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Community-Based Sustainable Development

# Passive House Momentum Builds

- MassCEC Passive House Design Challenge
- MassSave Passive House Incentives
- Higher Points in Low Income Tax Credit ranking for Passive projects





## Passive House Incentives

- 100% of the feasibility study cost up to \$5,000
- 75% of energy modeling cost up to \$500 per unit (cap of \$20,000)
- \$3,000 per unit for certification

To apply and get more information, email details of proposed building to [multifhr@icf.com](mailto:multifhr@icf.com)

# Cambridge Finch Incremental Cost

## 1.4% increase in cost from base design

- Upgrades to ventilation/ERV
- Higher cost for Passive House consultant
- Increased insulation/thermal bridge breaks
- Upgrade to triple glazed windows
- Increased cost for PH Rater

Baseline building: very good envelope and all heat pumps for heating and cooling; shading features

A Boston or Cambridge base building might be similar, but most stretch code community base buildings would see a higher incremental cost to move to Passive levels



# Up Next!

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# PASSIVE HOUSE: Building Inherent Value



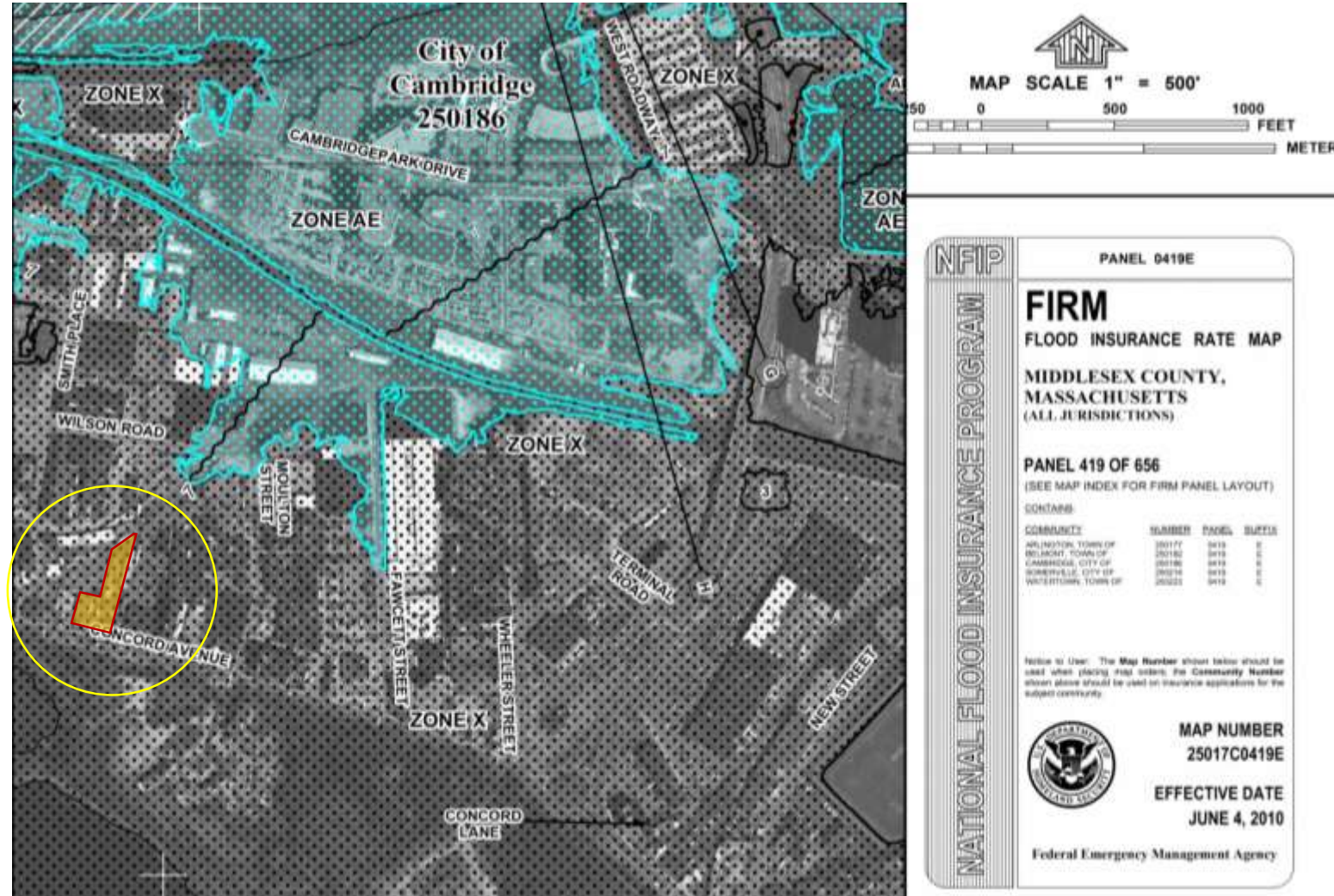
- Fall 2018: Mass CEC Passive House Design Incentives**
- 8 Passive House Affordable Projects (543 units)

# FINCH CAMBRIDGE

- Owner/Developer: Homeowners Rehab
- 98 affordable family units
- Opening July 2020



# Flood Resilience



**NFIP**

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

PANEL 0419E


**FIRM**  
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY,  
MASSACHUSETTS  
(ALL JURISDICTIONS)

PANEL 419 OF 656  
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	SUBMIT	PANEL	SHEET
ARLINGTON TOWN OF	00117	0419	0
BELMONT TOWN OF	00180	0419	0
CAMBRIDGE CITY OF	00178	0419	0
SOMERVILLE CITY OF	00274	0419	0
WATERBURY TOWN OF	00221	0419	0

Notice to User: The Map Number shown below should be used when placing flood orders. The Community Number shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.

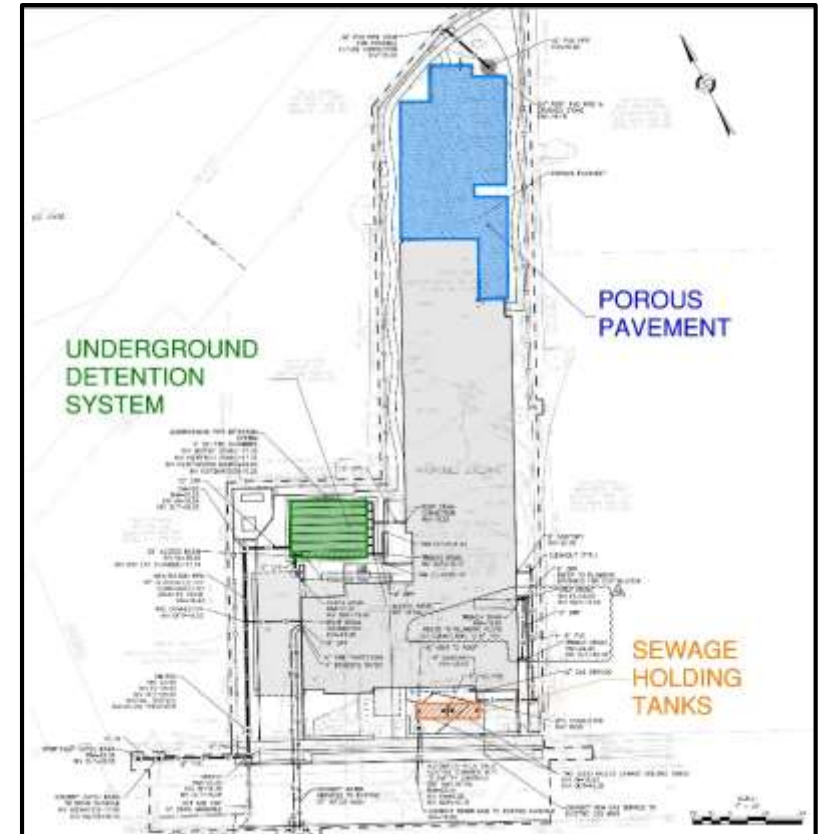
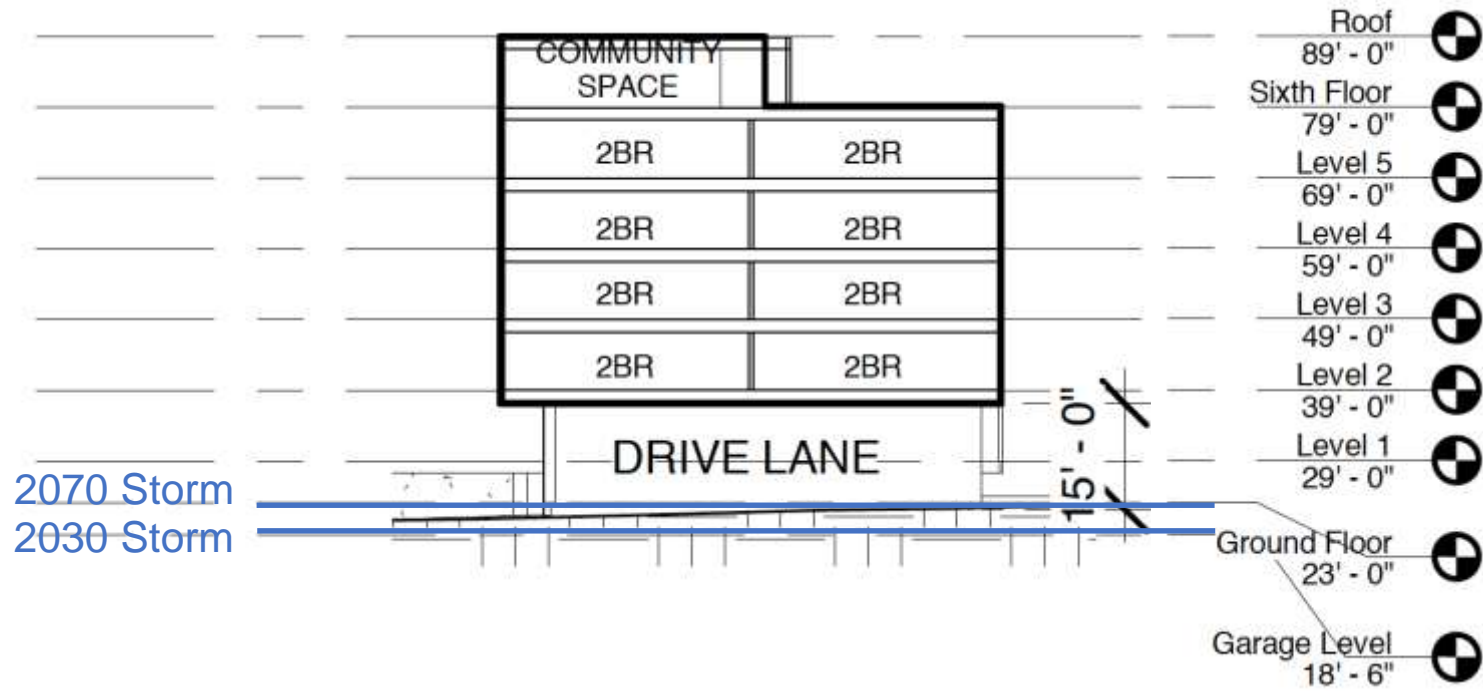
 MAP NUMBER  
25017C0419E

EFFECTIVE DATE  
JUNE 4, 2010

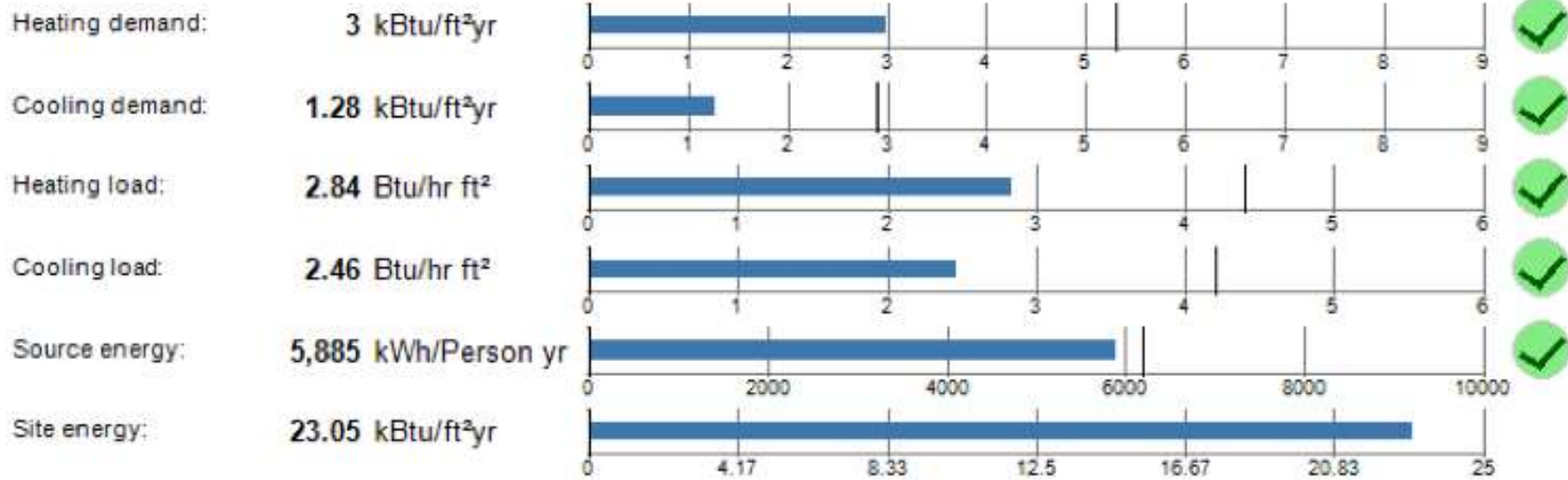
Federal Emergency Management Agency



# Flood Resilience



# Passive House Performance



	National Median EUI for Multifamily Buildings* (kBtu/ft <sup>2</sup> /yr)	Finch Cambridge EUI (kBtu/ft <sup>2</sup> /yr)
Site EUI:	59.6	23.1
Source EUI:	118.1	56.2
EUI: (kBtu/ft <sup>2</sup> /yr)		

\* Comparison EUI results came from the National Median EUI (Energy Use Intensity) through the Energy Star Portfolio Manager:  
<https://portfoliomanager.energystar.gov/pdf/reference/US%20National%20Median%20Table.pdf>

# What Does Successful Execution Require?

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## Builder as Partner:

Attention to the CRAFT of building

**COMMUNICATION**

**HUMILITY**

**APPRECIATION**

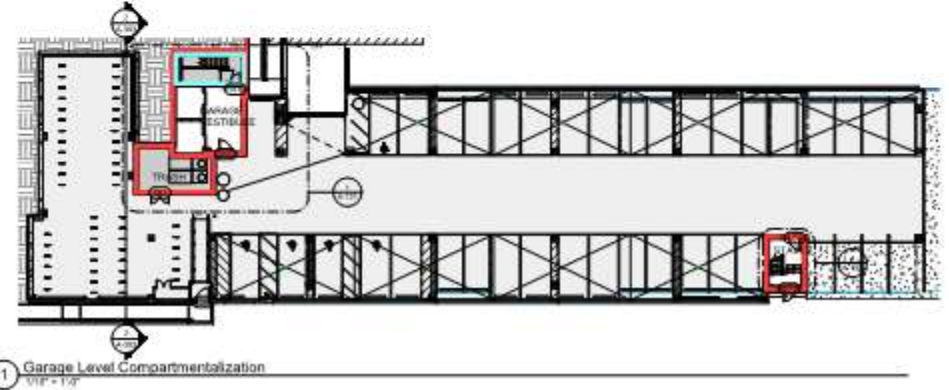
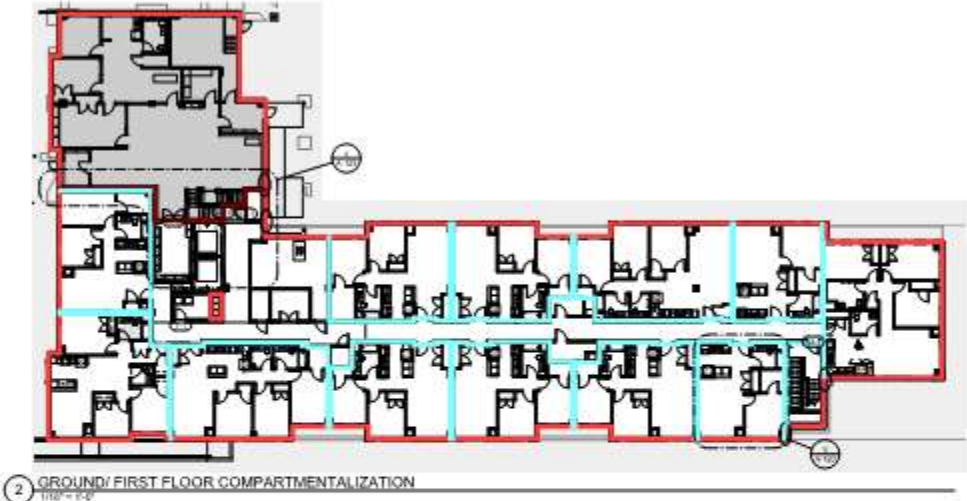
**MENTORSHIP**

# Communication/Collaboration

- Prominently post Airtight Building signs for duration of project
- Assign one person responsibility for maintaining the air barrier
- Discuss the air barrier with all subs prior to commencement of their work

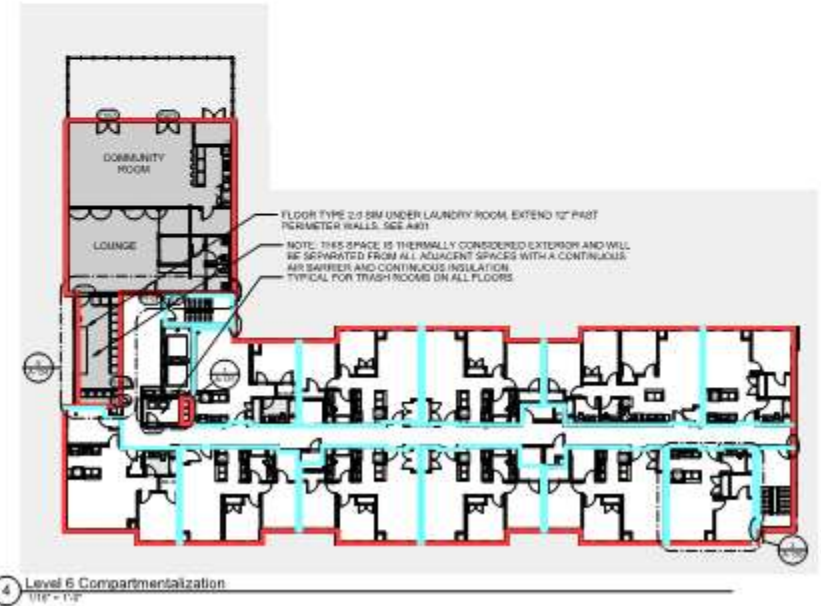


# Graphic Communication



③ TYPICAL UNIT COMPARTMENTALIZATION  
1/16" = 1'-0"

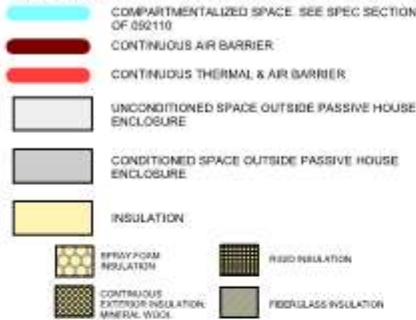
TYPICAL AT EVERY UNIT ON ALL FLOORS



# Graphic Communication

## COMPARTMENTALIZATION LEGEND

NOTE: DRAWINGS A-119 THRU A-133 & A-303 SHOULD BE PRINTED IN COLOR

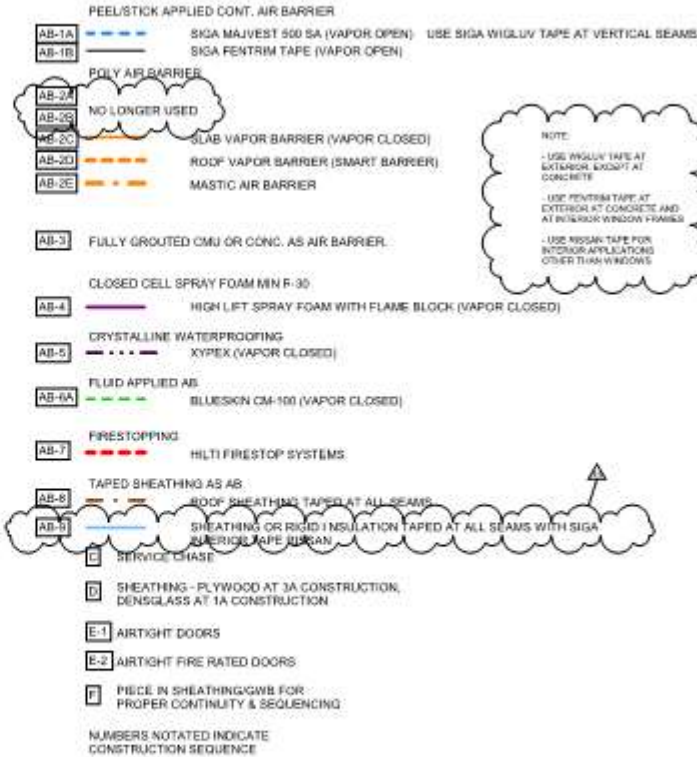


## COMPARTMENTALIZATION NOTES

1. PROVIDE SEALANT BETWEEN QWB AND TOP/SILL PLATES AS WELL AS BETWEEN STUD FRAMING AND QWB AT OPENINGS (DOORS, WINDOWS, HVAC UNITS, ETC.). SEAL PERIMETER OF ELECTRICAL/TELE-DATA BOXES (OUTLETS, LIGHTS, SWITCHES, ETC.) IN WALLS AND CEILINGS. ELECTRICAL BOXES ARE TO BE AIR SEALED. BOXES AND SEALING OF BOX PENETRATIONS SHALL BE AS SPECIFIED.
2. AT DEMISING WALLS (UNIT-TO-UNIT, UNIT-TO-CORRIDOR, AND UNIT-TO-COMMON AREA), PROVIDE INTERIOR AIR BARRIER (AIRSEALING). PROVIDE SEALANT AS SPECIFIED BETWEEN SILL PLATE/TP PLATE AND QWB, TYPICAL.
3. SEE 2/4-706 FOR DETAIL OF DEMISING WALL AT EXTERIOR WALL.
4. SEE DETAIL 2 & 3 ON A806 FOR DETAIL AT FLOOR.

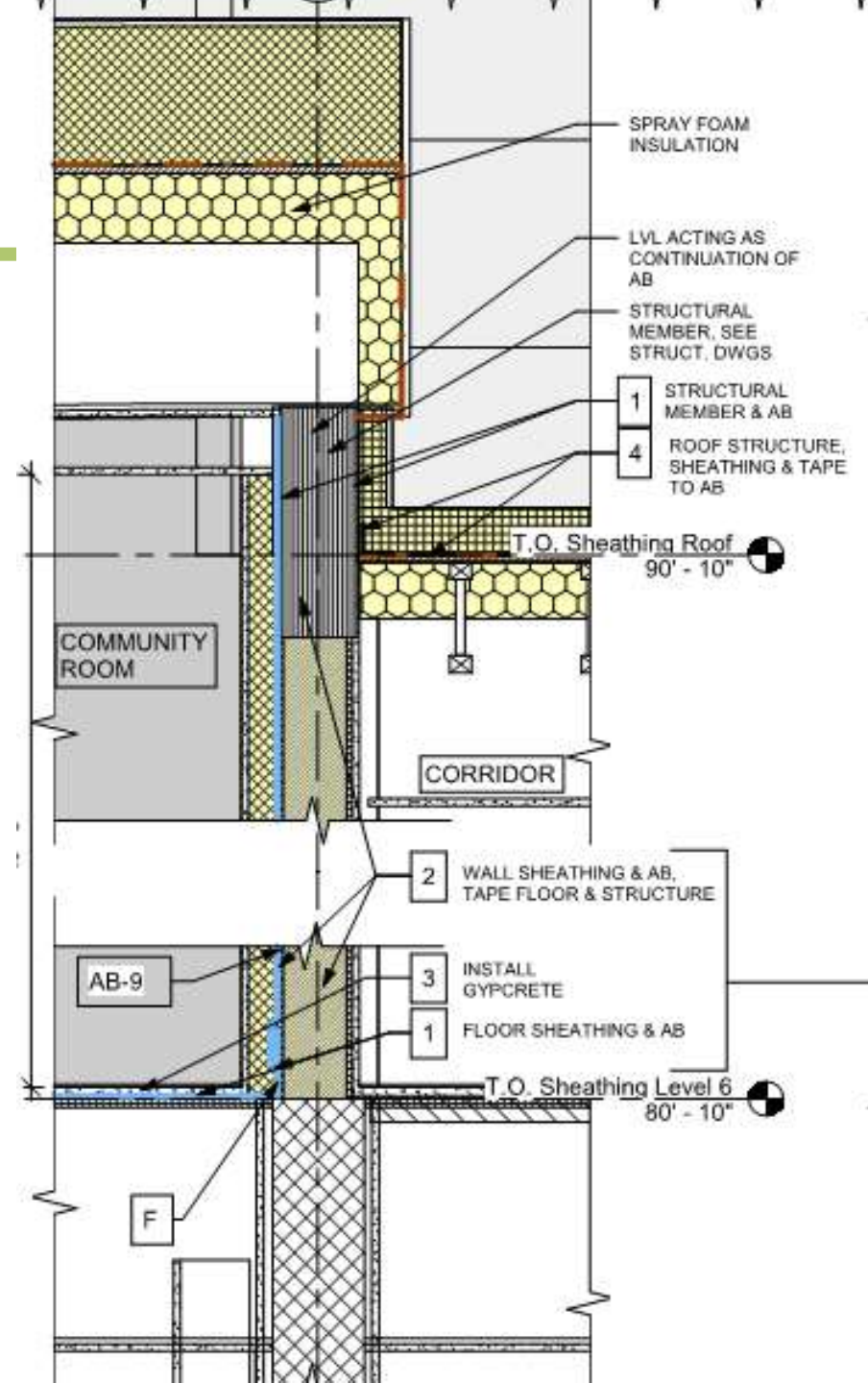
## AIRTIGHTNESS DETAILS LEGEND

NOTE: DRAWINGS P-119 THRU P-133 & P-303 SHOULD BE PRINTED IN COLOR



## COMPARTMENTALIZATION DETAIL NOTES

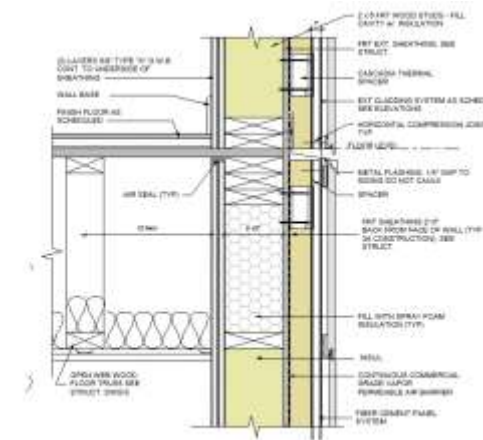
1. TAPE ALL INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN AIR BARRIER AND ANOTHER MATERIAL.
2. PENETRATIONS AT AIR BARRIERS SHOULD BE FULLY FIRE STOPPED AND AIRTIGHT.



# HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

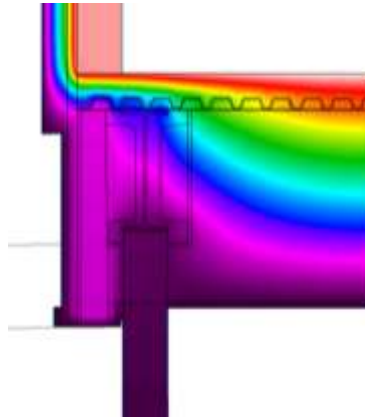
## Avoid Thermal Bridging

CLADDING ATTACHMENT:  
CASCADIA CLIPS

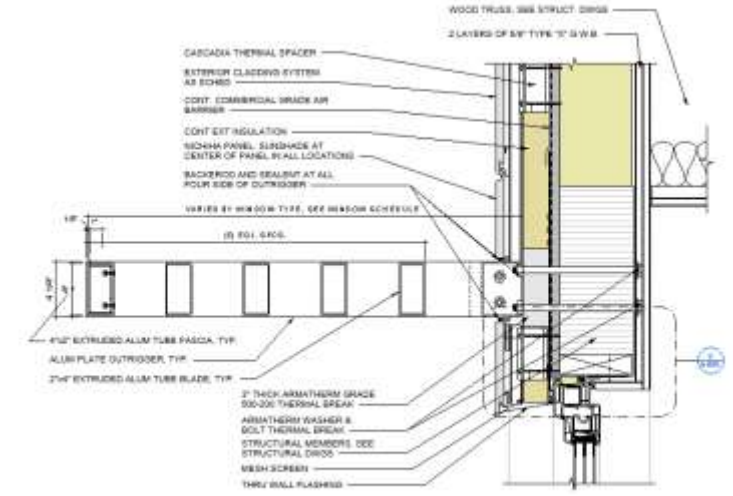


1 FLOOR ASSEMBLY (FIRER CEMENT PANEL SYSTEM) (TYP)

EXPOSED STEEL COLUMNS  
AT DRIVE LANE



SUN SHADE ATTACHMENT TO  
WINDOW HEADERS



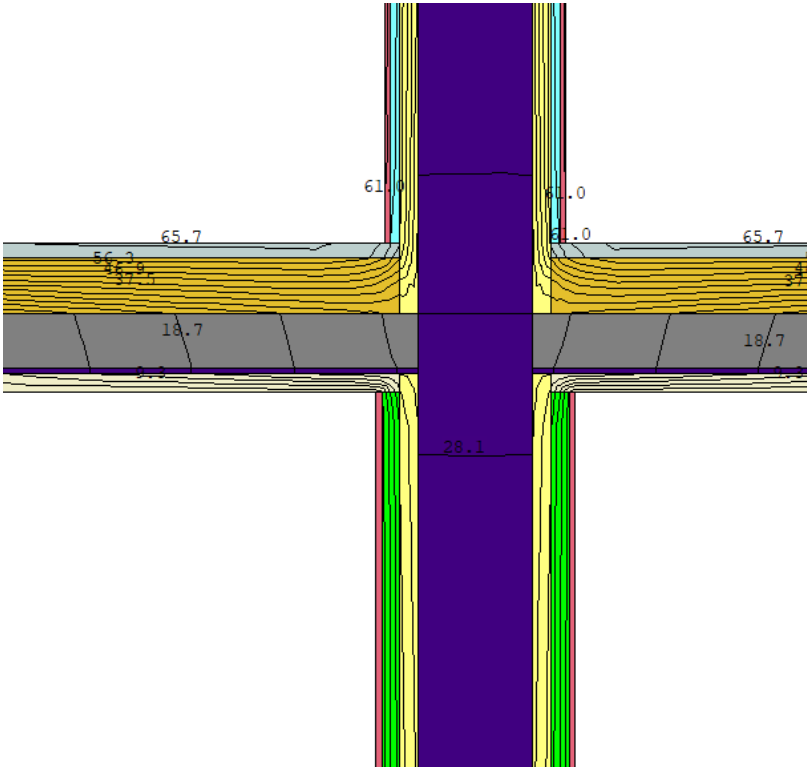
1 SOUTH SUN SHADE SECTION  
2'-1-0"

# HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

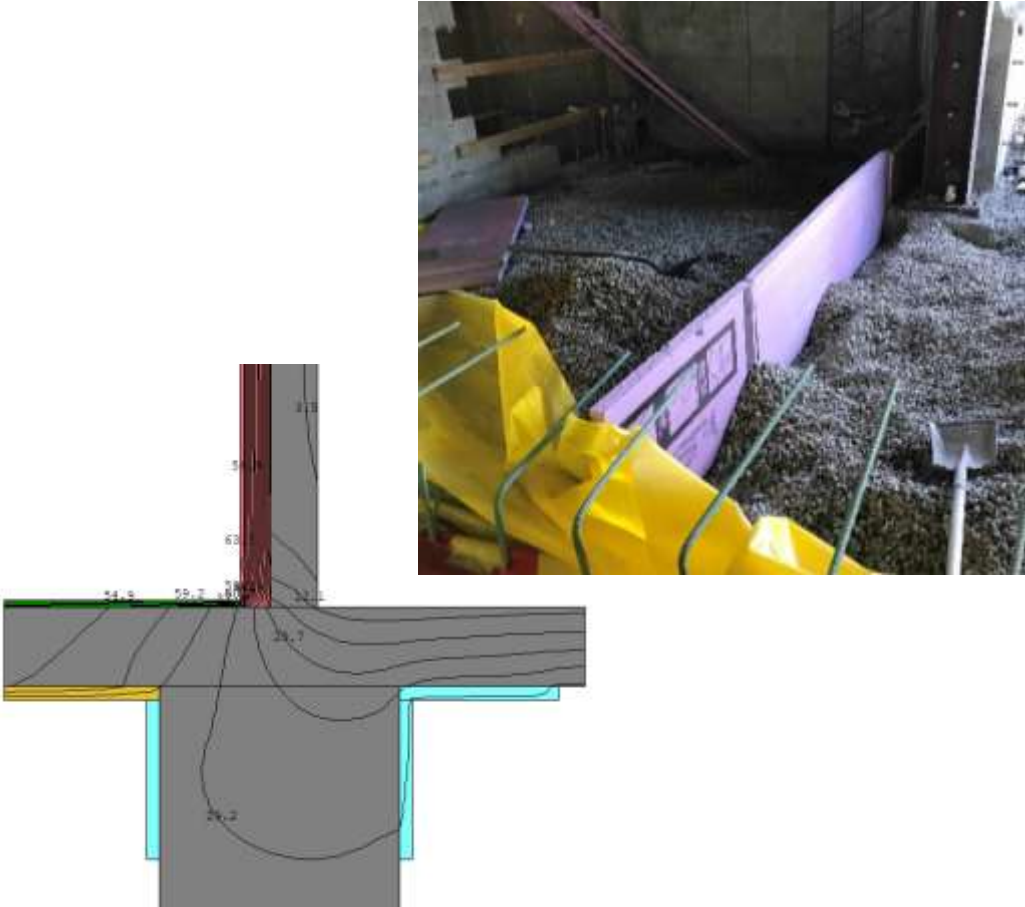
## Thermal Bridging

THERM – a tool for cost-benefit analysis

COLUMN INTERFACE AT SLAB



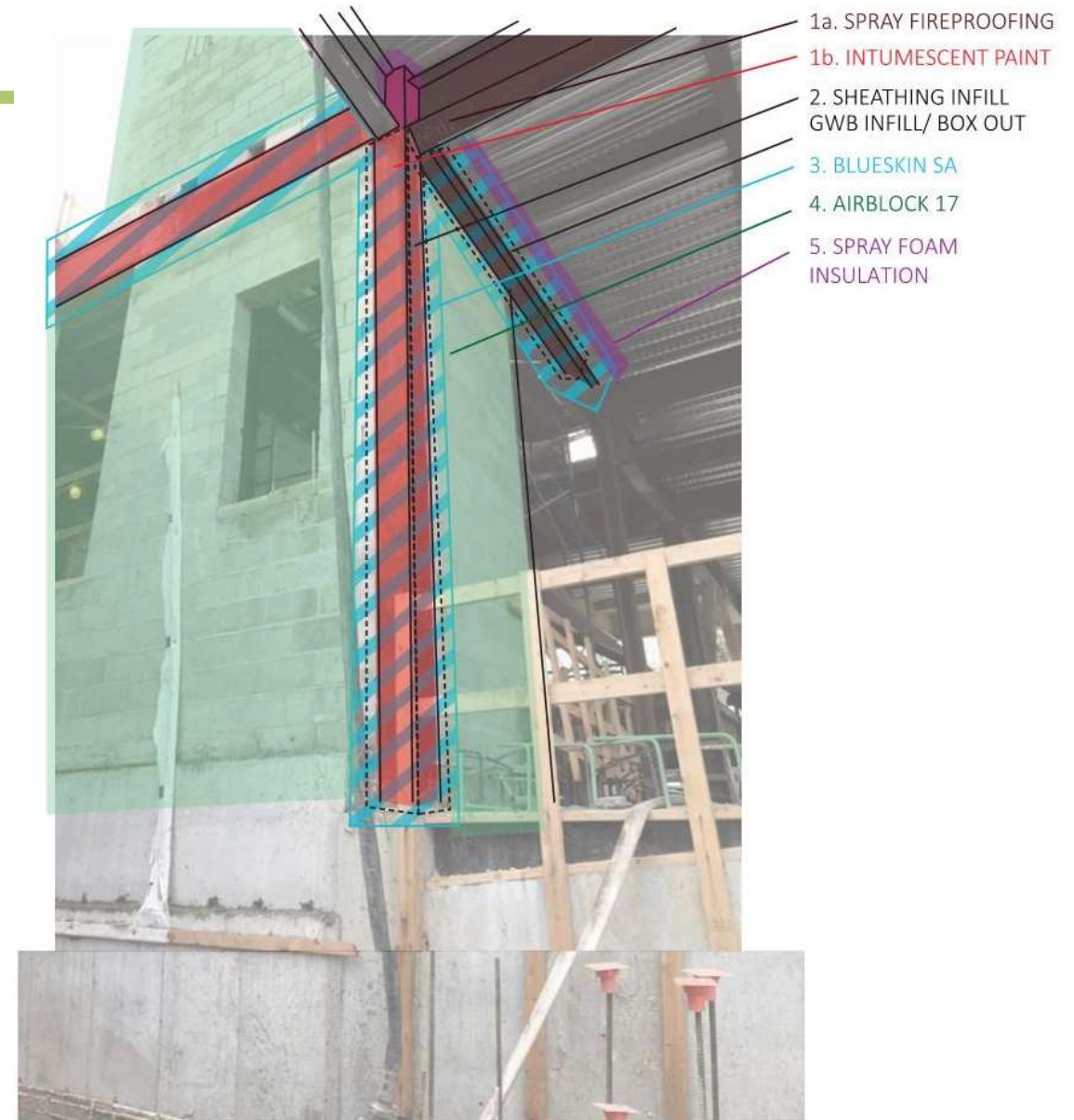
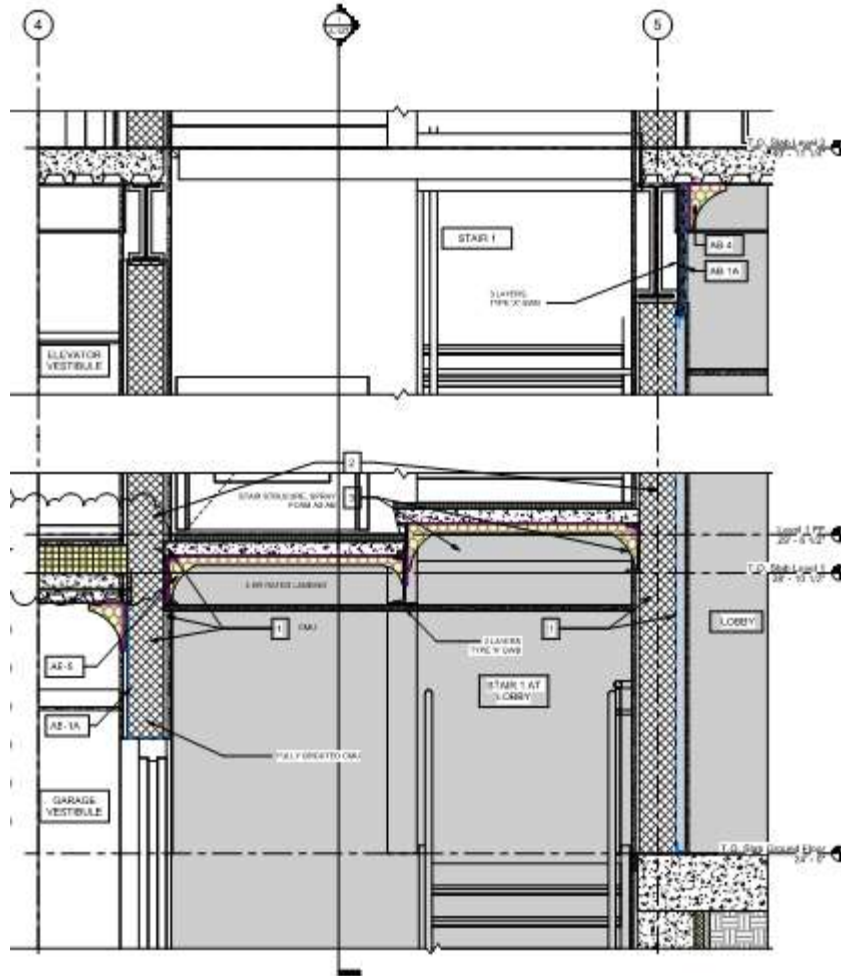
CONTINUOUS GARAGE SLAB





# Field Communication

The right amount of information at the right time



# Craft – Envelope Airtightness Continuity

Caio's Team  
rocking the  
Air Barrier



# Harbor Village

- Owner/Developer: North Shore CDC
- 30 affordable family units
- Started Construction, Jan 2020



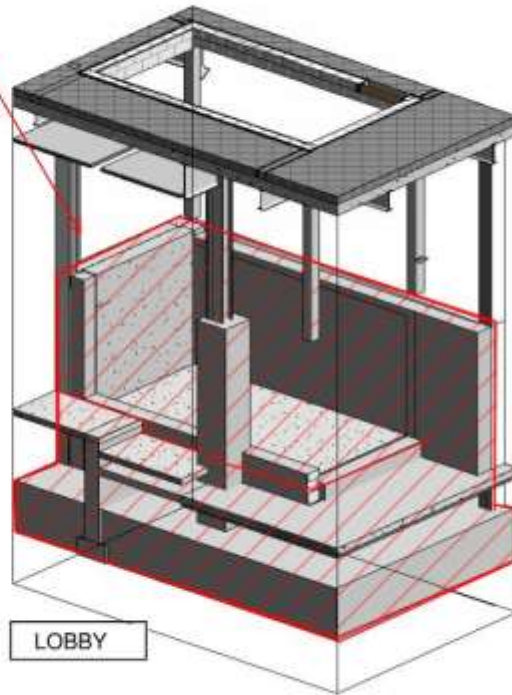


## STAIR 2 SEQUENCE

### 1. FOUNDATION: WATERPROOFING

INSTALL LIQUID APPLIED  
WATERPROOFING AT OUTSIDE  
FACE OF ALL FOUNDATION  
WALLS AND FOOTINGS PART OF  
STAIR 2 STRUCTURE. IF  
STRUCTURE IS CONTINUOUS  
PAST STAIR 2, CONTINUE  
WATERPROOFING FOR 24"

MECH



LOBBY



PARKING

COMMERCIAL SPACE

## STAIR 2 SEQUENCE

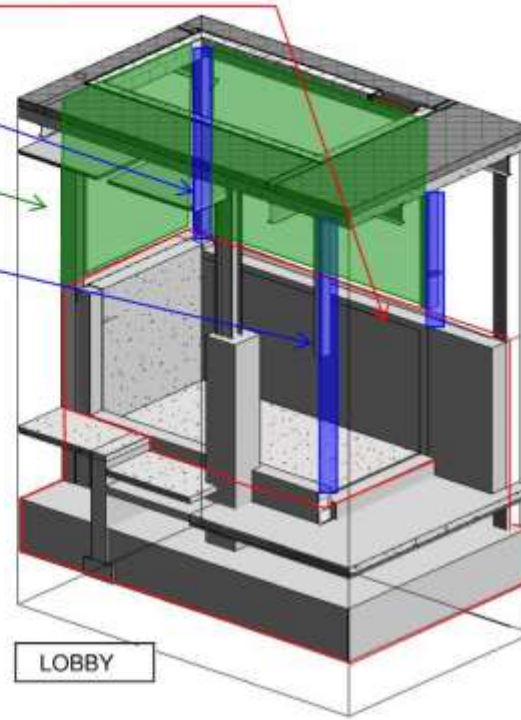
1. FOUNDATION:  
WATERPROOFING

2. STEEL POSTS

3. CMU WALLS

4. INTUMESCENT  
PAINT ON STEEL  
AS AIR BARRIER

MECH



PARKING

LOBBY

COMMERCIAL SPACE

# STAIR 2 SEQUENCE

1. FOUNDATION:  
WATERPROOFING

2. STEEL POSTS

3. CMU WALLS

4. INTUMESCENT  
PAINT ON STEEL  
AS AIR BARRIER

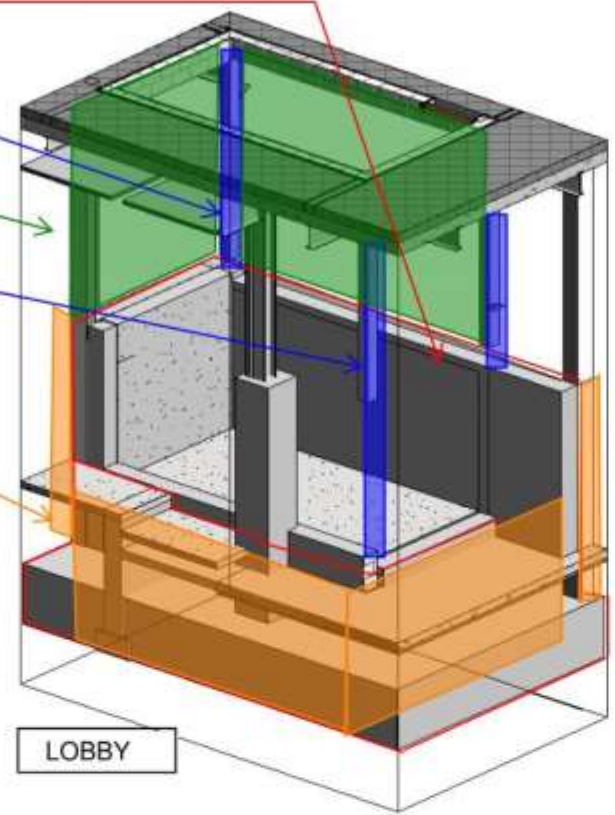
5. SUB GRADE  
INSULATION MIN  
48" BELOW GRADE

MECH

PARKING

COMMERCIAL SPACE

LOBBY



# STAIR 2 SEQUENCE

1. FOUNDATION:  
WATERPROOFING

2. STEEL POSTS

3. CMU WALLS

4. INTUMESCENT  
PAINT ON STEEL  
AS AIR BARRIER

5. SUB GRADE  
INSULATION MIN  
48" BELOW  
GRADE

6. SUB SLAB  
INSULATION,  
VAPOR BARRIER,  
LAPS UP, SLAB  
POURED

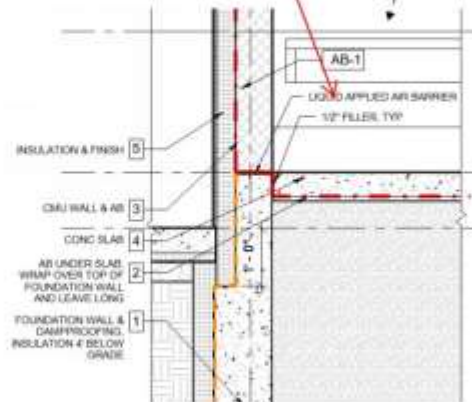
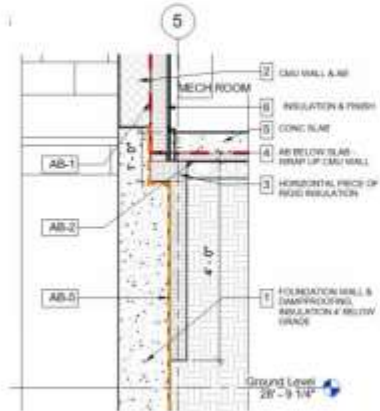
MECH

PARKING

LOBBY

COMMERCIAL SPACE

DO WE NEED?





1. FOUNDATION: WATERPROOFING

2. STEEL POSTS

3. CMU WALLS

4. INTUMESCENT PAINT ON STEEL AS AIR BARRIER

5. SUB GRADE INSULATION MIN 48" BELOW GRADE

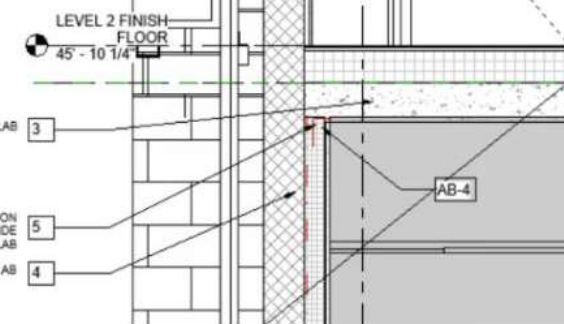
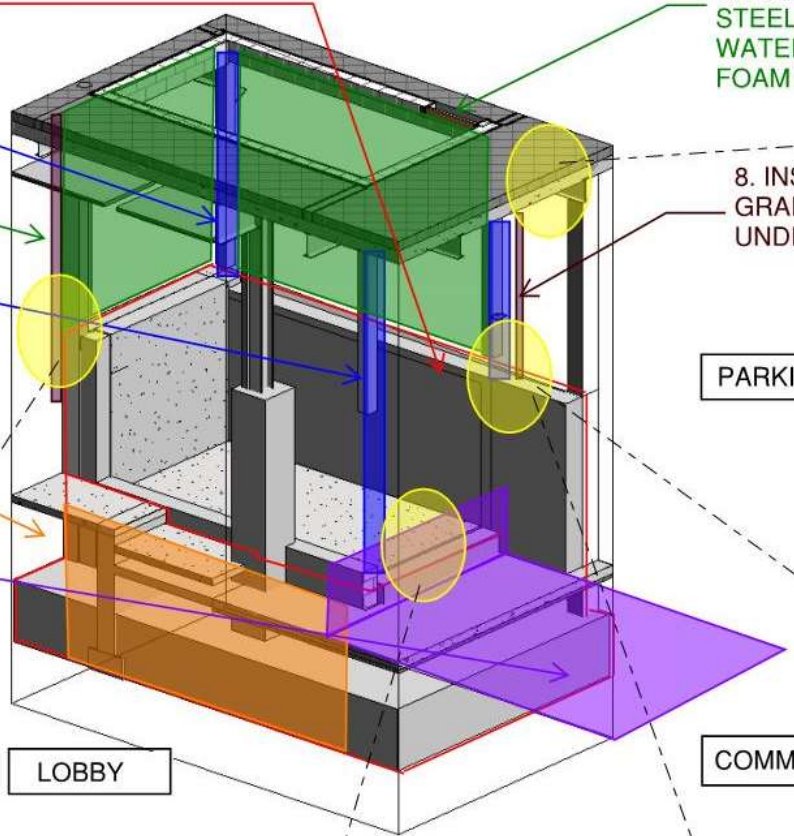
6. SUB SLAB INSULATION, VAPOR BARRIER, LAPS UP, SLAB POURED

7. AIR BARRIER ON CMU, LAP VAPOR BARRIER, INTUMESCENT PAINT ON STEEL & FOUNDATION WATERPROOFING & SPRAY FOAM UNDERSIDE OF DECK

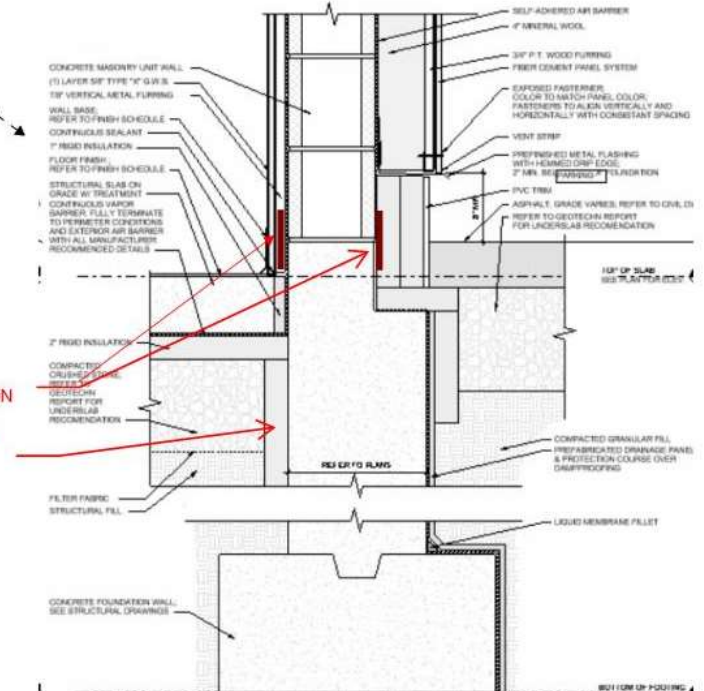
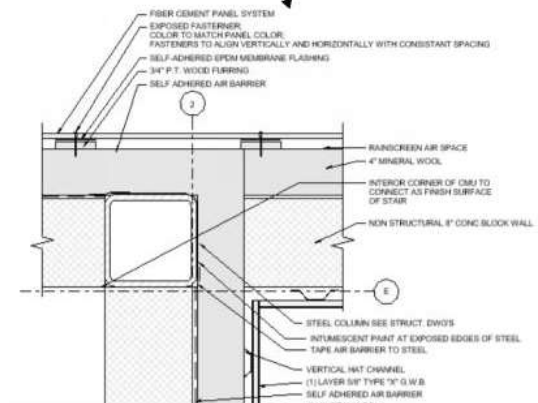
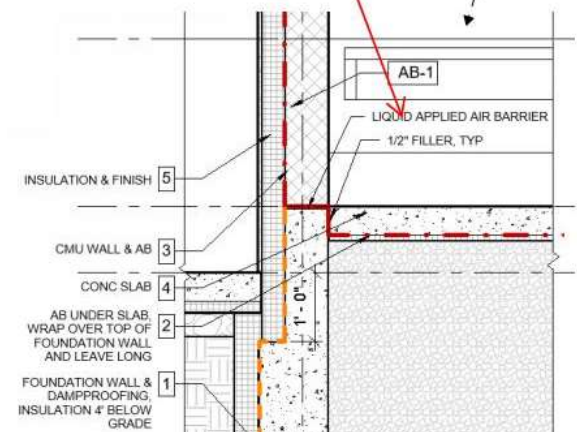
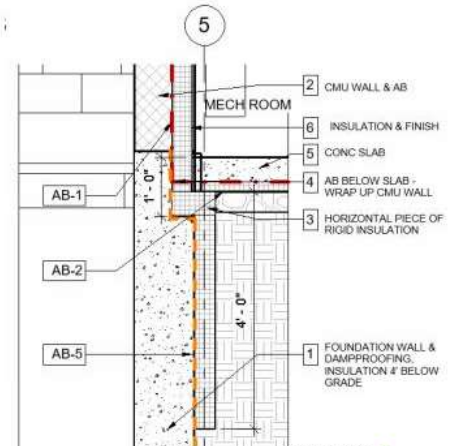
8. INSULATION ABOVE GRADE, & SPRAY FOAM UNDERSIDE OF DECK

CONCRETE SLAB 3  
 SPRAY FOAM CONNECTION FROM CMU TO UNDERSIDE OF SLAB 5  
 INSTALL CMU & AB 4

3/A116



DO WE NEED?



TAPE TRANSITION  
 4' BELOW GRADE

ARCHITECT

**E-ICON**  
ARCHITECTURE

101 SUMMER ST BOSTON MA 02110

CONSULTANT

KEY PLAN

STAMP

MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	DEC 2019	CONFORMED SET
	NOV 2019	COORDINATION SET
	OCT 2019	PERMIT SET
	02/21/2019	ONE STOP SUBMISSION

PROJECT NUMBER: 210024  
DRAWN BY:  
CHECKED BY: MA

SHEET TITLE

TYPICAL FLOOR  
COMPARTMENTALIZATION



LAUNDRY ROOM  
COMPARTMENTALIZATION  
3/4" = 1'-0"

**DETAILS LEGEND**

- AB-1 PEEL/STICK APPLIED CONT. AIR BARRIER
- AB-2 10 MIL POLY AIR BARRIER
- AB-3 FULLY GROUTED CMU OR CONC. AS AIR BARRIER
- AB-4 CLOSED CELL HIGH LIFT SPRAY FOAM WITH FLAME BLOCK, MIN R-30
- AB-5 CRYSTALLINE WATERPROOFING OR DAMPROOFING
- C SERVICE CHASE
- D SHEATHING - PLYWOOD AT 3A CONSTRUCTION, DENSGLASS AT 1A CONSTRUCTION

**COMPARTMENTALIZATION LEGEND**

- NOTE: THIS DRAWING SHOULD BE PRINTED IN COLOR
- - - - - COMPARTMENTALIZED SPACE. SEE SPEC SECTION 3.13 OF 092110
  - - - - - APPLIED AIR BARRIER PRODUCT
  - - - - - VAPOR BARRIER, DAMPROOFING OR WATERPROOFING
  - - - - - CONTINUOUS THERMAL & AIR BARRIER
  - UNCONDITIONED SPACE OUTSIDE PASSIVE HOUSE ENCLOSURE
  - CONDITIONED SPACE OUTSIDE PASSIVE HOUSE ENCLOSURE
  - PASSIVE HOUSE ROOM

# LOBBY SEQUENCE

1. FOUNDATION:  
WATERPROOFING

2. STEEL POSTS

3. STRUCTURAL  
CMU WALLS

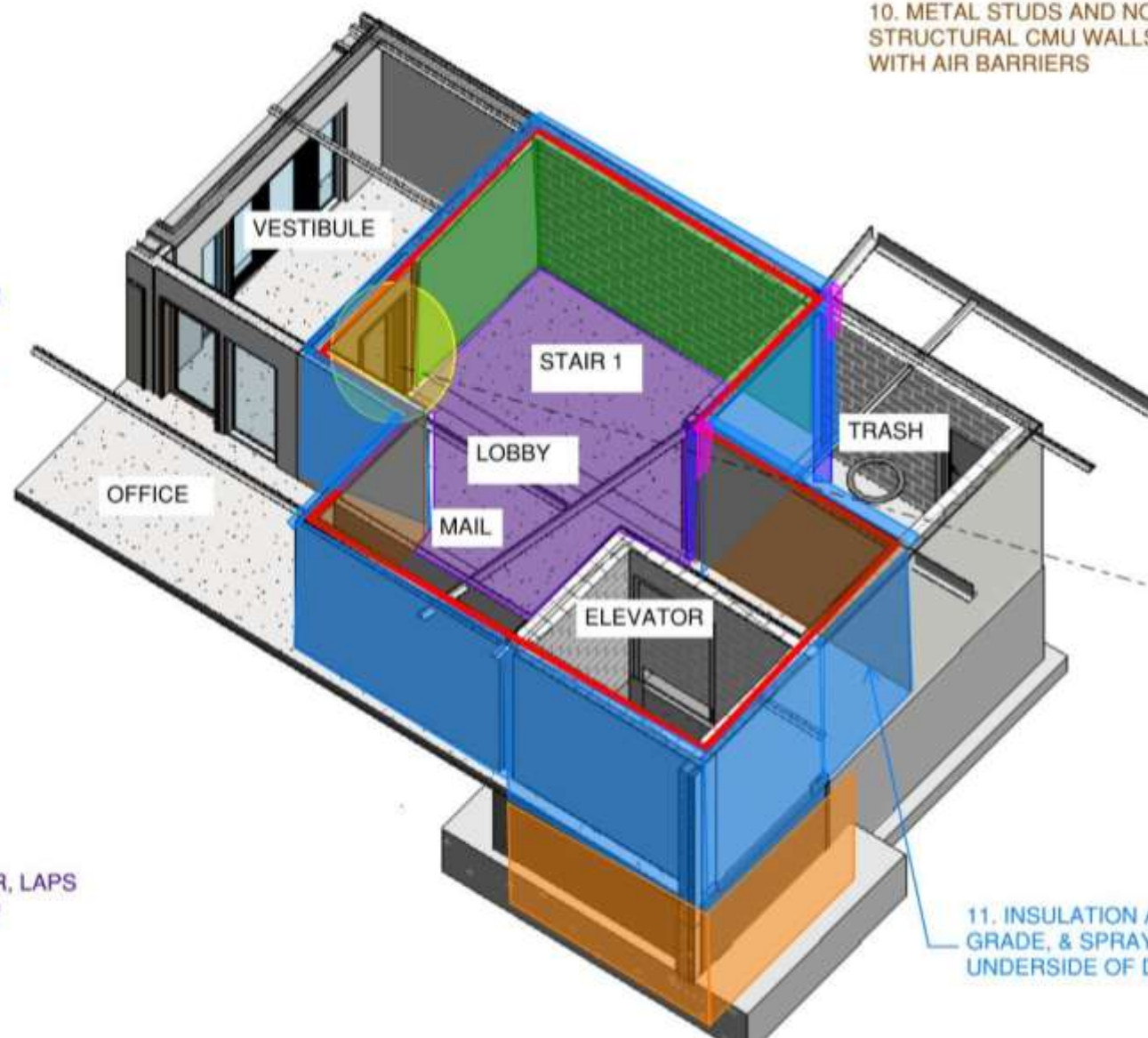
4. INTUMESCENT  
PAINT &  
STRUCTURAL  
THERMAL BREAKS

5. STRUCTURAL  
THERMAL BREAKS

6. VERTICAL  
SUB GRADE

7. SUB SLAB  
INSULATION

8. VAPOR BARRIER, LAPS  
UP, SLAB POURED

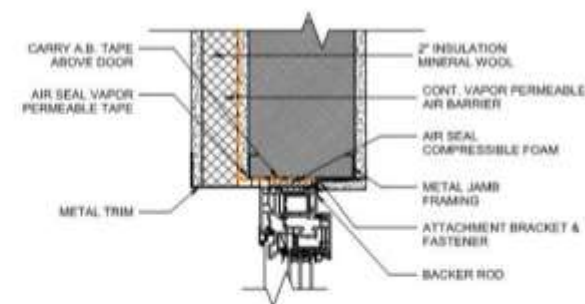


9. AIR BARRIER ON CMU

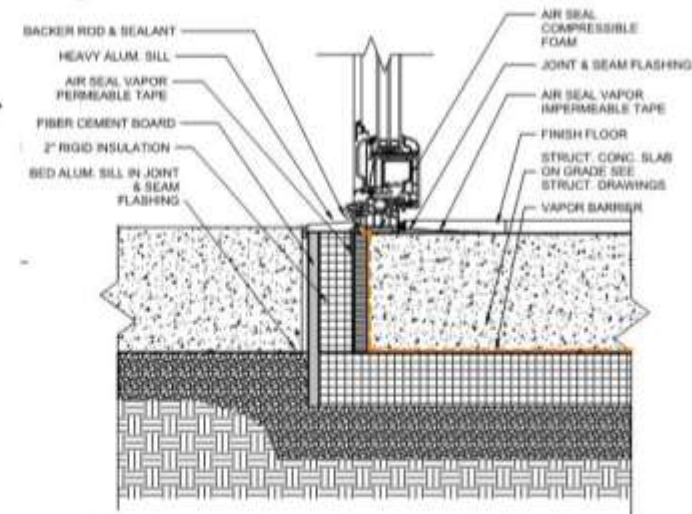
10. METAL STUDS AND NON  
STRUCTURAL CMU WALLS  
WITH AIR BARRIERS

11. INSULATION ABOVE  
GRADE, & SPRAY FOAM  
UNDERSIDE OF DECK

## DETAILS AT DOORS



## 2 PASSIVE HOUSE DOOR MTL JAMB DETAIL 3" = 1'-0"



## 1 PASSIVE HOUSE SILL DETAIL @ SLAB ON GRADE 3" = 1'-0"

# LAUNDRY ROOM SEQUENCE

1. STRUCTURE IN PLACE.

2. NON STRUCTURAL WALL IN PLACE

3. AIR BARRIER APPLIED TO INSIDE FACE OF ALL 6 SIDES OF ROOM

- SELF ADHERED AIR BARRIER AT WALLS

- WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE AT FLOOR, TIE INTO FLOOR DRAIN

- TAPE TRANSITION BETWEEN WALL AND FLOOR

- SPRAY FOAM AT INTERSECTION IN CROSS SECTION

- WRAP INTO OPENINGS FOR DOORS AND WINDOWS

4. RIGID INSULATION AT WALLS

INSULATION BELOW LAUNDRY ROOM

5. INSTALL MEP & DRYERS

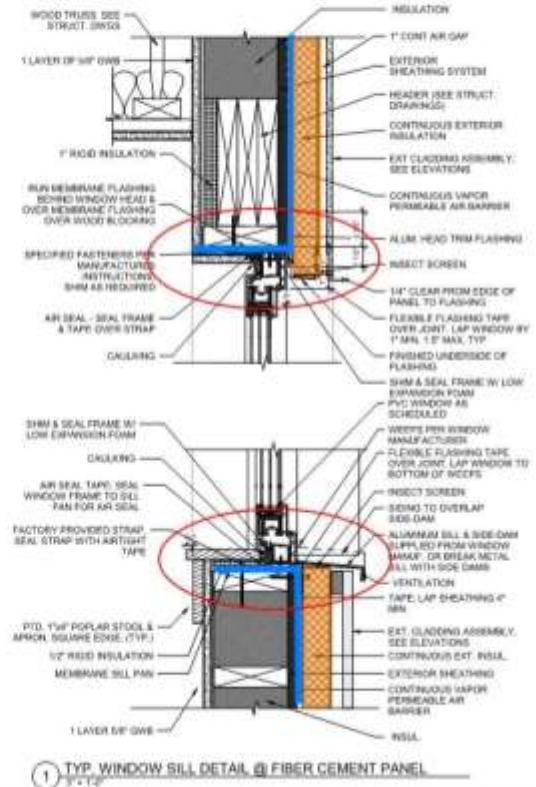
6. INSTALL WALL TO SEPARATE MAKE UP AIR, GASKET DRYERS AT EDGES

7. INSTALL WINDOWS AND DOORS



LAUNDRY ROOM COMPARTMENTALIZATION 2' x 10'

A-112











10/4/2018 12:18:51 PM

Harbor Village  
206 Main Street,  
Gloucester, MA

CONTRACT

KEY PLAN

SYMBOL



MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	OCT 2018	PERMIT SET
	07/21/2019	FINAL STOP SUBMISSION
PROJECT NUMBER: Project Number		
DRAWN BY: Author		
CHECKED BY: Checker		

SYMBOL TITLE

GROUND LEVEL PLAN

LOOK AHEAD



# Craft: Pipe/Penetration Airtightness



First Try – Not Approved

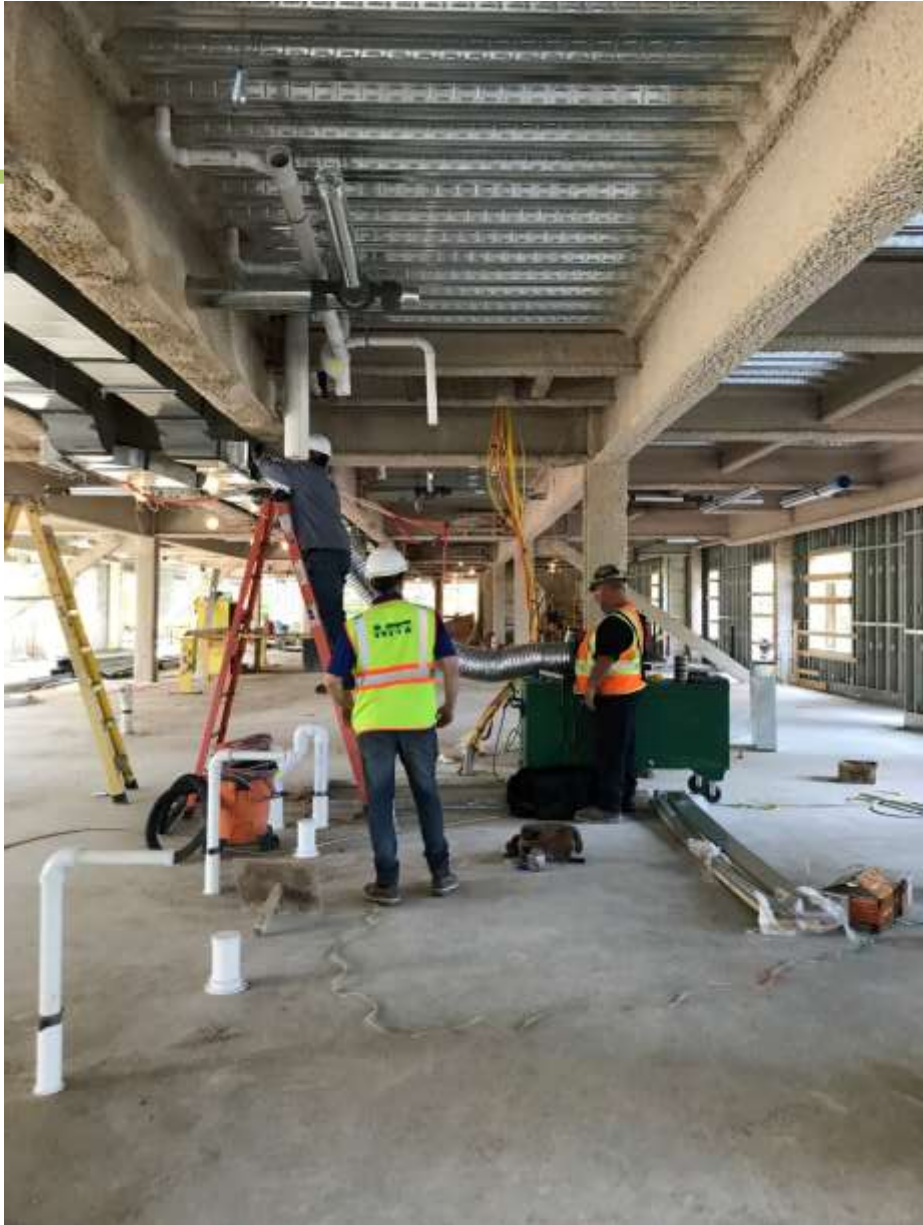


Ian Russell - Plumber



Second Try – Approved

# Testing/Verification



# Craft – Envelope Airtightness Continuity

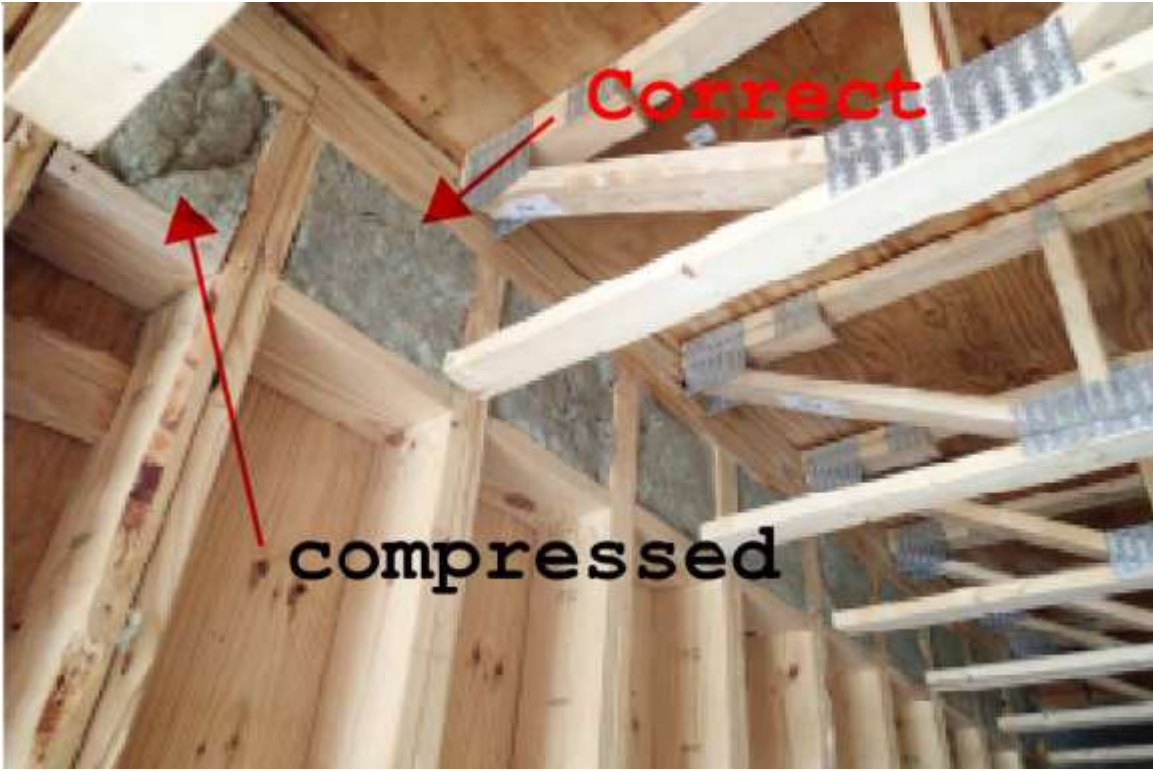


Not Approved



Approved

# Craft – Envelope Thermal Continuity



# Craft: Pipe/Penetration Insulation



# Craft – Interior Compartmentalization



Not Approved



Approved

# Commissioning/Monitoring

You are not alone – we are a team

---

<b>Architect:</b>	ICON Architecture
<b>MEP/FP:</b>	Petersen Engineering
<b>GC:</b>	NEI General Contracting – (CPHC added to team)
<b>Energy Modeler &amp; CPHC :</b>	Linnean Solutions
<b>PH Verifier:</b>	JSR Adaptive Energy Solutions
<b>Sustainability Consultant:</b>	New Ecology
<b>Envelope Consultant:</b>	Building Enclosure Associates
<b>Commissioning Agent:</b>	Sustainable Engineering Solutions

**Up Next!**

**James Petersen**

**PE**

[james@petersenengineering.com](mailto:james@petersenengineering.com)

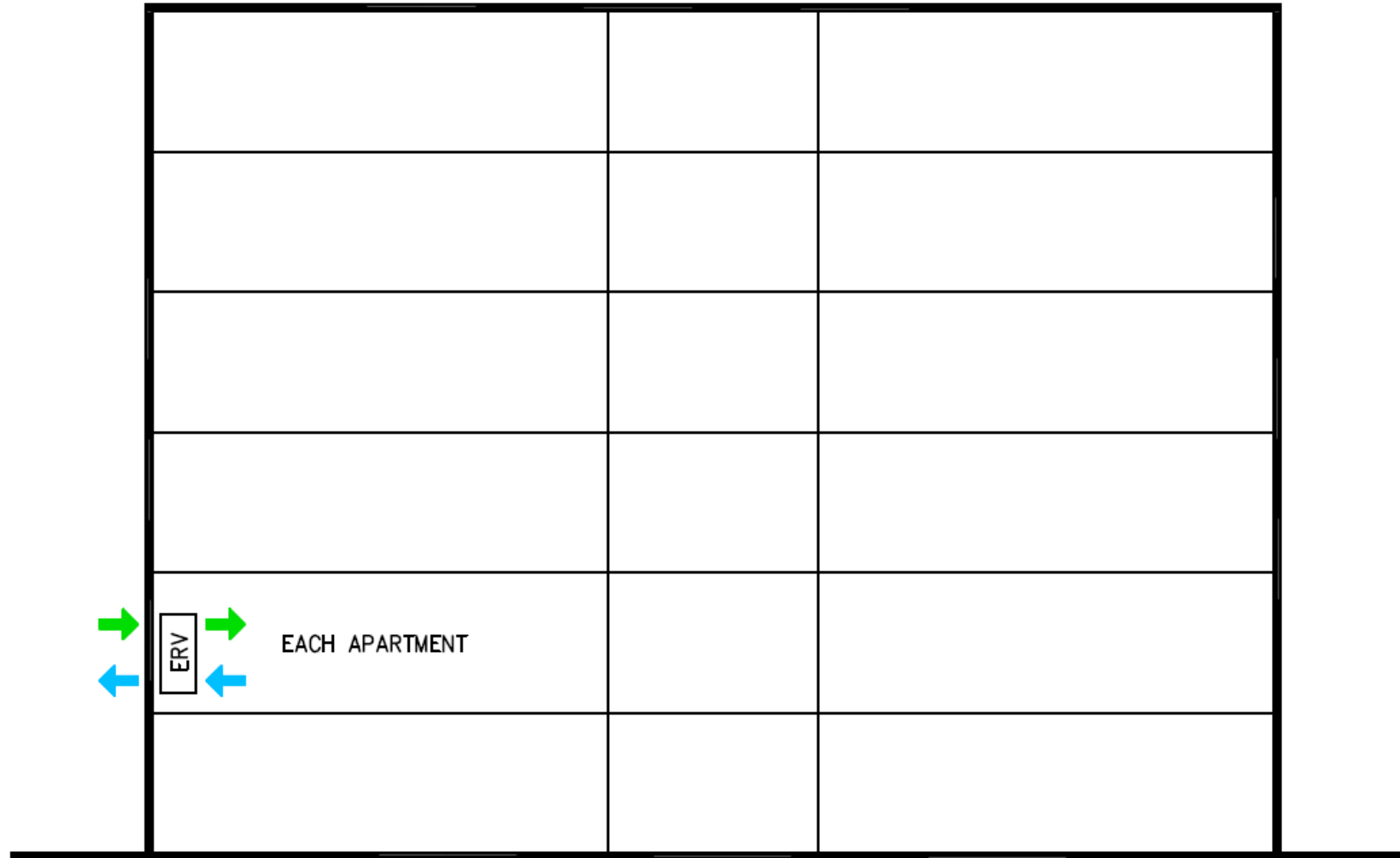
603-436-4233 x111



# Three Ventilation Approaches

- Local
- Floor-by-floor
- Central – Finch

# Local Ventilation - Schematic

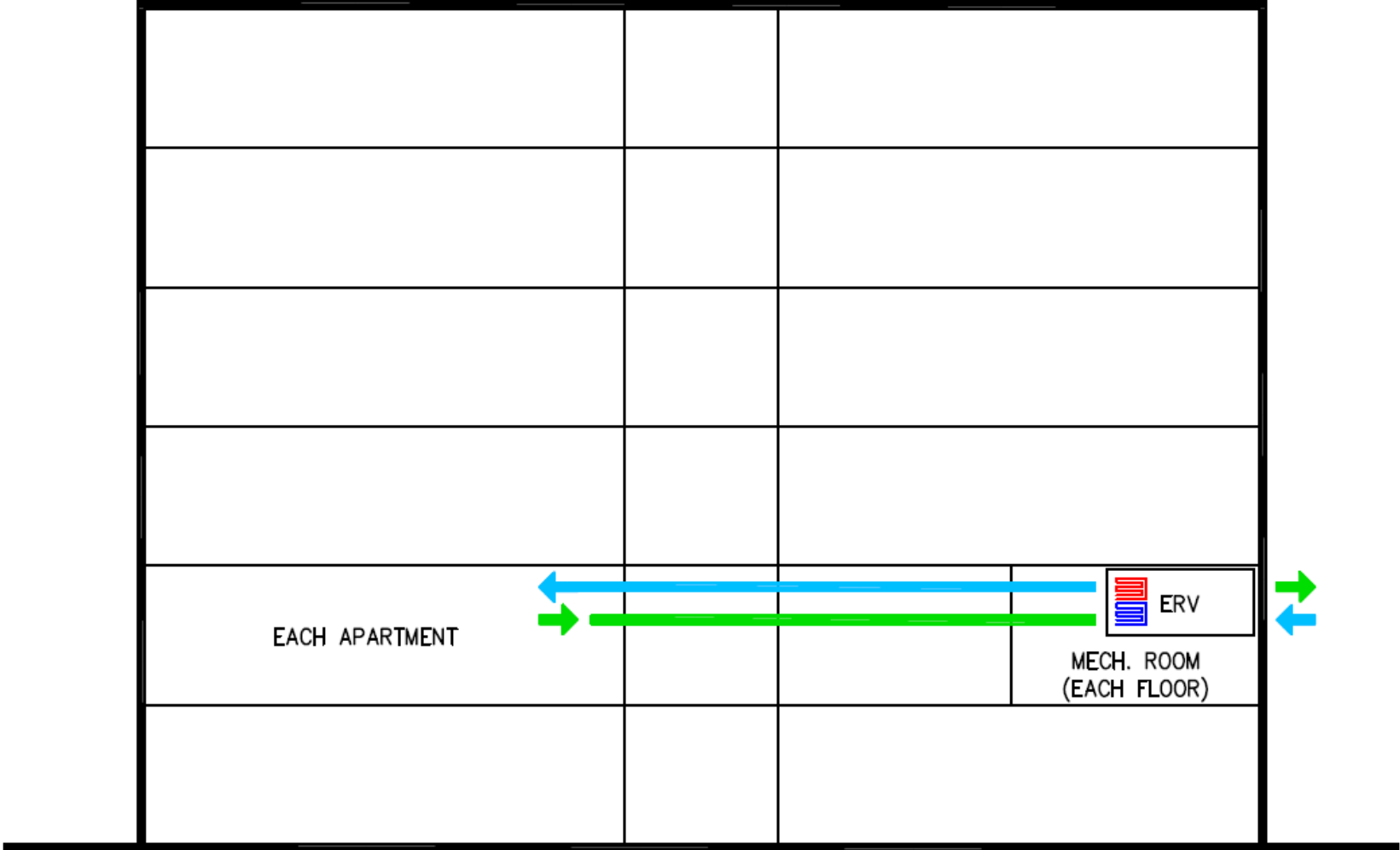


# Local Ventilation – Sample Equipment



23 in x 31 in x 34 in  
60 CFM

# Floor-by-Floor Ventilation – Schematic

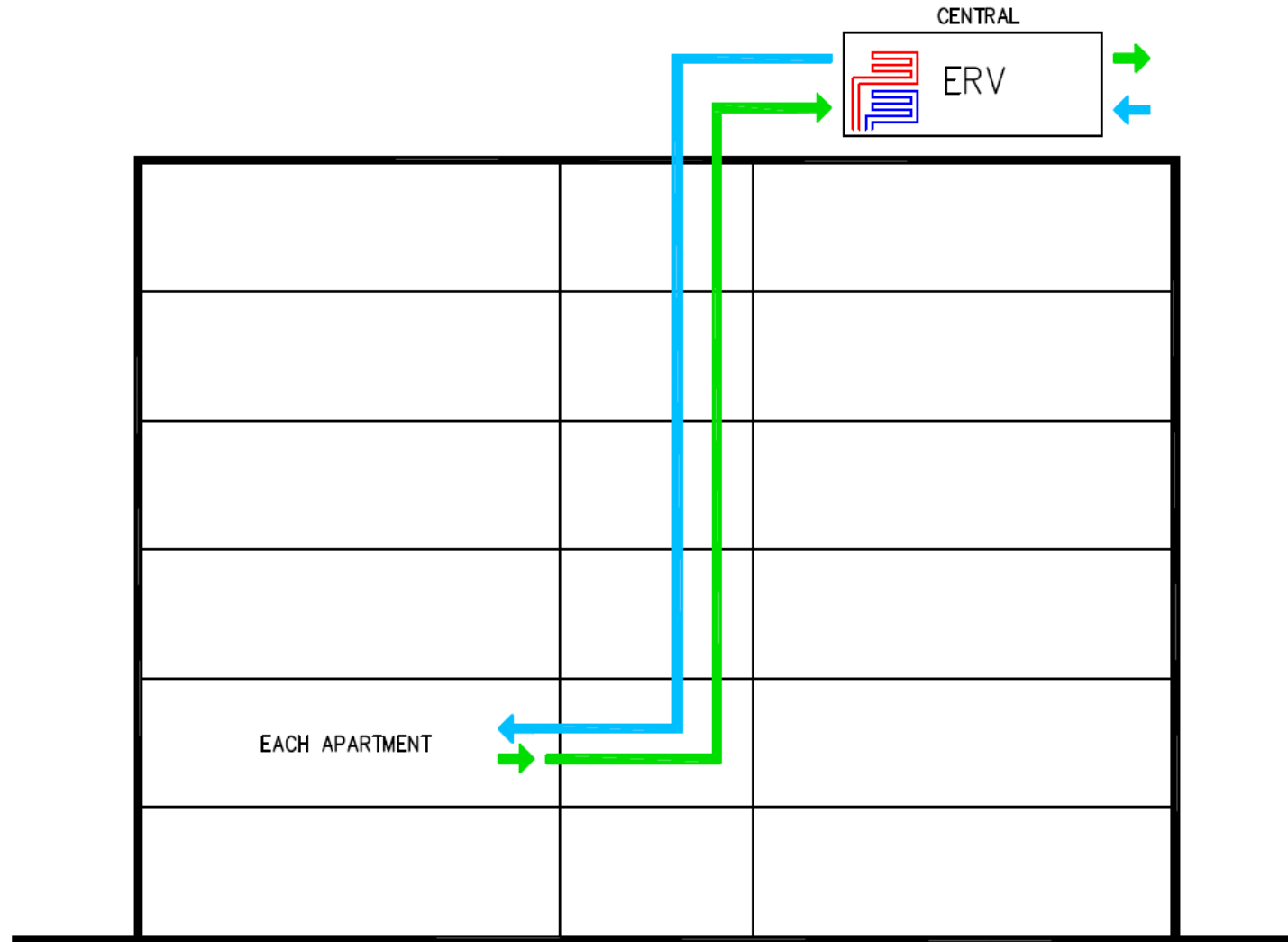


# Floor-by-Floor Ventilation – Sample Equipment



55 in x 67 in x 16 in  
700 CFM

# Central Rooftop Ventilation - Schematic



# Central Rooftop Ventilation – Sample Equipment



Central ERV  
1000s CFM



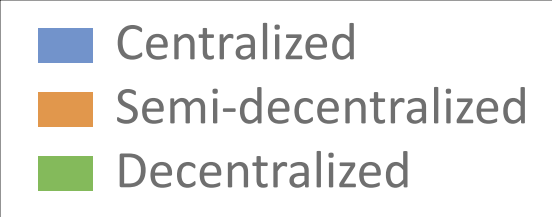
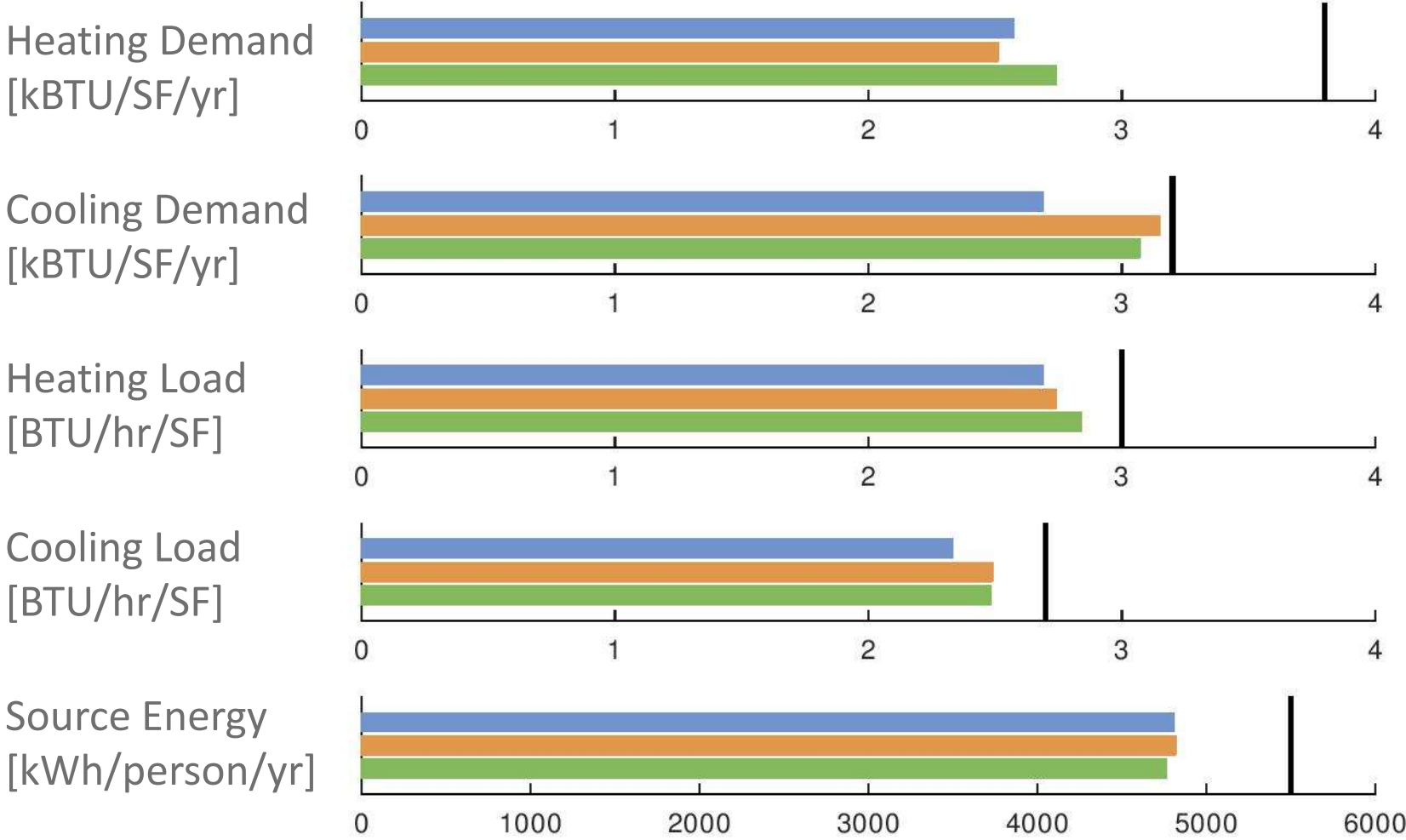
Constant Airflow Regulator

# What is an Air-to-Air Heat Exchanger?





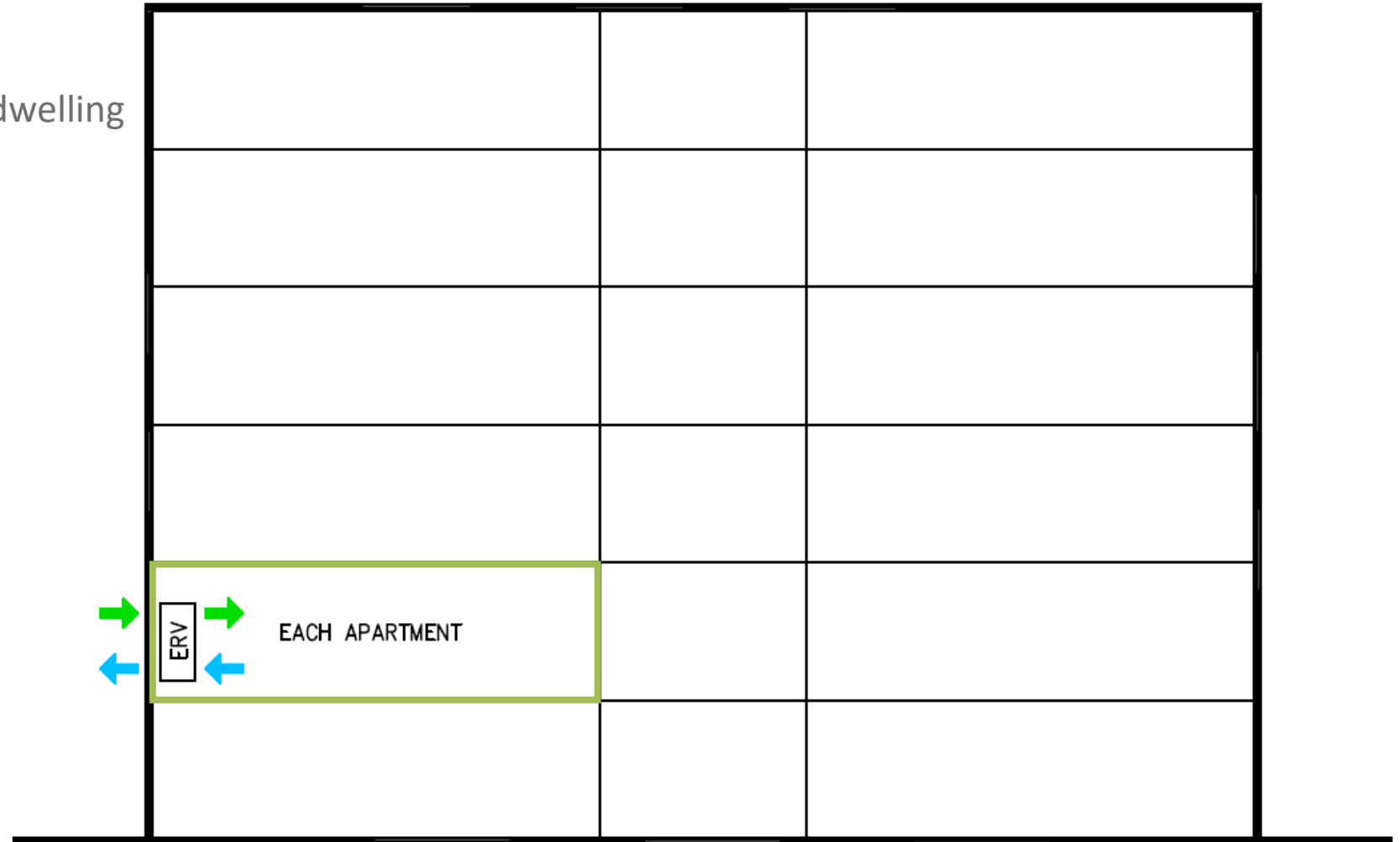
# Representative System Comparison – WUFI



Assumptions: 80% sensible efficiency, 0.6 W/CFM (central and semi-decentralized) 0.5W/CFM (decentralized), includes duct heat transfer

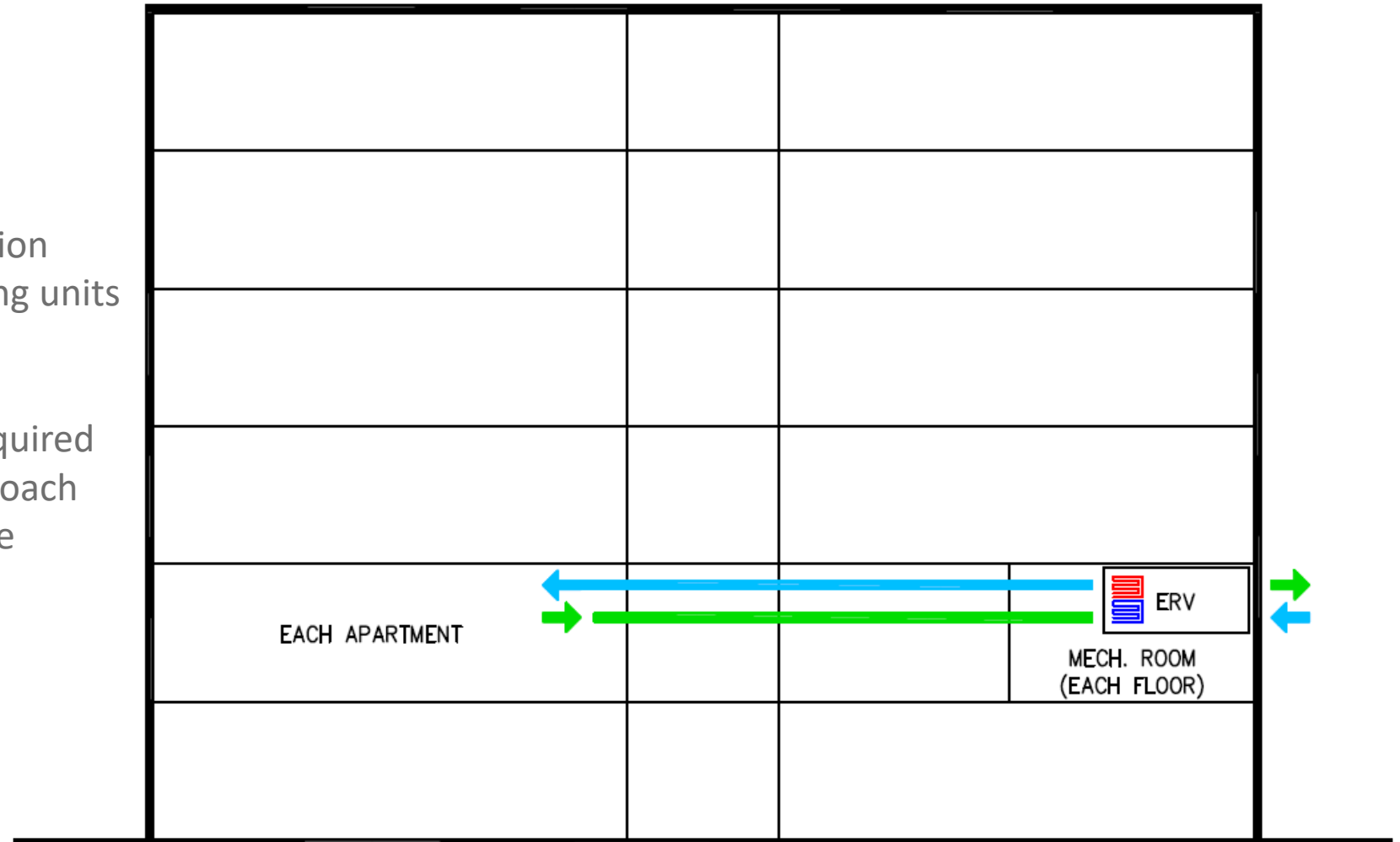
# Local Ventilation - Considerations

- ★ • All equipment and ductwork within dwelling unit compartment – COVID-19 appeal
- 😊 • Minimizes duct work
  - Easy to balance
  - No Fire/Smoke Dampers
  - Tenant responsible for energy use
- 😞 • Quarterly filter changes
  - Sidewall exterior wall penetrations
  - Floor space within dwelling unit
  - More pieces of equipment
- 😞 • Insufficient dehumidification
  - Electric resistance pre-heat



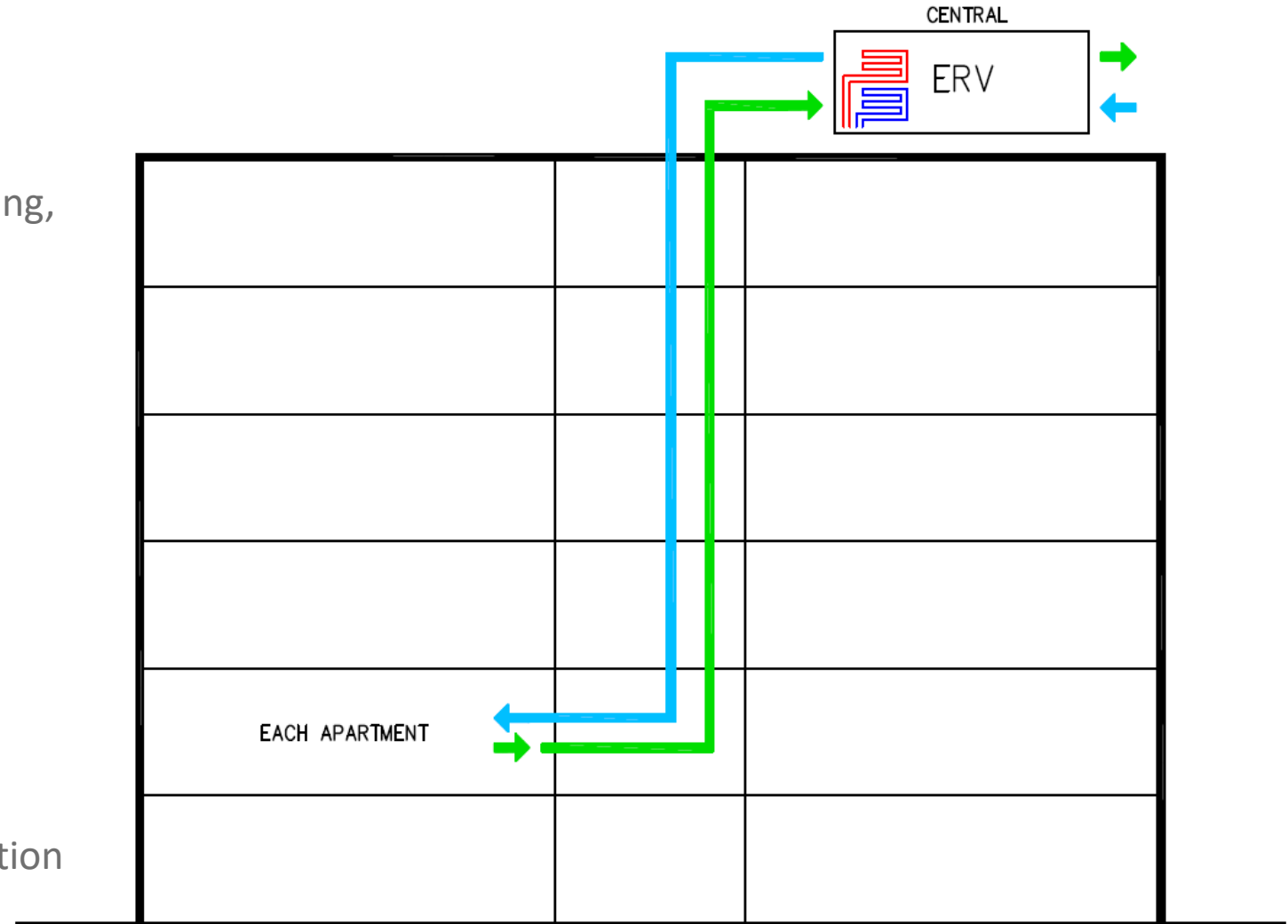
# Floor-by-Floor Ventilation – Schematic

- 😊 • No floor-to-floor shafts
- Bolt on cooling coil - dehumidification
- Accessible without entering dwelling units
- Relatively Simple Ductwork
- 😞 • Floor-by-floor mechanical rooms
- Early design space coordination required
- More equipment than central approach
- 😞 • Less manufacturer choices available
- ★ • Slight risk of virus spread by cross contamination – COVID-19



# Central Rooftop Ventilation - Schematic

- 😊 • Commercial grade equipment – lots of manufacturers, mature market
- 😊 • Customizable (efficiency, filtering, economizing, tempering, dehumidification)
  - True dedicated outdoor air system (DOAS)
  - Fewer Pieces of equipment
  - Selection software
- 😞 • Complex duct system
  - Duct sealing critical
  - CAR dampers required for balancing
  - Critically reliant on good duct design
- Equipment outside of envelope
- Corridor ceiling space
- Fire/Smoke Dampers
- ★ • Slight risk of virus spread by cross contamination – COVID-19



# Considerations- Summary

Local	Floor-by-Floor	Central
All equipment and ductwork within dwelling unit compartment – COVID-19	No floor-to-floor shafts	Commercial grade equipment – lots of manufacturers, mature market
Minimizes ductwork	Bolt on cooling coil - dehumidification	Customizable and additional features
Easy to balance	Accessible without entering units	Selection software
No Fire/Smoke Dampers	Relatively simple ductwork	True DOAS system
Tenant responsible for energy use		Fewer pieces of equipment
	Floor-by-floor mechanical rooms	Complex duct system
Quarterly filter changes	Early design space coordination	Duct sealing critical
Sidewall ext. wall penetrations	More equipment than central	CAR Dampers required for balancing
Floor space within dwelling unit	Less manufacturer choices available	Critically reliant on good duct design
More pieces of equipment	Slight risk of virus spread by cross-contamination – COVID-19	Fire/Smoke Dampers
Insufficient dehumidification		Corridor ceiling space
Electric resistance pre-heat		Equipment outside envelope
		Slight risk of virus spread by cross-contamination – COVID-19

# Up Next!

**Tom Chase**

CPHC, LEED AP BD+C, Homes

Senior Project Manager

[chase@newecology.org](mailto:chase@newecology.org)

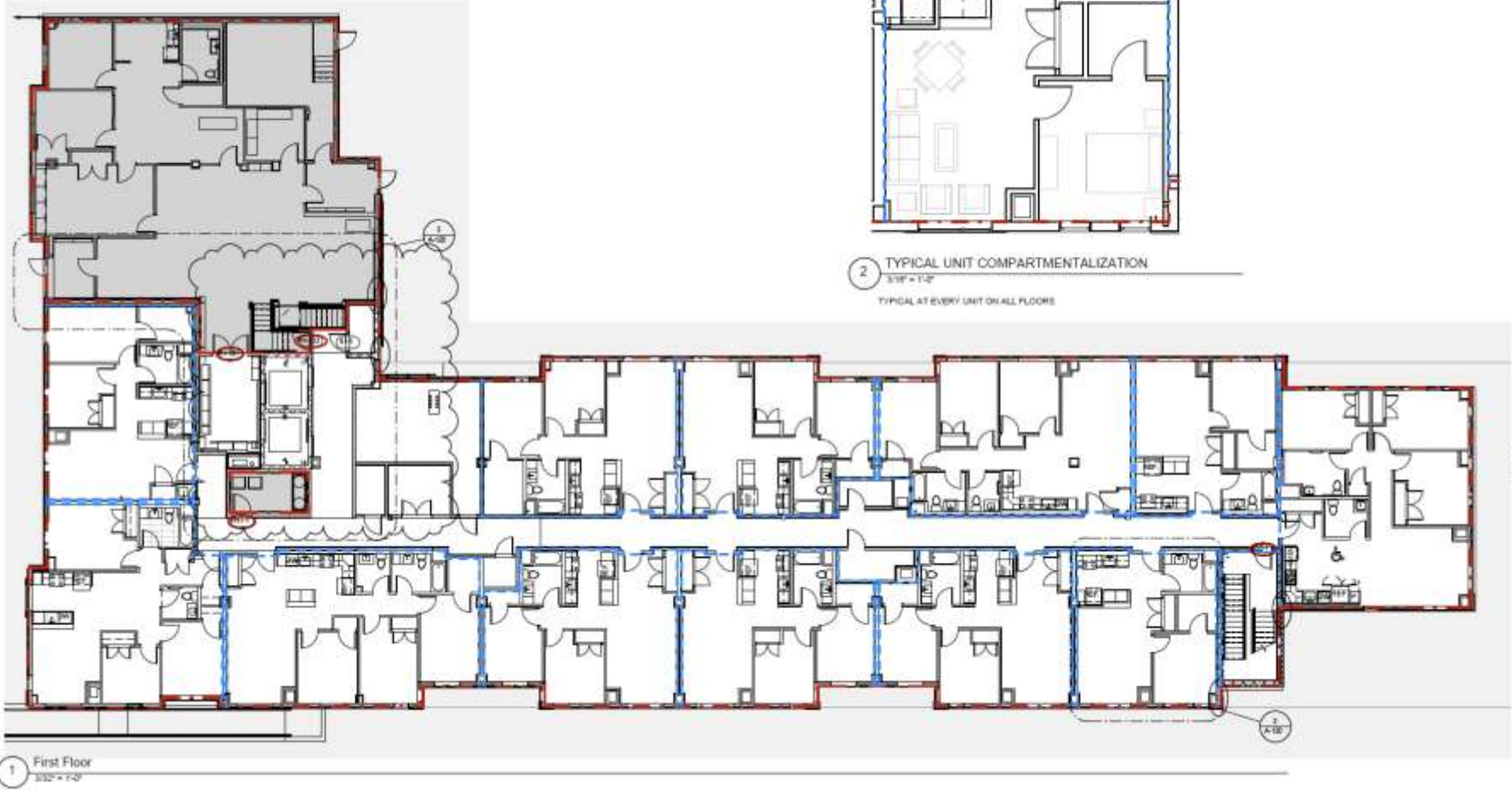
617-557-1700 x7061

# Commissioning/Testing & Verification

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<b>Architect:</b>	ICON Architecture
<b>MEP/FP:</b>	Petersen Engineering
<b>GC:</b>	NEI General Contracting – (CPHC added to team)
<b>Energy Modeler &amp; CPHC :</b>	Linnean Solutions
<b>PH Verifier:</b>	JSR Adaptive Energy Solutions
<b>Sustainability Consultant:</b>	New Ecology
<b>Envelope Consultant:</b>	Building Enclosure Associates
<b>Commissioning Agent:</b>	Sustainable Engineering Solutions

# Compartmentalization



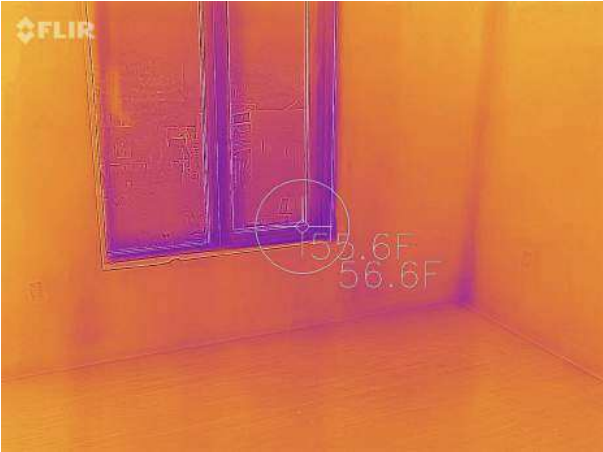


# Compartmentalization Testing

Unit	306
Height (F)	10
Perimeter (LF)	125
Area (SF)	857
Enclosure (SF)	2,964
Volume (CF)	8,570
Threshold: 0.3 CFM50/SF of Enclosure	889
Test result (CFM)	638
Result CFM50/SF of Enclosure	0.22
ACH50	4.47



# Compartmentalization Testing



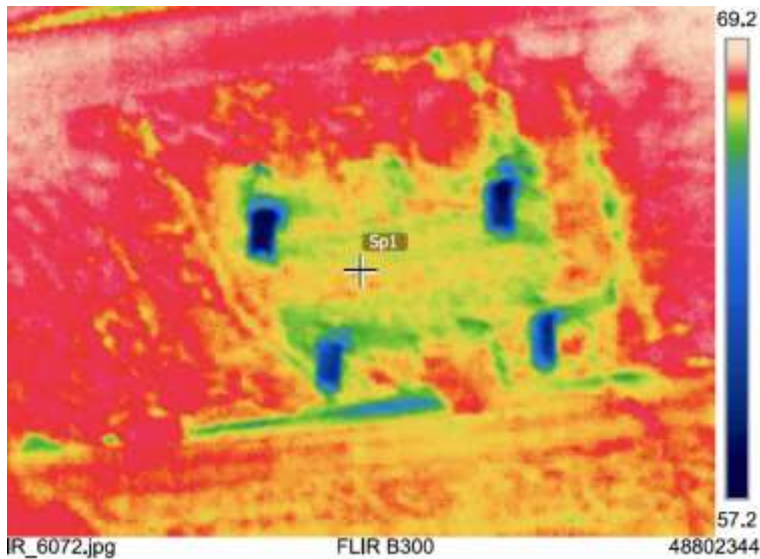
# Thermal Imaging - Compartment



# Duct Testing

Unit	Allowable Duct Leakage (CFM25)	Tested Duct Leakage (CFM25)
306	36	22
308	52	25
309	28	16
310	46	30
406	34	31
409	29	25

# Thermal Imaging – Thermal Bridges



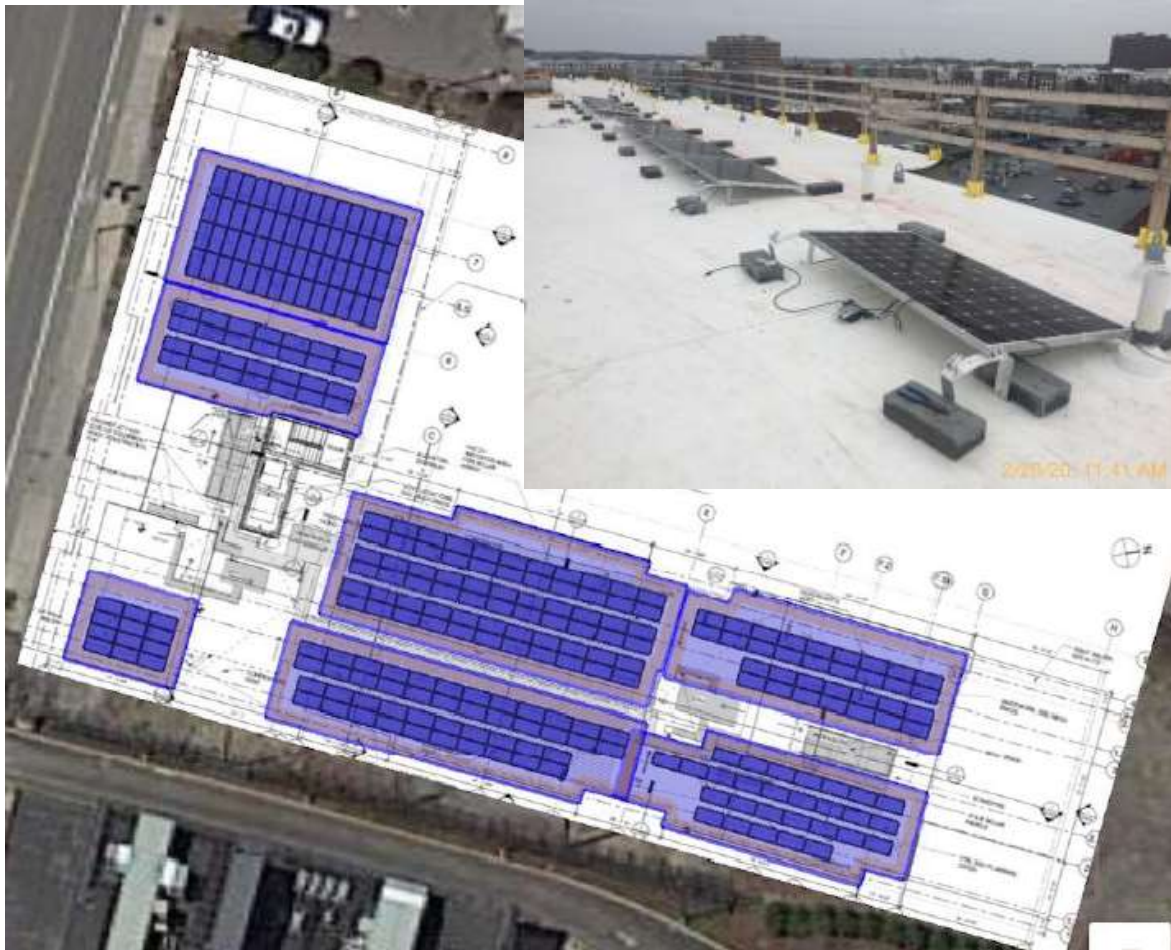
# Thermal Imaging – Exterior



# Thermal Imaging – Pre/Post C.I.



# Solar PV



**System Size: 105,070W DC**

**Estimated Annual Production: 116,628 kWh**

**Gross Price: \$294,196**

**Price per Watt: \$2.92**

**Federal Tax Credit: \$0**

**Federal Depreciation: \$0**

**Annual Electricity Value: \$13,226**

**Annual SMART Incentive Value: \$24,737**

**Simple Payback: 7.75 years**



# Monitoring and Optimization

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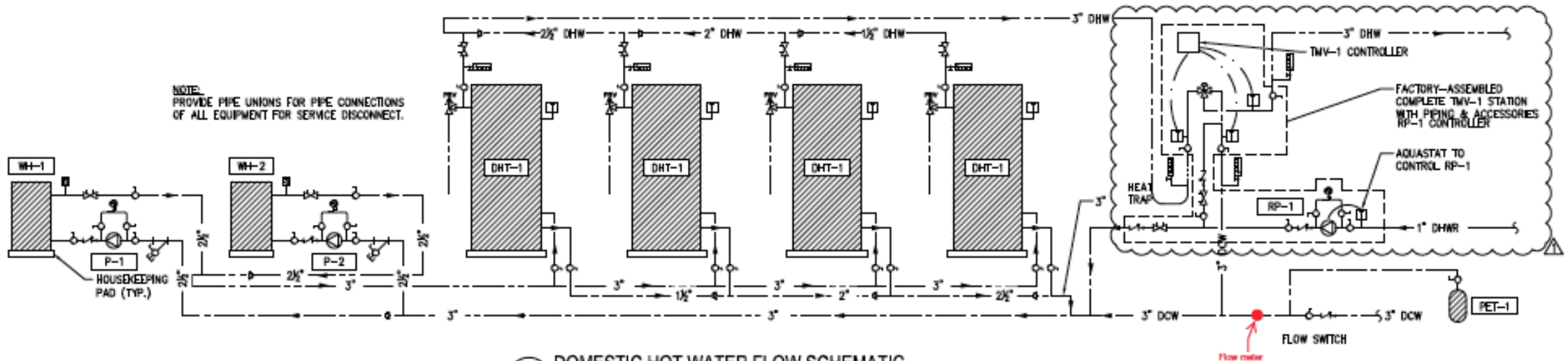
## Systems Monitored through NEI "Box" and Dashboard

- VRF, exterior units and in unit setpoints and temperatures – via API
- Central Water Meter (hourly)
- DHW Usage and Boiler and Pumps -
- Electronic Tempering Valve and DHW Recirculation Temp

## Service Provided

- All sensors, cellular modem, and uninterruptible power supply
- Custom Dashboard
- Fault Detection
- Custom E-mail Alerts
- Historical Trend Logs
- Optimization Recommendations

# Monitoring and Optimization



2 DOMESTIC HOT WATER FLOW SCHEMATIC  
SCALE: NTS