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# ORLANDO

2020 WINTER CONFERENCE

Feb. 1-5 | AHR EXPO Feb. 3-5





# Energy Efficient Embedded Tube Radiant Cooling Systems

Devin A. Abellon, PE  
Business Development Manager  
Uponor North America

The Uponor logo consists of a solid blue square on the left and the word "uponor" in white lowercase letters on the right.

**uponor**

# Energy Efficient Embedded Tube Radiant Cooling Systems

Devin A. Abellon, PE  
Business Development Manager  
Uponor North America

The logo for Uponor, consisting of a blue square with the word "uponor" in white lowercase letters.

**uponor**



# LEED v4.1

## New Construction & Major Renovations

LEED Topic	Possible Points
LOCATION & TRANSPORTATION	16
SUSTAINABLE SITES	17
WATER EFFICIENCY	13
ENERGY & ATMOSPHERE	38
MATERIALS AND RESOURCES	18
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	21
INNOVATION	7
REGIONAL PRIORITY	8

38



# LEED v4.1

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# LEED v4.1

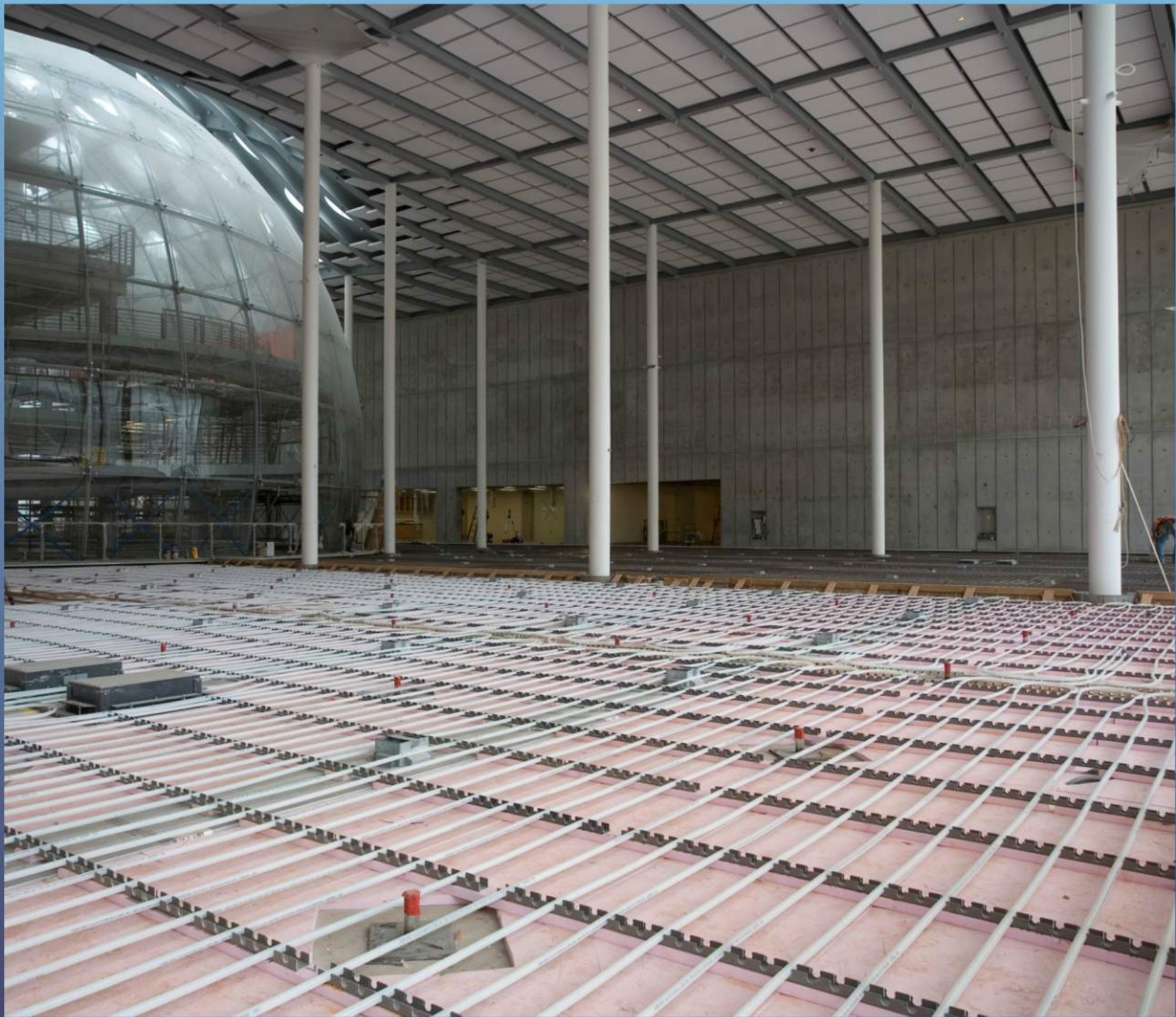
## New Construction & Major Renovations

LEED Topic	Possible Points
<b>ENERGY &amp; ATMOSPHERE</b> Optimize Energy Performance Enhanced Commissioning Enhanced Refrigerant Management	25
<b>INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</b> Enhanced IAQ Strategies Construction IAQ Plan IAQ Assessment Thermal Comfort Acoustic Performance	7
<b>WATER EFFICIENCY</b> Cooling Tower Efficiency	2



















# Radiant Fundamentals

**Radiant Heating Coils**  


**Radiant Heating Panels**  


**Radiant Heating Pendants**  


**Radiant Heating Pendants**  


**Radiant Heating Pendants**  


**Radiant Heating Pendants**  


**Radiant Heating Pendants**  


**2nd Law of Thermodynamics**  


**Human Comfort**  


**Human Comfort**  


**Radiant Temperature**  


**Solar Gain**  


**Solar Gain**  


**Solar Gain**  


**System Advantages**  


**Air Flow**  


**Energy Efficiency**  


**Grid to Grid**  


**Grid to Grid**  


**Grid to Grid**  


**Performance**  
  
**Sensible Cooling**  
A radiant cooling system can effectively remove a portion of building sensible load.  
**Direct Solar Loads**  
Buildings with large direct solar loads, the system capacity must be oversized.

**Typical Parameters**  
**Tubing** - Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) or copper tubing  
**Supply Temperature** - 50°F (10°C)  
**Return Temperature** - 45°F (7°C)  
**Flow Rate** - 1.5 to 2.0 gpm/100 sq ft  
**System Pressure Drop** - 1.0 to 1.5 ft H<sub>2</sub>O  
**Water** - 1.0 to 1.5 ft H<sub>2</sub>O  
**Temperature** - 50°F (10°C)  
**Surface Temperature** - 65°F (18°C)

**Pier 15 Exploratorium**  


# Slab & Construction Details

Slab on Grade



Suspended Slab



Topping Slab



Wood Deck

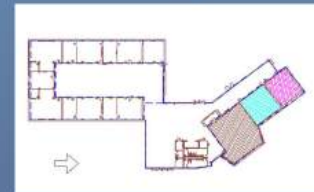


# Zoning

Zoning



Local Zoning

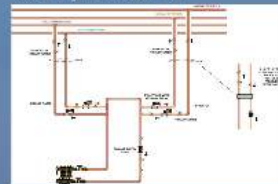


# Piping & Controls

Switchover Control



Local Injection Control



## Control Points

- Space Temperature
- Indoor Relative Humidity
- Operative Temperature
- Operating Water Temperature
- Suck Temperature
- Control Valves
- Circulating Pumps
- Outdoor Temperature
- Outdoor Relative Humidity



## Control Strategies

- Fuse load with radiant cooling system and operate as a differential or set points
- Use local adaptive real strategy to optimize water temperature for maximum effectiveness
- Continuously monitor indoor relative humidity for condensation control
- Maintain constant lab temperature

## Condensation Control

Though indoor cooling has been in use for over a century for about 100 years, and the science of indoor air quality has been studied for over 20 years. The current focus is for high energy efficiency systems that are designed to reduce the energy consumption of the system. It is important to understand the behavior of water vapor in the cooling process.



U.S. Research 1993 Handbook of the Science and Technology of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning, 2nd Edition, McGraw-Hill and ASHRAE, Heating and Cooling, 1994

## Condensation Control

**Condensation**  
Before condensation will occur the surface temperature is below the dew point.



**Solution**  
Deliberately monitor indoor relative humidity and manage loads that can contribute alone and reduce all risks.

## Controllability

- High thermal mass provides "inertia" against temperature fluctuations.
- Heat transfer from the thermal mass to the space is instantaneous whenever there is a temperature difference.
- Thermal mass evens out fluctuations in external temperature.
- Secondary system used to handle high load densities.



# Cost

**Typical Cost Factors**  
[Detailed list of cost factors including Labor, Materials, and Equipment]

**Typical Cost Factors**  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Study  
2019 Cost Data  
Innovations for Reduced Cost  
[Small image showing a laboratory or industrial setting]

# Radiant Fundamentals



Radiant Heating - Roman Hypocaust



Radiant Cooling - Jelmoli Department Store



Radiant Cooling



2nd Law of Thermodynamics  
Detailed description of the second law of thermodynamics and its implications for radiant heating and cooling systems.

Human  
Comfort



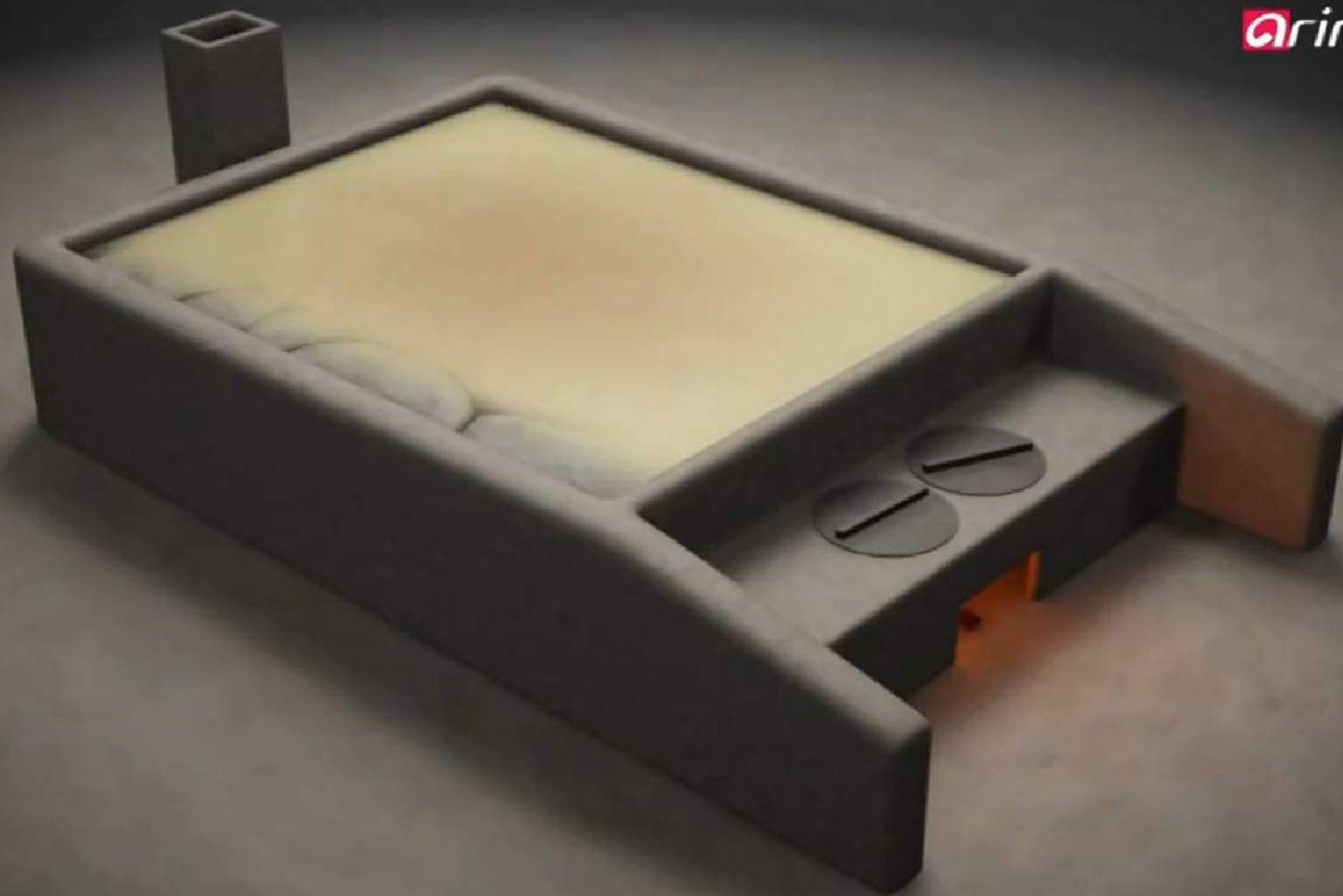
Human Comfort  
ASHRAE Standard 55



Radiant Temperature



arirang













# Radiant Heating - Roman Hypocaust

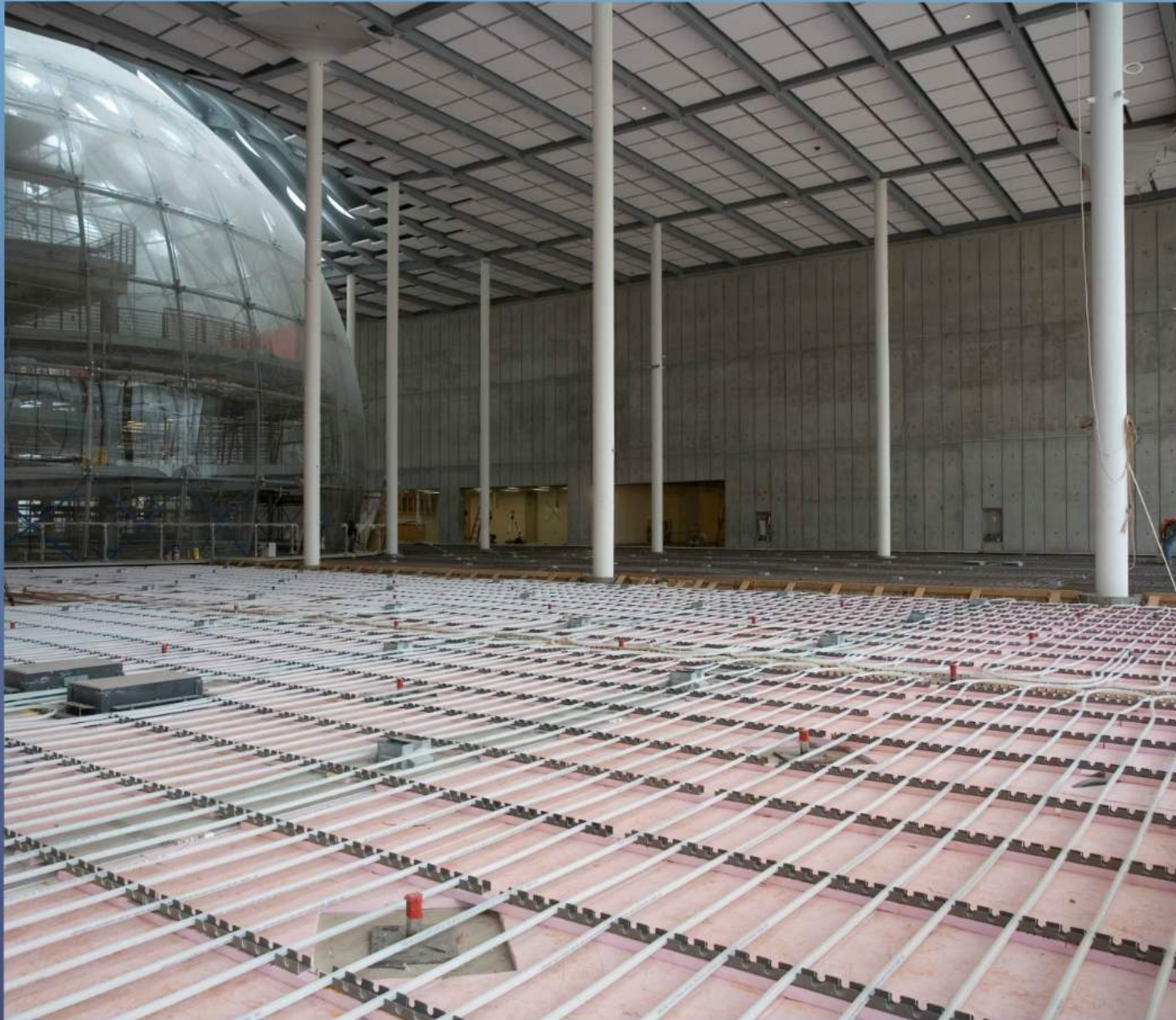


# Radiant Cooling - Jelmoli Department Store





# Radiant Cooling



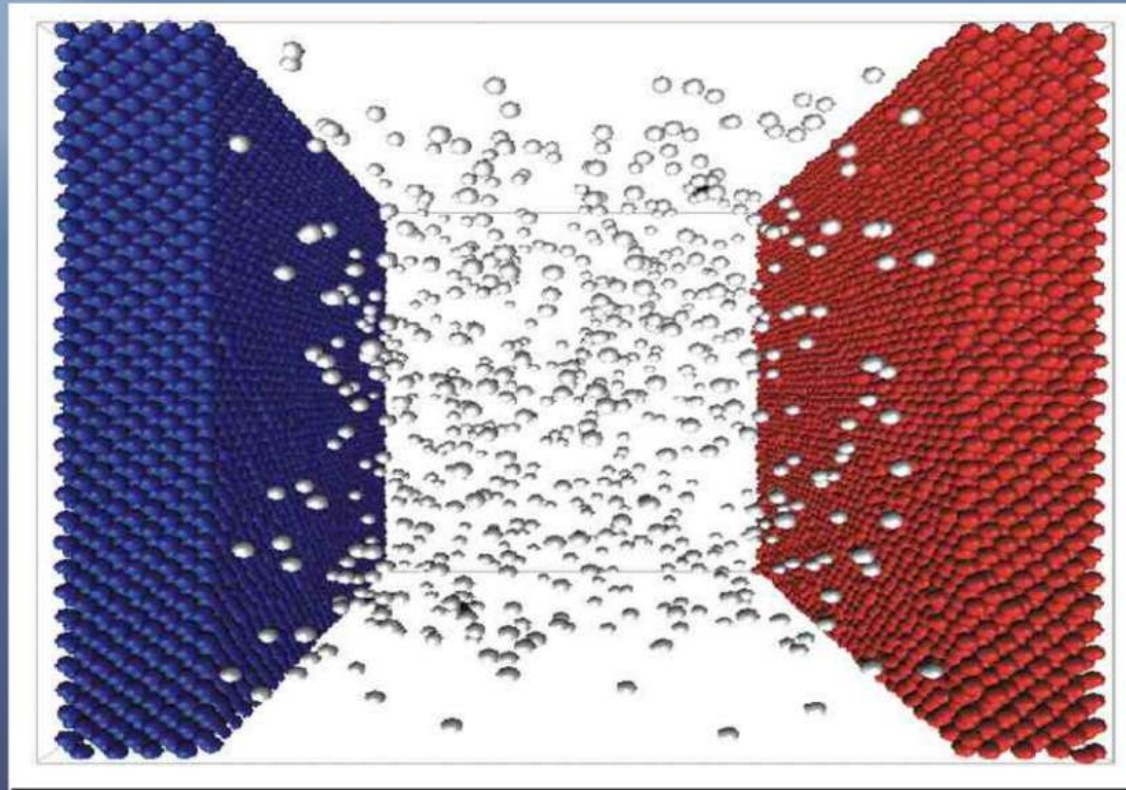






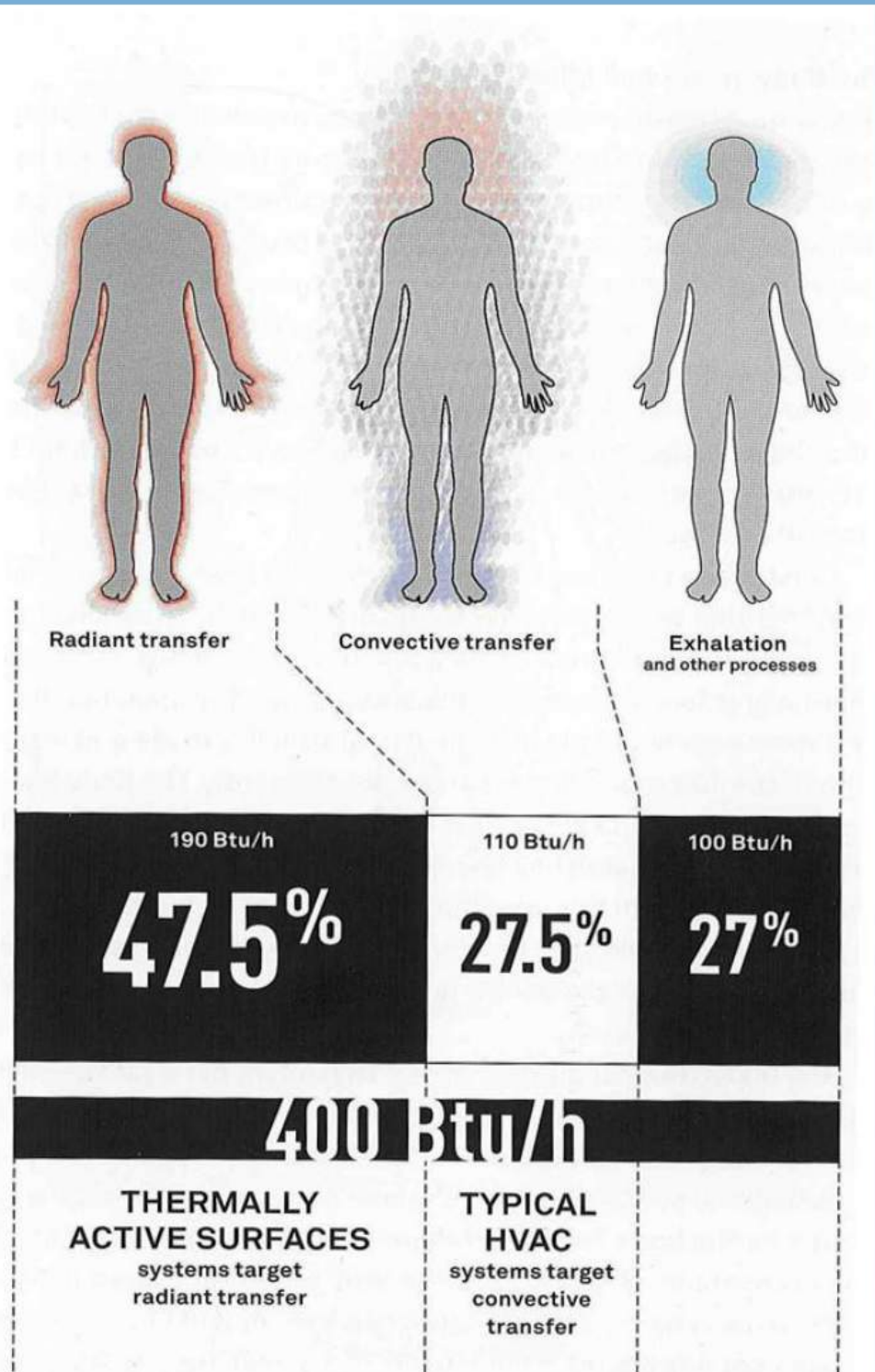
# 2nd Law of Thermodynamics

Clausius Statement: "Heat generally cannot flow spontaneously from a material at a lower temperature to a material at a higher temperature."





# Human Comfort



# Human Comfort

## ASHRAE Standard 55

Air  
Temperature

Air  
Movement

Clothing

Relative  
Humidity

Radiant  
Temperature

Metabolism

**Air  
Temperature**

**Air  
Movement**

**Relative  
Humidity**

**Radiant  
Temperature**



# Radiant Temperature

## **Average Uncontrolled Surface Temperature**

Area weighted average of the surface temperatures of all uncontrolled surface

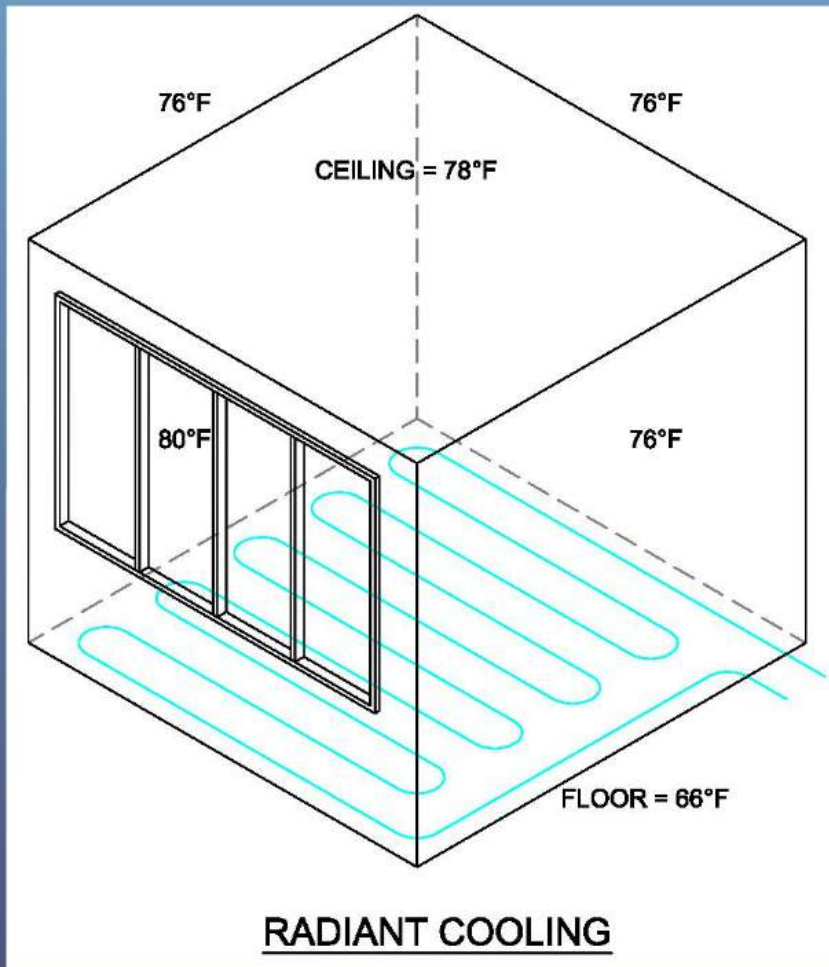
## **Mean Radiant Temperature**

Area weighted average of the AUST and the surface temperature of the controlled surface

## **Operative Temperature**

Average of the Mean Radiant Temperature and the Air Temperature

# Radiant Temperature



Room Temp. = 78.0°F

AUST = 78.0°F

MRT = 72.0°F

Operative Temp. = 75.0°F

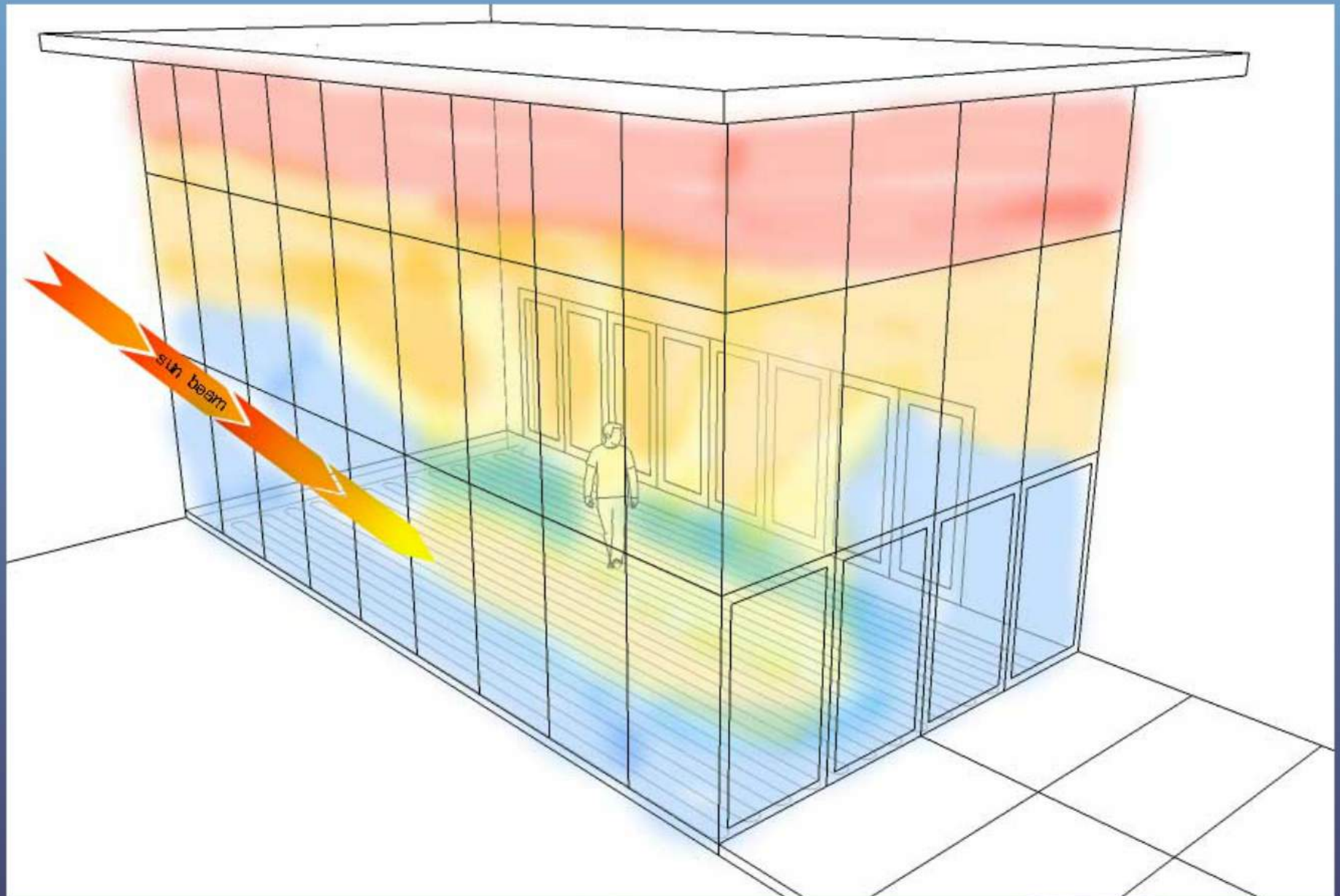




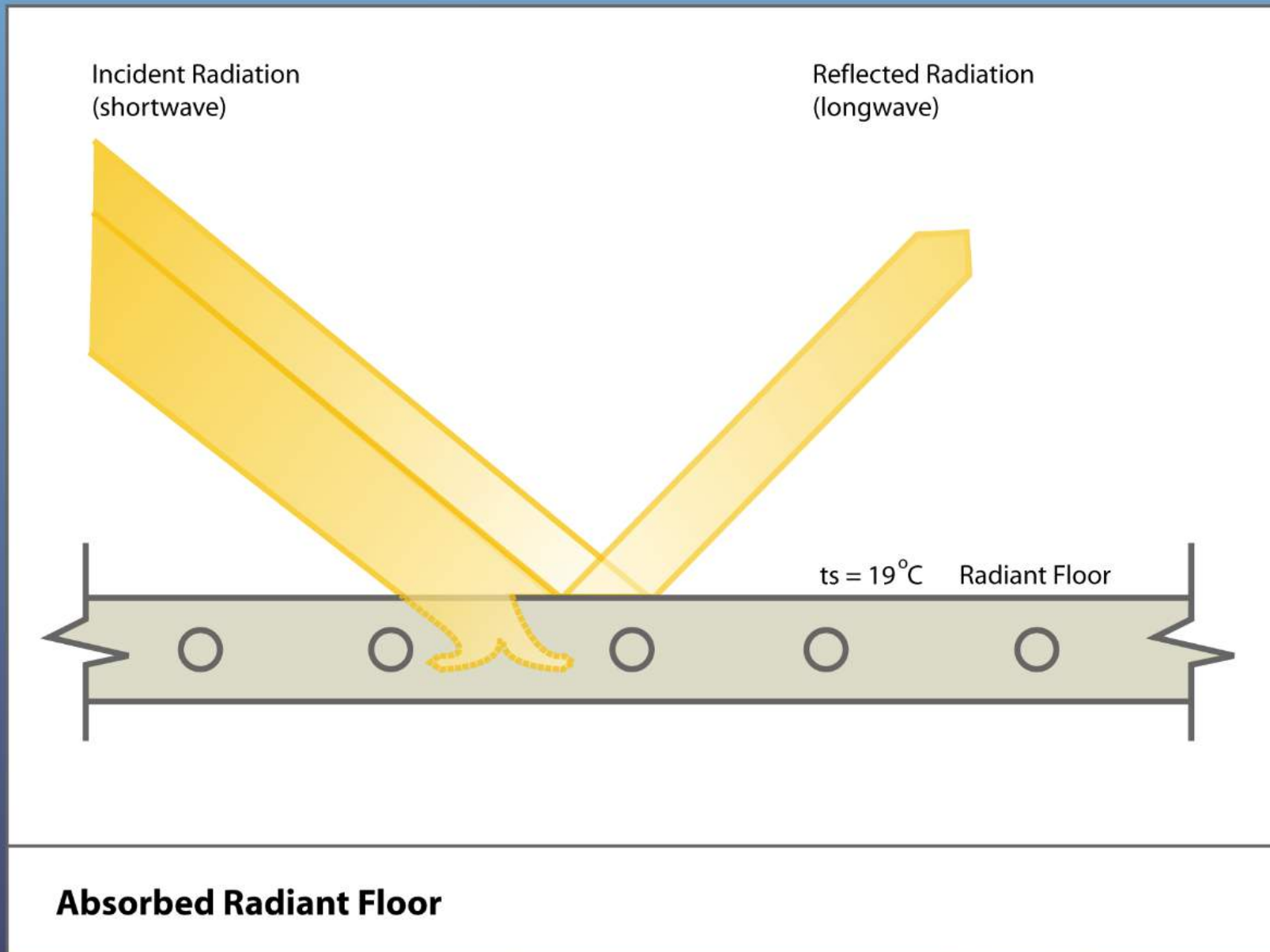
# Solar Gain



# Solar Gain



# Solar Gain





# System Advantages

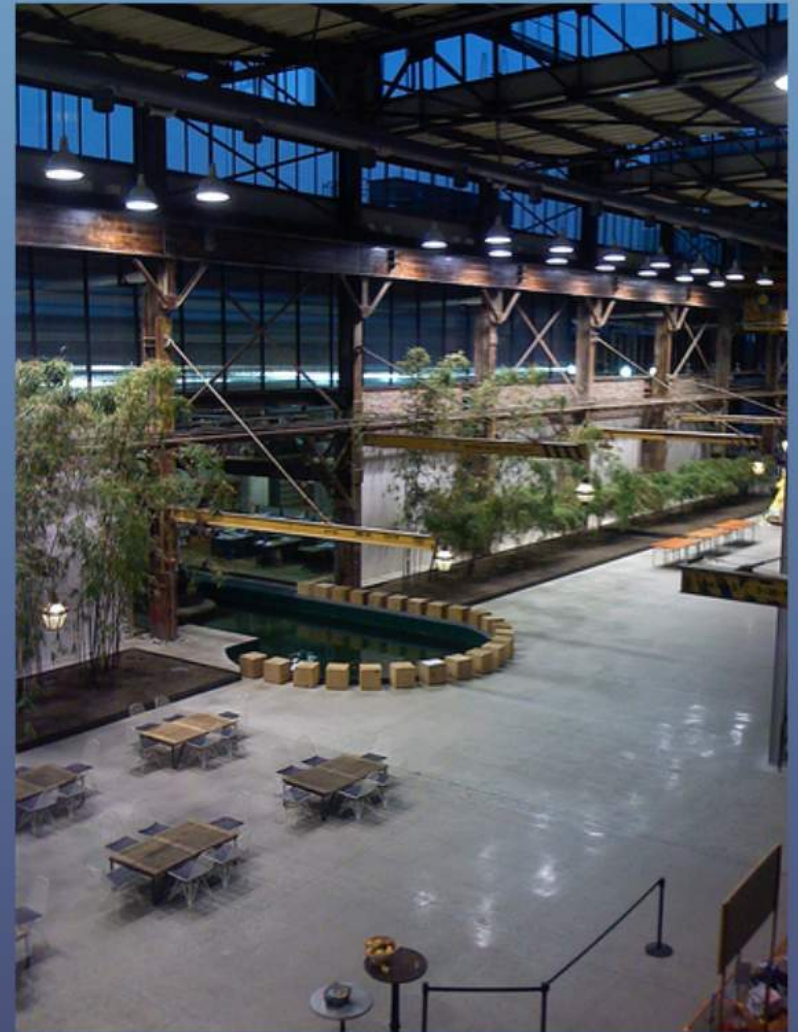
Ability to Deal with High Direct Solar Gains

Superior Human Comfort

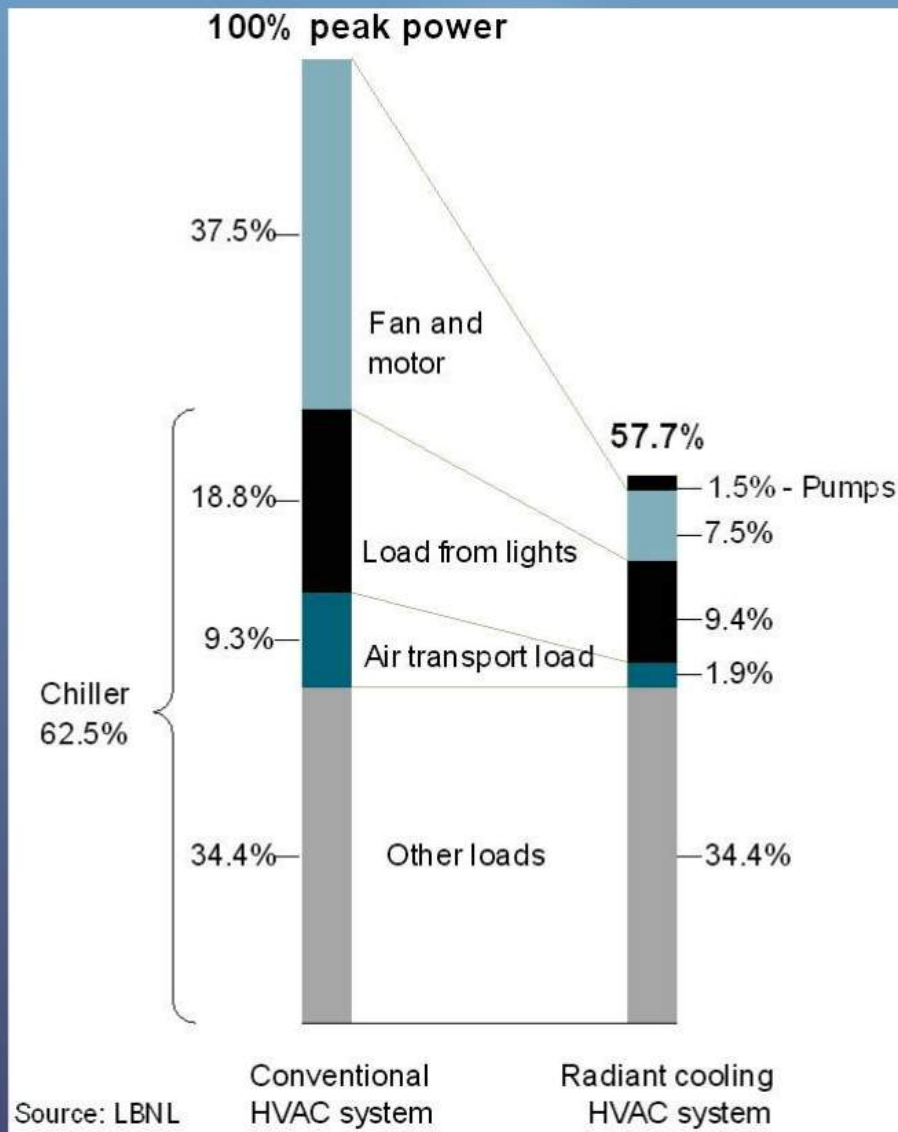
Greater Architectural Freedom

Reduced Drafts and Noise

Energy Efficiency

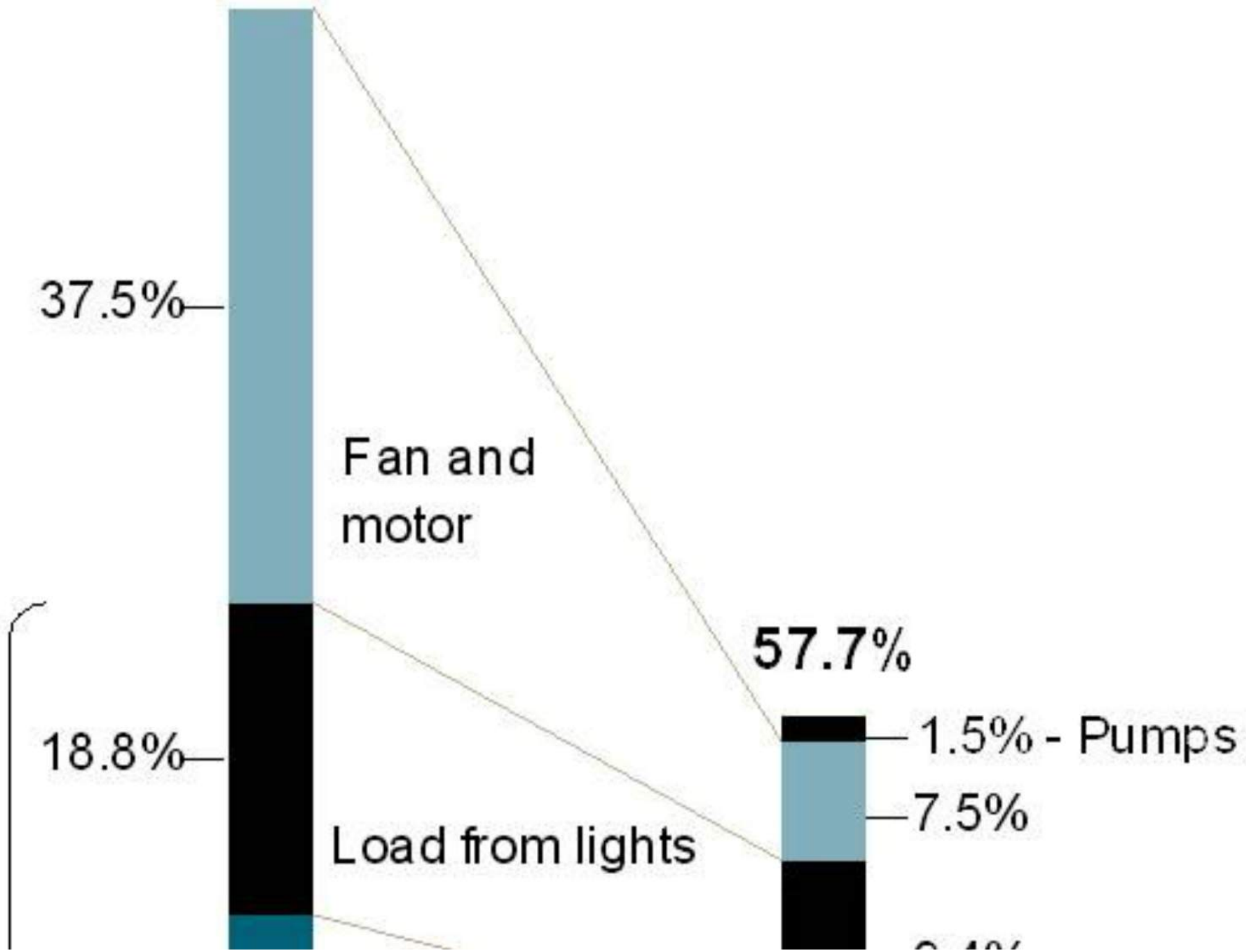


# Energy Efficiency



## LBNL Findings:

Depending on the climate, a radiant cooling system in conjunction with a dedicated outside air system (DOAS) could save between 17% - 42% over the baseline VAV system





# Energy Efficiency

## Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

A radiant cooling system in conjunction with a dedicated outside air system (DOAS) could save 50% over the baseline ASHRAE 90.1-2004 HVAC System

## National Renewable Energy Laboratory / U.S. Department of Energy

50% Energy Savings over ASHRAE 90.1 can achieved using a radiant heating and cooling system

## American Institute of Architects



# Case Studies



Suvarnabhumi Bangkok  
Airport Bangkok, Thailand  
30.5% Energy Savings



IDEAs Z Squared Design  
Facility San Jose, California  
LEED Platinum / Net Zero



Western Science Center  
Hemet, California LEED  
Platinum



Cooper Union New York,  
New York LEED Platinum



NREL Research Support  
Facility Golden, Colorado  
LEED Platinum



David Brower Center  
Berkeley, California LEED  
Platinum



Manitoba Hydro Place  
Winnipeg, Manitoba LEED  
Platinum



Clemson University Lee Hall Clemson,  
South Carolina  
50% Energy Savings  
Net Zero Energy



## BUILDING AT A GLANCE

<b>Name</b>	Clemson University Lee III
<b>Location</b>	Clemson, S.C. (28 miles WSW of Greenville, S.C.)
<b>Owner</b>	Clemson University
<b>Principal Use</b>	University academic building Includes Studio space, seminar rooms, faculty and administrative offices
<b>Occupancy</b>	Peak Transient Occupancy 292 Daily Average 657 Peak Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) 32 Total Peak Building Users (FTE + Peak Transient) 324
<b>Gross Square Footage</b>	59,441 Conditioned Space 50,240 (does not include mechanical room) Mechanical Room 3,192
<b>Districtions/Awards</b>	AIA National Honor Award for Architecture, 2013; LEED Gold NC v3, 2012
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$16 million (excludes site work) Cost Per Square Foot: \$300
<b>Substantial Completion/Occupancy</b>	Dec. 16, 2011



# COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Leo Fazio/Orto

BY MICHAEL G. TALBOT, P.E., MEMBER ASHRAE

Architecture students at Clemson University enjoy a leg up on their peers: the building where they study. Lee III's open plan situates students from four different disciplines side-by-side, providing them with organic opportunities to work with and learn from each other in this net zero energy-ready building—something that will reap rich dividends after they graduate.

"Students, when they emerge from these disciplines, are going to be working together the rest of their professional lives," said John Jacques, professor emeritus of architecture and a member of the design team.

"Having a building that openly invites and promotes the whole idea of collaborative learning and collaborative work between disciplines will

most likely create a student body that graduates to collaborate in later life."

The 55,000 ft<sup>2</sup> space, located in the rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in upstate South Carolina, roughly doubles the space of the two other sections of the building, known as Lee I and Lee II. The new space is home to 12 professional degree programs in the

schools of architecture and of planning, development, preservation and landscape architecture, as well as the departments of art and construction science and management.

The building also serves as an example of how future buildings should be built sustainably, incorporating new technologies and "outside the box" thinking.

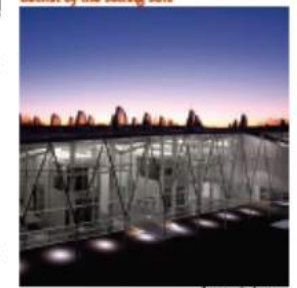
**Design**

Design studios, faculty offices and classrooms are mixed together in Lee III, which cultivates a sense of community in the two-story building and promotes teaching through discovery and discovery-based learning.

Students learn from their professors, as well as through their studio activities and by chatting with students in other departments. Carefully detailed glazing between spaces supports this type

**Left:** This collaborative architecture and landscape architecture studio overlooks an undergraduate landscape architecture studio and review space. It is traversed by the faculty offices (upper level) and seminar spaces (lower level).

**Below:** Early evening in the east plaza looking through the north porch and facade into the open studio bays and enclosed office and seminar spaces. The skylights and "shrouds" are illuminated from within and backlit by the setting sun.



Amanda Jacques



## TECHNICAL FEATURE

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Figure 1: Infosys SDB-1  
Hybridized. Half of the building has  
radiant cooling and full low-VAV  
cooling.



# VAV vs. Radiant

## Side-by-Side Comparison

BY SUBBINAJAN SASTRY AND PETER RANNEY, P.E., FELLOW ASHRAE

Infosys, one of India's top three software companies, implemented a program in 2011 to find the best way to cool its buildings, while creating lower energy buildings that better suited the needs of its employees. The resulting building, Software Development Block 1 (SDB-1) in Hyderabad, not only became the first radiantly cooled building in India, but also resulted in the world's largest HVAC side-by-side comparison.

# Performance

## Sensible Cooling

A radiant cooling system can effectively manage a portion of building's sensible load

12 – 14 BTUH/SF – Radiant Floor

25 – 32 BTUH/SF – Radiant Ceiling

## Direct Solar Loads

In areas with high direct solar loads, the systems capacity can significantly increase to

25 – 32 BTUH/SF

# Typical Parameters

Tubing: Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) barrier tubing  
5/8" diameter  
6" to 9" on center spacing  
Typical tubing length per loop – 350'-500'

Operating  
Water

Temperatures: 55°F to 58°F  
5°F to 8°F temperature differential

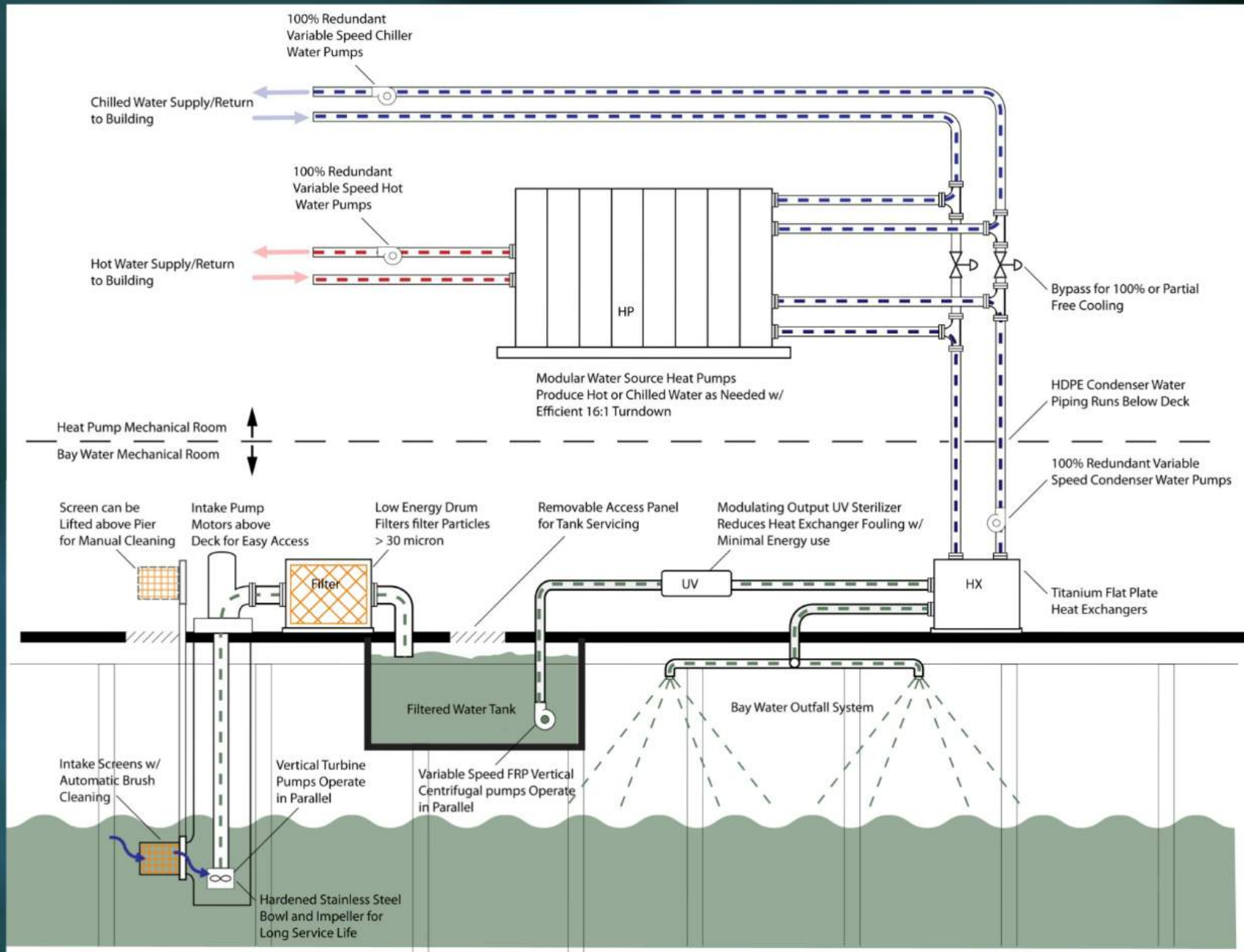
Surface Temperature: Minimum 66°F



# Pier 15 Exploratorium



# Pier 15 Exploratorium





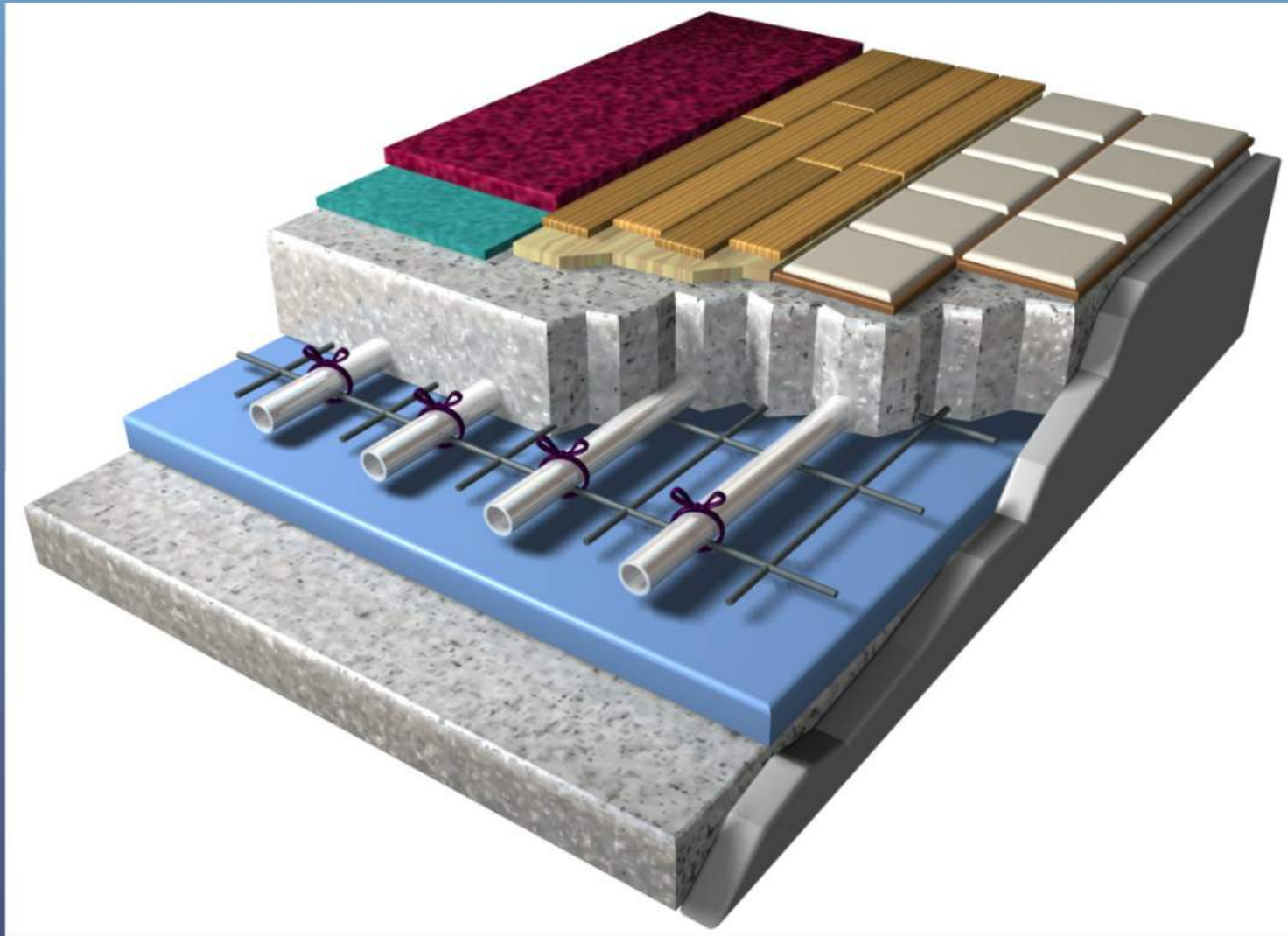


# Slab & Construction Details

Slab on Grade

Suspended Slab

# Slab on Grade



Flooring

Structural Slab

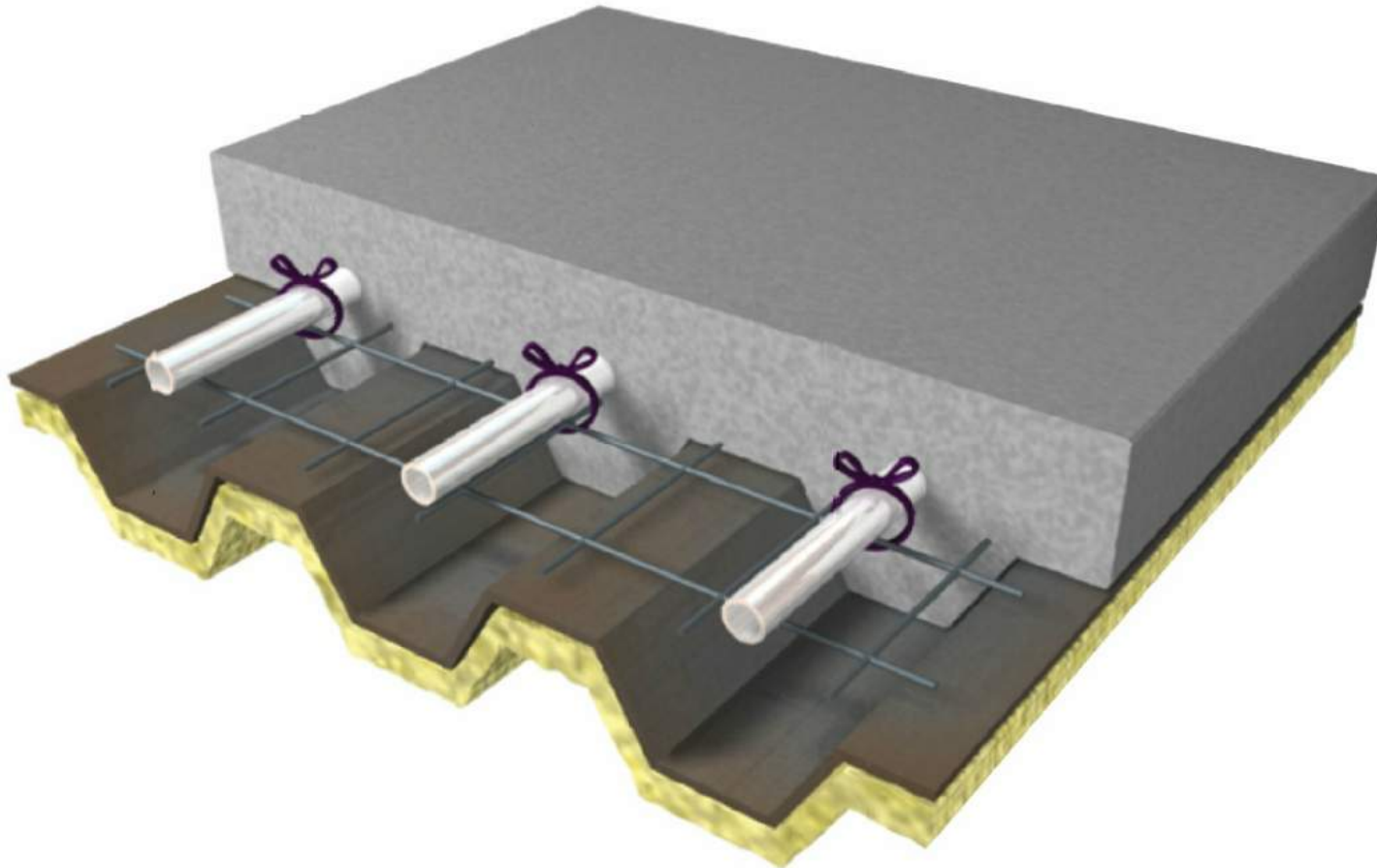
PEX Tubing

Wire Mesh / Rebar

Insulation

Compacted Grade

# Suspended Slab



Structural Slab

PEX Tubing

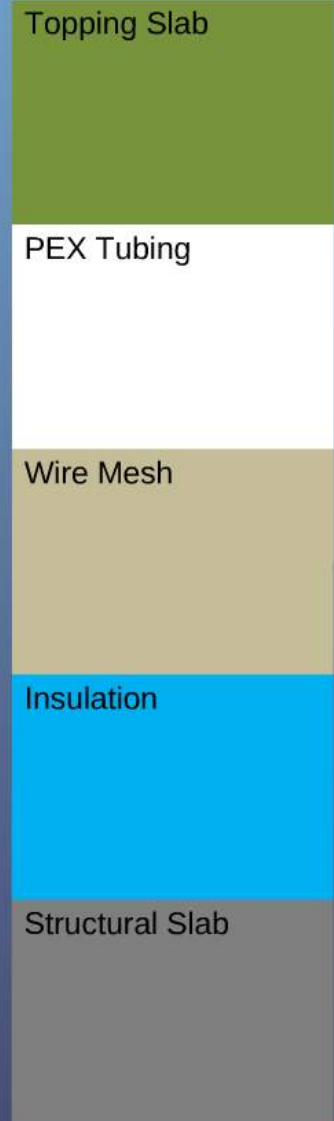
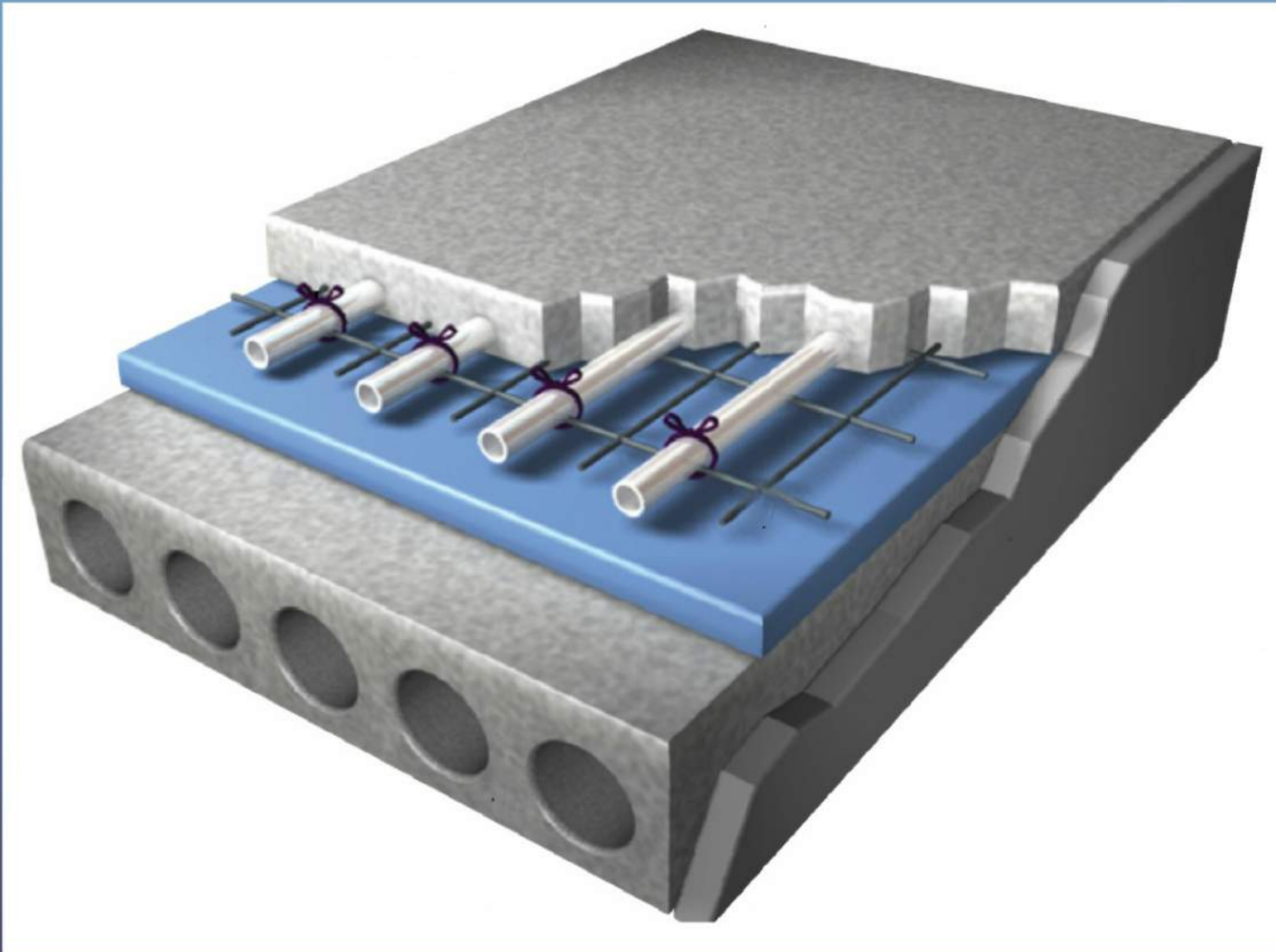
Wire Mesh / Rebar

Metal Deck

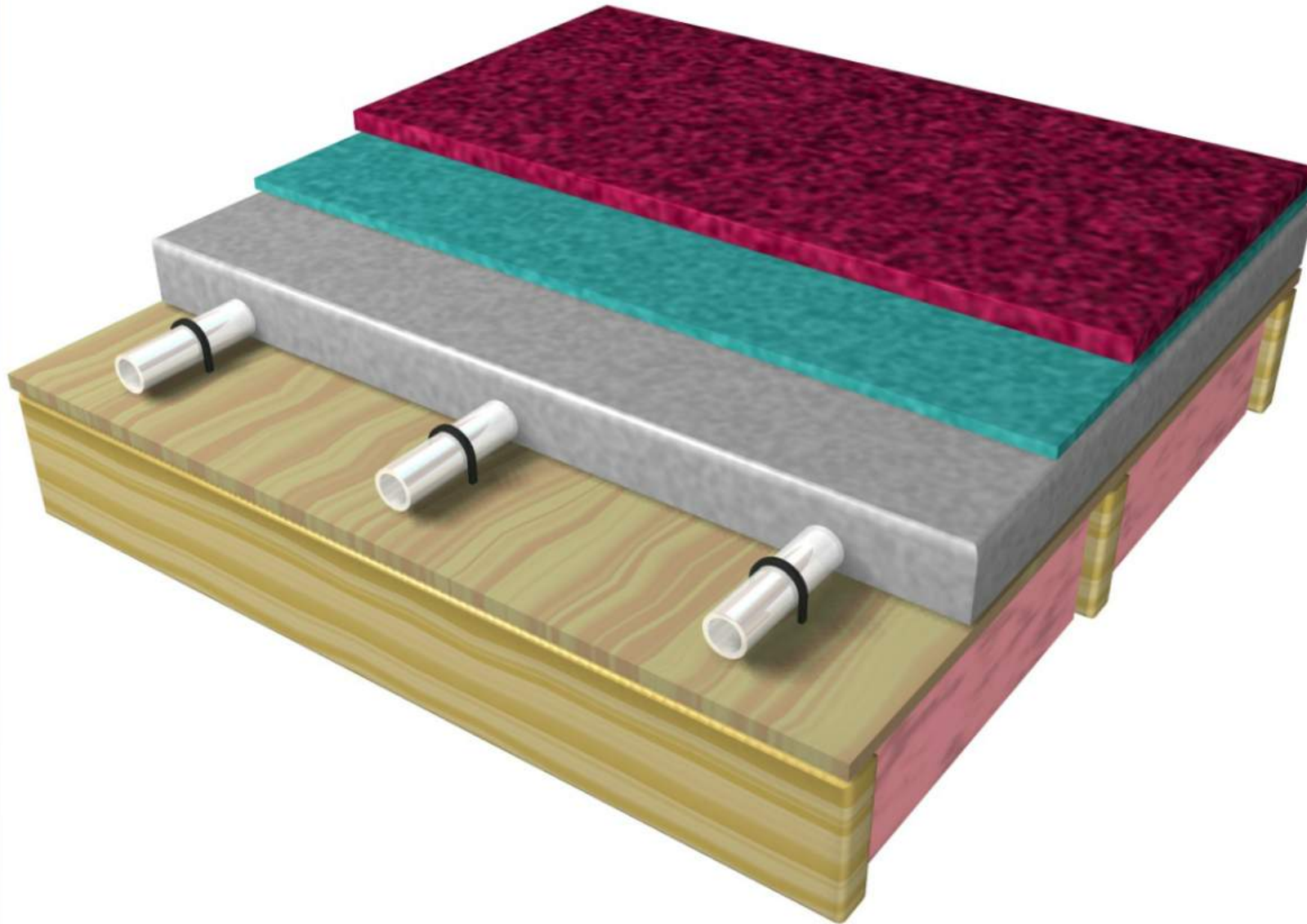
Insulation



# Topping Slab



# Wood Deck



Flooring

Topping Slab

PEX Tubing

Wood Deck

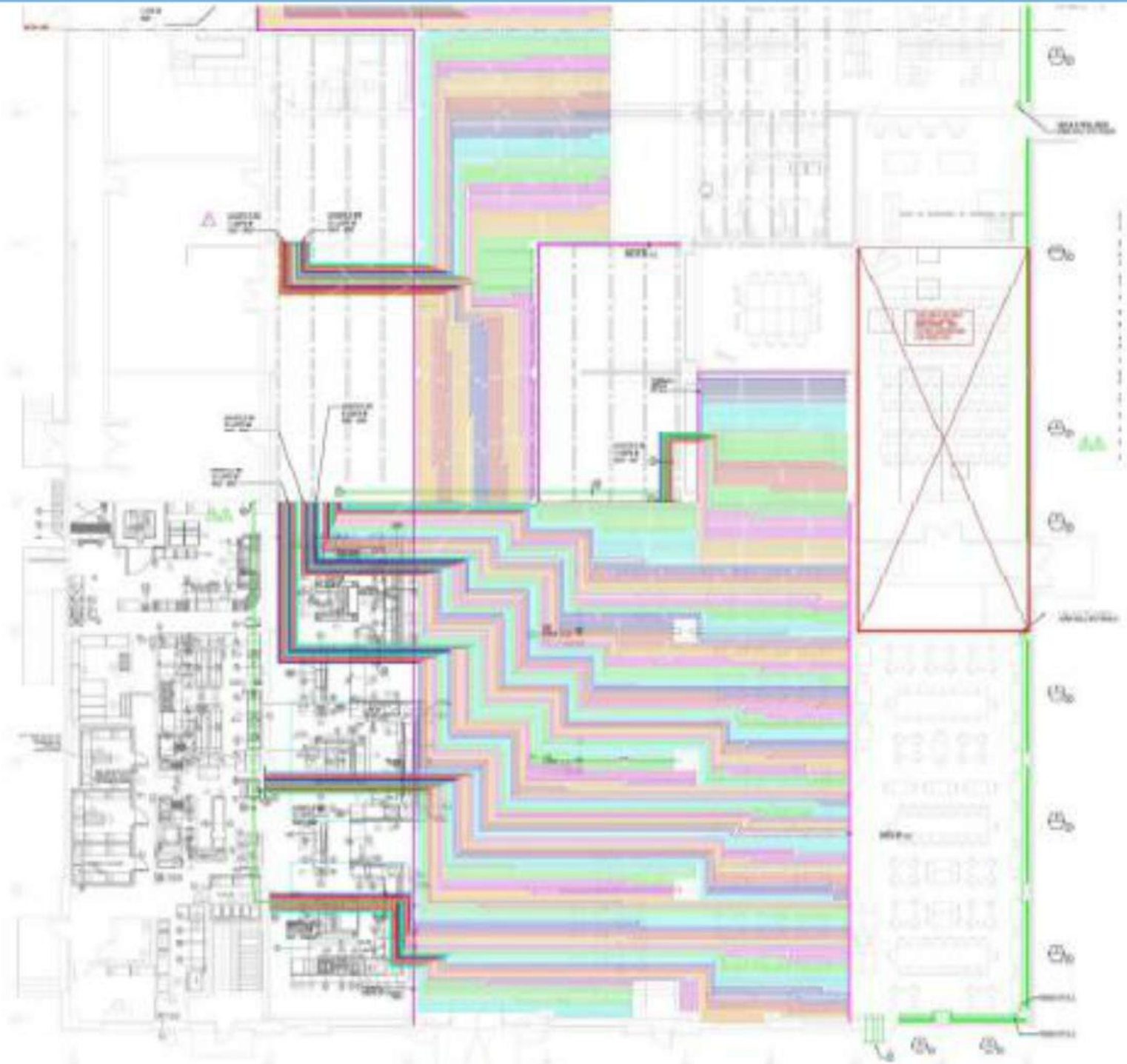
Insulation











# Slab & Construction Details

Slab on Grade



Suspended Slab



Topping Slab



Wood Deck

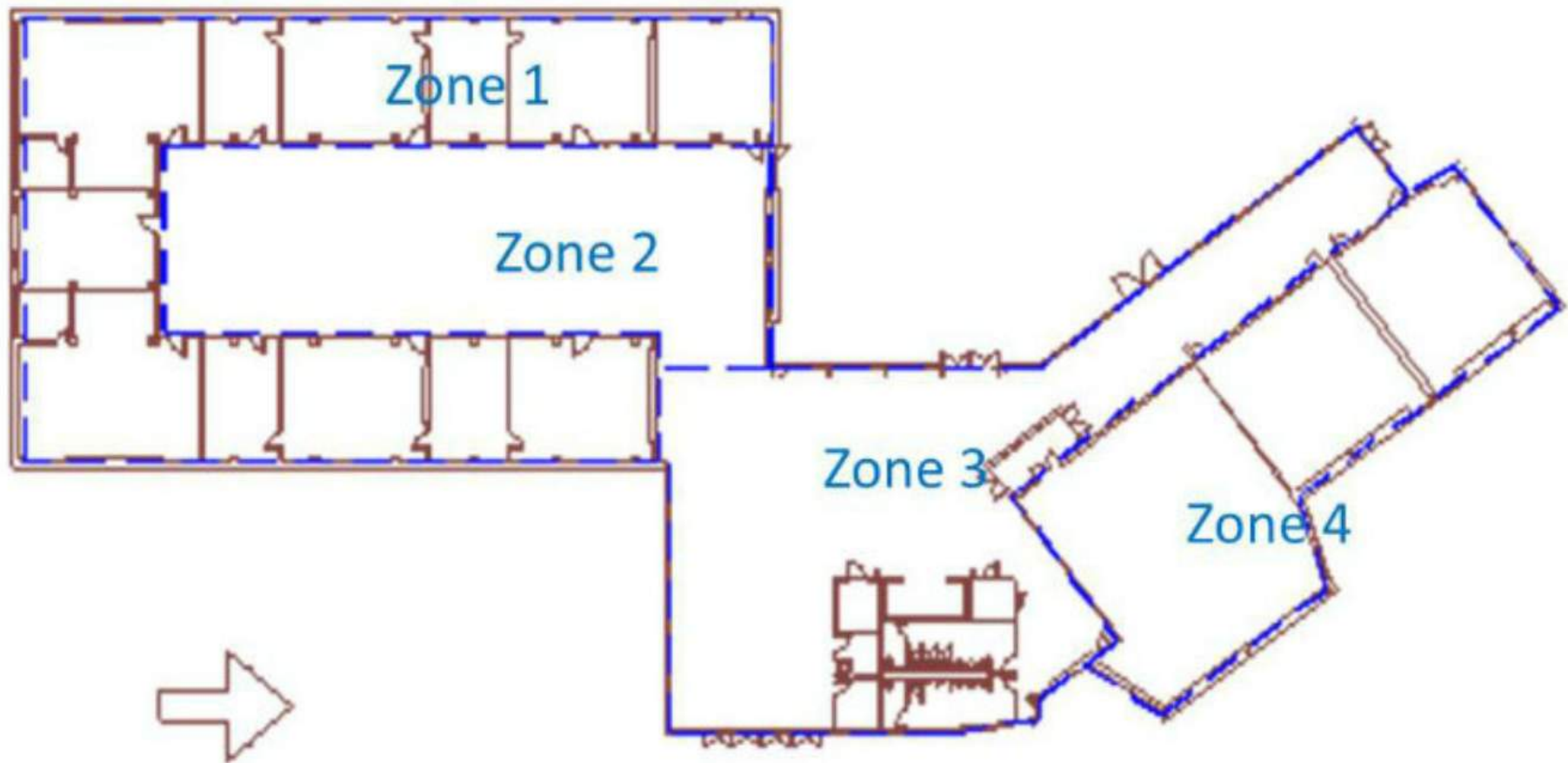




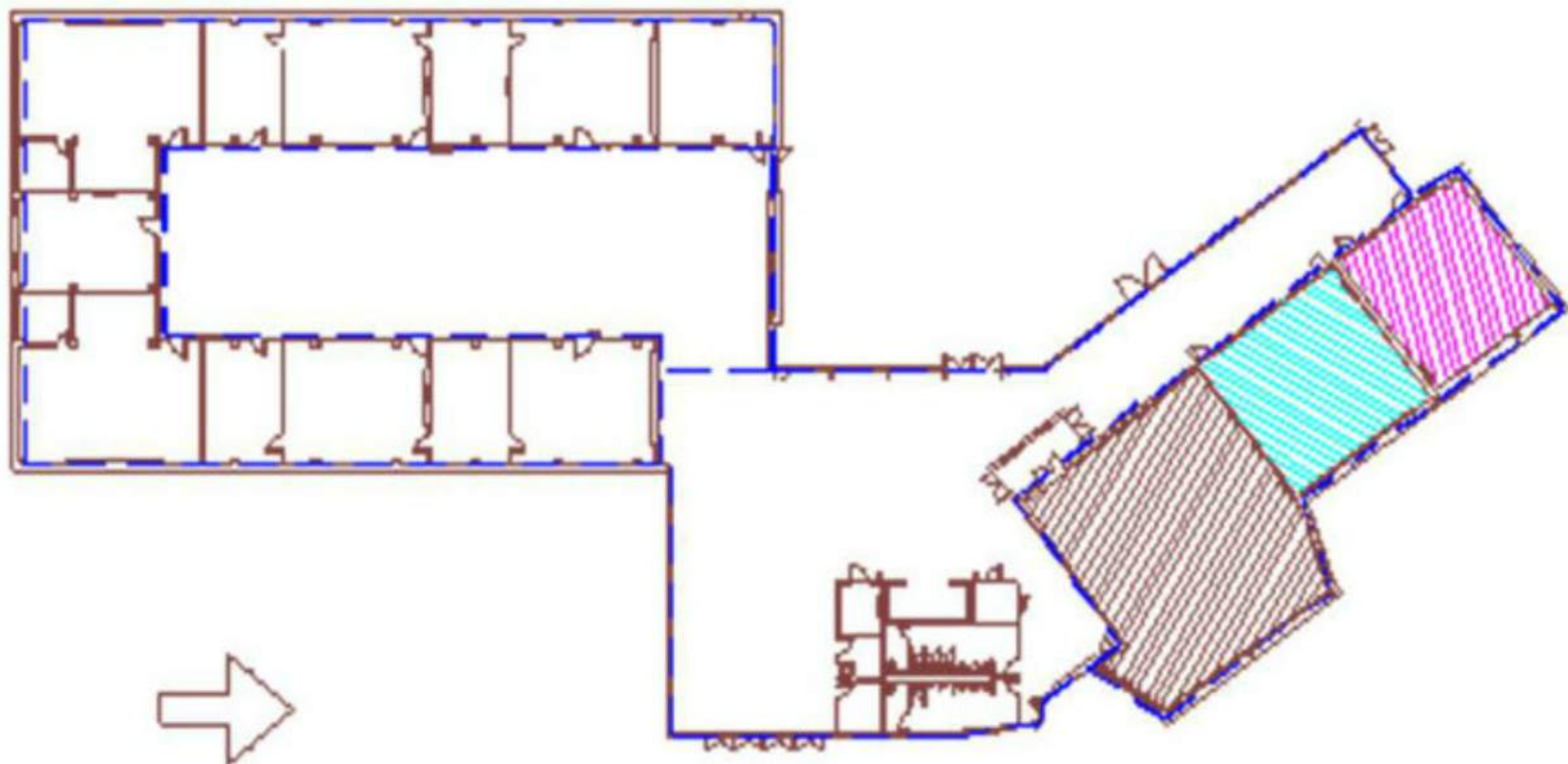


# Zoning

# Zoning



# Local Zoning



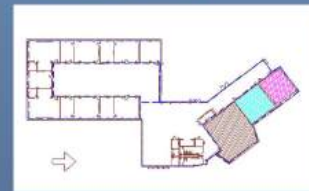


# Zoning

Zoning



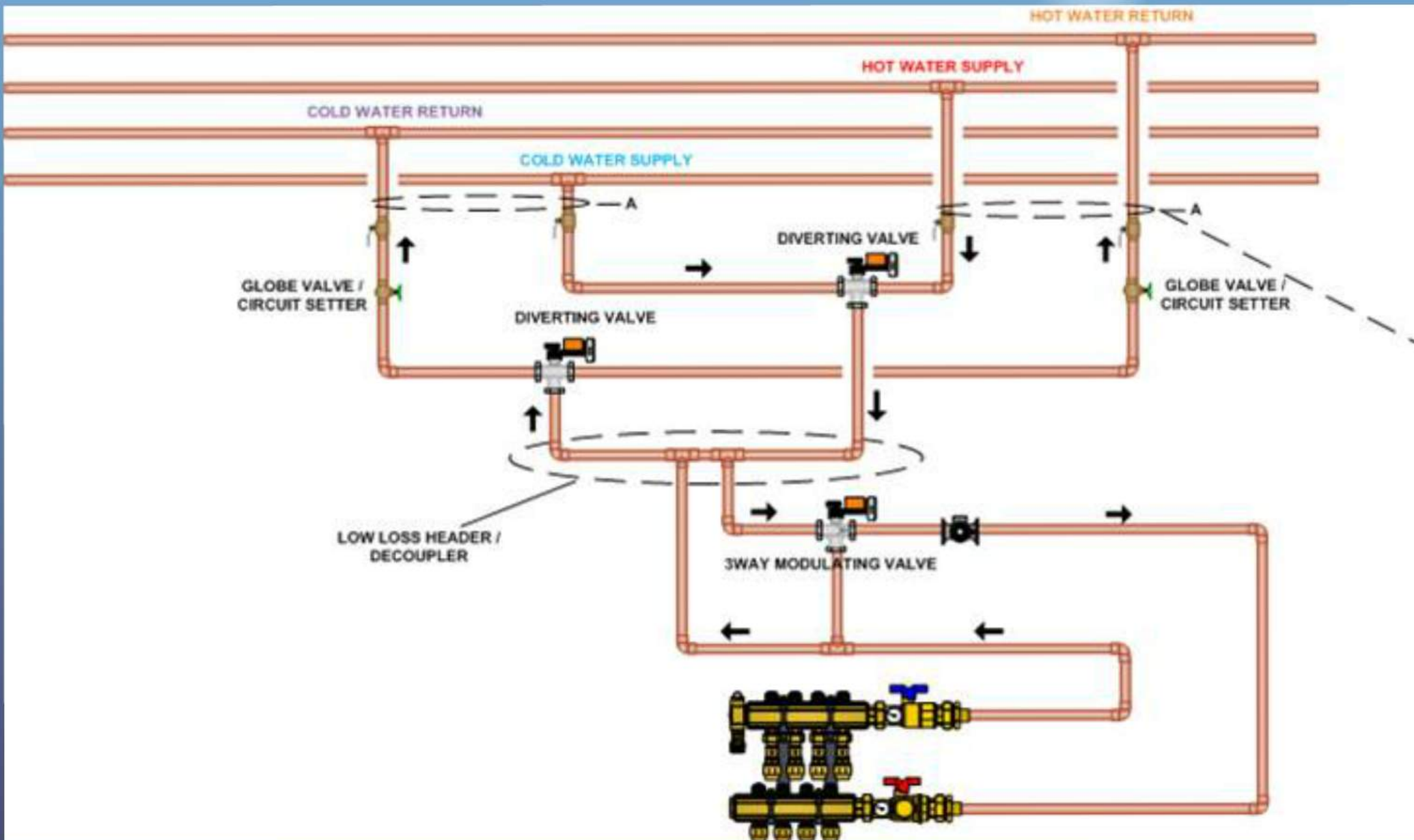
Local Zoning





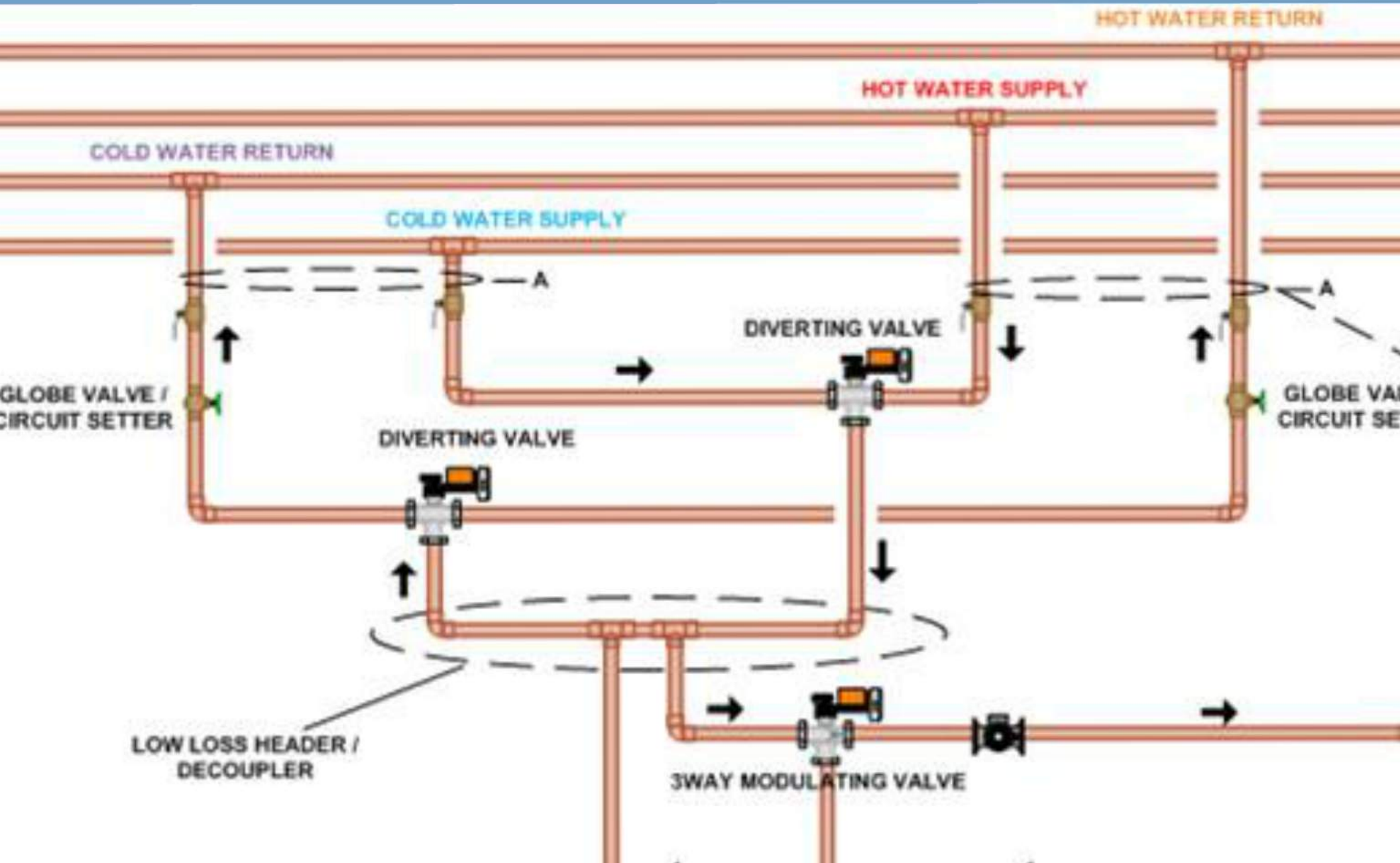
# Piping & Controls

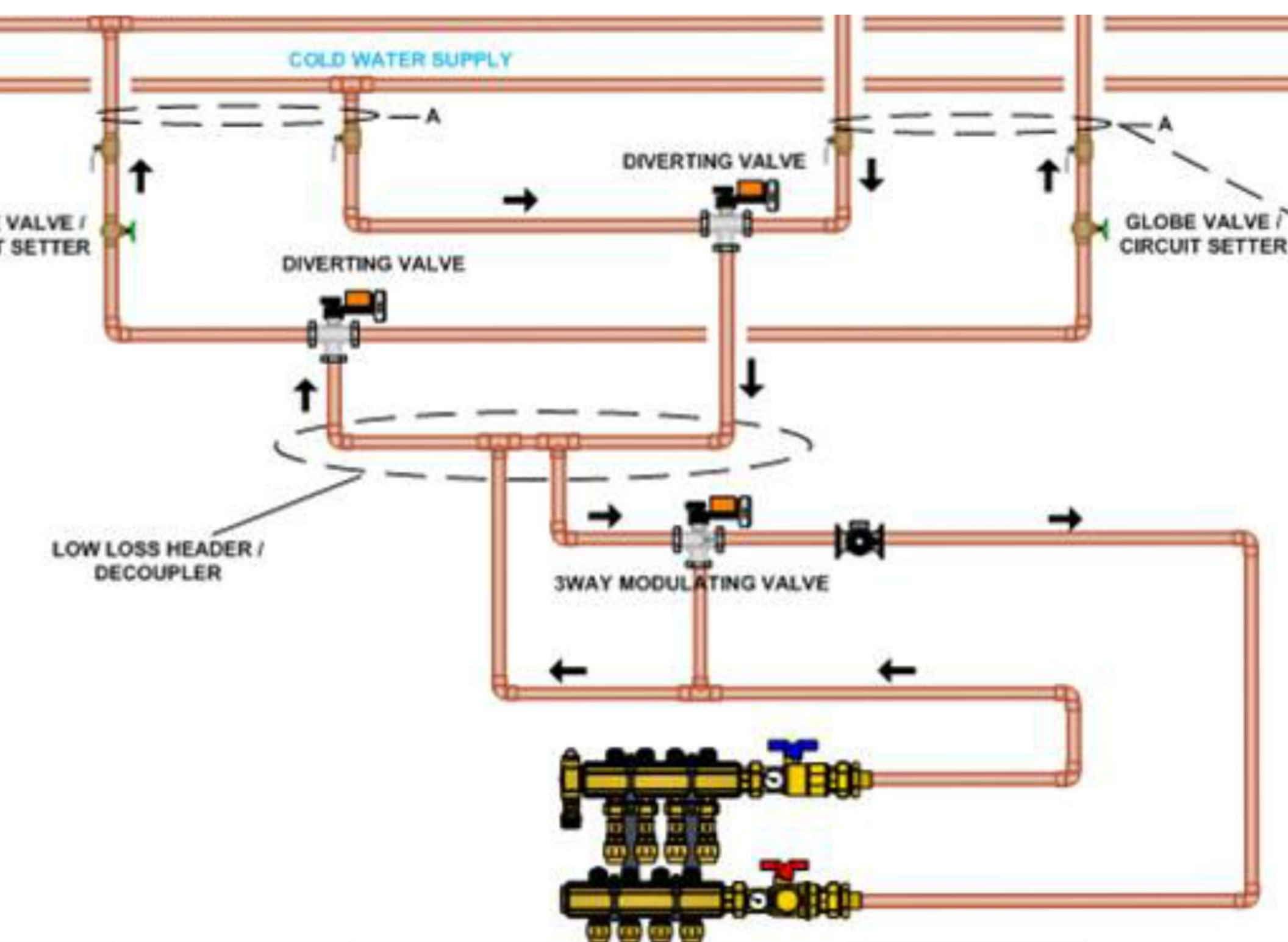
# Switchover Control



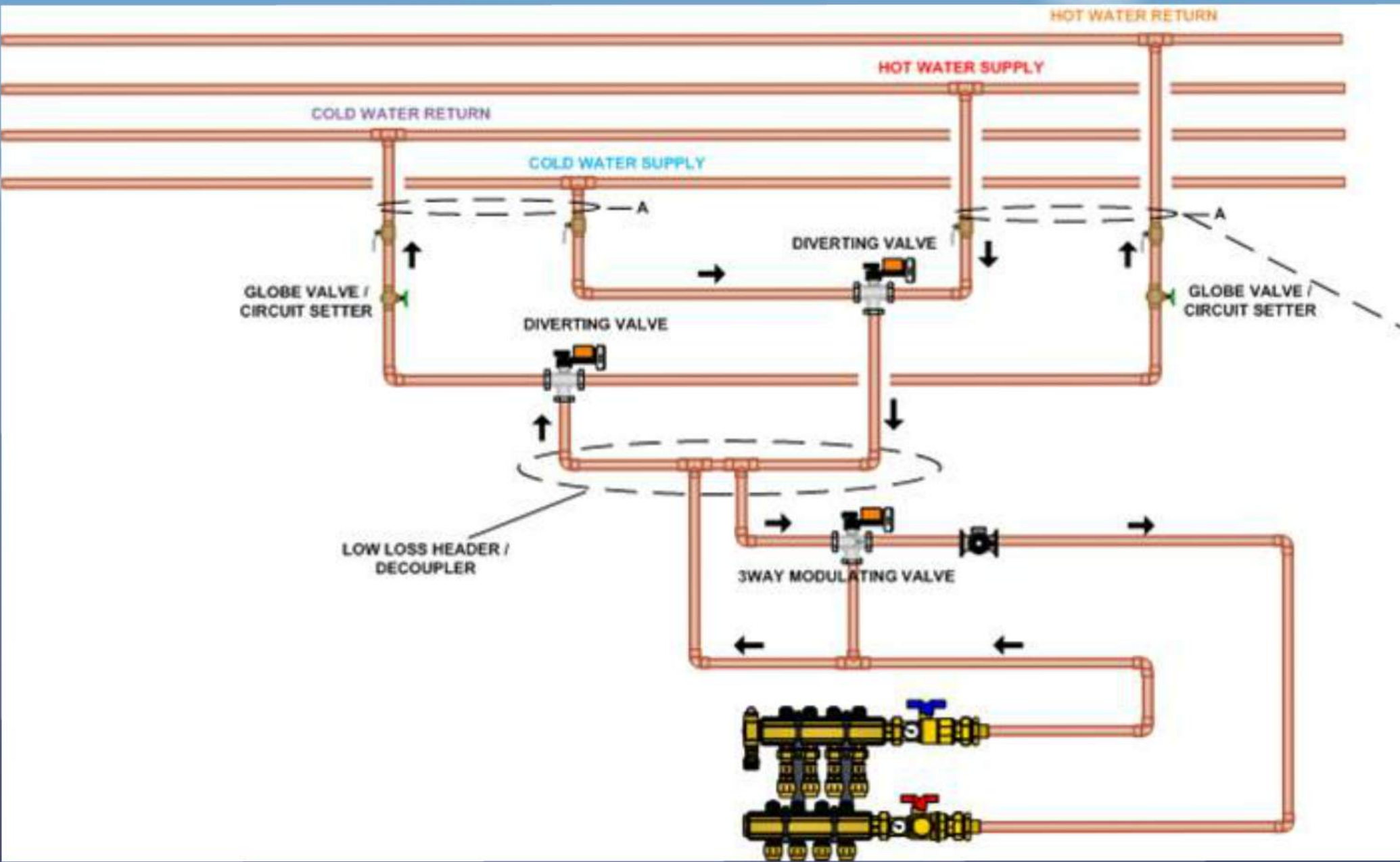


# Flow Control



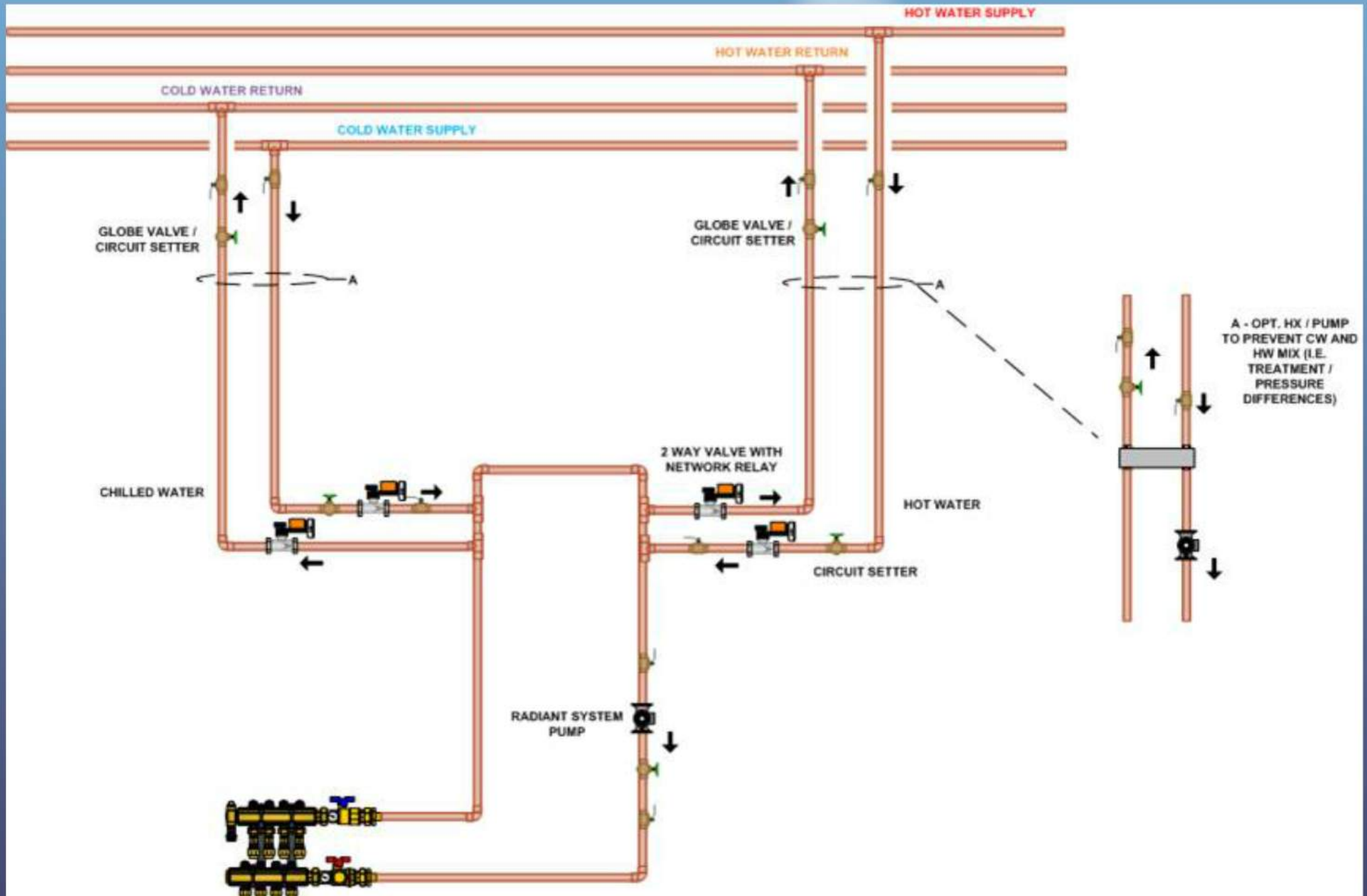


# Switchover Control

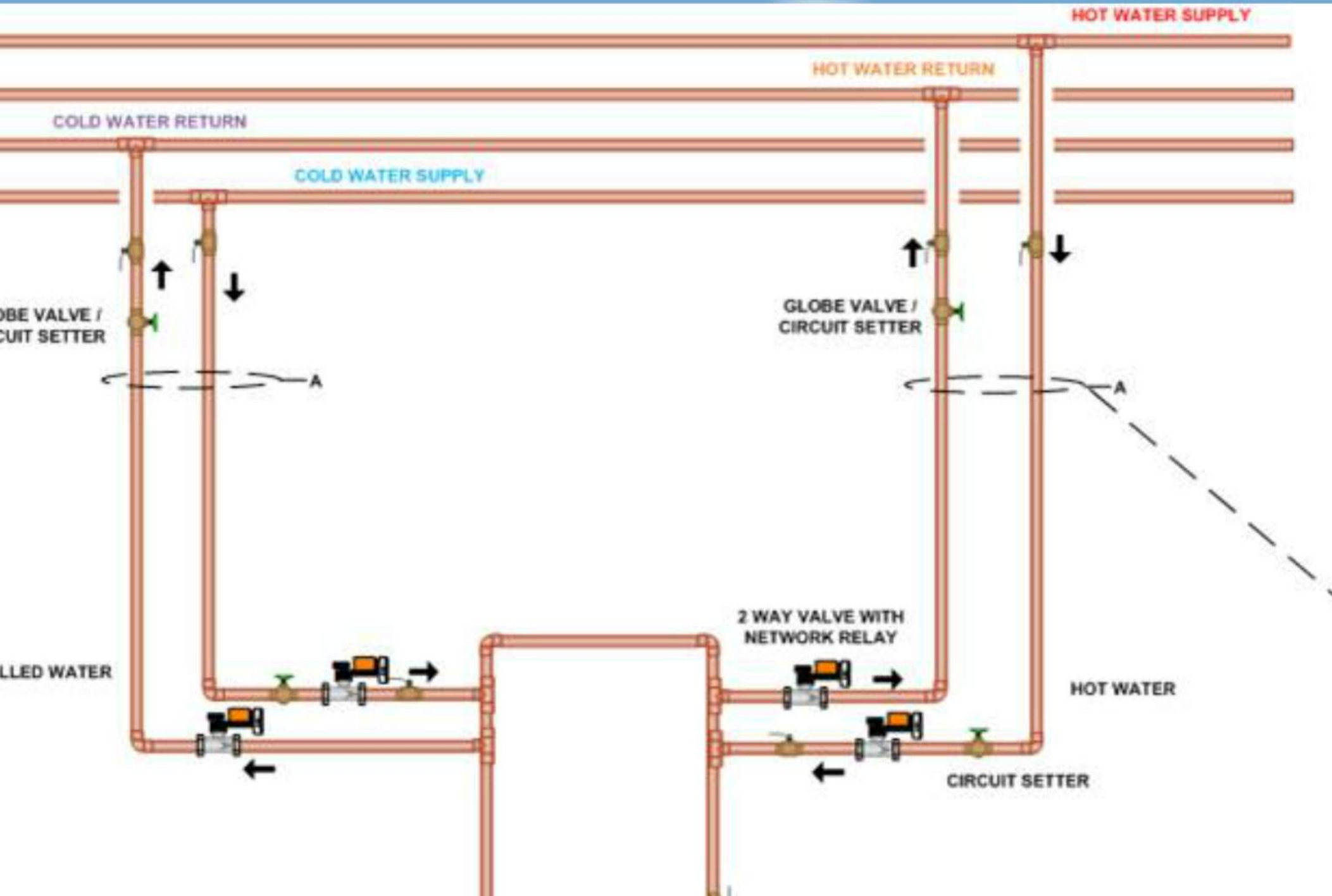




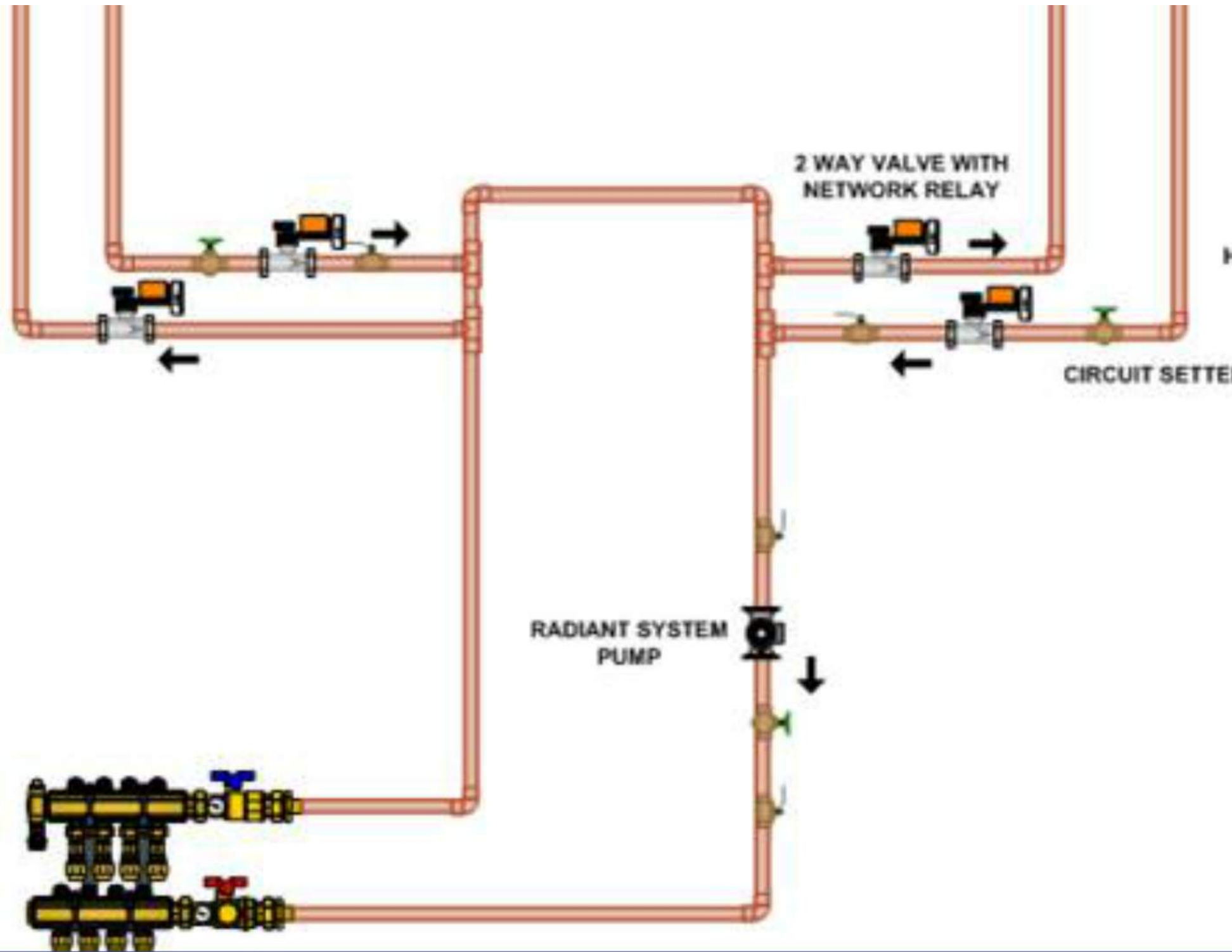
# Local Injection Control



# Cal Injection Control



WATER

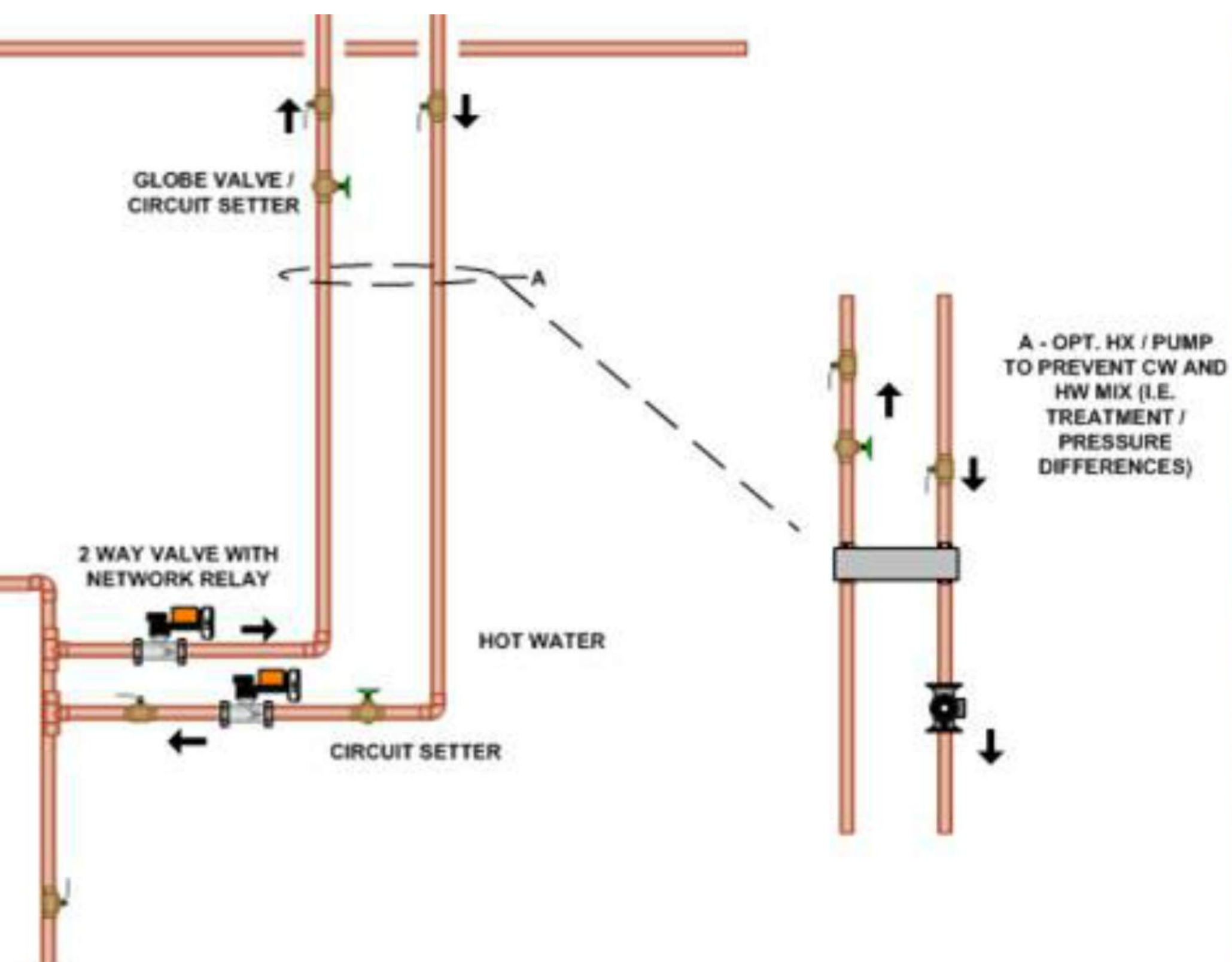


2 WAY VALVE WITH NETWORK RELAY

CIRCUIT SETTER

RADIANT SYSTEM PUMP





GLOBE VALVE /  
CIRCUIT SETTER

2 WAY VALVE WITH  
NETWORK RELAY

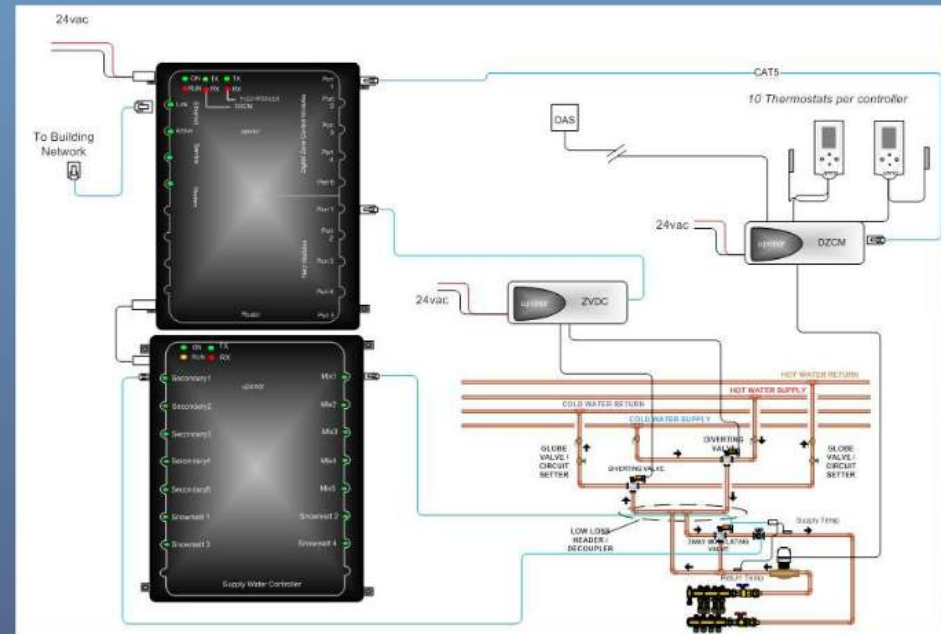
HOT WATER

CIRCUIT SETTER

A - OPT. HX / PUMP  
TO PREVENT CW AND  
HW MIX (I.E.  
TREATMENT /  
PRESSURE  
DIFFERENCES)

# Control Points

- Space Temperature
- Indoor Relative Humidity
- Operative Temperature
- Operating Water Temperatures
- Slab Temperature
- Control Valves
- Circulating Pumps
- Outdoor Temperature
- Outdoor Relative Humidity



# Control Strategies

- Base load with radiant cooling system and operate as a differential to air setpoint
- Utilize indoor adaptive rest strategy to optimize target water temperature for maximum effectiveness
- Continuously monitor indoor relative humidity for condensation control
- Maintain constant slab temperature



# Condensation Control

*“Although radiant cooling has been in successful use in Switzerland for about 15 years, very little, if any progress has been made in its use in America. The reason seems to be that many engineers believe that a radiant cooling system will necessarily carry with it objectionable and injurious condensation of water vapor on the cooling panels...”*



F.E. Giesecke, PhD Founder of the Texas A&M University Architecture Program  
Hot Water Heating and Radiant Heating and Radiant Cooling, 1946

# Condensation Control

## Condensation

Surface condensation will occur if the surface temperature drops below the dew point

## Solution

Continuously monitor indoor relative humidity and maintain supply water temperature above dew point at all times

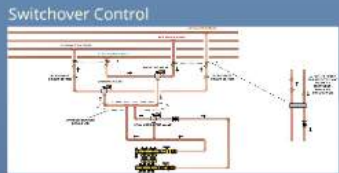


# Controllability

- High thermal mass provides “inertia” against temperature fluctuations
- Heat transfer from the thermal mass to the space is instantaneous whenever there is a temperature difference
- Thermal mass evens out fluctuations in internal temperature
- Secondary system used to handle high load densities



# Piping & Controls



### Control Points

- Supply Temperature
- Indoor Relative Humidity
- Operative Temperature
- Operating Water Temperature
- Mass Temperature
- Control History
- Circulating Pump
- Outdoor Temperature
- Outdoor Relative Humidity

### Control Strategies

- Base load with radiant ceiling system and operate as a differential air system
- Utilize indoor adaptive reset strategy to optimize supply water temperature for maximum efficiency
- Continuously monitor indoor relative humidity for condensation control
- Maintain constant slab temperature

### Condensation Control

Radon gas is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is produced by the decay of uranium and thorium in the earth's crust. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Radon is a health hazard because it can cause lung cancer when inhaled. Radon is measured in Working Level (WL) and Working Level Month (WLM). Radon is a gas that can be found in the air, soil, and water. It is a natural part of the environment and is found in all rocks and soils. Radon is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is produced by the decay of uranium and thorium in the earth's crust. It is a health hazard because it can cause lung cancer when inhaled. Radon is measured in Working Level (WL) and Working Level Month (WLM). Radon is a gas that can be found in the air, soil, and water. It is a natural part of the environment and is found in all rocks and soils.

### Condensation Control

#### Condensation

Water condenses on all cold surfaces. Condensation is a common problem in buildings.

#### Solution

Continuously monitor indoor relative humidity and maintain it below 60% to prevent condensation.

### Controllability

- High thermal mass provides "inertia" against temperature fluctuations
- Mass transfer from the thermal mass to the space is instantaneous whenever there is a temperature difference
- Thermal mass evens out fluctuations in internal temperature
- Secondary system used to handle high load densities



Cost

# Typical Cost Factors

## No Cost

- Structural Slab already part of the construction budget
- Chilled water source typically already part of the budget

## Additional Cost

- Cost of tubing, manifolds, fittings, circulators
- Insulation
- Increased Labor

## Reduced Cost

- Smaller air handling units, ductwork, diffusers, etc.
- Reduced ceiling space requirements may allow for reduced floor to floor heights
- Potential to reduce electrical service size

## Reduced Maintenance Cost

Less airside equipment to maintain



# Typical Cost Factors

## Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Study

Average cost of the radiant system, including central plant \$10-\$12/ SF

## 2019 Cost Data

Average cost of materials & labor (excluding chilled water source) \$12 - \$14 / SF

## Innovations for Reduced Cost

Installation Methods

Pre-manufactured solutions

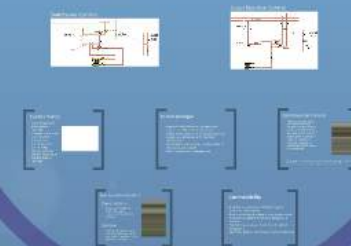


# Radiant Fundamentals

## Zoning



## Piping & Controls



## Slab & Construction Details



## Cost



# Summary

## Benefits

- Can be used to dramatically reduce overall building energy use
- Superior Human Comfort
- Improved architectural freedom

## Performance

12-14 BTUH/SF Sensible, up to 25-32 BTUH/SF with direct solar for radiant floor installations

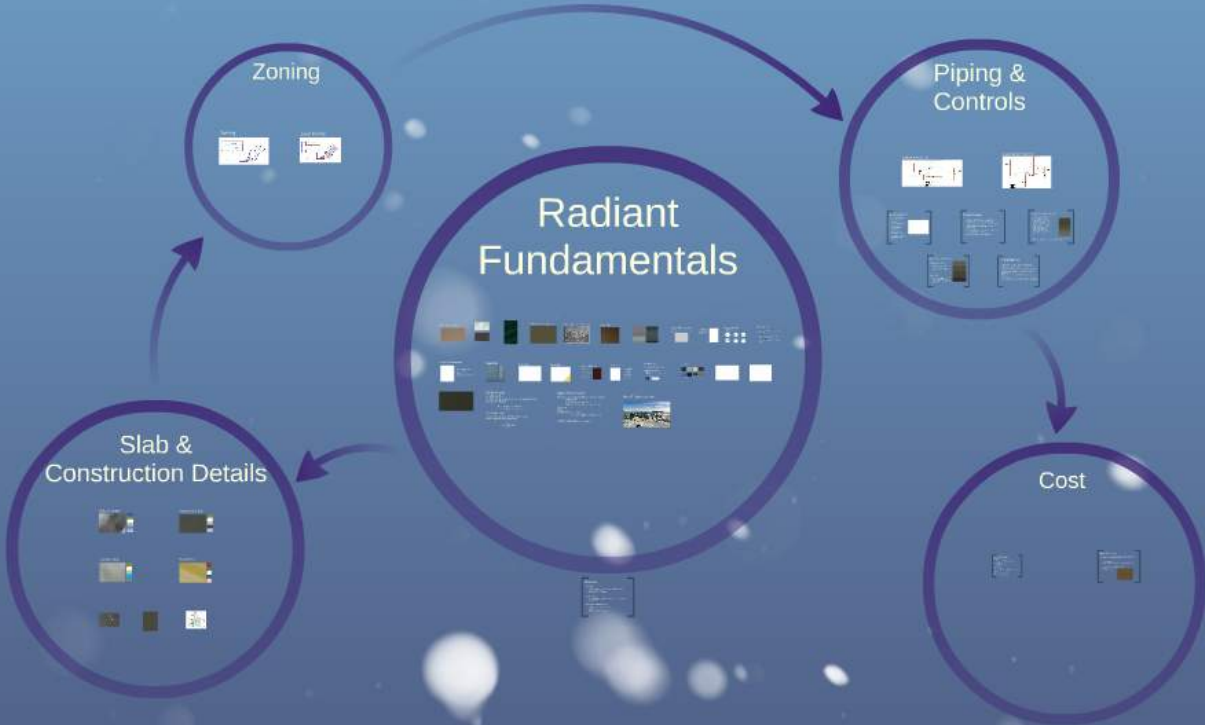
## Important Considerations

- Controlling Indoor Relative Humidity
- Controls
- Installation Methods
- Installation and Life-Cycle Costs



# Energy Efficient Embedded Tube Radiant Cooling Systems

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# Energy Efficient Embedded Tube Radiant Cooling Systems

## Questions

