



High-Performance Facades: Designing Office Building Facades to Enhance Indoor Daylighting Performance

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“A room is not a room without natural light.”

Louis Kahn, 1971



Motivation

Building skins shouldn't be just designed only for its aesthetics aspects but also as a **functioning element** in the building.

The research aims to:

- Define **guidelines** for using daylighting systems to achieve high performance **office building** facades.
- Explore an integrated framework or methodology for **integrating computational and building performance simulation tools**.

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Cadence Corp. R&D Headquarters, San Jose

August 2009



Cadence Corp. R&D Headquarters, San Jose

December 2009





1

Shading and Daylight Redirecting Systems:
Daylighting Performance Analysis and Guidelines

2

Integrating Daylighting and Energy Consumption
Simulations

3

Integrating Computational and Building Performance
Simulation Techniques for Optimized Facade Designs

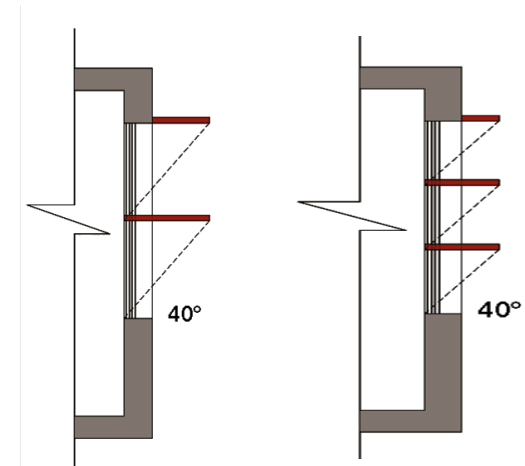
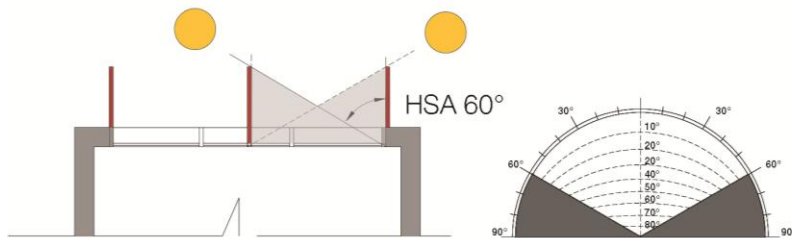
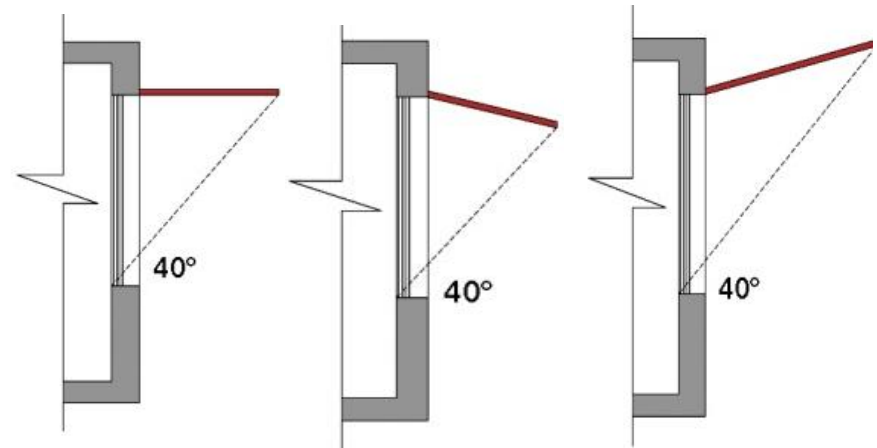
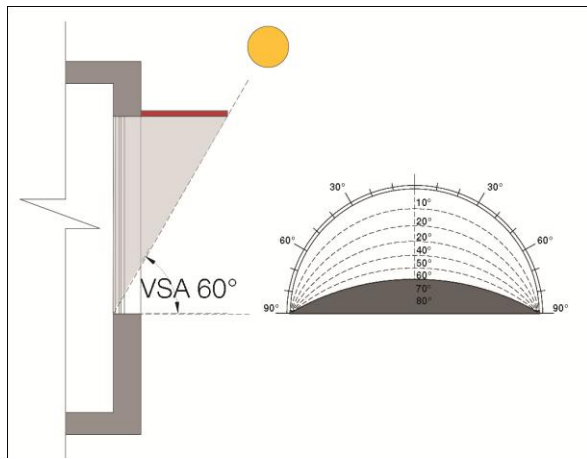


1

Shading and Daylight Redirecting Systems: Daylighting Performance Analysis and Guidelines

Gadelhak M., (2013) "High-Performance Facades: Designing Office Building Facades to Enhance Indoor Daylighting Performance" M.Sc. Thesis, Ain Shams University.

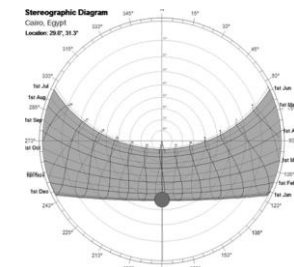
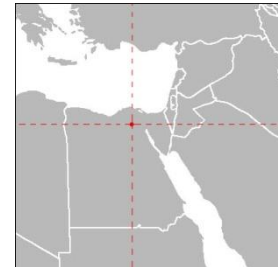
Shading Devices Design and Parameters



Location and Context

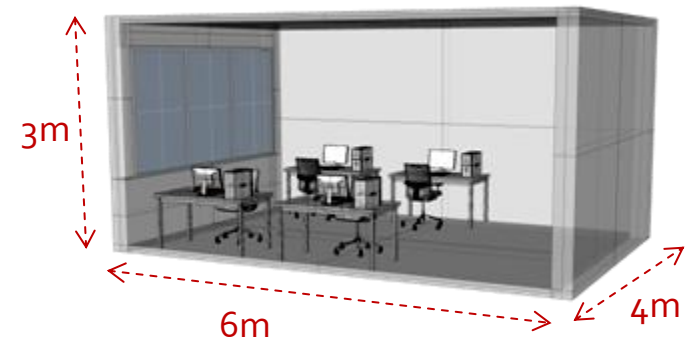
The case study was chosen to be located in the city of **Cairo, Egypt** (30° N- 31° E).

Cairo is endowed with a **clear sunny sky** for almost all the year round.



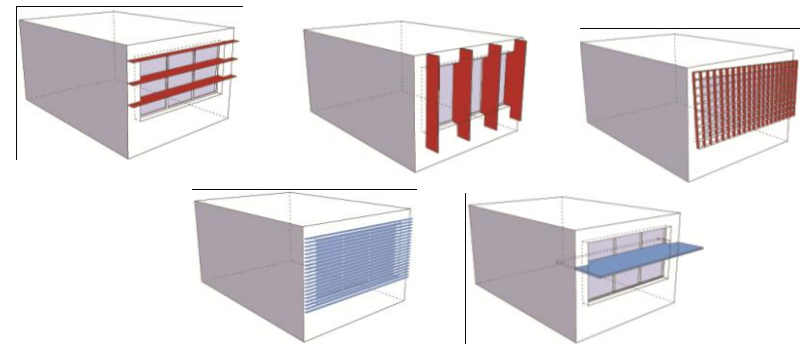
Base Case Parameters

A typical **side-lit office room space** 4.00 m wide and 6.00 m deep rectangular space, with 3.00 m clear height. The office space was assumed to have 3.60m wide and 1.80 m high window.



Modeled Cases

Different daylighting systems were investigated for the South, and East/West orientations. Three shading systems and two daylight redirecting systems were studied..



Simulation Parameters and Assumptions

The **Daylight Availability** metric was chosen as evaluating criteria.

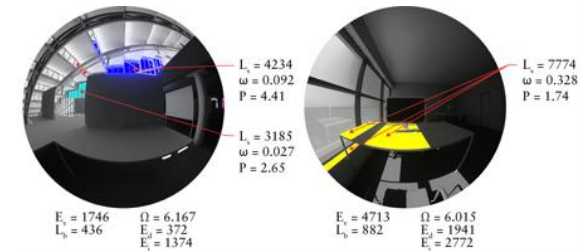
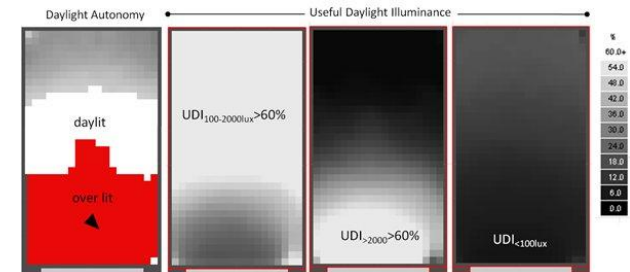
Daylit - Partially daylit - Over lit

"Low Performance": ($50\% \leq \text{daylit area} < 65\%$).

"Medium Performance": ($65\% \leq \text{daylit area} < 75\%$).

"High Performance": ($75\% \leq \text{daylit area}$).

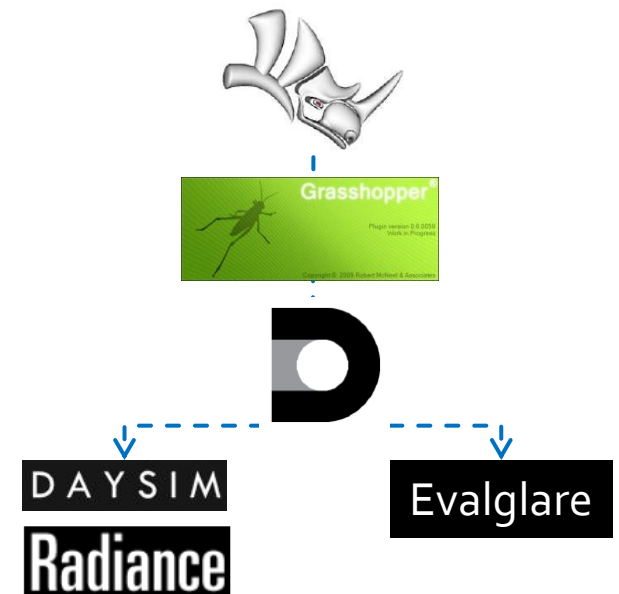
Daylight Glare Probability (DGP)



Simulation Workflow and Modeling Software

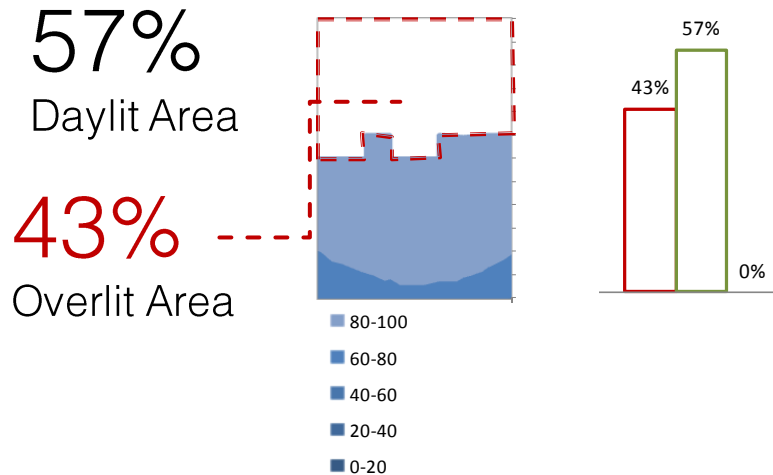
Parametric models were created using **Grasshopper** a plug-in for **Rhinoceros** modeling software.

Simulations were conducted using **Diva-for-Rhino** which was used to interface Radiance and Daysim for annual simulation and illuminance computation, and Evalglare for calculating the Daylight Glare Probability (DGP)

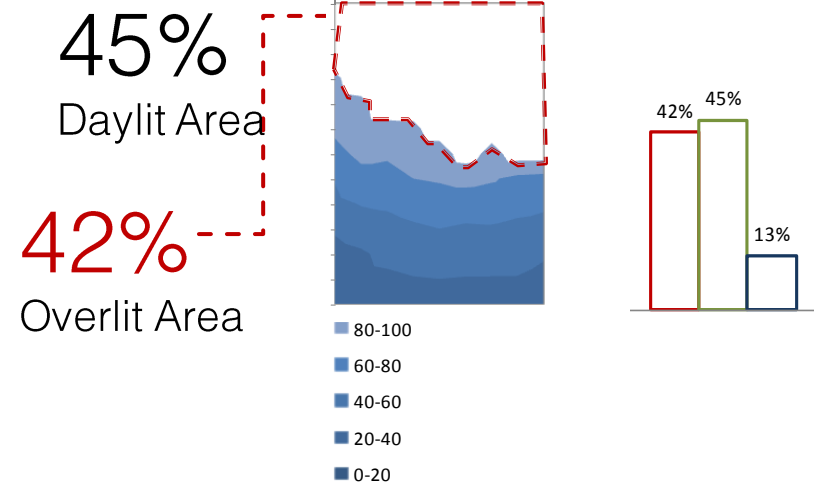


Base Case Simulation Results

South Orientation



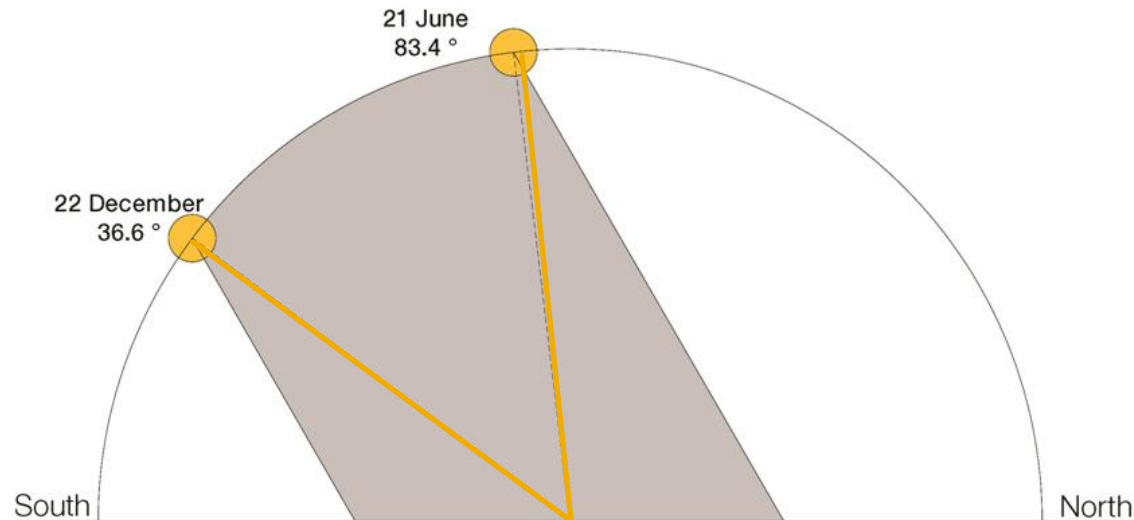
East Orientation







Sky condition and Sun angles

Cairo, Egypt
30 N, 31.2 E

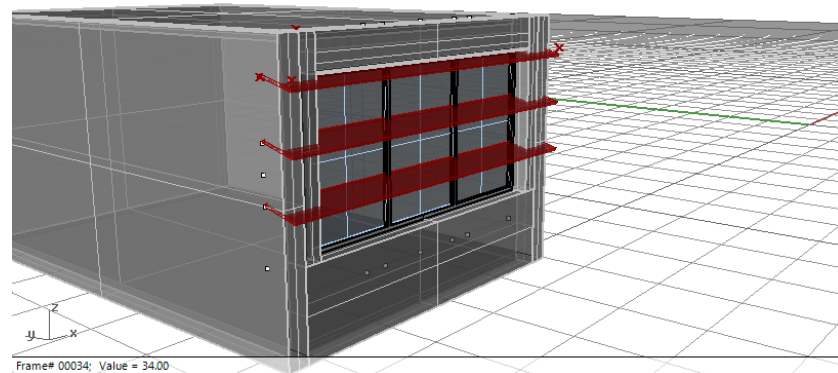


	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Annual Mean	Percentage
 Days with Clear Sky (Monthly Mean)	23	28	31	28	27	90%
 Days with Cloud Sky (Monthly Mean)	7	3	0	2	3	10%

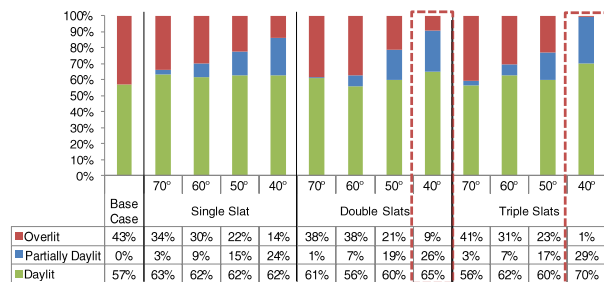
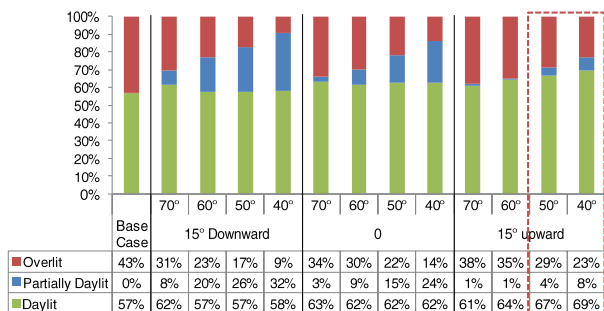


Horizontal sun breakers

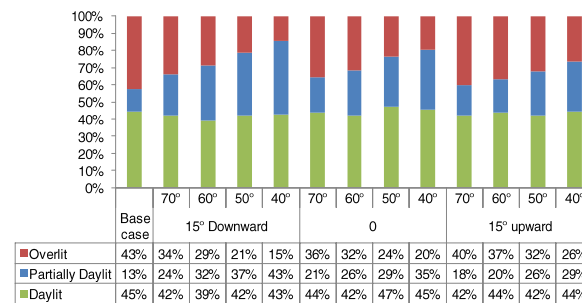
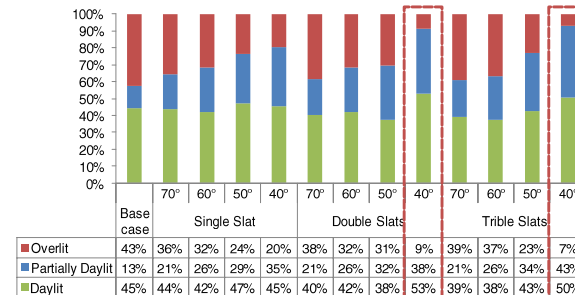
- *Vertical shading angle*: 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Rotation angles*: 15° downwards, 0°, and 15° upwards
- *Number of slats*: single, double and triple



South Orientation



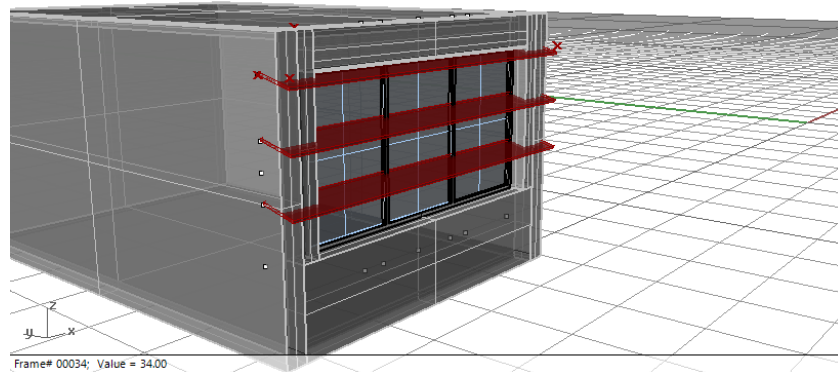
East Orientation





Horizontal sun breakers

- *Vertical shading angle*: 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Rotation angles*: 15° downwards, 0°, and 15° upwards
- *Number of slats*: single, double and triple



South Orientation

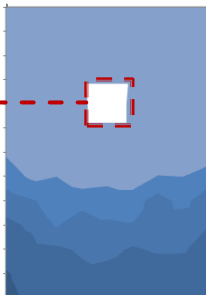
Three slats, horizontal with 50 ° VSA

70%

Daylit Area

1%

Overlit Area



80-100
60-80
40-60
20-40
0-20



East Orientation

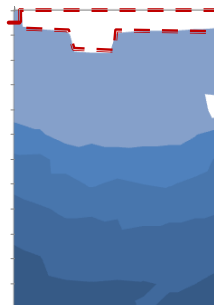
Two slats, horizontal with 50 ° VSA

53%

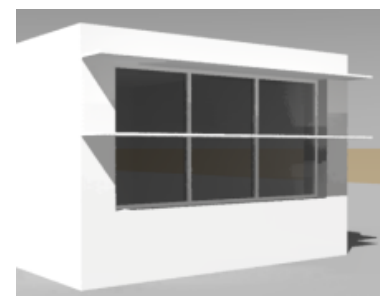
Daylit Area

9%

Overlit Area



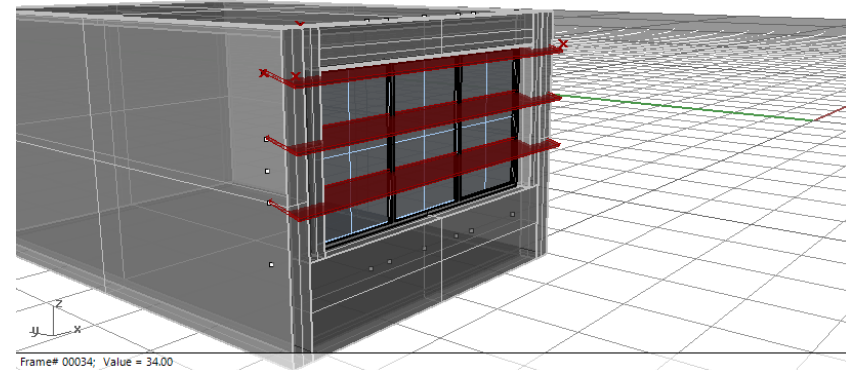
80-100
60-80
40-60
20-40
0-20





Horizontal sun breakers

- *Vertical shading angle*: 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Rotation angles*: 15° downwards, 0°, and 15° upwards
- *Number of slats*: single, double and triple

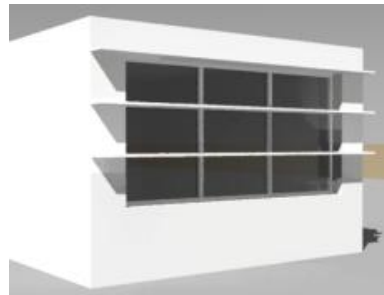
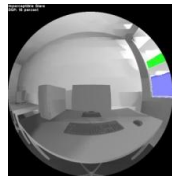
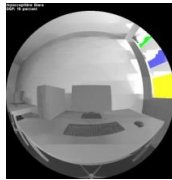
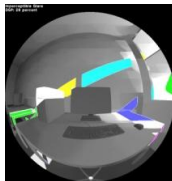


South Orientation

30%

Highest DGP

Imperceptible
Glare

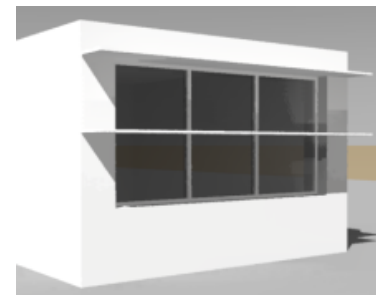
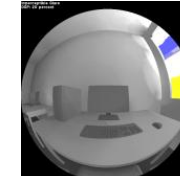
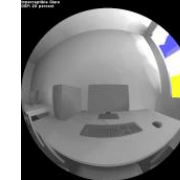
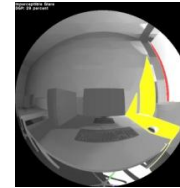


East Orientation

25%

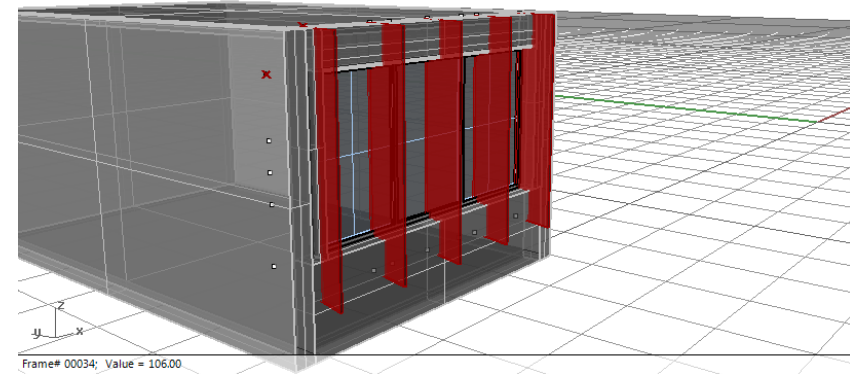
Highest DGP

Imperceptible
Glare

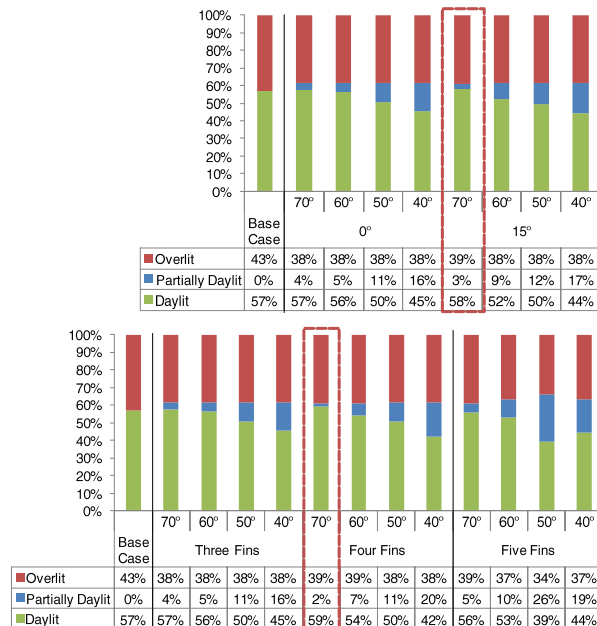


Vertical sun breakers

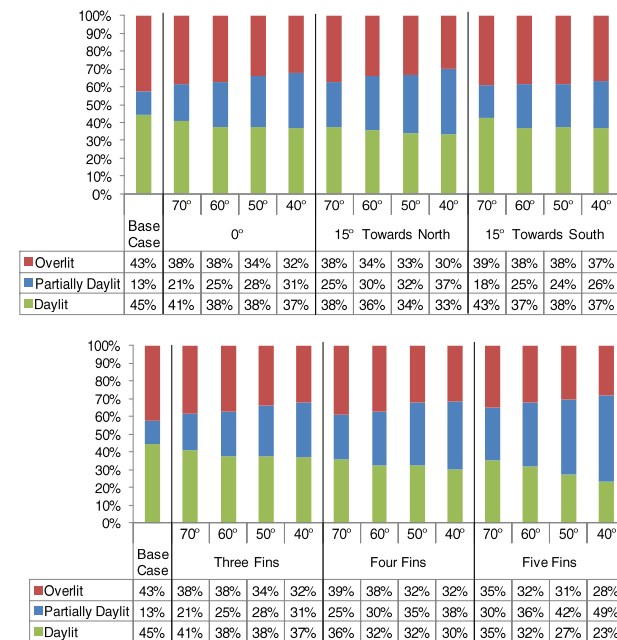
- *Horizontal shading angle*: 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Rotation angles*: 15° downwards, 0°, and 15° upwards
- *Number of slats*: three, four and five



South Orientation



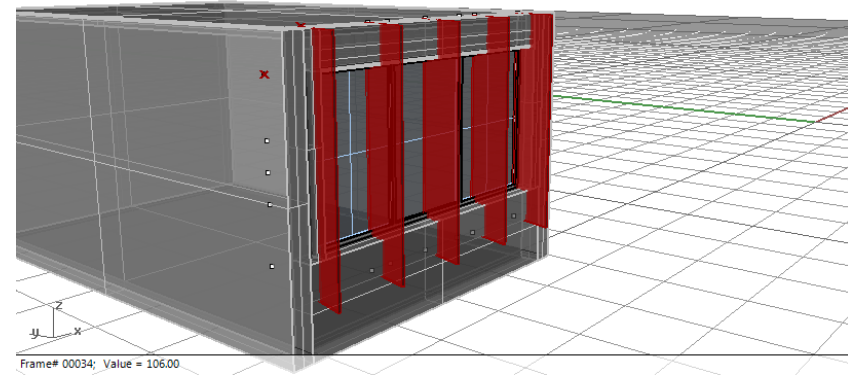
East Orientation



Vertical sun breakers

The effect of changing three parameters was studied.

- *Horizontal shading angle*: 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Rotation angles*: 15° North, 0°, and 15° South
- *Number of slats*: three, four and five

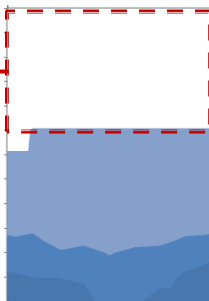


South Orientation

Four slats, 0° rotation, with 70 ° HSA

59%
Daylit Area

39%
Overlit Area

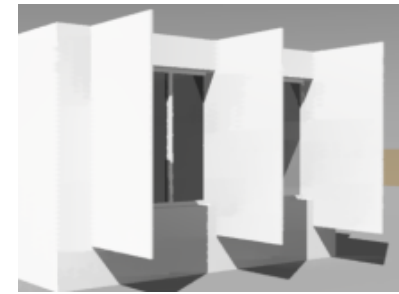
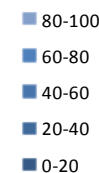
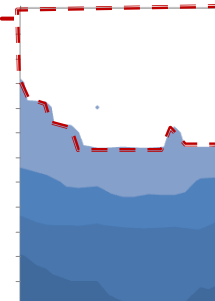


East Orientation

Five slats, 15° South, with 70 ° HSA

43%
Daylit Area

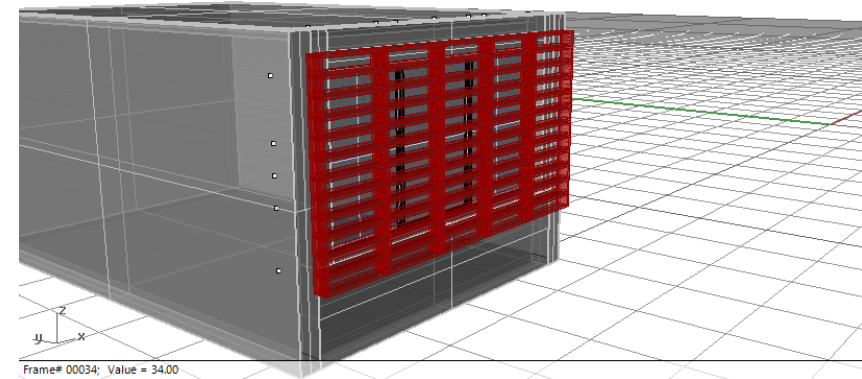
39%
Overlit Area



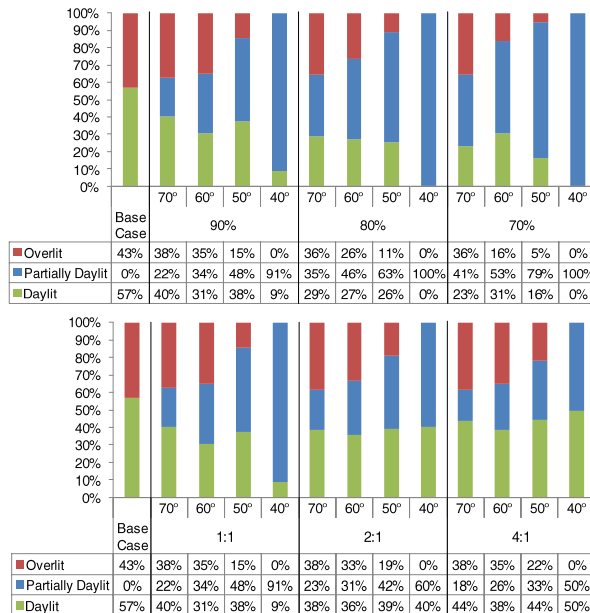
Solar Screens

The effect of changing three parameters was studied.

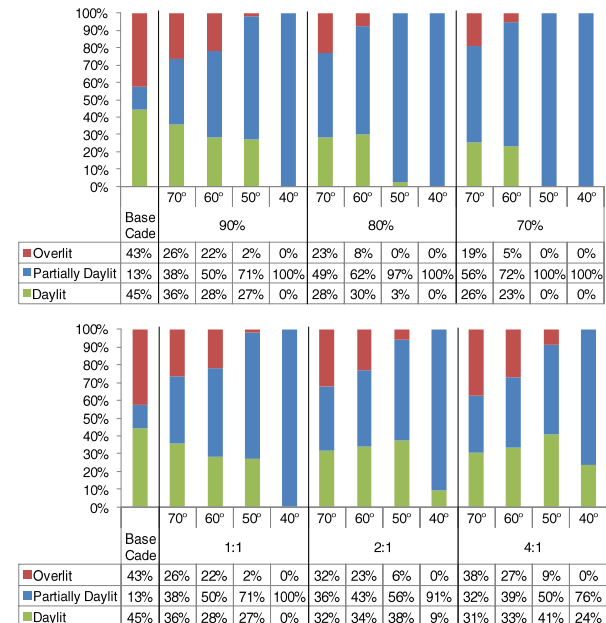
- *Vertical shading angle*: 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Perforation ratio*: 90%, 80%, and 70%
- *Aspect ratio (Horizontal: Vertical)*: 1:1, 2:1 and 4:1



South Orientation



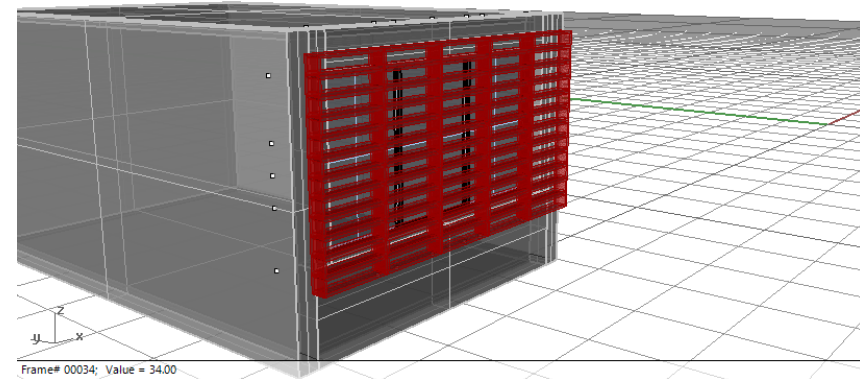
East Orientation



Solar Screens

The effect of changing three parameters was studied.

- *Vertical shading angle*: 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Perforation ratio*: 90%, 80%, and 70%
- *Aspect ratio (Horizontal: Vertical)*: 1:1, 2:1 and 4:1



South Orientation

90% perforation, 4:1, with 70° VSA

50%
Daylit Area



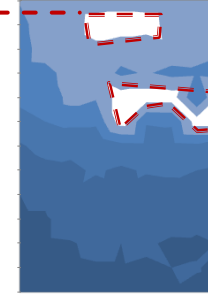
0%
Overlit Area



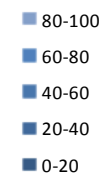
East Orientation

90% perforation, 4:1, with 50° VSA

41%
Daylit Area



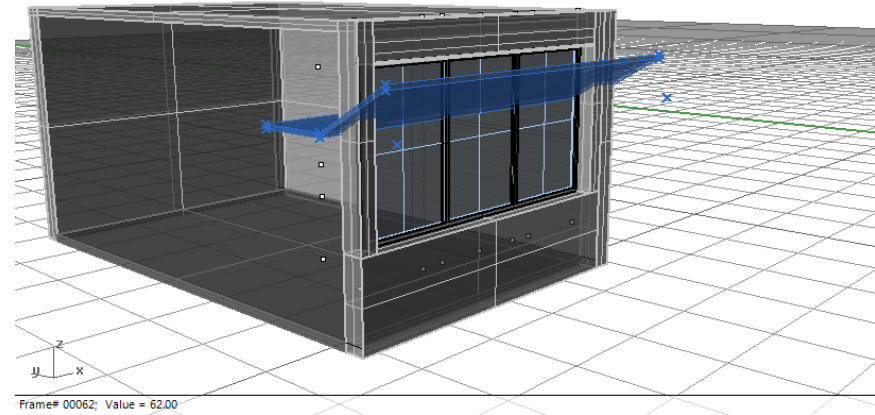
9%
Overlit Area



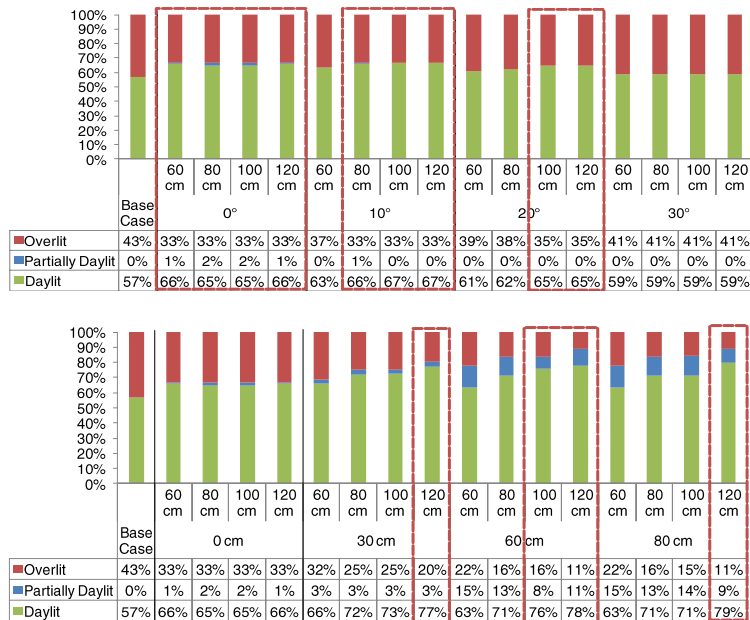
Light Shelves

The effect of changing three parameters was studied.

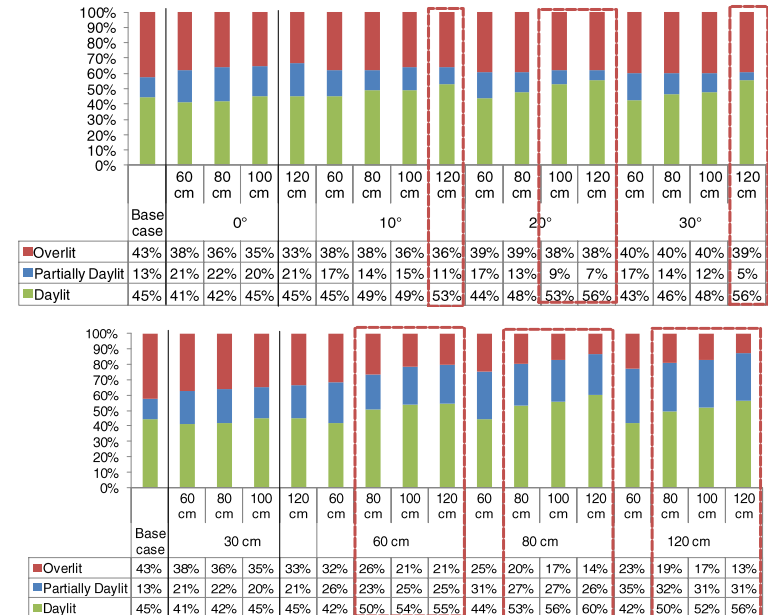
- External light shelf depth: 60 cm, 80 cm, 100 cm and 120 cm
- Internal light shelf depth: 0 , 30 cm, 60 cm, and 80 cm
- External light shelf rotation angle: 0°, 10°, 20°, and 30°



South Orientation



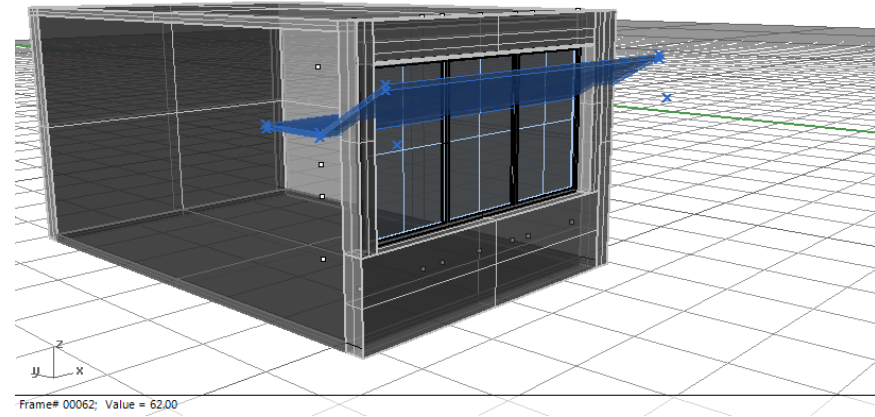
East Orientation



Light Shelves

The effect of changing three parameters was studied.

- External light shelf depth: 60 cm, 80 cm, 100 cm and 120 cm
- Internal light shelf depth: 0, 30 cm, 60 cm, and 80 cm
- External light shelf rotation angle: 0°, 10°, 20°, and 30°



South Orientation

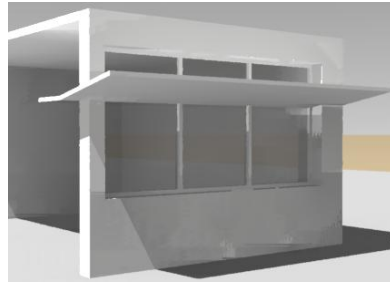
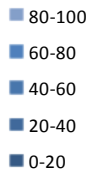
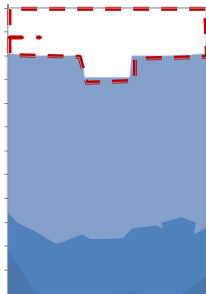
100 cm Ext., 10° rotation, 60 cm Int.

82%

Daylit Area

16%

Overlit Area



East Orientation

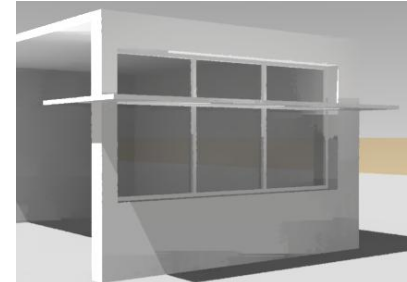
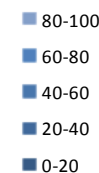
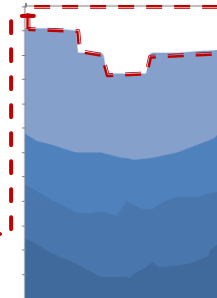
120 cm Ext., 0° rotation, 60 cm Int.

60%

Daylit Area

14%

Overlit Area



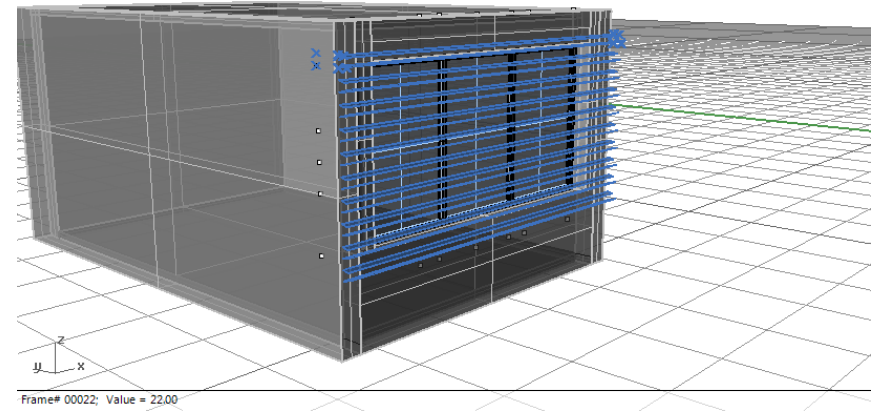
Louvers and Blinds

The louvers were rotated in two different ways:

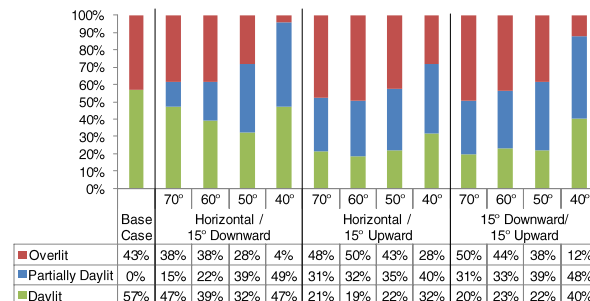
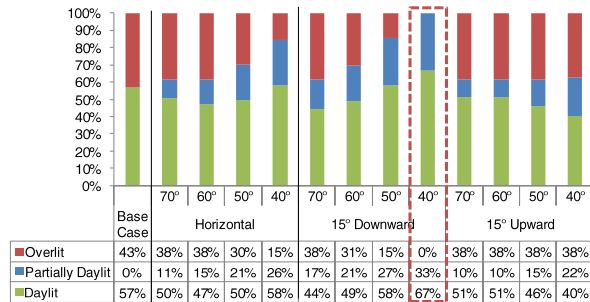
The conventional way: all louver slats were rotated in the same direction

The combined way: where every other louver have the same rotation angle.

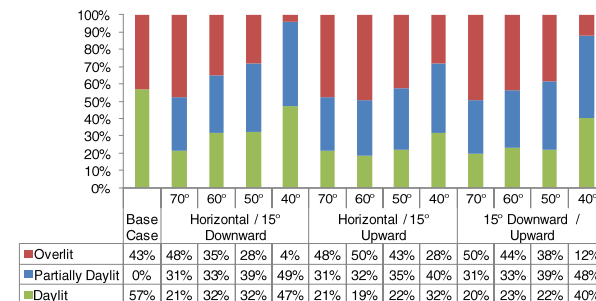
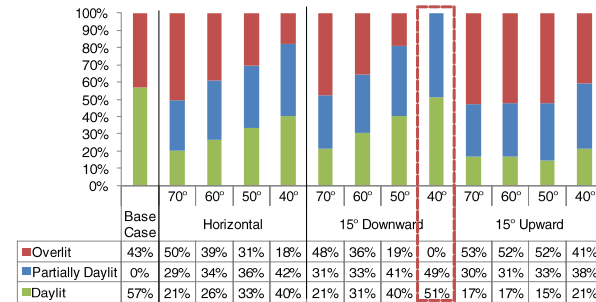
- *Vertical shading angle:* 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Rotation angles:* 15° downwards, 0°, and 15° upwards



South Orientation



East Orientation





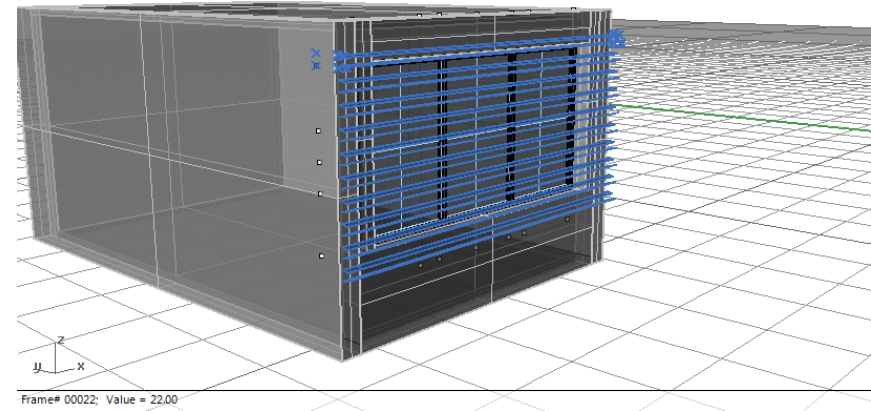
Louvers and Blinds

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- *Vertical shading angle:* 70°, 60°, 50° and 40°
- *Rotation angles:* 15° downwards, 0°, and 15° upwards



South Orientation

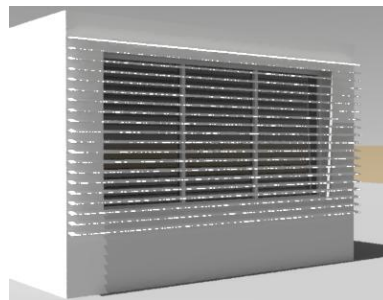
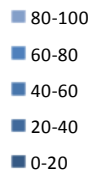
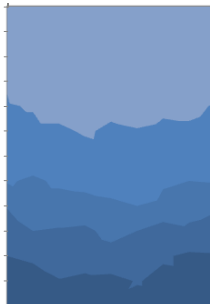
Conventional, 15° downwards, 40 ° VSA

67%

Daylit Area

0%

Overlit Area



East Orientation

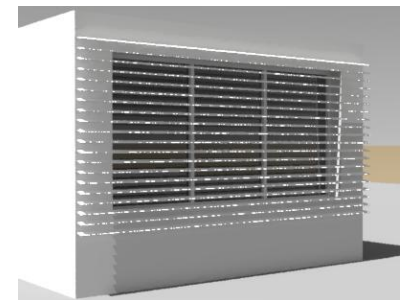
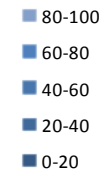
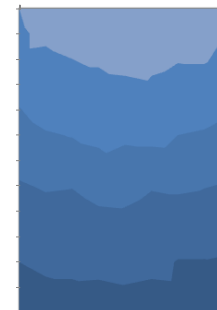
Conventional, 15° downwards, 40 ° VSA

51%

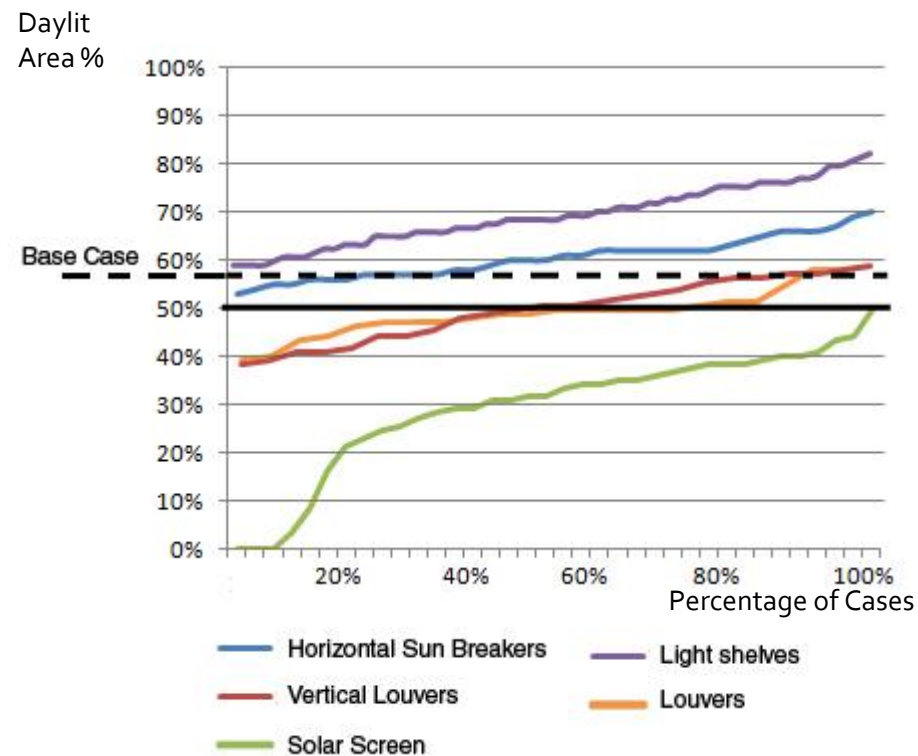
Daylit Area

0%

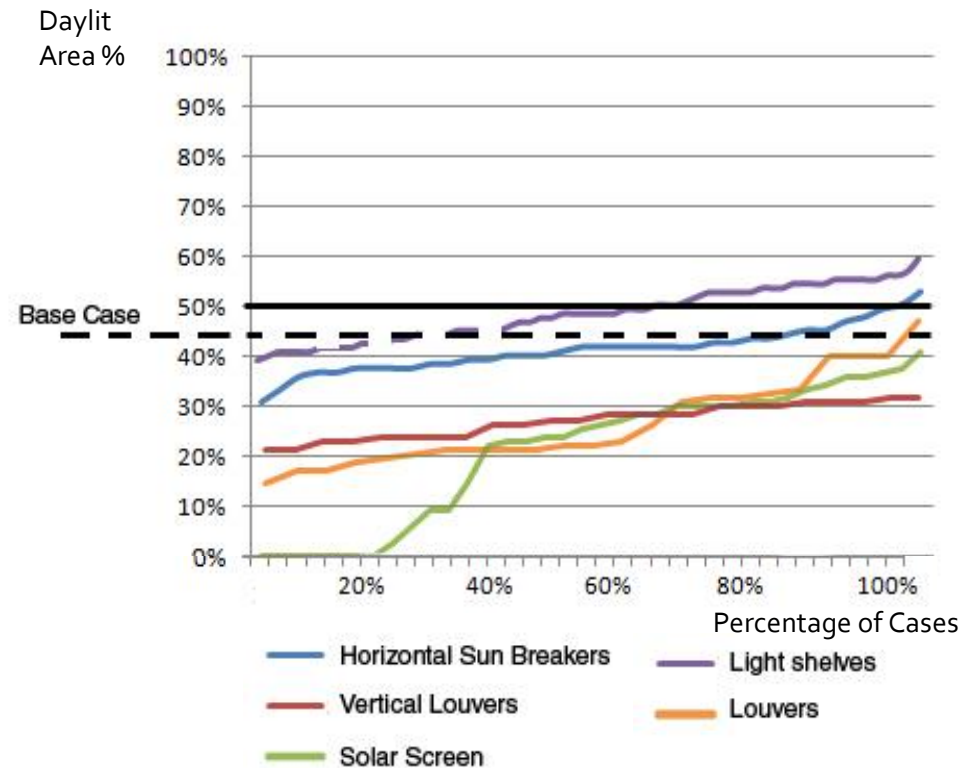
Overlit Area



Comparison between the five systems South Orientation



East Orientation

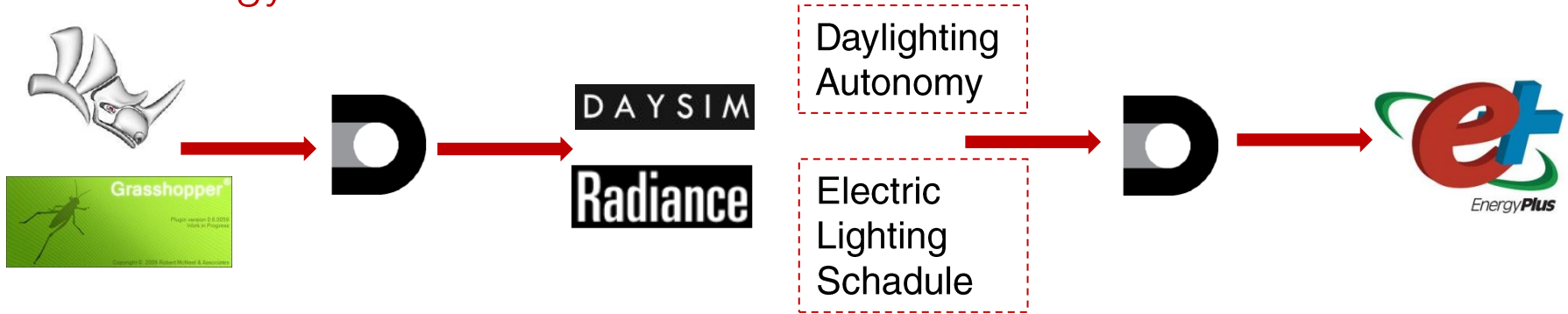


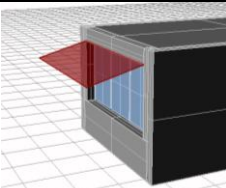
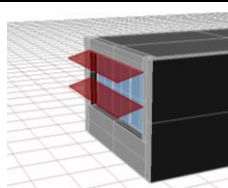
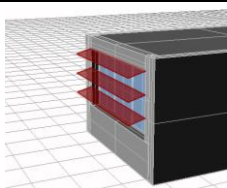
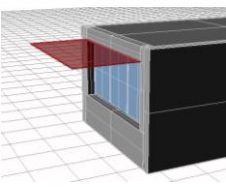
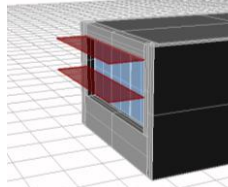
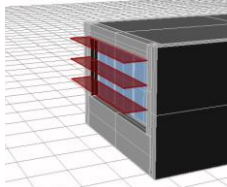
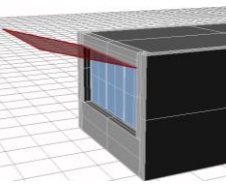
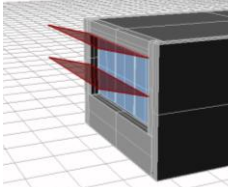
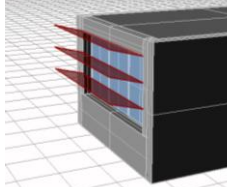


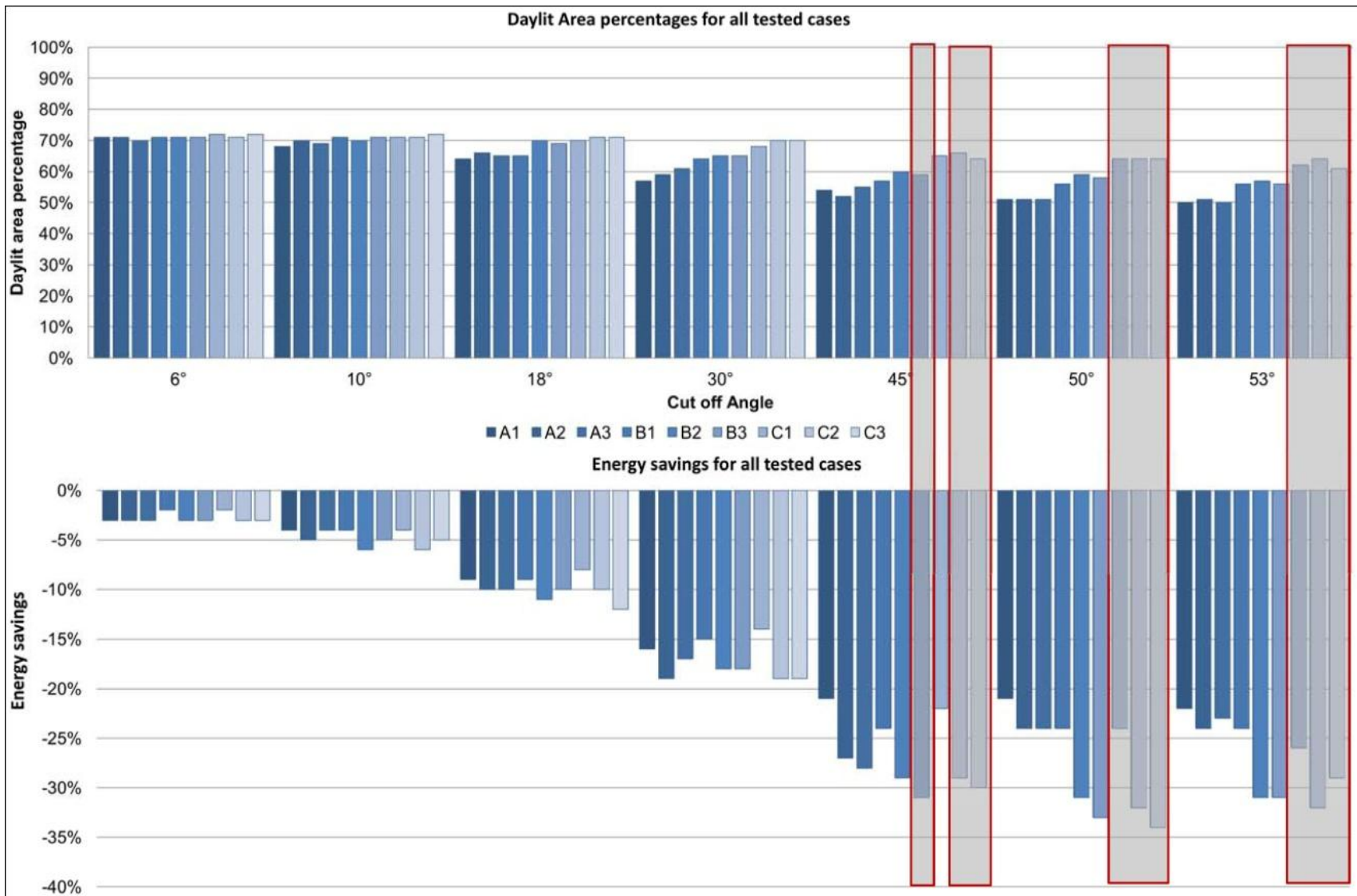
2

Integrating Daylighting and Energy Consumption Simulations

Methodology



Studied cases for February\October cut-off angle (40°)			
Number of slats			
	1	2	3
15° downwards A			
0° B			
15° upwards C			





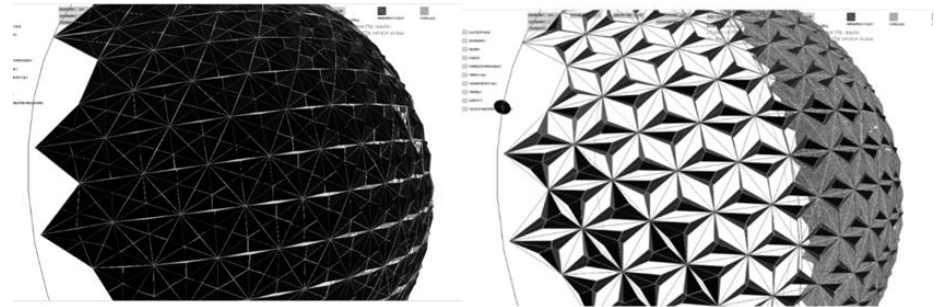
3

Integrating Computational and Building Performance Simulation Techniques for Optimized Facade Designs

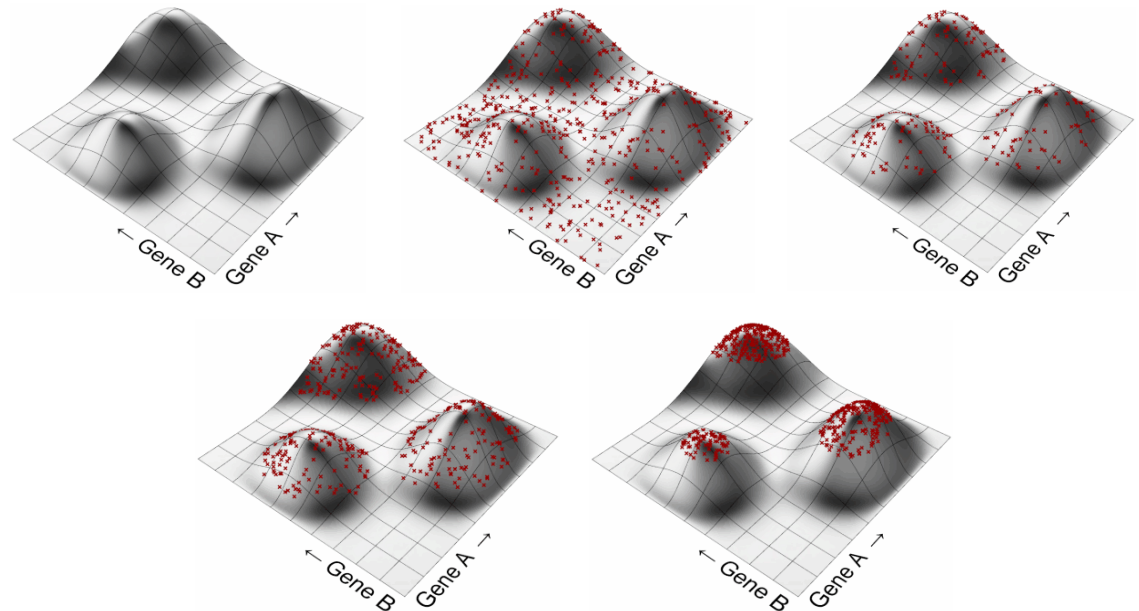


Generative Design, Optimization and Form Finding

Generative Design

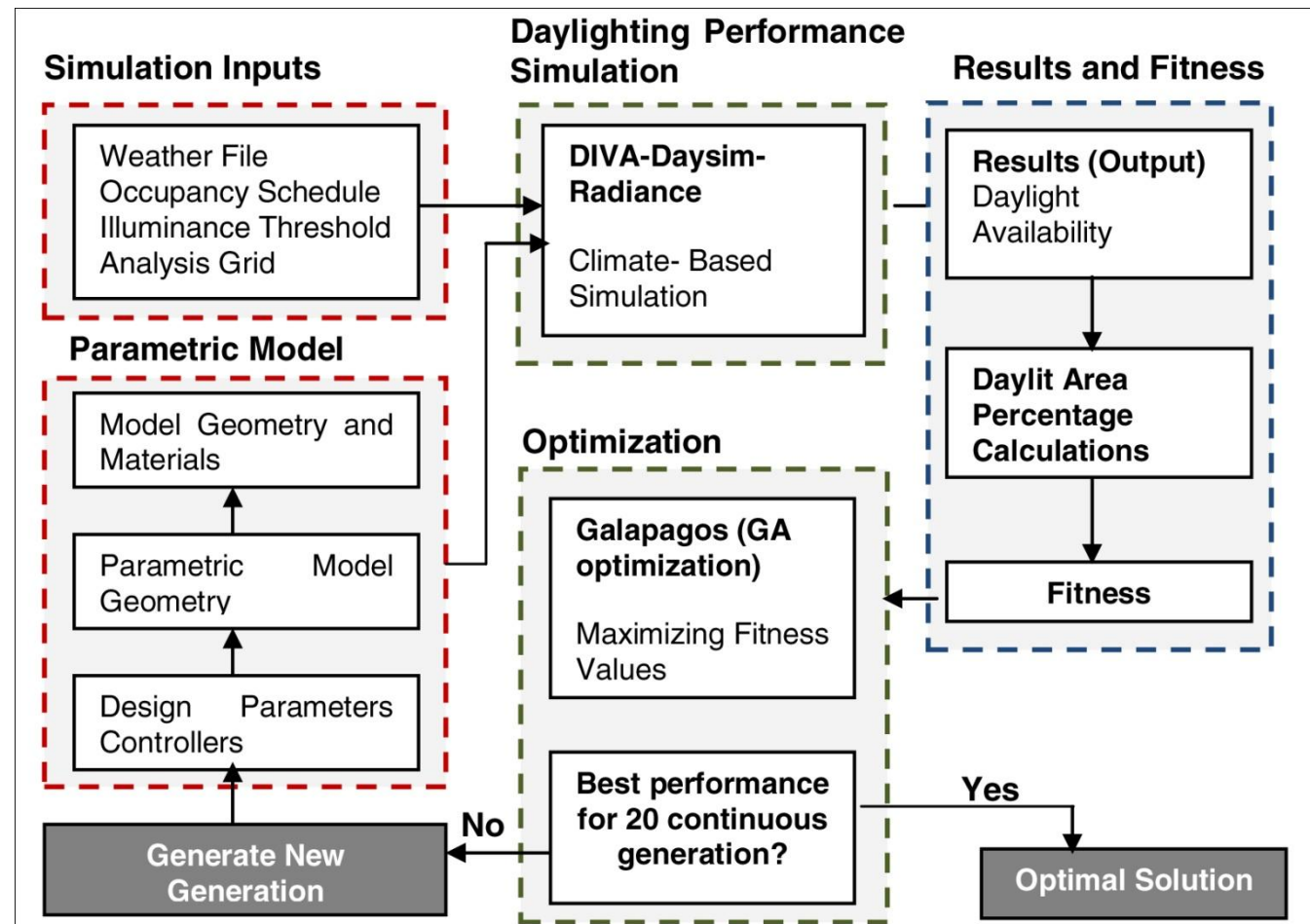


Optimization and Form finding



Generative Design, Optimization and Form Finding

Optimization Methodology



Case 1: Light shelf and Solar screen Combination

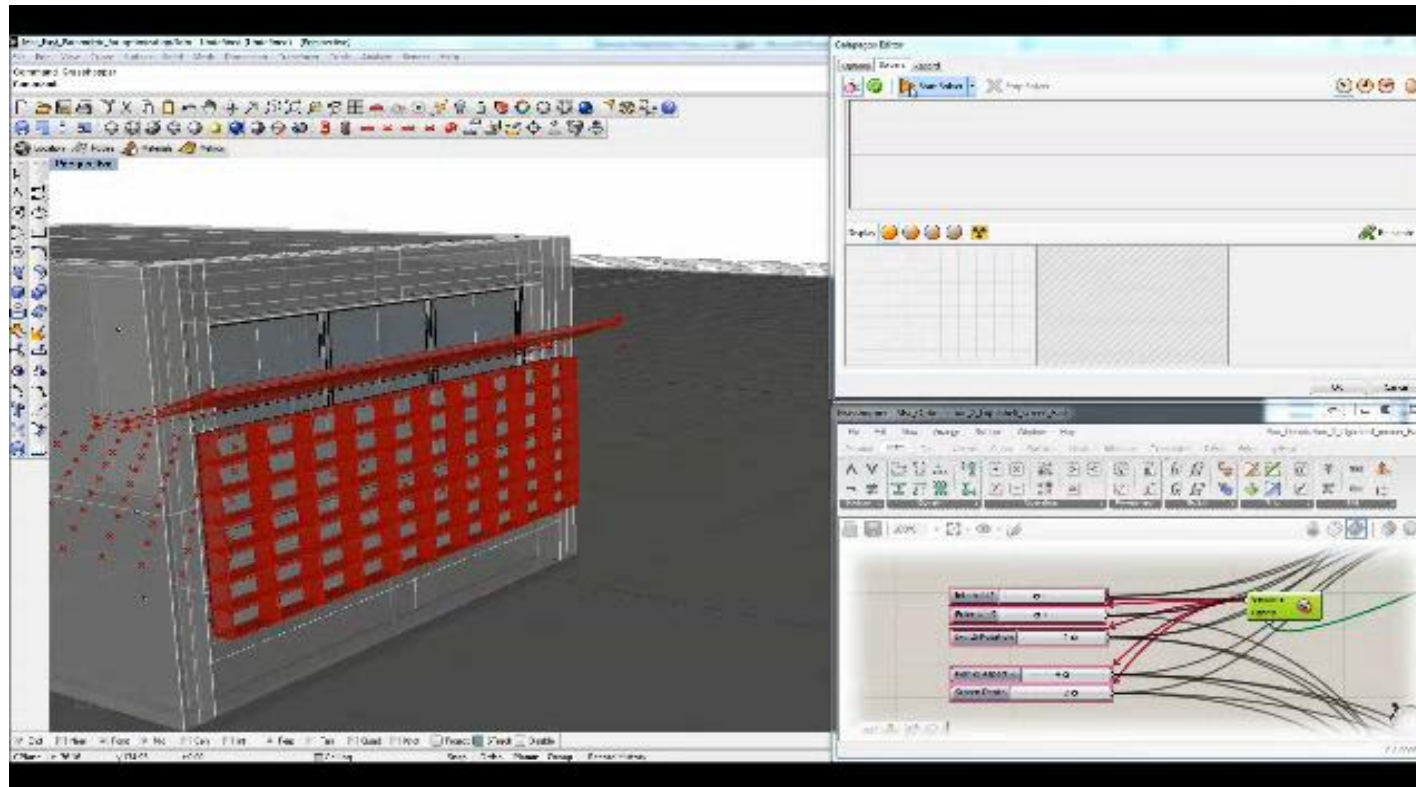
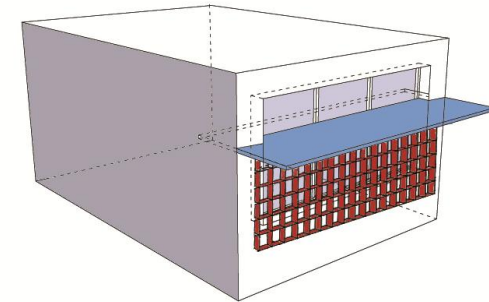
Various combinations of light shelves and solar screens were tested. total number of possible combinations was **2,304 cases** for six different variables.

Solar Screen Variables

- Vertical shading angle
- Perforation ratio
- Aspect ratio

Light Shelf Variables

- External light shelf depth
- Internal light shelf depth
- External light shelf rotation angle



Case 1: Light shelf and Solar screen Combination

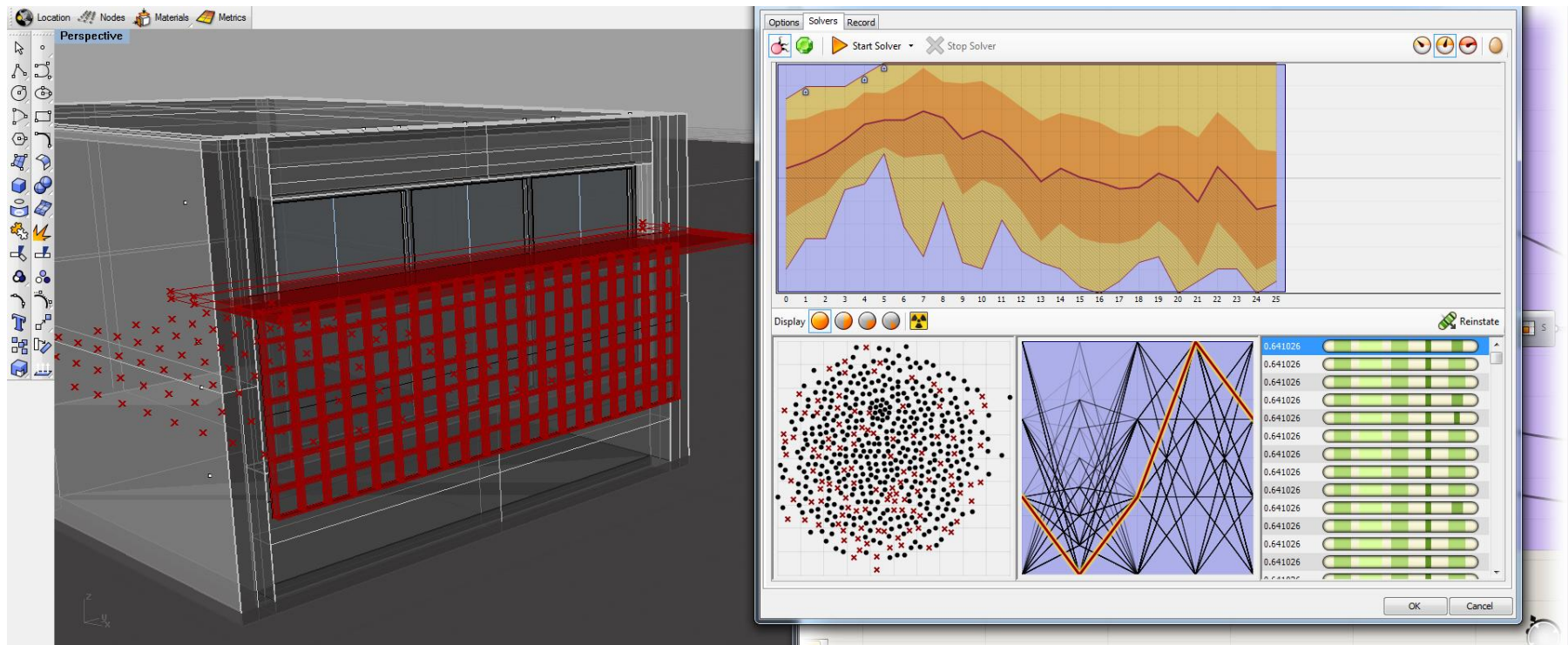
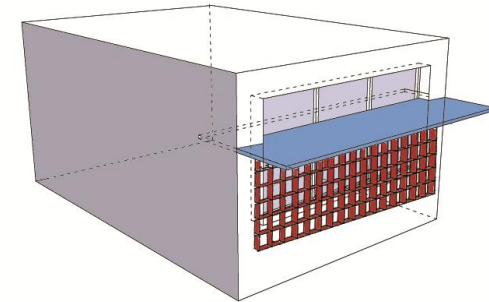
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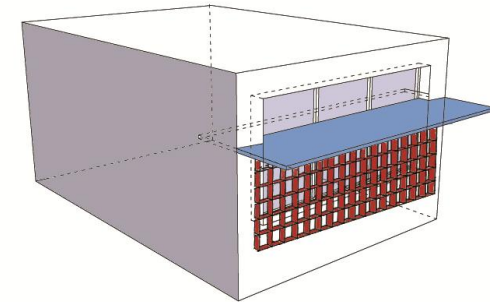
Various combinations of light shelves and solar screens were tested the total number of possible combinations was **2,304 cases** for six different variables. To avoid simulating and analyzing all the cases Galapagos a genetic-algorithm evolutionary solver was used.

Solar Screen Variables

- Vertical shading angle
- Perforation ratio
- Aspect ratio

Light Shelf Variables

- External light shelf depth
- Internal light shelf depth
- External light shelf rotation angle

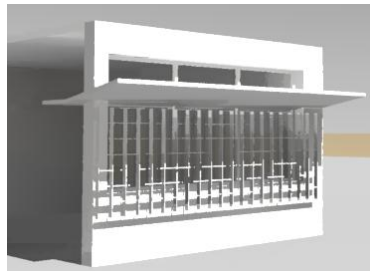
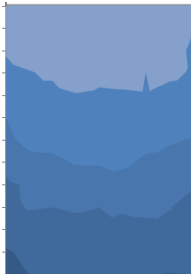


64%

Daylit Area

0%

Overlit Area

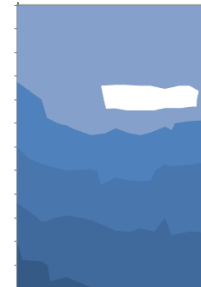


62%

Daylit Area

3%

Overlit Area



62%

Daylit Area

7%

Overlit Area

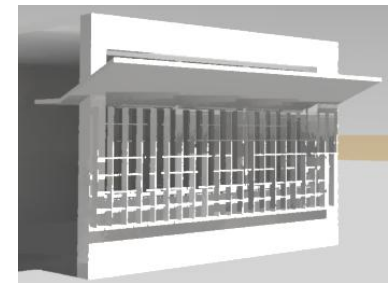
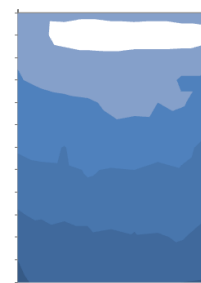


61%

Daylit Area

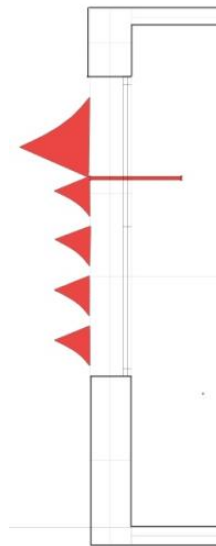
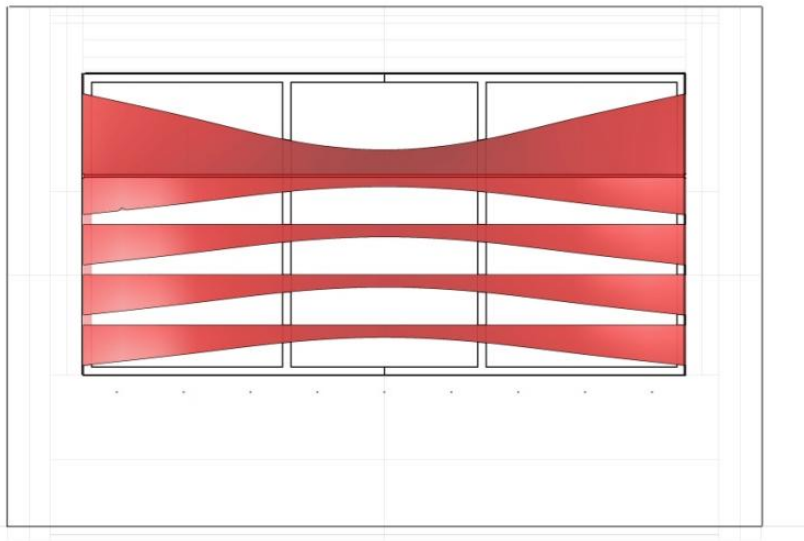
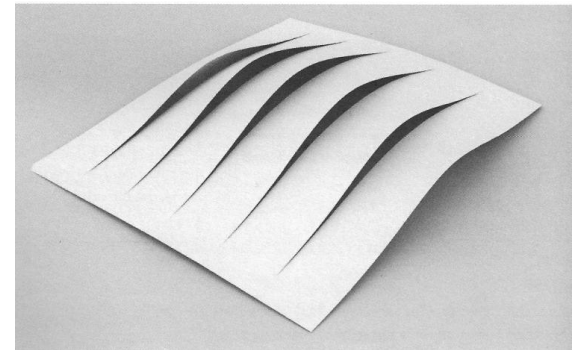
6%

Overlit Area





Case 2: Form Finding Free Form Gills Surface

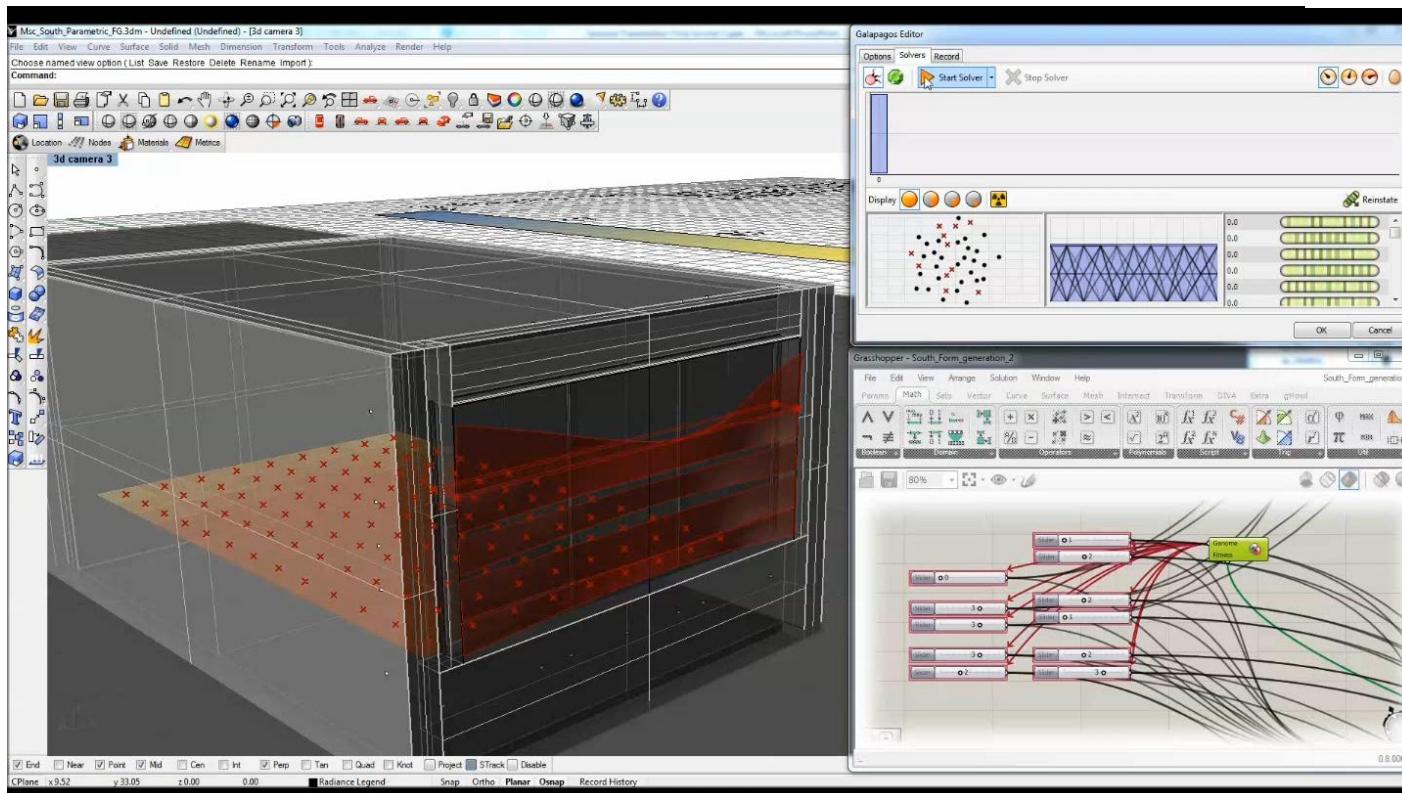


Case 2: Form Finding

The façade was divided into upper part where a curved light shelf was modeled. In the lower part a free form configuration “*Gills surface*” divided into four curved panels. Total number of possible solutions exceeds 4 millions.

Variables for each curve

- Curve height
- Peak point position

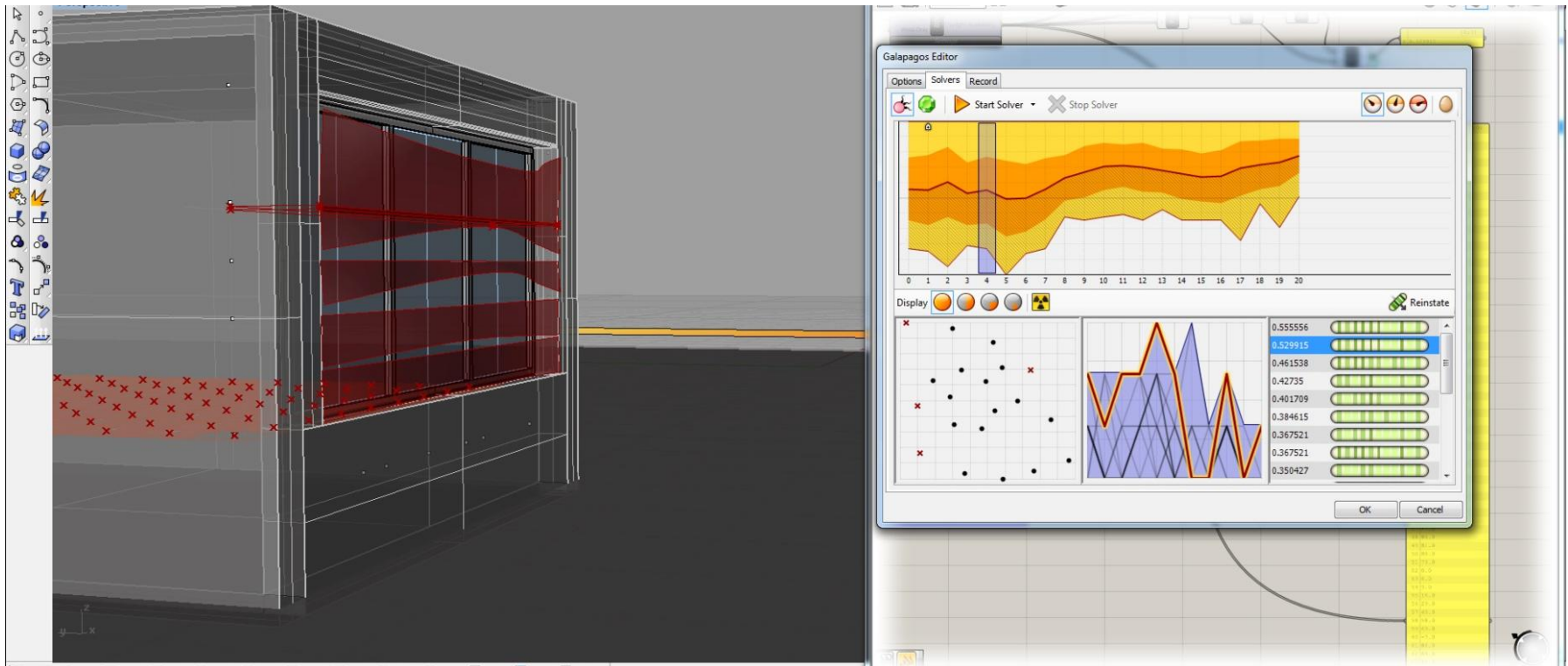


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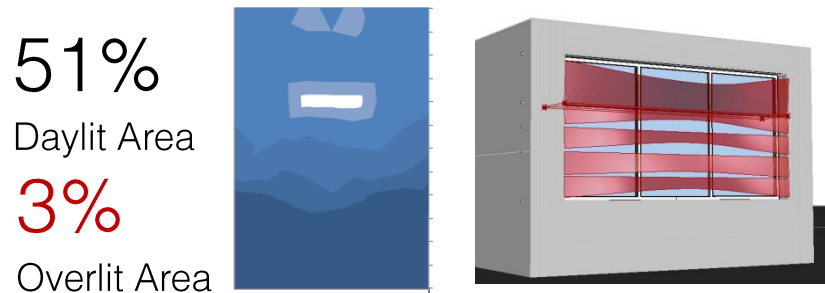
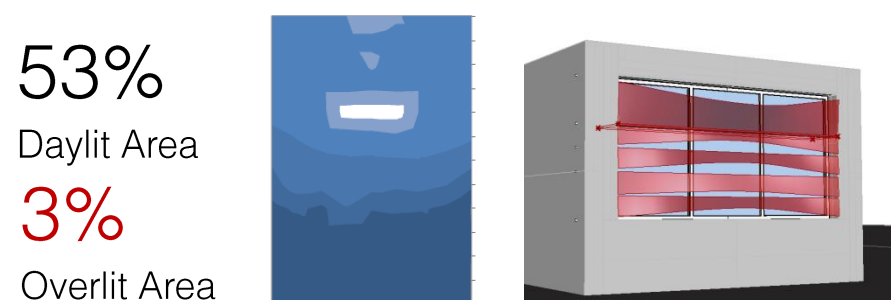
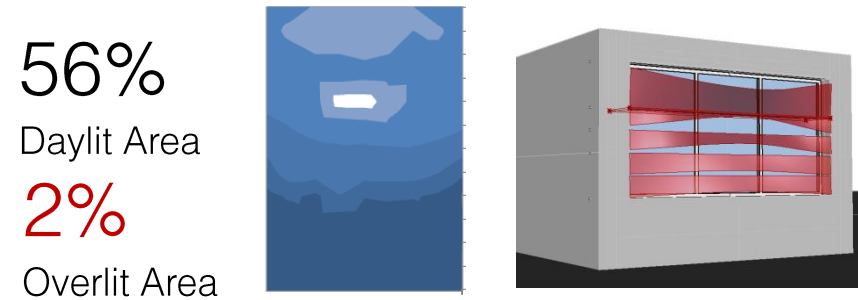


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Future Work



Future Work

Research can extend to cover other environmental aspects to achieve an **integrated high performance facades**.

- Energy consumption/ Thermal comfort/ Natural ventilation/ Digital fabrication, paneling and structure aspects/ Life cycle cost

Investigating the use of **dynamic and kinetic systems** for more **adaptive solutions and comparing the feasibility of dynamic systems and fixed systems** may give a better guide for designing even more dynamic and higher performance facades.

-Finally, **verification of the results of this study by real life measurements** can strengthen the thesis recommendations.

