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Konferenzbeiträge / Atti / Proceedings

# Building Simulation Applications BSA 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> IBPSA Italy conference

Bozen-Bolzano, 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Edited by**

**Giovanni Pernigotto, Francesco Patuzzi, Alessandro Prada,  
Vincenzo Corrado, Andrea Gasparella**

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# Table of Contents

Preface.....	1
Urban Energy Computing: An Hourglass Model <i>Ardeshi Mahdavi, Neda Ghiassi</i> .....	3
The Viability of Using Different Types of Recycled Plastic as Glazing in Windows <i>Islam A. Mashaly, Yussra Rashed, Salah El-Haggar, Khaled Nassar</i> .....	13
Implications of Increasing Daylighting in Deep Energy Retrofitting in Norwegian Shopping Centres <i>Matthias Haase, Andreas Ampenberger</i> .....	19
PV-PCM Integration in Glazed Buildings. Numerical Study Through MATLAB/TRNSYS Linked Model <i>Hagar Elarga, Francesco Goia, Ernesto Benini</i> .....	27
Dynamic Simulation as a Tool for the Analysis of the Interactions Among the Controllers of HVAC Systems <i>Mara Magni, Jean Pierre Campana, Gian Luca Morini</i> .....	37
The Benchmark of a New SIMULINK Library for Thermal Dynamic Simulation of Buildings <i>Jean Pierre Campana, Mara Magni, Matteo Dongellini, Luca Morini</i> .....	45
A New Methodological Approach for Estimating Energy Savings due to Air Movement in Mixed-Mode Buildings <i>Francesco Babich, Malcolm Cook, Dennis Loveday, Rajan Rawal, Yash Shukla</i> .....	53
On the Indoor Thermal Behavior of a Building with Cool Envelope Components <i>Anna Laura Pisello, Veronica Lucia Castaldo, Claudia Fabiani, Franco Cotana</i> .....	61
How Microclimate Mitigation Affects Building Thermal-Energy Performance in Residential Zero Energy Italian Settlements <i>Anna Laura Pisello, Veronica Lucia Castaldo, Claudia Fabiani, Cristina Piselli, Franco Cotana, Mattheos Santamouris</i> .....	69
Thermal Performance of Innovative Building Envelope Systems in Mediterranean Climate <i>Maurizio Detommaso, Gianpiero Evola, Antonio Gagliano, Luigi Marletta, Francesco Nocera</i> .....	77
Pitfalls in Weather Data Management Strategies of Building Performance Simulation Tools <i>Livio Mazzarella, Martina Pasini</i> .....	87
Comparison Among Different Green Buildings Assessment Tools: Application to a Case Study <i>Benedetta Mattoni, Francesco Asdrubali, Giorgio Baldinelli, Francesco Bianchi, Fabio Bisegna, Luca Evangelisti, Paola Gori, Gianluca Grazieschi, Claudia Guattari</i> .....	97
Integrated Numerical Analysis and Building Information Modeling for Cultural Heritage <i>Elena Gigliarelli, Filippo Calcerano, Michele Calvano, Francesco Ruperto, Mario Sacco, Luciano Cessari</i> .....	105
Weather Scenario Generation for Stochastic Model Predictive Control Using Vector Autoregressive Prediction <i>Samuel R. Currie, Gregor P. Henze</i> .....	113
Historical Buildings in Protected Areas in Italy: A Re-Design Study of a Rural Building <i>Maurizio Cellura, Giuseppina Ciulla, Francesco Guarino, Sonia Longo</i> .....	119
On the Cost-Optimal Design: Comparison of Quasi-Steady-State and Dynamic Simplified Methods of Calculation of H/C Energy Needs <i>Ilaria Ballarini, Andrea Costantino, Domenico Dirutigliano, Enrico Fabrizio, Simona Paduos, Vincenzo Corrado</i> .....	129
Static and Dynamic Strategies for Improving Daylight Use in Side-Lit Classrooms: A Case Study <i>Vincenzo Costanzo, Gianpiero Evola, Luigi Marletta, Dario Panarelli</i> .....	137
RC Building Modelling for Control Purposes: A Case Study <i>Erica Zavaglio, Mario Motta</i> .....	145
Architectural Integration of Photovoltaics: Performance Evaluation of Curved Modules <i>Marco Lovati, Laura Maturi, David Moser</i> .....	153

Validation of a PCM Simulation Tool in IDA ICE Dynamic Building Simulation Software Using Experimental Data from Solar Test Boxes <i>Cristina Cornaro, Marco Pierro, Daniele Roncarati, Valerio Puggioni</i> .....	159
Analysis of the Influence of Thermal Losses of the Recirculation Flow Loop in a Residential Hot Water Solar System <i>Paolo Valdiserri</i> .....	167
Calibration of the Energy Simulation Models using Tikhonov-Type Regularization: Application to a Residential Building Apartment <i>Maja Miletić, Chiara Dipasquale, Roberto Fedrizzi</i> .....	175
On-Site Measurements and Whole-Building Thermal Dynamic Simulation of a Semi-Confined Prefabricated Building for Heritage Conservation <i>Francesca Frasca, Anna Maria Siani, Cristina Cornaro, .....</i>	185
Comparison Between Simplified and Detailed Methods for the Calculation of Heating and Cooling Energy Needs of Livestock Housing: A Case Study <i>Andrea Costantino, Ilaria Ballarini, Enrico Fabrizio</i> .....	193
Effect of Blind Control Strategies on Energy Demand of Office Buildings and Melanopic Effect for Occupants <i>Daniel Plörer, Matthias Werner, Martin Hauer, David Geisler-Moroder</i> .....	201
Introducing a Hybrid Energy-Use Model at the Urban Scale: The Case Study of Turin (Italy) <i>Marta Carozza, Guglielmina Mutani, Silvia Coccolo, Jérôme Kaempf</i> .....	209
OpenBPS: A New Building Performance Simulation Tool <i>Livio Mazzarella, Martina Pasini</i> .....	217
A Comparative Study of Computational Algorithms Used in the Automatic Generation of Reduced-Order Models from CFD Simulations <i>Thibault Marzullo, Sajjad Yousefian, Marcus M. Keane, Marco Geron, Rory F.D. Monaghan</i> .....	225
Comparison of Direct Radiation Split Algorithms for Energy Simulation of Buildings <i>Giorgio Lupato, Marco Manzan, Stefano Cirilli</i> .....	233
Introduction of a New Dynamic Simulation Screening Tool to Support Early-Stage Building Design <i>Marco Picco, Giorgio Ghisalberti, Gaetano Fabio Graziano, Marco Marengo</i> .....	241
On the Influence of Storage Size and Management on the Consumption of Air Source Heat Pumps in High Performance Buildings <i>Elena Bee, Alessandro Prada, Paolo Baggio</i> .....	249
Energy Refurbishment of Social Housing Stock in Italy: Analysis of Some Scenarios from the Impact of Climate Change to Occupant Behaviour <i>Leone Pierangoli, Cristina Carletti, Gianfranco Cellai, Fabio Sciurpi</i> .....	257
Analysis of Simplified Lumped-Capacitance Models to Simulate Thermal Behaviour of Buildings <i>Jacopo Vivian, Angelo Zarrella, Giuseppe Emmi, Michele De Carli</i> .....	265
Measurement of the Impact of Buildings on Meteorological Variables <i>Dasaraden Mauree, Laurent Deschamps, Paul Bequelin, Pierre Loesch, Jean-Louis Scartezzini</i> .....	273
Improving Local Wind Estimation for the Automated Control of Blinds <i>Dasaraden Mauree, Ali Motamed, Laurent Deschamps, Jean-Louis Scartezzini</i> .....	279
Modelling of Complex Fenestration Systems – Validation Results by Long-Term Measured Data <i>Martin Hauer, Michael Grobbauer, Stefan Holper, Daniel Plörer</i> .....	285
Cooling Energy Needs in Non-Residential Buildings Located in Mediterranean Area: A Revision of the Quasi-Steady Procedure <i>Roberto Bruno, Natale Arcuri, Cristina Carpino</i> .....	293
Steady-State and Transient Simulation of a Radiant Heating System <i>Fabian Ochs, Mara Magni, Michele Bianchi Janetti, Dietmar Siegele</i> .....	301
Comparison Between Energy-Optimized and Cost-Optimized Design of Multi-Family Buildings Through Automated Optimization <i>Maria Ferrara, Elisa Sirobo, Enrico Fabrizio</i> .....	309
Effective Building Modelling for Energy Performance Contracting <i>Alberto Giretti, Massimo Lemma, Miquel Casals, Marcel Macarulla, Alba Fuertes, Rory Jones</i> .....	317
Integrated Energy Modelling to Support District Cooling Optimisation: Methodological Approach <i>Francesco Passerini, Andrea Bassani, Pietro De Cinque, Raymond Sterling, Jesus Febres, Anna Magrini, Andrea Costa, Marcus M. Keane</i> .....	325

The Development and Verification of a Computational Tool for the Evaluation of the Visual Accessibility of Architectural Spaces <i>Dawid Wolosiuk, Harald Hofstätter, Ardeshir Mahdavi</i> .....	333
The Diversity Challenge in Models of Occupants' Presence in Buildings <i>Ardeshir Mahdavi, Farhang Tahmasebi, William O'Brien, H. Burak Gunay</i> .....	339
Accounting for the Diversity of Use Patterns in Representations of Office Plug Loads in Building Performance Simulation <i>Ardeshir Mahdavi, Farhang Tahmasebi</i> .....	345
A Comparison Between Numerical Methods for Evaluating Ground-Coupled Heat Pump Systems Performance <i>Angelo Zarrella, Roberto Zecchin, Diego Guzzon, Michele De Carli, Giuseppe Emmi, Michele Quaggia</i> .....	351
Data Transfer from BIM to Building Performance Simulation Tools: A Case Study <i>Mirjana Bucevac, Ulrich Pont, Sigrun Swoboda, Ardeshir Mahdavi</i> .....	359
A Comparison of the Performance of Two- and Three-Dimensional Thermal Bridge Assessment for Typical Construction Joints <i>Ulrich Pont, Ardeshir Mahdavi</i> .....	367
Comparison Between Simulated and In-Situ Measured Speech Intelligibility in the Multilingual Context of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano <i>Simone Torresin, Chiara Visentin, Nicola Prodi, Francesca Cappelletti, Andrea Gasparella</i> .....	375
Simulation-Assisted Monitoring-Based Performance Evaluation of a Historically Relevant Architectural Design <i>Matthias Schuss, Ulrich Pont, Mahnameh Taheri, Christoph Lindner, Ardeshir Mahdavi</i> .....	385
Bio-Based and Recycled-Waste Materials in Buildings: A Study of Energy Performance of Hemp-Lime Concrete and Recycled-PET Façades for Office Facilities in France and Italy <i>Chadi Maalouf, Carlo Ingrao, Flavio Scrucca, Tala Moussa, Caterina Tricase, Francesco Asdrubali</i> .....	393
Case Study for Energy Efficiency Measures of Buildings on an Urban Scale <i>Domenico Dirutigliano, Mark-Alexander Brüntjen, Christian Fliegner, Jérôme Frisch, Vincenzo Corrado, Christoph van Treeck</i> .....	403
Investigating the Suitability of the WRF Model for Improving Prediction of Urban Climate Boundary Conditions <i>Kristopher Hammerberg, Oscar Brousse, Ardeshir Mahdavi</i> .....	411
On the Global Performance of Offices with Different Complex Fenestration Systems <i>Anna Maria Atzeri, Francesca Cappelletti, Athanasios Tzempelikos, Andrea Gasparella</i> .....	421
Sensitivity of WRF/Urban Simulations to Urban Morphology Parameters: A Case Study in the City of Bolzano <i>Gianluca Pappaccogli, Lorenzo Giovannini, Francesca Cappelletti, Dino Zardi</i> .....	433
Numerical Analysis of Thermal Bridges in Dynamic Conditions <i>Alessandra Romagnoli, Costanzo Di Perna, Davide Barbaresi, Elisa Di Giuseppe</i> .....	441
Building Integrated Photovoltaics/Thermal (BIPV/T) System: A New Dynamic Simulation Model and a Case Study <i>Andreas Athienitis, Giovanni Barone, Annamaria Buonomano, Adolfo Palombo</i> .....	449
Buildings Integrated Phase Change Materials: Modelling and Validation of a Novel Tool for the Energy Performance Analysis <i>Giovanni Avagliano, Annamaria Buonomano, Maurizio Cellura, Vasken Dermadiros, Francesco Guarino, Adolfo Palombo</i> .....	459
From Energy Signature to Cluster Analysis: Comparison Between Different Clustering Algorithms <i>Lorenza Pistore, Giovanni Pernigotto, Francesca Cappelletti, Piercarlo Romagnoni, Andrea Gasparella</i> .....	469
The Building Information Model and the IFC Standard: Analysis of the Characteristics Necessary for the Acoustic and Energy Simulation of Buildings <i>Costantino Carlo Mastino, Roberto Baccoli, Andrea Frattolillo, Martino Marini, Antonino Di Bella, Valerio Da Pos</i> .....	479
Mapping Savings in Energy Demand by Heat Recovery for European Countries Under Consideration of Humidity Control <i>Stefanie Tafelmeier, Giovanni Pernigotto, Andrea Gasparella</i> .....	487

Calibrated Simulation Models for Indoor Comfort Assessment: The Case of a Healthcare Facility in Vienna <i>Luca Zaniboni, Giovanni Pernigotto, Matthias Schuß, Kristina Kiesel, Andrea Gasparella, Ardeshir Mahdavi</i> .....	497
Temporal and Spatial Predictability of Occupants' Presences in a Library Building <i>Ki Uhn Ahn, Won Jun Suh, Cheol Soo Park</i> .....	505
Stochastic Multi-Criteria Decision Making of Energy Recovery Ventilation Systems using Cumulative Prospect Theory <i>Young Jin Kim</i> .....	513
Proposing a Life Cycle Energy Efficiency Index for Comparative Assessment of Insulation Materials' Performance <i>Hashem Amini Toosi, Ali Vakili-Ardebili, Nasim Hasheminejad</i> .....	521
Development of a Design Numerical Model of a Hybrid Cooler <i>Matteo D'Antoni, Roberto Fedrizzi</i> .....	529
Selecting Roller Shades Properties Based on Glare Mitigation, Energy Performance and Connection to the Outdoors <i>Iason Konstantzos, Athanasios Tzempelikos</i> .....	539
Dynamic Simulation of the Influence of Fenestration on Buildings Energy Consumption. A Comparison Between Northern and Southern Europe <i>Angelo Spena, Viola Iaria, Carlo Mazzenga</i> .....	547
A New Control Strategy for Variable Refrigerant Flow Systems <i>Xiaojie Lin, Yunho Hwang, Reinhard Radermacher, Byungsoon Kim</i> .....	557
Development of an Energy Performance Benchmark Using Quantitative Analysis of Energy Consumption of Office Buildings <i>HyeGi Kim, SunSook Kim</i> .....	565
Parametric Technical and Economic Analysis of Thermal Comfort and Productivity in Industrial Buildings <i>Mariantonietta Tarantini, Giovanni Pernigotto, Fabian Ochs, Andrea Gasparella</i> .....	573

## Preface

The third edition of Building Simulation Applications BSA 2017, the biannual conference of IBPSA Italy hosted by the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, proved to be at least as successful as the previous events. From February 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2017, it featured more than 100 participants and more than 75 presentations, about 40 % of which from abroad – Austria, US, South Korea, Ireland, Switzerland and the UK, among the first contributors. In addition, besides researchers, it also hosted a half-day special roundtable discussion about the potential and limitations of a set of simulation tools, attended by about 80 practitioners, to discuss the opportunities opened up to professionals by the use of building simulation, as well as the main barriers preventing its broader diffusion.

This was one of the reasons for presenting awards to some distinguished examples of use of building simulation in practice with the second edition of the IBPSA Italy Project Award, and, since the student of today will be the practitioner and the designer of tomorrow, for starting the first edition of a simulation introductory school for students.

Regarding the topics, some clear trends were documented in BSA 2017, as highlighted by the four keynotes.

If parametric simulation has increased the possibility of investigating a broader range of configurations, the adoption of optimization techniques allows the identification of the best design or operative configuration. Real time optimization, in particular, enables model-predictive control strategies in which the building model is used to identify and update the best control actions based on short-term weather and occupancy forecasts. Gregor Henze (University of Colorado Boulder, USA – Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering) addressed those aspects in his keynote “Exploration of Building Model Complexity for Residential and Commercial Model Predictive Control”.

Multi-domain simulation is at the base/bottom of an integrated analysis of building performance, allowing the occupant to effectively become the aim of the design and operation activities. Energy

efficiency, global cost and environmental sustainability in this perspective are only constraints, which need to be considered in the light of the quality of the indoor environment. Humans are at the very core of the project, and buildings have to be designed to interpret their needs and to facilitate their interactions in order to achieve high performance levels, as Panagiota Karava (Purdue University, USA – School of Civil Engineering) clarified in her speech about “Cyber-Physical-Human Systems for High Performance Buildings”.

Reinhard Radermacher (University of Maryland, USA – Center for Environmental Energy Engineering) reminded the audience about a long-lasting trend in building simulation dealing with the constant increase in the simulation detail and complexity and the co-simulation of building and technical systems. Design of high-performance buildings requires careful use of natural resources, from solar gains to renewable energy sources, using new technologies whose potentialities need to be explored and evaluated by means of coupled simulation of building and HVAC systems, as emerged from the keynote “Thoughts on Emerging Technologies and Simulation Aspects for HVAC in Buildings”.

Finally, in the keynote “Urban Energy Computing: an Hourglass Model”, Ardeshir Mahdavi (Technische Universität Wien, Austria – Department of Building Physics and Building Ecology) reported about an additional tendency, related to multi-scale simulation. Buildings interact with each other and with the external environment, especially in urban contexts, and such an intertwined performance needs to be studied simultaneously. The capability of predicting the behavioral whole of urban areas is then of crucial importance but, nonetheless, still challenging and requiring innovative approaches.

Andrea Gasparella, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano