



California Public Interest  
Energy Research (PIER)



U.S. Department of Energy

# Radiance Related Activities at LBNL

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# Goals

1. Enable accurate annual assessments of innovative daylighting technologies
2. Enable users of all abilities to simulate complex fenestration with Radiance

# Outline

Part 1: Overview of Radiance related activities at LBNL

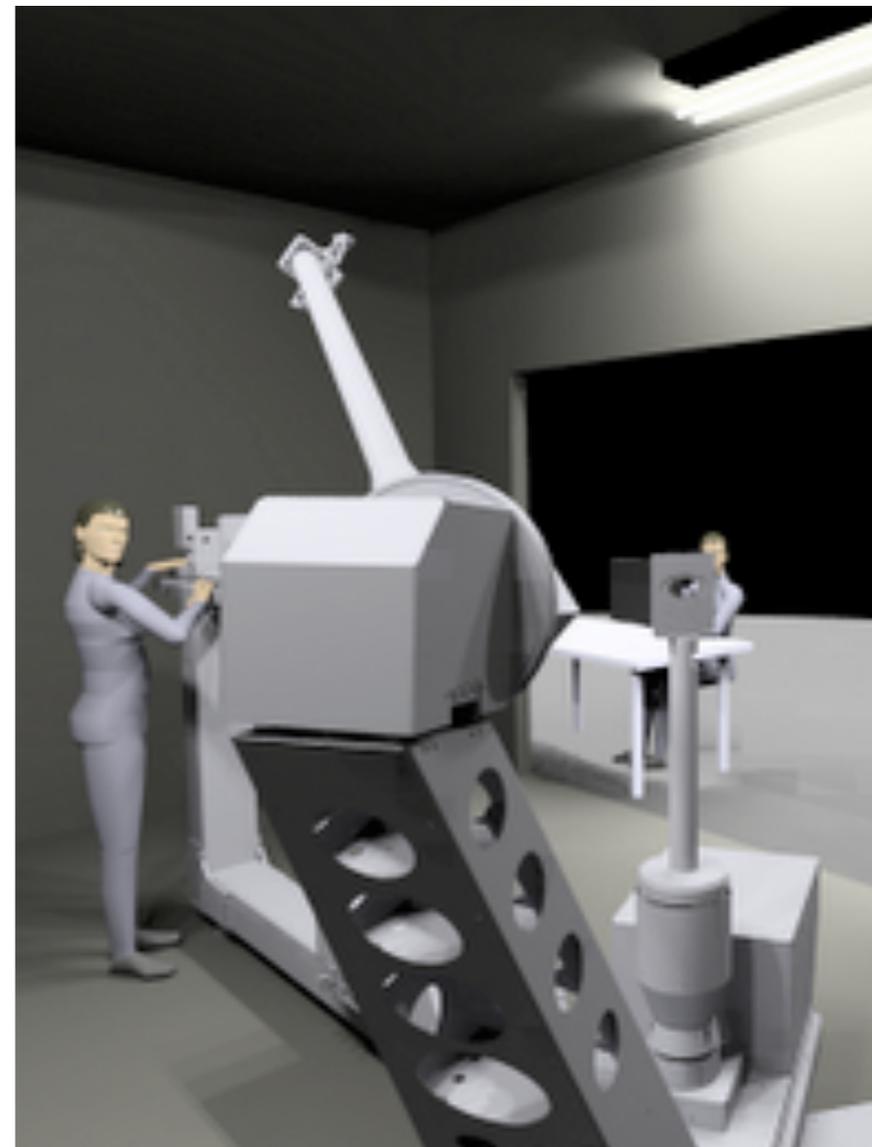
Part 2: Applying new Radiance tools to perform an annual assessments of complex fenestration systems

# Radiance Related Activities At LBNL

- Optical Measurements
- Window6 BSDF integration
- COMFEN - Radiance Integration
- Building Controls Virtual Test Bed (BCVTB)
- Increased Support of Radiance Community

# Measurements of Optically Complex Fenestration Layers

- Measured ~200 devices!
- Working on a way to make data available (some kind of robust database).

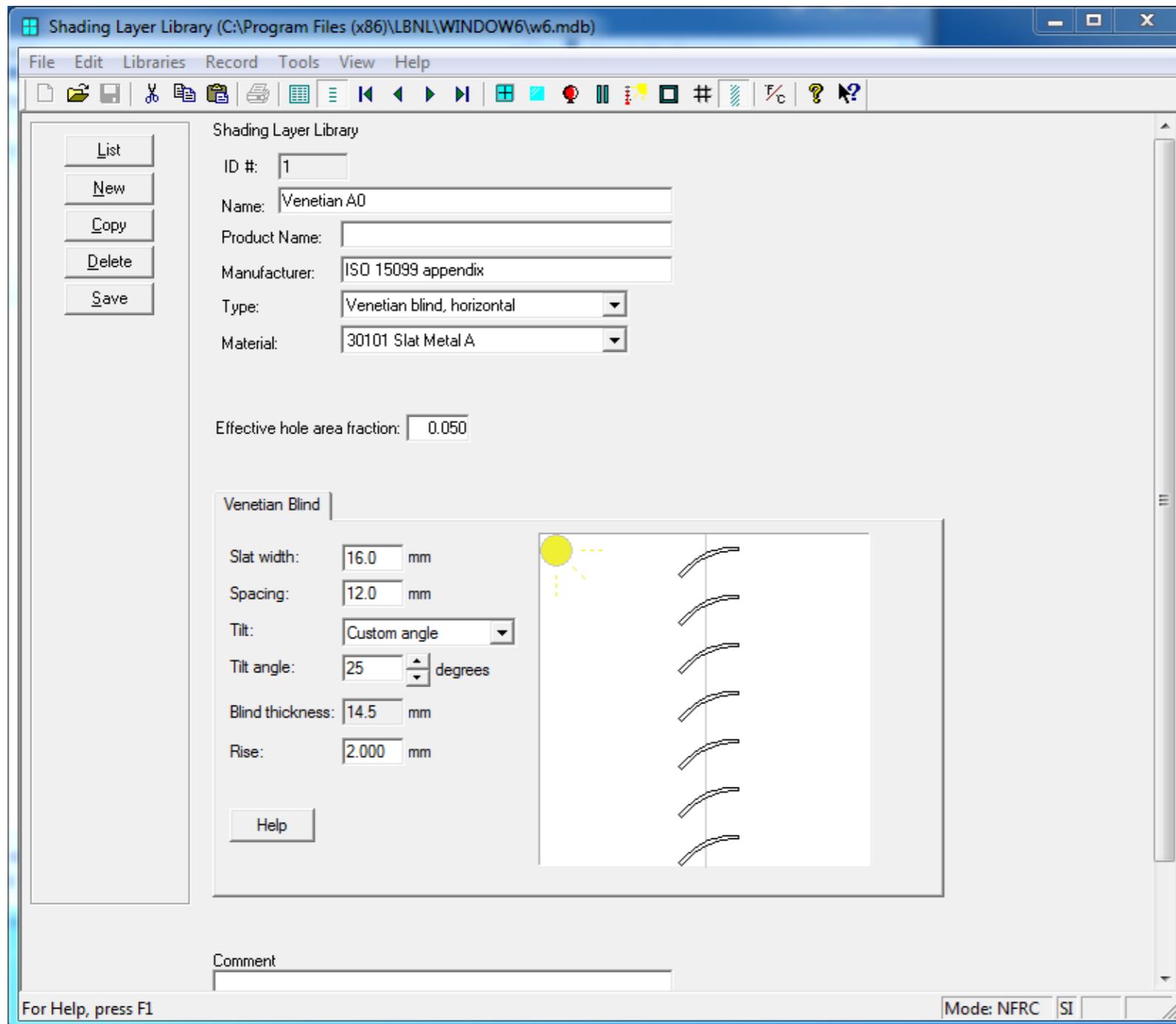


pab-opto goniophotometer

# Window6

- Includes non-specular window components
- Writes a BSDF file for glazing + shading
- Working to include MGF data for mkillum renderings.

# Window 6



- Venetian Blind
- Homogeneous Diffusing Shade
- Woven Shade
- Frit
- BSDF import

# COMFEN

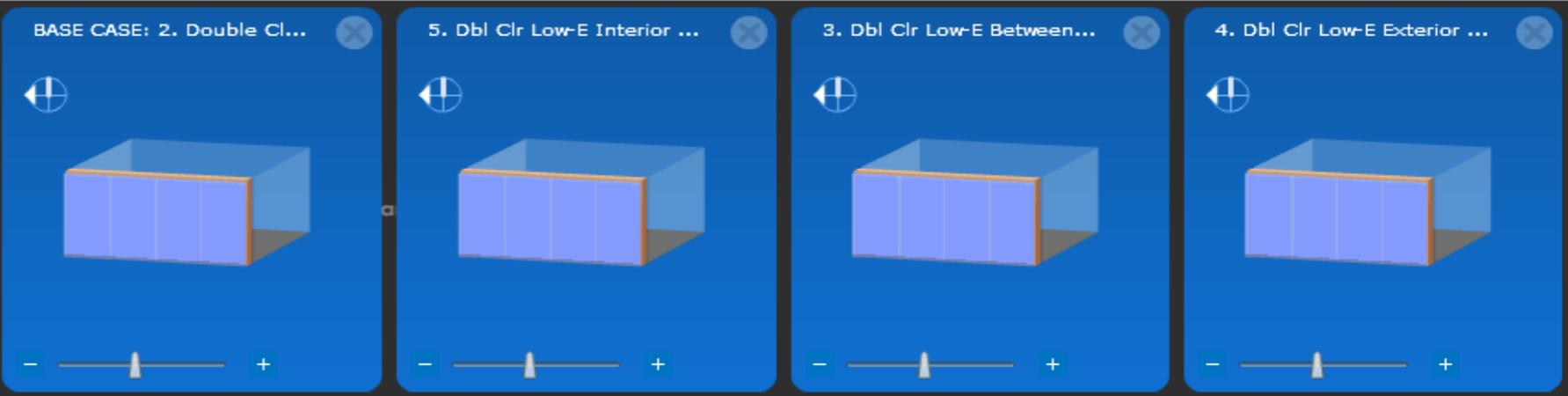
- Commercial Fenestration Design Tool for conceptual/preliminary design
- For architects, engineers, building industry professionals
- Provides comparative results between façade design options and their impact on the perimeter zone
- Multiple glazing and shading options on each façade.
- EnergyPlus simulation engine
- **Not** whole building analysis.

Project: Curtain Wall Example

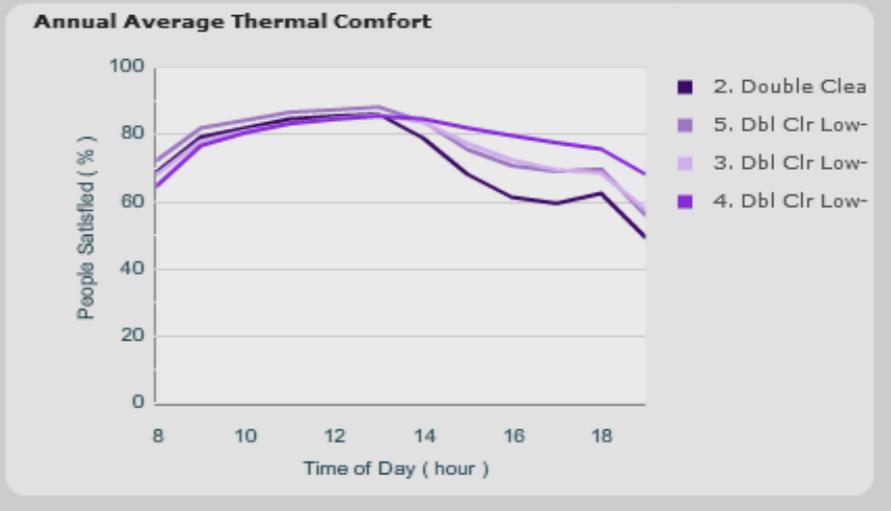
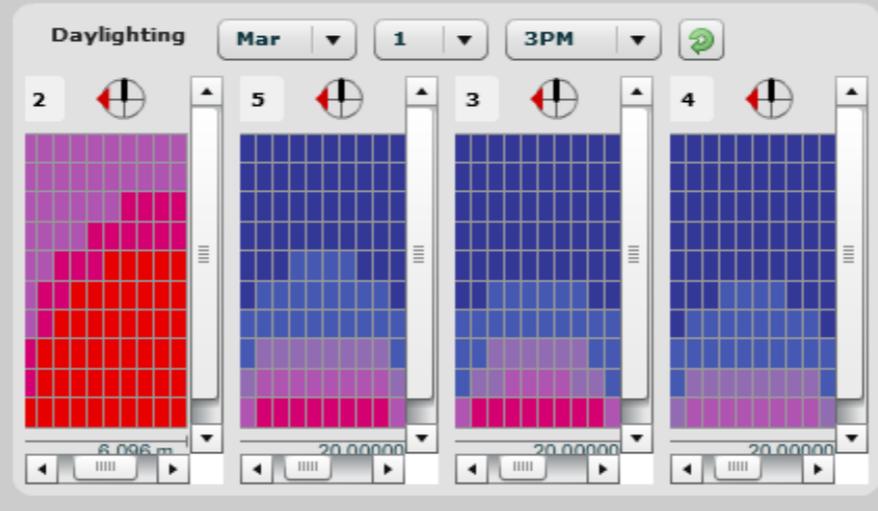
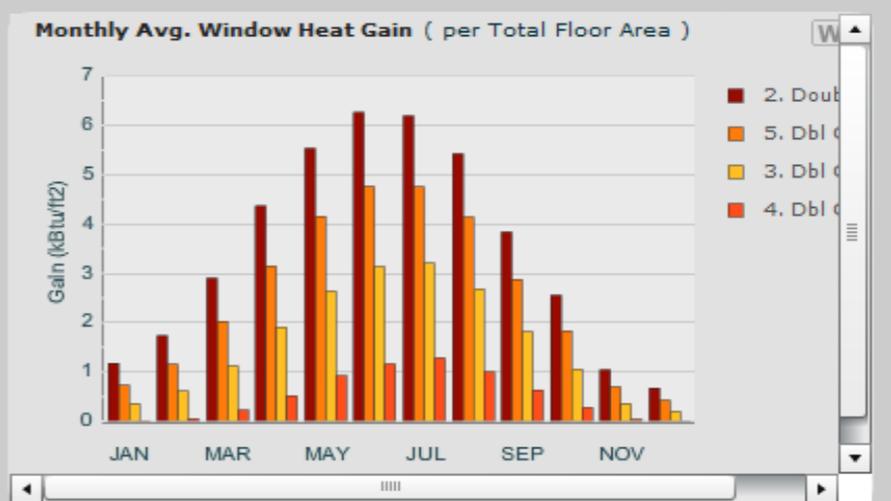
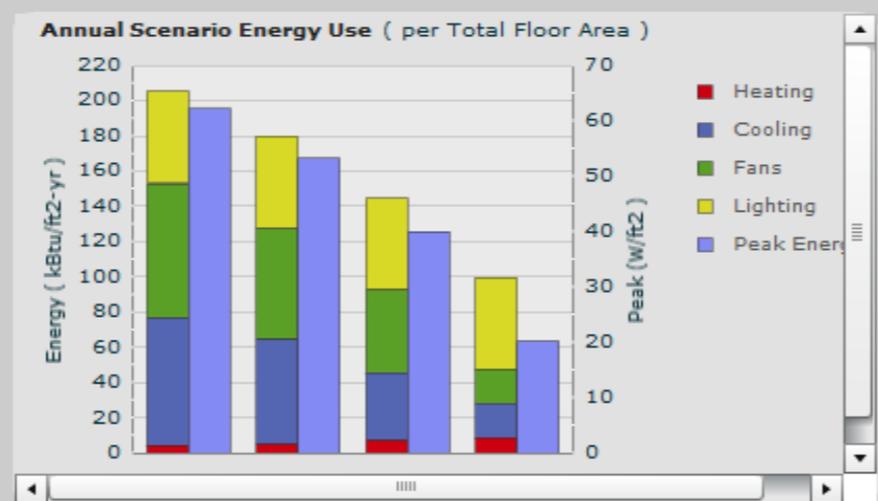
Scenarios Libraries

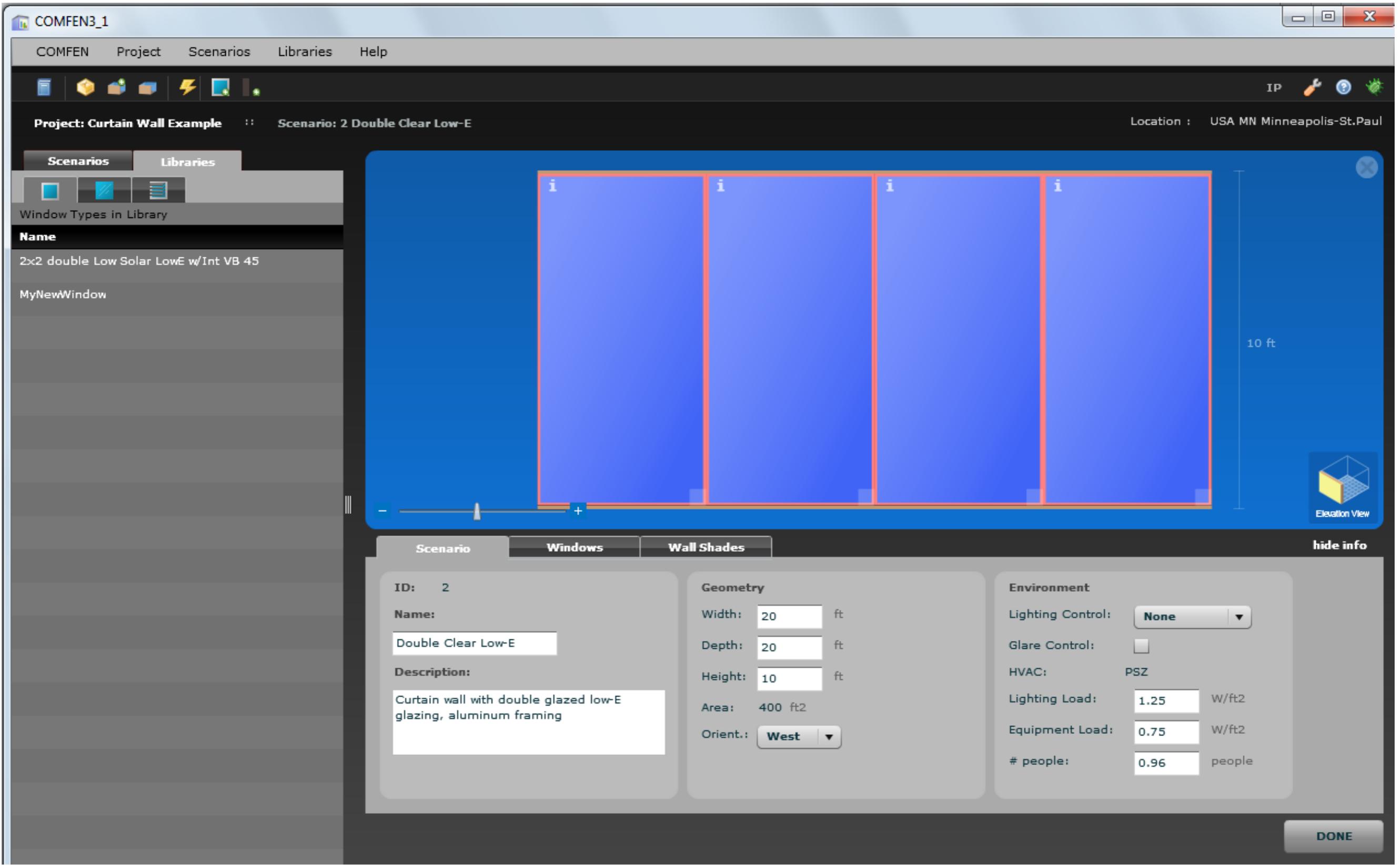
ID	Name	O	W...	#	Glazing Sys.
1	Single Clear	W	0.98	4	Single Clear 6 mm
2	Double Clear Low-E	W	0.98	4	Double Low-E Argon
3	Dbl Clr Low-E Between VB 45	W	0.98	4	Double Low-E Argon
4	Dbl Clr Low-E Exterior VB 45	W	0.98	4	Double Low-E Argon
5	Dbl Clr Low-E Interior VB 45	W	0.98	4	Double Low-E Argon

Overview Climate Comparison



Overview Energy Facade Window Comfort





# Define a glazing system for a window (glass + gas components).

COMFEN3\_1

COMFEN Project Scenarios Libraries Help

Curtain Wall Example :: Library :: editing Double Low Solar Low-E Clear (Air)

3D View

Section View

**Glazing System**

NAME: Double Low Solar Low-E Clear (Air)

**GLAZING SYSTEM LAYERS**

(Drag glass and gas layers from right)

	Type	ID	Name	Thickness ( in )	Emiss F	Emiss B	Flip
1	Glass	5284	SB60 Clea	0.22	0.84	0.03	
2	Gas	1	Air	0.35			
3	Glass	9804	CLEAR6.L	0.22	0.84	0.84	

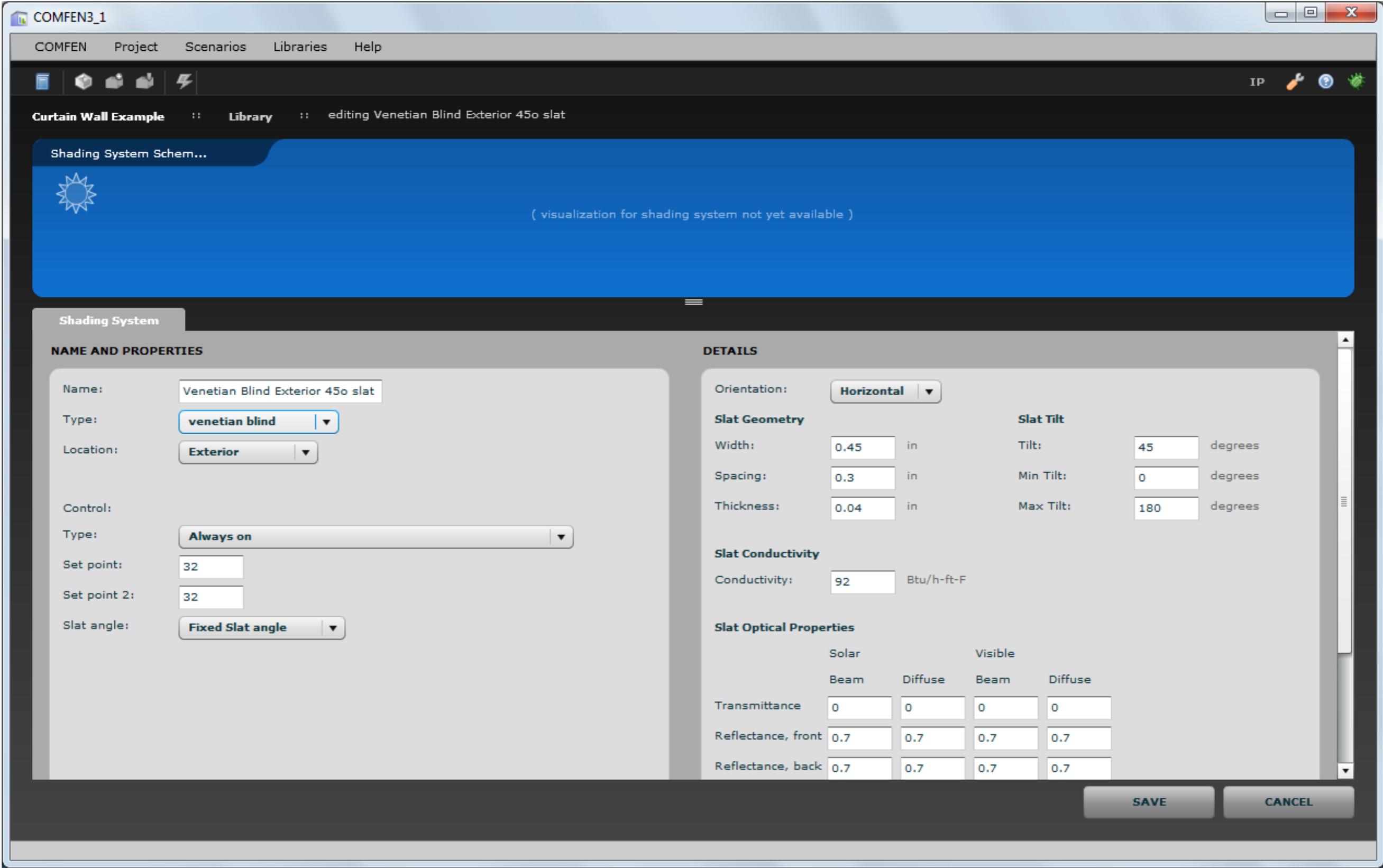
Calculated Properties:

Tvis:	SHGC:	U-factor:	Thickness:
NFRC 0.701	0.382	0.291 Btu/h-ft2-F	0.946 in

**GAS AND GLASS LIBRARY**

Glass		Gas					
NFRC I	Name	Tvis	Tsol	Manufacturer	Source	R:	Thickness ( in )
100	BRONZE_3.DAT	0.68	0.646	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.12
101	BRONZE_6.DAT	0.53	0.486	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.23
102	CLEAR_3.DAT	0.90	0.834	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.12
103	CLEAR_6.DAT	0.88	0.771	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.23
104	GRAY_3.DAT	0.62	0.609	Generic	IGDB v11.4		0.12
200	SiAg25LE_3ww.b	0.22	0.156	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v16.3		0.12
201	AutBr30_3ww.bsf	0.34	0.244	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v17.0		0.12
202	H70_3.bsf	0.72	0.368	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v16.3		0.13
203	H70-8_3.bsf	0.72	0.381	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v16.3		0.13
207	SBr20_3ww.bsf	0.22	0.130	Bekaert Specialt	IGDB v16.3		0.12

# Include shades, blinds, drapes, external shading devices, etc.



# Assign glazing systems to windows in model.

COMFEN

Project Scenarios Libraries Analysis Data Help

Curtain Wall Study :: Single Clear Location : USA MO Kansas, City

Project Libraries

Glazing Systems in Library

Name	TVis	SHGC	U-Factor
Single Clear	0.89	0.86	5.91
Double Clear Air	0.78	0.70	2.70
Double Low-e Air	0.69	0.46	1.65
Double Clear with Argon	0.81	0.76	2.57
Triple Clear	0.70	0.61	1.74
3mm Low-e air	0.72	0.49	1.78
3mm Clear	0.74	0.68	1.93
Sample GlzSys	0.74	0.68	1.93
Dbl LowE Argon	0.00	0.00	0.00
MyNewGlazingSystem	0.00	0.00	2.00

Drag a glazing system onto each window

10 ft

zoom

Scenario Windows Wall Shades

Name: Double Low-E Ext VB45

Description:

Geometry

Width: 20 ft

Depth: 20 ft

Height: 10 ft

Area: 400 ft<sup>2</sup>

Orient.: South

Environment

Lighting Control: None

Glare Control:

HVAC: PSZ

Lighting Load: 1.25 w/ft<sup>2</sup>

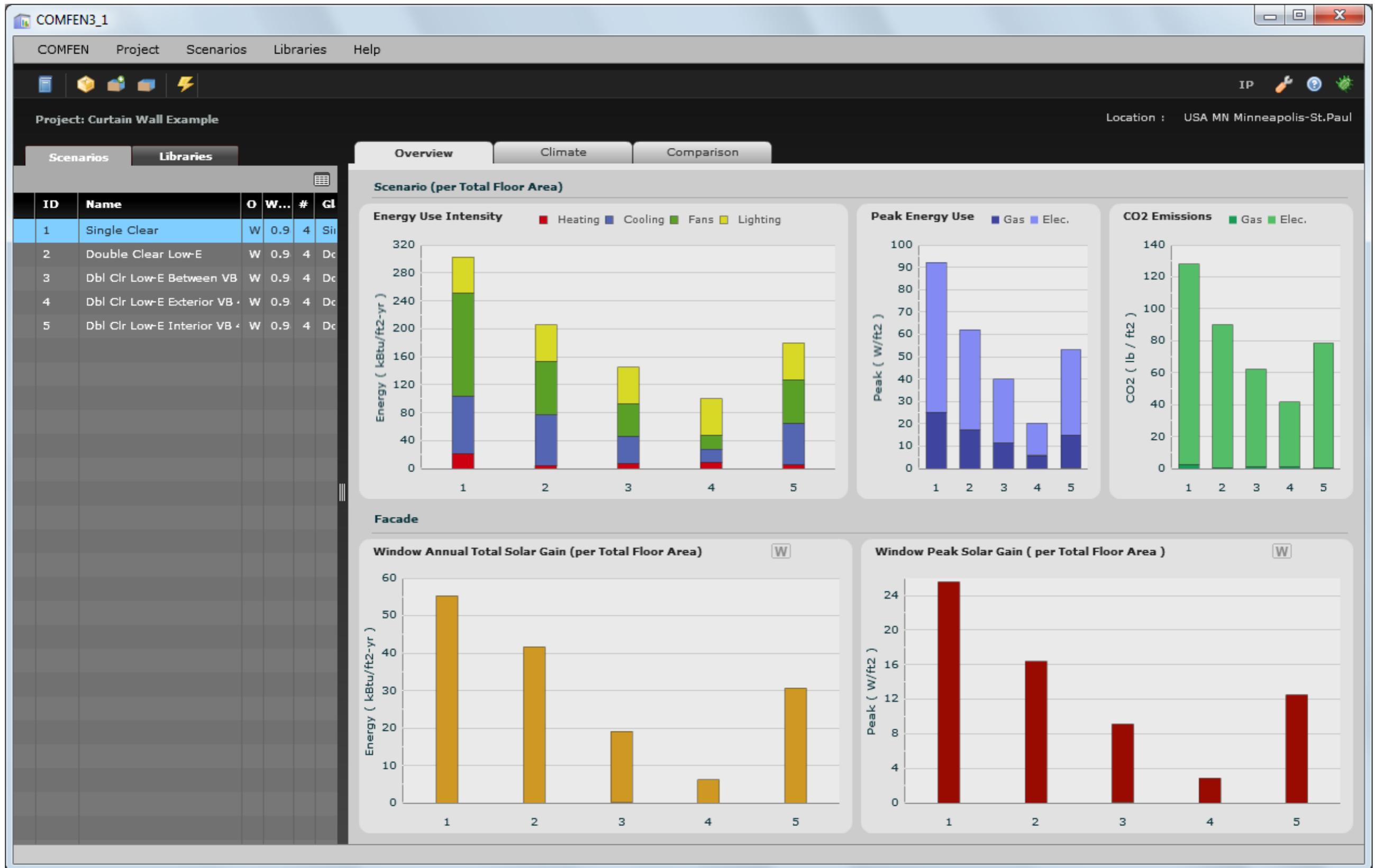
Equipment Load: 0.75 w/ft<sup>2</sup>

# People: 1

hide info

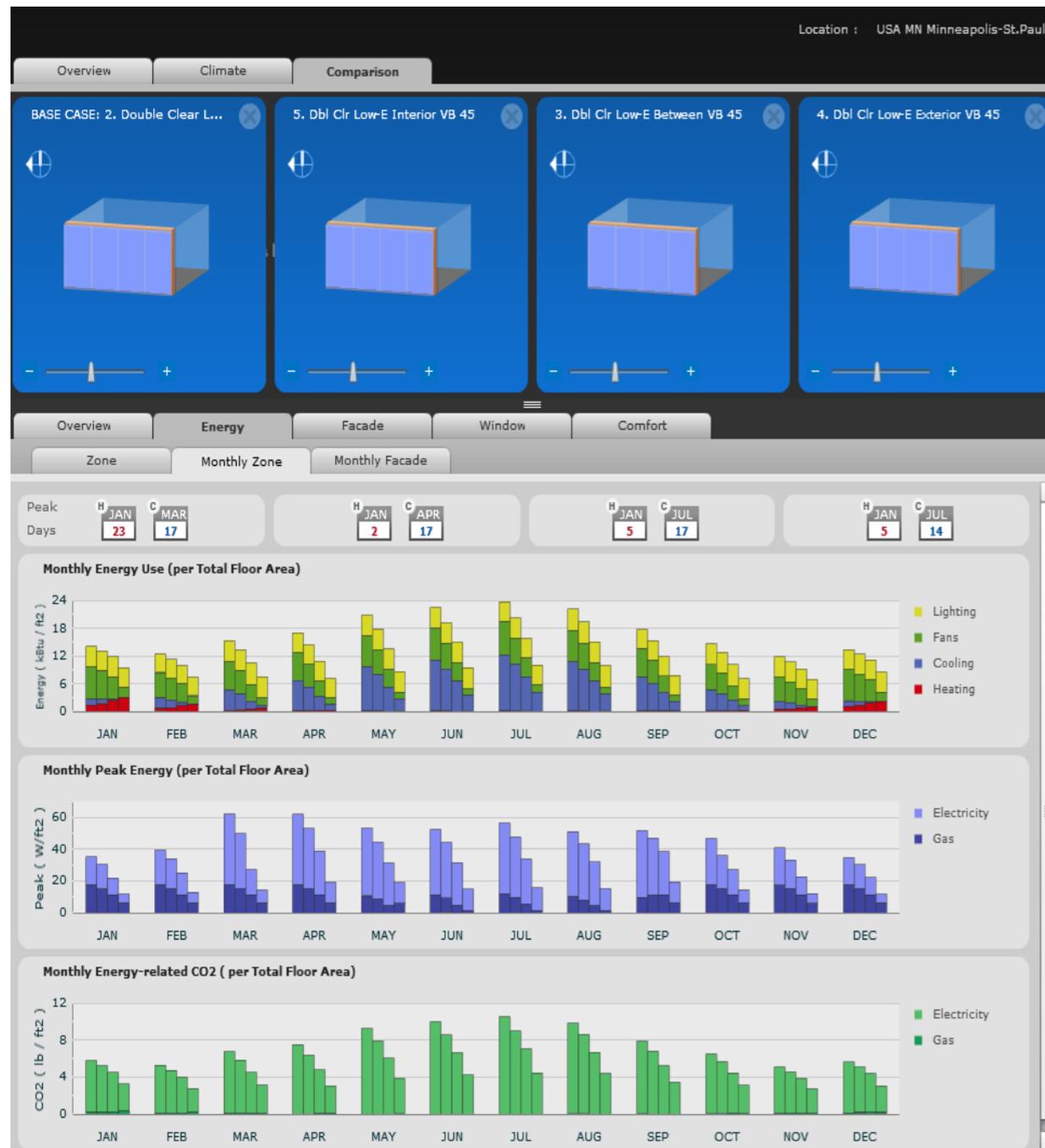
DONE

# COMFEN Annual Energy Results



# Monthly Zone Results

## Energy-use + Peak

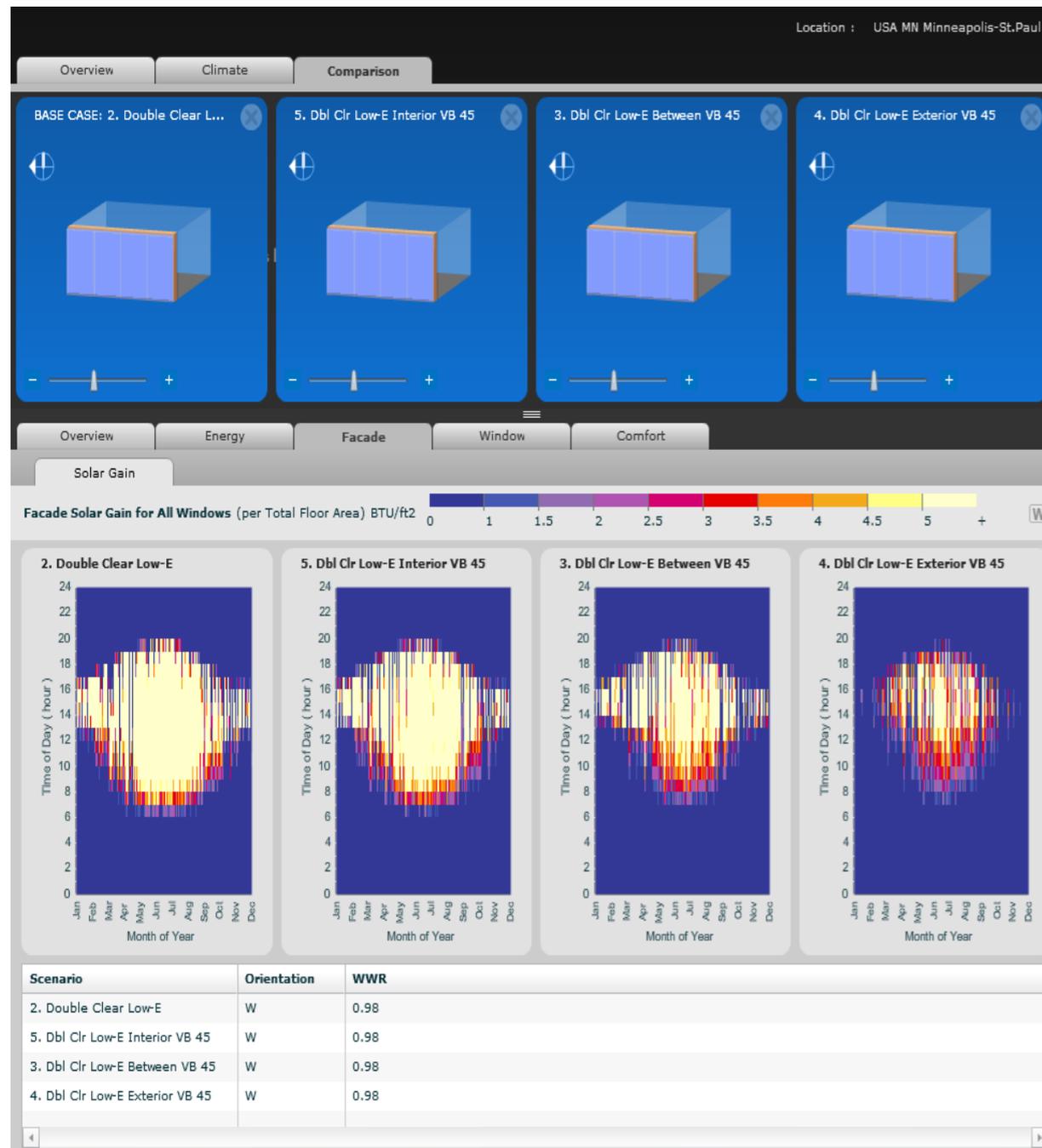


## Facade-energy (load)

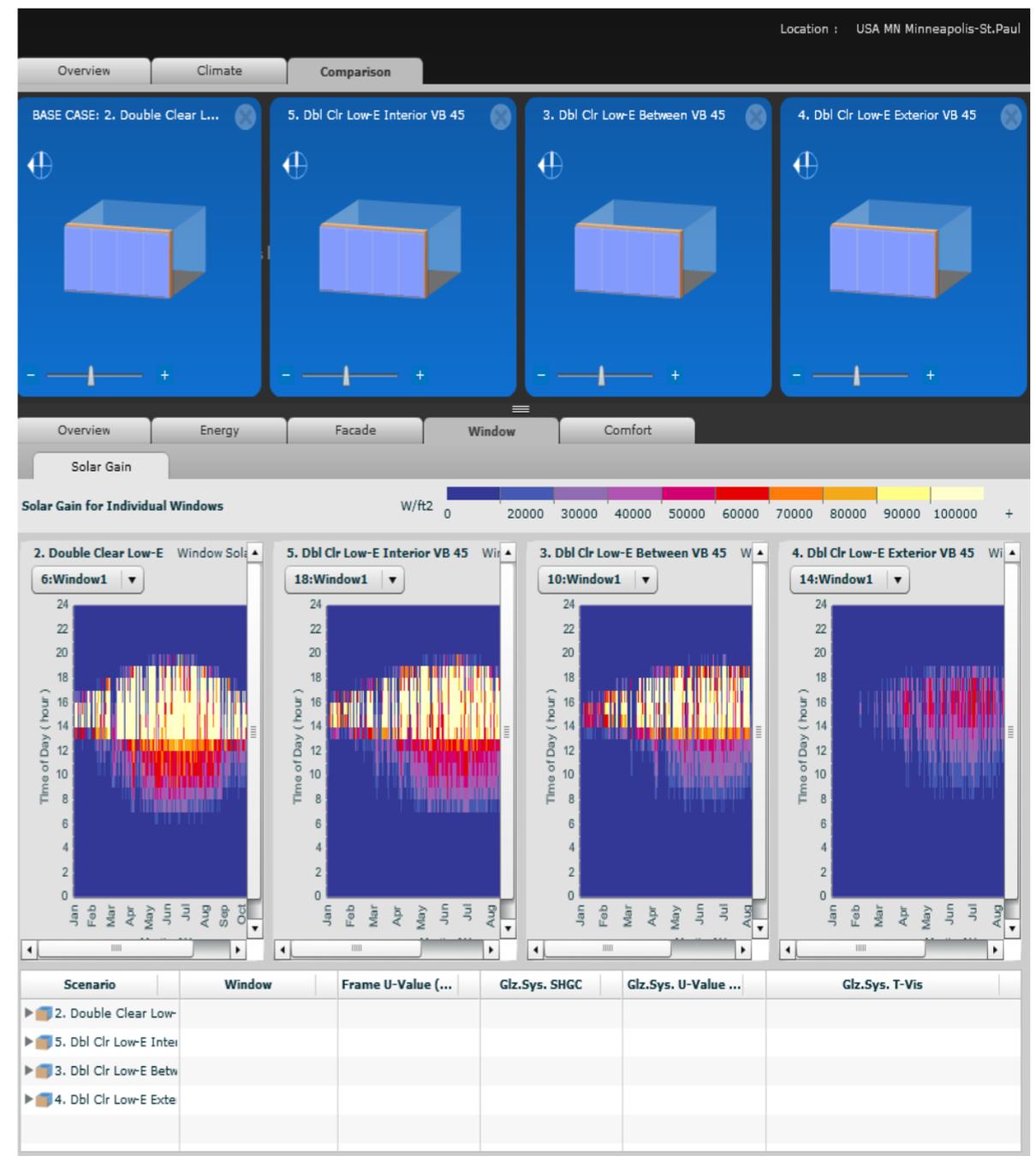


# Solar Gain

## Facade Gain



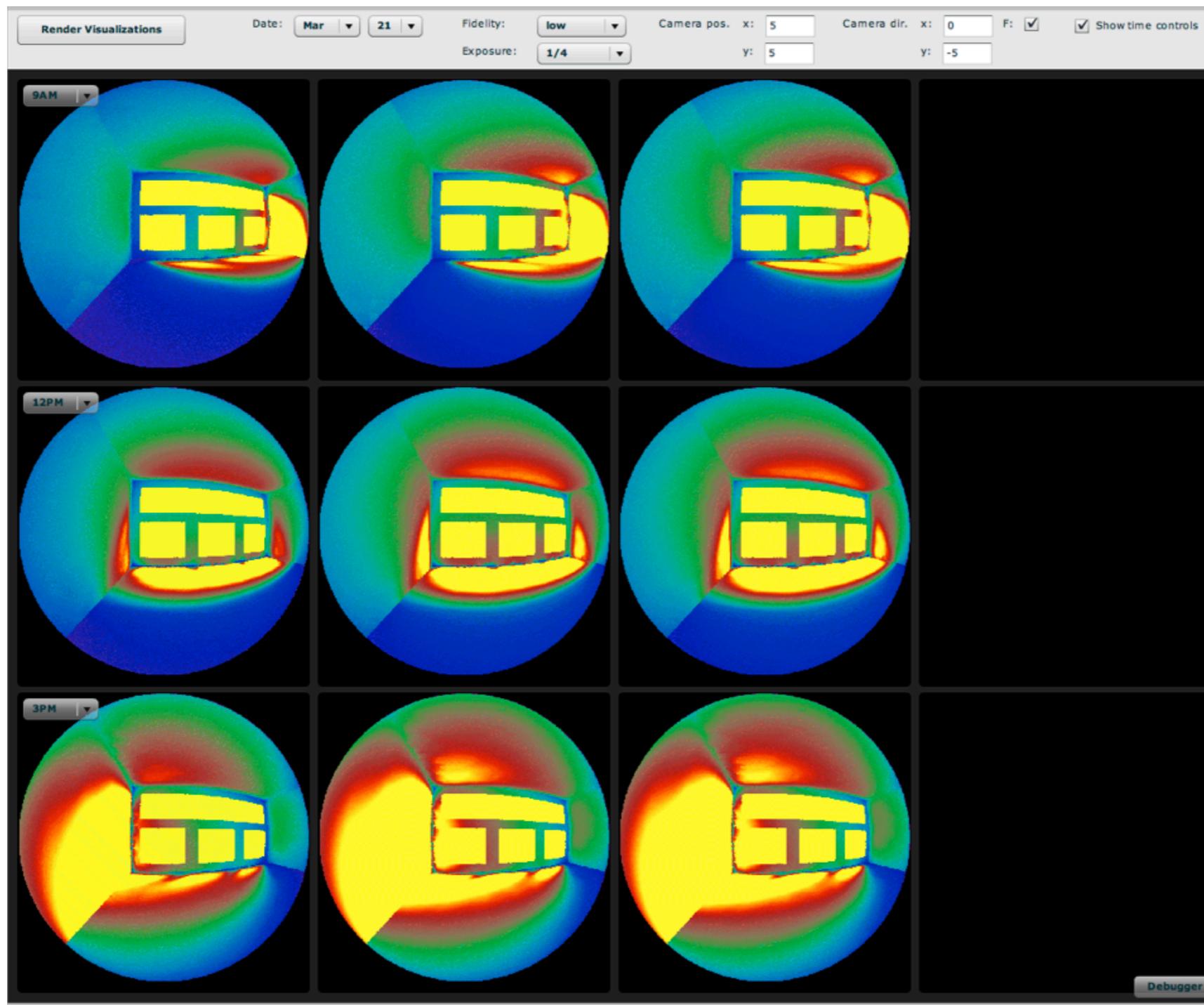
## Window Gain



# Radiance Integration with COMFEN

- Clean & Easy Radiance integration for modeling complex fenestration using BSDF.
- Stage One - static renderings using mkillum I+ option with BSDF file (October 2010)
- Stage Two - more realistic renderings using mkillum I- option and using detailed geometry incorporated in BSDF file.
- Stage Three - Annual Daylight Calculations with Radiance?

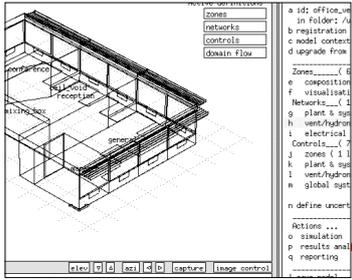
# Radiance Integration with COMFEN



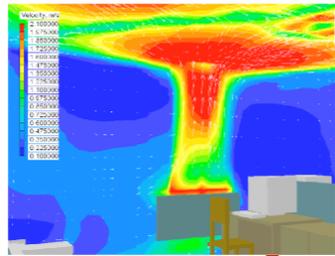
# Building Controls Virtual Test Bed (BCVTB)

- allows users to easily connect simulation programs & share data between programs.
- provides an opportunity to simulate interaction between building systems
- gives the ability to test control semantics

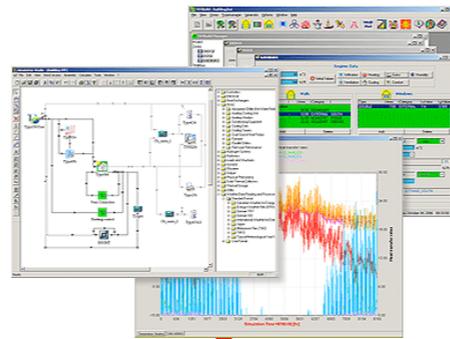
*ESP-r*  
building energy



*Fluent*  
airflow



*TRNSYS*  
building energy



**BCVTB Links**

-  implemented
-  funded
-  in proposal
-  in discussion

*Hardware*



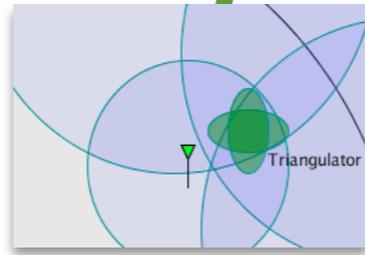
*Window 6*  
fenestration



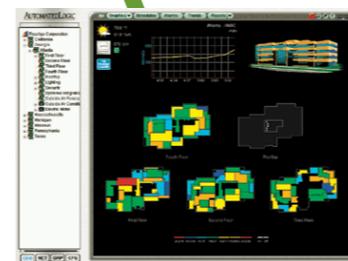
*Radiance*  
lighting



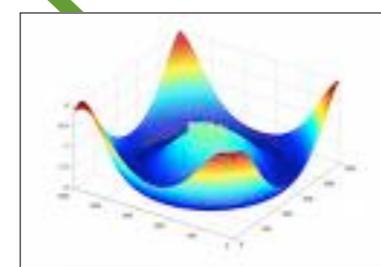
*www+xml*  
real-time data



*Ptolemy II*  
wireless  
networks



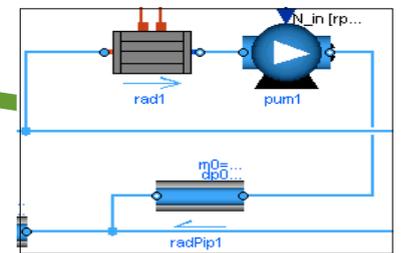
*BACnet*  
building  
automation



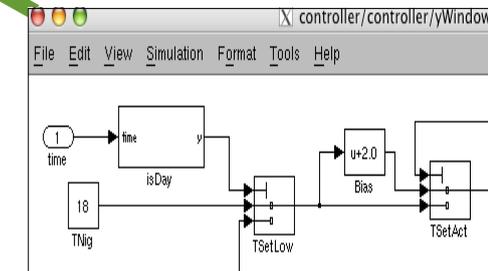
*MATLAB*  
controls & data  
analysis



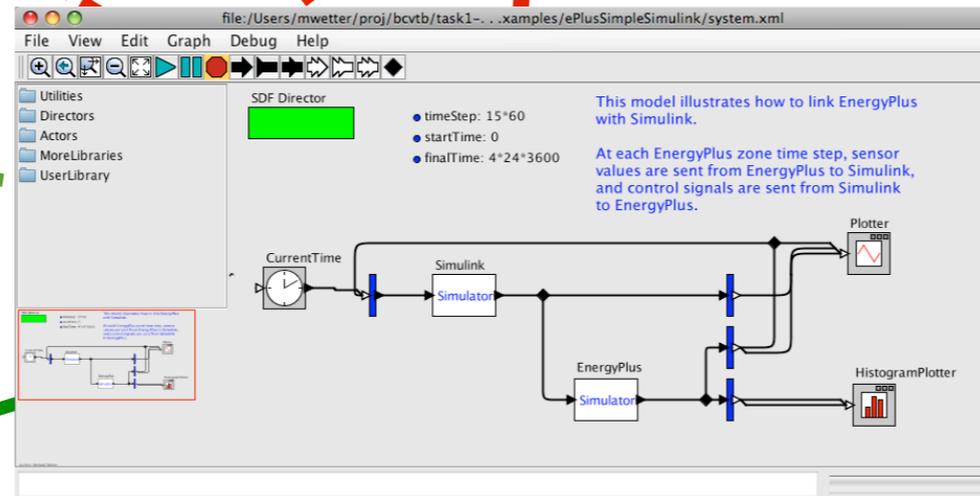
*EnergyPlus*  
building energy



*Modelica*  
HVAC & controls



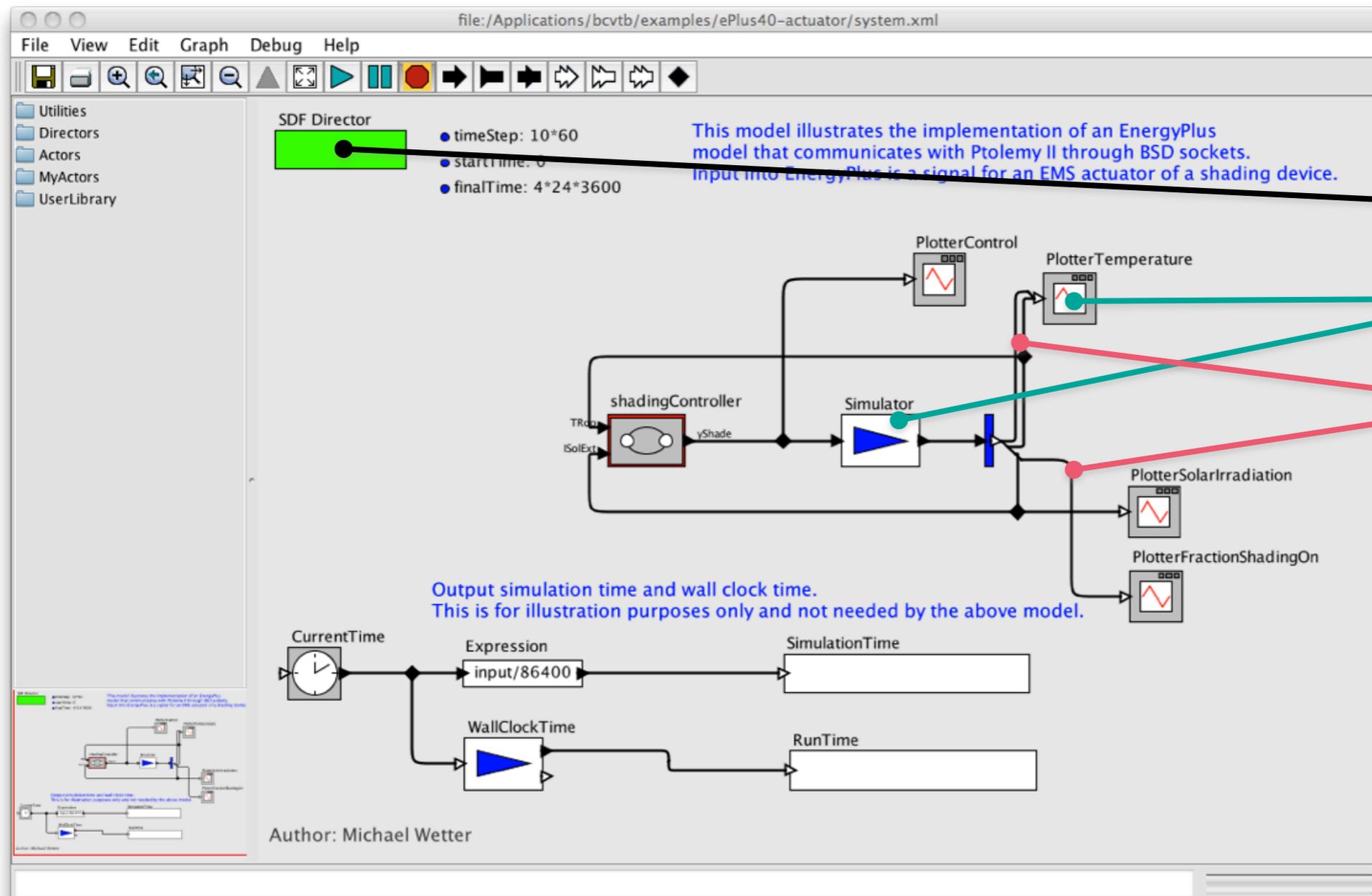
*Simulink*  
controls



# BCVTB is

- Based on Ptolemy framework
- Actor-oriented framework for concurrent simulation
- UC Berkeley EECS department
- Java
- Has a graphical user interface - Vergil
- Open Source

# BCVTB GUI



Director

Actors

Links  
(data flow)

# Support Radiance User Community

- We're working to secure funding for a new website.
- We want to host Radiance Workshop in 2011

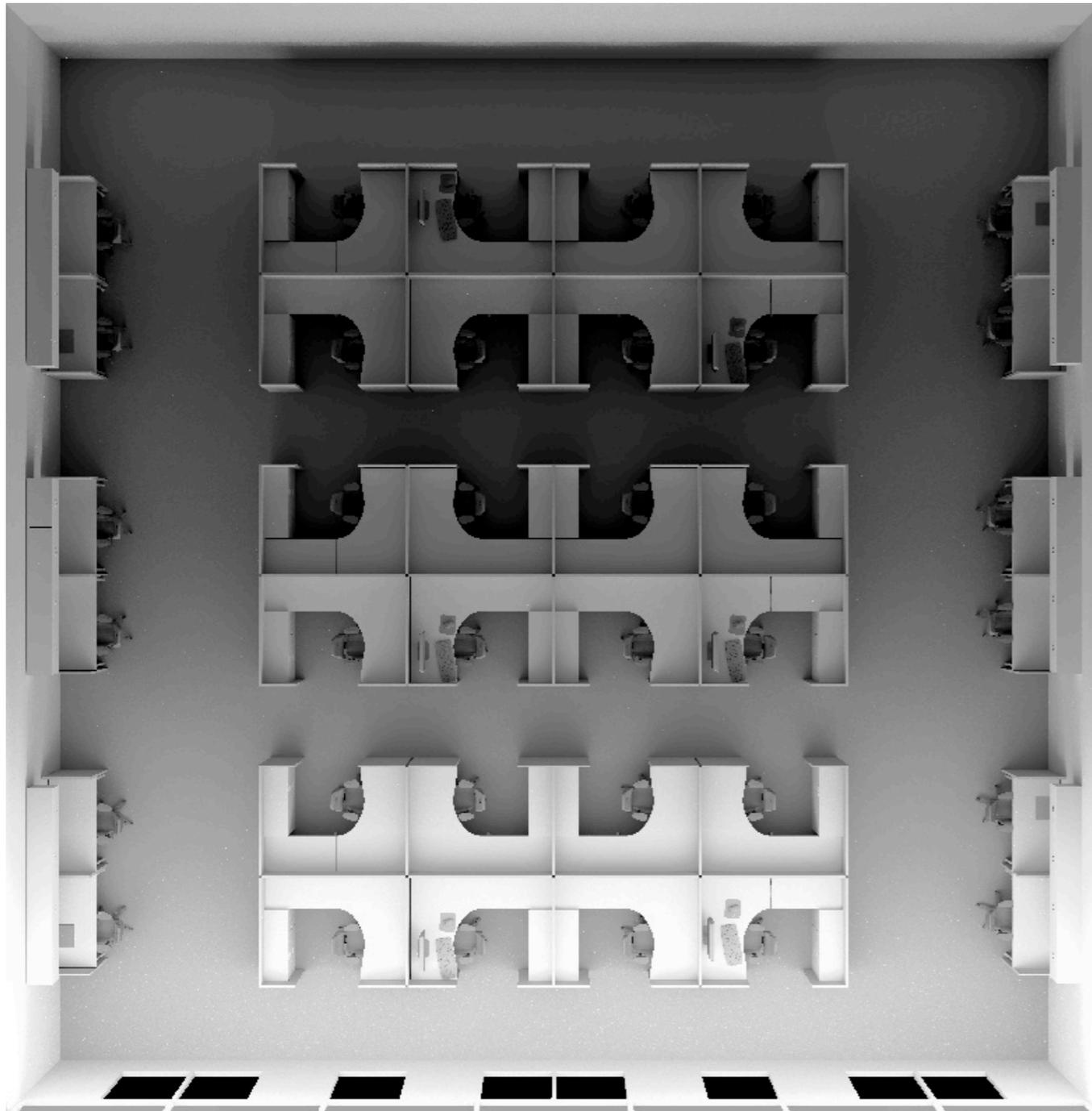
# Website Wish List

- Organized process for pre-release testing. (volunteers for platform testing needed!)
- Anonymous CVS access (via mirror or git)
- Organized library of tutorials, references and documentation.
- Material repository with some sort of trusted user rating system.
- Improved browsing and searching of the mailing list (forum with subscription)?
- Anything else?

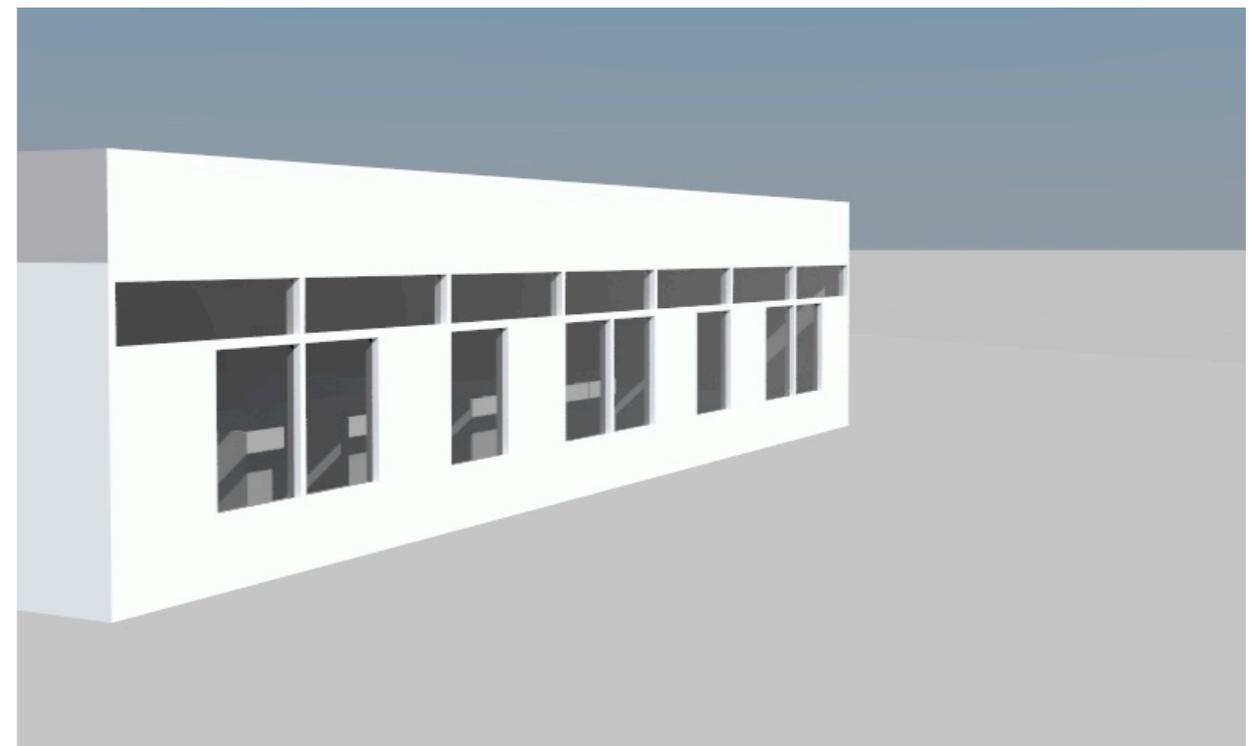
# Annual Assessment of Optically Complex Fenestration

Applying new Radiance BSDF tools

# Open Plan Office Space

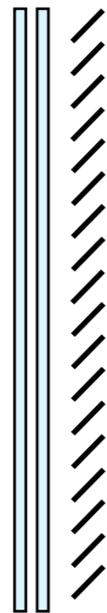
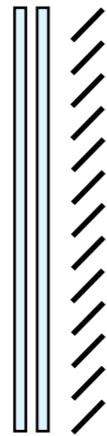


- The space is extra deep for testing daylight redirection systems
- The fenestration consists of upper daylight windows and lower view windows



# Fenestration Systems

Daylight Glazing  
67% VLT

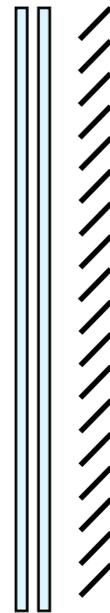
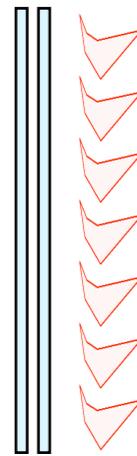


Reference 1  
Venetian Blinds

View Glazing  
30% VLT



Reference 2  
Clear Glazing

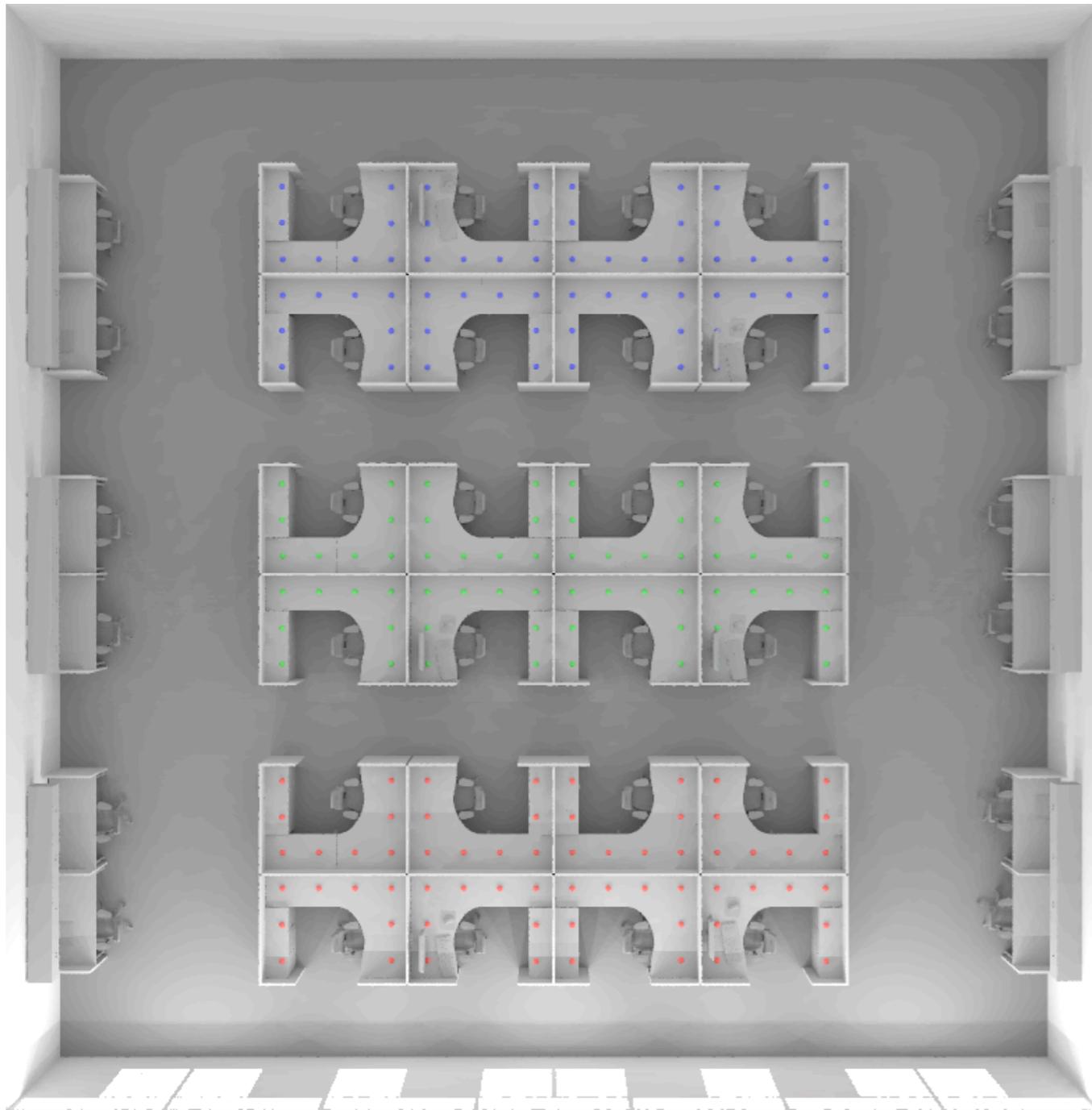


Test Case  
Optical Light Shelf

# View Matrices

- Illuminance sensor points for daylight sufficiency
- Luminance renderings for visual comfort

# Illuminance View Matrix



Zone 3

Zone 2

Zone 1

# Illuminance View Matrix

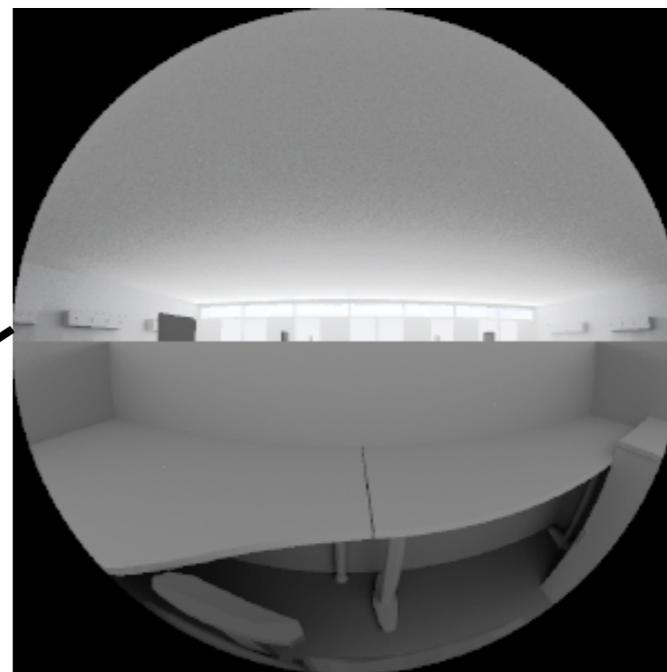
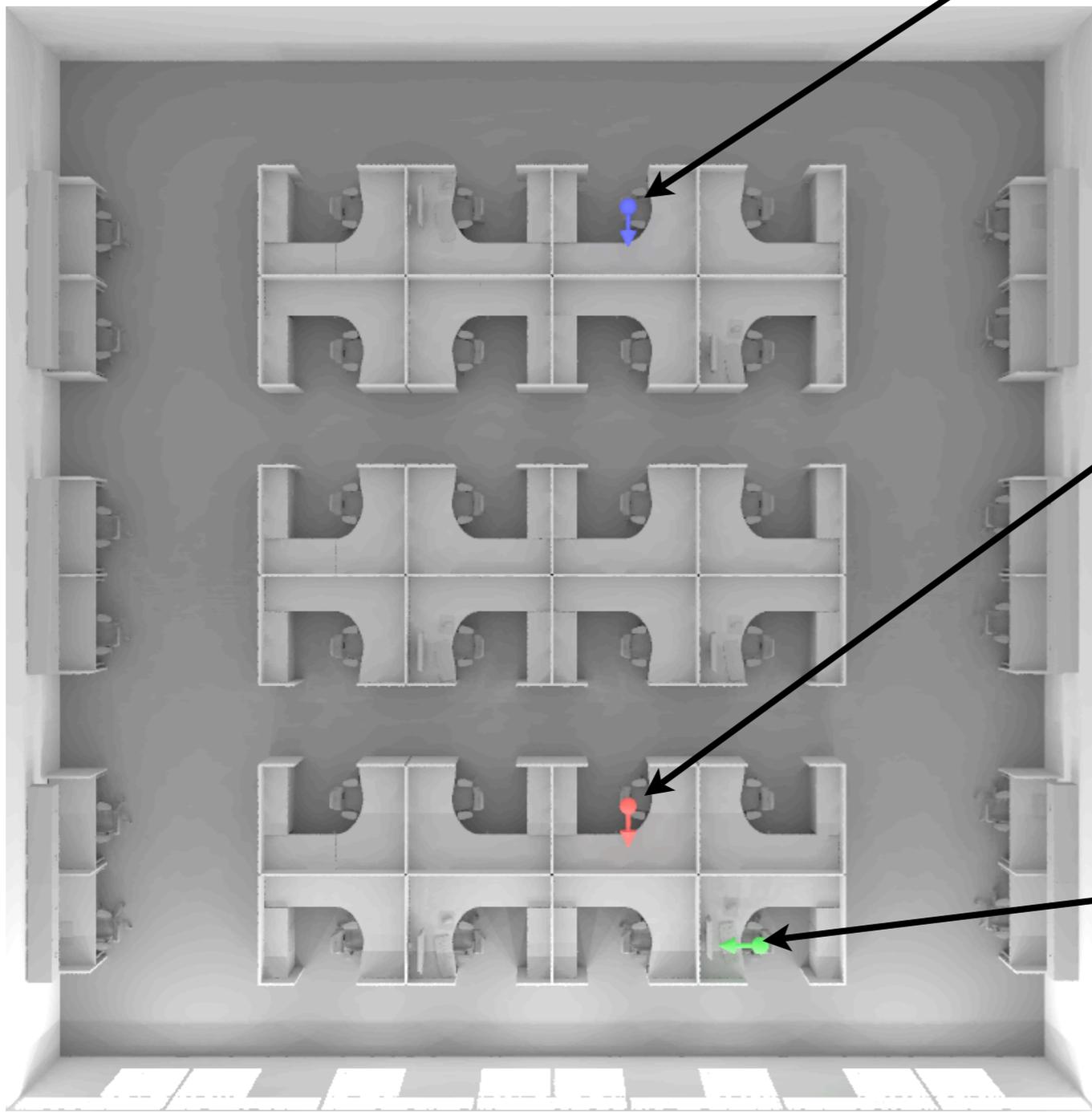
rtcontrib settings	
-ab	5
-ad	10000
-as	0
-aa	0
-lw	1.00E-12
-ds	0.06

Computation Time:

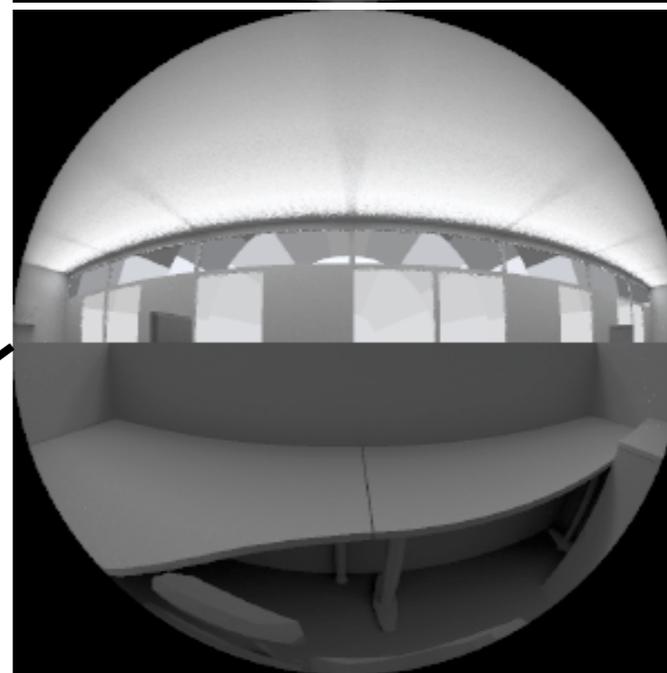
1.25 CPU\*Hours

(1) 2.66 GHz Processor

# Rendered View Matrix



View 3



View 1



View 2

# Rendered View Matrix

## rtcontrib settings

-ab	5
-ad	10000
-as	0
-aa	0
-lw	1.00E-12
-ds	0.06

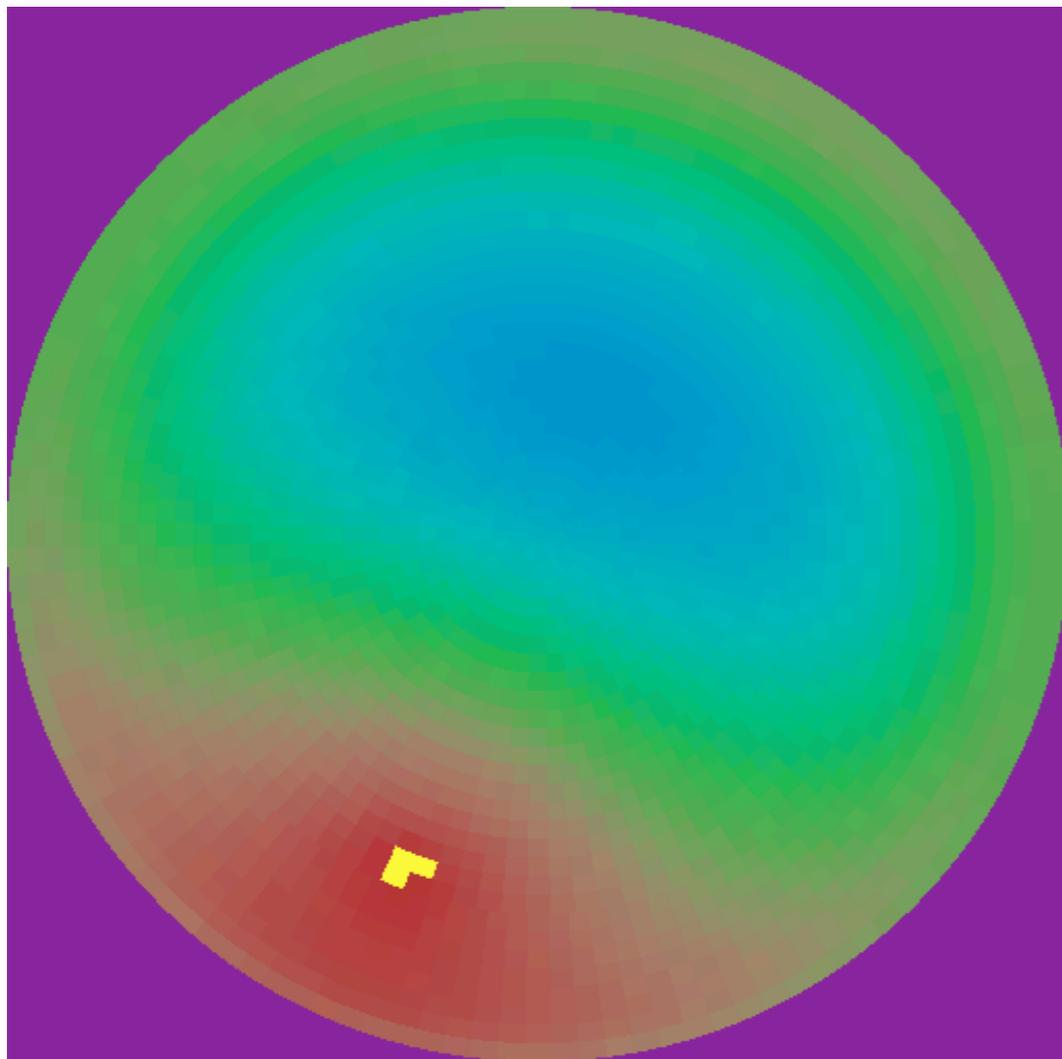
## Computation Time:

4013 CPU\*Hours

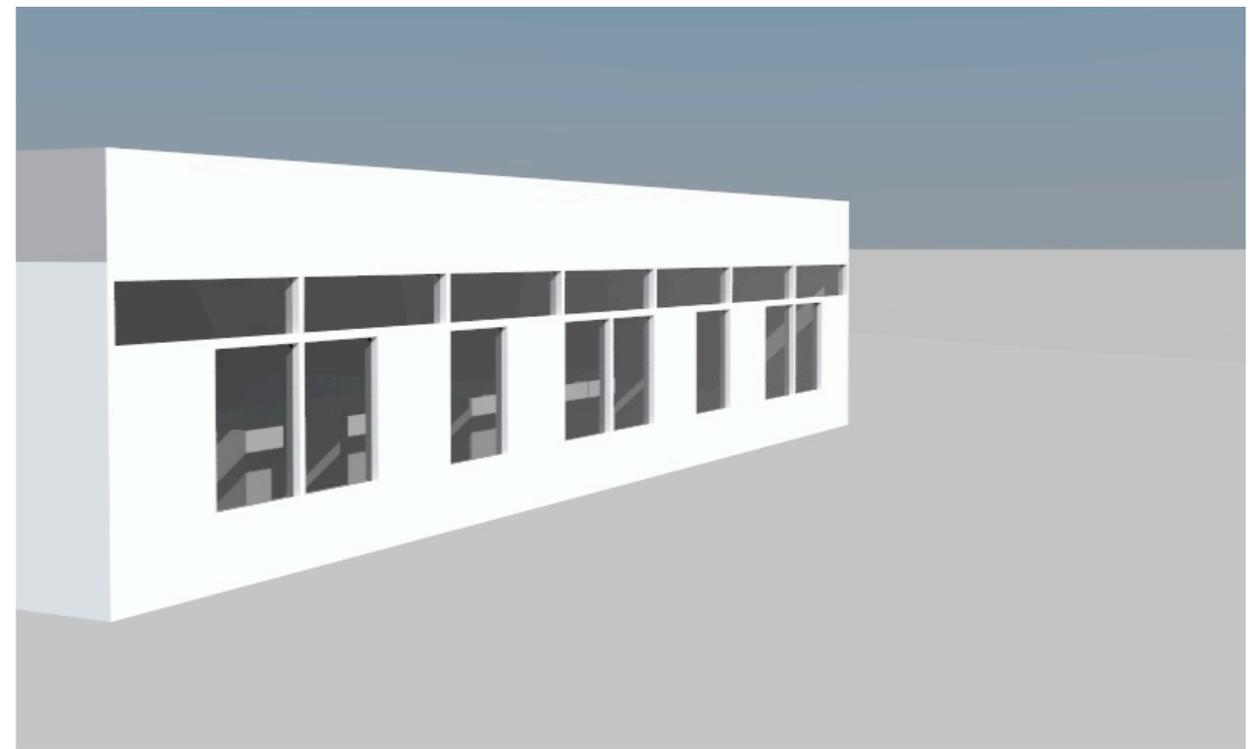
(64) 2.66 GHz Processor

62 Hours (wall time)

# Daylight Matrix



Reinhart MF:4 sky  
(2305 divisions)



No External Obstructions

Computation Time:  
1.25 CPU\*Hours

# S Matrix

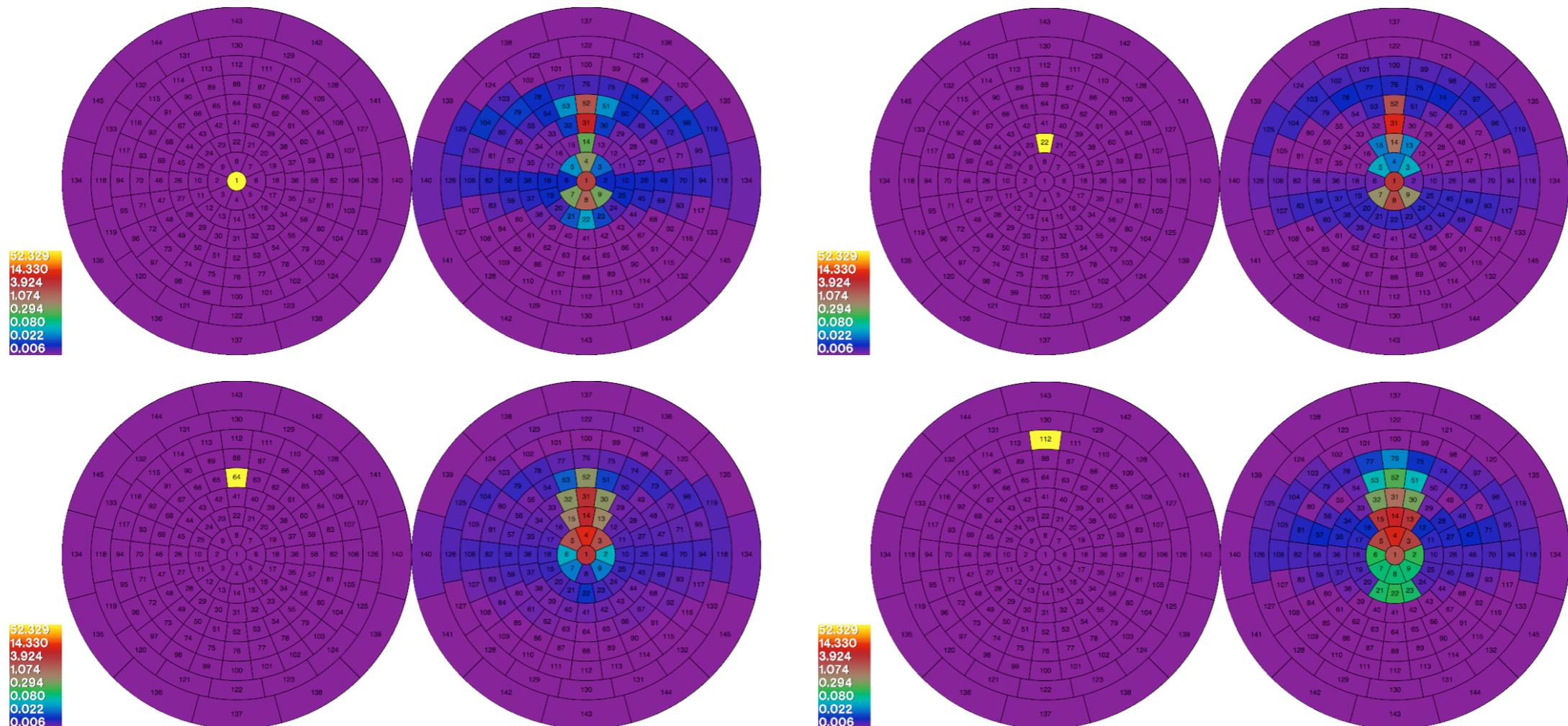
- Sky vectors were pre-computed and zipped to reduce repetitive generation of the same sky vectors.

```
gendaylit [options] | genskyvec -m 4 | gzip > m_d_t.svec.gz
```

- gensky was used when gendaylit failed (assumed a static sun and sky efficacy).
- Computation time: 1.0 CPU hours

# T-Matrix (BTDF)

- Generated a BTDF using radiance genklemsamp and rtcontrib.



# Prelude Calculation Times

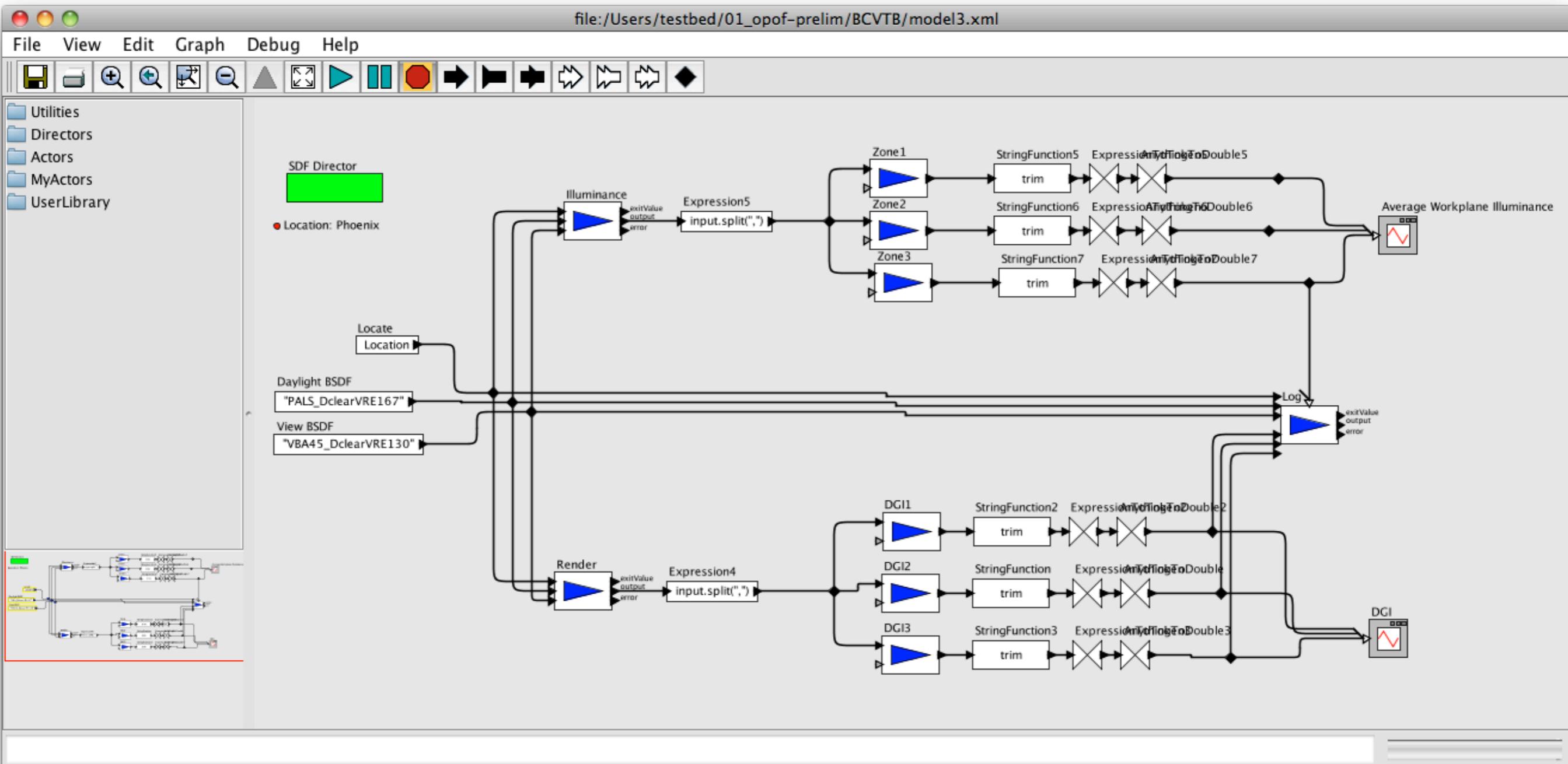
- V Matrix: 1.25 hours for Illuminance  
62 hours for a Rendering
- D Matrix: 1 hour
- T matrix: 1 hour with genBSDF  
0.05 hours with Window6
- S matrix: 1 hour

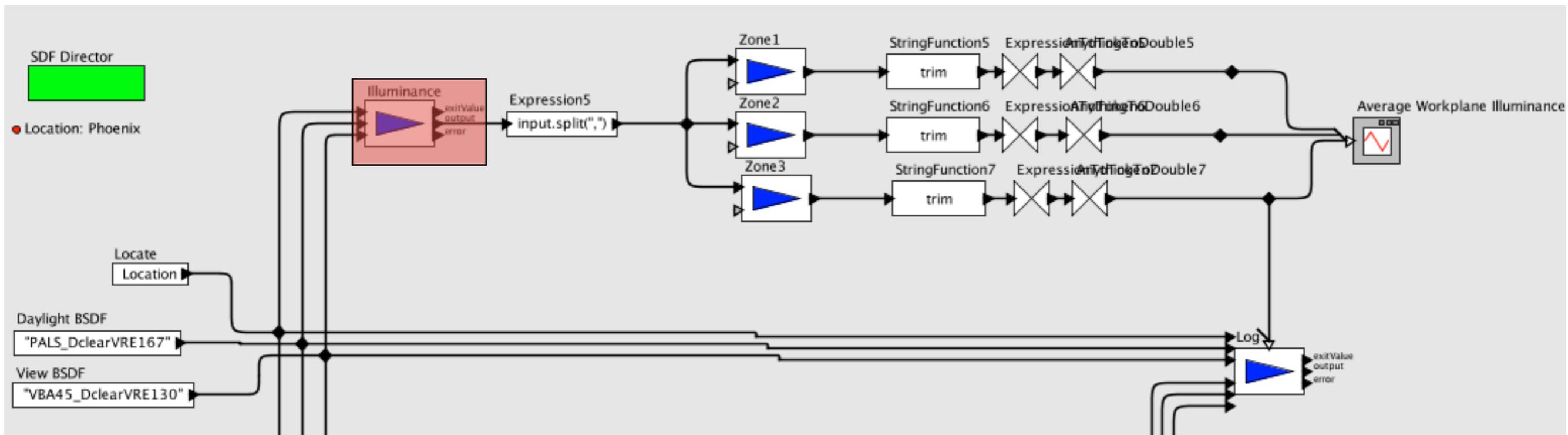
Now we can start our annual simulations!

# Annual Runs

- **dctimestep for illuminance zones**
  - Illuminances processed for UDI, CDA and lighting energy use.
  - computation takes 2.5 hours
- **dctimestep for rendered views**
  - Images analyzed for DGI
  - computation takes 12.5 hours (smaller images would speed this up)

# BCVTB Model for Annual Daylight Simulation





Configure ports for Illuminance

Name	Input	Output	Multiport	Type	Direction	Show Name	Hide	Units
exitValue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	string	DEFAULT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
output	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
error	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Locate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
bsdf1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
bsdf2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DEFAULT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Buttons: Commit, Apply, Add, Remove, Help, Cancel

Edit parameters for Illuminance

programName:

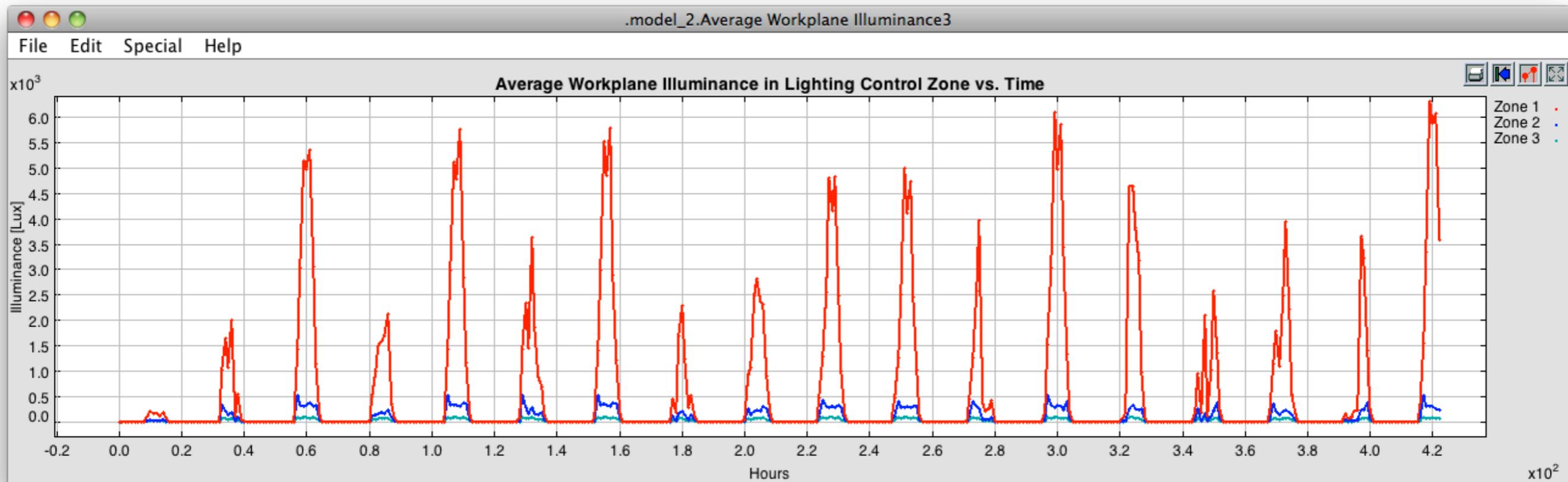
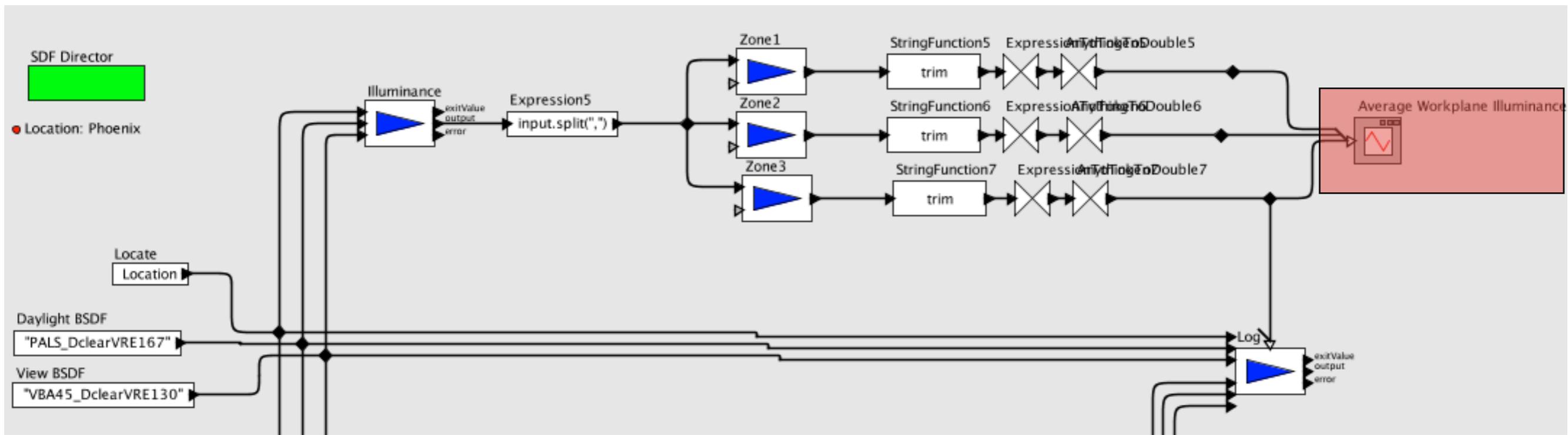
programArguments:

workingDirectory:

simulationLogFile:

showConsoleWindow:

Buttons: Cancel, Help, Preferences, Restore Defaults, Remove, Add, Commit





# Why Use BCVTB?

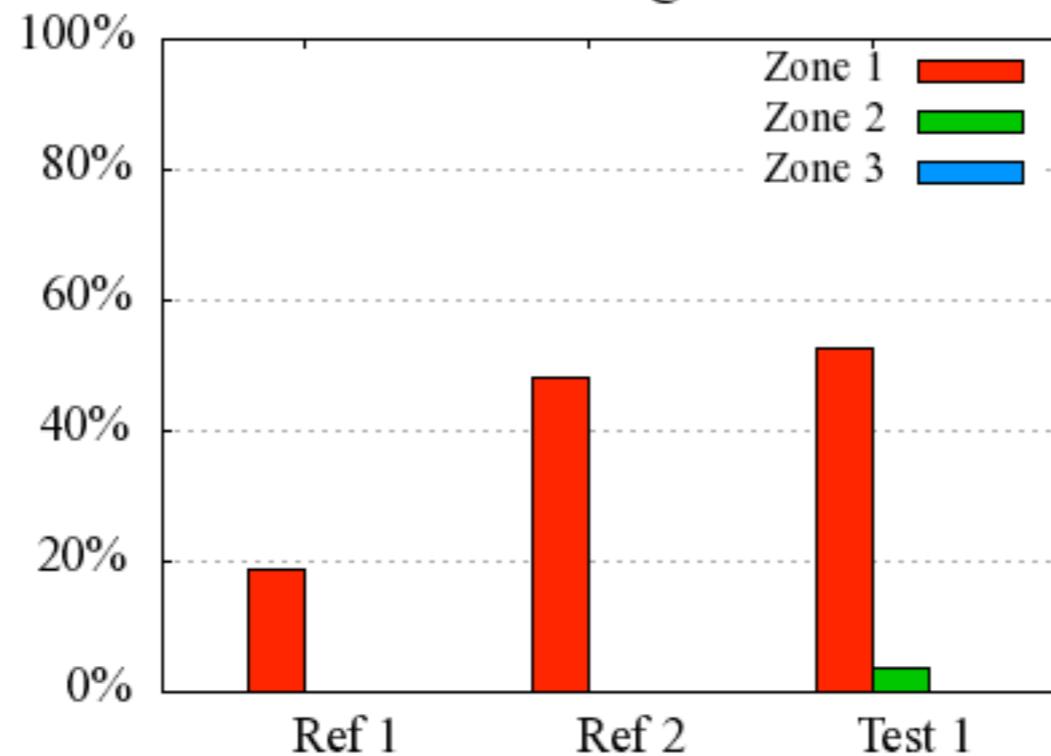
BCVTB is not necessary for annual simulations with Radiance.

We used BCVTB because of our future needs:

- Ability to easily incorporate control algorithms when we simulate dynamic systems
- Ability to add Energy Plus to the model to simulate HVAC energ.
- Ability to connect manufacturer's control hardware to test systems without the need to reveal proprietary algorithms

# Useful Daylight Illuminance

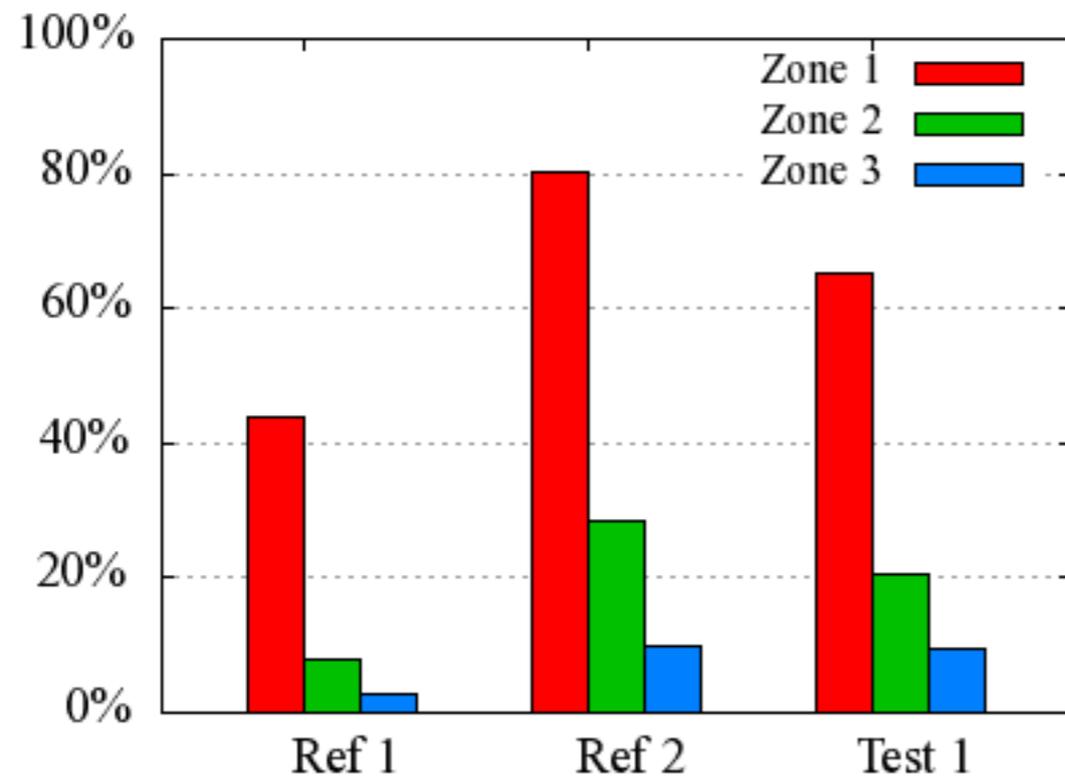
Useful Daylight Illuminance  
Washington



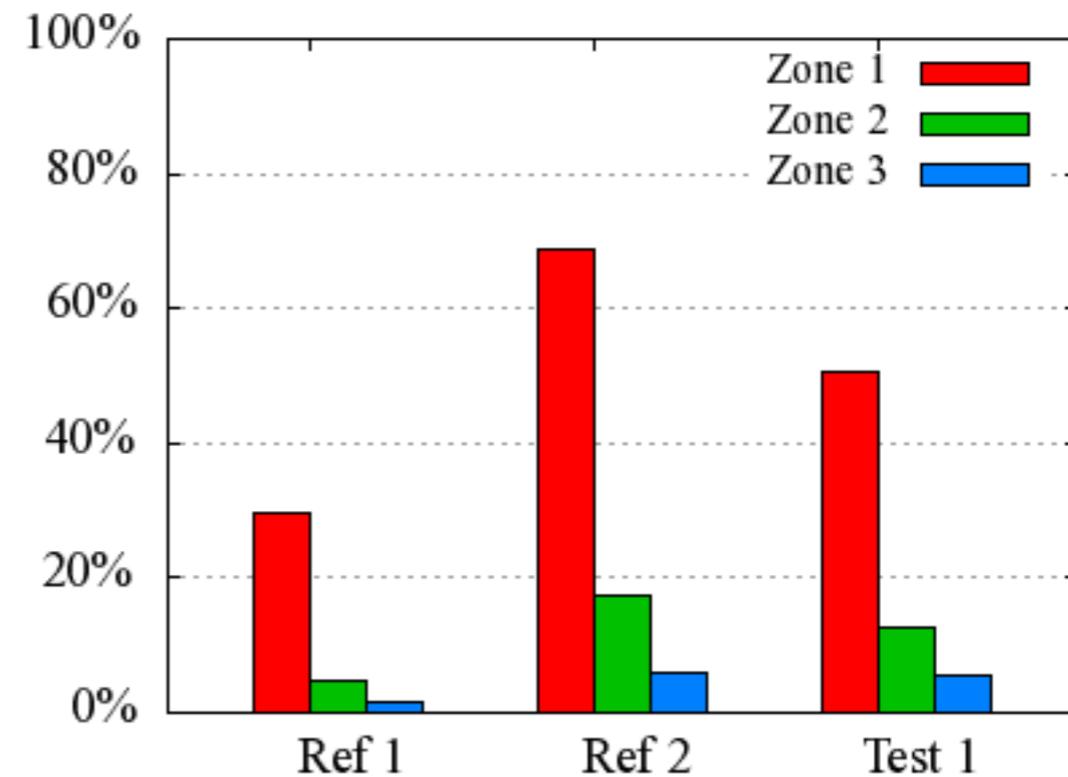
# Continuous Daylight Autonomy

## Continuous Daylight Autonomy Washington

Illuminance Criteria: 300 lux

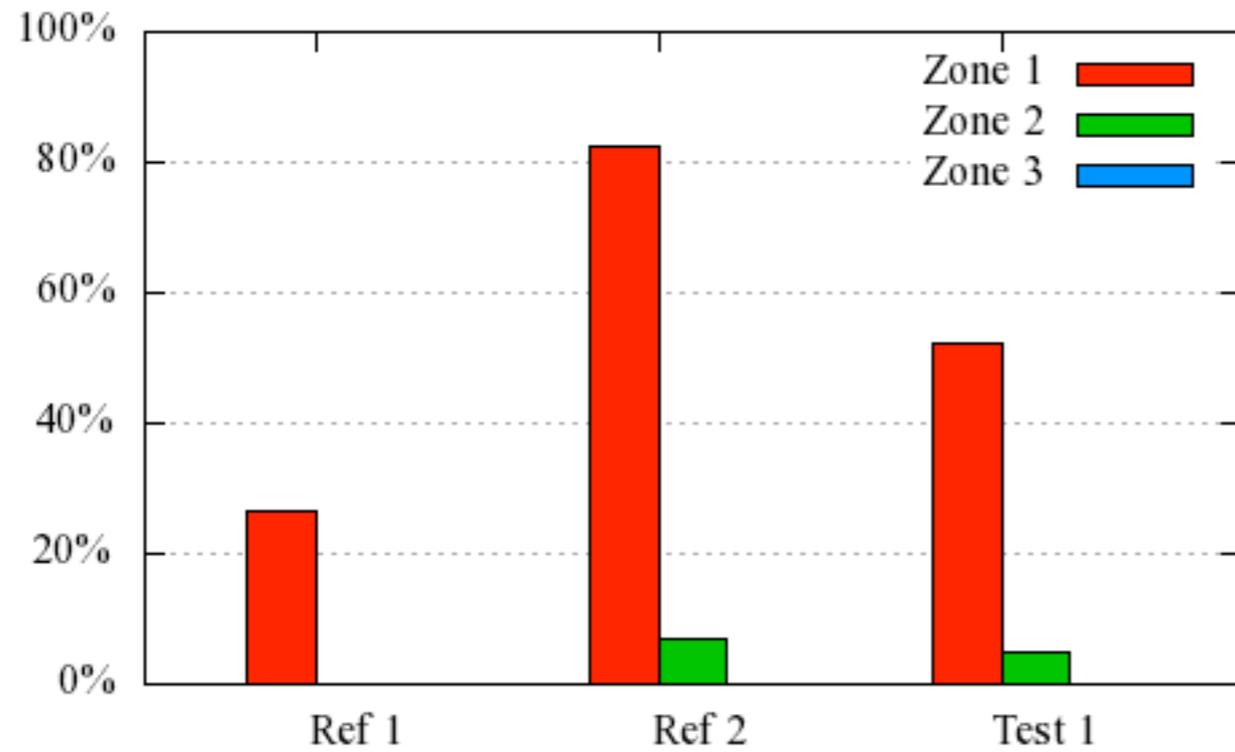


Illuminance Criteria: 500 lux

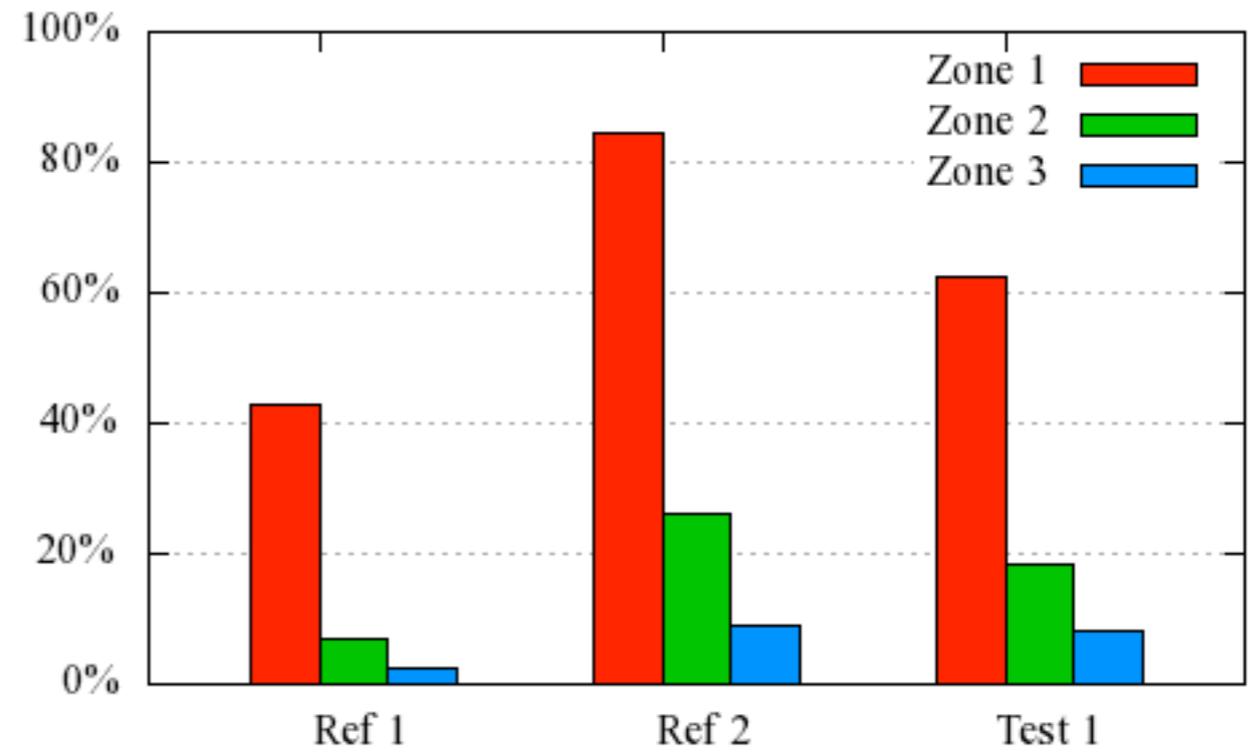


# Percent Lighting Energy Savings Washington

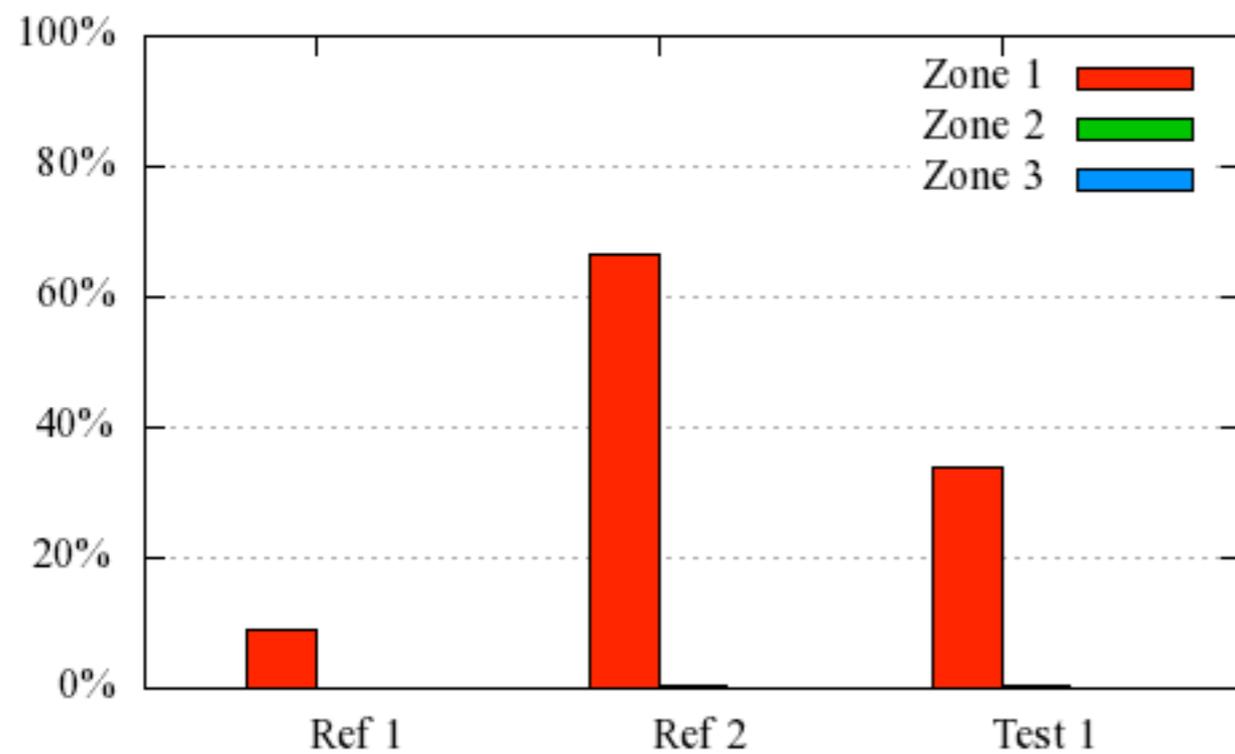
## Bi-Level Switching, 300 lux Set Point



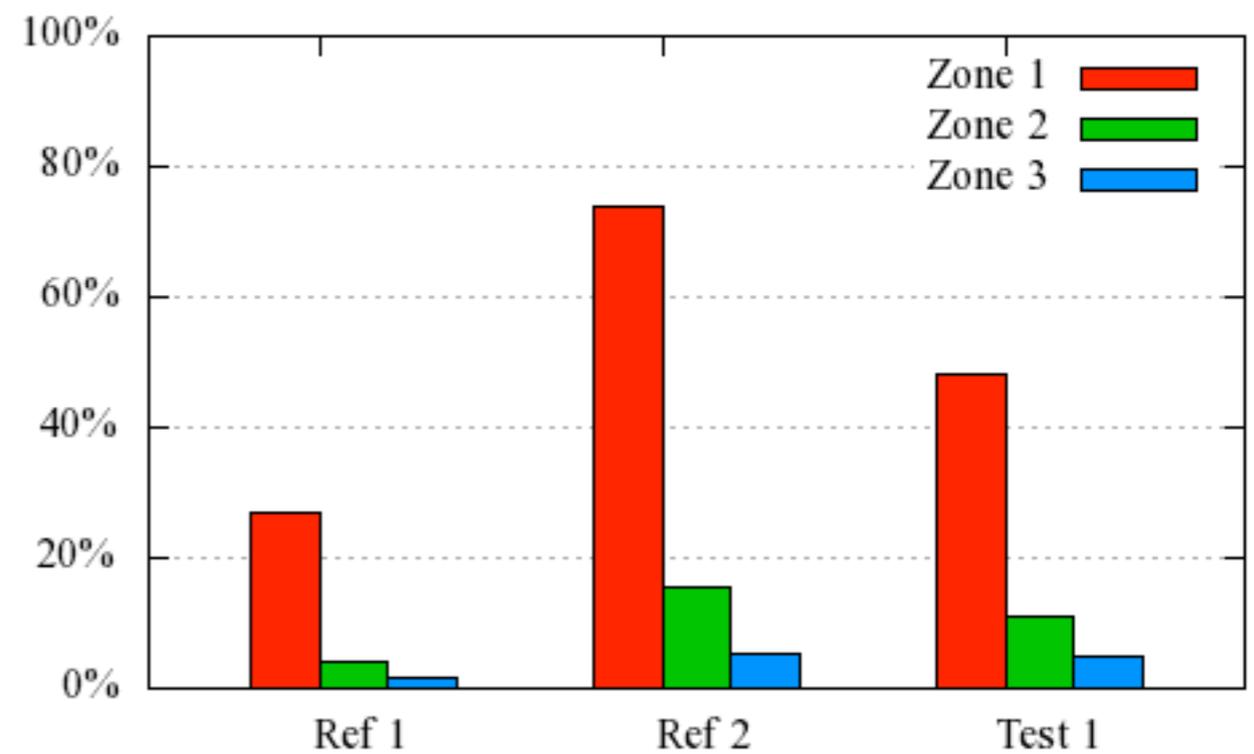
## Dimming, 300 lux Set Point



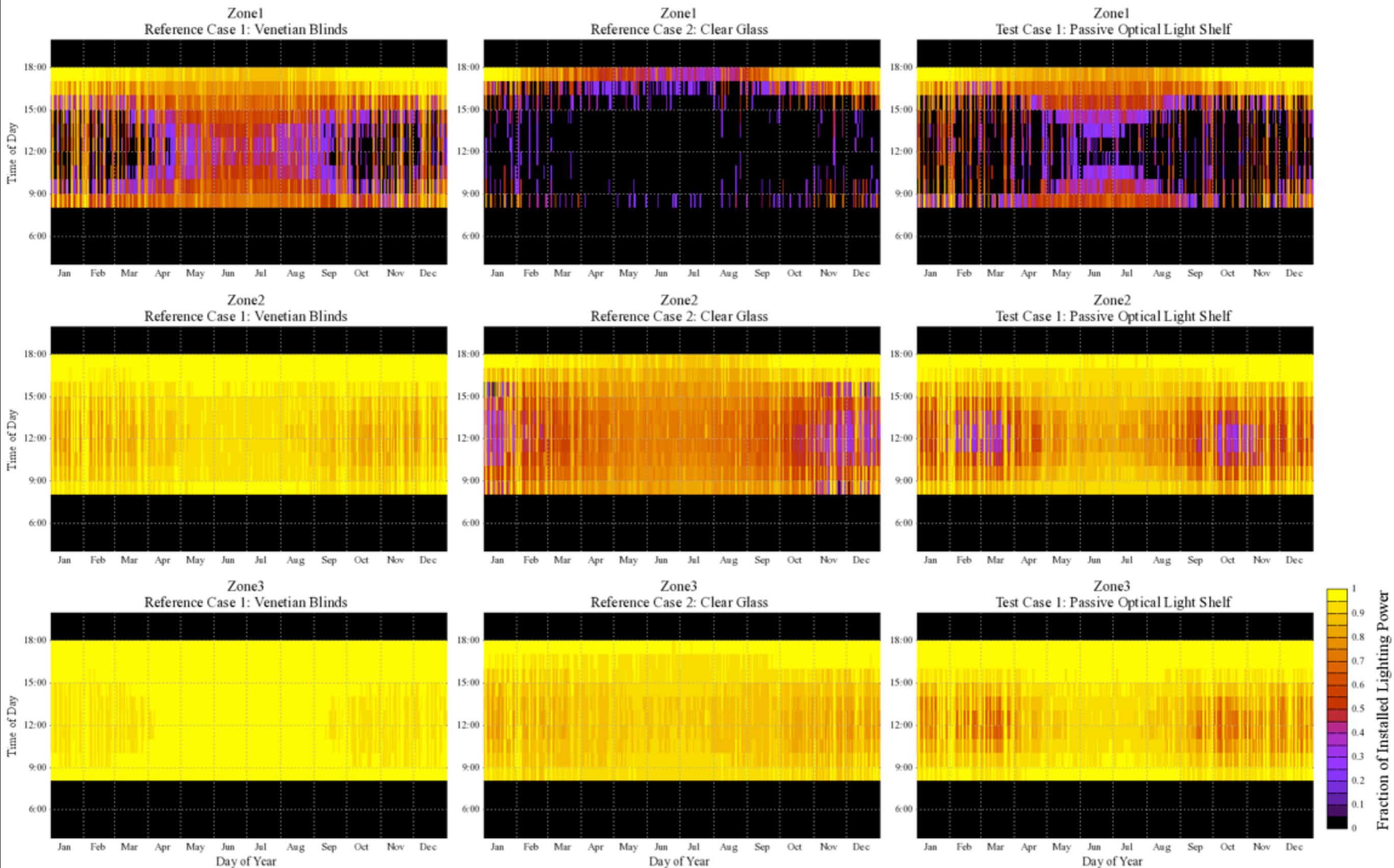
## Bi-Level Switching, 500 lux Set Point



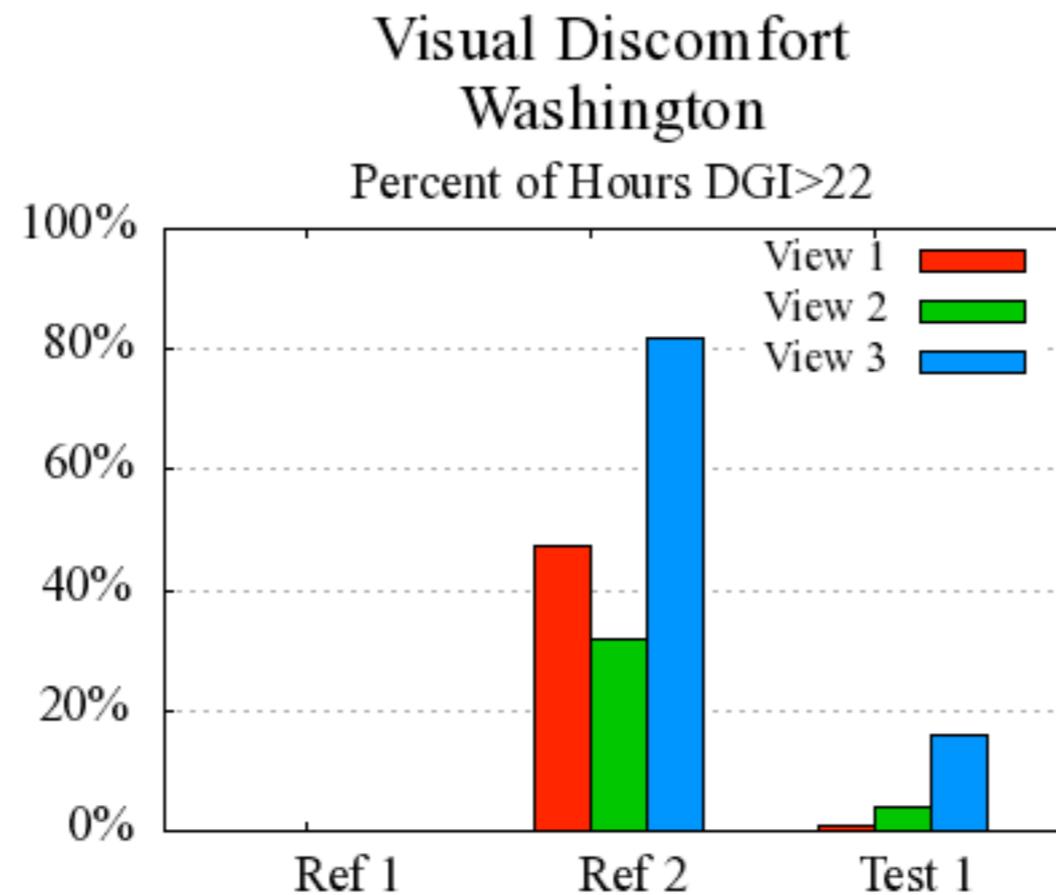
## Dimming, 500 lux Set Point



## Annual Lighting Power Usage Plots Washington, 300 Lux Setpoint, Dimming Control System

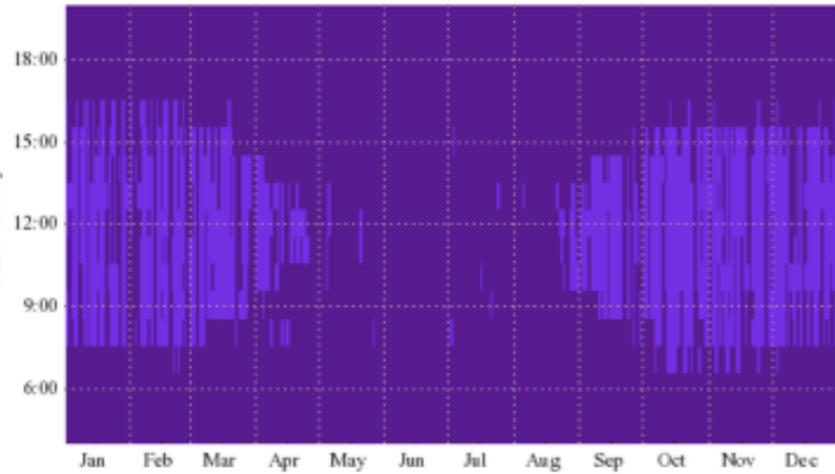


# Daylight Glare Index

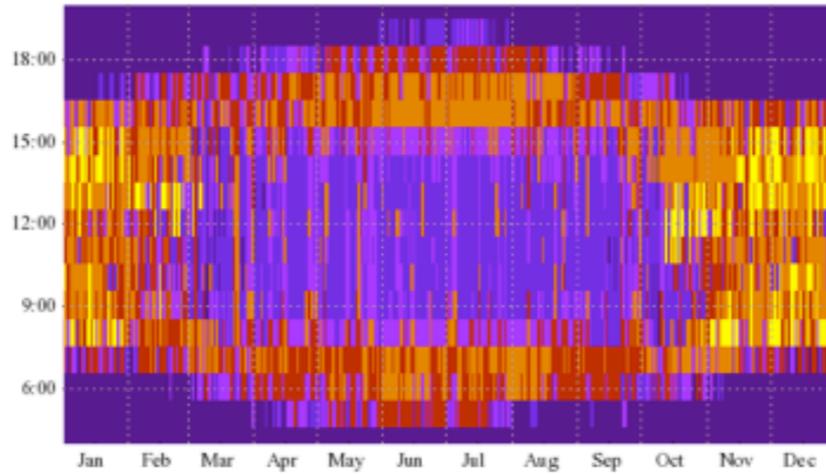


# Annual Daylight Glare Index Plots Washington

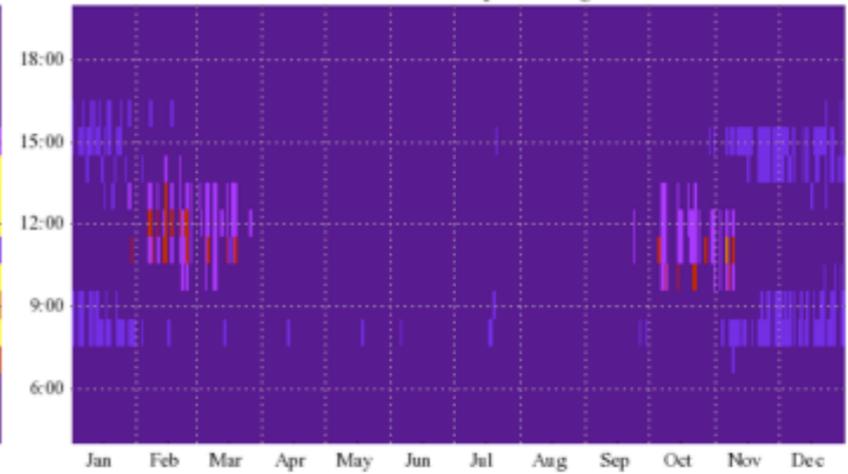
View1  
Reference Case 1: Venetian Blinds



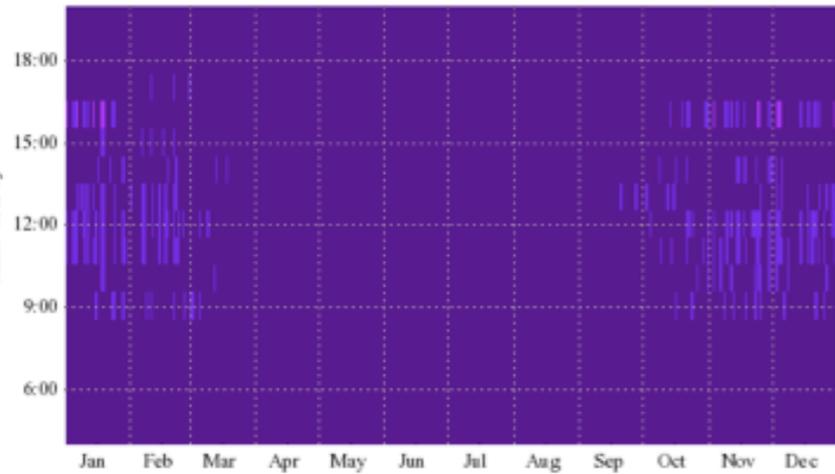
View1  
Reference Case 2: Clear Glass



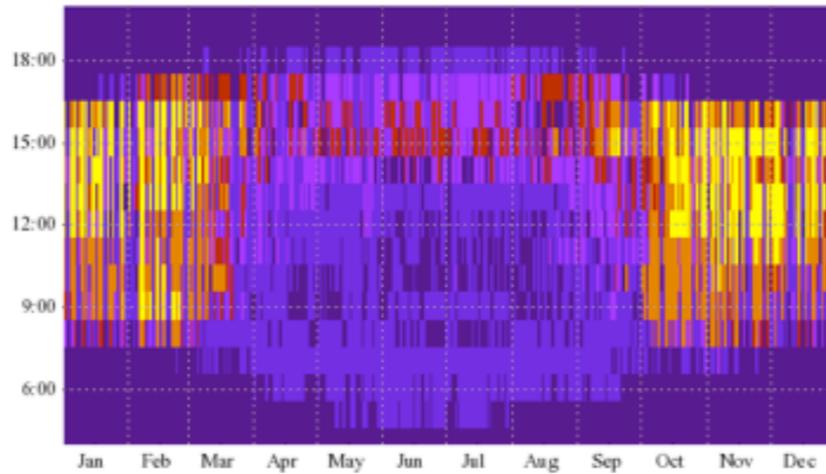
View1  
Test Case 1: Passive Optical Light Shelf



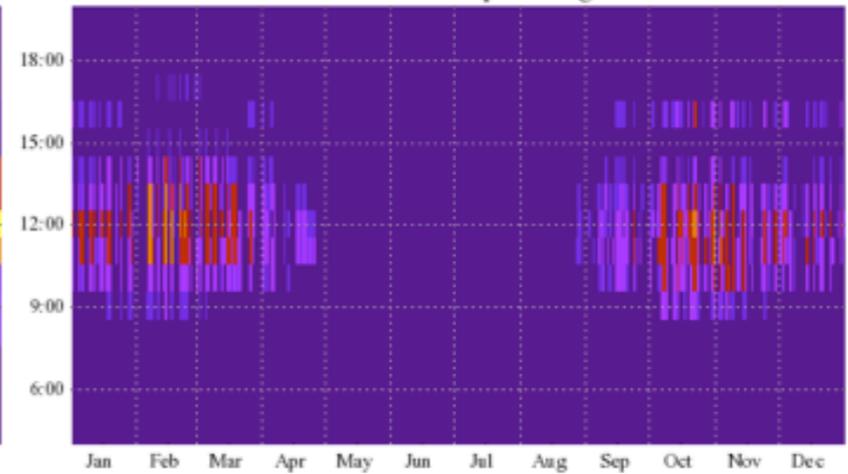
View2  
Reference Case 1: Venetian Blinds



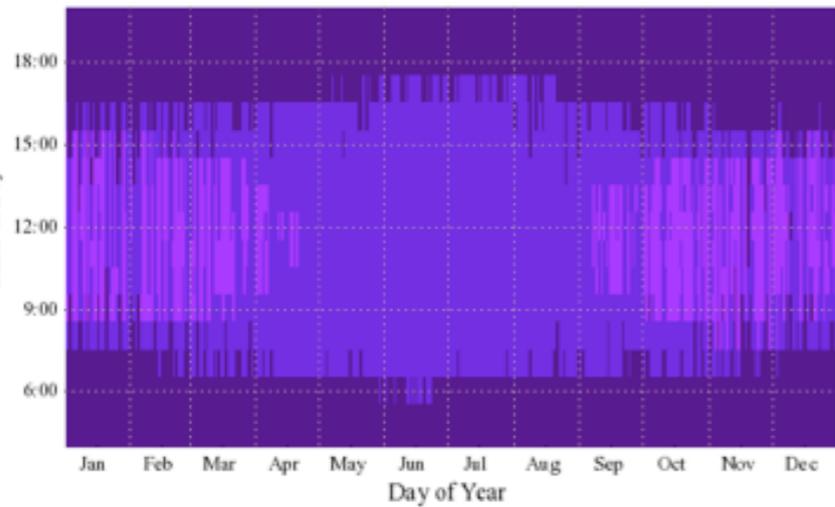
View2  
Reference Case 2: Clear Glass



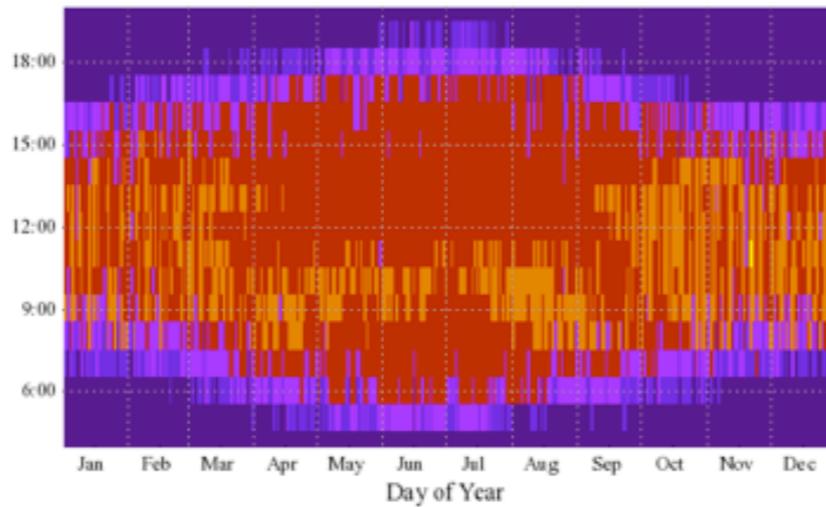
View2  
Test Case 1: Passive Optical Light Shelf



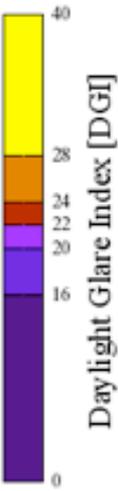
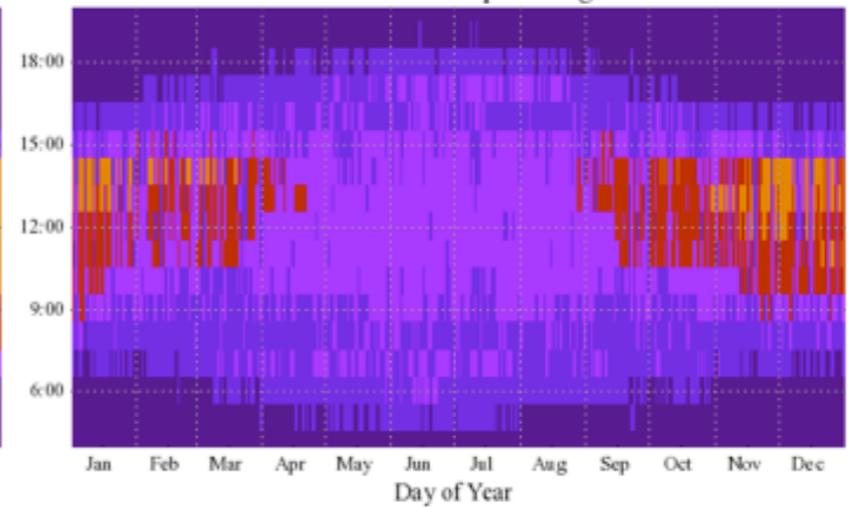
View3  
Reference Case 1: Venetian Blinds



View3  
Reference Case 2: Clear Glass



View3  
Test Case 1: Passive Optical Light Shelf



Daylight Glare Index [DGI]

# Who Would Do This?

- **Manufacturers**
  - Test products in a prototype stage
  - Test products in various climates
  - Test control algorithms for motorized products.
- **Lighting Consultants**
  - Simulate performance of various systems for a specific project
  - Evaluate design of custom shading systems

# What do users need to do this?

- Illuminance only - relatively fast:

a desktop computer

half a day (for computation - not including model prep.)

- Renderings - slower:

Could be sped up by using lower resolution images and reduced rendering parameters. Could still be done with a desktop computer but would need to run overnight. A small cluster doesn't hurt though.



California Public Interest  
Energy Research (PIER)



U.S. Department of Energy

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## Windows and Daylighting Group

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### More Info:

Window 6

<http://windows.lbl.gov/software/window/6>

High performance commercial building  
facades

<http://lowenergyfacades.lbl.gov>

## Acknowledgments

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Public Interest Energy Research  
(PIER)