Low energy climate control in museums and galleries



Poul Klenz Larsen & Tim Padfield

Human needs are different than objects needs



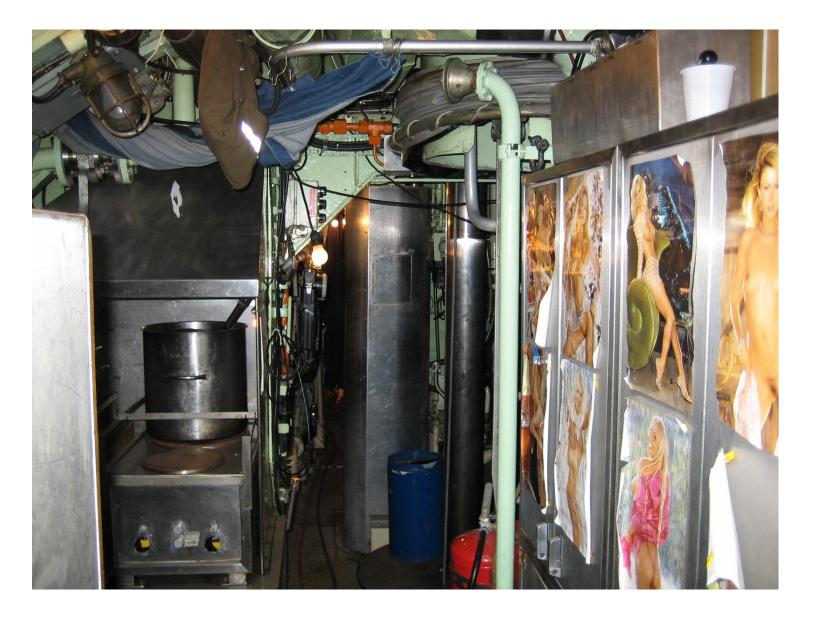
Museum buildings are often complicated structures

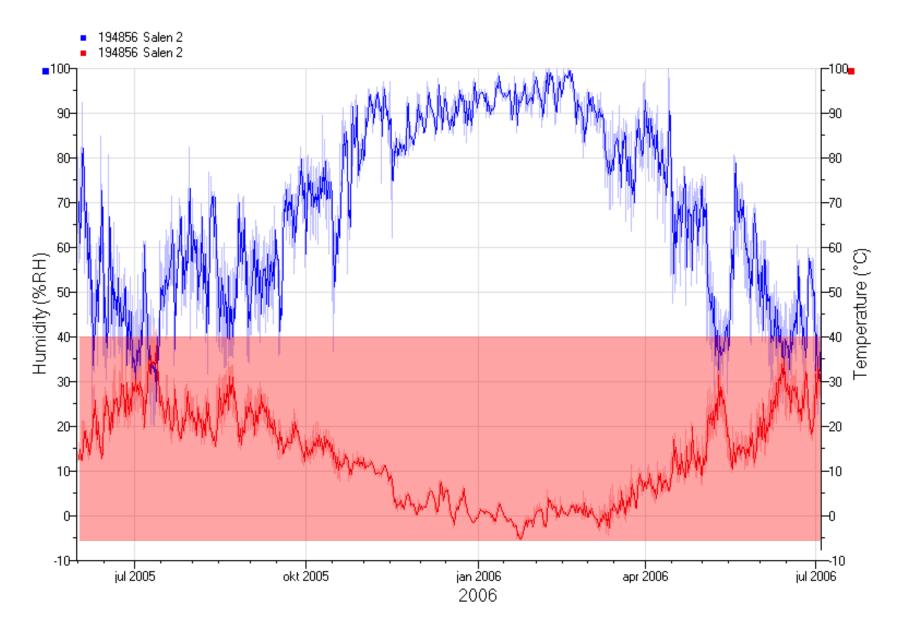


A submarine transformed into a museum

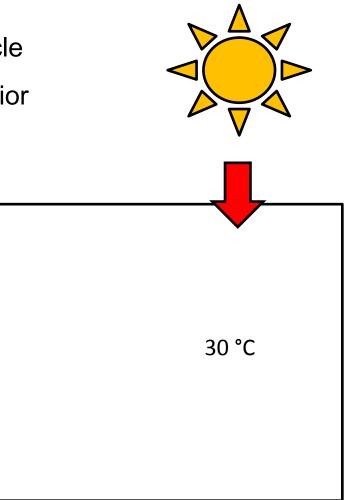


The interior is impermeable to water vapour



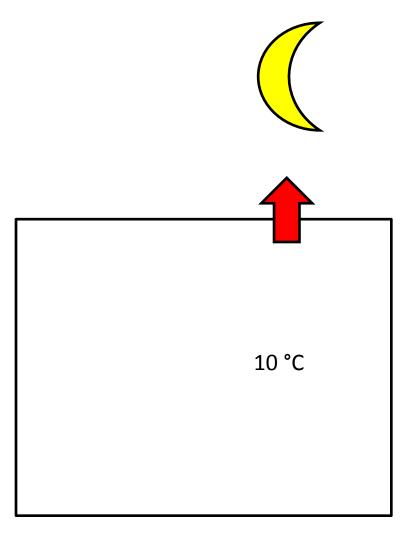


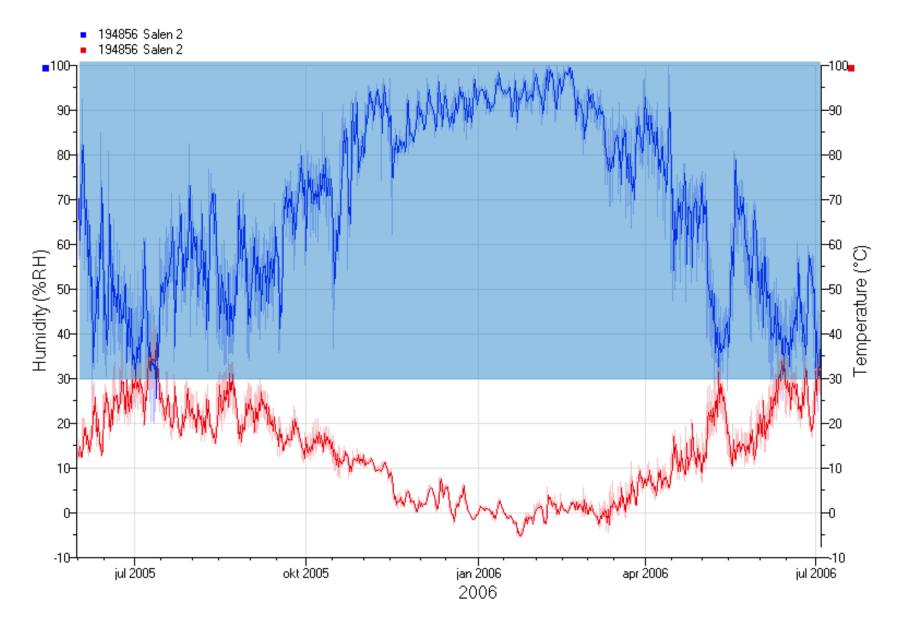
Temperature control Little thermal stability on daily cycle Heat radiation warms up the interior during the day



Temperature control

... and cool it during night

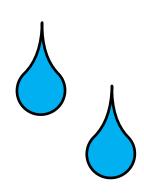


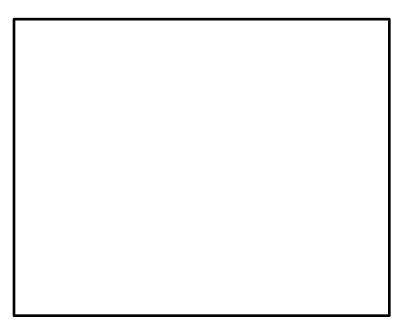


Humidity control

The structure is water thight

The surface is impermable to water vapour



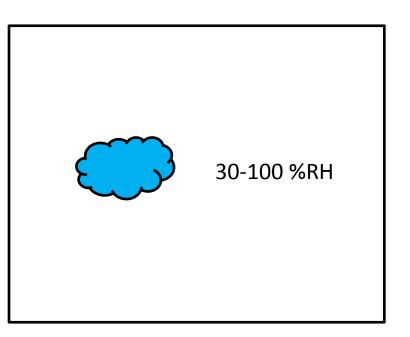


Humidity control

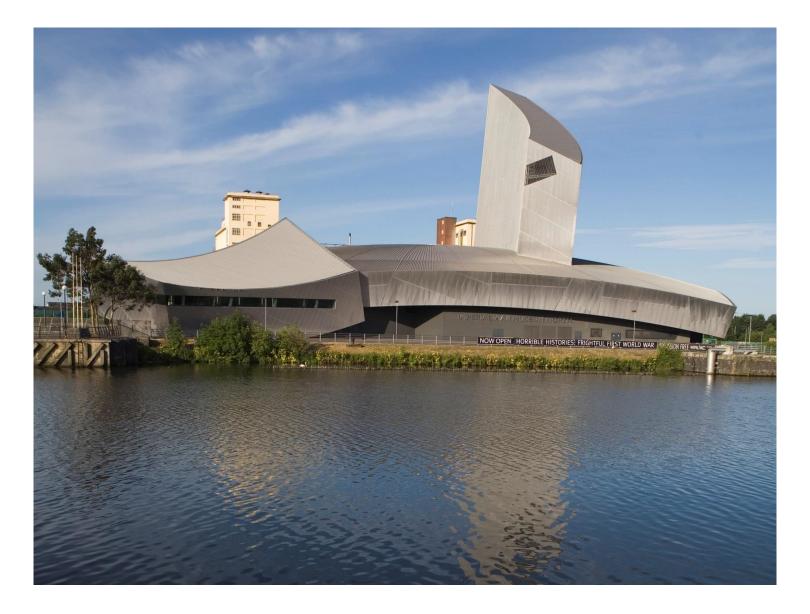
Water vapour flow is little

Air Exchange Rate AER ~ 0 h⁻¹

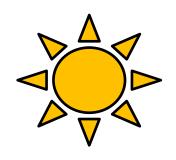


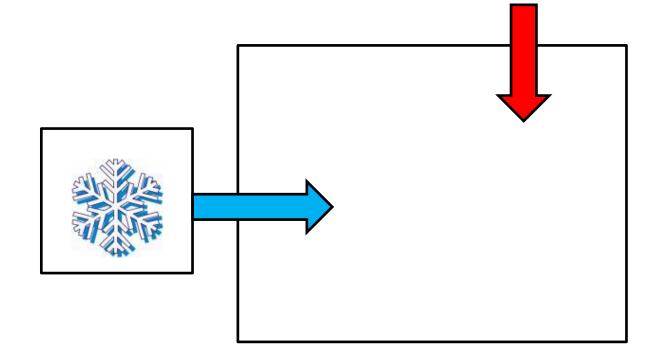


Imperial War Museum, Manchester, UK

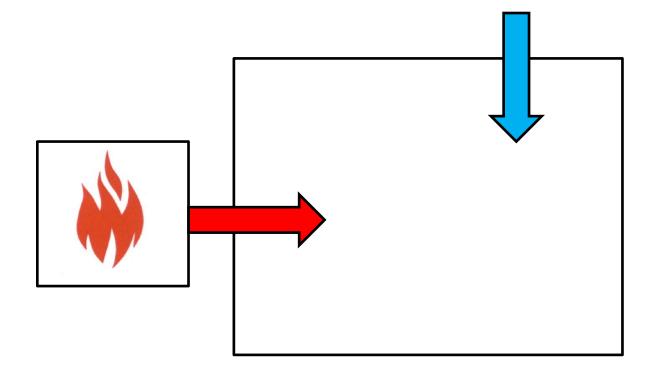


Temperature control Heat radiation is counterbalanced by mechanical cooling





Temperature control Heat loss is counterbalaced by heating



Temporary exhibition of iron age warship



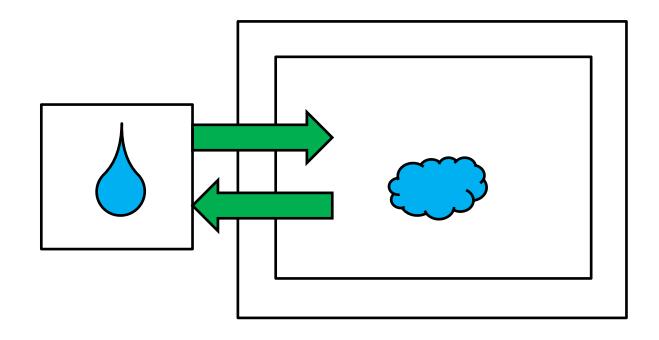
The balloon is held up by pressurized air



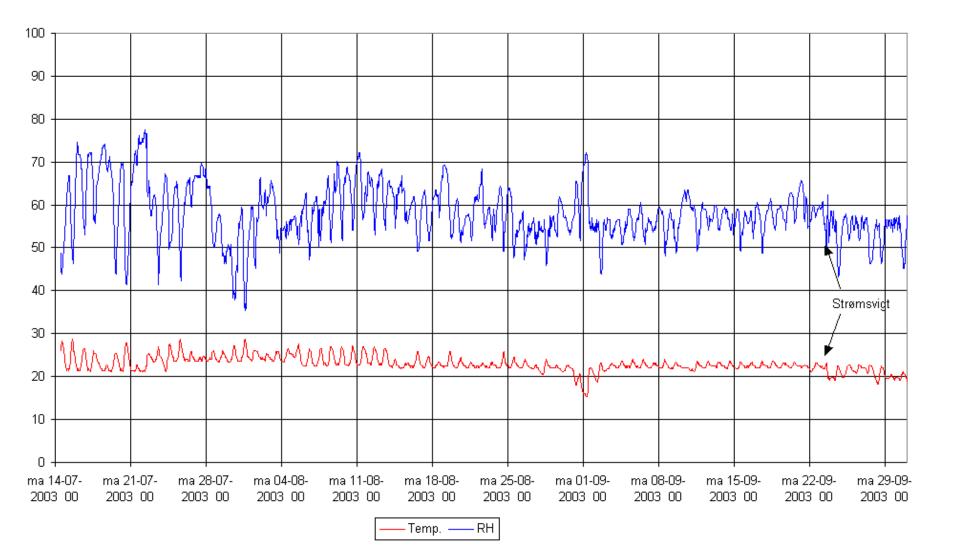
Humidity control

The RH was controlled by

humidification /dehumidification



Large RH fluctuations due to temperature variation



The ballon collapsed during a power failure



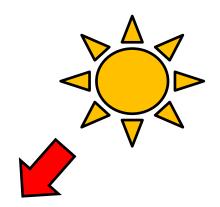
Museum of Rudolf Tegner – a solid concrete building

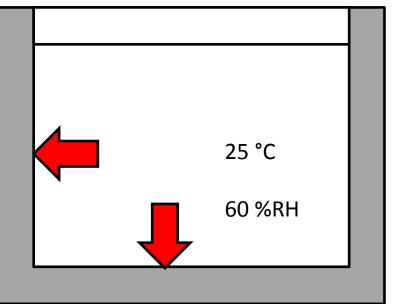


The building has no climate control and only natural light



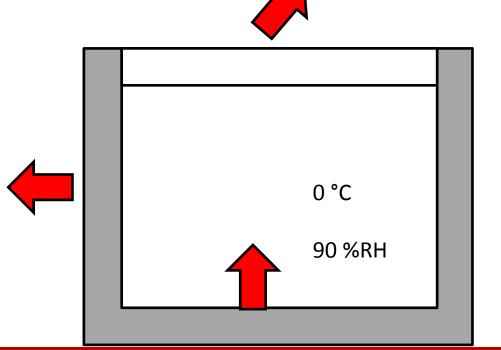
Temperature control summer Solar heating through the glass roof Heat absorption in walls and floor





Temperature control winter Heat loss through roof and walls Heat gain from ground

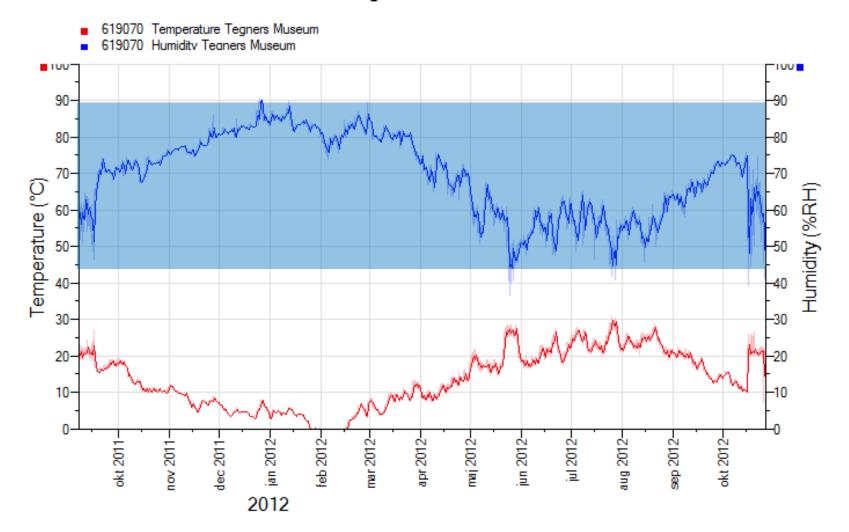




Tegners Museum



Tegners Museum



The "stone house" for a collection of minerals



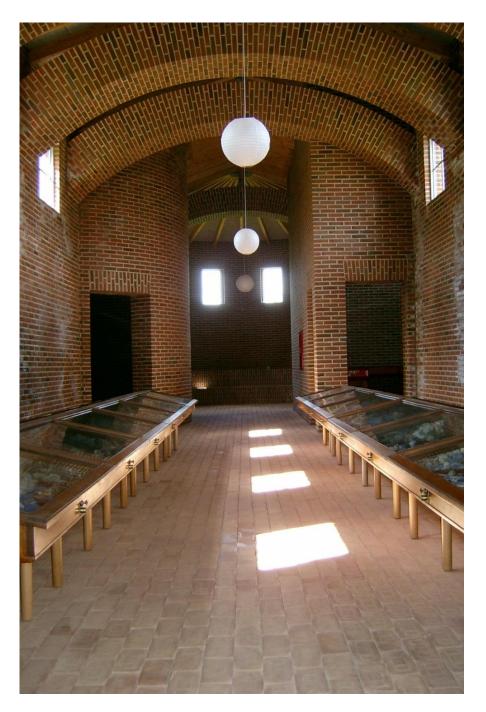
The gallery has

 a heavy structure to give thermal stability and thermal insulation to reduce heat loss

a ground heat pump with floor
heating for moderate winter heating

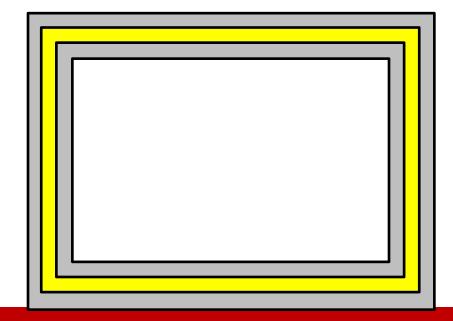
- tall space to reduce need for ventilation

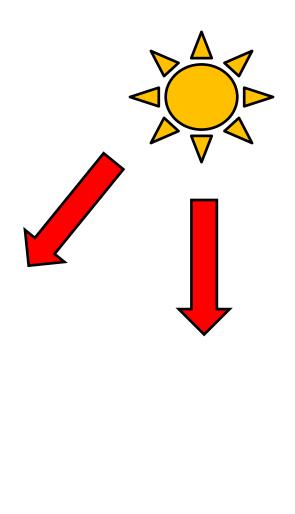
- small windows to reduce solar heating but allow natural lighting



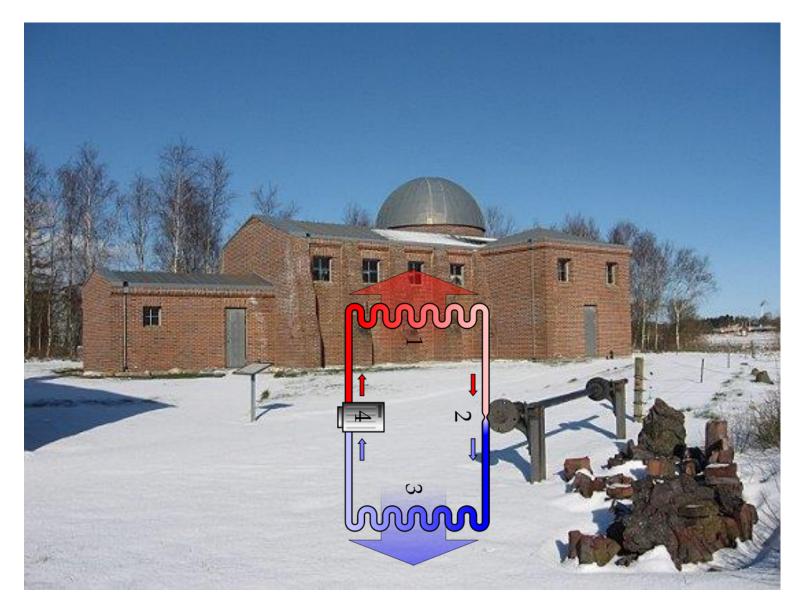
Temperature control

Solar heating of the building and the ground in summer





Ground heat pump with floor heating

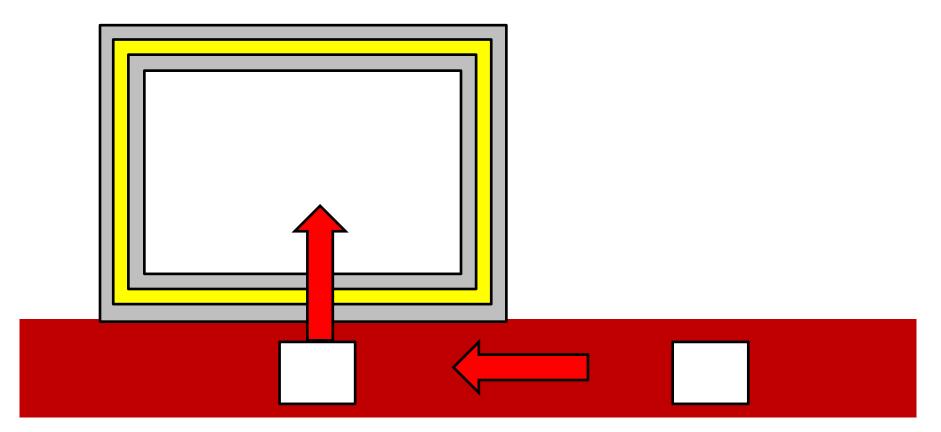


Temperature control

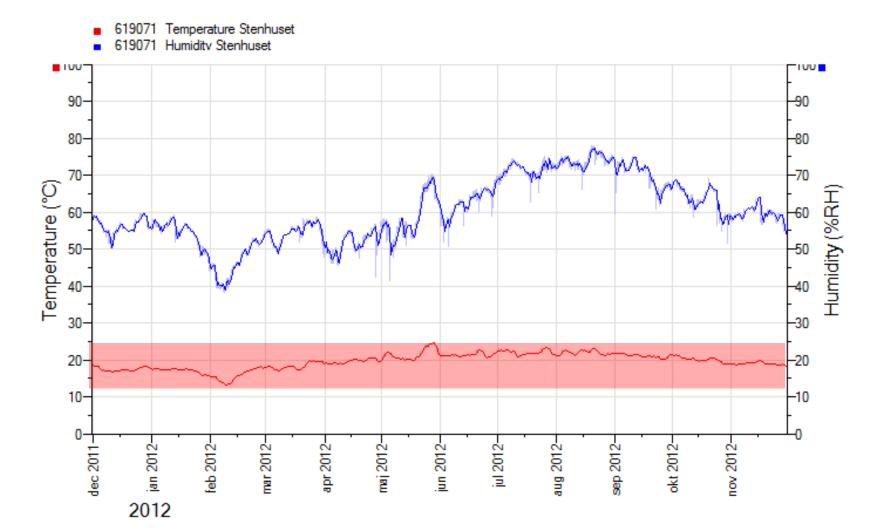
Floor heating with ground heat pump in winter

Thermal insulation to reduce heat loss

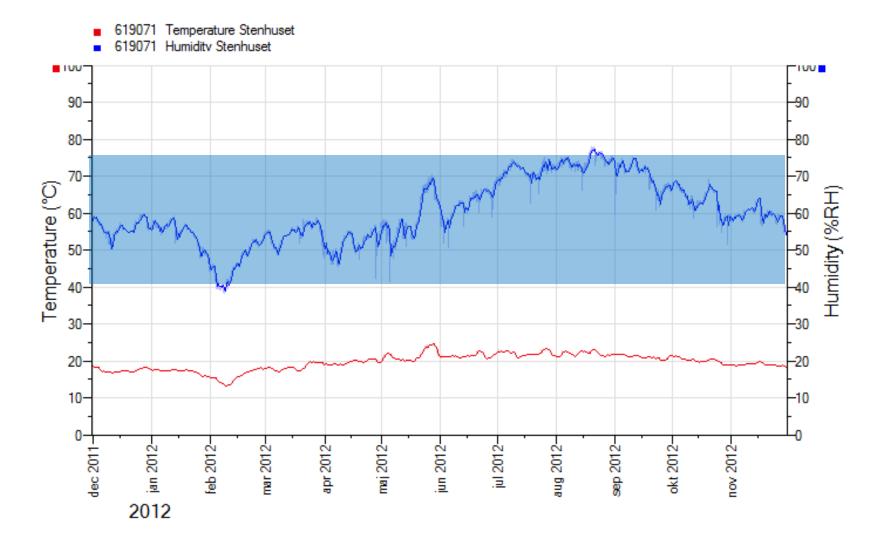




Temperature 13 - 25 °C = conservation heating



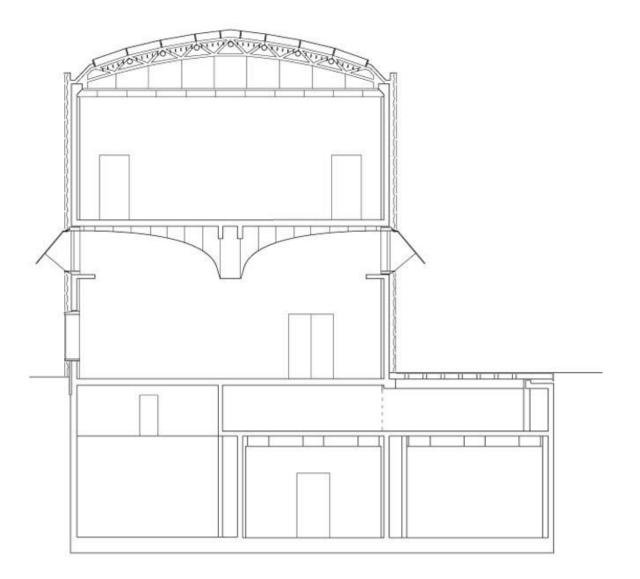
Relative humidity 40 – 75 % RH



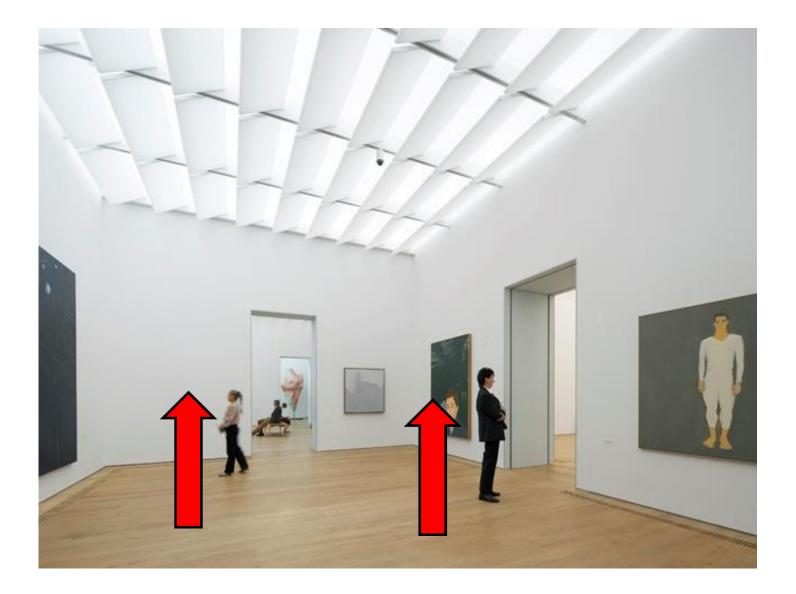
Brandhorst Museum, München



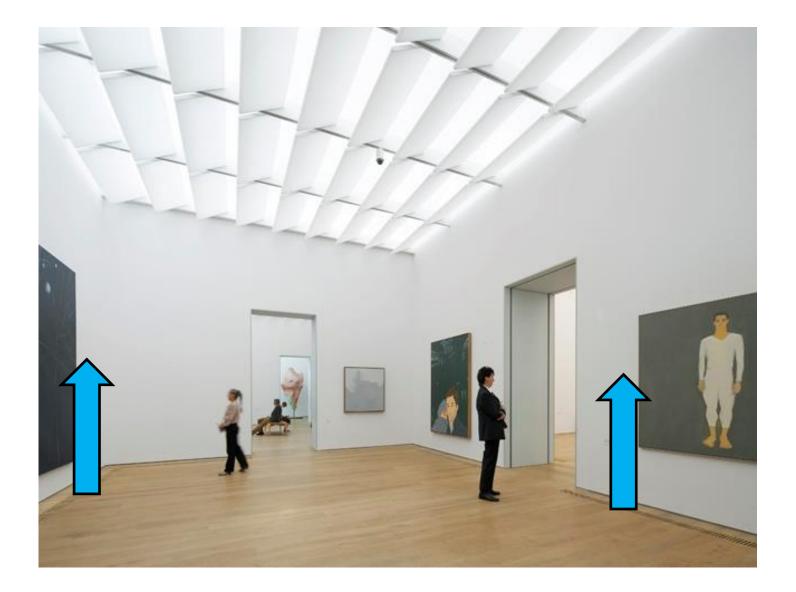
Concrete structure with insulation and tile cladding



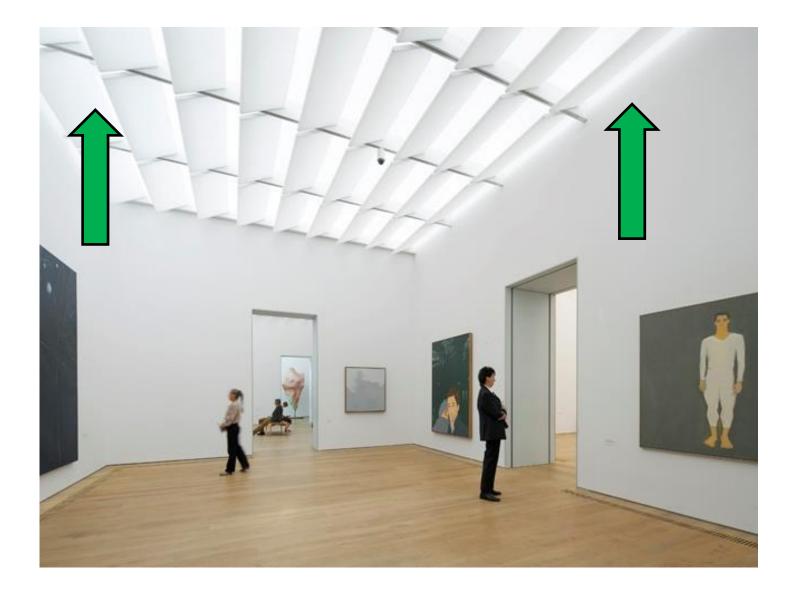
Heating (and cooling) in floor and walls



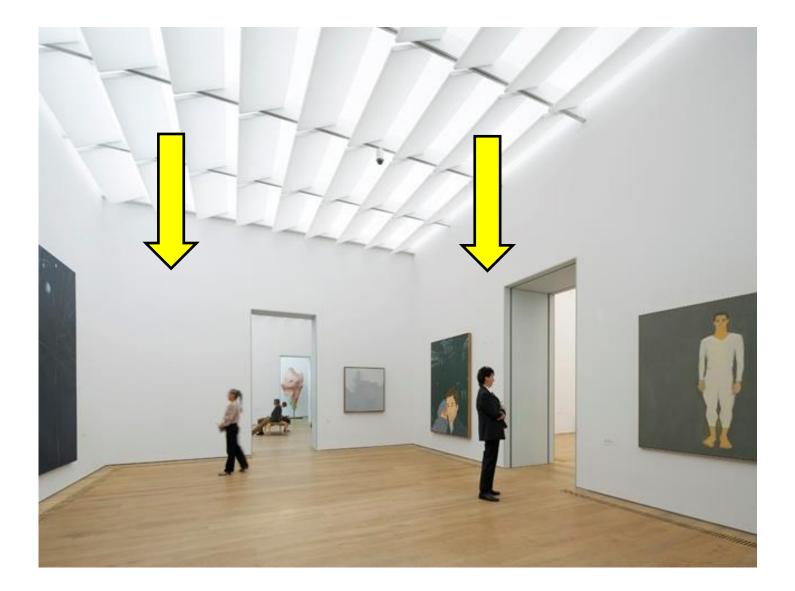
Humidity control independent of temperature



Ventilation controlled by CO2 level



Natural light through ceiling + LED



Conclusion

Heavy structure to moderate daily temperature variation imposed by people and lighting

Radiant heating (and cooling) in floor or walls.

Separate temperature control and humidity control

Reduce need for humidity control by adjusting temperature setpoint to seasonal variation

If possible use air tight display cases with humidity buffer.

Tall spaces for reduced ventilation need.

Natural lighting combined with LED