

Gensler

# CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH DESIGN





# THE PRESENTERS



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Regional Cities & Urban Design Lead at Gensler  
AILA, PIA, LEED ND AP

As an industry—and a global community—we are witnessing universal momentum a round addressing the urgent issue of climate change. This year is marked by the passing of key legislation across the globe with the aim of **reducing carbon emissions through the entire value chain of the built environment.**



We are propelled **by the momentum of a crisis multiplier** the world continues to face—an ongoing and evolving global pandemic, frequent and recurring extreme weather events, the rising cost of energy and materials, and issues of equity and systemic racism.



**Organizations across industries are crafting plans to address the full spectrum of the impacts of climate change.** Today, more than 700 of the largest 2,000 publicly traded companies globally have zero carbon commitments.



**Gensler's designers across the globe worked on over 6,000 projects in last year alone, representing a massive opportunity for positive impact via sustainable design solutions.**



**Gensler Cities Climate Challenge (GC3) is our roadmap for how we intend to help our clients reach their carbon targets and our goal of making every building in our portfolio net zero carbon.**

**GC<sup>3</sup>**







**Beyond sustainability** is the concept of **resilience**, a term we use to recognize that design must constantly evolve, adapting to and preparing for a changing world.



# Climate Resilience

As the climate continues to shift, we must invent new ways for cities to enrich the human experience within a changing environment.







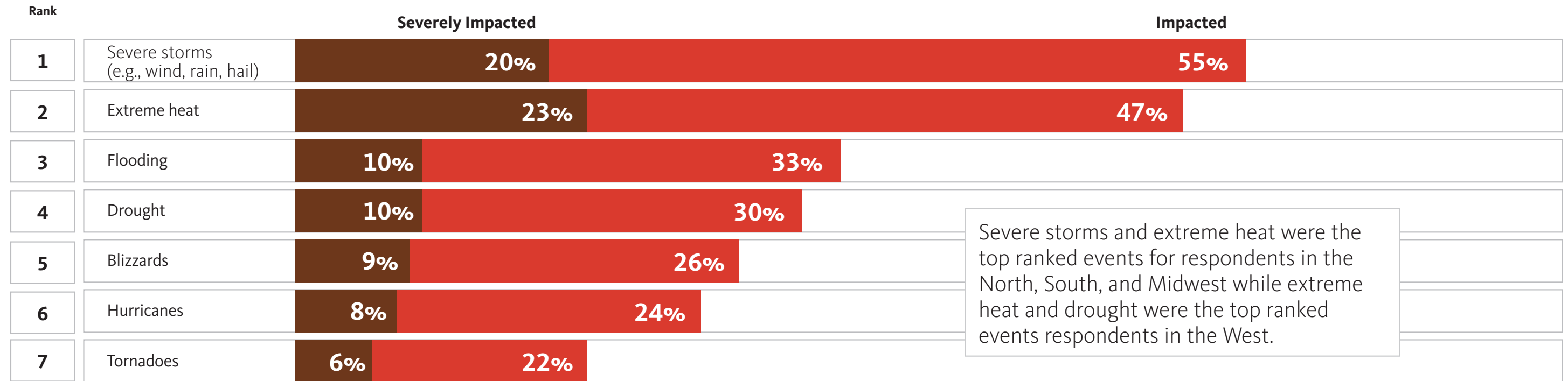
U.S. Climate Action Survey 2022

Only 18% of Americans believe their communities are built to withstand climate change.



# WHAT ARE THE MOST SEVERE IMPACTS?

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO INDICATED THAT THEY WERE ADVERSELY AFFECTED TO SOME EXTENT SINCE 2019



Response options ranged from "Not at all impacted" to "Severely impacted." Total exceeds 100% because respondents could select multiple options.



# HOW CAN WE PREPARE?

## PREPAREDNESS FRAMEWORK

Minimizing the amount of new carbon emitted into the environment.

Reducing the resource needs/impact of new development.

Investing in natural capital and greening our communities.

Supporting/preserving local ecologies and resources.

**Promoting cultural resilience and preparedness.**

**Creating places that improve human health, wellbeing, and social connection.**

**Creating awareness and optimism in our communities.**

Business continuity in the face of climate events.

Incentives or cost recovery vehicles for adaptation/resilience upgrades.

Prioritizing investments in energy and resource efficiency and adaptation.

Addressing insurability and long-term value of real estate.

Prioritizing marginalized communities, who are already feeling the most negative impacts from climate change.

Addressing the impacts of climate change on local and regional identity.





# 10 STEPS TO GET TO NET ZERO ENERGY

1. **UNDERSTAND YOUR BUILDING'S ENERGY PROFILE.**
2. **CREATE AN ENERGY BUDGET.**
3. **ORIENTATE YOUR BUILDING TO ITS SURROUNDING CLIMATE.**
4. **USE BUILDING ENERGY MODELING TO SELECT YOUR ENVELOPE.**
5. **INTRODUCE EXTERIOR SHADING.**
6. **DESIGN FOR DAYLIGHT.**
7. **CONSIDER OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING.**
8. **BOOST NATURAL VENTILATION.**
9. **REDUCE PLUG LOADS.**
10. **PRIORITIZE WHOLE SYSTEMS OVER LOCALIZED SOLUTIONS.**



# THE RIGHT MATERIALS

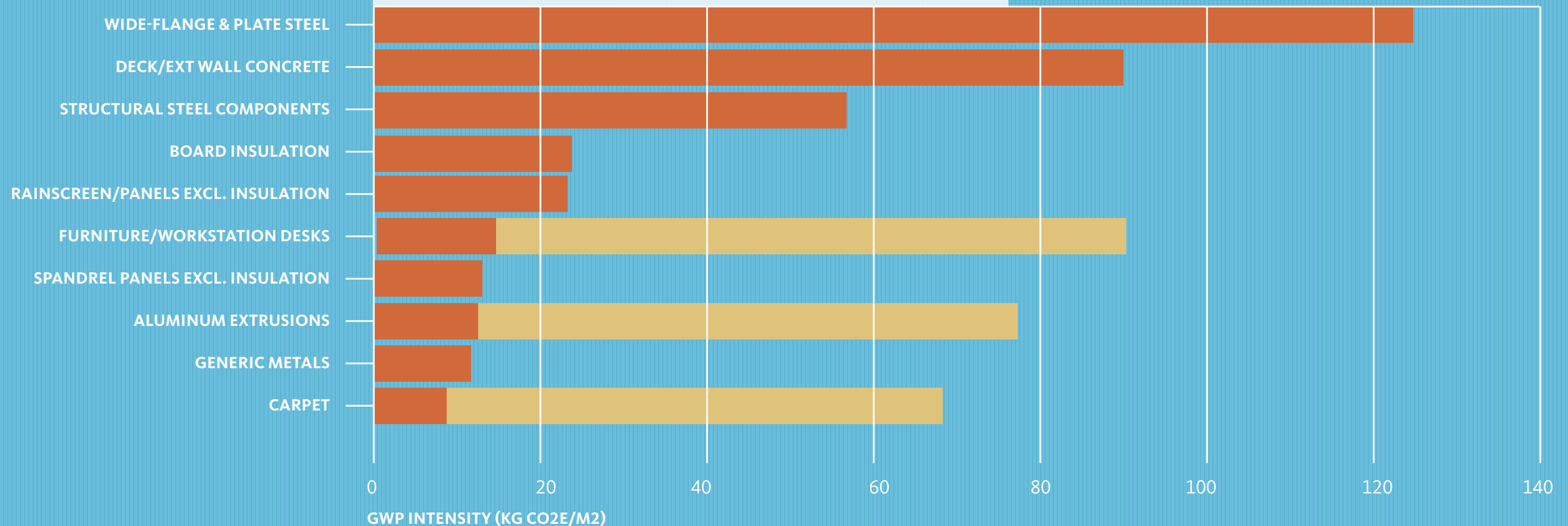
*When you do build new, focus on low-impact and low-carbon resources.*



# UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF MATERIALS

Over building lifespan  
Initial procurement only

## THE 10 MATERIALS WITH THE LARGEST CARBON IMPACT.



### GWP INTENSITY (KG CO2E/M2)

Global Warming Potential (GWP) Intensity within selected case studies, measured in kg CO2e/m2, and capturing product stage impacts including raw material supply, transport, and manufacturing impacts (A1-A3 life cycle stages).



## GENSLER MINNEAPOLIS

The new studio at Gensler Minneapolis utilizes low VOC materials, low flow fixtures, and locally built and sourced furniture to deliver an office space filled with fresh-air daylight. A WELL dashboard displays real-time data and environmental statistics about the space, while operable windows provide natural light and ventilation.





## UPCYCLE, AUSTIN, TEXAS

The repositioning of the warehouse building into a multi-tenant creative office space. It seeks to preserve a piece of the city's history while also providing an updated, modern, and collaborative working environment. The design reuses 100% of the existing structure, even the building skin, which is turned inside out to reveal its natural finish. Even old elements such as exhaust fans were reused as decorative design features.





An aerial, high-angle view of a futuristic, green city. The scene is dominated by lush greenery, including palm trees and various plants. A prominent feature is a monorail system with a white train on a track that curves through the city. People are seen walking on elevated walkways and bridges. There are also water features, including a large circular pond with a small boat. The overall atmosphere is clean, modern, and environmentally friendly. The image has a green tint.

# REAL ESTATE MUST ADAPT

*The climate is already changing—  
real estate must adapt accordingly.*



# HOW TO MITIGATE THE RISK OF RISING WATER

1.

## **CREATE PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY.**

The focus of the scheme is accessibility; a network of pedestrian green routes connect the neighborhoods and large parks located at the coastal edge and in the center of the development. There are no level changes across the scheme to strengthen accessibility and promote exercise and healthy living.

2.

## **CREATE GREEN AND BLUE VIEWS.**

The scheme is designed to maximize green and blue views by ensuring that the development steps down in height from the dense core to the shoreside neighborhoods.

3.

## **CREATE “SPONGE ROOFS” AND PERMEABLE PAVEMENTS**

A mix of green roofs and permeable pavements support a sustainable drainage system strategy to capture and store water.

4.

## **COLLECT RAINWATER AND USE GRAYWATER.**

Sponge roofs paired with siphonic drainage and a storage system collect rainwater and significantly reduce water usage in a property when combined with graywater from sinks and showers.



# HOW TO MANAGE THE HEAT

1.

## **ADD SHADE.**

Envelope-mounted sun screens, both vertical and horizontal, and deep roof eaves can shade buildings and the sidewalk below.

2.

## **REPLACE CONCRETE AND ASPHALT.**

The use of permeable pavers absorbs much less heat than asphalt.

3.

## **USE NATIVE LANDSCAPING.**

Native trees and shrubs on top of and around buildings serve as added shade while also capturing stormwater runoff.

4.

## **PARTNER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

Education and outreach on a local level can raise awareness of the harmful effects of heat. Offering practical and actionable solutions such as volunteer tree planting efforts or weatherization instruction can engage the community and lower the temperature.



## MSHEIREB DOWNTOWN DOHA, QATAR

Realized by Gensler in partnership with Turner International Middle East and a team of architects and consultants, Downtown Doha represents one of the highest concentrations of LEED-certified buildings in the world, with 11 LEED Platinum and 6 LEED Gold Certified buildings to date.

Combining modern construction techniques with cultural and contextual precedent for sustainable design, the project takes a markedly different approach to downtown redevelopment—focusing on the human experience, street presence, and progressive approaches to providing human comfort in a hot climate.



*“This project achieves a distinctly Qatari architectural style and experience, and represents a progressive new approach to sustainability in hot, arid climates.”*

LISA CHOLMONDELEY, Design Manager, Gensler San Francisco



# THE ADAPTIVE REUSE REVOLUTION

*Reuse strategies at every scale are cost-effective with reduced carbon impact.*



# ADAPTIVE REUSE STRATEGIES CAN BE APPLIED AT MULTIPLE SCALES.

## PRODUCTS

REUSE, REPURPOSE, RECYCLE.

BALANCE REUSE OF APPLIANCES WITH CURRENT DEMANDS AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

USE LOCALLY SOURCED PRODUCTS.

## INTERIORS

DESIGN FOR DISASSEMBLY.

SELECT LOW-CARBON MATERIALS.

CHOOSE MATERIALS THAT ARE EASY TO REUSE.

## BUILDINGS

REPOSITION AND RETROFIT.

ASSESS THE BUILDING'S CORE AND SHELL.

CONSIDER THE ENVELOPE.

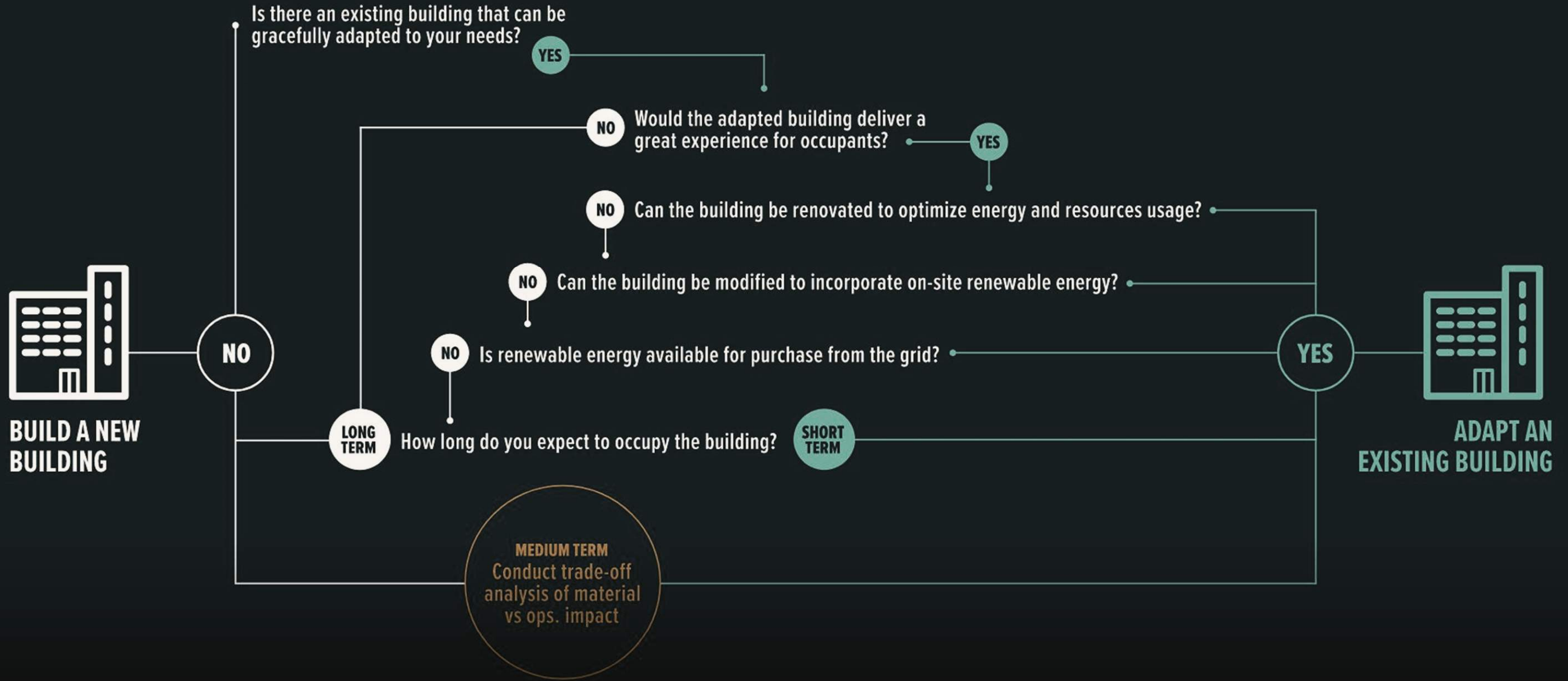
## CITIES

EXAMINE NEW USES THAT MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS.

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP.

CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.







# THE NEW DESIGN JOURNEY

*To achieve a net zero carbon portfolio by 2030, we optimized our design process from end to end.*



# START EVERY PROJECT WITH CLEAR SUSTAINABLE PERFORMANCE GOALS

*“To meet our goal of zero carbon impact by 2030, we need to improve our design performance significantly each year. We are developing new educational initiatives and project kick-off processes in line with this goal.”*

GAIL NAPELL, Director of Sustainability, Gensler San Francisco





# A NEW TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM FACILITATES DATA-INFORMED DECISIONS AT SCALE

*“Our digital transformation strategy brings innovative solutions like climate data simulations as a vital part of storytelling and decision-making in the design journey—a must-have experience for our clients and designers to engage and co-create a resilient tomorrow.”*

JOSEPH JOSEPH, Global Director of Design Technology

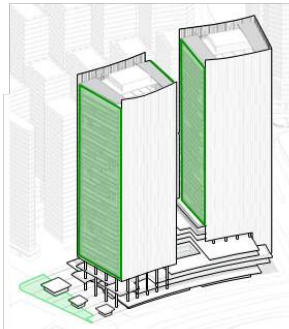




FILLINVEST SPECTRUM CITY - PHILIPPINES



# SUSTAINABLE + EFFICIENT FAÇADE TYPOLOGIES



Facade Type 1



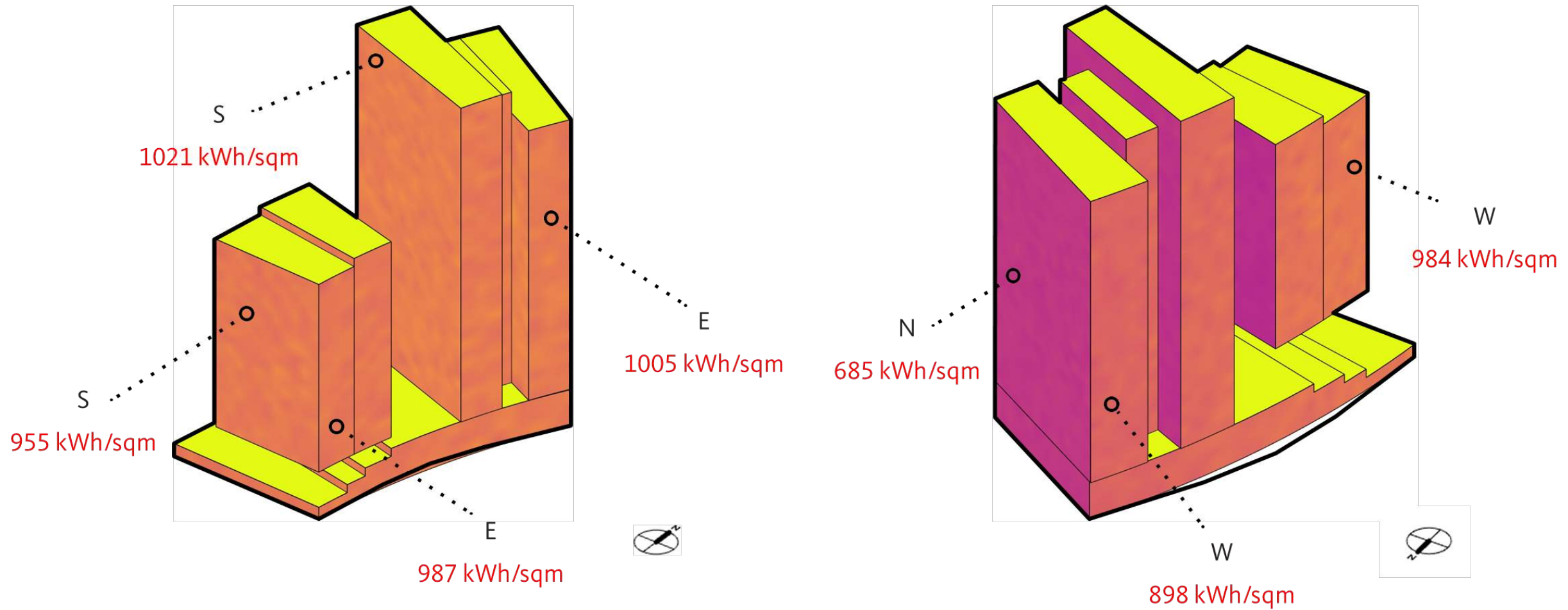


# BUILDING ENVELOPE OVERVIEW

## SOLAR RADIATION MASSING STUDY

### FINDINGS:

The South and South-East facing facades receive the most cumulative yearly solar radiation.



NORTH-WEST ISOMETRIC VIEW

SOUTH-EAST ISOMETRIC VIEW

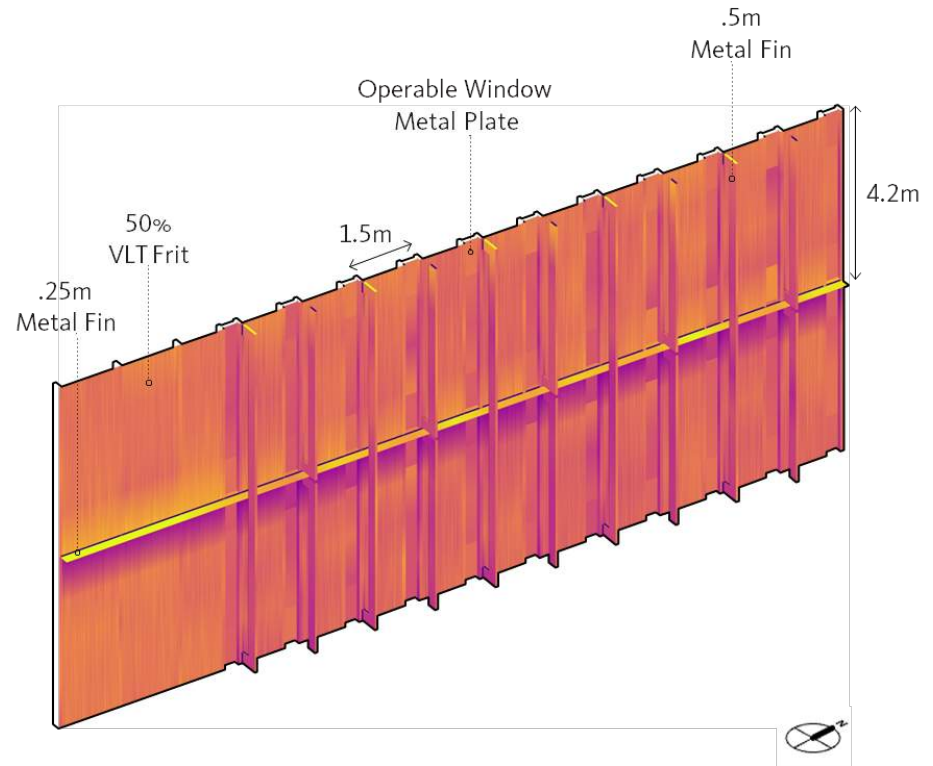
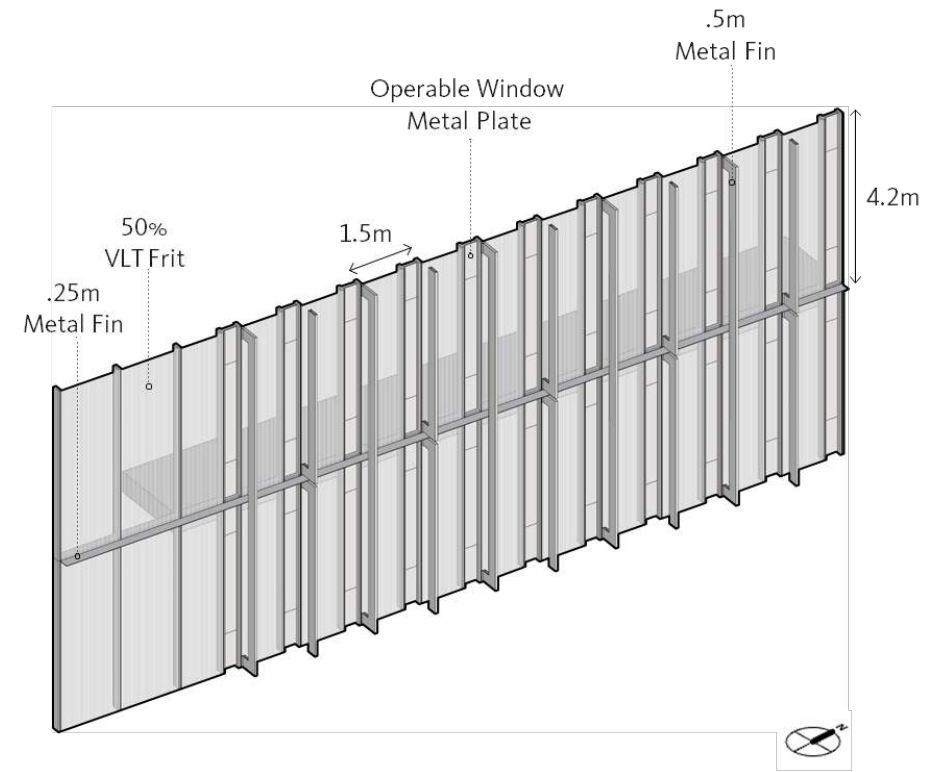
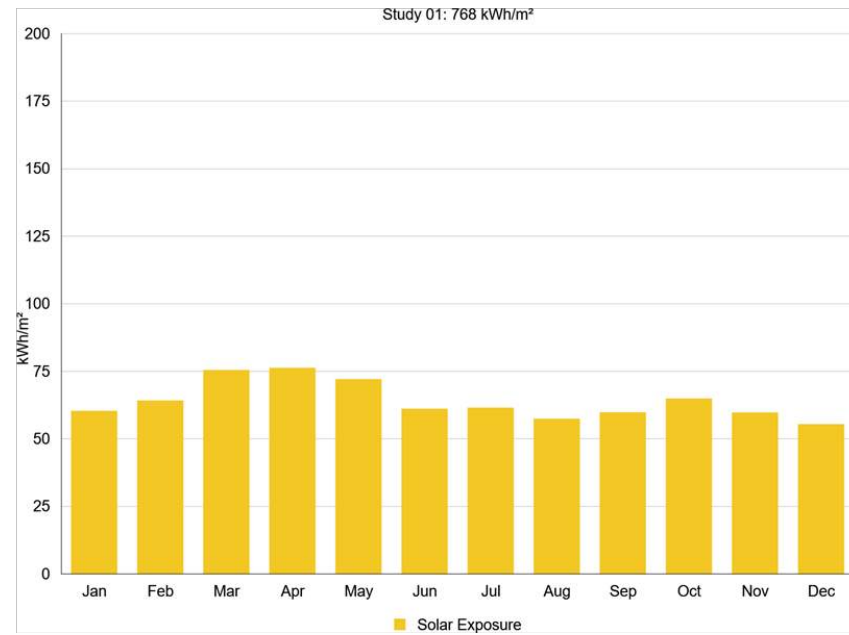
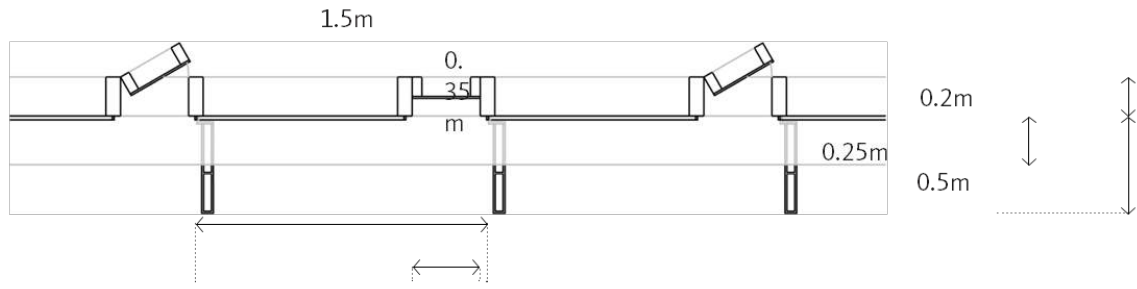




# CURTAIN WALL STUDIES

## OPTION 01

2-Story Staple Fins .5m  
Opaque Operable Slot - Stagger

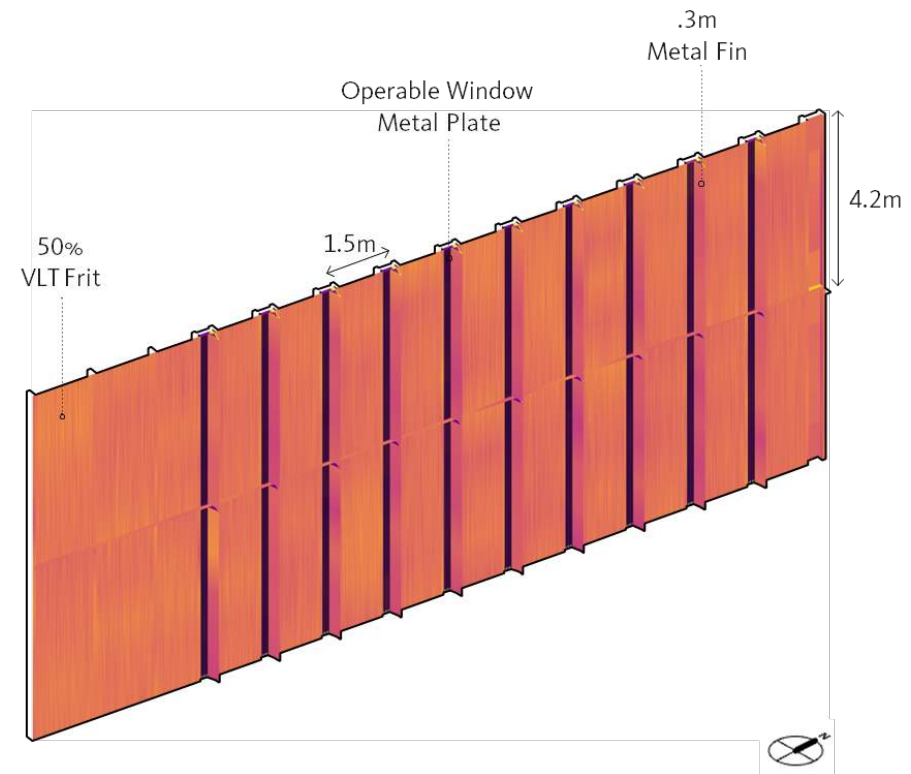
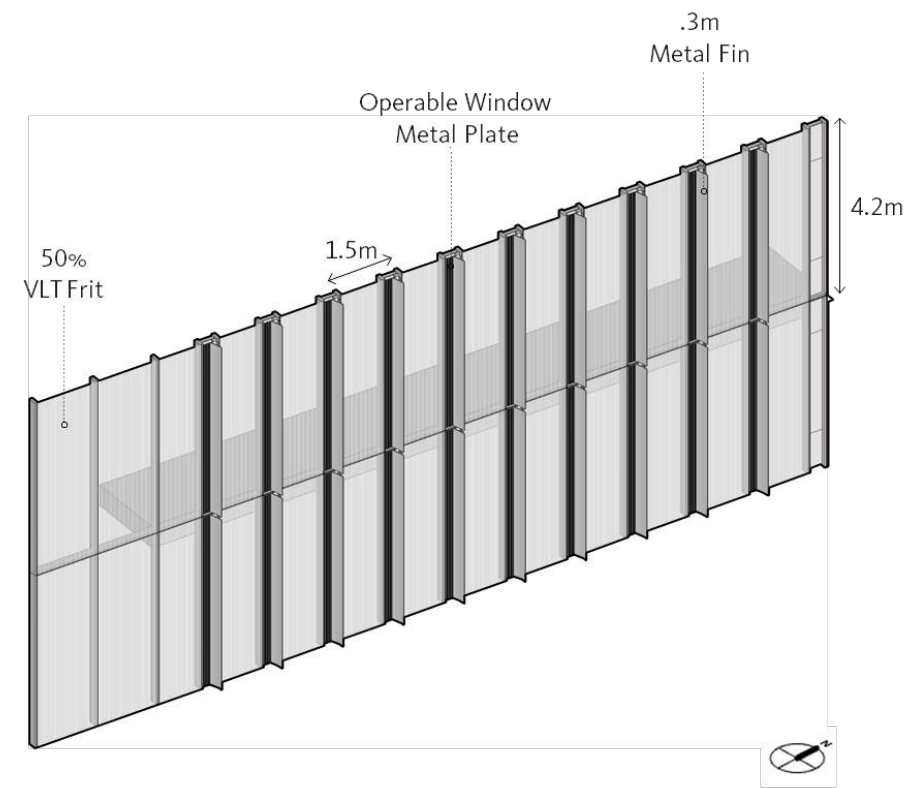
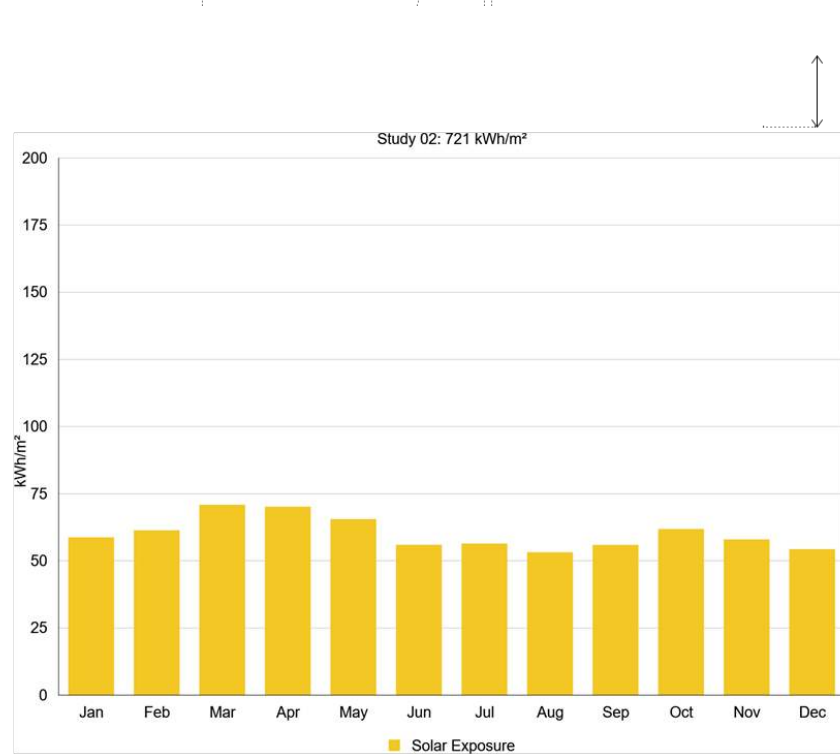
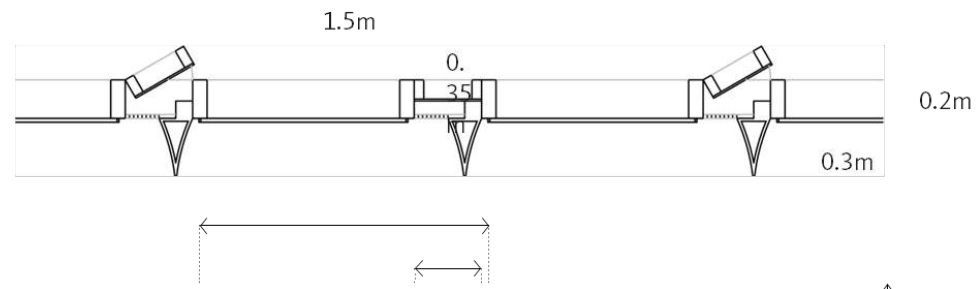




# CURTAIN WALL STUDIES

## OPTION 02

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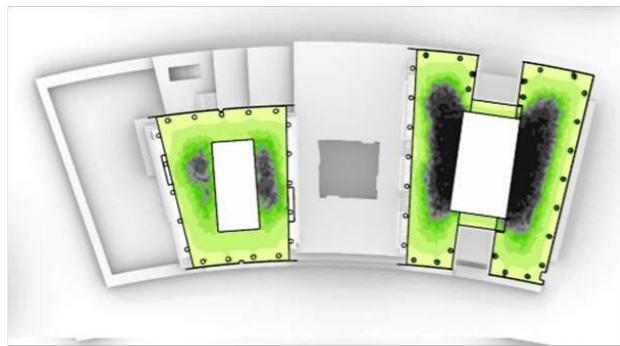
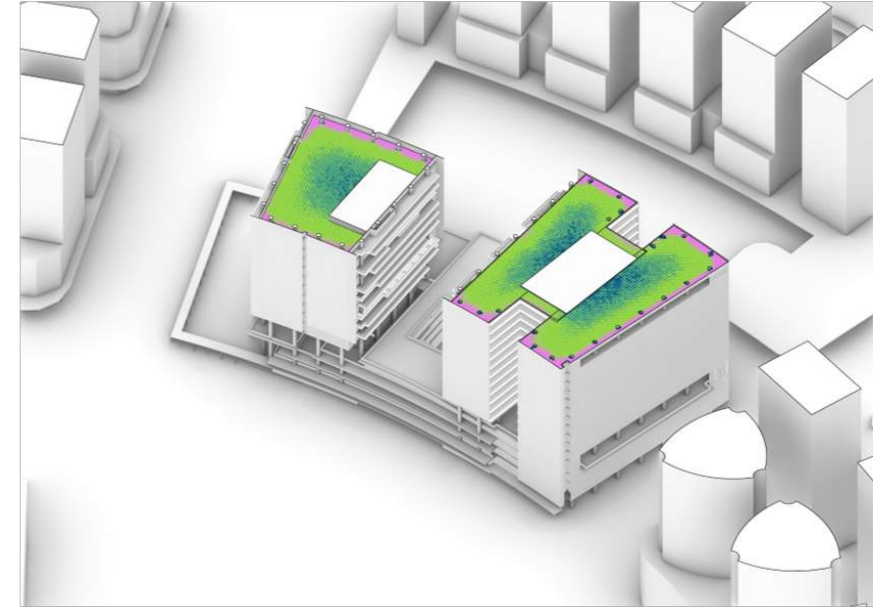
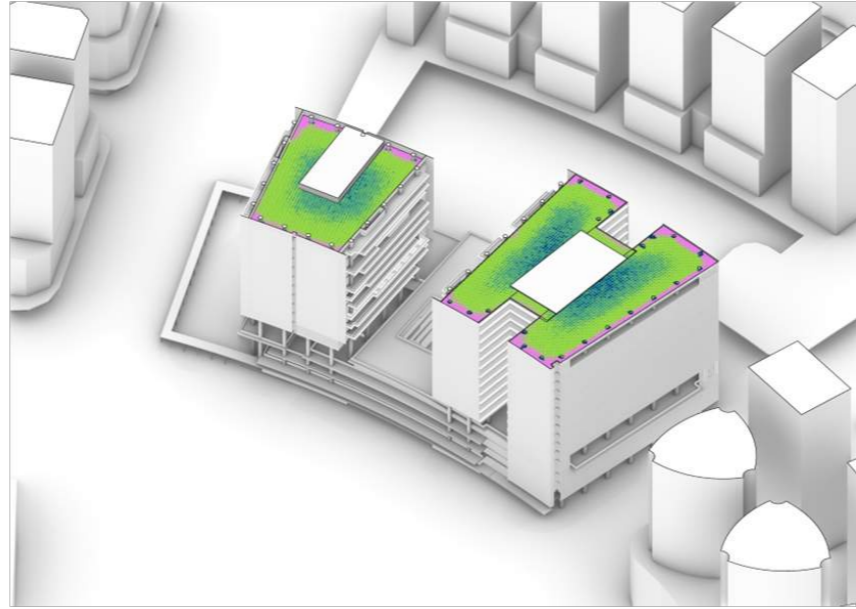
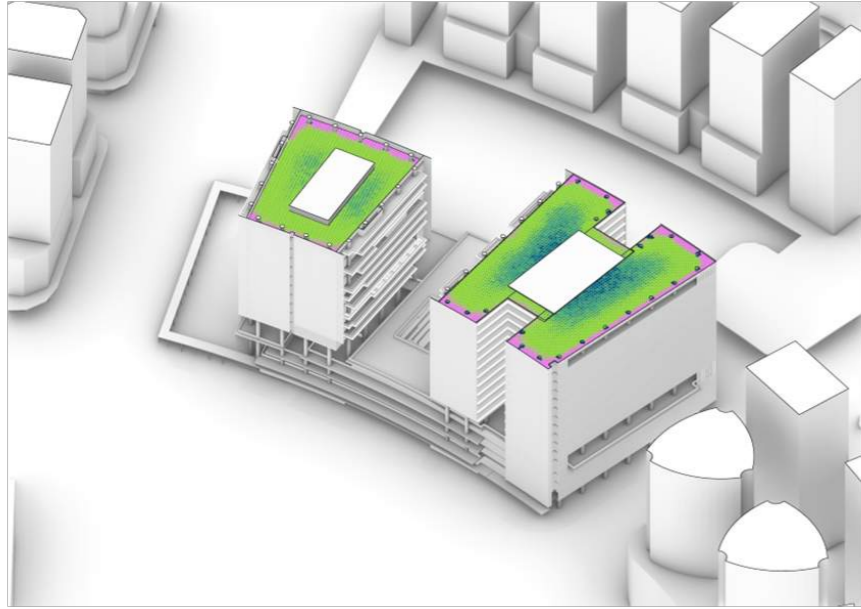




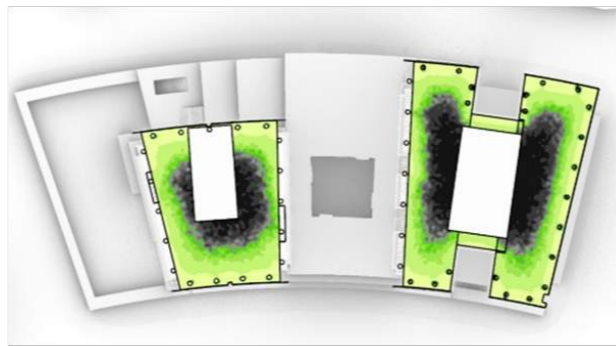
# CORE STUDIES

## DAYLIGHT SIMULATIONS

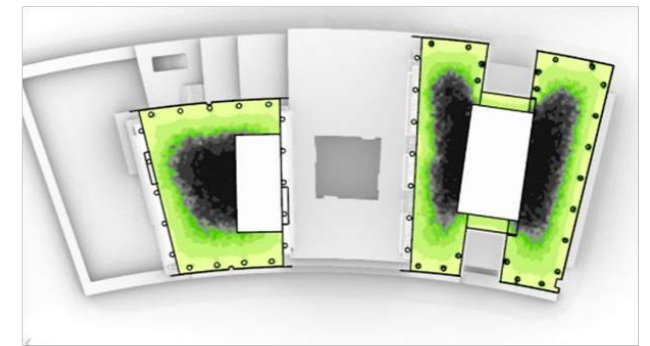
FAILING SUPPLEMENTAL ACCEPTABLE EXCESSIVE



CENTRAL CORE



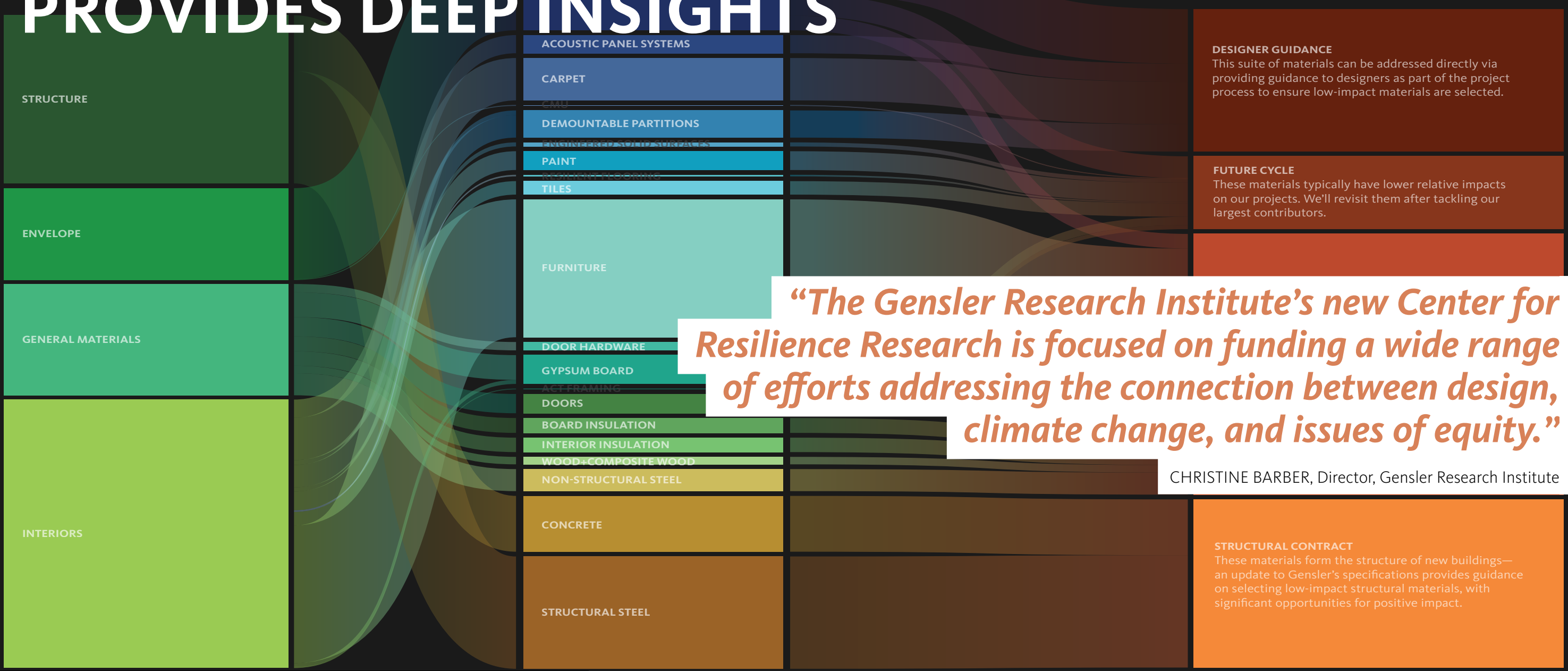
WEST SIDE CORE



NORTH SIDE CORE



# ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN DESIGN-RESILIENCE RESEARCH PROVIDES DEEP INSIGHTS



**DESIGNER GUIDANCE**  
 This suite of materials can be addressed directly via providing guidance to designers as part of the project process to ensure low-impact materials are selected.

**FUTURE CYCLE**  
 These materials typically have lower relative impacts on our projects. We'll revisit them after tackling our largest contributors.

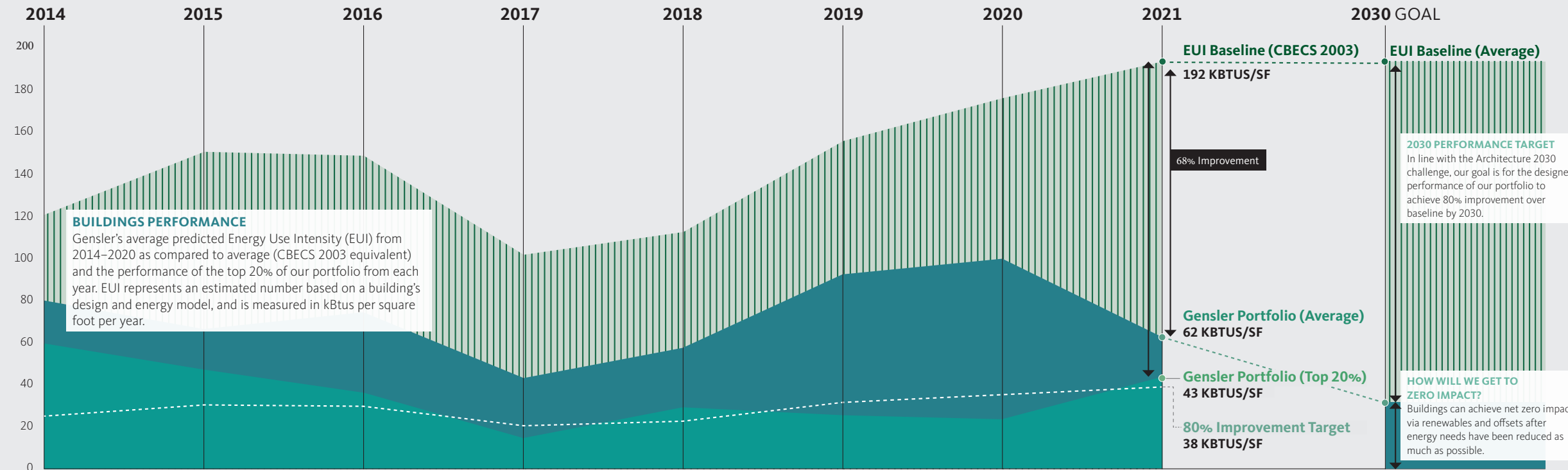
*“The Gensler Research Institute’s new Center for Resilience Research is focused on funding a wide range of efforts addressing the connection between design, climate change, and issues of equity.”*

CHRISTINE BARBER, Director, Gensler Research Institute

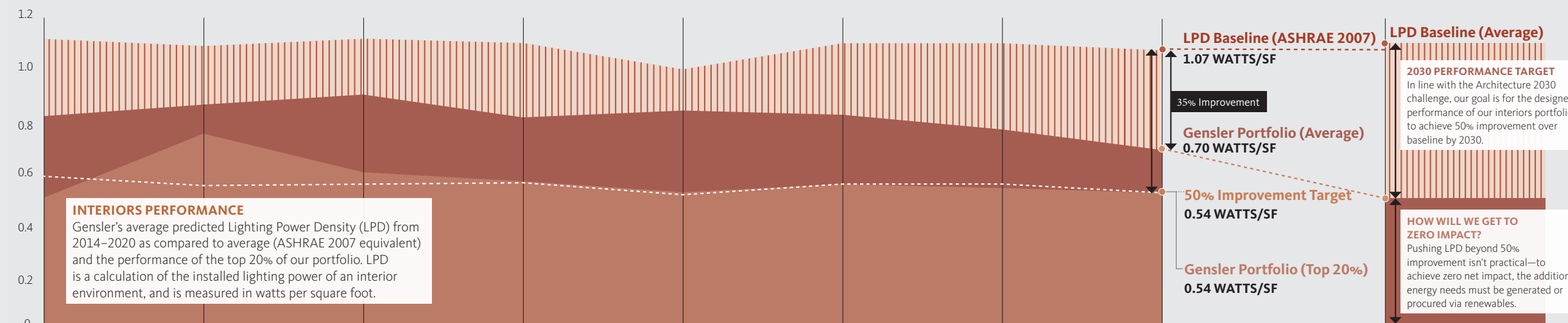
**STRUCTURAL CONTRACT**  
 These materials form the structure of new buildings—an update to Gensler’s specifications provides guidance on selecting low-impact structural materials, with significant opportunities for positive impact.



# 2021 PORTFOLIO OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE METRICS



The performance of the top 20% of Gensler's portfolio has already achieved performance improvement targets in line with our 2030 goals.





A photograph of a modern architectural courtyard. The scene is dominated by a white metal frame structure with a grid of beams and columns. To the left, there are wooden balconies with white railings. In the center, a white staircase with a metal railing leads up to a higher level. To the right, a building with large glass windows is visible. The ground is paved with concrete, and there are several young trees planted in the courtyard. The sky is clear and blue. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

THANK YOU