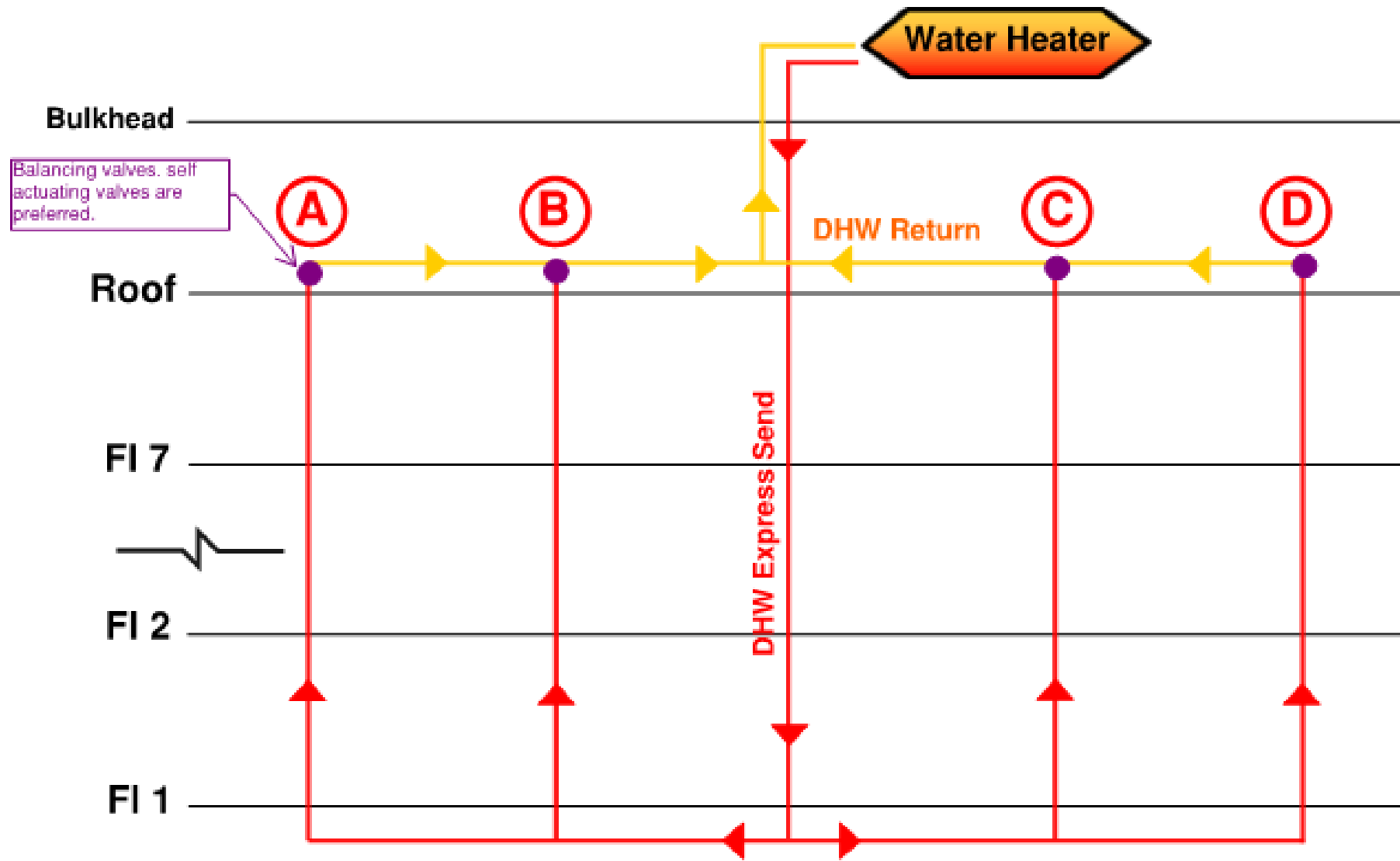




Balancing valves, self actuating valves are preferred.

## Building Section - "3-Pipe" Design





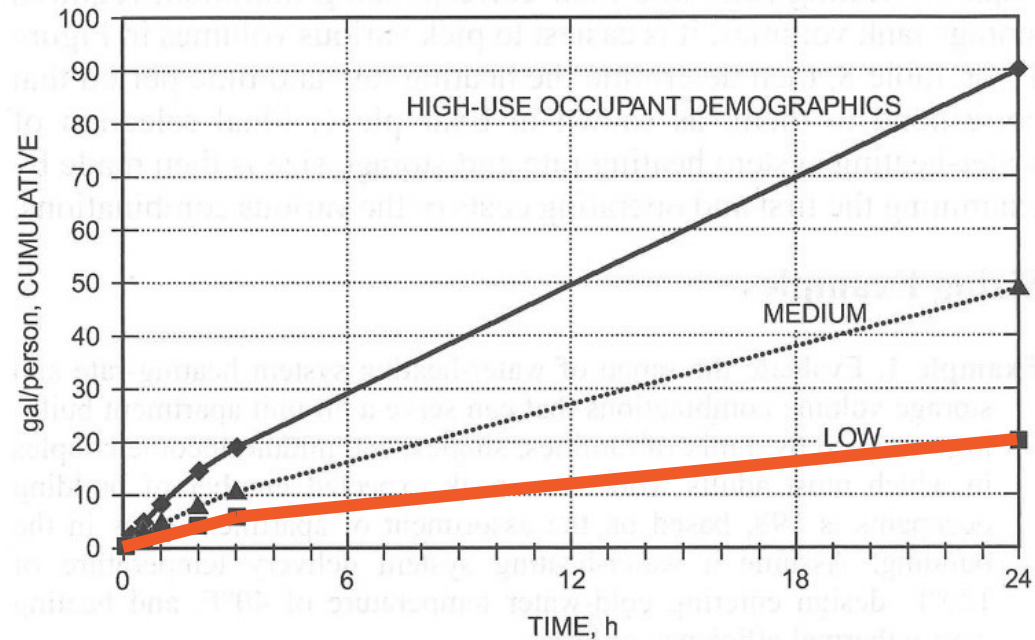
**Building Section - "Box" Design**





**Table 8 Hot-Water Demand and Use Guidelines for Apartment Buildings**  
**(Gallons per Person at 120°F Delivered to Fixtures)**

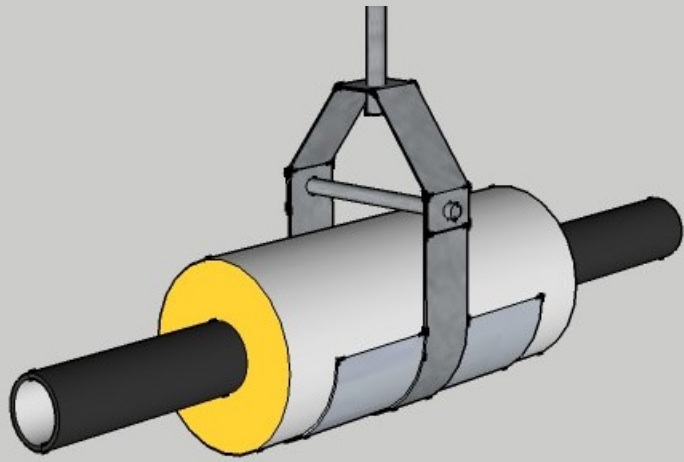
Guideline	Peak Minutes						Maximum Daily	Average Daily
	5	15	30	60	120	180		
Low	0.4	1.0	1.7	2.8	4.5	6.1	20	14
Medium	0.7	1.7	2.9	4.8	8.0	11.0	49	30
High	1.2	3.0	5.1	8.5	14.5	19.0	90	54



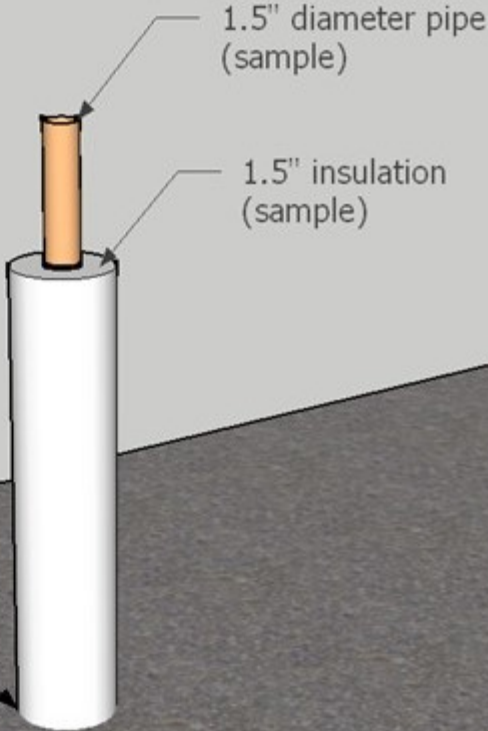
**Fig. 15 Apartment Building Cumulative Hot-Water Use Versus Time (from Table 8)**







Plank core holes to be large enough to allow for full thickness of insulation to pass through the plank.



1. Overcomplicated Geometry
2. Design Irregularities
3. Thermal Bridging: Roofs & Walls
4. Thermal Bridging: Slabs
5. Poorly Detailed Air Barrier
6. No Lighting Controls
7. Improperly Sized HVAC
8. Antiquated Ventilation
9. Oversized DHW Distribution
10. Poor Communication

# We Should Know Better

Top 10 Multifamily  
Design Mistakes



NO	TYPE	WIDTH	HEIGHT	DOOR THICK
201	A	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
202	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
203	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
204	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
205	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
206	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
207	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
208	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
209	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
210	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
211	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
212	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
213	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
214	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"
215	D	3'-0"	7'-0"	1'-0"

SEE GENERAL NOTES FOR CONNECTION CRITERIA

3/4" DIA BOLT

DETAIL

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

DATE: 11/15/10

BY: [Signature]

CHK: [Signature]

APP: [Signature]



S1-30  
VIA L3-4 W7

ORIENT

15'-10" 3'-6 1/2"

20'-5"



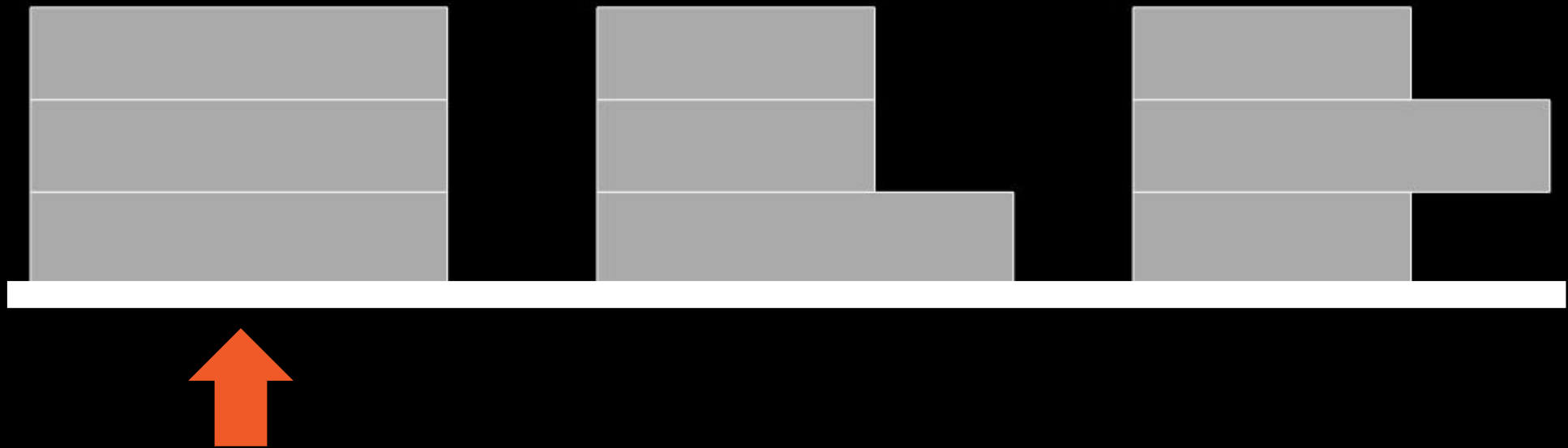
Questions?

We  
Should  
Know Better

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# Question #1

Which building shape is easier to build?





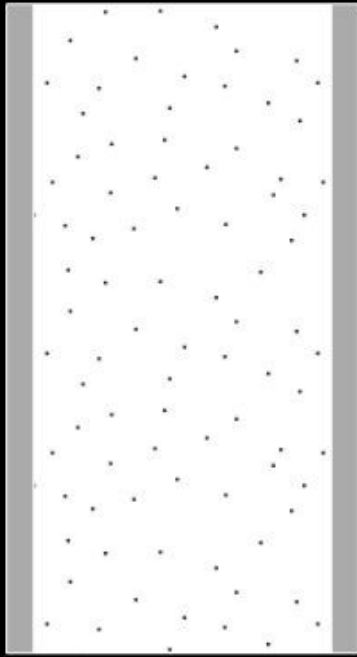
## Question #2

Which unit layout will result in the fewest mistakes?

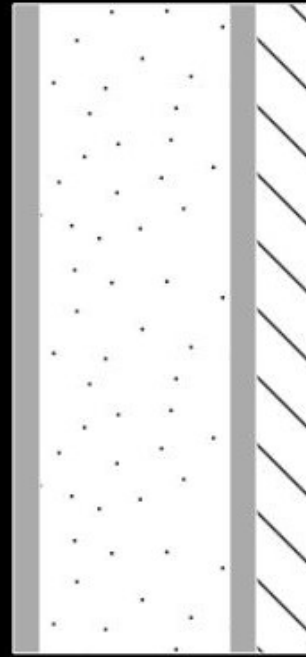


# Question #3

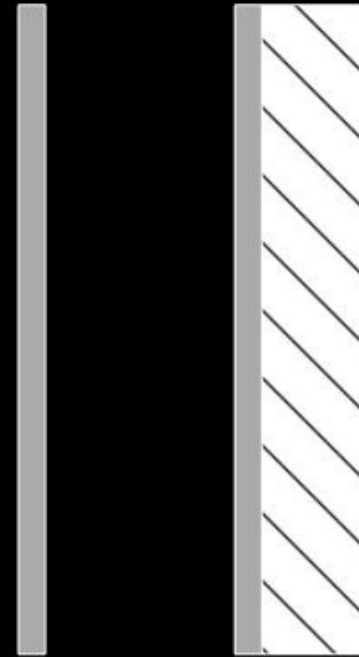
Which wall assembly has the highest R-value?



R-20 cavity



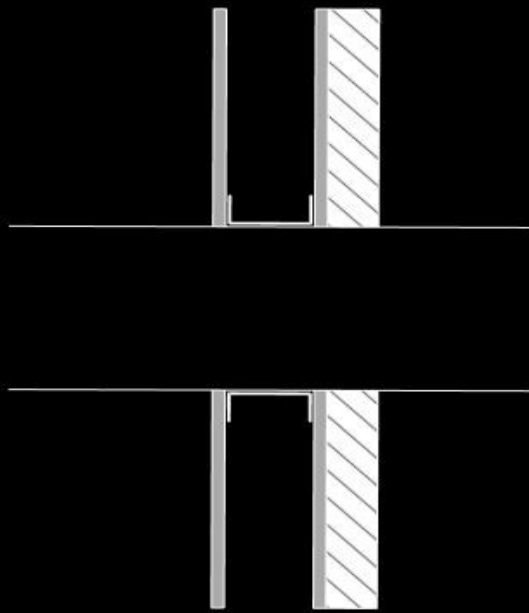
R-13 cavity + R-5 continuous



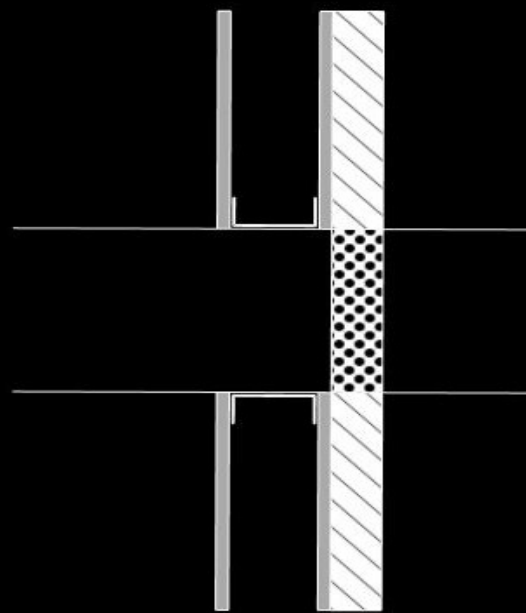
R-0 cavity + R-10 continuous

# Question #4

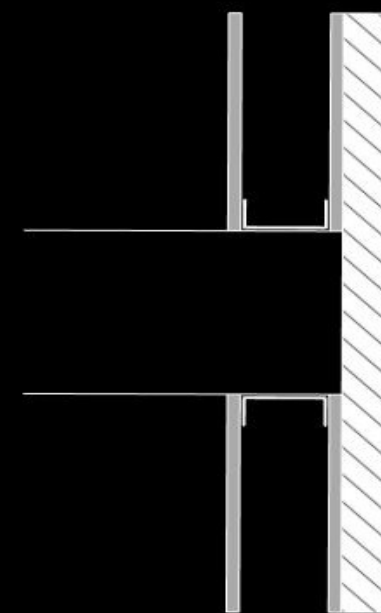
Which balcony assembly has the least thermal bridging?



Continuous concrete slab



Structural thermal break



No balcony



## Question #5

Where is the best place to include infiltration requirements in your documents?

A. Drawings

B. Specifications

 C. Both


## Question #6

Which lighting control method is best?

- A. None
- B. Wall switches
- C. Remote vacancy sensors
- D. Occupancy sensors on fixtures
- E. It depends on the situation!


## Question #7

Which approach to cooling equipment sizing is best?

- A. Assume 1 ton per 600 square feet
- B. Block load calculation with safety factor
- C. Room-by-room calculation; equipment sized  to meet load (and no larger)

## Question #8

Which is the best ventilation strategy for indoor air quality?

- A. Operable windows
- B. Exhaust + trickle vents
- C. Central make-up air unit
-  D. Balanced (HRV/ERV)

## Question #9

Which factors affect  
DHW distribution efficiency?

- A. Pipe length
- B. Insulation thickness
- C. Pump sizing
- D. Fixture flow rates
- E. All of the above



## Question #10

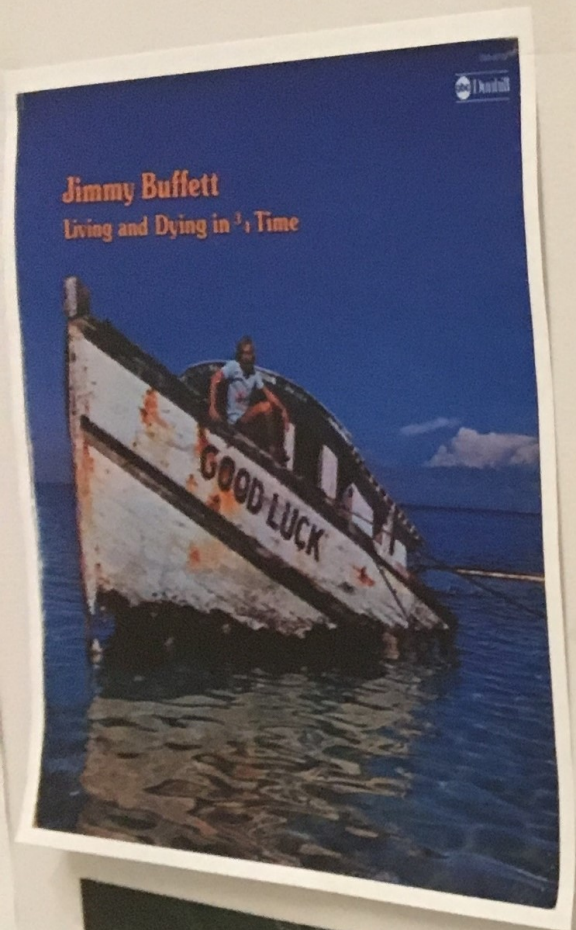
What is the difference between  
a successful project and a failure?

COMMUNICATION

Moving forward

We  
Should  
Know Better

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Design Mistakes



# COMPANY PRINCIPLES

## Be Visionary Lead the industry forward.

- Identify and respond quickly to trends that are anticipated to shape our industry.
- Be proactive and develop the expertise that will position SWA at the forefront of the industry.
- Pursue opportunities to share expertise both internally and outside the organization.
- Don't accept industry standard practice as the only solution. Develop and propose innovative solutions.

## Take Ownership Pursue opportunities for building lasting success.

- Bring new thoughts, solutions, and ideas to the table in an effort to change and/or improve a process or procedure, develop an initiative, or grow an idea.
- Hold yourself and one another accountable for following through on expectations.

## Think Holistically Collaborate to optimize whole building and community solutions.

- Collaborate strategically whenever possible to add value; drive collective results above all else.
- Promote the whole building approach to creating high performing buildings; recognize that our value is in our unique skill set and variety of service offerings.
- Share knowledge and information. There is extreme value in learning and teaching; do so whenever possible.

## Foster Comradery Engage with one another to build community.

- Spread positivity by being SUPER (supportive, understanding, polite, encouraging, and respectful).
- Celebrate successes and milestones.
- Bring laughter to the office. And dogs. And baked goods.

What are my priorities?

Am I being clear with my design intent?

Have I done this before? Do I know it will work?

What are the long/short-term cost factors?

Am I over-complicating this?

Where are the opportunities for failure?

How is this actually going to get built?

Have I designed in three dimensions?

What did we do right last time?

What did we do wrong last time?





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We Make  
Buildings  
Perform Better

By providing a whole-building  
approach to design and  
construction

# Thank you!

Join the conversation - #EEBASummit2019

Save the dates for next year:

