



Q-Air – the innovation in glazing

With Q-Air solar heat-gain naturally changes with seasons. As it should be, it is highest in winter and lowest in summer. Solar gain is 30% lower in summer. As a result, no additional exterior solar shading is necessary.

Afraid of sitting at the window in winter?

Q-Air offers a U value so low that there can be no perceptible cold air movement at the panoramic window even in coldest winter. In the summer there will be no discomforting heat radiation from the glass despite not having any exterior sunshades.

Since there are no moving parts or openable enclosures, there is a reduced need for maintenance. And all that with an additional benefit of the extra net-floor area.

 REFLEX

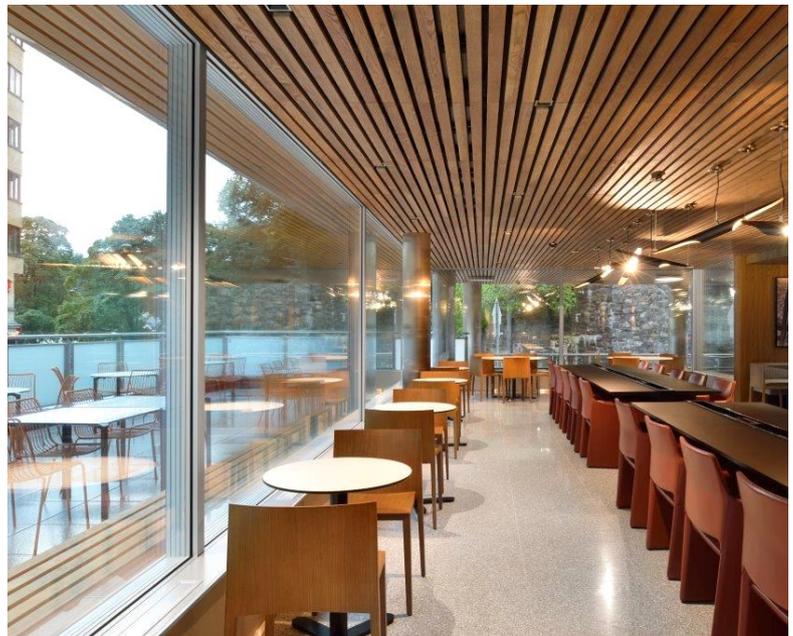
Q-Air

Table of contents

No exterior sun shading	3
Winter cold draught prevention	4
Summer heat radiation from the glass	5
Costs, reduced maintenance and extra floor space	6
The zero-heating building	7

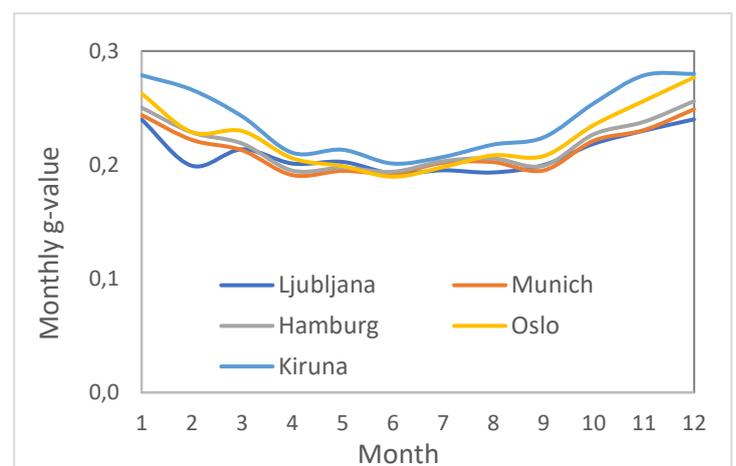
No exterior sun shading

Heat-trapping capacity of modern, low U-value glazing causes a substantial increase in closed time for the dynamic exterior sun shading devices. In many cases, this means that a building's occupants cannot see outside if that part of the building is insulated. Recent improvements in glazing U value have caused shading device to be closed most of the sunny daytime.



On the other hand, it was shown¹ that solar gain modulation no longer benefits energy requirements of a building if the glazing U value approaches $0.4 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$. This means dynamic exterior shading could be harmlessly discarded in exchange for a low U-value glazing with a modest solar gain.

Further, glazing having four or more glass panes exhibits strong seasonal selectivity². In the summer, solar heat gain (g-value) is about 30% less than its nominal, standard calculated value due to direct sunlight reflecting from multiple glass panes more intensely at a higher average angle of incidence. Of course, full year-around weather data and geographical latitude are accounted for.



¹ Vanhoutteghem, Lies, Gunnlaug Cecilie Jensen Skarning, Christian Anker Hviid, and Svend Svendsen. "Impact of façade window design on energy, daylighting and thermal comfort in nearly zero-energy houses." *Energy and Buildings* **102** (2015): 149-156.

² Kralj, Aleš, et al. "Investigations of 6-pane glazing: Properties and possibilities." *Energy and Buildings* **190** (2019): 61-68. Click [HERE](#) to see the Open access article.

Winter cold draught prevention

Have you ever experienced winter discomfort sitting at a tall window? The cold draught pouring from the inner glass surface enveloped your feet?

Cold draught becomes sensible when creeping air velocity reaches 0.15 m/s.

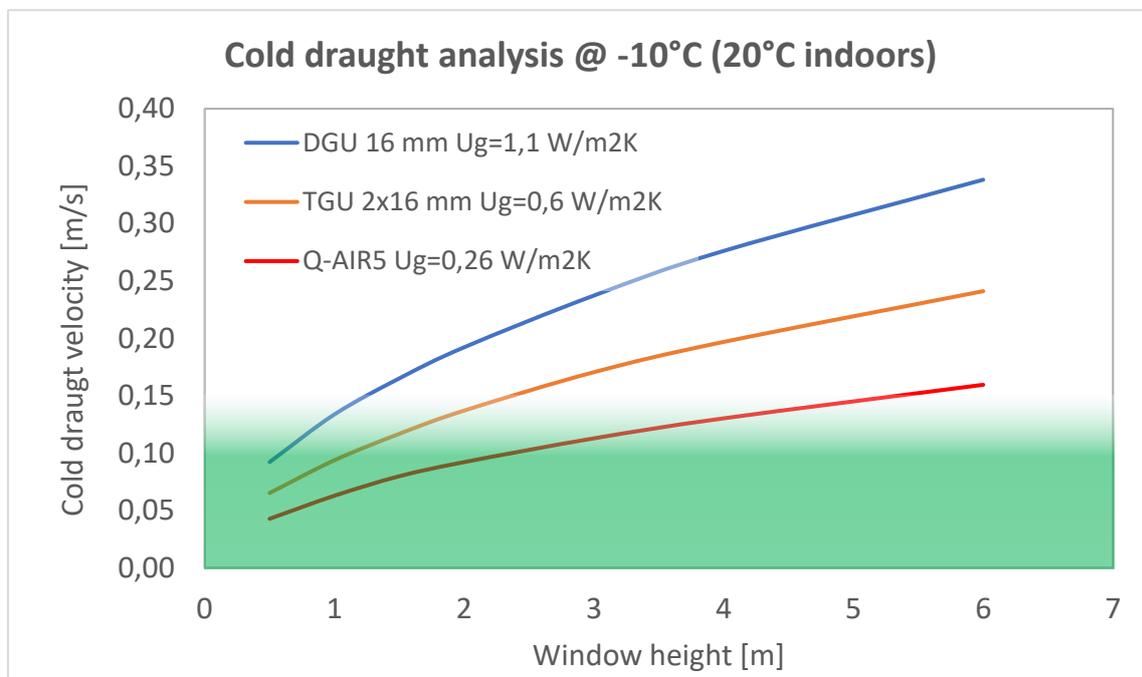
The taller the glass, the more the problem. The lower the U value, the better.

Q-Air can reach a low enough U value to remove the cold draught sensation for up to 4 m tall glass units.



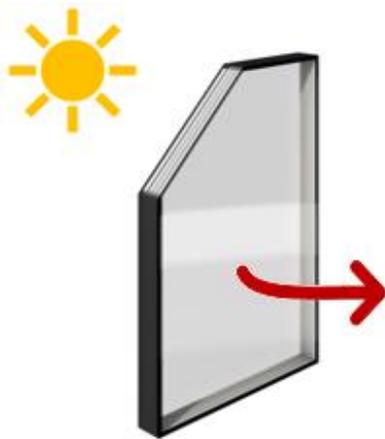
Cold draught calculation³ (0.4 m from the window):

(DGU stands for double glass unit, TGU for triple glass unit)



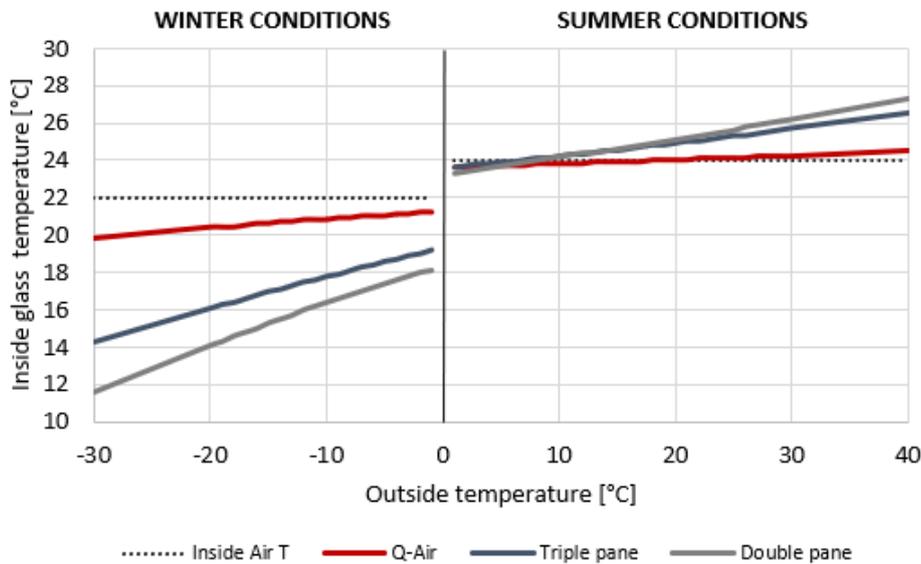
³ Heiselberg P. Draught Risk from Cold Vertical Surfaces. *Building and Environment*, **29** (1994): 297-301.

Summer heat radiation from the glass



Experience teaches us that sitting behind the glass in the sunny summer day might bring discomfort from radiating heat. This phenomenon becomes apparent when the nominal calculated glass solar gain (g-value) exceeds 0.3. Basic glass units might pour heat inward through pure conduction.

Inner glass surface temperature is given for Q-Air 5 and several reference glazing.



- With Q-Air 5:**
- Long wave radiant heat transfer in summer is reduced
 - Reduced convection in winter

	Winter (-30 °C)	Summer (40 °C)
Q-AIR5	19.8	23.6
TGU	14.3	25.1
DGU	11.6	26.0

Inner glass temperatures were calculated with Barkley Lab Window7.4 according to ISO 15099:

Environmental conditions	Winter conditions		Summer conditions Direct Solar radiation 783 W/m ²	
	Inside	Outside	Inside	Outside
Air T	22°C	From -30 to 0 °C	24°C	From 0 to 40 °C
Convection coefficient	Fixed combined 7.5 W/m ² K	Fixed combined 25.0 W/m ² K	Fixed 7.5 W/m ² K	Fixed 7.0 W/m ² K
Radiation	/	/	ASHRAE/NFRC 24°C, Room ε=0.85	Sky T from 0 to 40 °C Sky ε=0.74

By maintaining radiant asymmetry and reducing convective air movement the inhabitants feel more comfortable at a lower room temperature thereby saving energy!

Costs, reduced maintenance and extra floor space

From a return on investment (ROI) perspective reduced maintenance, and extra floor space are the most significant direct value contributors of the Q-Air on top of savings made by omitting exterior sun shading.

The investment cost of the Q-Air is typically located in between that of systems such as a Closed cavity, Double skin glass facades and standard Triple-pane glazing.



Q-Air facades are usually less than 15 cm thick. Conventional solutions with comparable performance such as triple-pane glazing with parapets could easily reach 40 cm thickness of mineral wool insulation. In such cases, Q-Air façade saves 20-25 cm space. In some cases, this is sufficient to pay-back the extra investment cost into the Q-Air⁴.

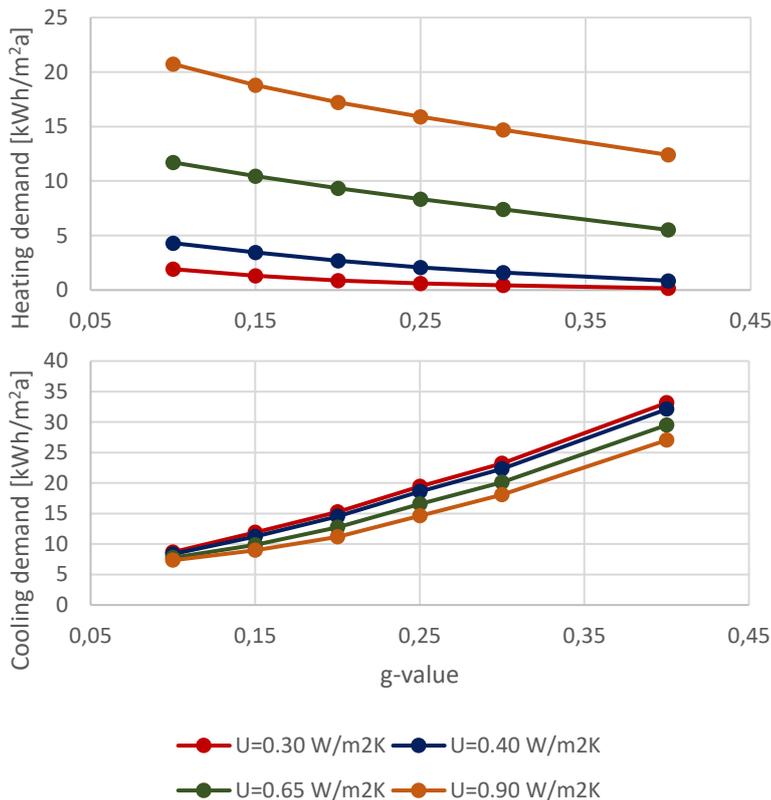
Exterior shading devices require maintenance. Mechanical louvres are maintenance heavy. All too often, dynamic shading systems require building occupants to receive training on how to operate them or else users will use shades as glare control, which seems to be the only intuitive use of such devices.

⁴ Kralj, Aleš, et al. "Investigations of 6-pane glazing: Properties and possibilities." *Energy and Buildings* **190** (2019): 61-68. Click [HERE](#) to see the Open access article.

The zero-heating building

To reach as low as possible CO₂ emissions in a heating dominated region, it is essential that the heating demand of a building be reduced to as close to zero as possible. PV and wind power supply are concentrated around summer daytime. It seems natural to take advantage of that concentration by trading winter heating for summer cooling. Diagrams below show simulated building in Oslo, Norway, with 70% glass to wall ratio. Remaining 30% is sufficient to provide needed PV power for self-need of the building for summer cooling should investors pursue building integrated PV option⁵. Otherwise, most grid systems incorporating PV power have difficulties with finding demand for

excess power in the summer and are sometimes willing to pay consumers for electricity uptake.



Building dimensions: 30 x 17 m², Building ventilated volume: 7529 m³; Infiltration @ 50Pa: 0.50 ACH; U-value (Groundfloor, Roof): 0.15 W/m²K; Occupancy count: 14 m² per capita; Lightning: LED light 0.50 W/m²; Equipment: 6.00 W/m²; Internal temperature occupied days: 22 –

24 °C; Internal temperature non-occupied hours: 20 – 26 °C; Variable air volume ventilation by heat recovery VAV; Zero temperature unmet hours.

In this way, the building does not need any winter power reserve. It obviously does not need seasonal energy storage, and it can also be demonstrated by hourly simulations that nocturnal energy storage is also not essential. These are substantial improvements for the nearly zero energy buildings in the northern climates.

⁵ Drev, M., and B. Černe. "M. Žnidaršič, A. Geving, A. Kralj, Nearly independent, near-zero energy building." *PHN17 8th Nord. Passiv. House Conf., Helsinki, Finland. 2017.*