

Joseph Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng, ASHRAE Fellow

# Building Science

## Ventilation

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“It isn't what we don't know that gives us trouble, it's what we know that ain't so”

Will Rogers

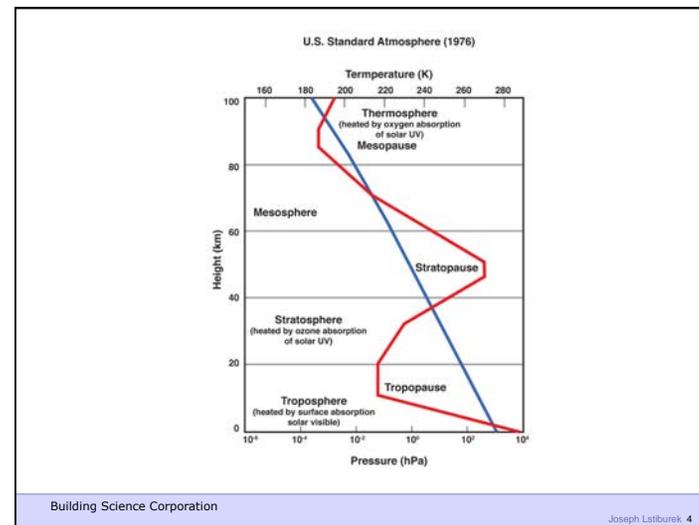
“There are known knowns. These are things we know. There are known unknowns. There are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.

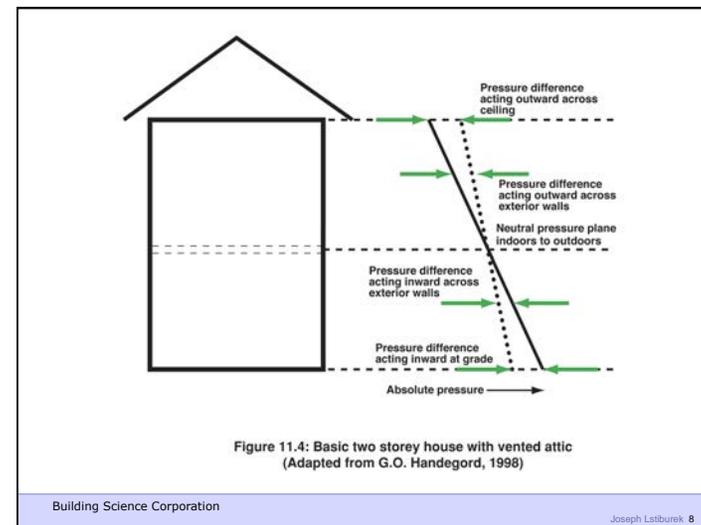
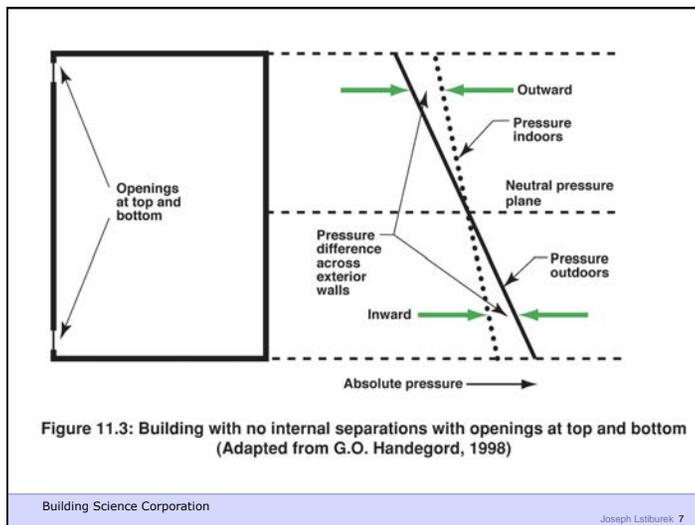
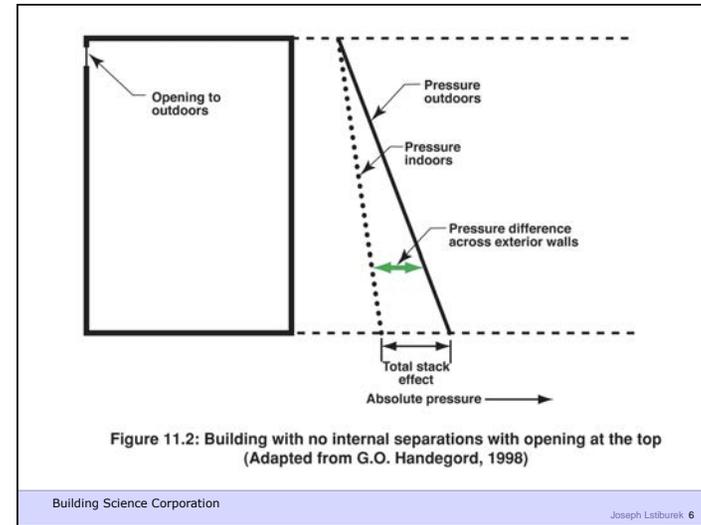
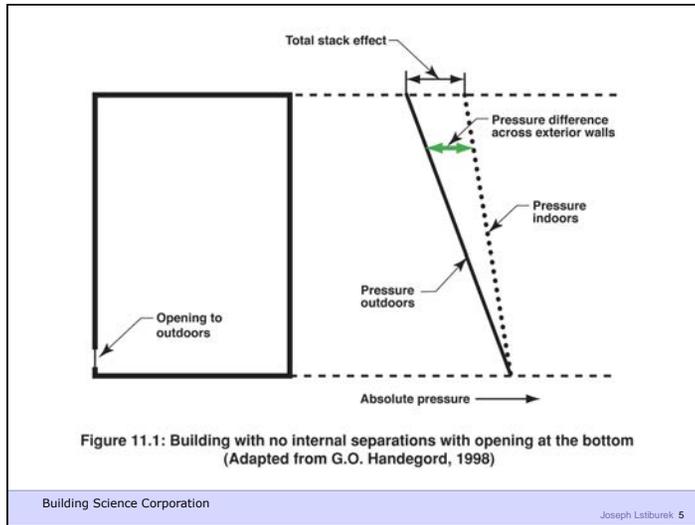
Donald Rumsfeld

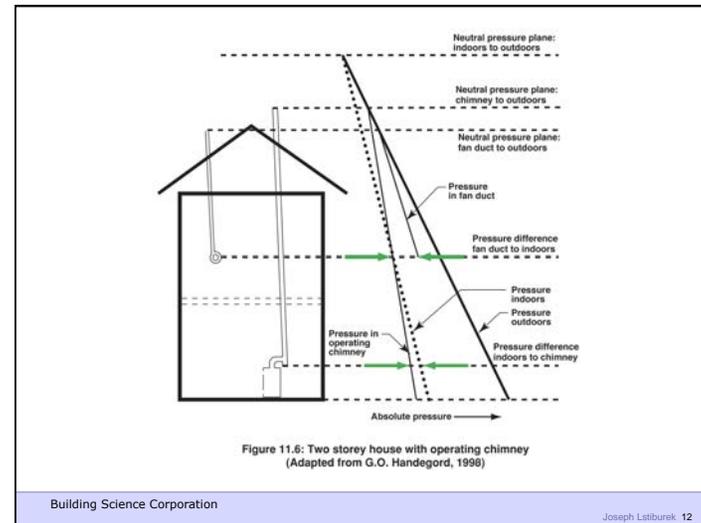
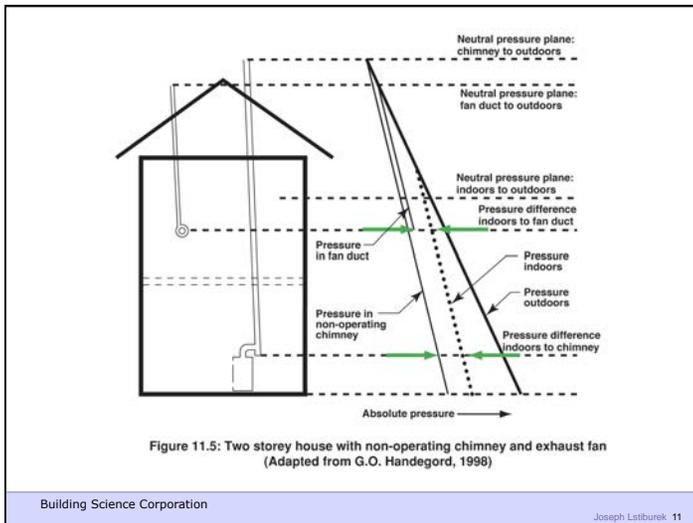
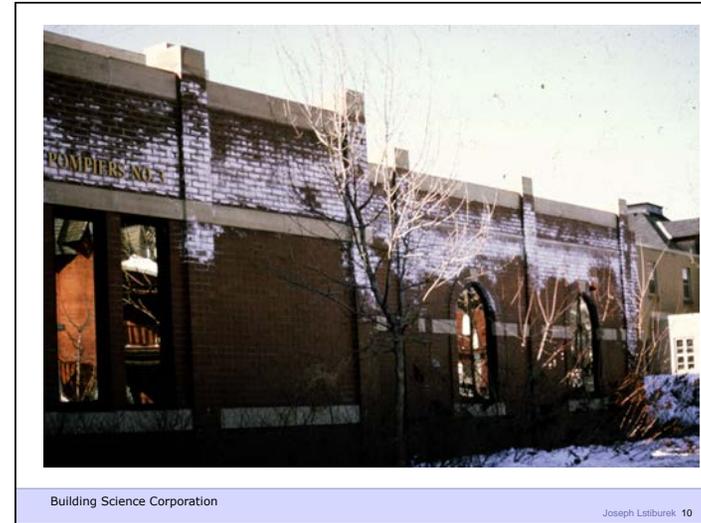
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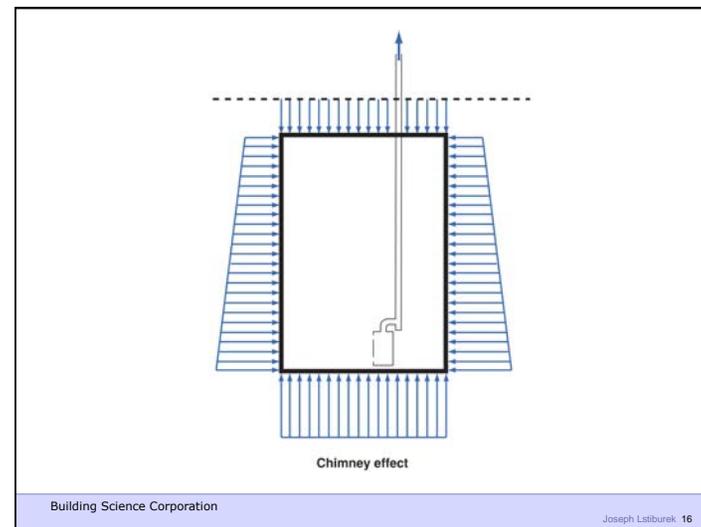
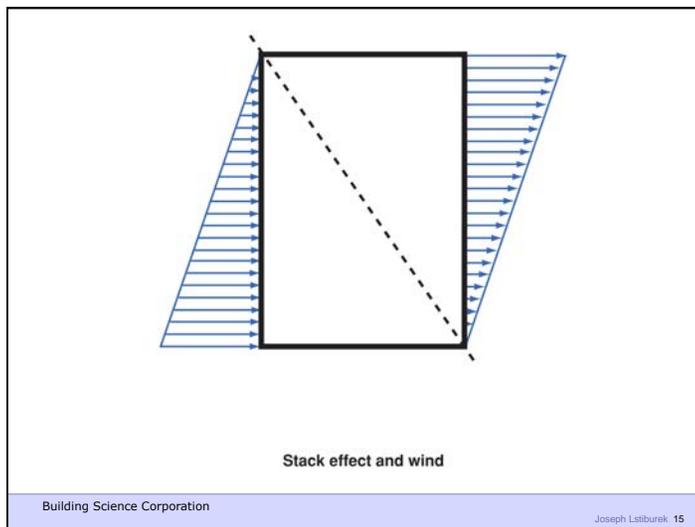
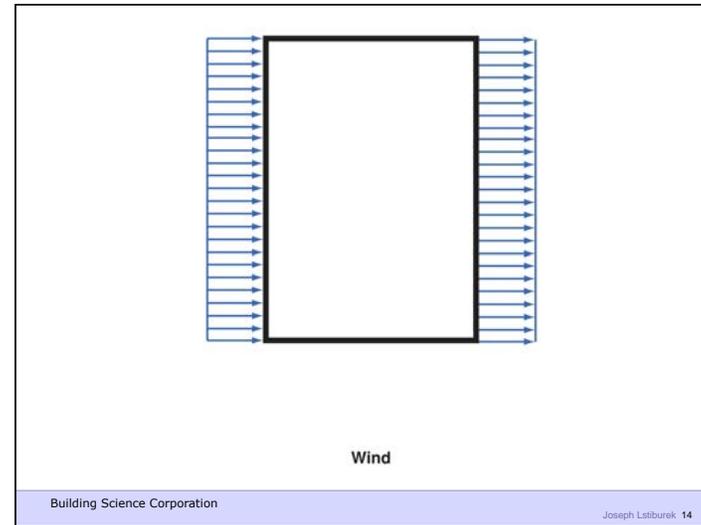
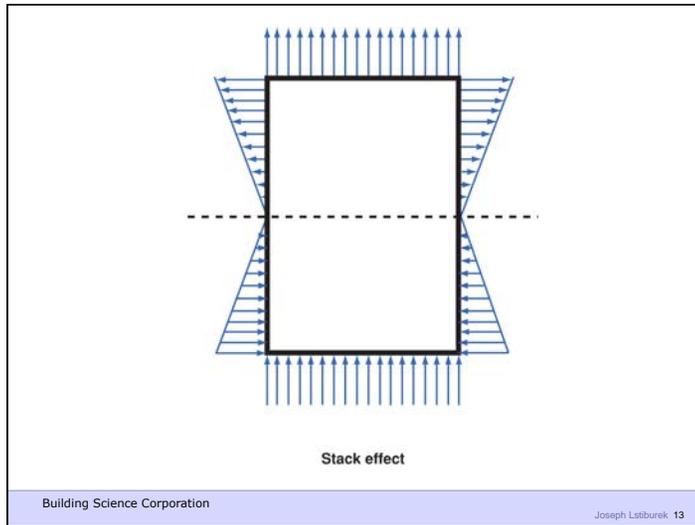
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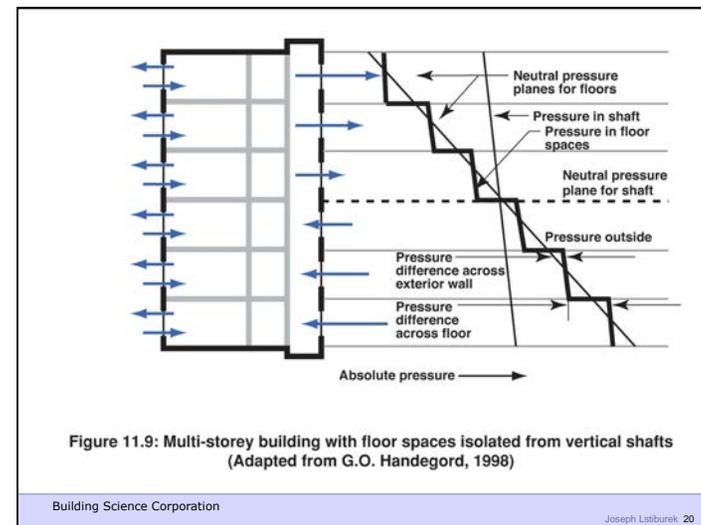
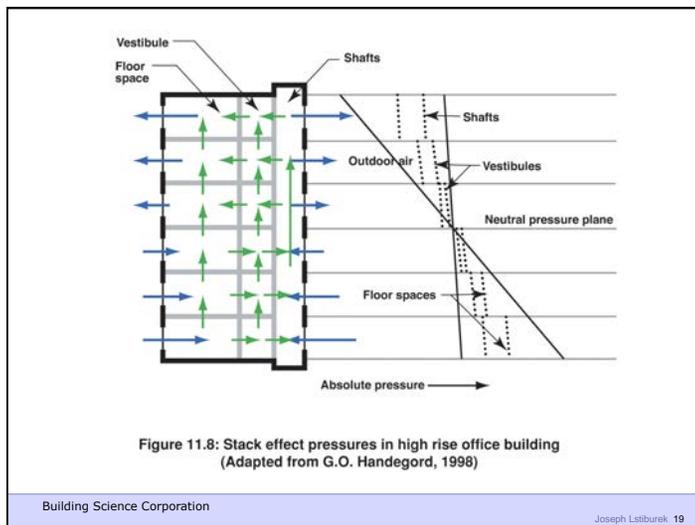
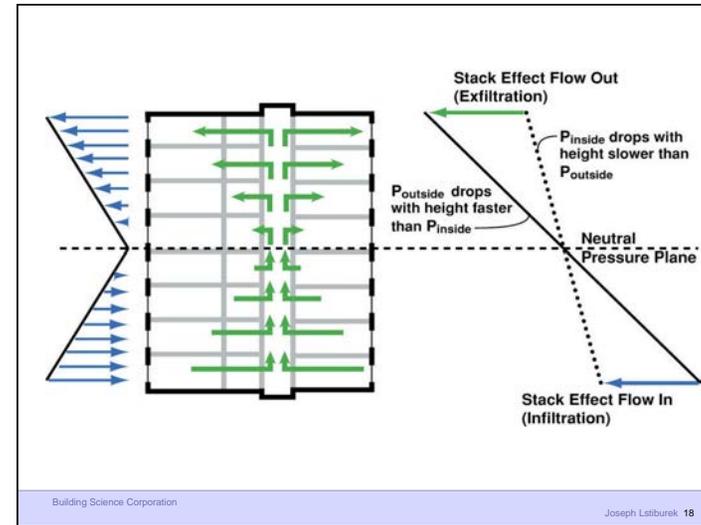
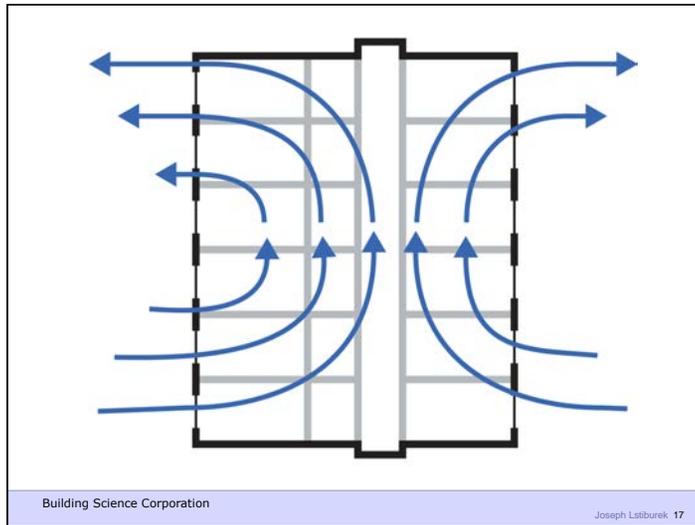
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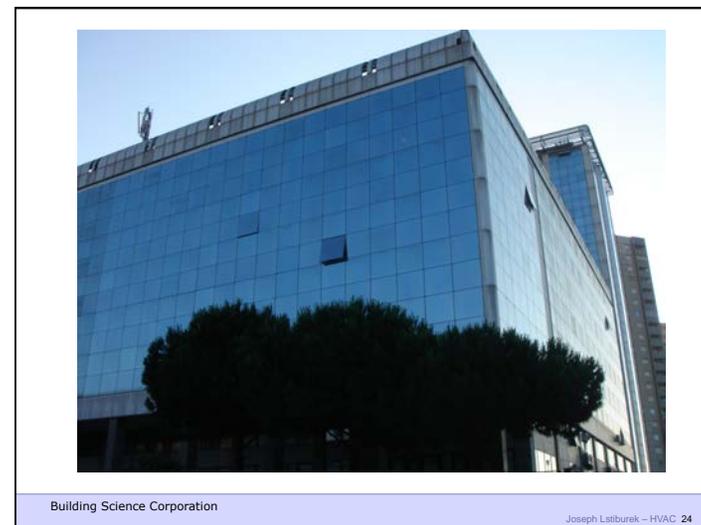
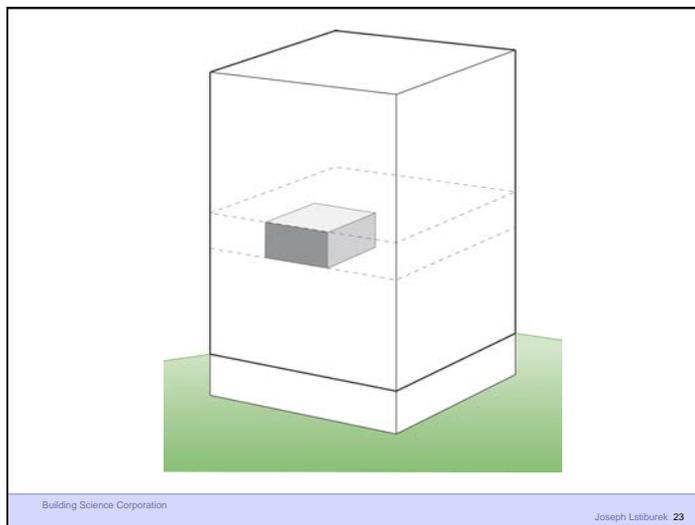
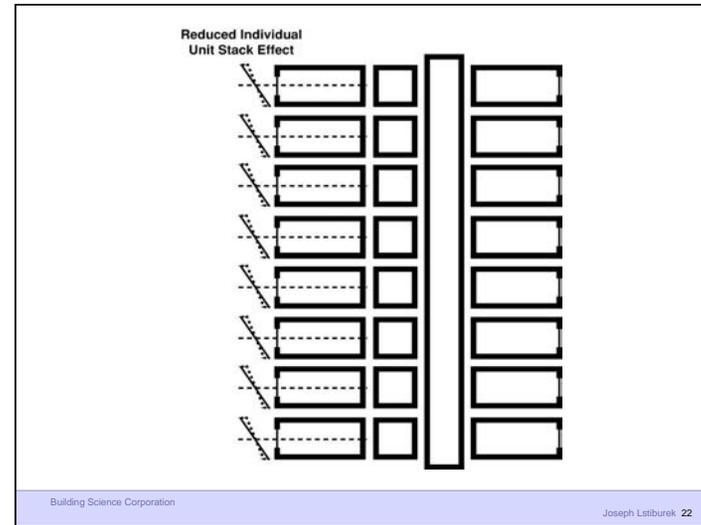
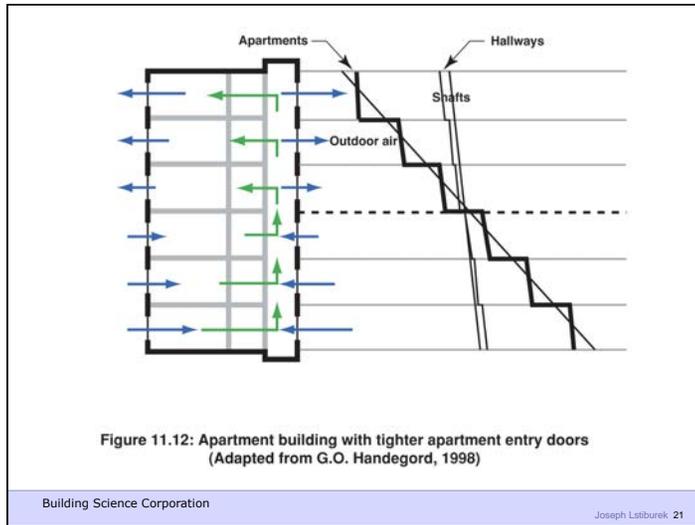


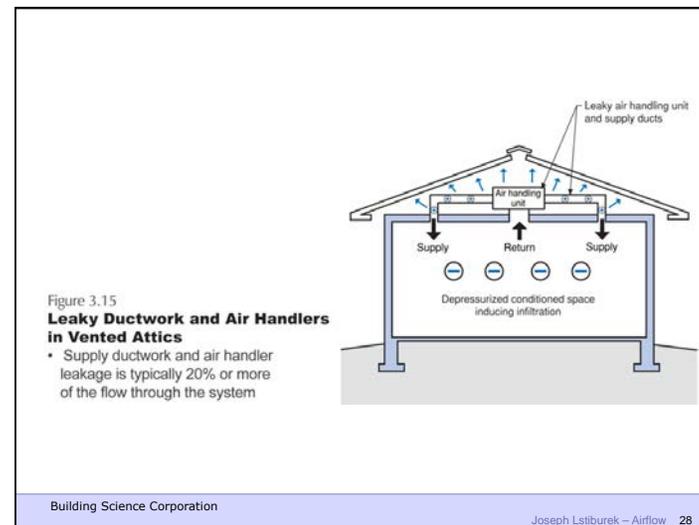
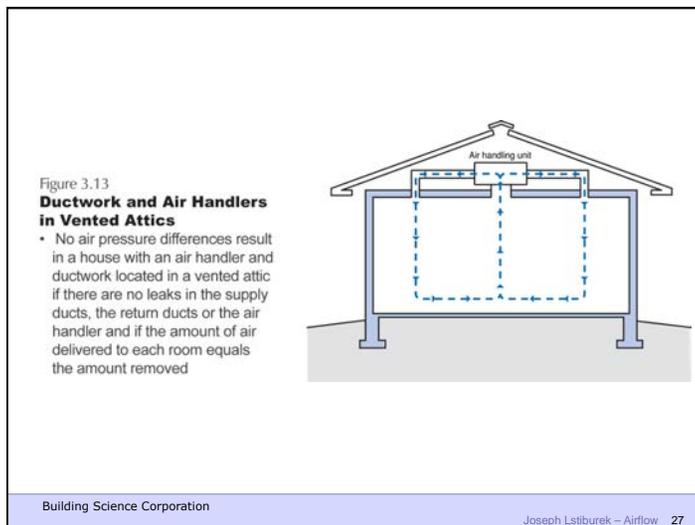
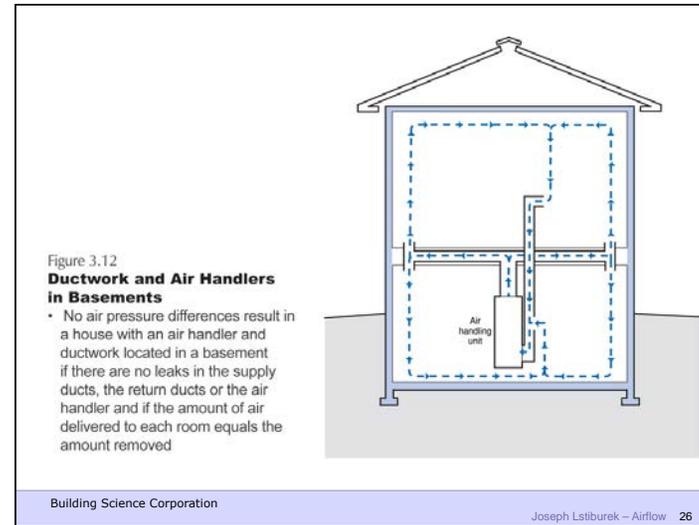
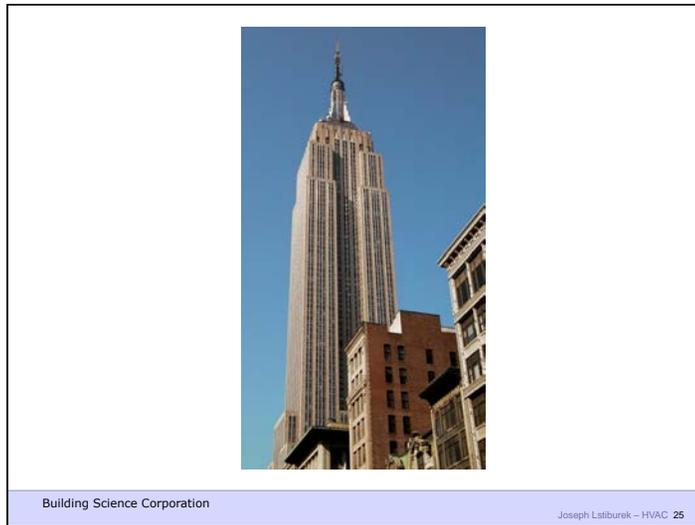


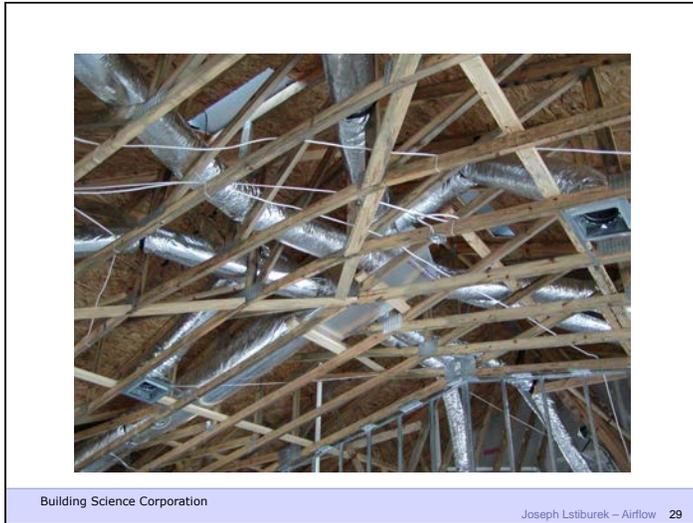










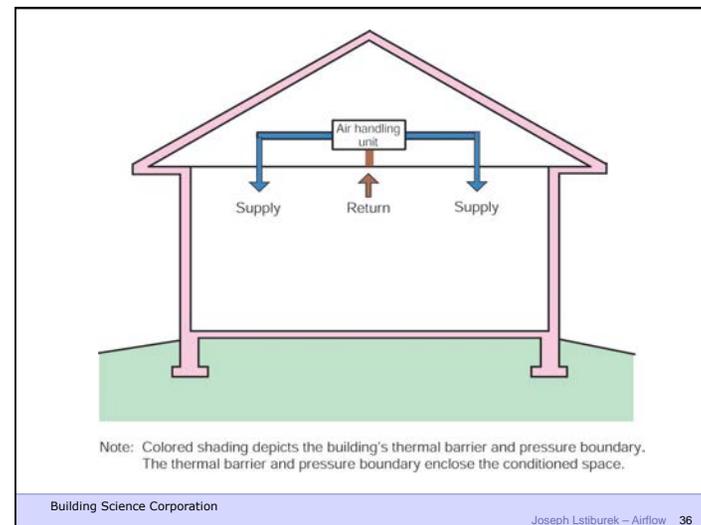


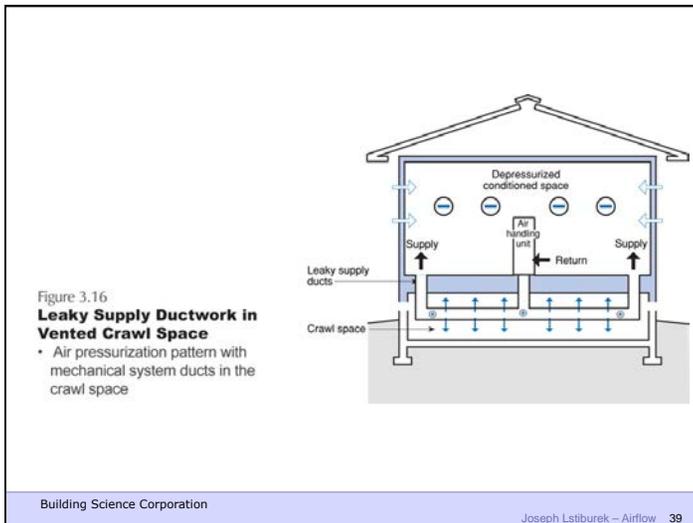
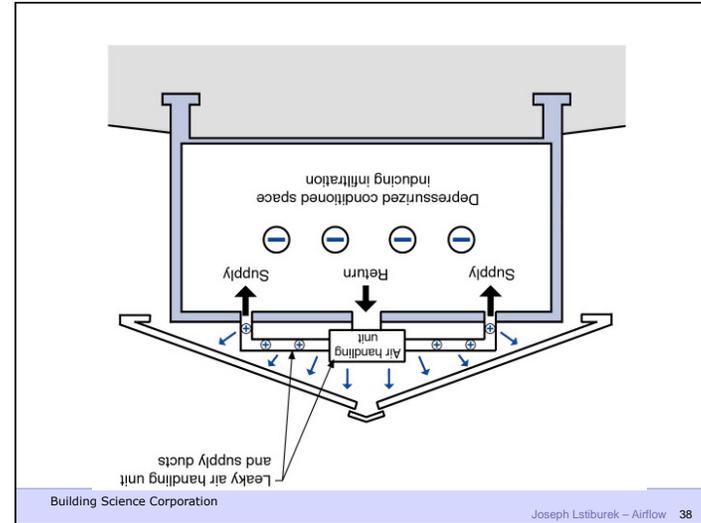
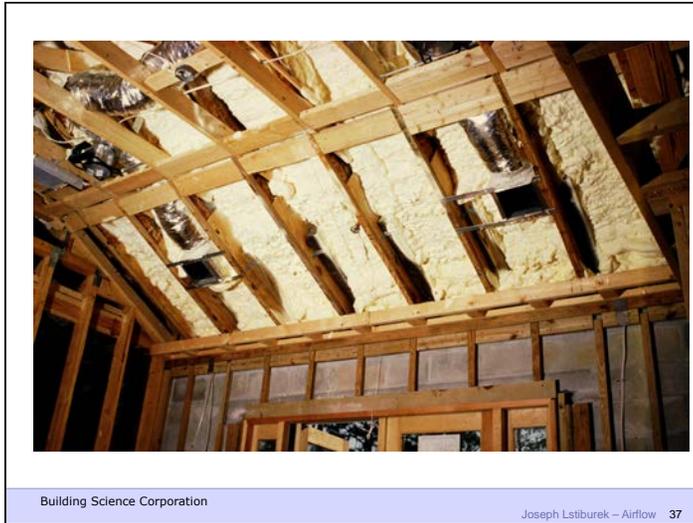


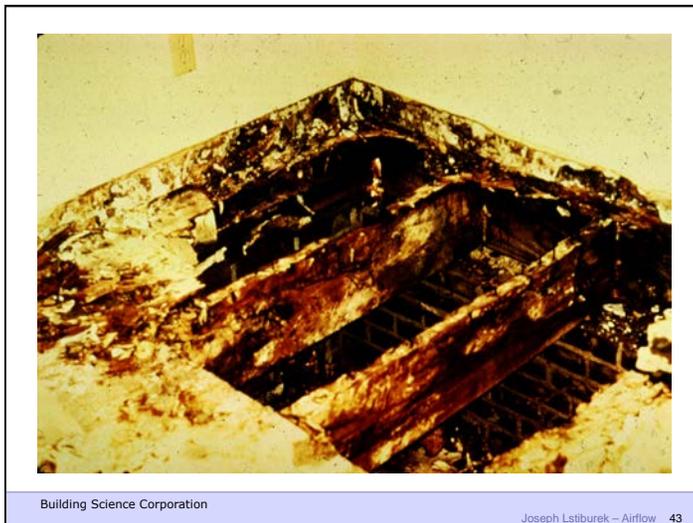
Duct Leakage Should Be Less Than 5% of Rated Flow As Tested By Pressurization To 25 Pascals

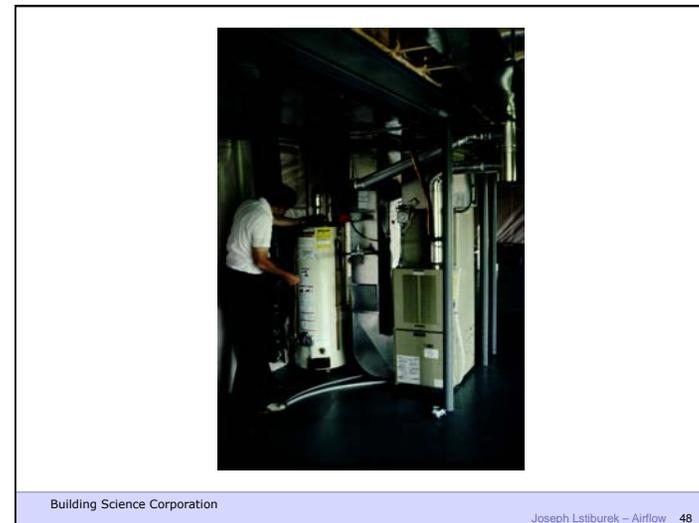
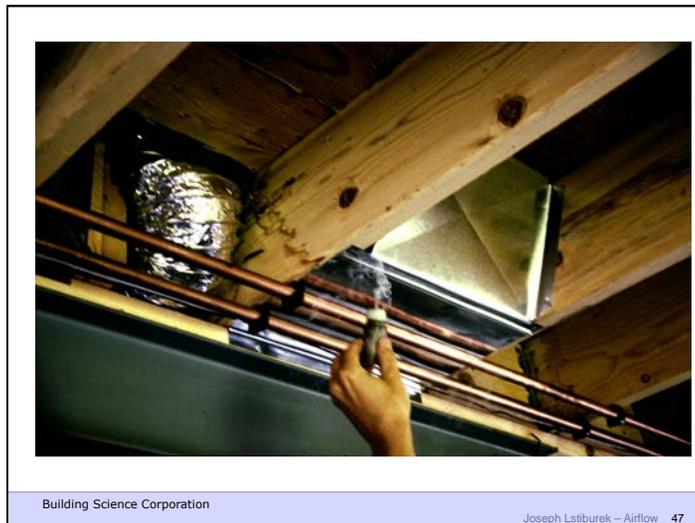
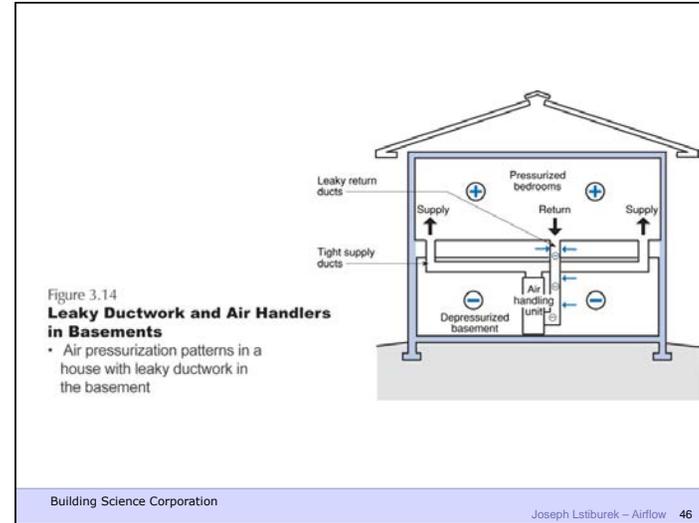
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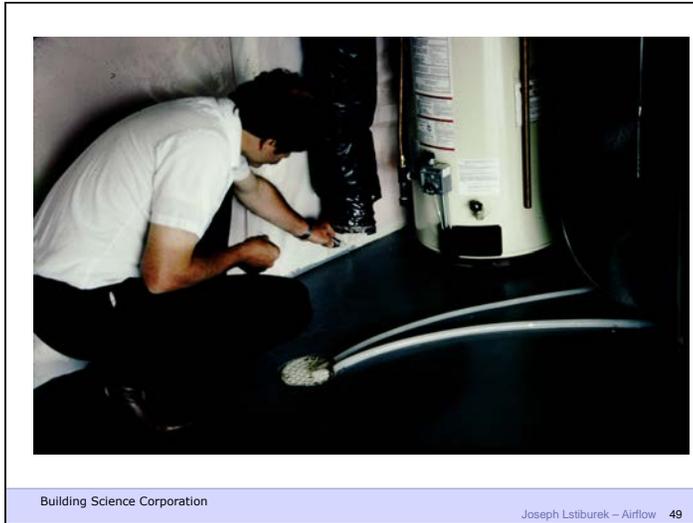
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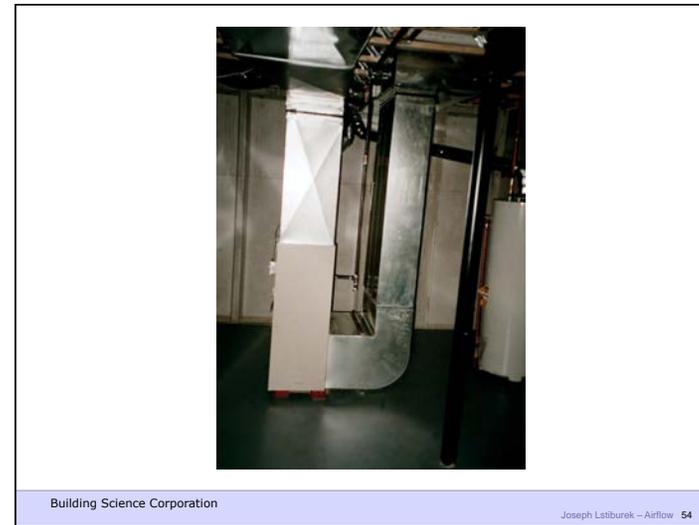
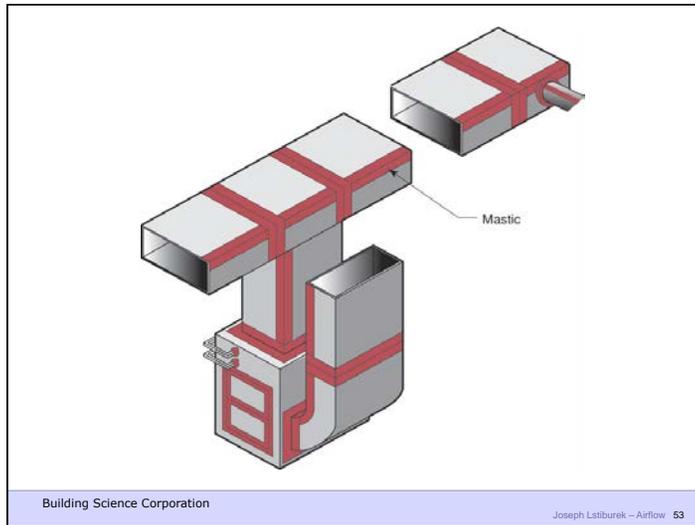










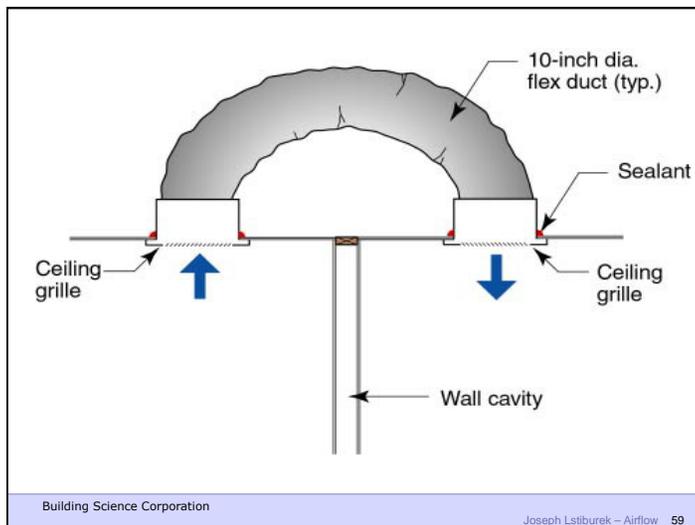
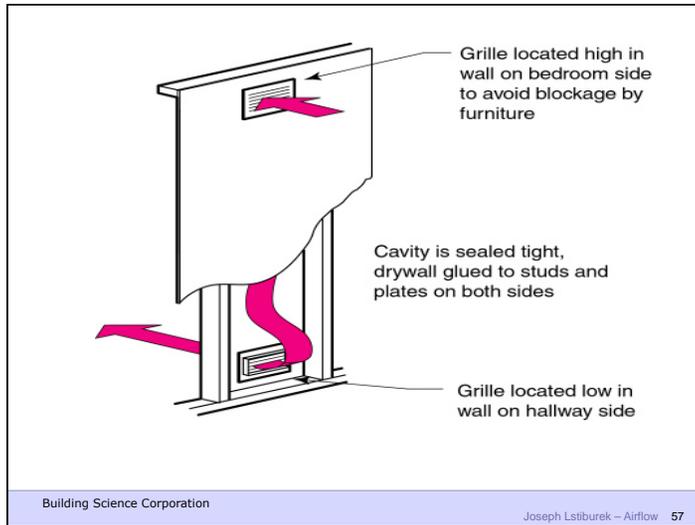


**Figure 3.18**  
**Insufficient Return Air Paths**

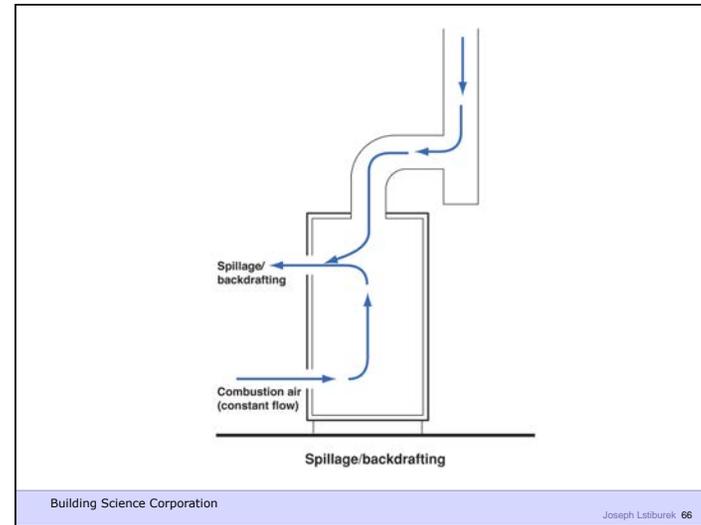
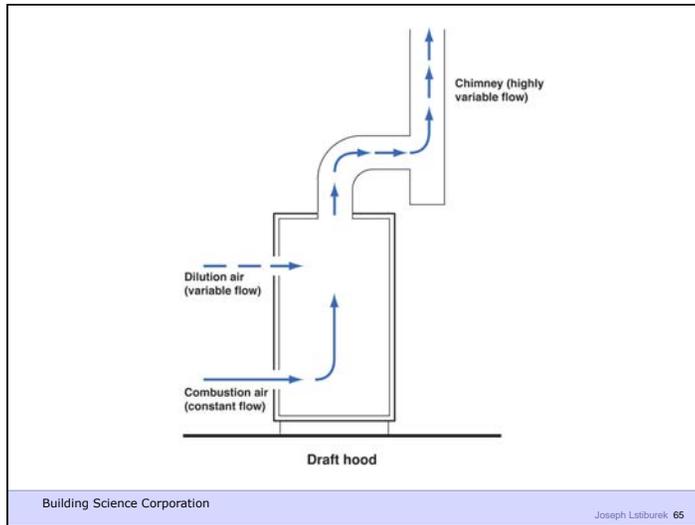
- Pressurization of bedrooms often occurs if insufficient return pathways are provided; undercutting bedroom doors is usually insufficient; transfer grilles, jump ducts or fully ducted returns may be necessary to prevent pressurization of bedrooms
- Master bedroom suites are often the most pressurized as they typically receive the most supply air
- When bedrooms pressurized, common areas depressurize; this can have serious consequences when fireplaces are located in common areas and subsequently backdraft

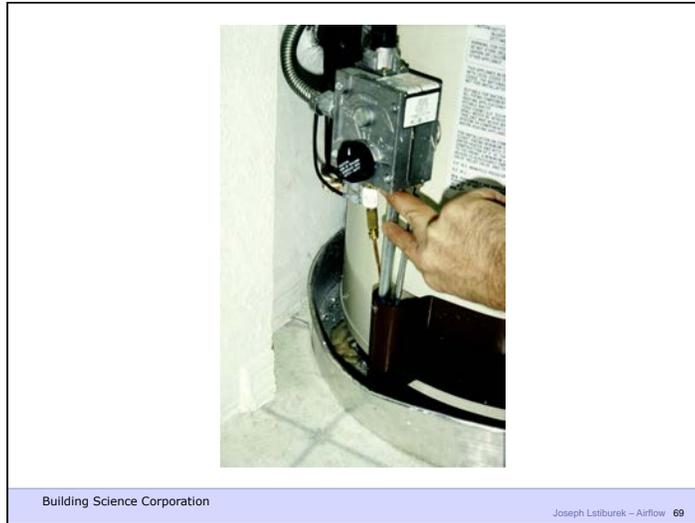
A schematic diagram of a bedroom suite. An 'Air handling unit' is located at the top. Arrows indicate air flow from the unit to two 'Bedroom' areas (each marked with a blue plus sign) and from a 'Return' area (marked with a blue minus sign) back to the unit. The 'Return' area is located in the 'Hall'. The diagram shows that the bedrooms are pressurized (+) and the hall is depressurized (-).

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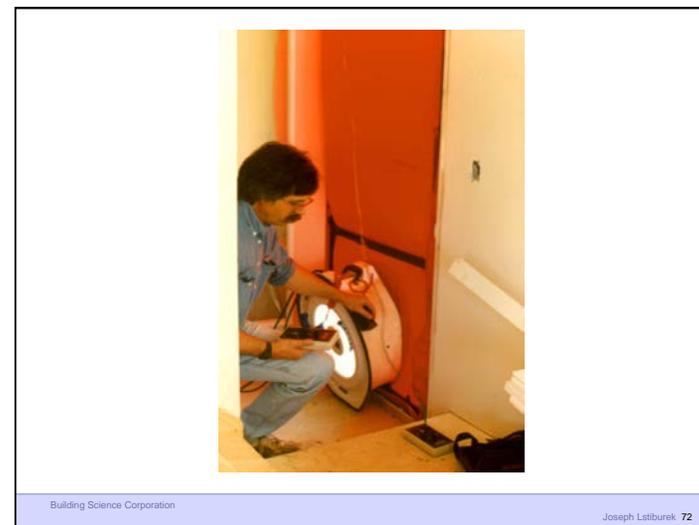


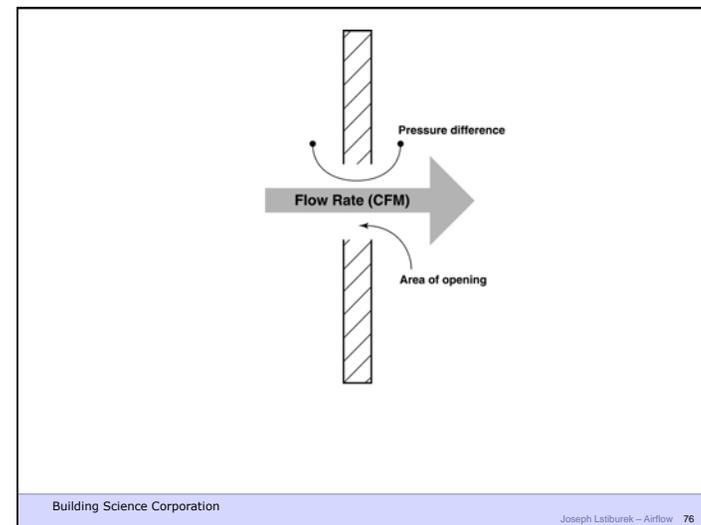
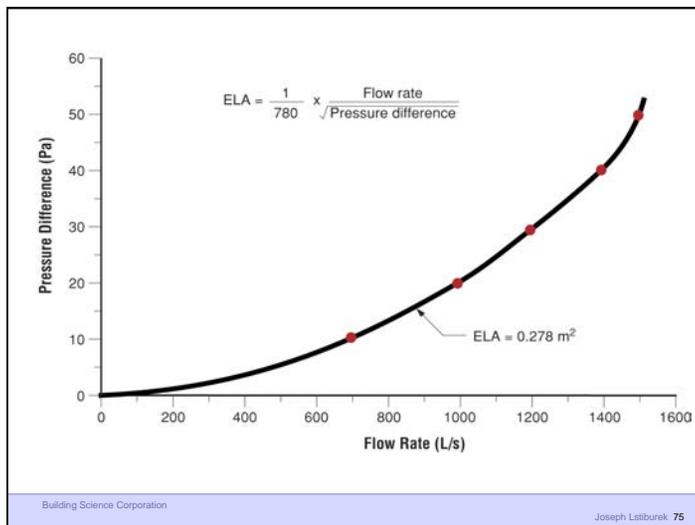
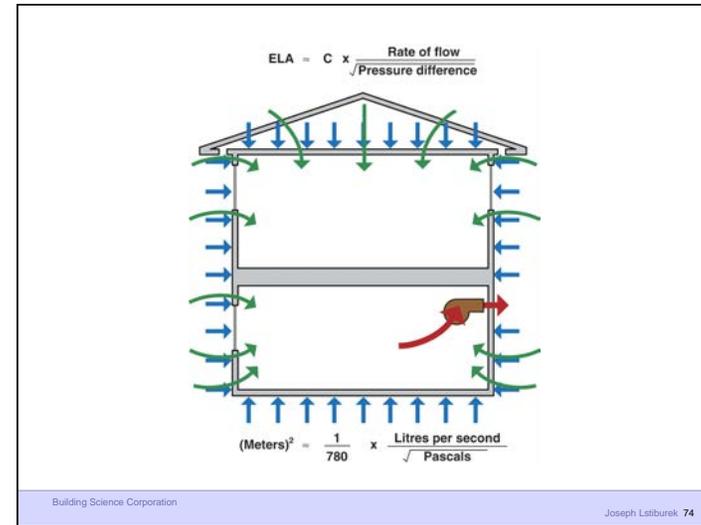
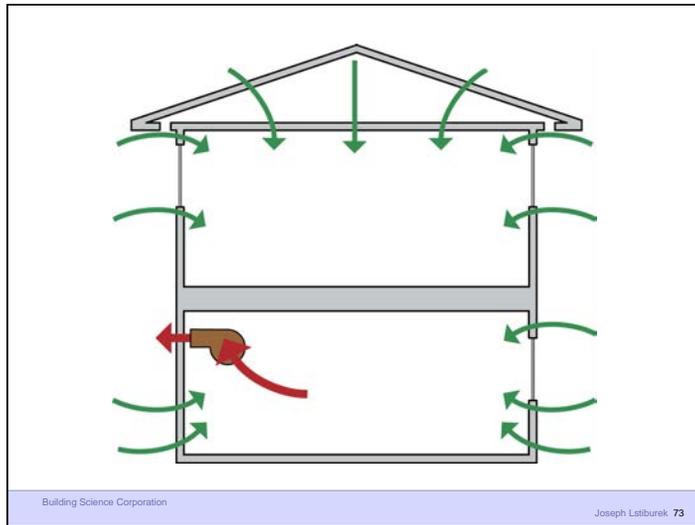


**Air Barrier Metrics**

Material	0.02 I/(s-m <sup>2</sup> )@75 Pa
Assembly	0.20 I/(s-m <sup>2</sup> )@75 Pa
Enclosure	2.00 I/(s-m <sup>2</sup> )@75 Pa

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Flow Through Orifices  
Turbulent Flow - “inertial effects”

Flow Through Porous Media  
Laminar Flow - “viscosity effects”

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Flow Through Orifices  
Turbulent Flow - “inertial effects”

Flow Through Porous Media  
Laminar Flow - “viscosity effects”

“true but not useful”

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$$Q = A \cdot C_d \left[ \frac{2}{\rho} (\Delta P) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{Bernoulli}$$

$$Q = C_k \frac{\rho}{\mu} (\Delta P) \quad \text{Darcy}$$

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$$Q = A \cdot C_d \left[ \frac{2}{\rho} (\Delta P) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{Bernoulli}$$

$$Q = C_k \frac{\rho}{\mu} (\Delta P) \quad \text{Darcy}$$

$$Q = A \cdot C (\Delta P)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$Q = C (\Delta P)$$

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$$Q = A \cdot C_d \left[ \frac{2}{\rho} (\Delta P) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{Bernoulli}$$

$$Q = C_K \frac{\rho}{\mu} (\Delta P) \quad \text{Darcy}$$

$$Q = A \cdot C (\Delta P)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$Q = C (\Delta P)$$

$$Q = A \cdot C (\Delta P)^n \quad \text{Kronval "an engineer"}$$

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Figure 2.5  
**Modes of Air Flow**  
(from Bumbaru, Jutras and Patenaude, 1988)

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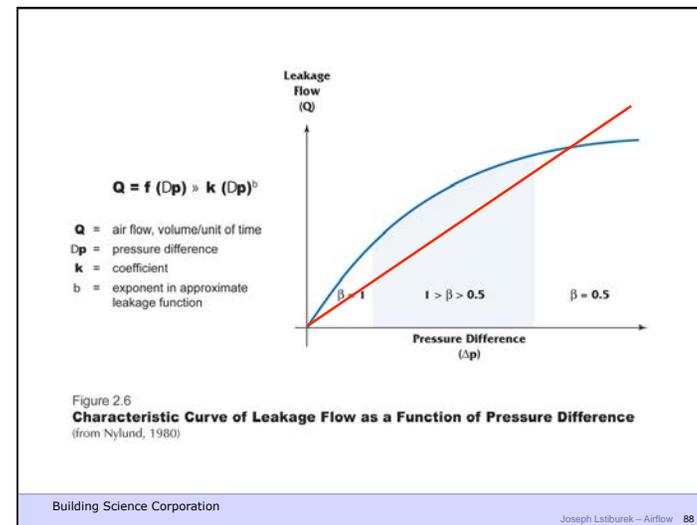
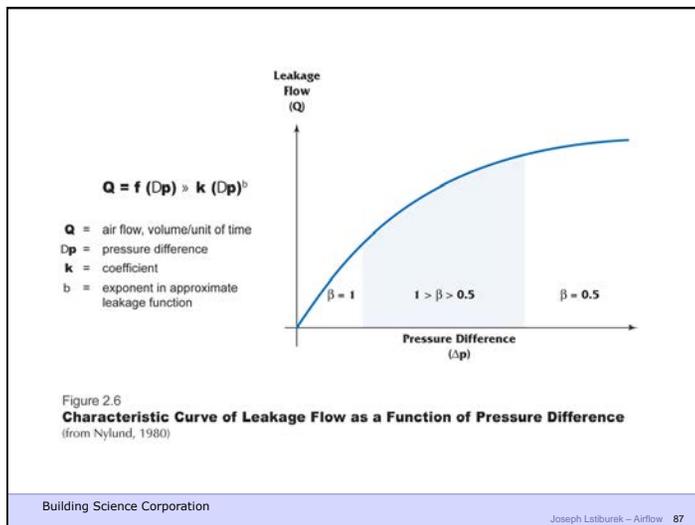
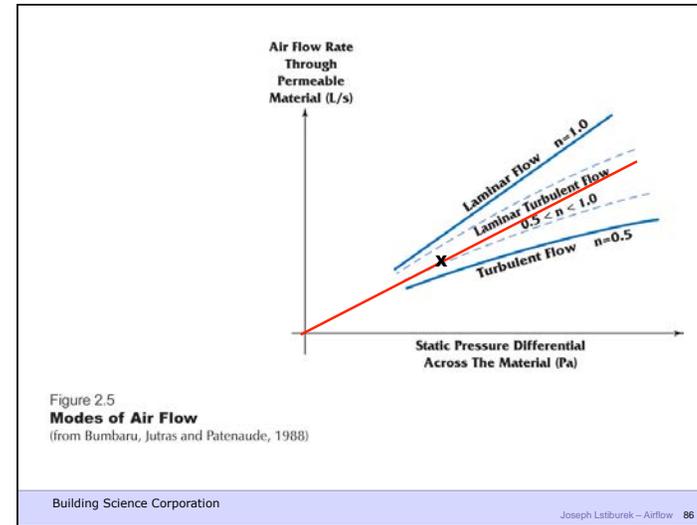
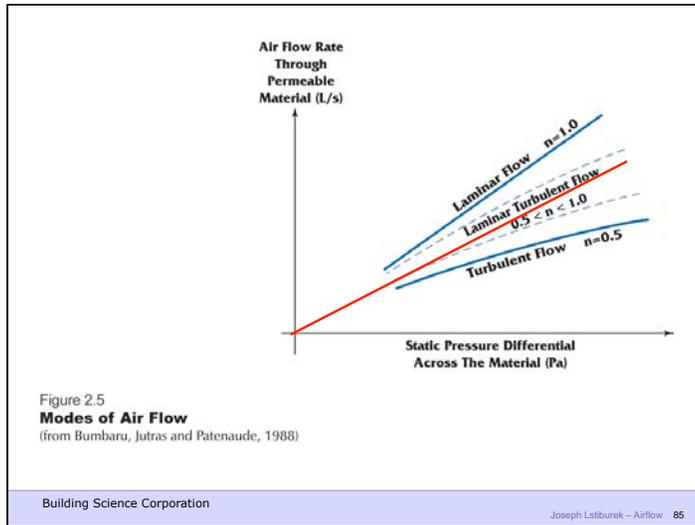
Figure 2.10  
**Resistance Network**  
(from Kronval, 1988)

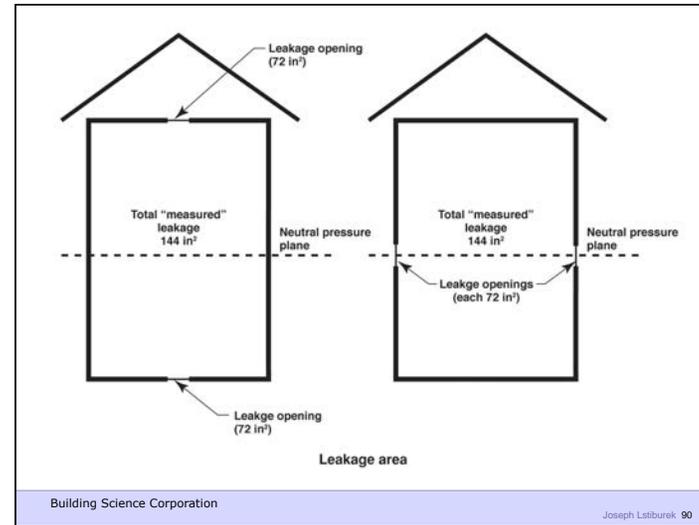
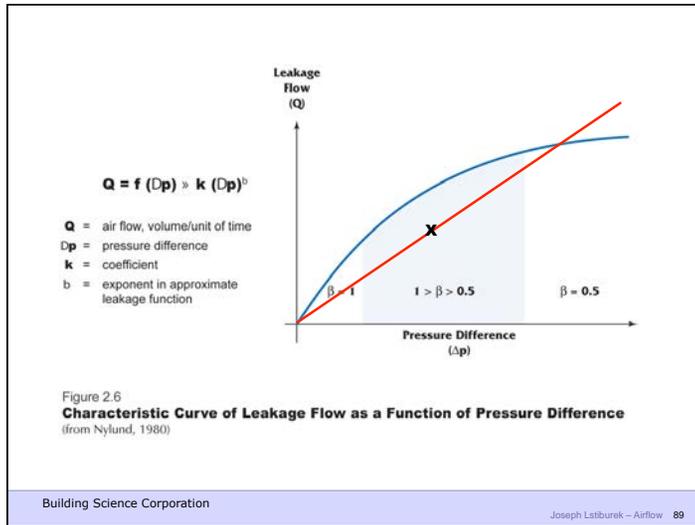
1. Air permeating the wood-panel cladding
2. Air flow between floor slab and panel
3. Air flow between floor slab and wind protection
4. Air permeating the caulking
5. Air flow between wind protection and sill
6. Air flow between insulation material and sill
7. Air flow between inner lining and sill
8. Air flow between inner lining and floor slab
9. Air flow between tilt and inner lining
10. Air flow between tilt and floor slab

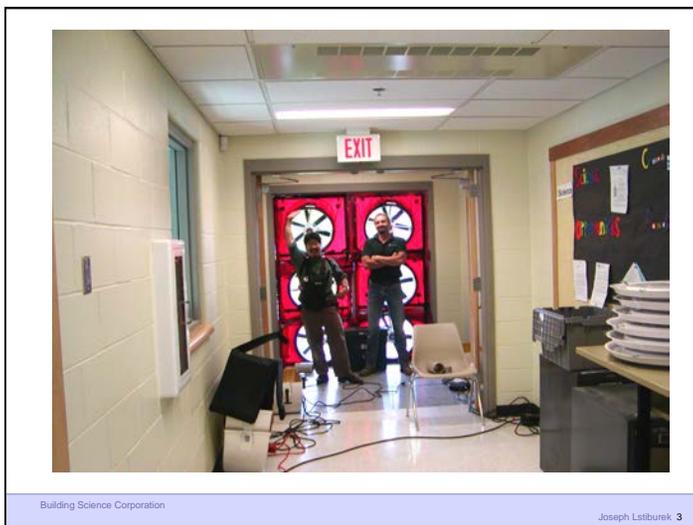
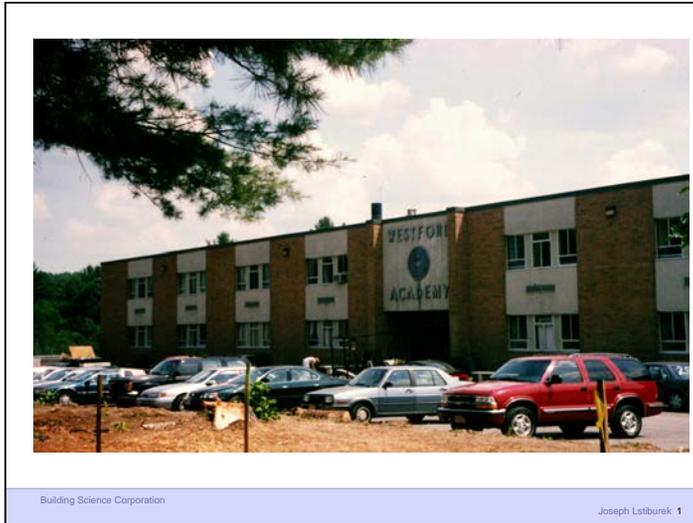
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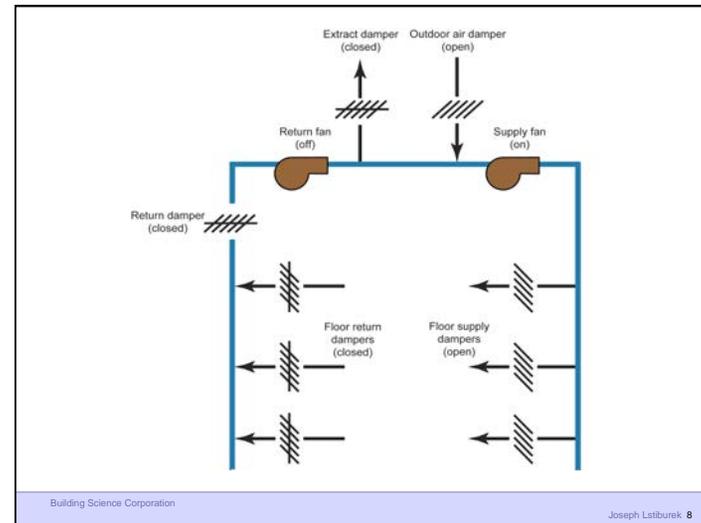
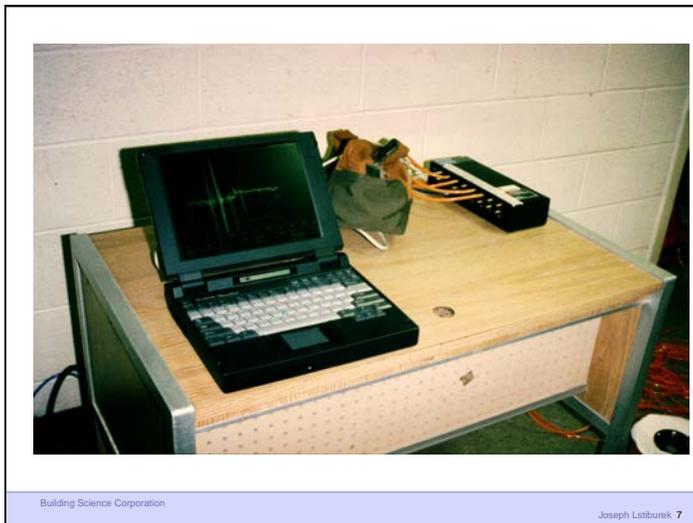
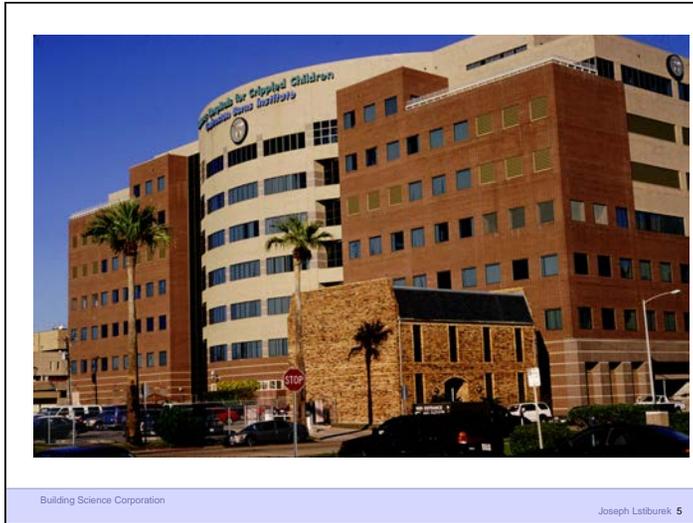
Figure 2.11  
**Three Dimensional Multi-Layer Multi-Cell Analogue**

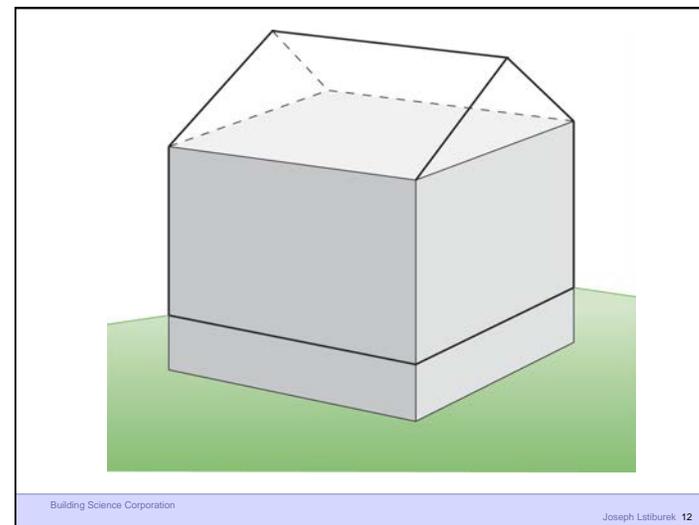
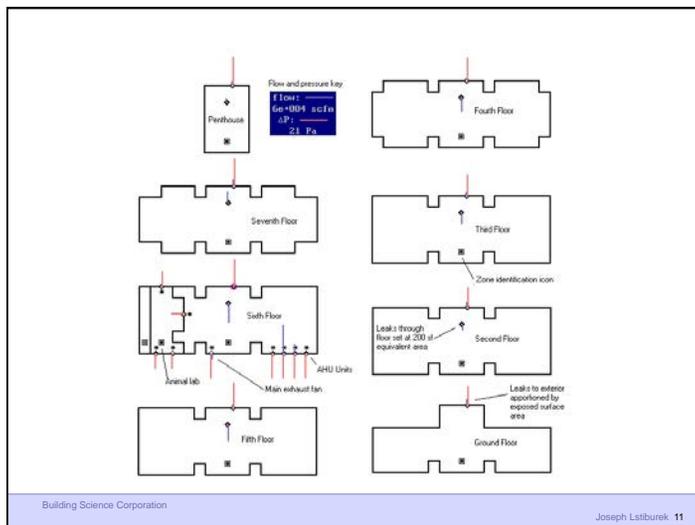
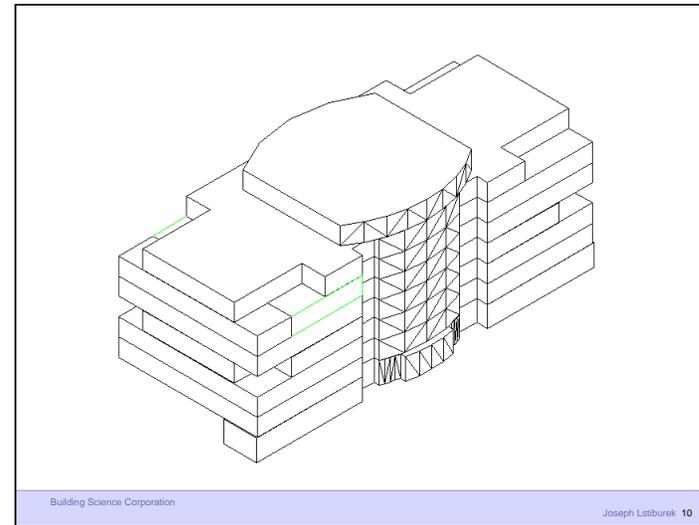
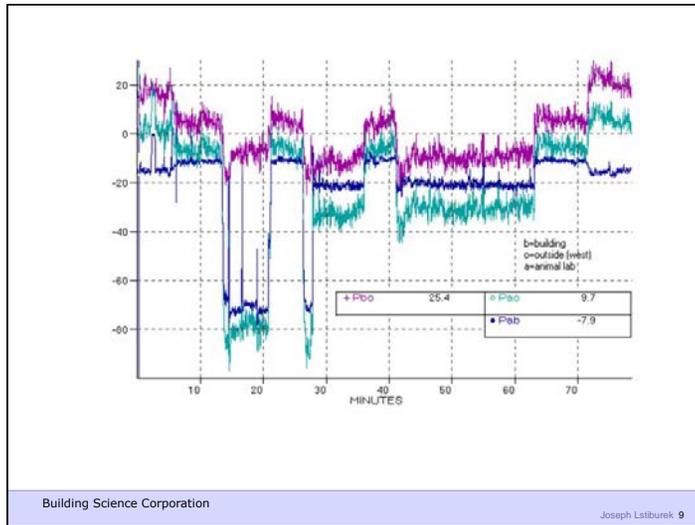
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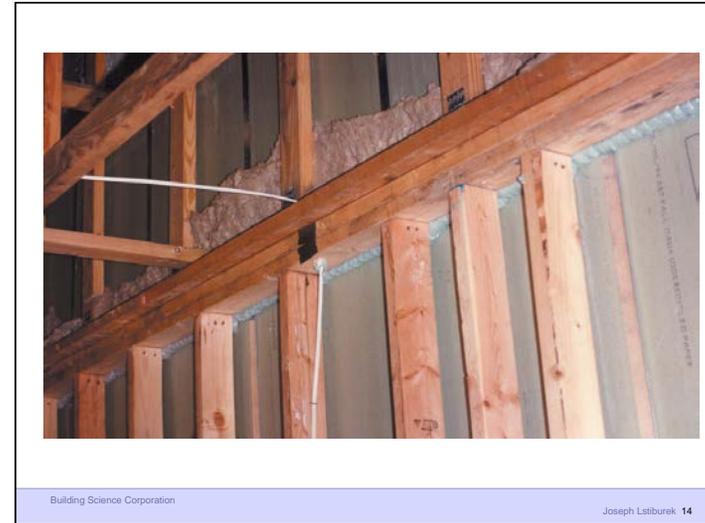
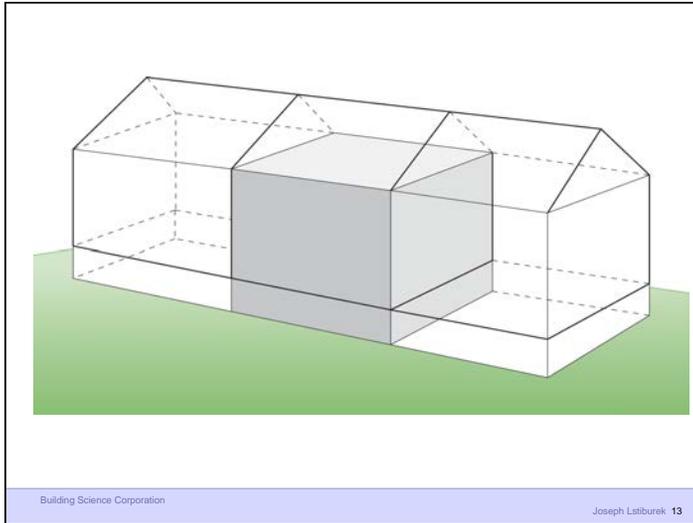


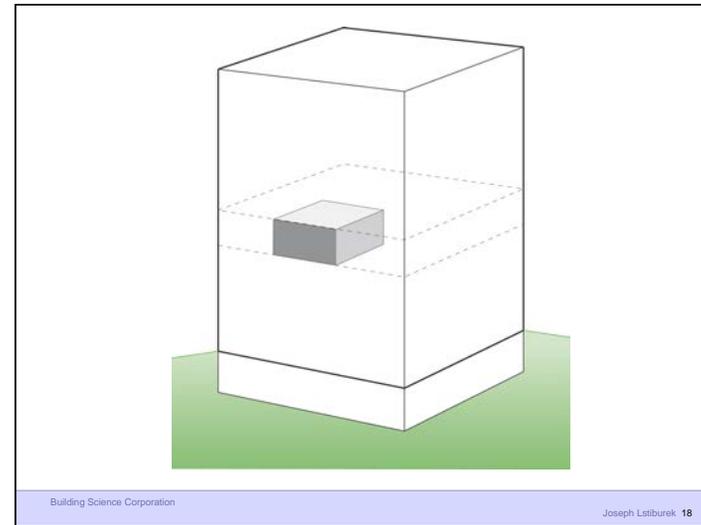
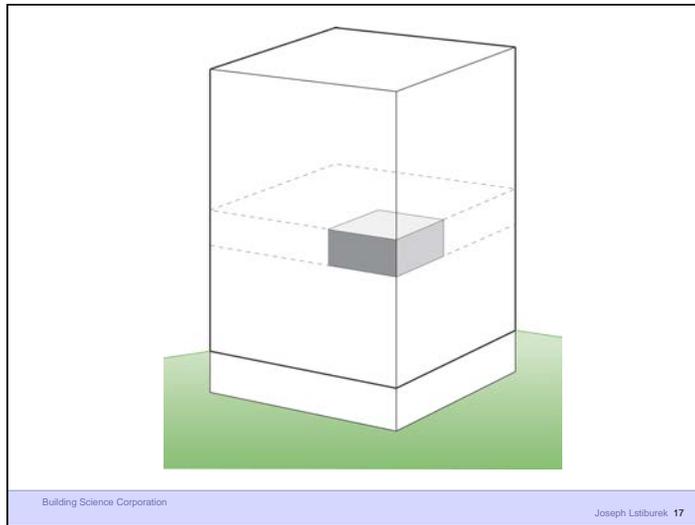












Build Tight - Ventilate Right

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Build Tight - Ventilate Right  
How Tight?  
What's Right?

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**Air Barrier Metrics**

Material	0.02 l/(s-m <sup>2</sup> ) @ 75 Pa
Assembly	0.20 l/(s-m <sup>2</sup> ) @ 75 Pa
Enclosure	2.00 l/(s-m <sup>2</sup> ) @ 75 Pa
	0.35 cfm/ft <sup>2</sup> @ 50 Pa
	0.25 cfm/ft <sup>2</sup> @ 50 Pa
	0.15 cfm/ft <sup>2</sup> @ 50 Pa

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Getting rid of big holes	3 ach@50
Getting rid of smaller holes	1.5 ach@50
Getting German	0.6 ach@50

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**Best**

As Tight as Possible - with -  
Balanced Ventilation  
Energy Recovery  
Distribution  
Source Control - Spot exhaust ventilation  
Filtration  
Material selection

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**Worst**

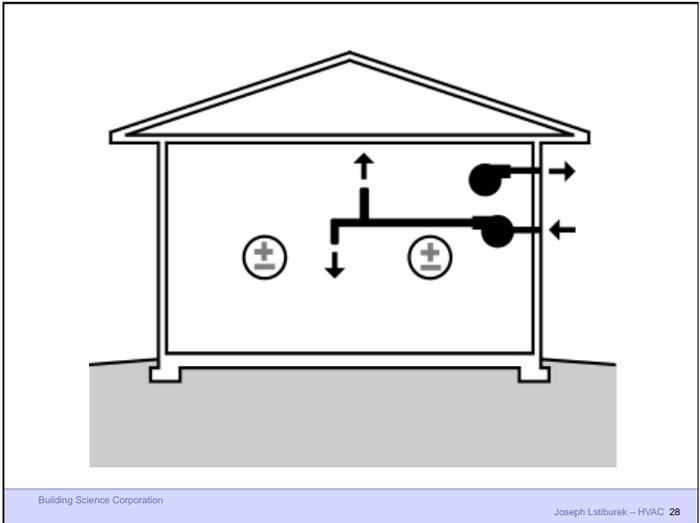
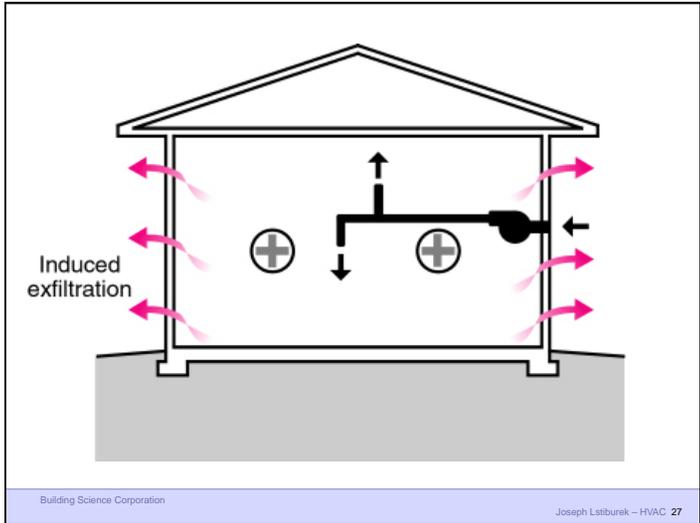
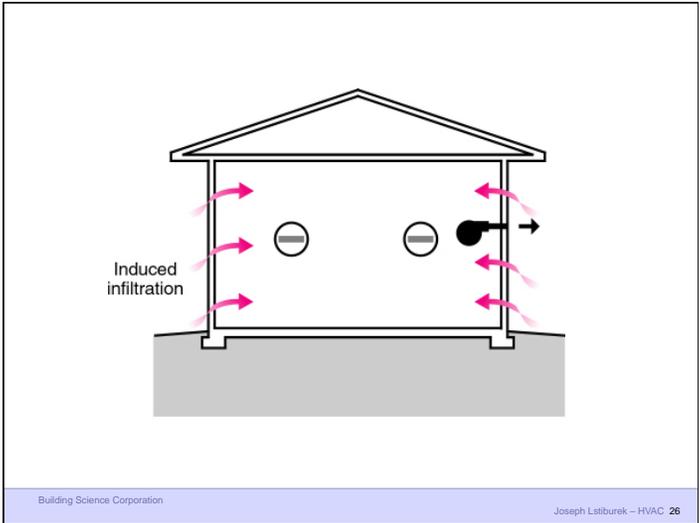
Leaky - with – Nothing  
Spot Ventilation in Bathroom/Kitchen  
Exhaust Ventilation – with – No Distribution

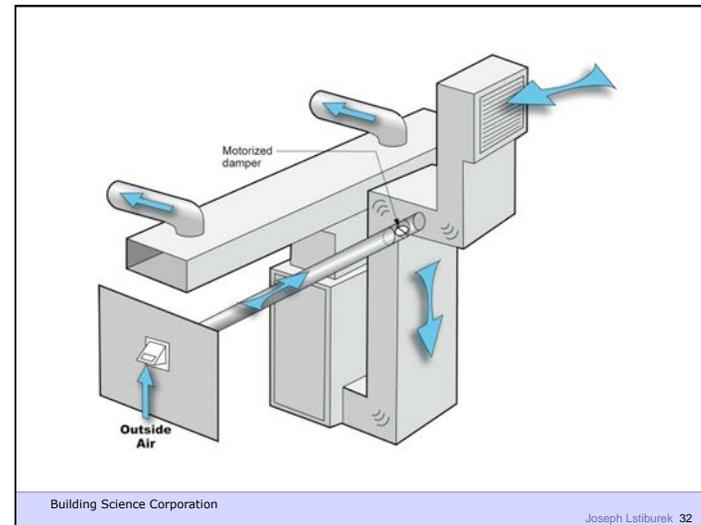
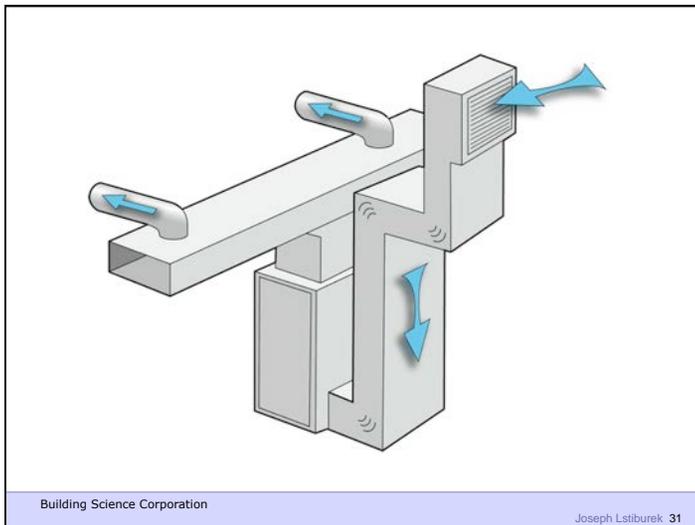
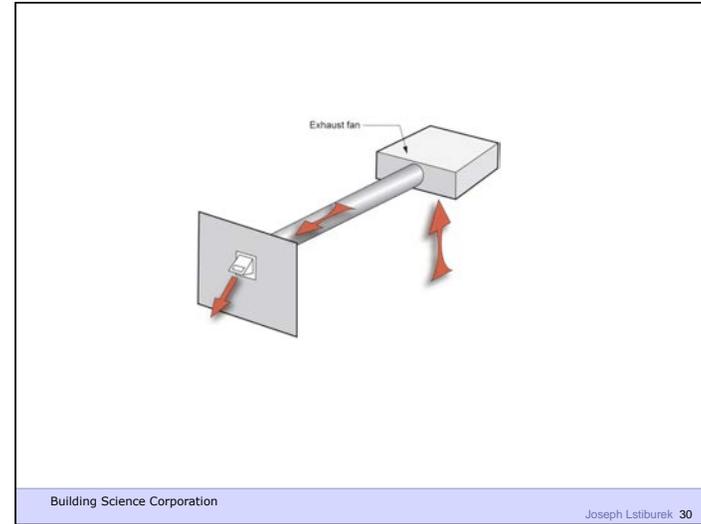
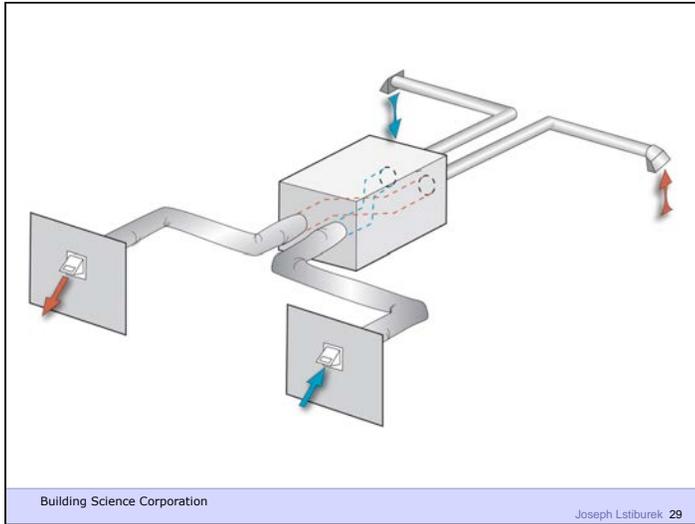
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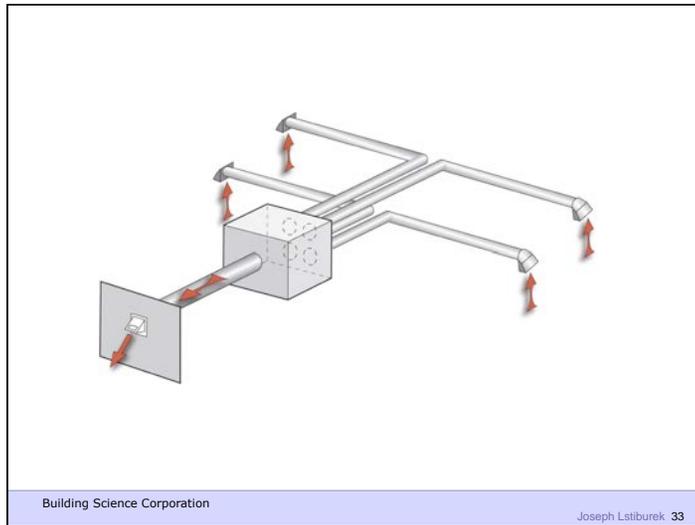
Three Types of Controlled Ventilation Systems

- Exhaust Ventilation
- Supply Ventilation
- Balanced Ventilation

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Cost	Exhaust	\$150
	Exhaust + Dist	\$200
	Supply + Dist	\$200
	Spot + Ex/Sup + Dist	\$500
	Balanced/HRV	\$1,250

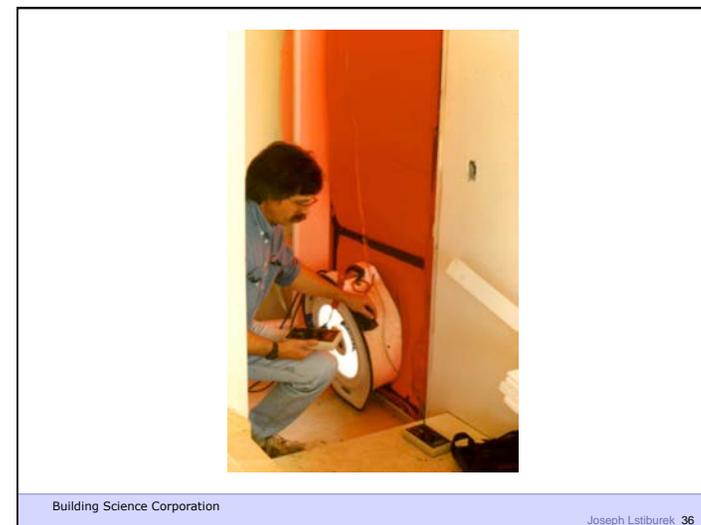
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The Cult of The Blower Door

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Blower Door Can't Get You The True ACH  
On A Short Term Basis – Hour, Day, Week

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Don't Know Where The Holes Are  
Don't Know The Type of Holes  
Don't Know The Pressure Across The Holes

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Good For Long Term Average If No Big  
Pressures

Building Science Corporation Joseph Lstiburek 39

Good For Long Term Average If No Big  
Pressures  
Good For Average Annual Energy Prediction

Building Science Corporation Joseph Lstiburek 40

Good For Long Term Average If No Big Pressures  
Good For Average Annual Energy Prediction  
Not Good For IAQ Unless You Accept Average Annual Exposure As A Metric

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Cost of Addressing the Problems Are Less Than The Cost of Testing To See If You Have Problems

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Combustion Safety  
Indoor Contaminants  
Comfort  
Energy

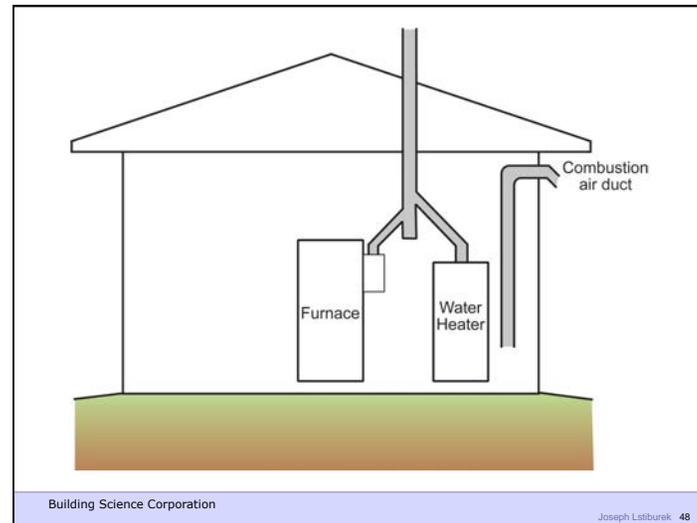
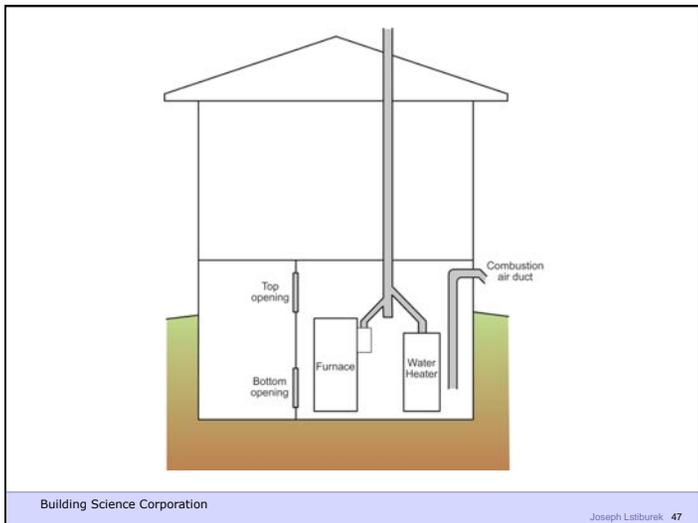
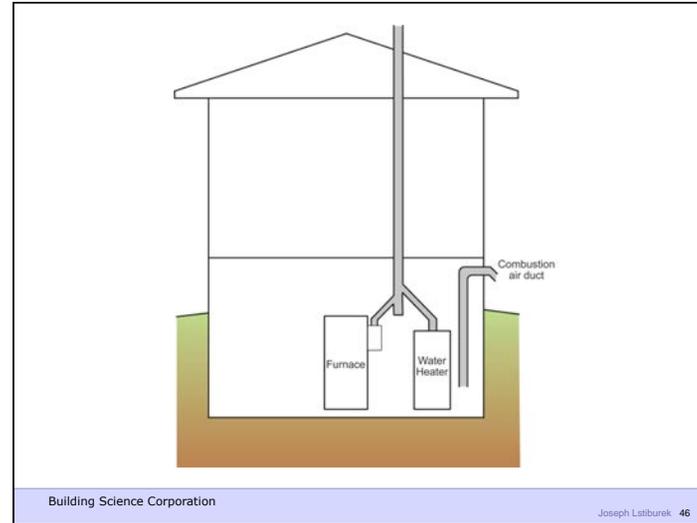
Building Science Corporation Joseph Lstiburek 43

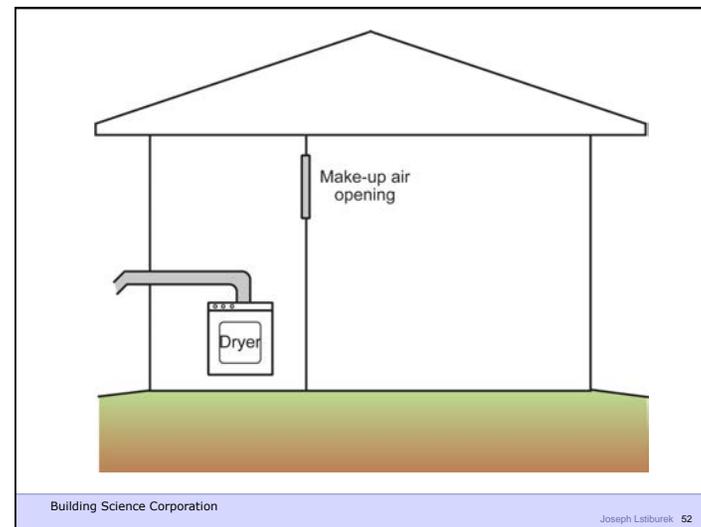
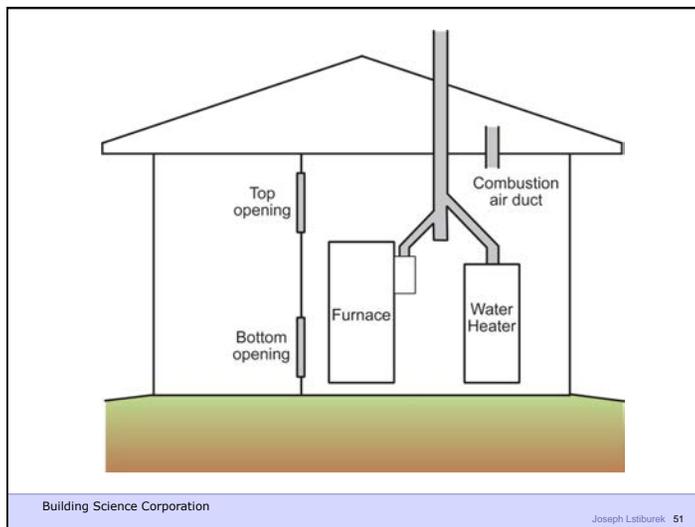
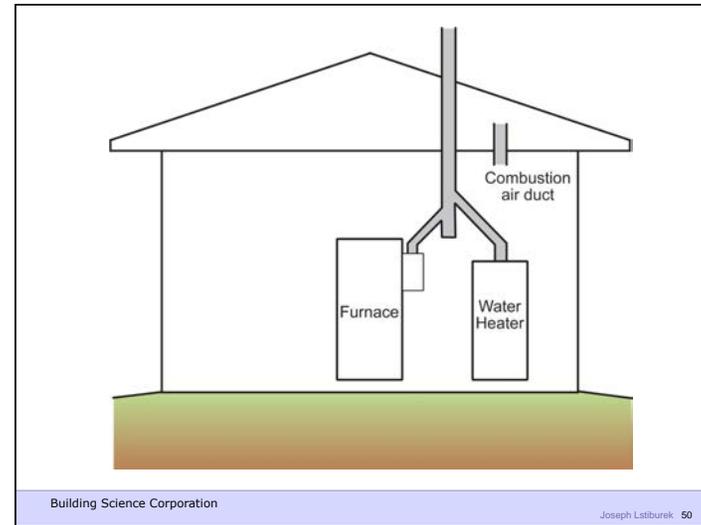
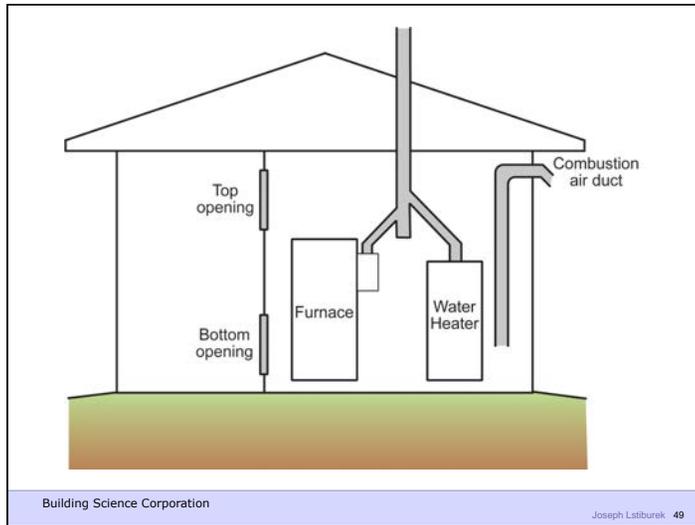
Bring Combustion Appliances Up To Code  
Control Pressures  
Install Controlled Ventilation  
Get Rid of Big Holes  
Insulate

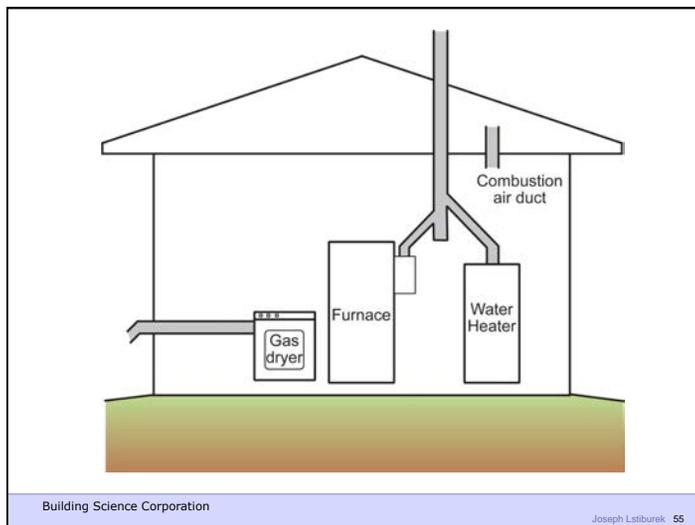
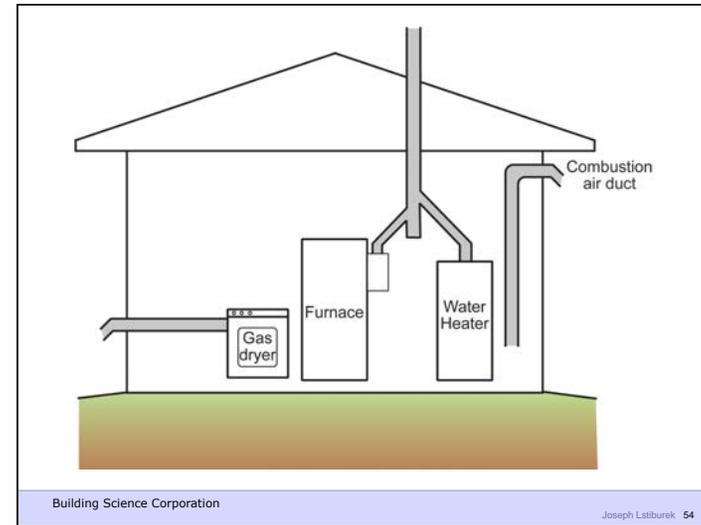
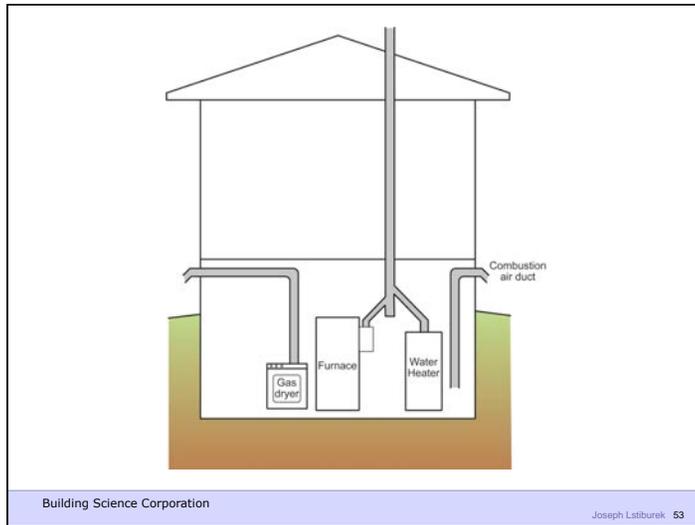
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Code Compliant Combustion Air

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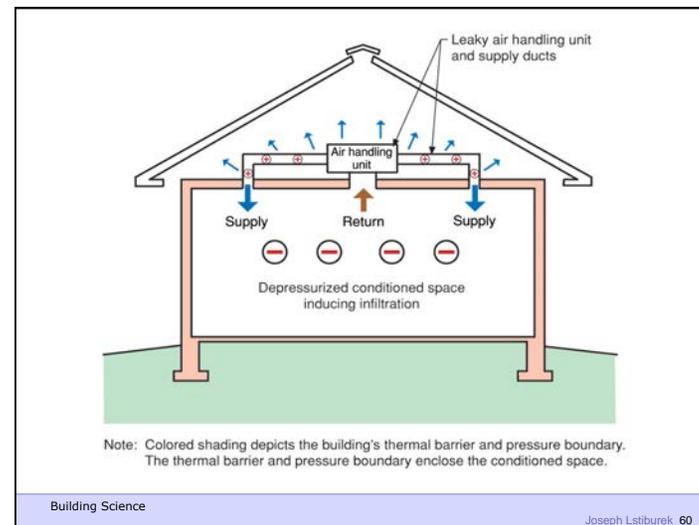
Sealed Combustion Appliances

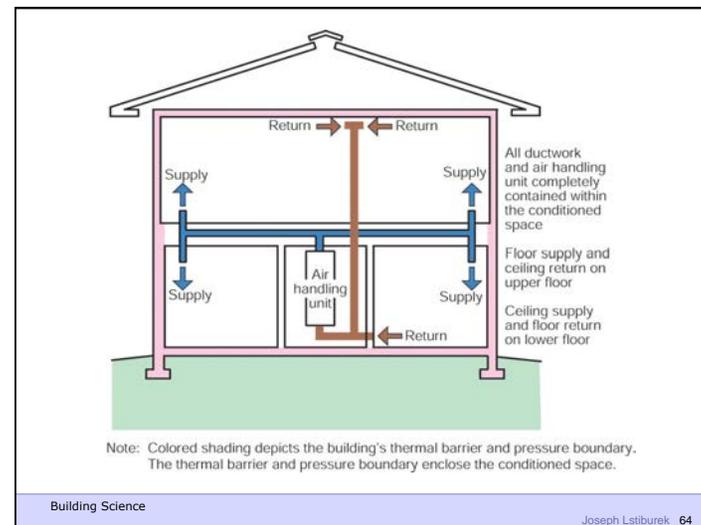
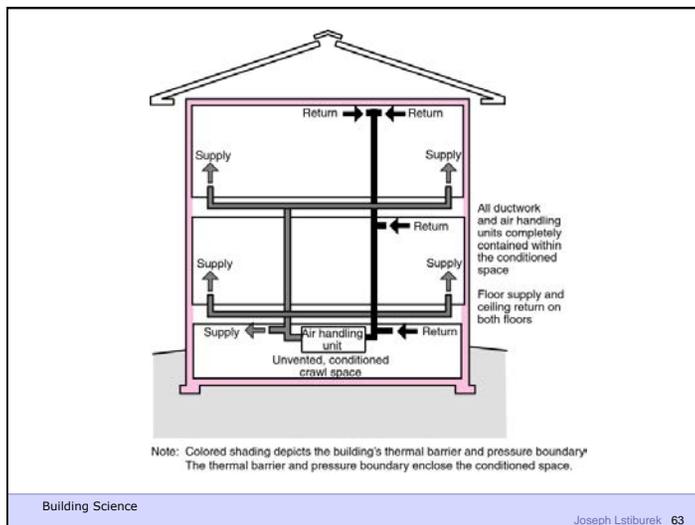
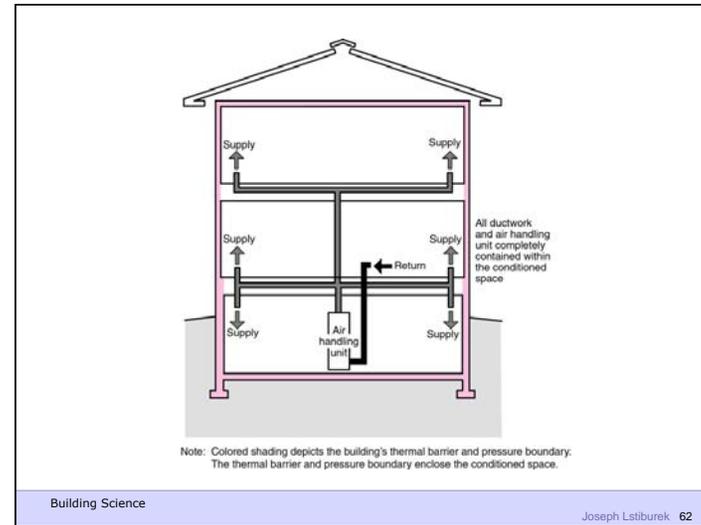
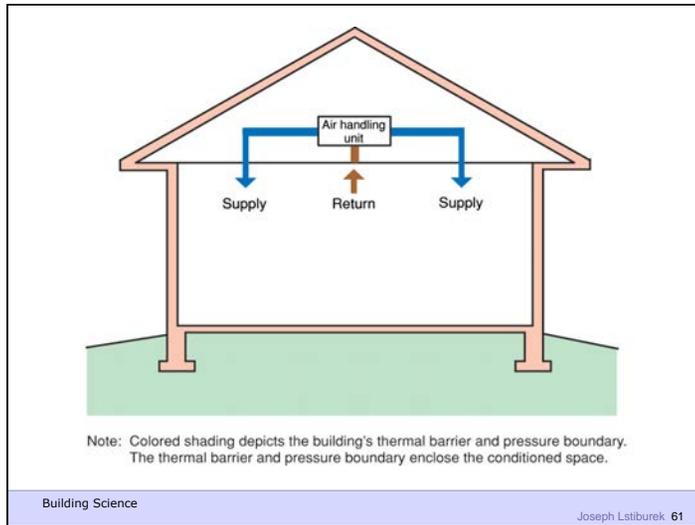
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Joseph Lstiburek 56

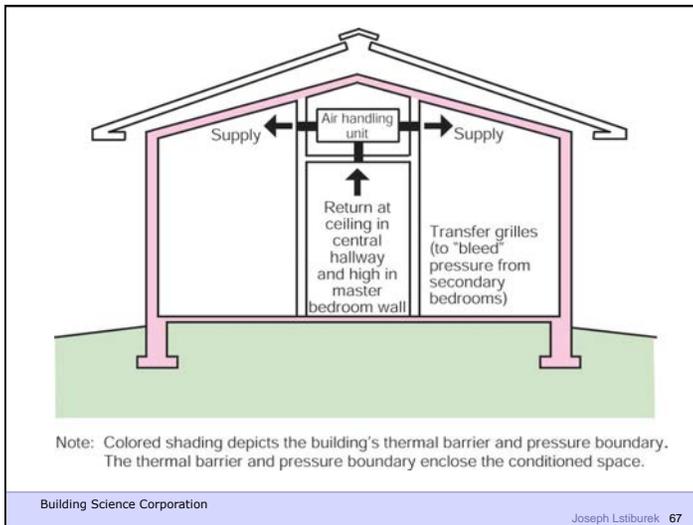
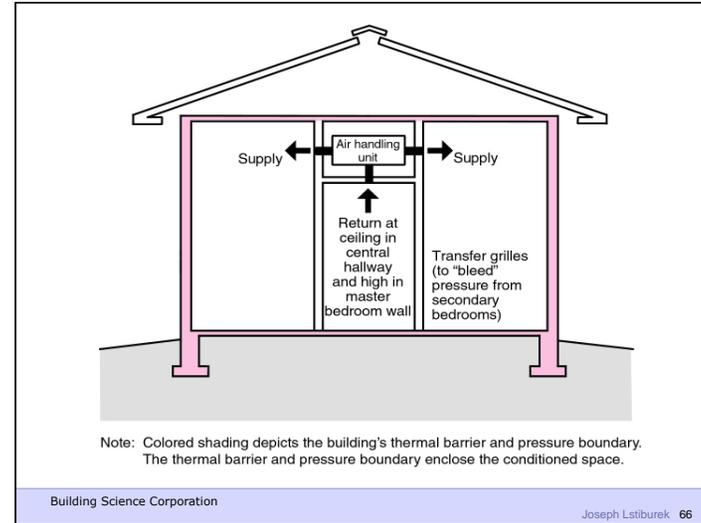


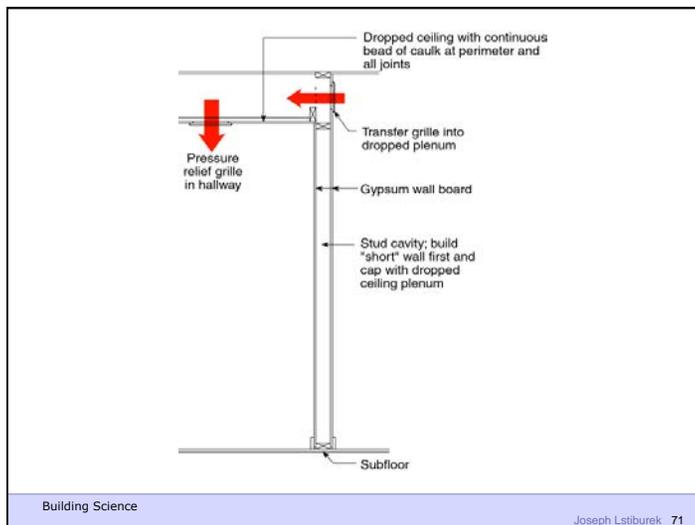
Control Pressures

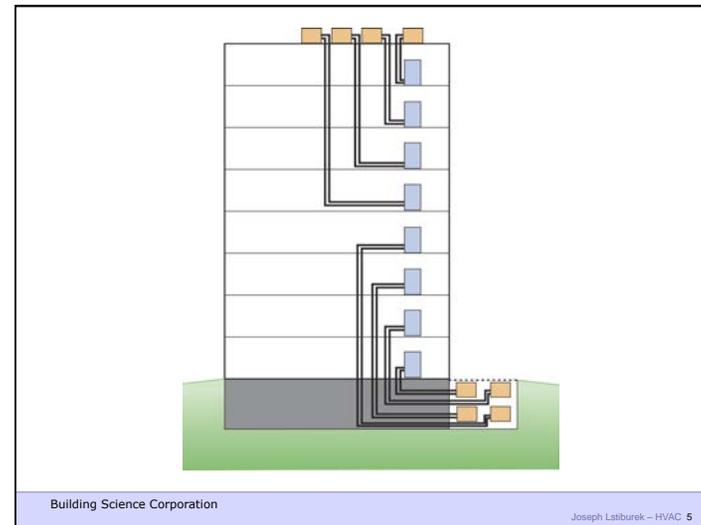
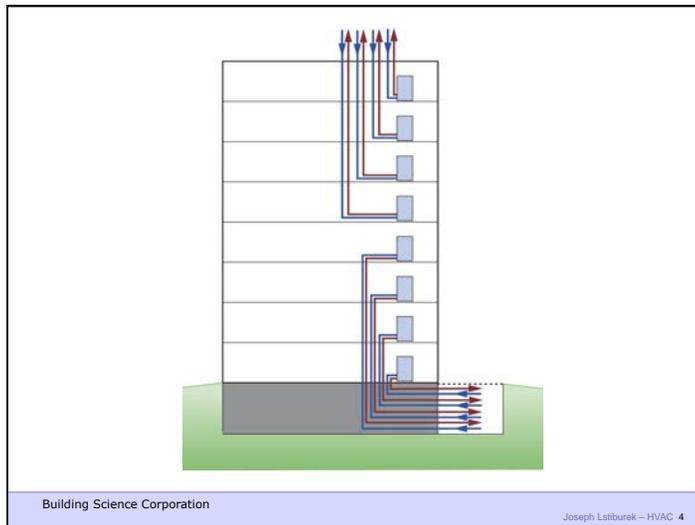
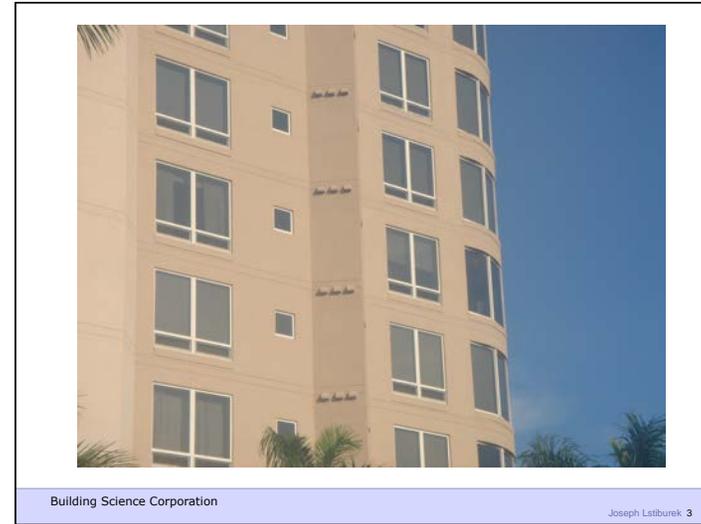
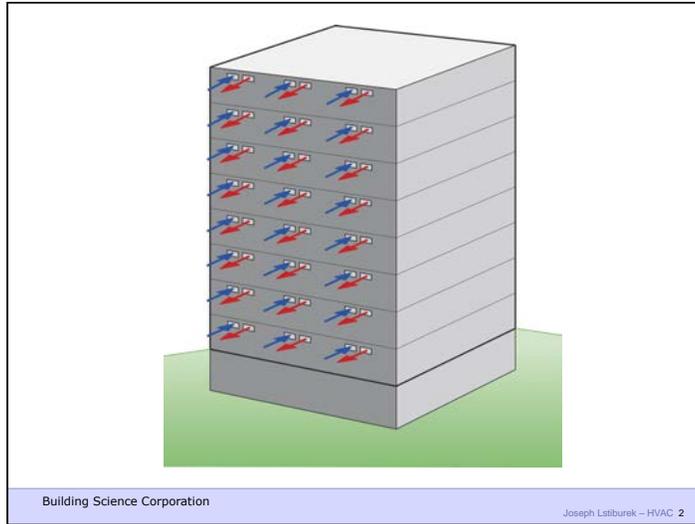
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Joseph Lstiburek 59

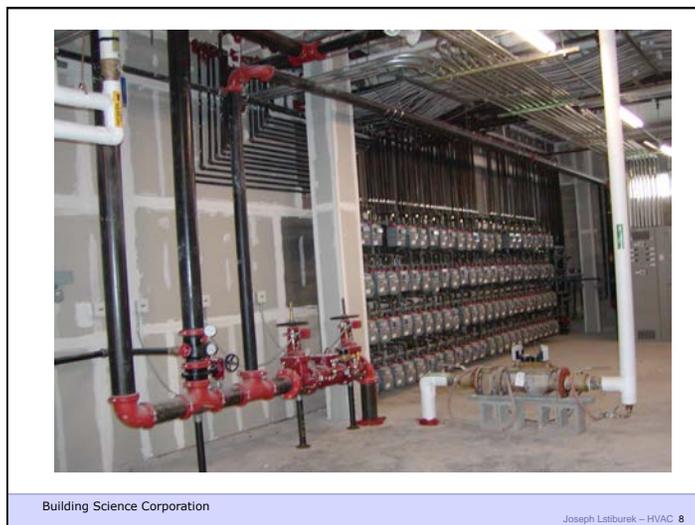
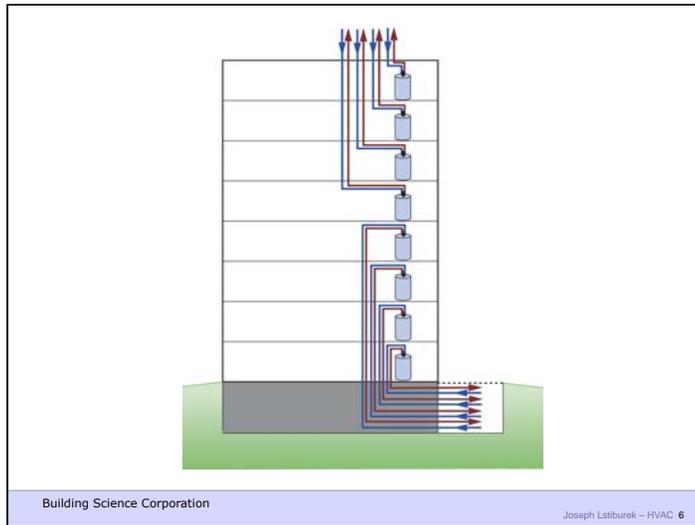














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Joseph Lstiburek – HVAC 11



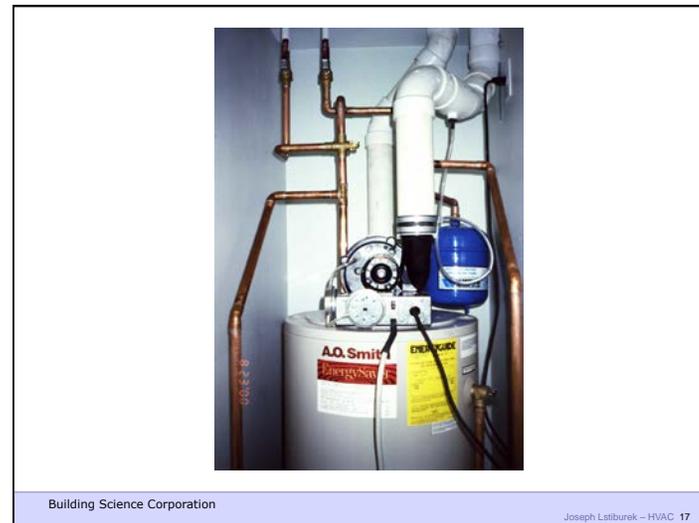
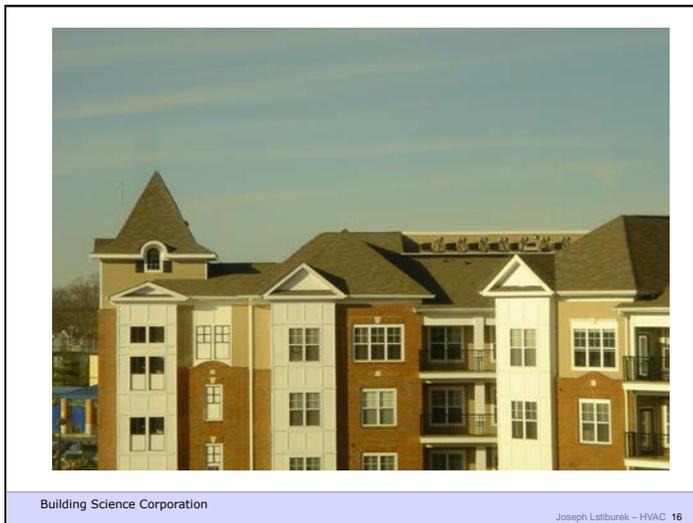
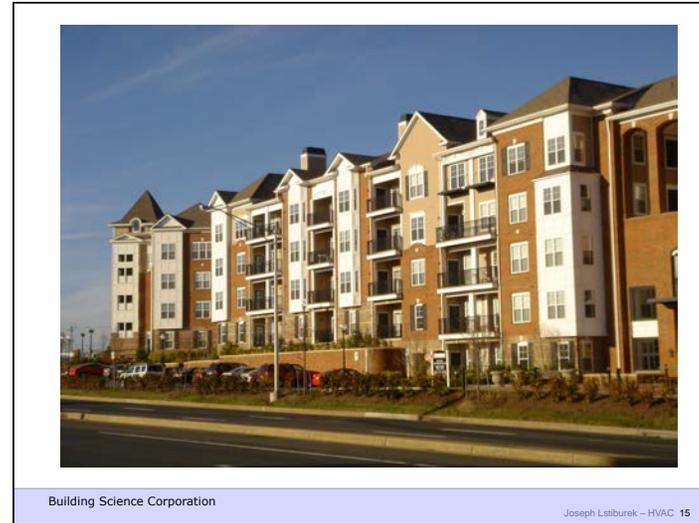
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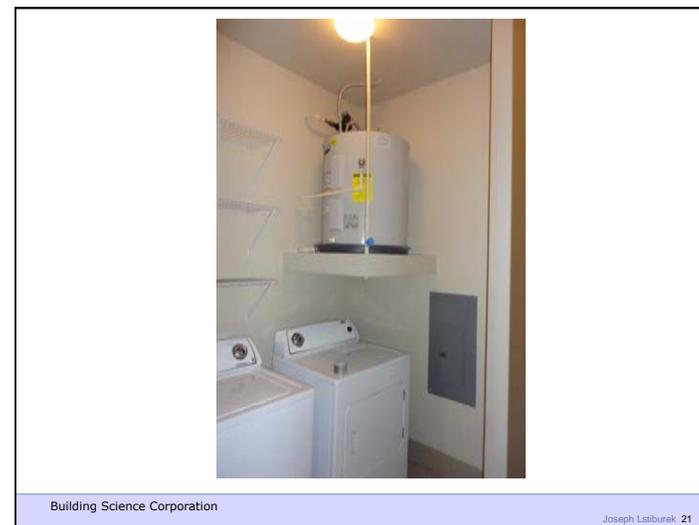
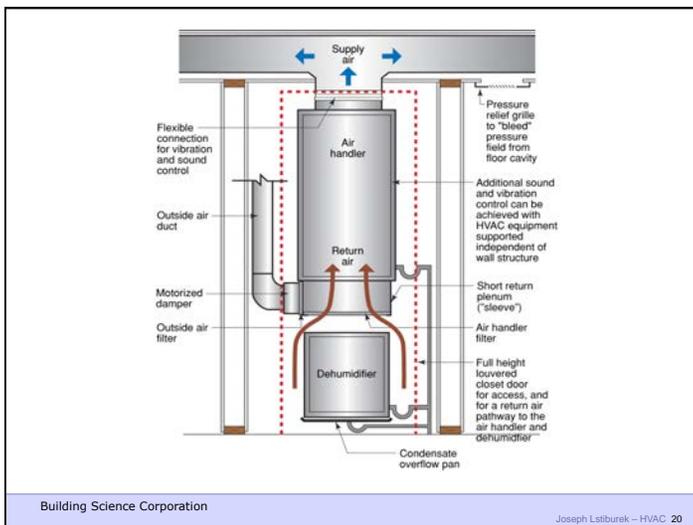
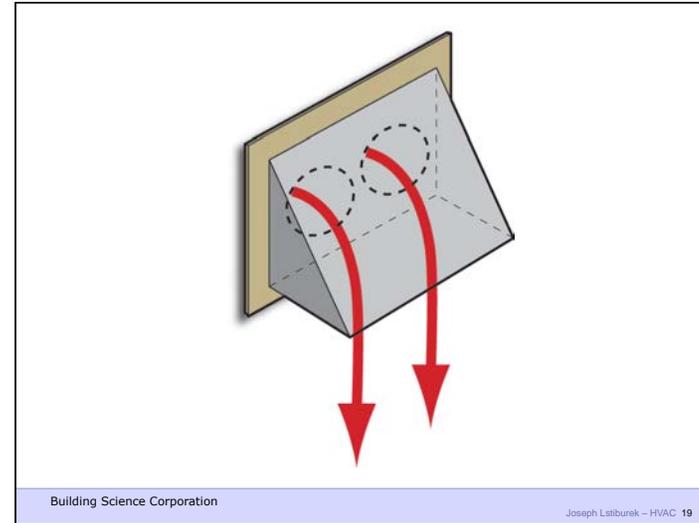
Joseph Lstiburek – HVAC 12

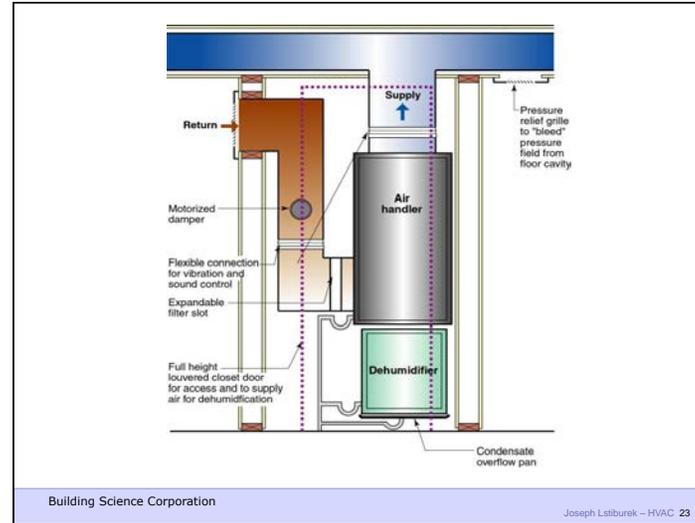
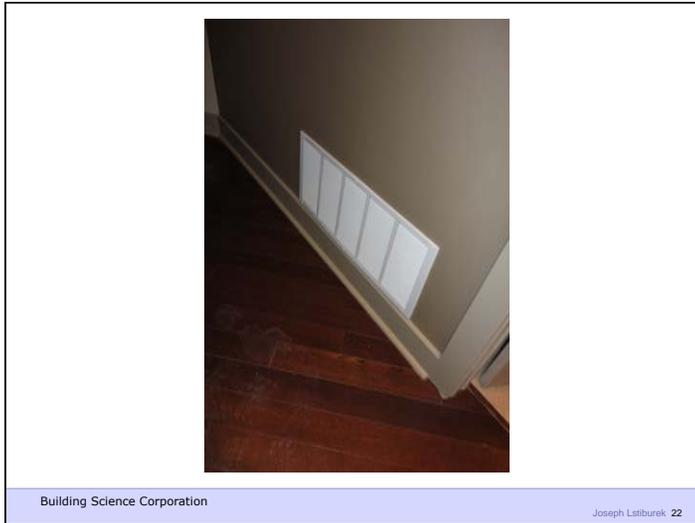


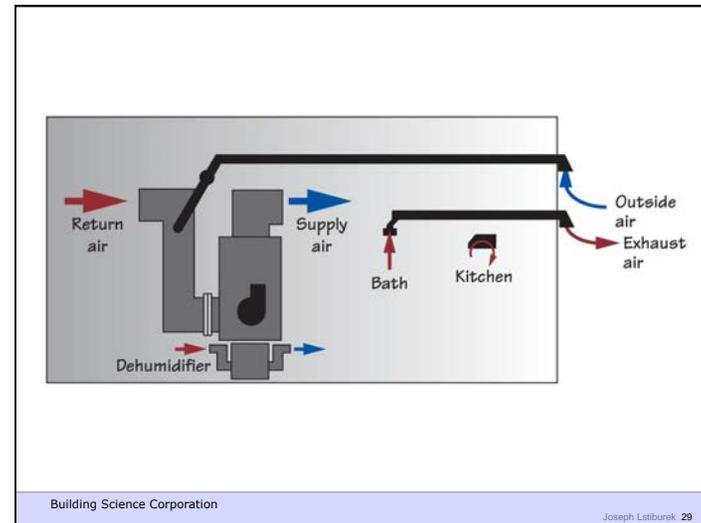
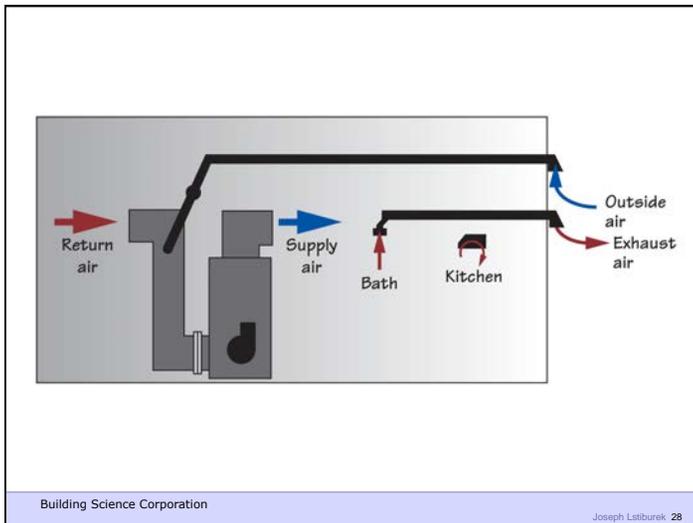
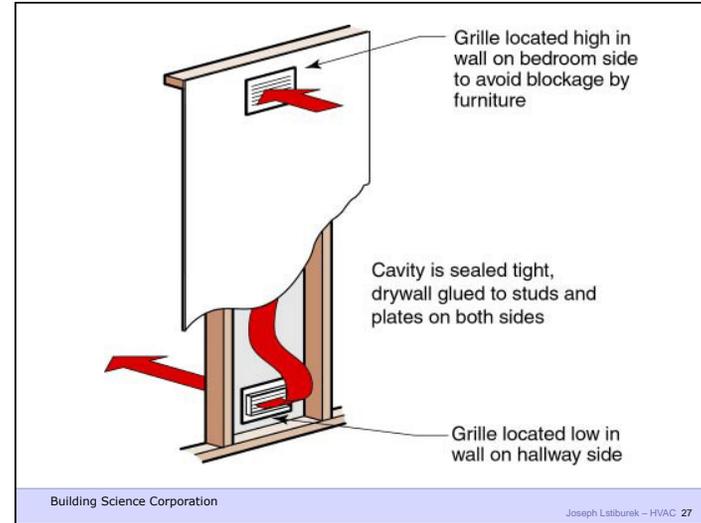
Building Science Corporation

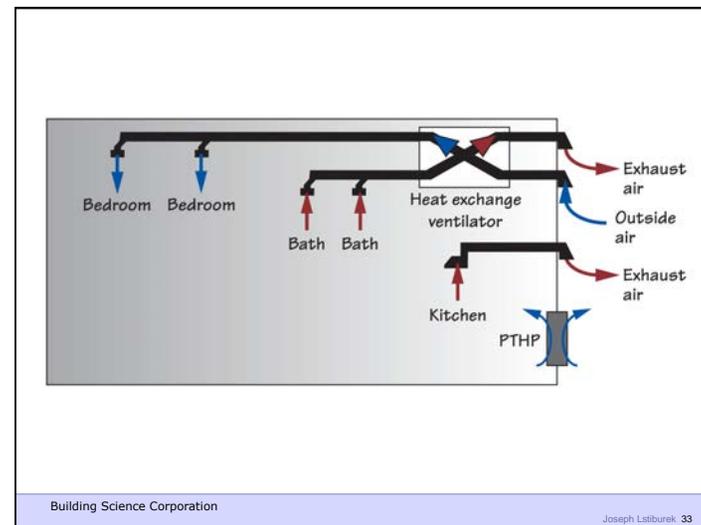
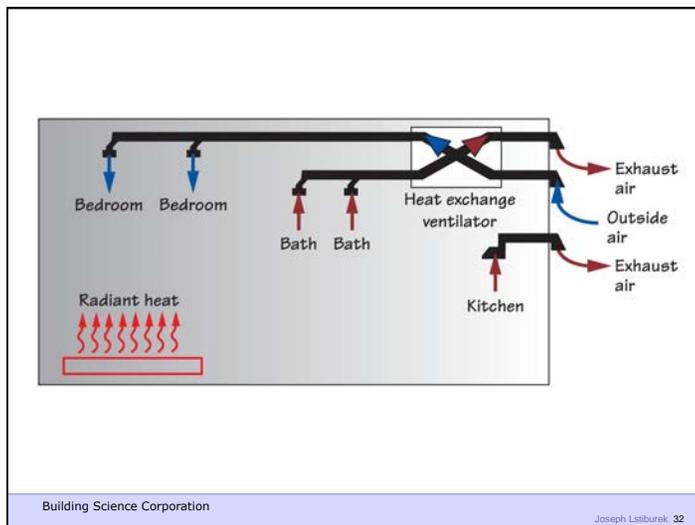
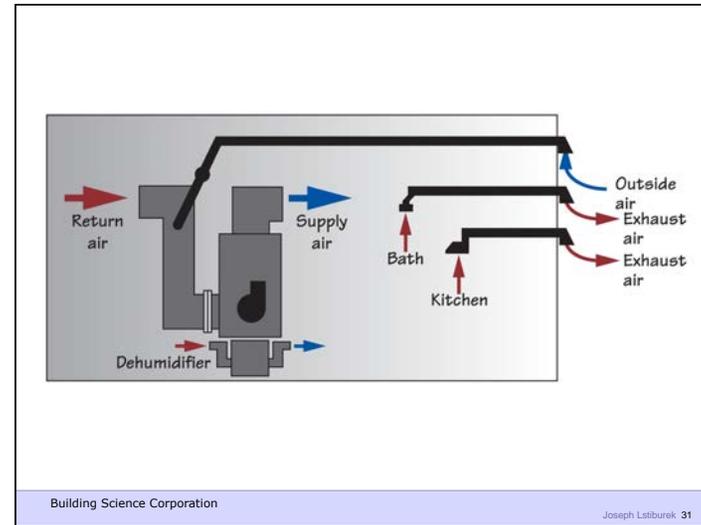
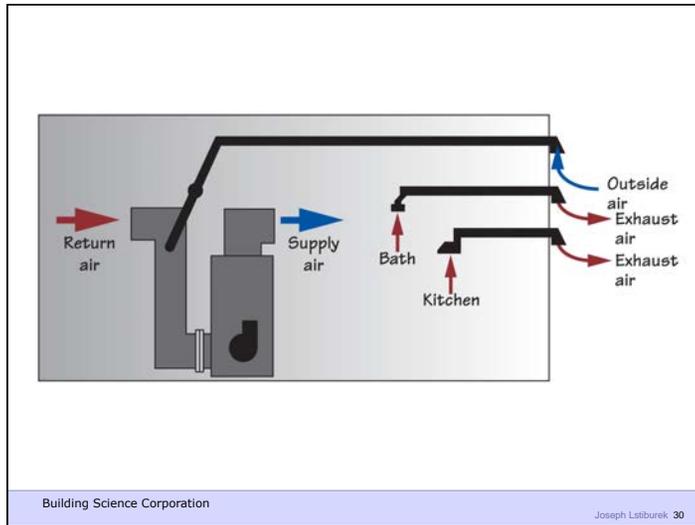
Joseph Lstiburek 13

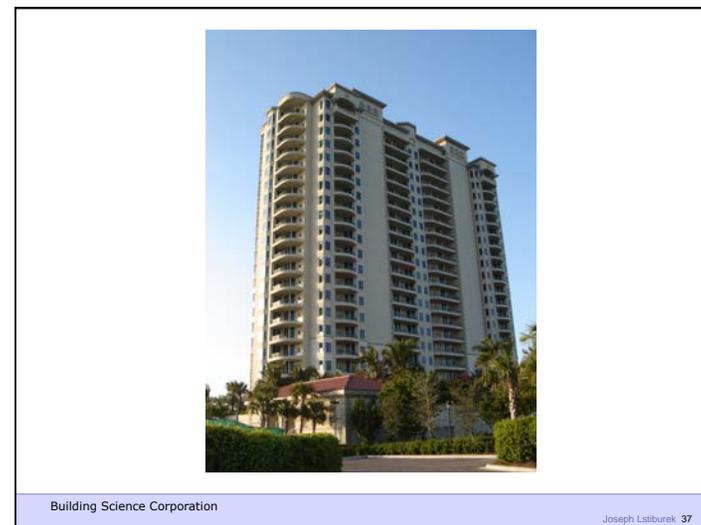
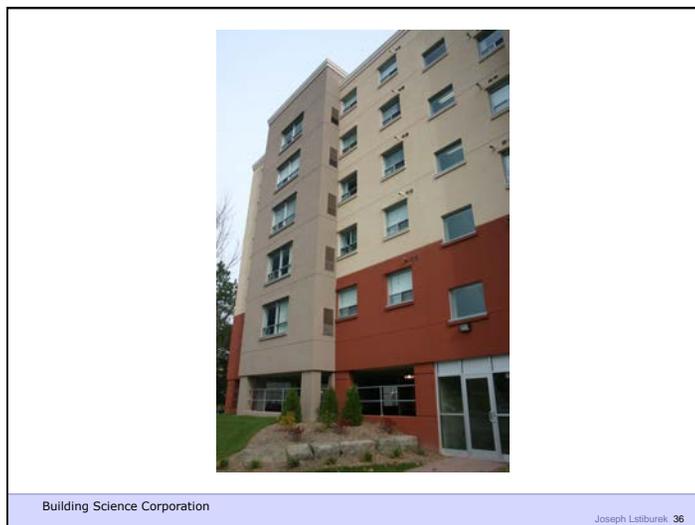
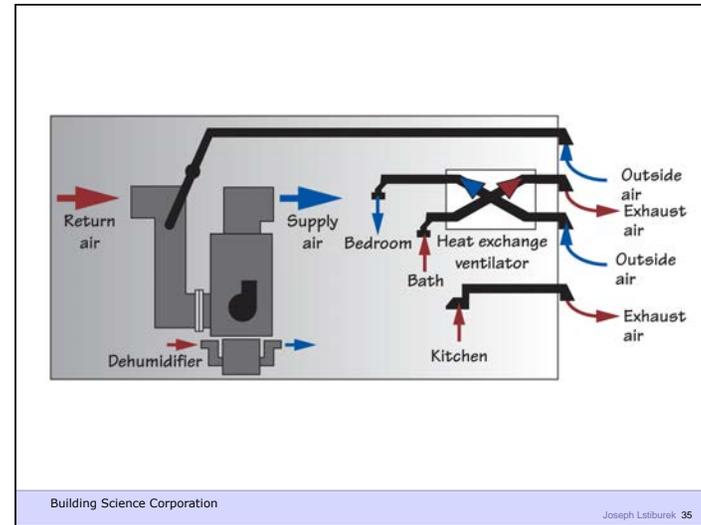
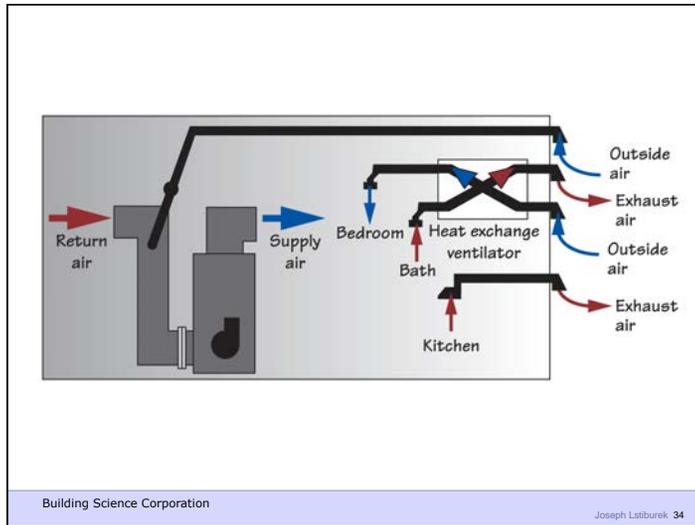




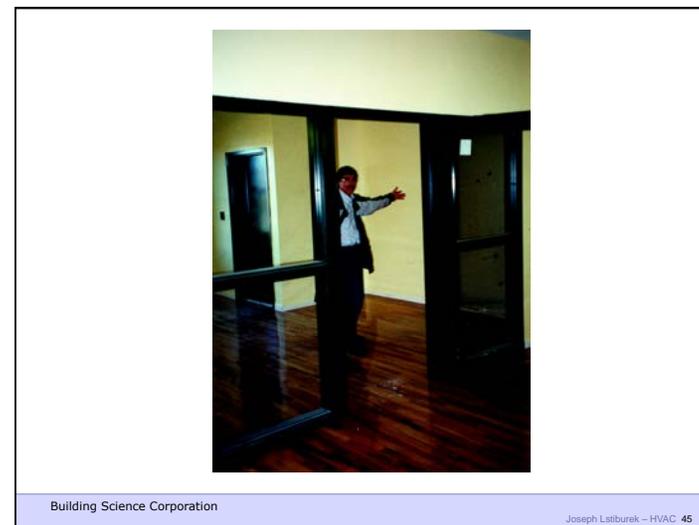
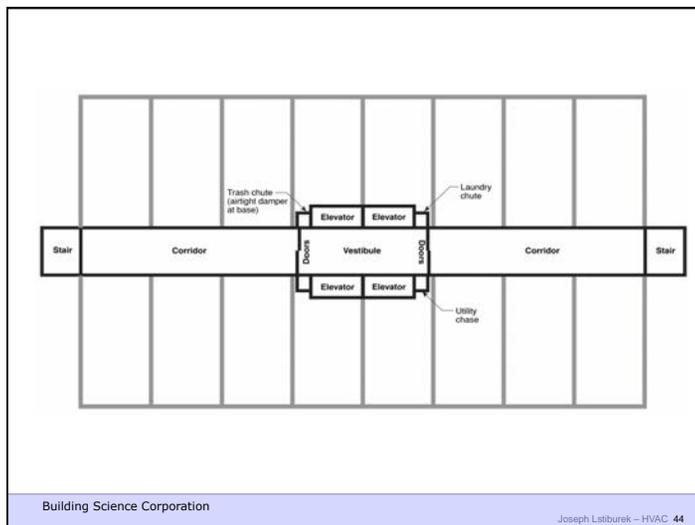
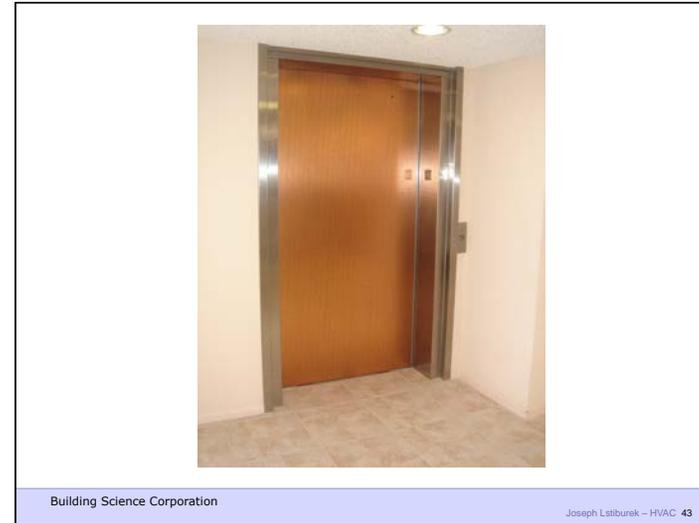
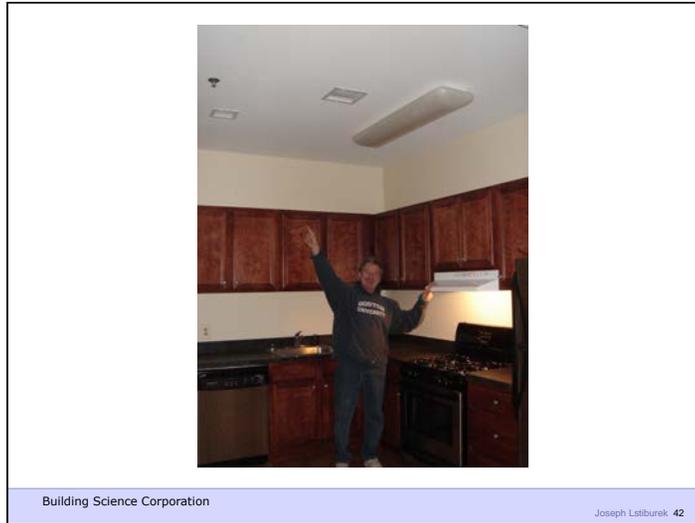


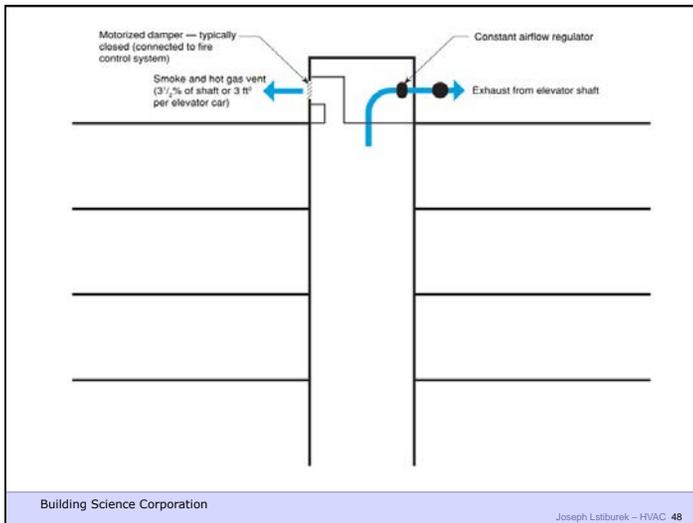
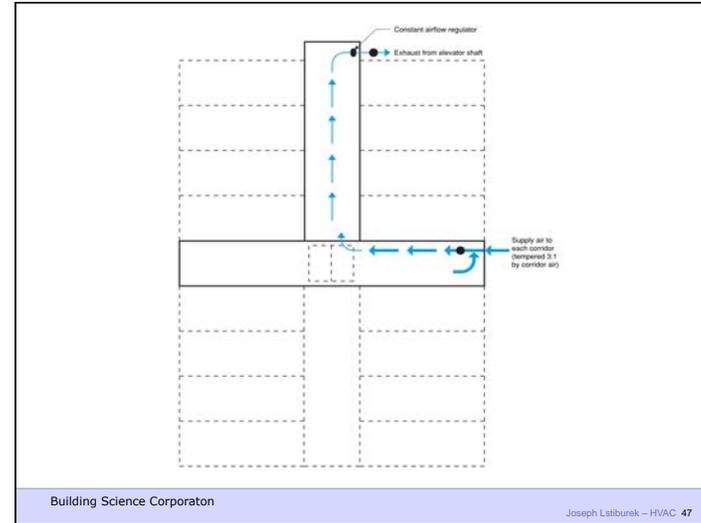
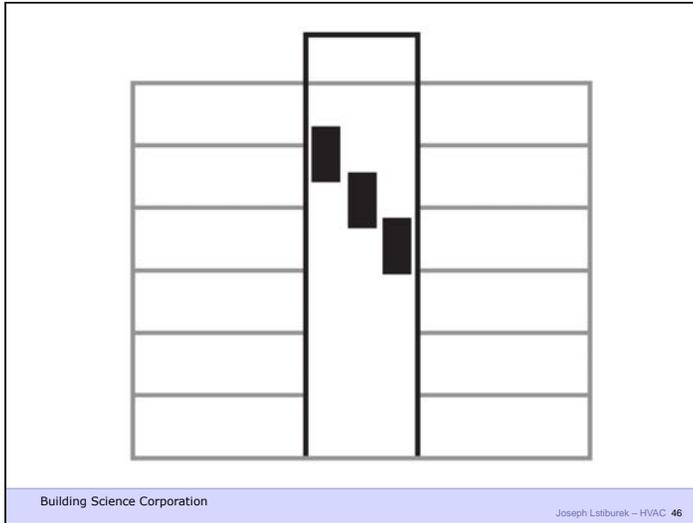


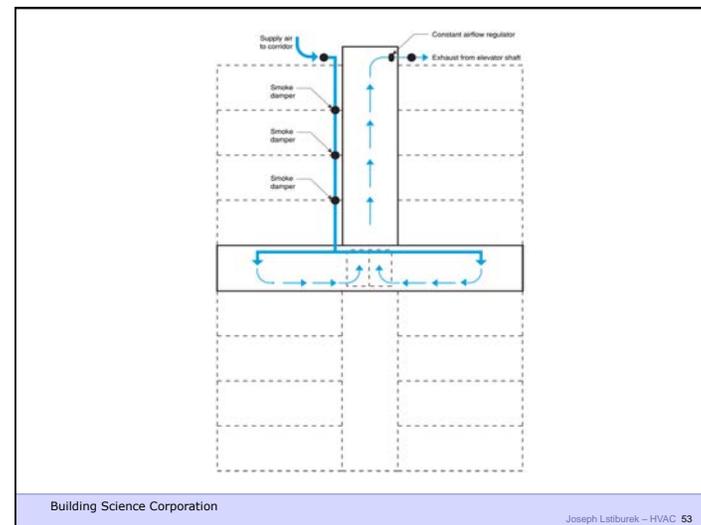
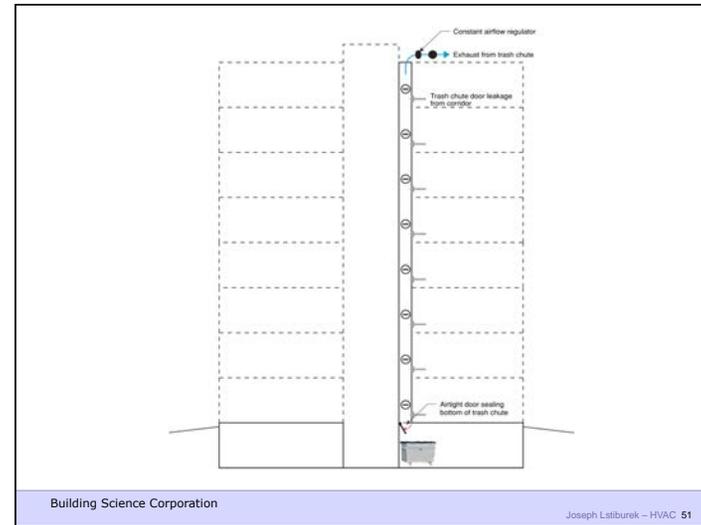
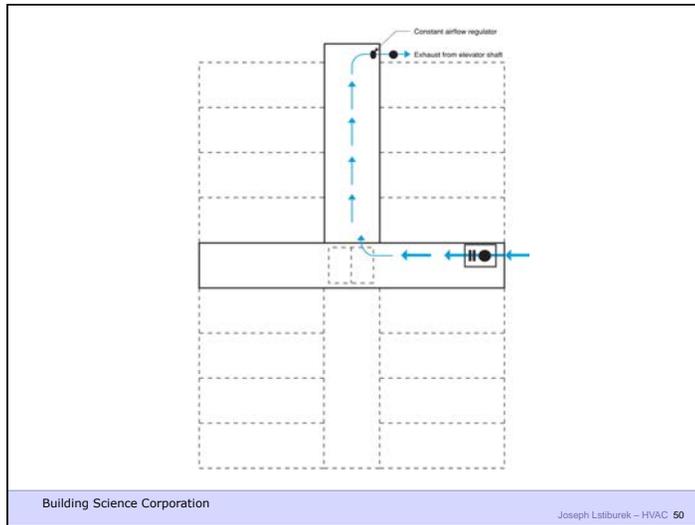


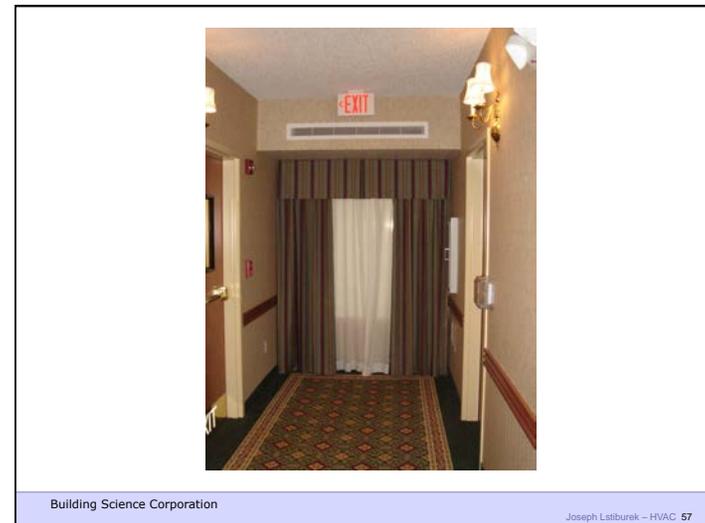
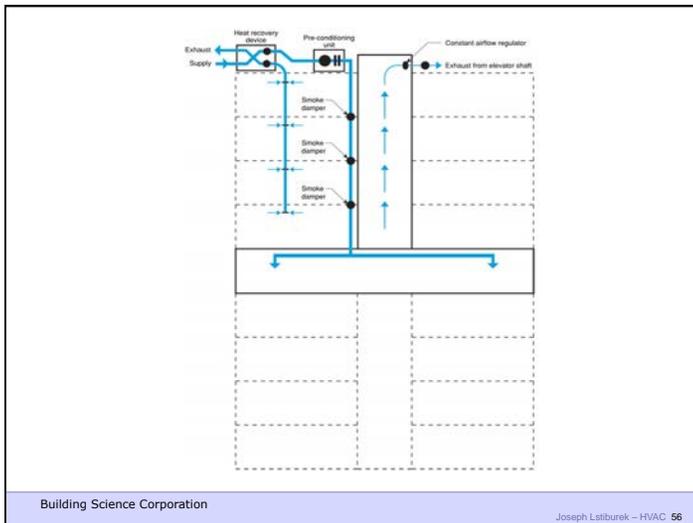
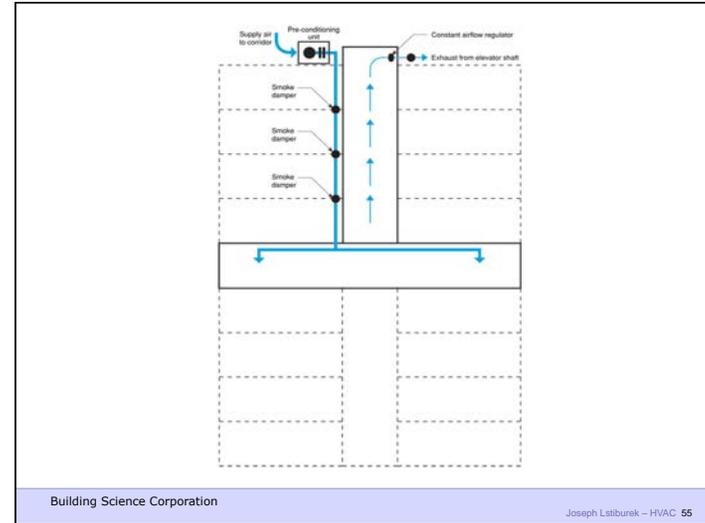
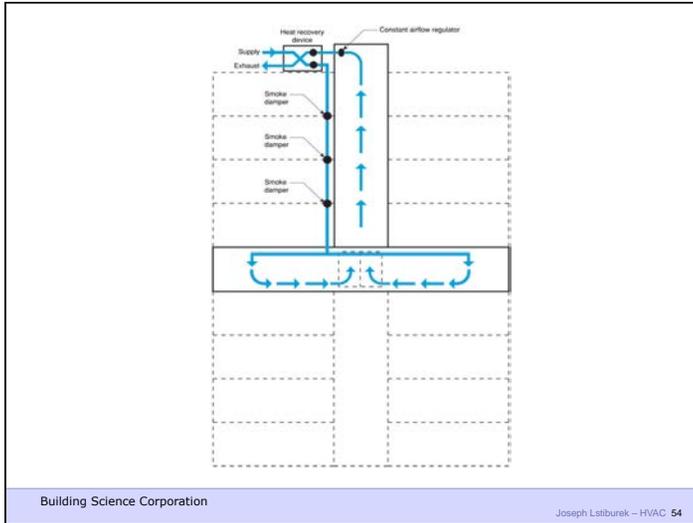


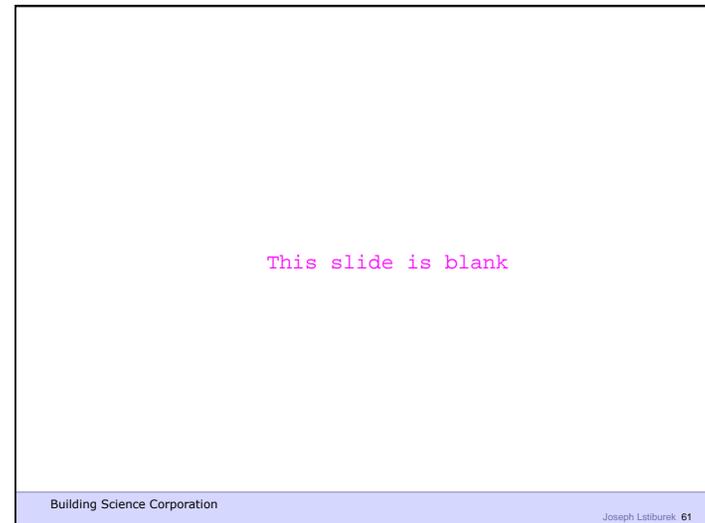
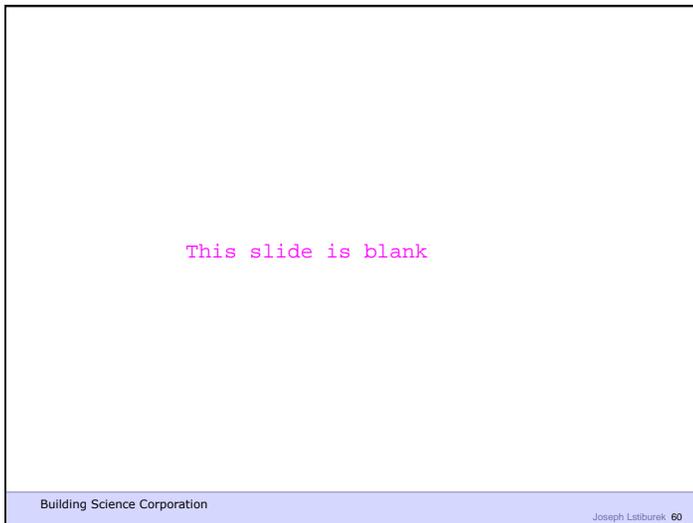
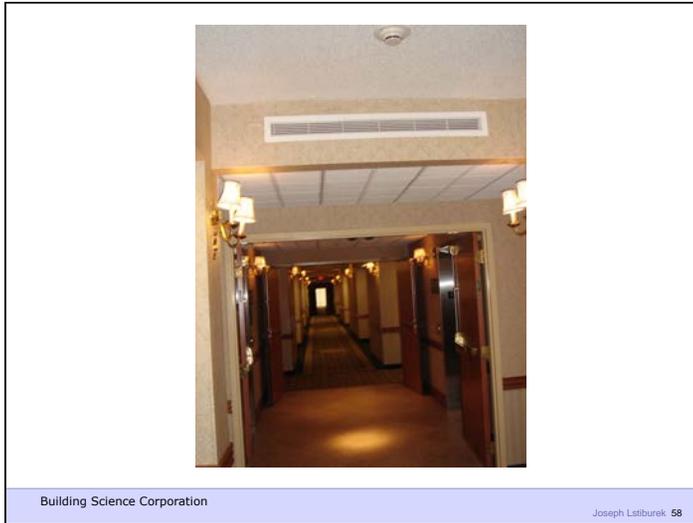










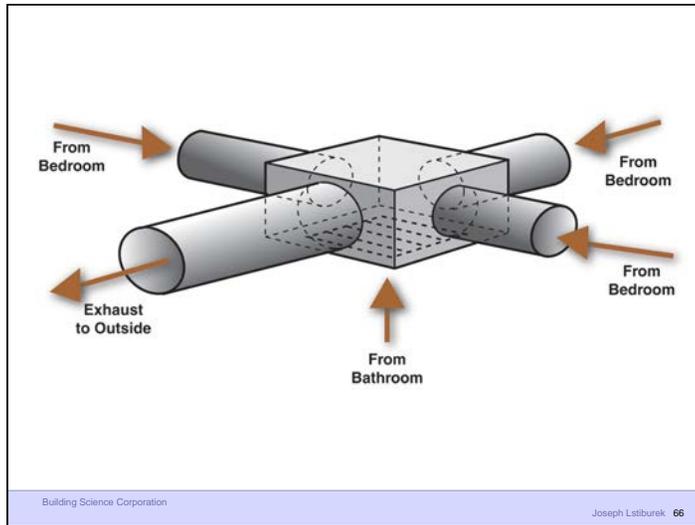


**Distributed Ventilation**

- Individual unit exhaust ventilation fan exhausts (during occupancy) from each bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen
- Operation of system is time of occupancy sensitive — on only when occupied

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Ventilation Rates Are Based on Odor Control

Building Science Corporation Joseph Lstiburek 2

Ventilation Rates Are Based on Odor Control  
Health Science Basis for Ventilation Rates is  
Extremely Limited

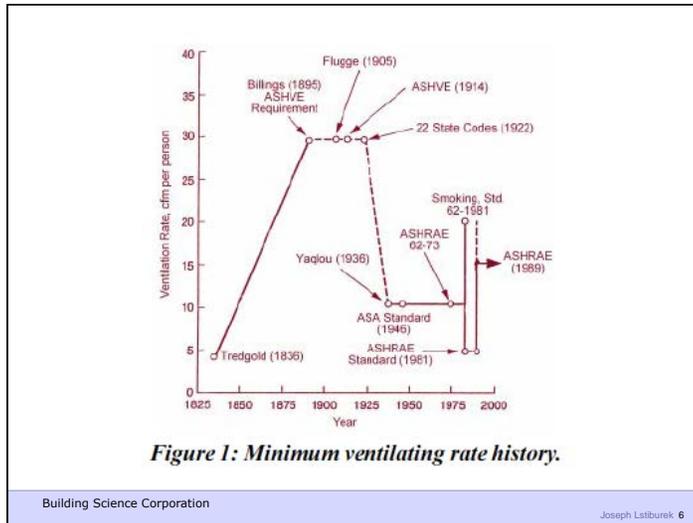
Building Science Corporation Joseph Lstiburek 3

Ventilation Rates Are Based on Odor Control  
Health Science Basis for Ventilation Rates is  
Extremely Limited  
Almost Nothing Cited Applies to Housing

Building Science Corporation Joseph Lstiburek 4

Ventilation Rates Are Based on Odor Control  
Health Science Basis for Ventilation Rates is  
Extremely Limited  
Almost Nothing Cited Applies to Housing  
The Applicable Studies Focus on Dampness

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Building Science Corporation

Joseph Lstiburek 6

### House

**2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3 bedrooms  
8 ft. ceiling  
Volume: 16,000 ft<sup>3</sup>**

.35 ach	93 cfm
.30 ach	80 cfm
.25 ach	67 cfm
.20 ach	53 cfm
.15 ach	40 cfm

Building Science Corporation

Joseph Lstiburek 7

### House

**2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3 bedrooms  
8 ft. ceiling  
Volume: 16,000 ft<sup>3</sup>**

.35 ach	93 cfm	62 - 73	5 cfm/person	20 cfm
.30 ach	80 cfm		10 cfm/person	40 cfm
.25 ach	67 cfm	62 - 89	15 cfm/person	60 cfm
.20 ach	53 cfm		.35 ach	90 cfm
.15 ach	40 cfm	62.2 - 2010	7.5 cfm/person	50 cfm
			+ 0.01	
		62.2 - 2013	7.5 cfm/person	90 cfm
			+ 0.03	

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### Office

**Occupant Density**

15/1000 ft <sup>2</sup> (67 ft <sup>2</sup> /person)	62 - 89	15 cfm/person
5/1000 ft <sup>2</sup> (200 ft <sup>2</sup> /person)	62.1 - 2007	17 cfm/person

### Correctional Facility Cell

**Occupant Density**

20/1000 ft <sup>2</sup> (48 ft <sup>2</sup> /person)	62.1 - 2007	10 cfm/person
--	-------------	---------------

**C.P. Yaglou**  
 Harvard School of Public Health  
 1936  
 1955

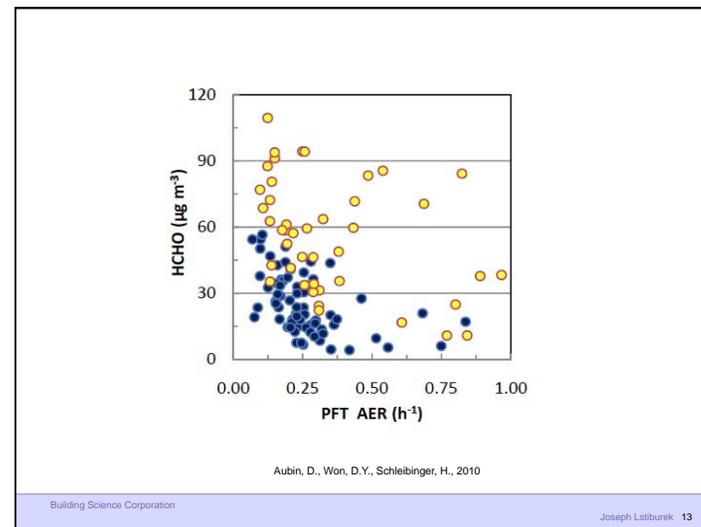
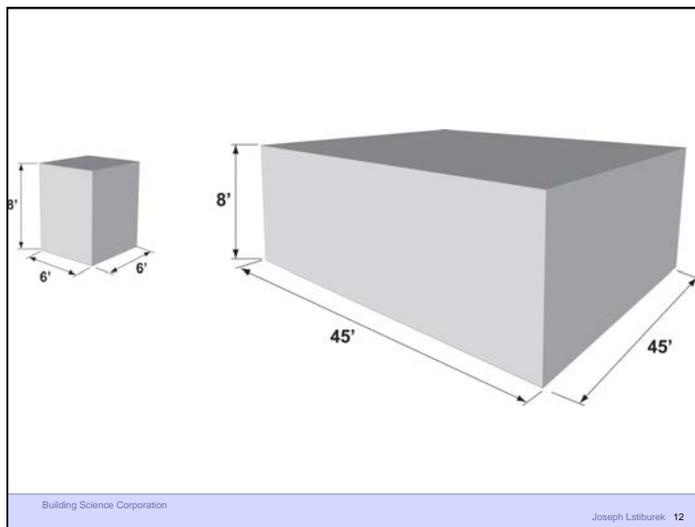
150 ft<sup>3</sup> → 20 cfm/person approx 4x4x8  
 300 ft<sup>3</sup> → 12 cfm/person approx 6x6x8

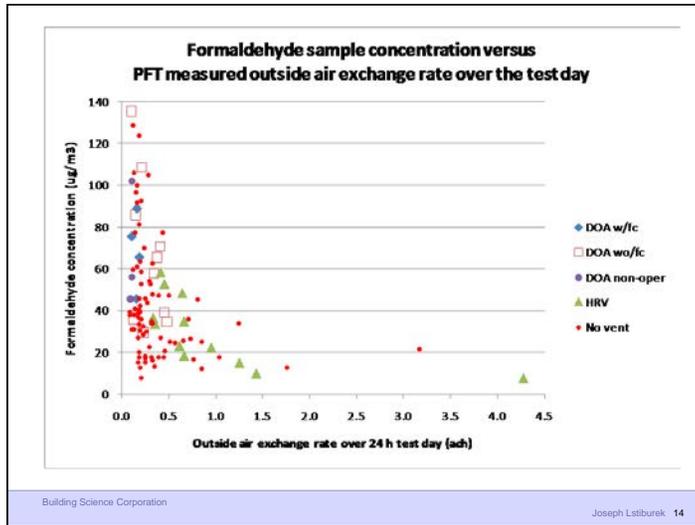
**C.P. Yaglou**  
 Harvard School of Public Health  
 1936  
 1955

150 ft<sup>3</sup> → 20 cfm/person 18.75 ft<sup>2</sup> 106 occupants  
 300 ft<sup>3</sup> → 12 cfm/person 37.5 ft<sup>2</sup> 53 occupants

**Experiment**

470 ft<sup>3</sup> → 59 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 200 ft<sup>3</sup> → 25 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 100 ft<sup>3</sup> → 12 ft<sup>2</sup>





Dilution is Not The Solution To Indoor Pollution

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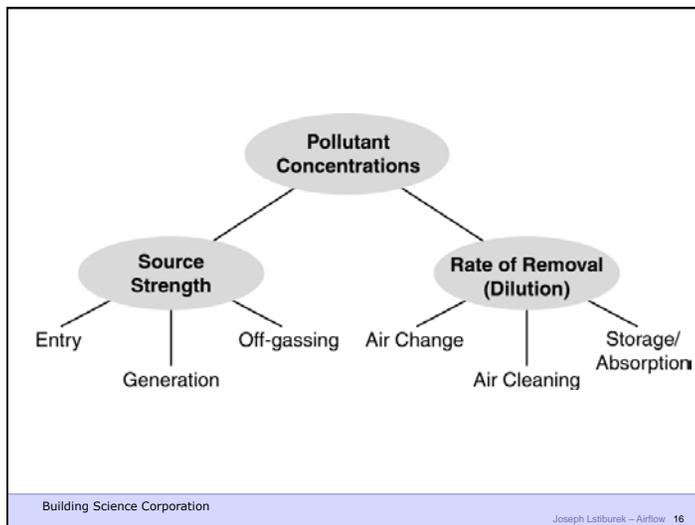


Table 1. Summary of the air changes rates measured during the winter 2009-10 season in Quebec City

Method	ACH (h <sup>-1</sup> )	ACH standard deviation (h <sup>-1</sup> )	number of measurements
SF <sub>6</sub> tracer decay	0.27	0.12	77
perfluorocarbon tracer	0.32	0.22	37
blower door at 50 Pa	4.16	2.64	63

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ASHRAE Standard 62.2 calls for 7.5 cfm per person plus 0.03 cfm per square foot of conditioned area

Occupancy is deemed to be the number of bedrooms plus one

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Joseph Lstiburek 18

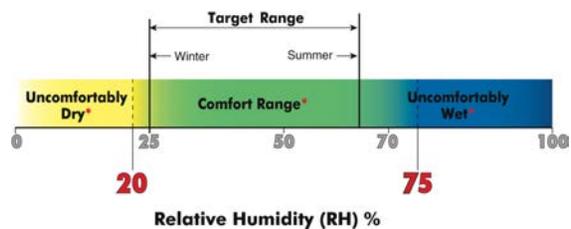
ASHRAE Standard 62.2 calls for 7.5 cfm per person plus 0.03 cfm per square foot of conditioned area

Occupancy is deemed to be the number of bedrooms plus one

Outcome is often bad – part load humidity problems, dryness problems, energy problems

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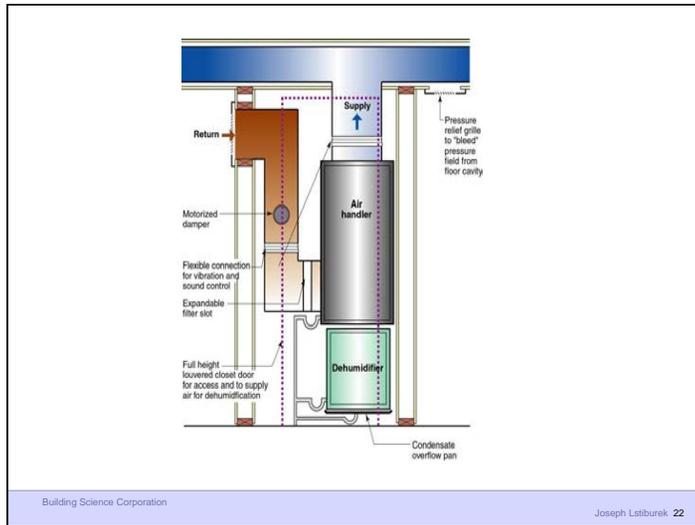
Joseph Lstiburek 19



Building Science Corporation

Joseph Lstiburek 20

Recommended Range of Relative Humidity  
Above 25 percent during winter  
Below 70 percent during summer



**Barriers – Technology Dehumidification**

**Barriers – Cost**

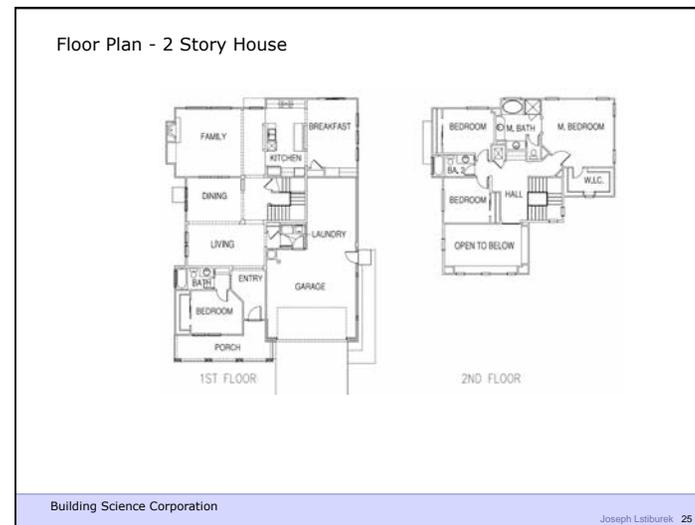
- Exhaust \$150
- Exhaust + Dist \$200
- Supply + Dist \$200
- Spot + Ex/Sup + Dist \$500
- Balanced/ER \$1,250
- Dehumidification \$250 to \$1,250

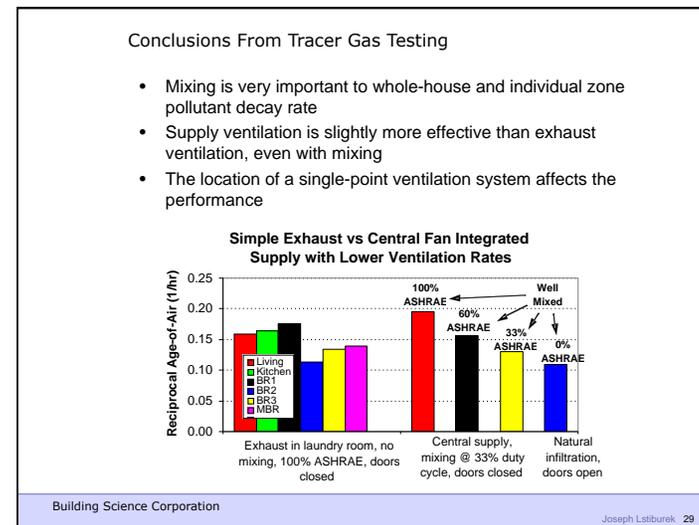
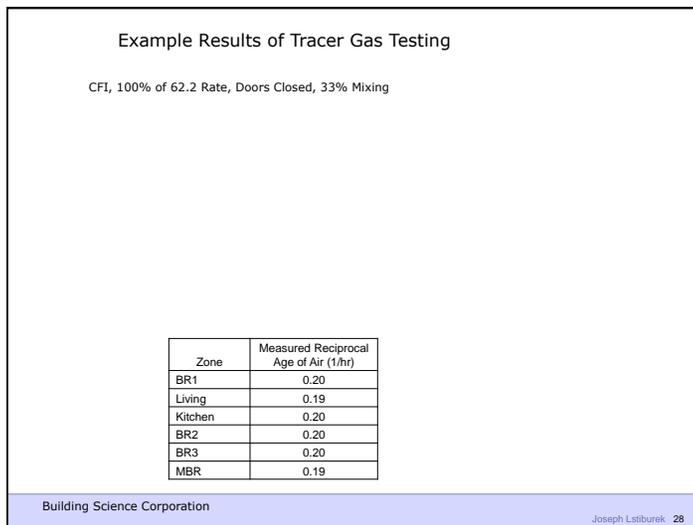
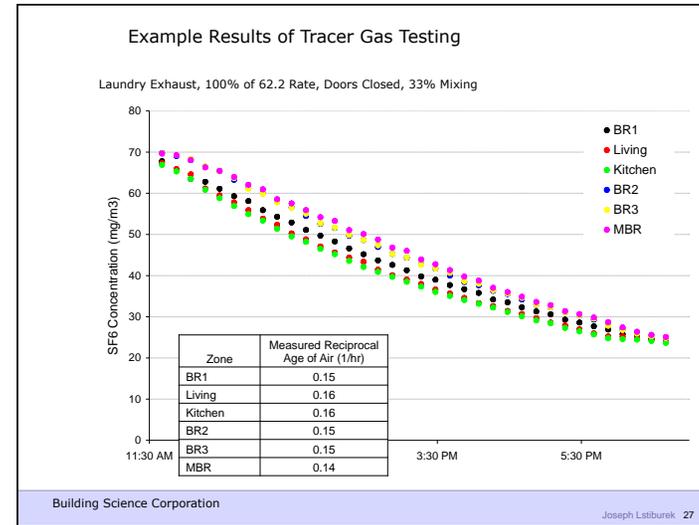
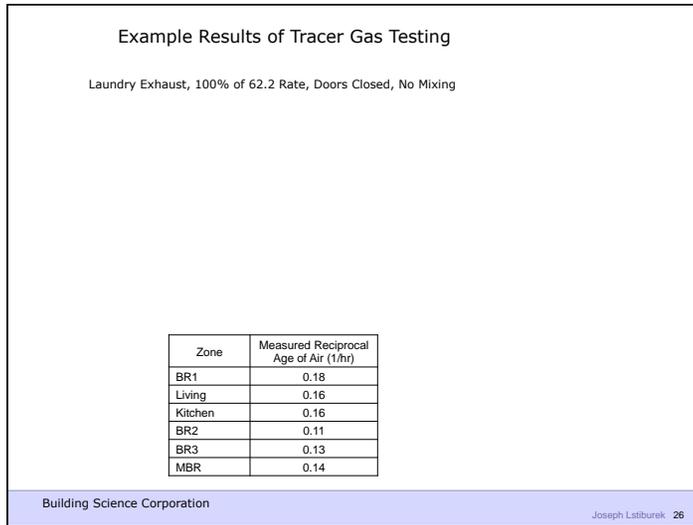
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Joseph Lstiburek 23

Tracer Gas Testing  
January 2006

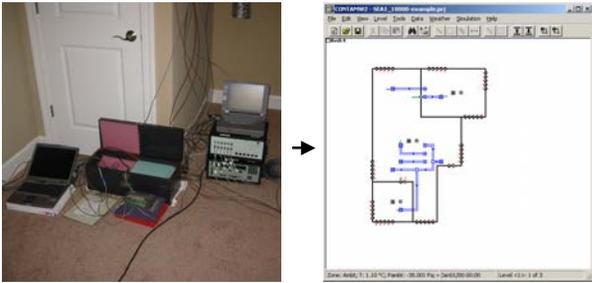
- Tracer gas test of a production house in Sacramento
- 2-story, 4 bedrooms, ~2500 square feet
- Ventilation systems tested: supply and exhaust ventilation, with and without mixing via central air handler

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Joseph Lstiburek 24



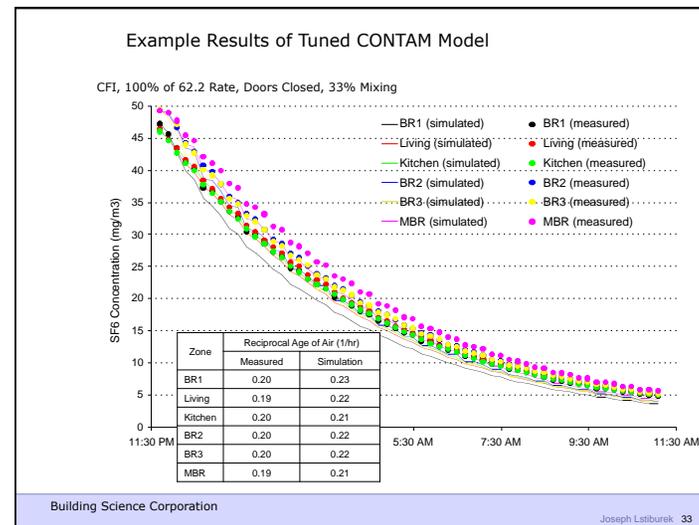
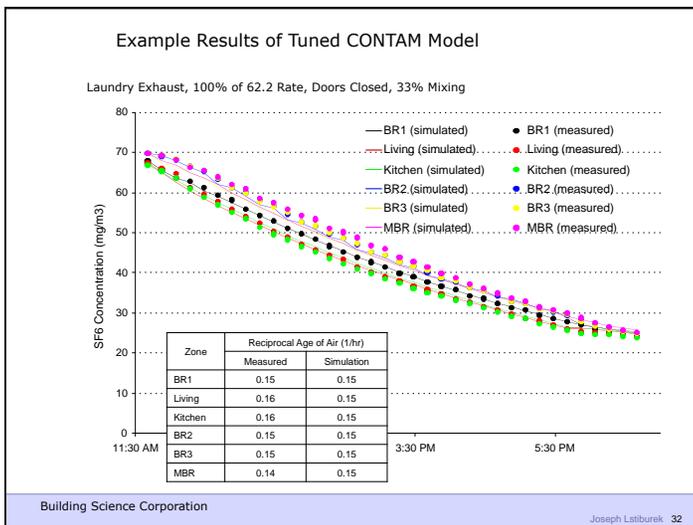
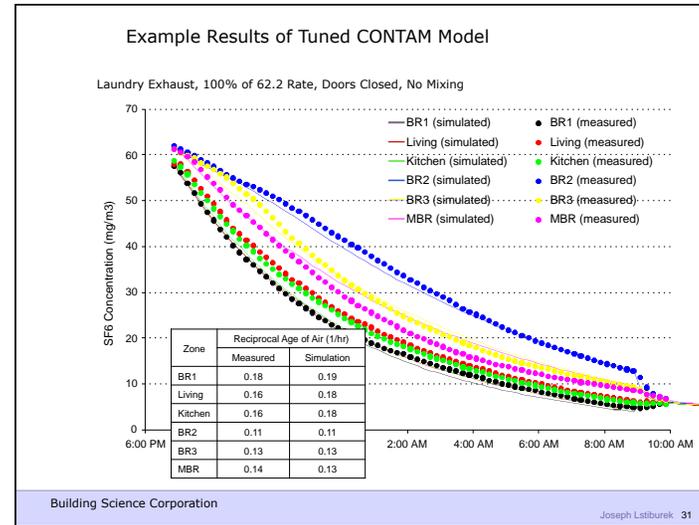


### Tuned CONTAM Model



Computer modeling used to replicate field testing (tune the model) and predict performance of systems not tested in the field

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### Tuned CONTAM Model Applied to Other Systems

Systems Evaluated & Compared:

1. Exhaust ventilation, without central duct system
2. Supply ventilation, without central duct system
3. Exhaust ventilation, with central ducts, standard Tstat
4. Exhaust ventilation, with central ducts, Tstat with timer
5. Supply ventilation, with central ducts, Tstat with timer
6. Fully ducted balanced ventilation system, without central duct system

$$Q(v) = \text{Ventilation Rate}$$

$$Q(\text{fan}) = Q(v) \cdot C(s)$$

$$C(s) = \text{System Coefficient}$$

### Airflow Ratios—All Simulations

System Type	Range	Approximate Median
Fully ducted balanced ventilation system, with or without central duct system	1.0	1.0
Non-fully ducted balanced ventilation, with central duct system, and central air handler unit controlled to a minimum runtime of at least 10 minutes per hour	0.9 to 1.1	1.0
Supply ventilation, with central duct system, and central air handler unit controlled to a minimum runtime of at least 10 minutes per hour	1.1 to 1.7	1.25
Exhaust ventilation, with central duct system, and central air handler unit controlled to a minimum runtime of at least 10 minutes per hour	1.1 to 1.9	1.25
Exhaust ventilation, with central duct system, and central air handler unit not controlled to a minimum runtime of at least 10 minutes per hour	1.0 to 1.8	1.5
Supply ventilation, without central duct system	1.4 to 1.9	1.75
Exhaust ventilation, without central duct system	1.3 to 2.6	2.0

BSC 01 - 2013 calls for 7.5 cfm per person plus 0.01 cfm per square foot of conditioned area

Occupancy is deemed to be the number of bedrooms plus one

Occupant Rate + Building Rate

$Q(v) = \text{Fan Flow Rate}$   
 $Q(\text{fan}) = Q(v) \cdot C(s)$   
 $C(s) = \text{System Coefficient}$

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**Table 4.1**  
System Coefficient based on system type<sup>1</sup>

System Type	Distributed	Not Distributed
Balanced	1.0	1.25
Not Balanced	1.25	1.5

<sup>1</sup> Where there is whole-building air mixing of at least 70% recirculation turnover each hour, the system coefficient may be reduced by 0.25.

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**BSC 01-2013**  
Ventilation for New Low-Rise Residential Building  
2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3 bedrooms

20 cfm + 30 cfm = 50 cfm

Mixed, Distributed, Balanced (MDB)  
37.5 cfm

Not Mixed, Not Distributed, Not Balanced  
75 cfm

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**House**  
2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3 bedrooms  
8 ft. ceiling  
Volume: 16,000 ft<sup>3</sup>

Ventilation Rates			
	.35 ach	93 cfm	
	.30 ach	80 cfm	
	.25 ach	67 cfm	
	.20 ach	53 cfm	
	.15 ach	40 cfm	
			62 - 73
			5 cfm/person      20 cfm
			10 cfm/person      40 cfm
			62 - 89
			15 cfm/person      60 cfm
			.35 ach      90 cfm
			62.2 - 2010 7.5 cfm/person      50 cfm
			+ 0.01
			62.2 - 2013 7.5 cfm/person      90 cfm
			+ 0.03
			BSC 01 - 2013 7.5 cfm/person      37 cfm
			+ 0.01 (MDB)      75 cfm

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