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

Building Science

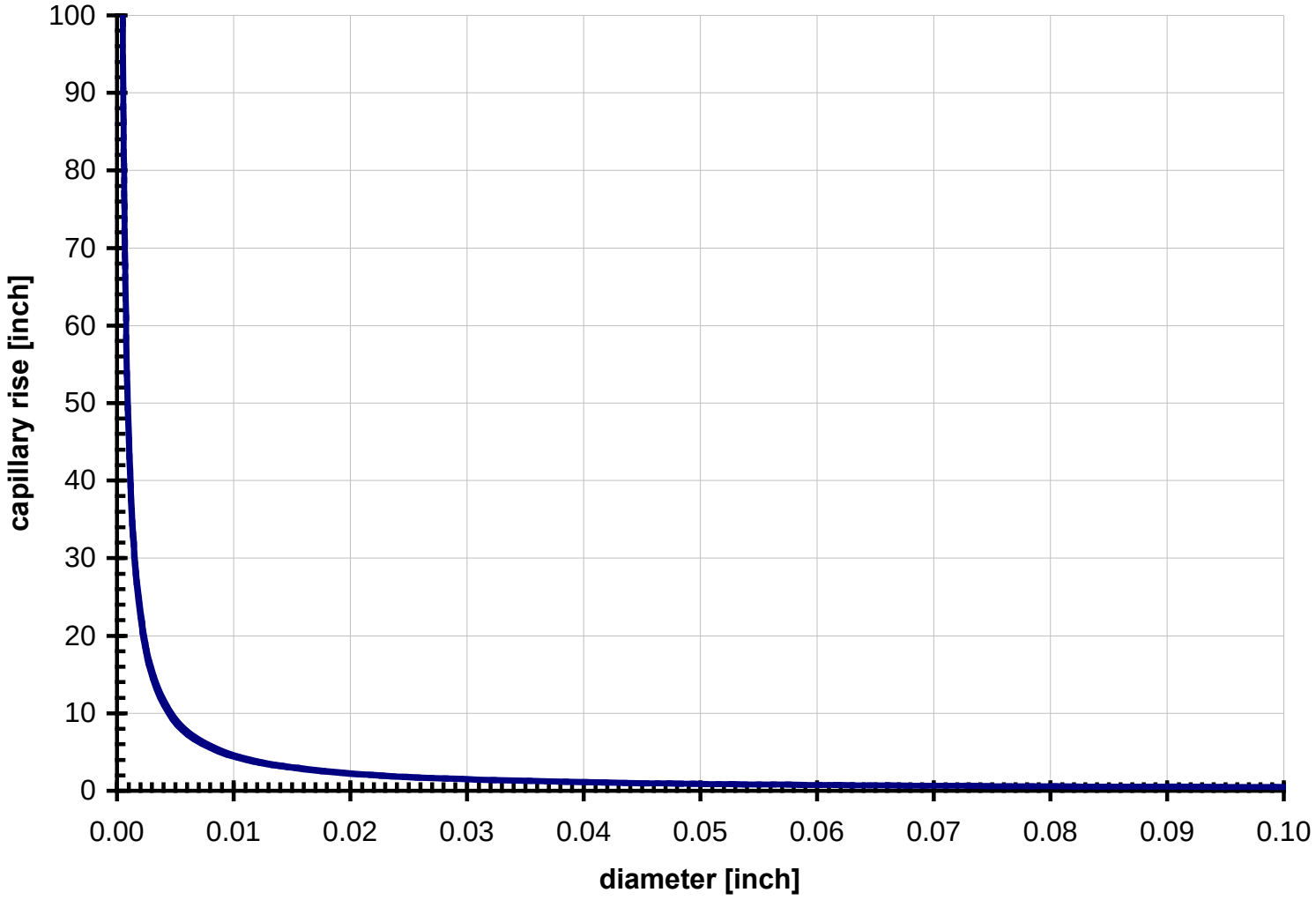
There's No Such Thing As A Free Thermodynamic Lunch

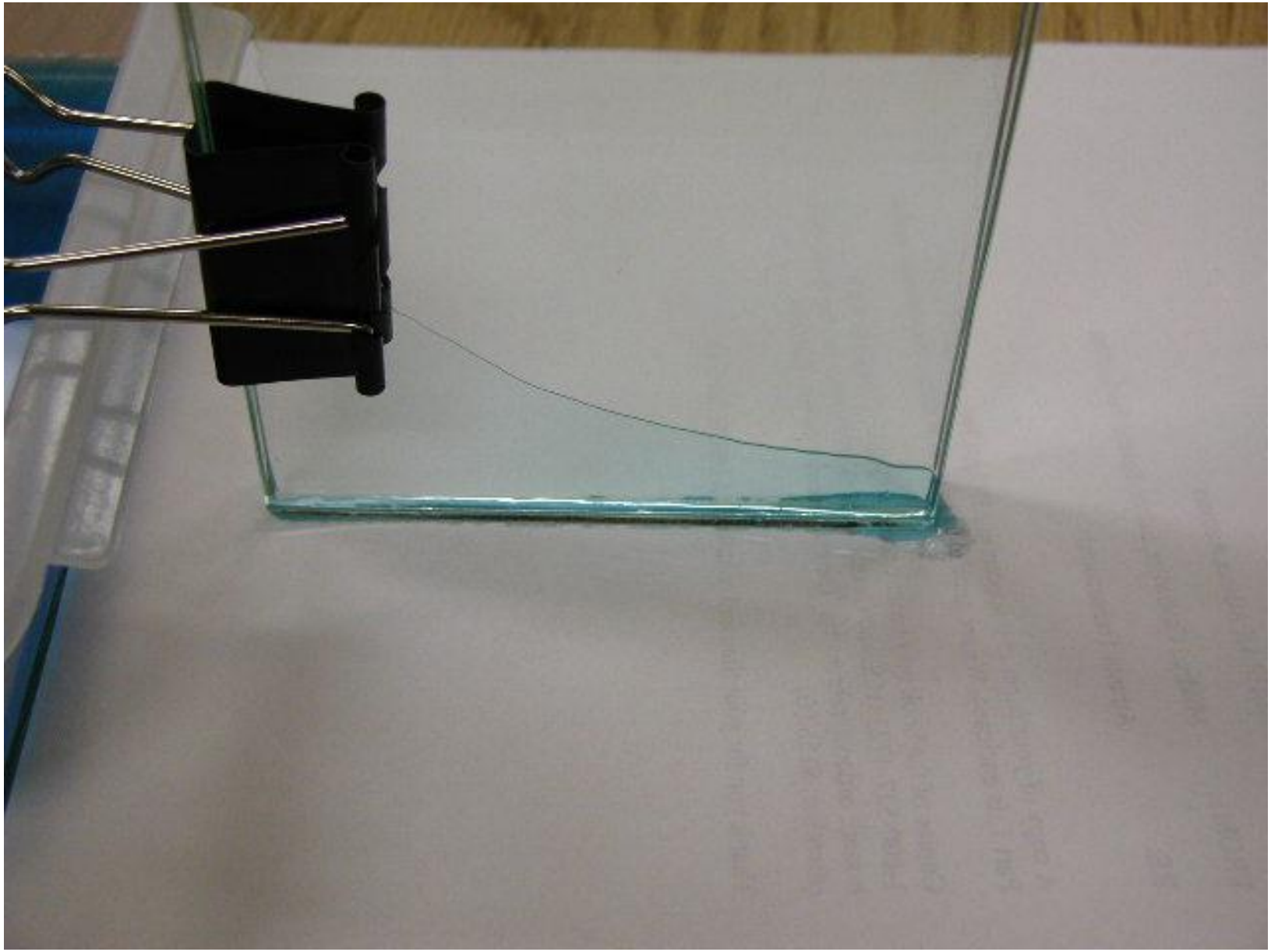
www.buildingscience.com

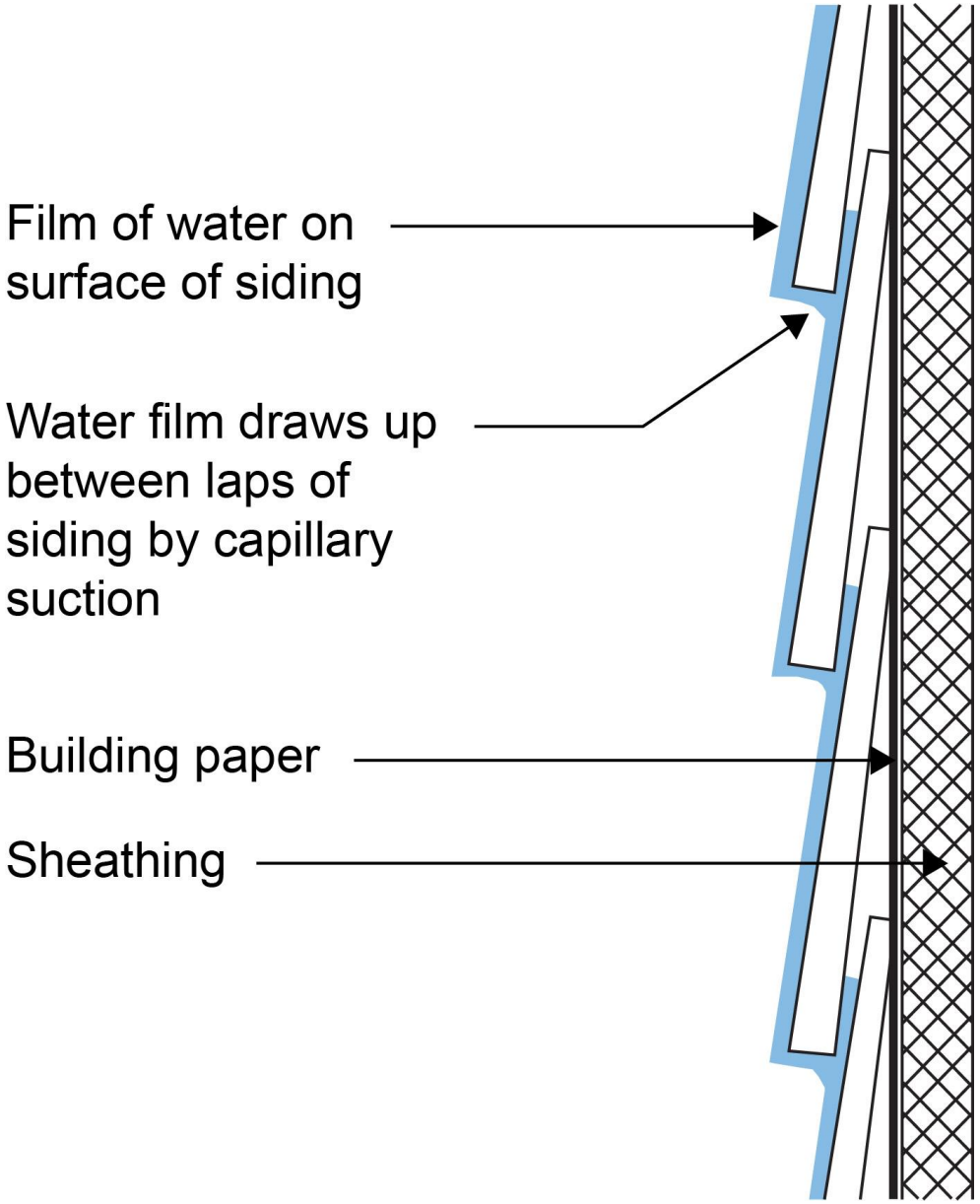
Energy Flow

Capillarity

Capillary rise versus diameter






Film of water on surface of siding
Water film draws up between laps of siding by capillary suction
Building paper
Sheathing

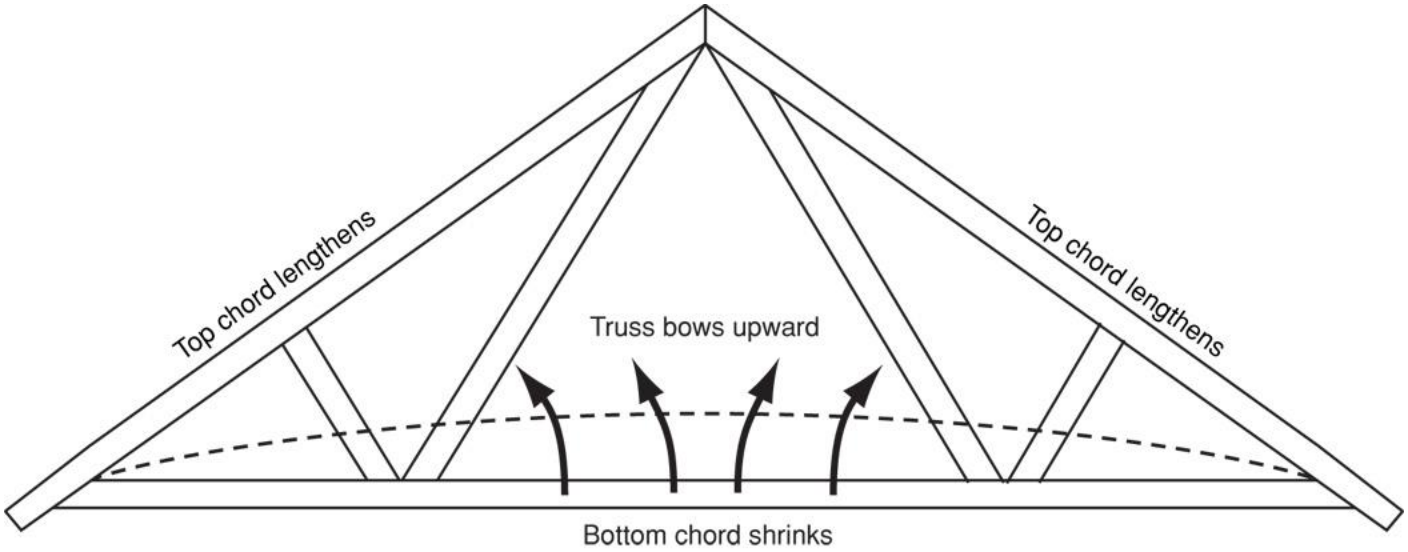
Attic Venting

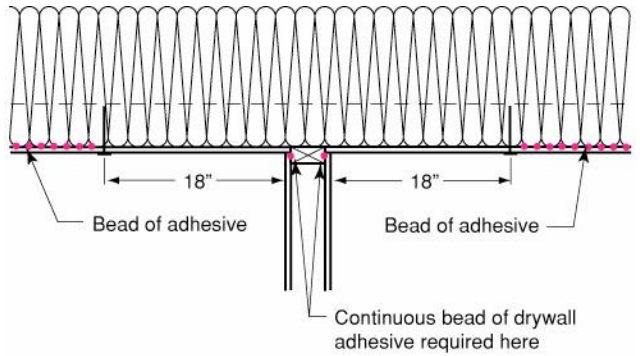
015

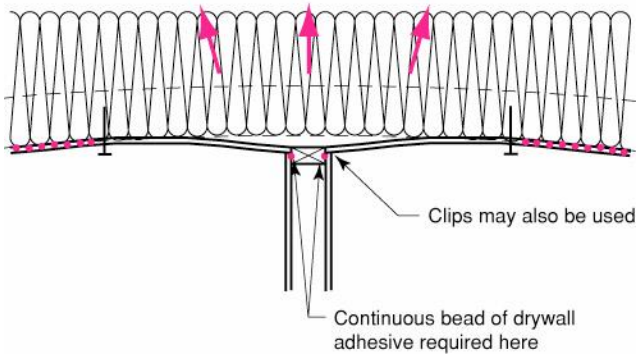
Vapor Barriers In the Wrong Place

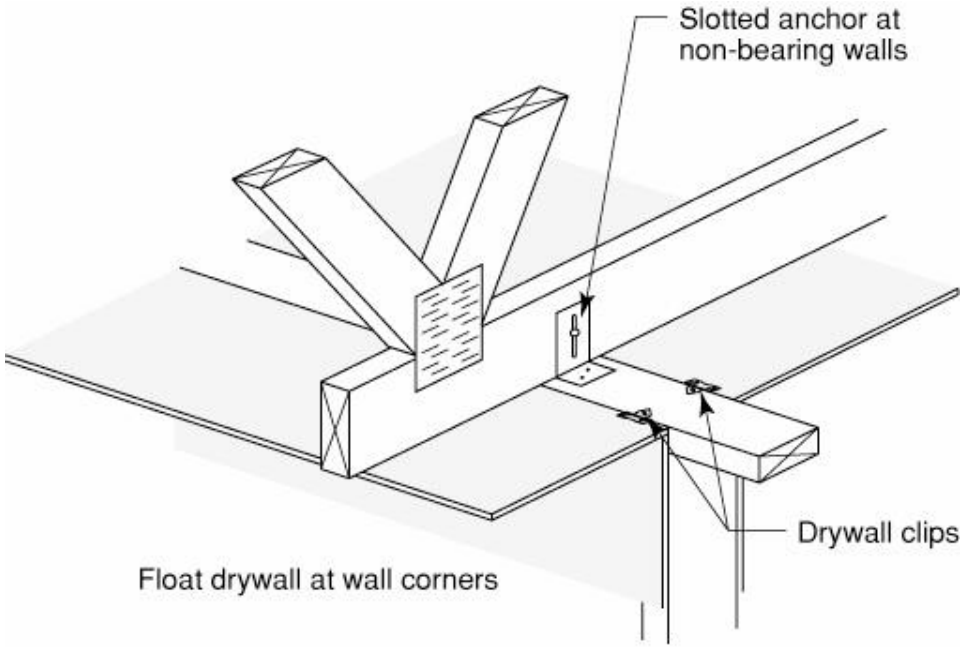
Truss Uplift

6537


Top chord lengthens
Truss bows upward
Top chord lengthens
Bottom chord shrinks


18"
18"
Bead of adhesive
Bead of adhesive
Continuous bead of drywall
adhesive required here


Clips may also be used
Continuous bead of drywall
adhesive required here


Slotted anchor at
non-bearing walls
Drywall clips
Float drywall at wall corners

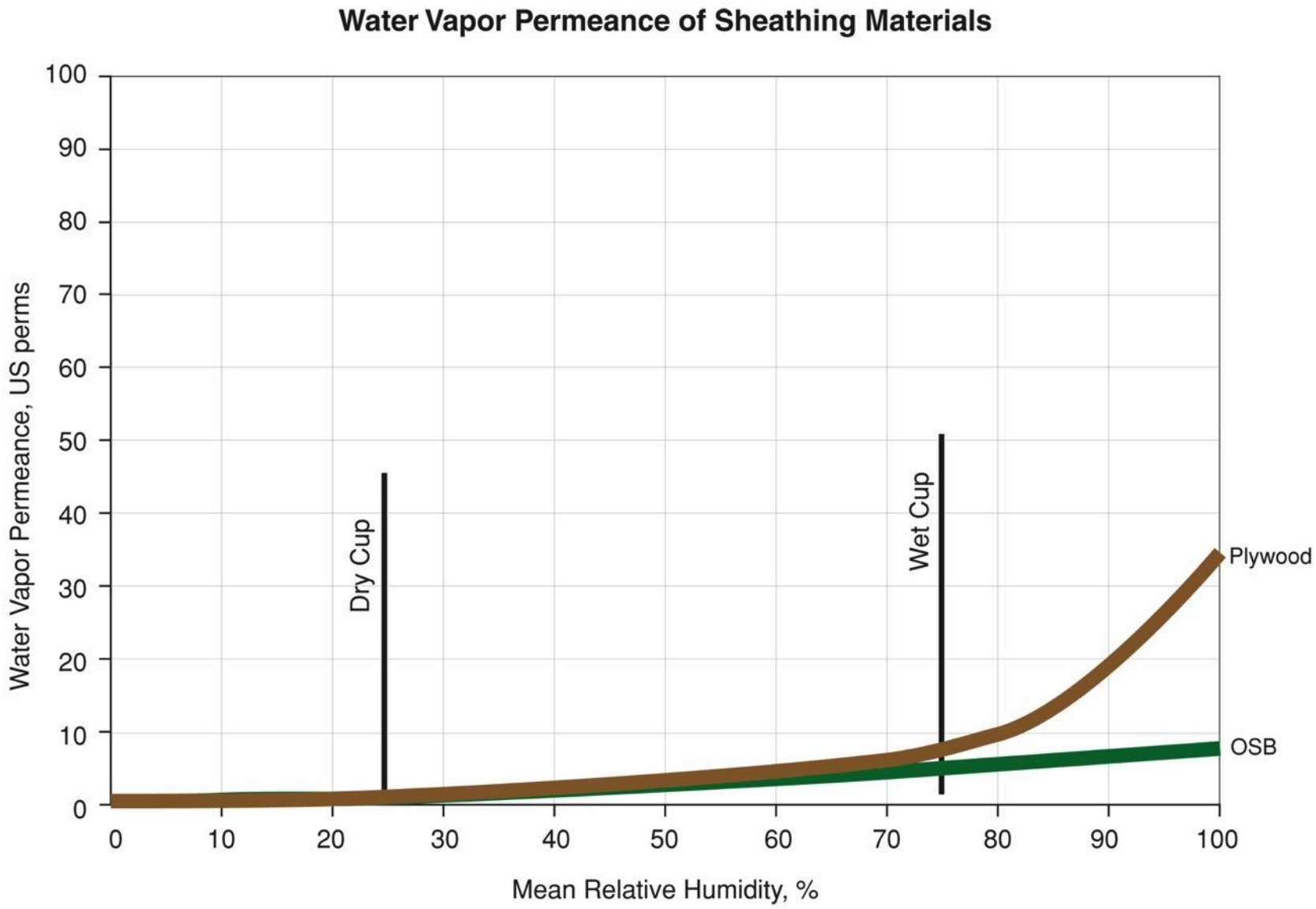
Stucco Failures

Exterior Insulation Finish Systems

EIFS

BUILT BY
EDDIE EVANS
CONSTRUCTION
1994

OSB

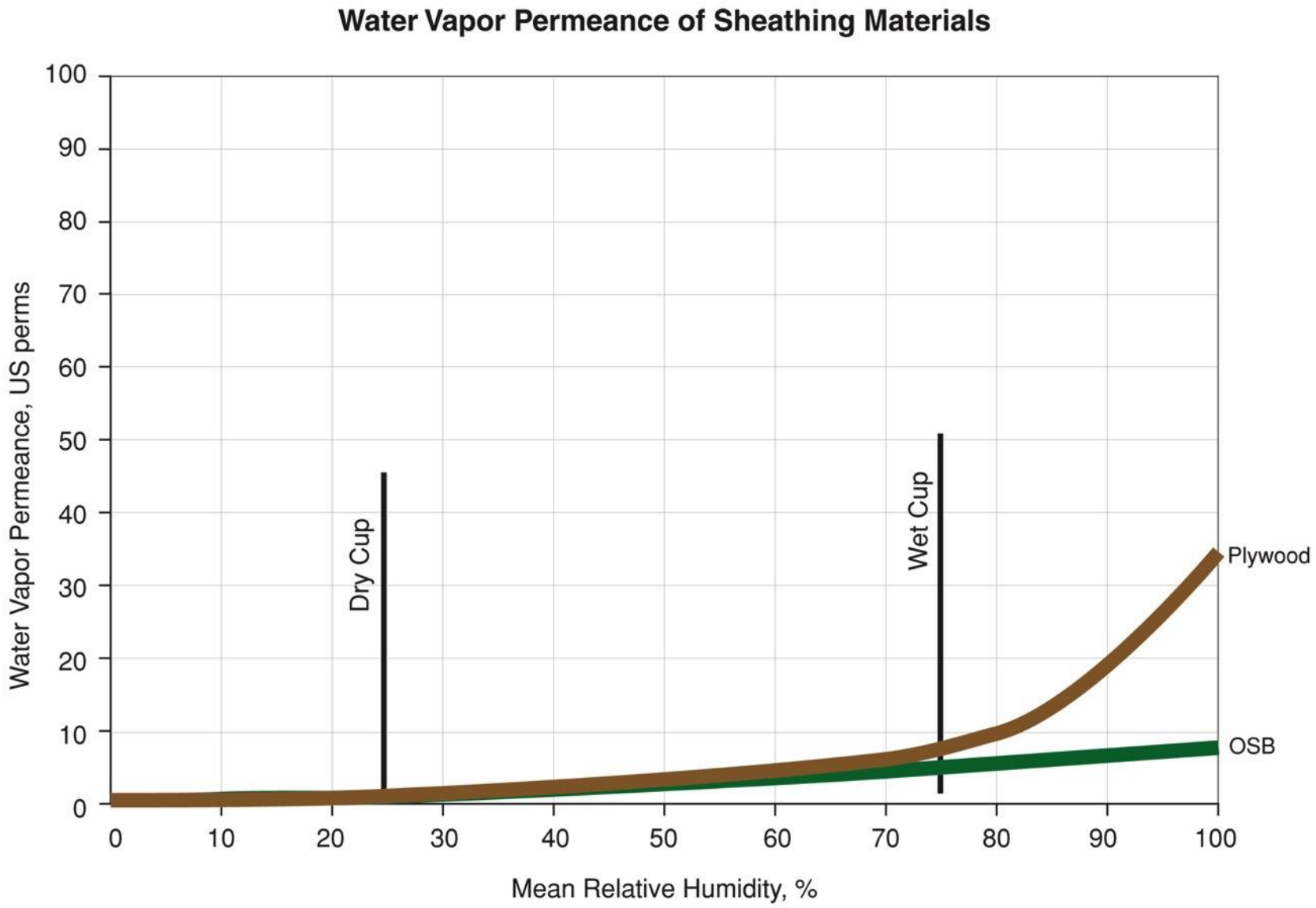

Water Vapor Permeance of Sheathing Materials
Water Vapor Permeance, US perms
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Dry Cup
Wet Cup
Plywood
OSB
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
Mean Relative Humidity, %

Side Trip To Vancouver….

6'8" CLEARANCE 2.0m

OCT 14 2003

Materials….


Water Vapor Permeance of Sheathing Materials
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100
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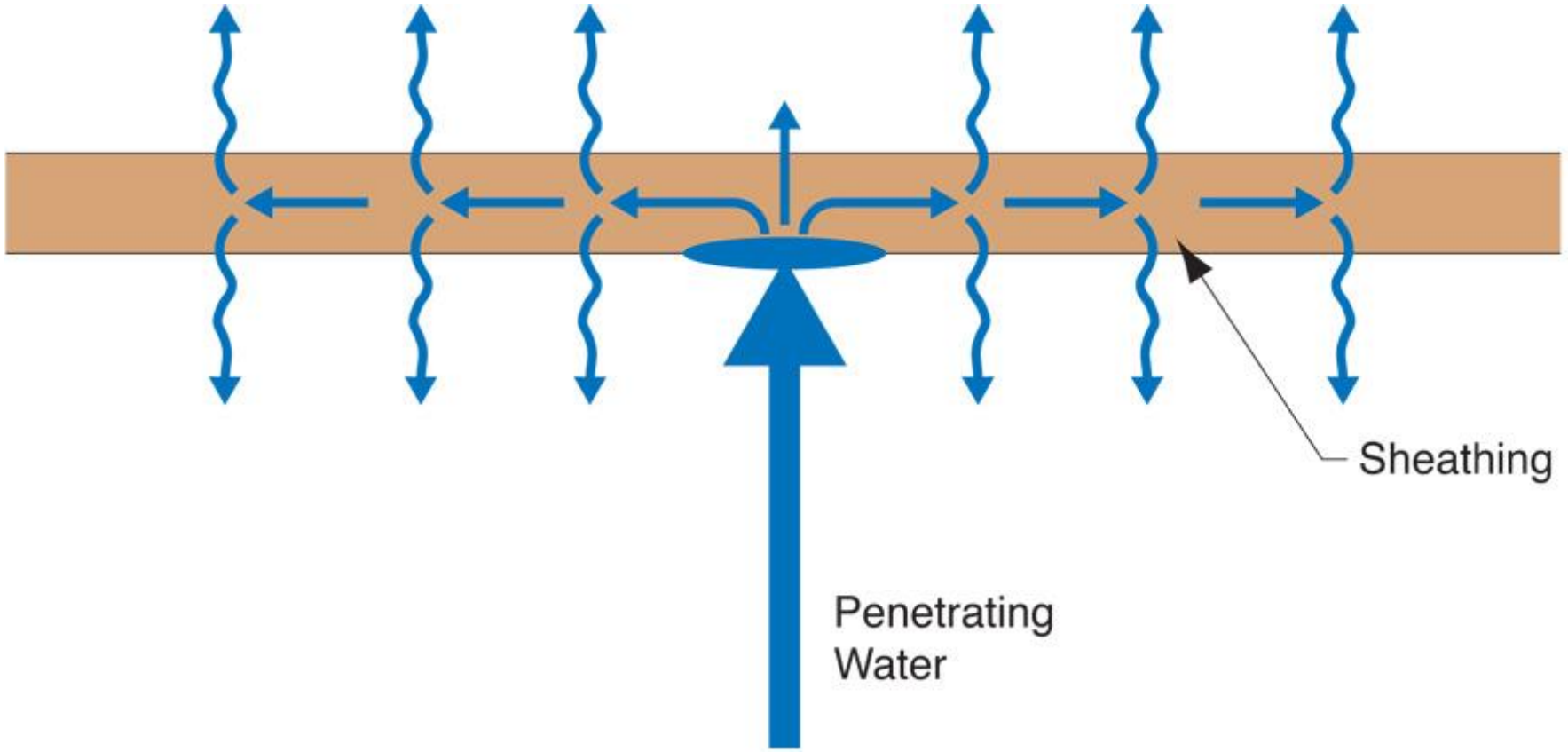
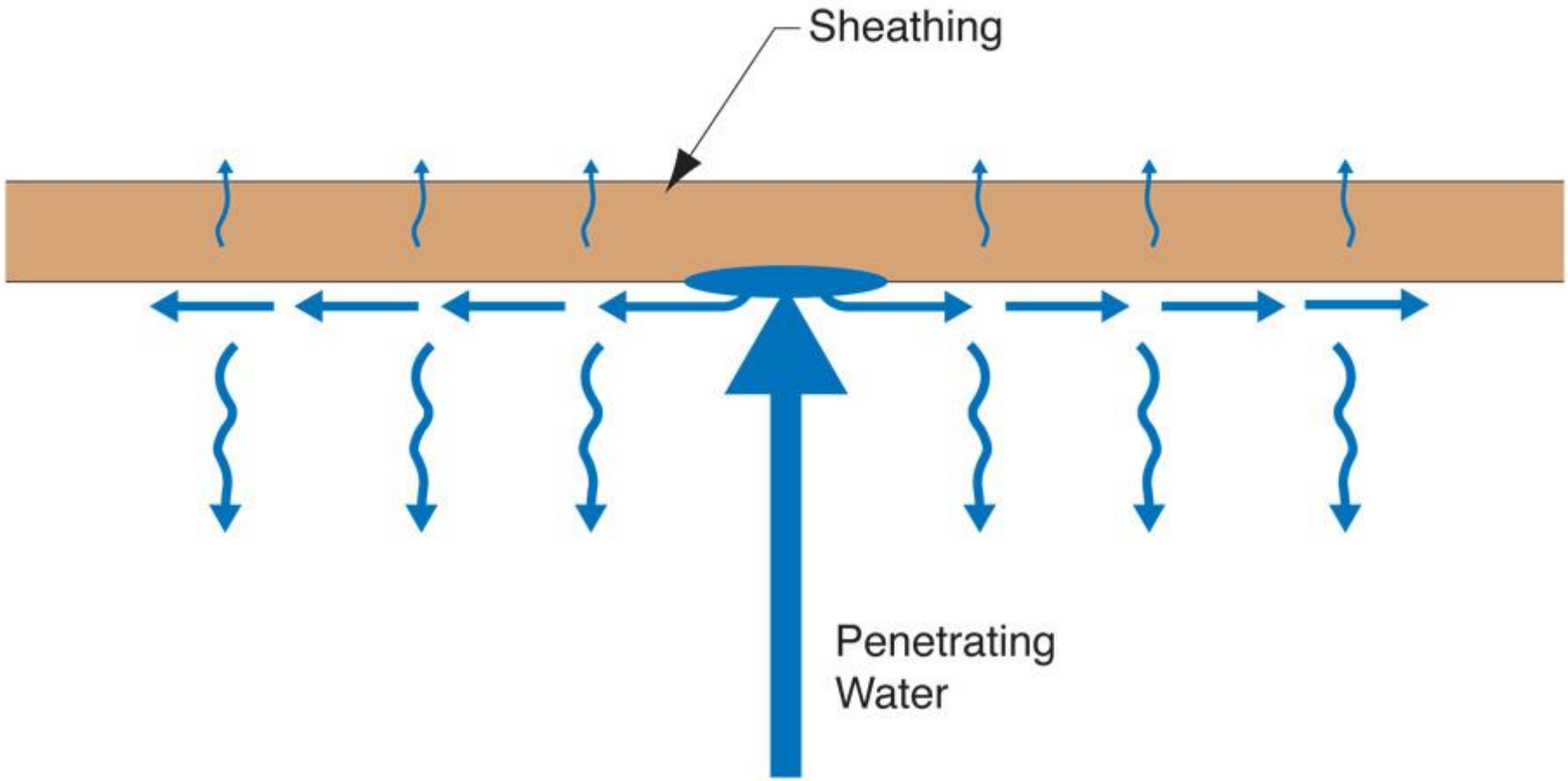
Dry Cup
Wet Cup
Plywood
OSB
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
Mean Relative Humidity, %


Sheathing
Penetrating
Water


Sheathing
Penetrating
Water

Some Physics….

Arrhenius Equation

For Every 10 Degree K Rise

Reaction Rate Doubles

$$k = Ae^{-E_a/(RT)}$$

Damage Functions

Water

Heat

Ultra-violet Radiation

2nd Law of Thermodynamics

Heat Flow Is From Warm To Cold

Moisture Flow Is From Warm To Cold

Moisture Flow Is From More To Less

Air Flow Is From A Higher Pressure to a Lower Pressure

Gravity Acts Down

Moisture Flow Is From Warm To Cold

Moisture Flow Is From More To Less

Moisture Flow Is From Warm To Cold

Moisture Flow Is From More To Less

Thermal Gradient – Thermal Diffusion

Concentration Gradient – Molecular Diffusion

Moisture Flow Is From Warm To Cold

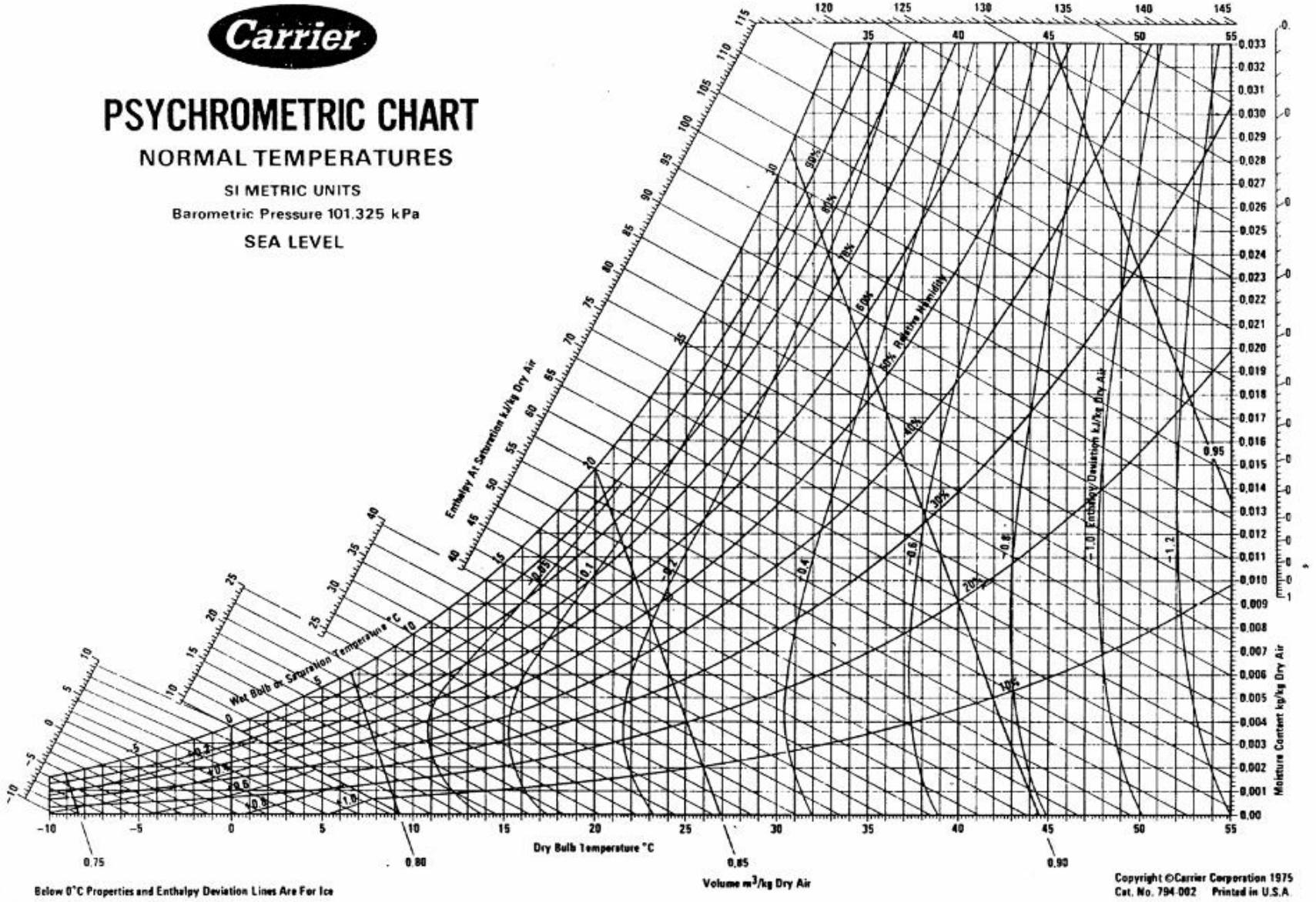
Moisture Flow Is From More To Less

Thermal Gradient – Thermal Diffusion

Concentration Gradient – Molecular Diffusion

Vapor Diffusion

Thermodynamic Potential


Carrier
PSYCHROMETRIC CHART
NORMAL TEMPERATURES
SI METRIC UNITS
Barometric Pressure 101.325 kPa
SEA LEVEL
Dry Bulb Temperature °C
Wet Bulb or Saturation Temperature °C
Enthalpy At Saturation kJ/kg Dry Air
Moisture Content kg/kg Dry Air
50% Relative Humidity
Below 0°C Properties and Enthalpy Deviation Lines Are For Ice
Volume m³/kg Dry Air
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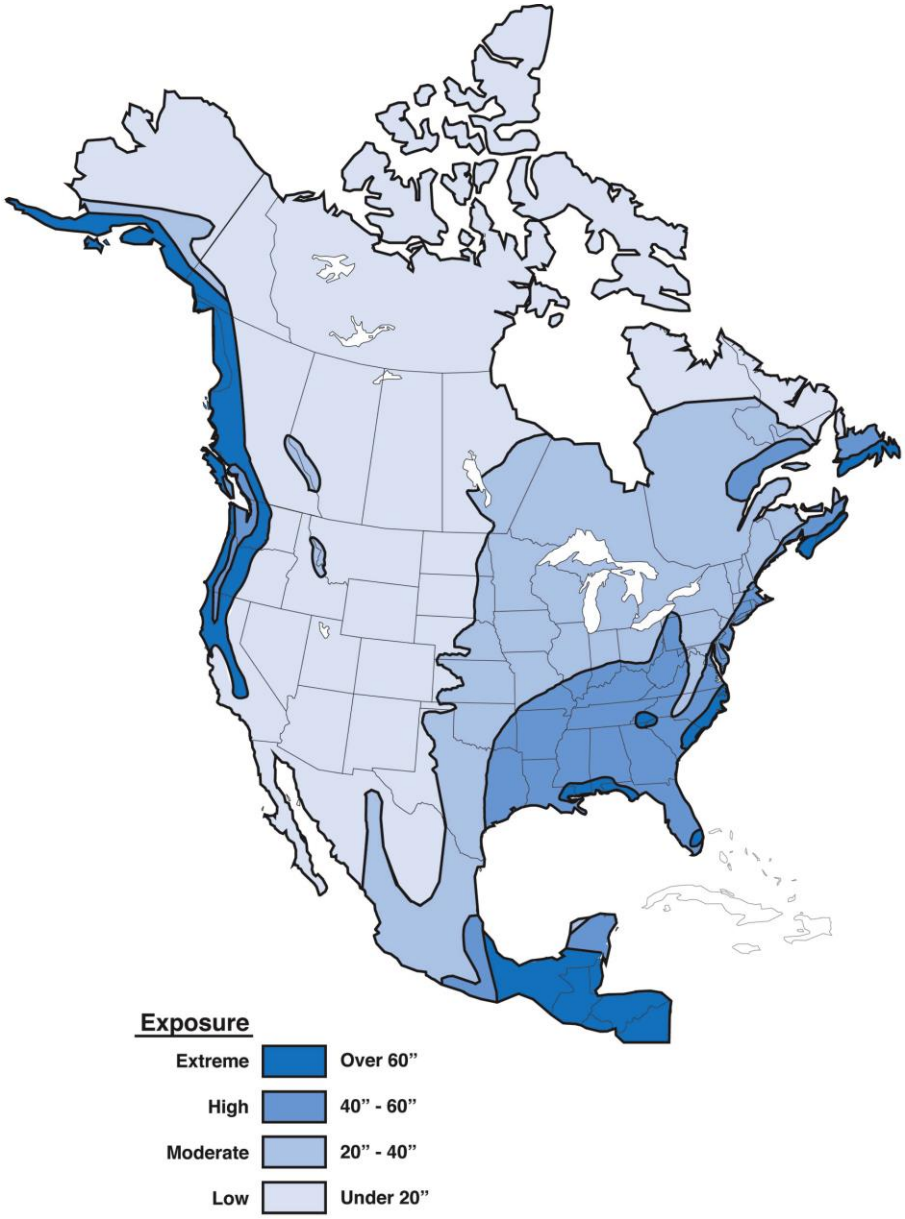
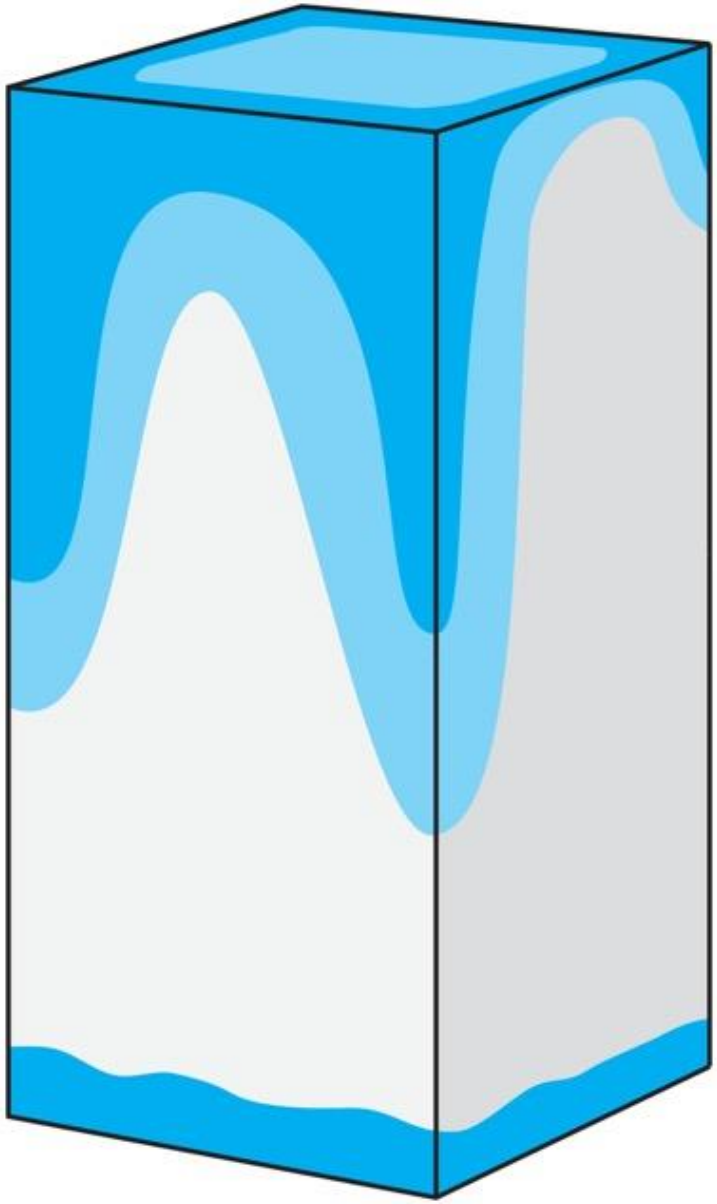
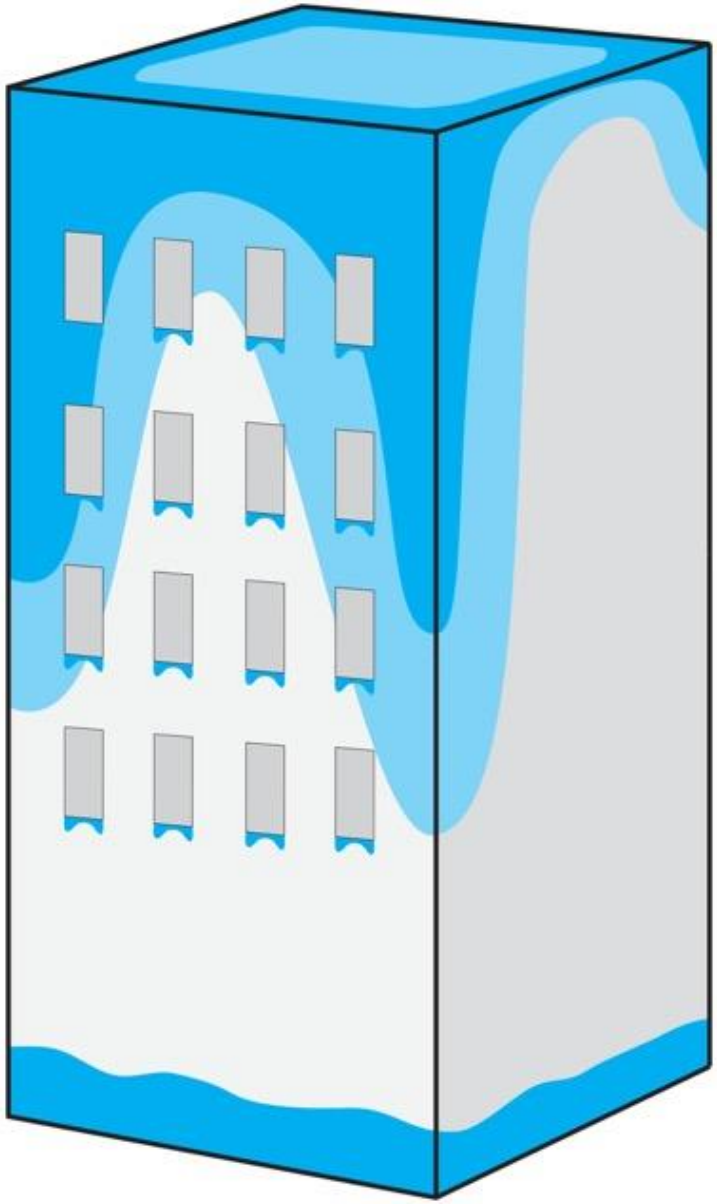
The Effect of Climate

Subarctic/Arctic
Very Cold
Marine
Cold
Mixed-Humid
Mixed-Dry
Hot-Humid
Hot-Dry

Arctic Bay
Anchorage
Seattle
Minneapolis
Los Angeles
El Paso
Houston
Monterrey
Havana
Belize City
Tropical Wet
Tropical Wet-Dry
Steppe
Desert
Mediterranean
Subtropical humid
Marine West Coast
Continental humid
Subarctic
Tundra
Ice sheet
Highlands


Exposure
Extreme
Over 60”
High
40” - 60”
Moderate
20” - 40”
Low
Under 20”





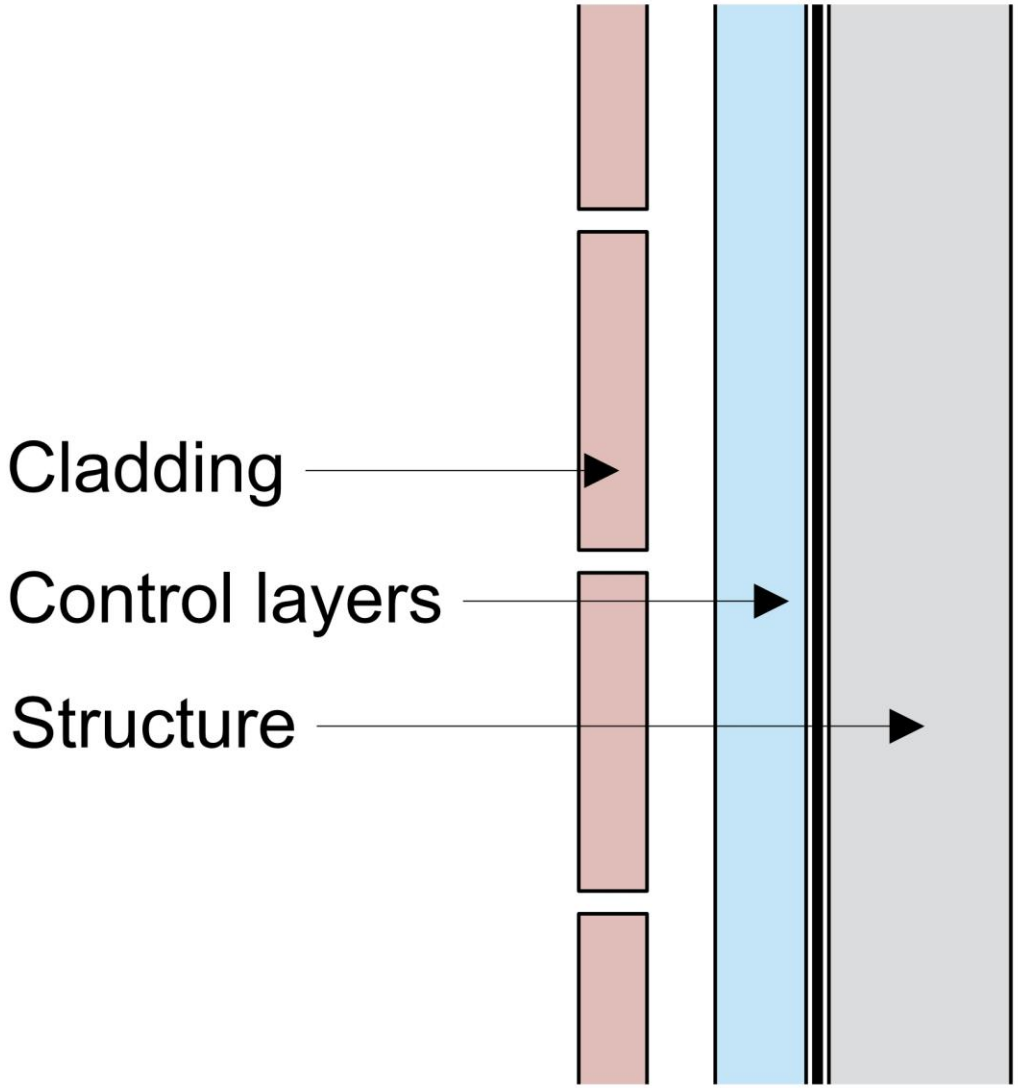
The Perfect Wall

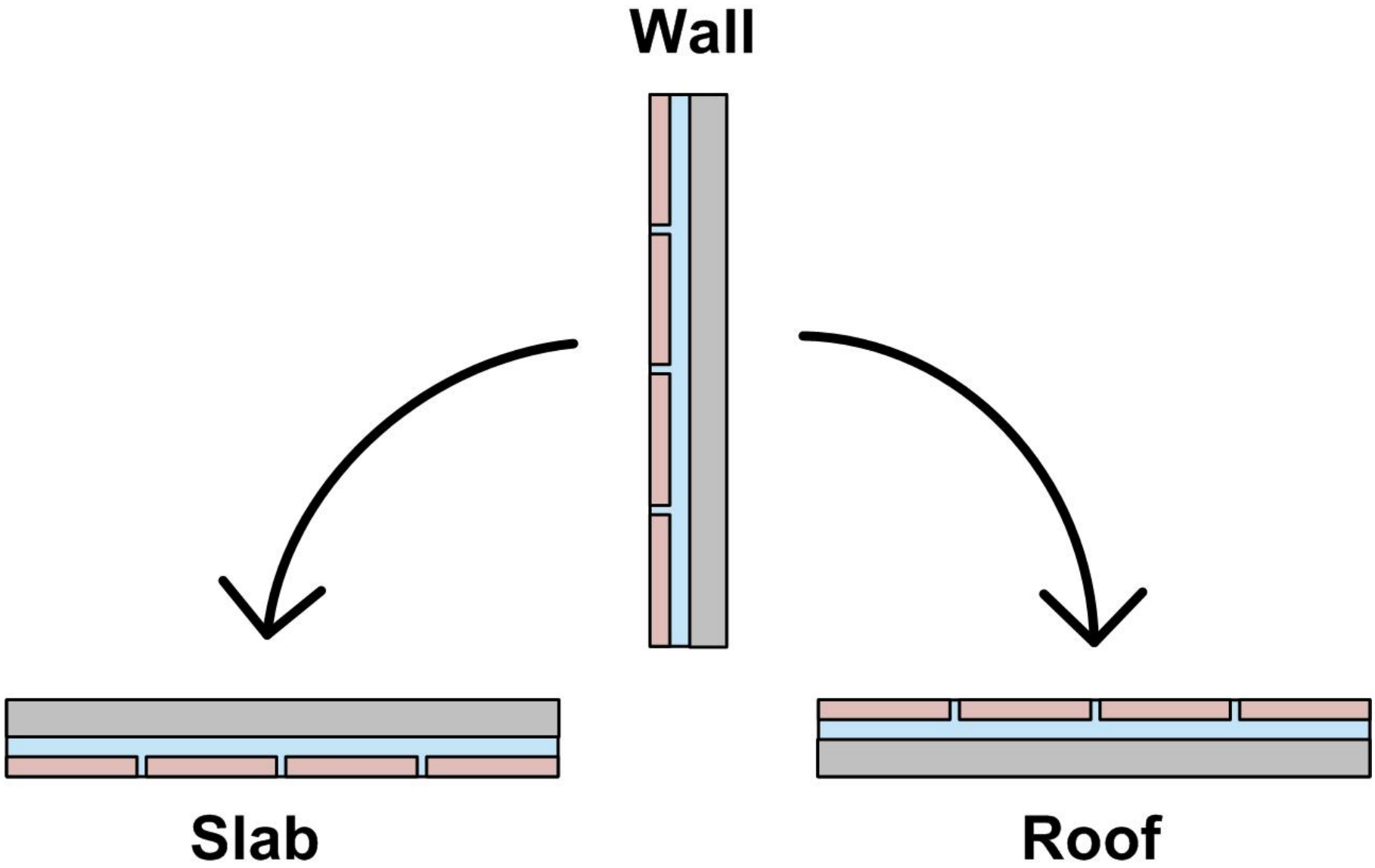
Water Control Layer

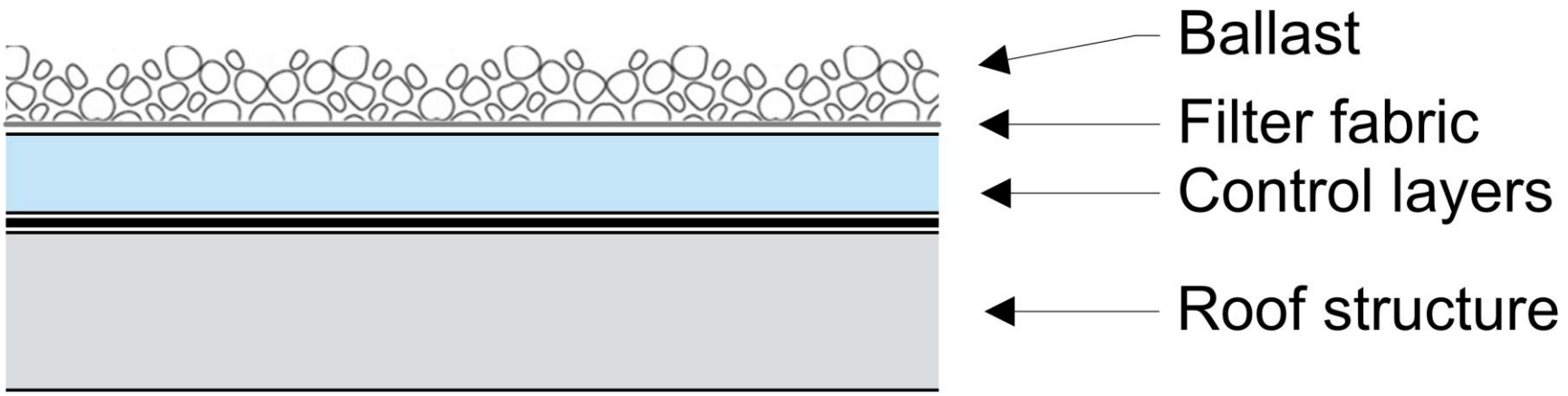
Air Control Layer

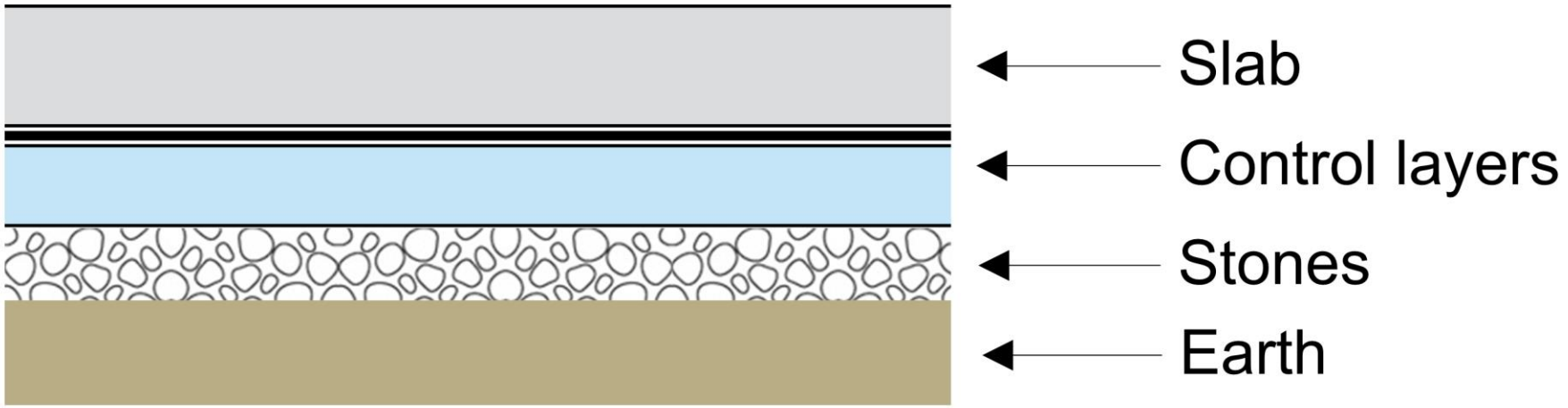
Vapor Control Layer

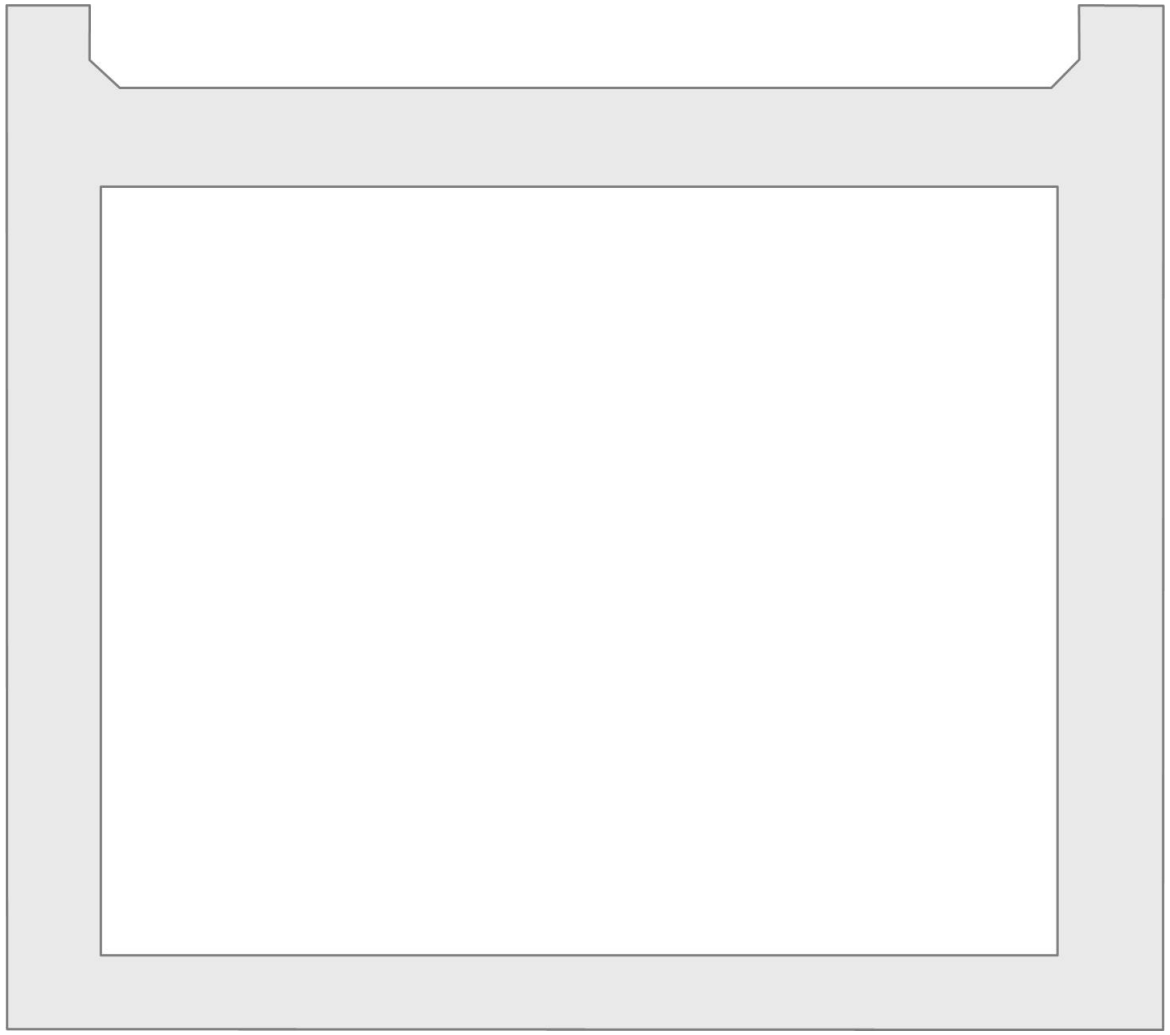
Thermal Control Layer

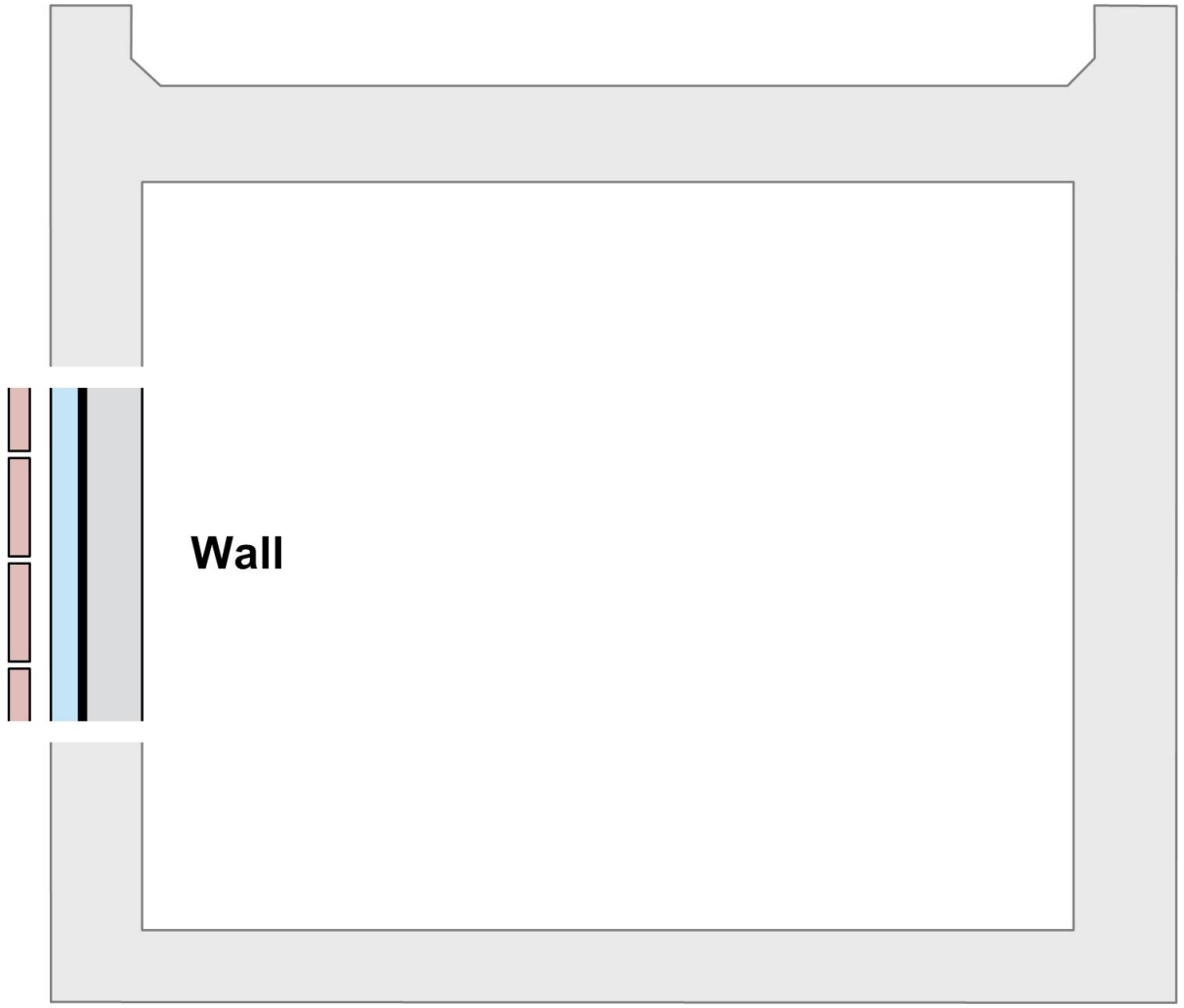

Cladding
Control layers
Structure

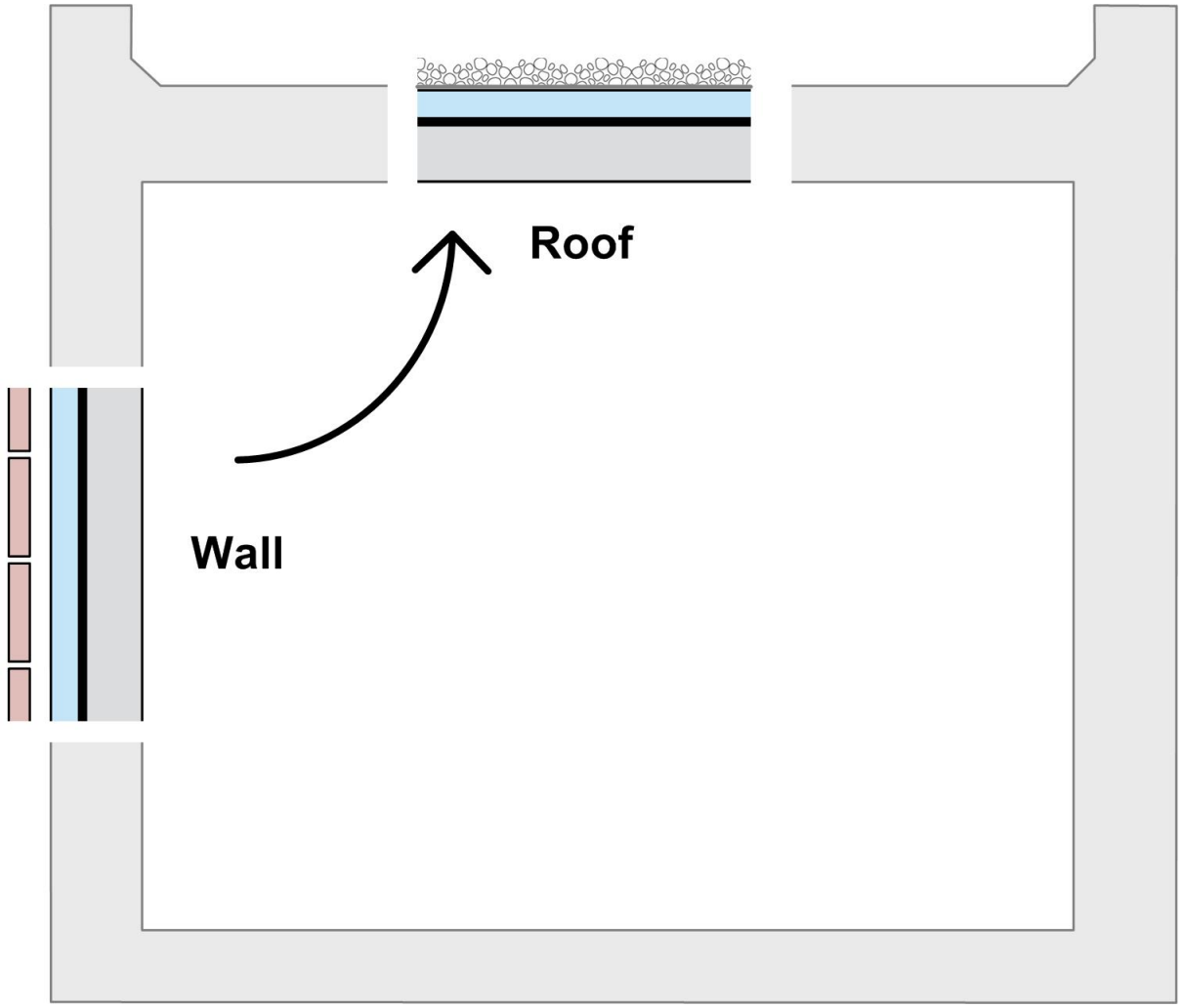

Wall
Slab
Roof

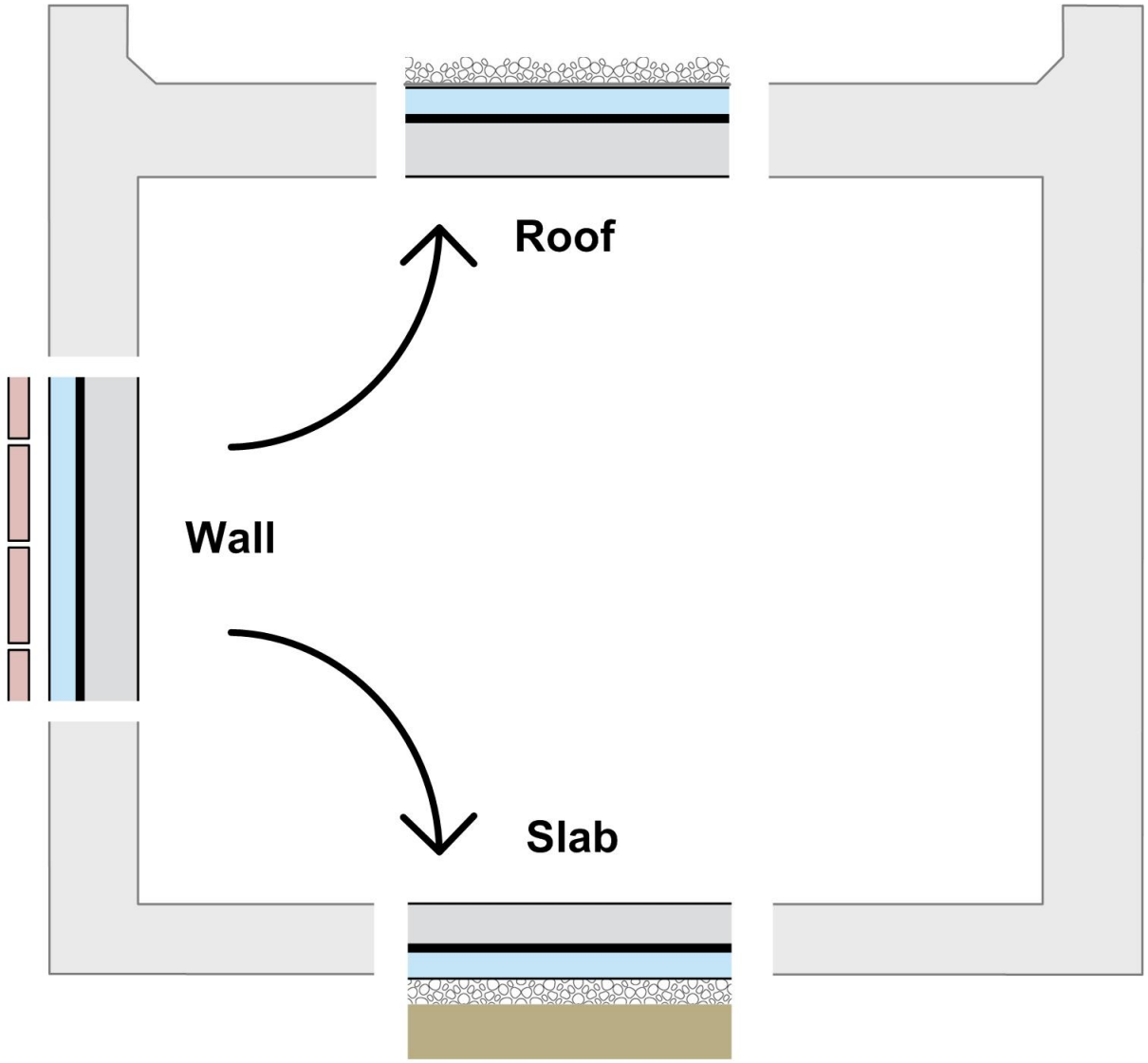

Ballast
Filter fabric
Control layers
Roof structure

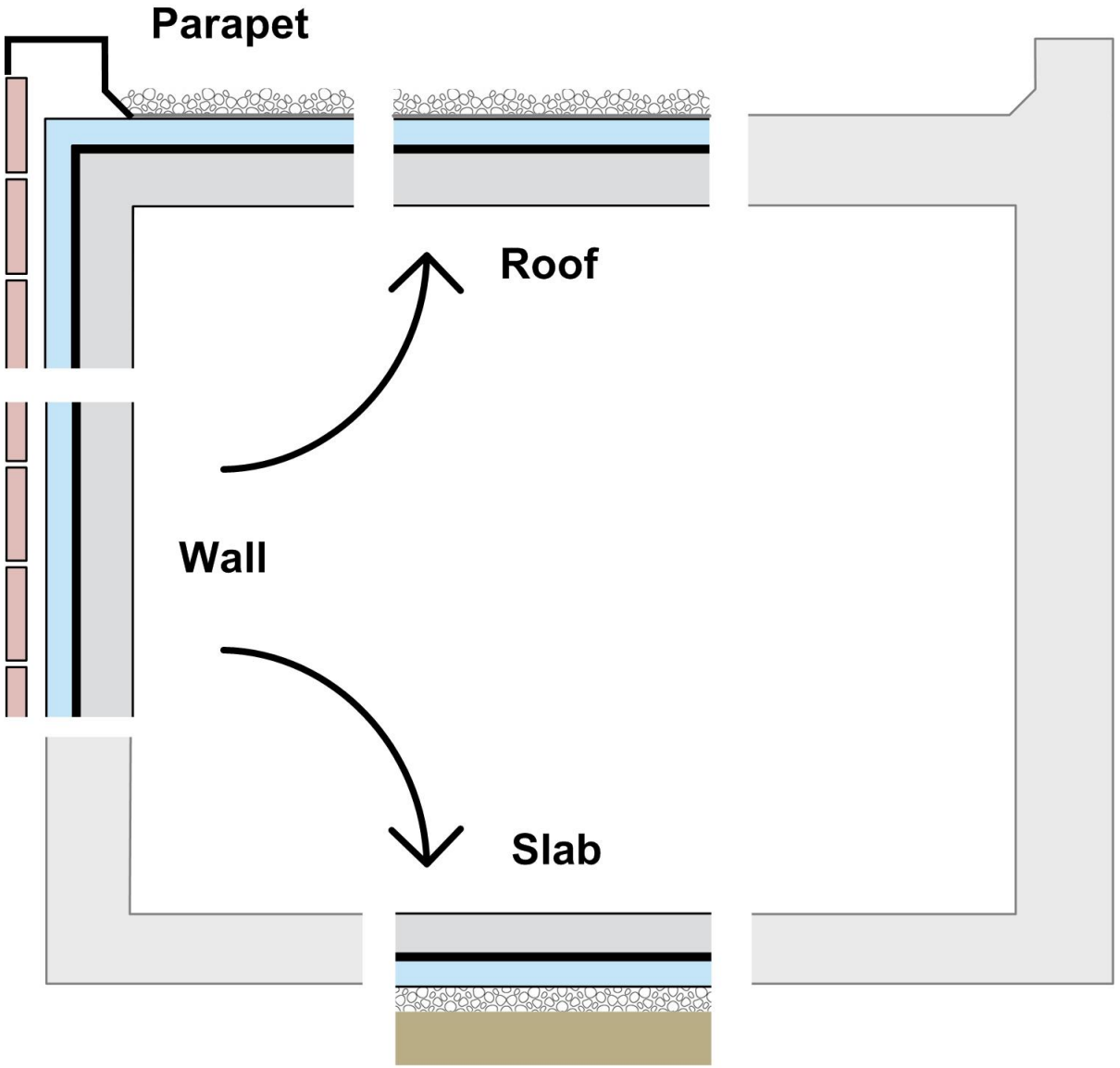

Slab
Control layers
Stones
Earth

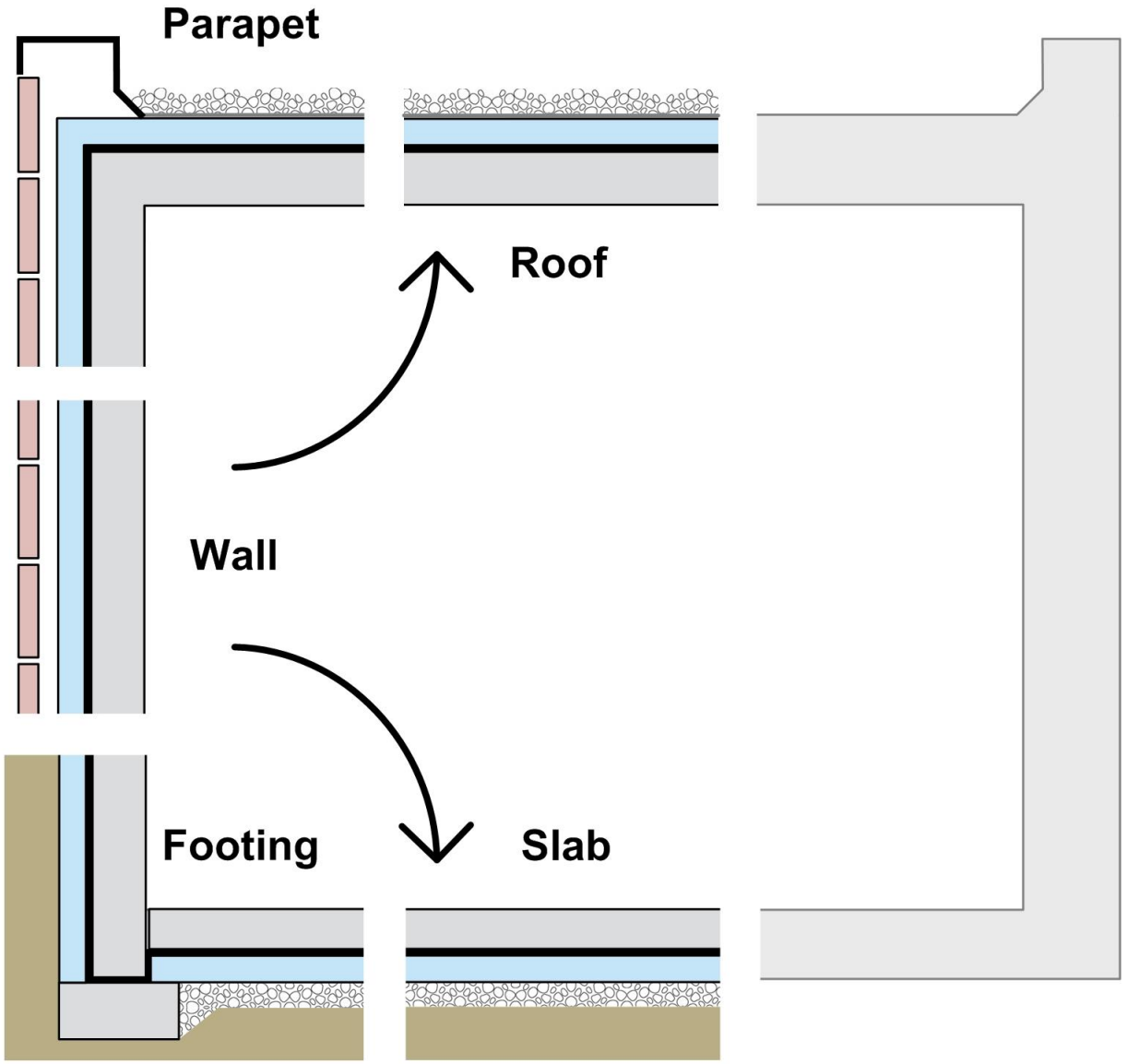


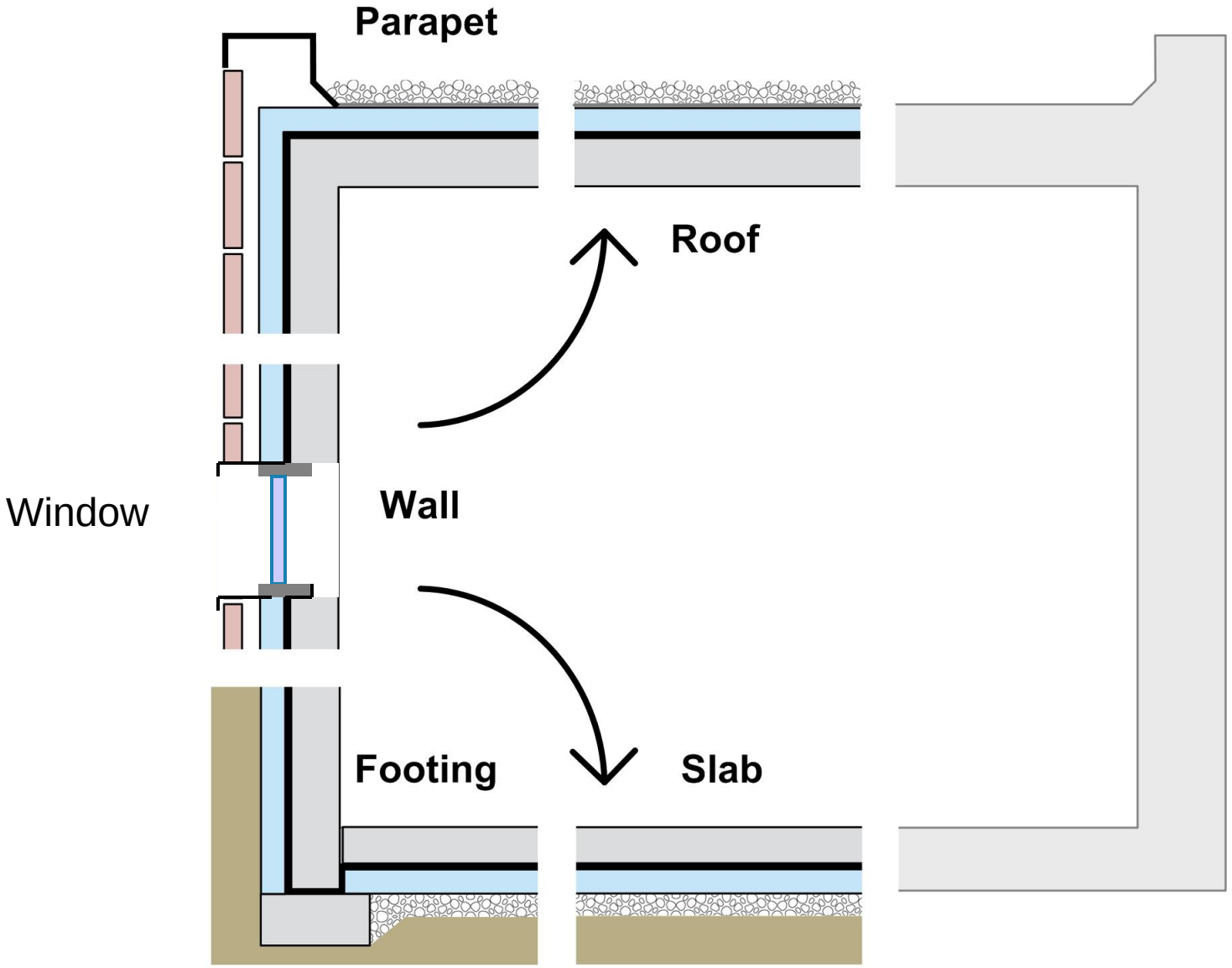

Wall

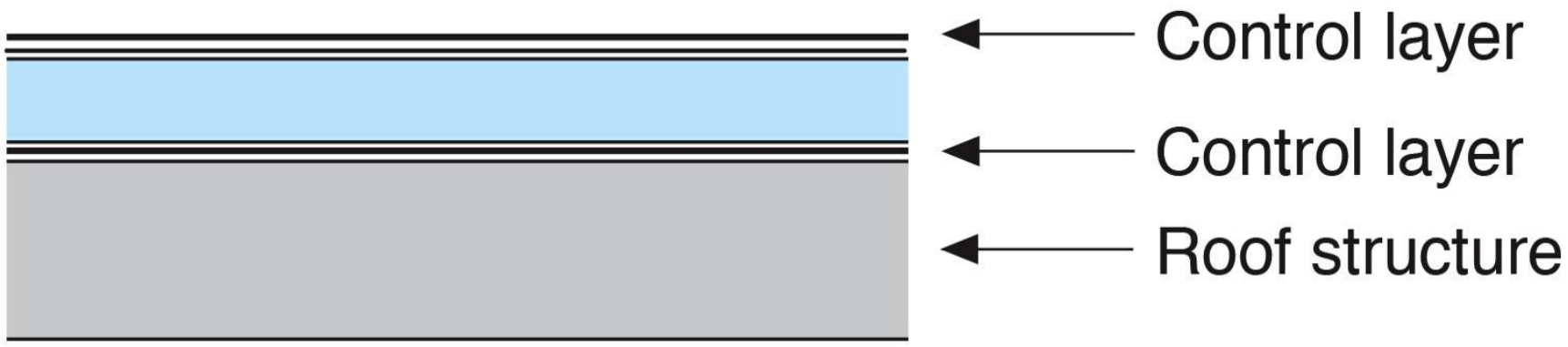

Roof
Wall

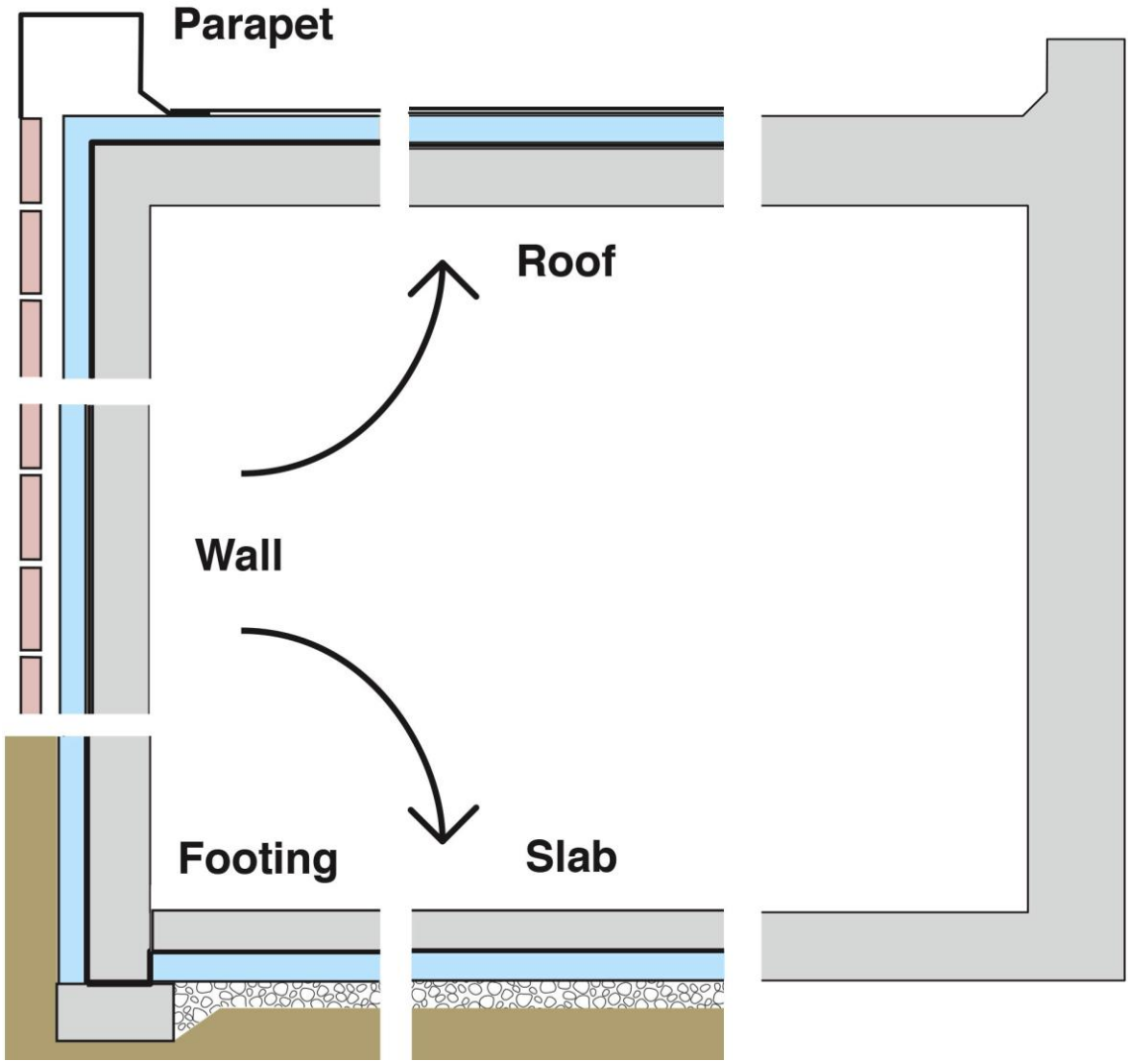

Roof
Wall
Slab

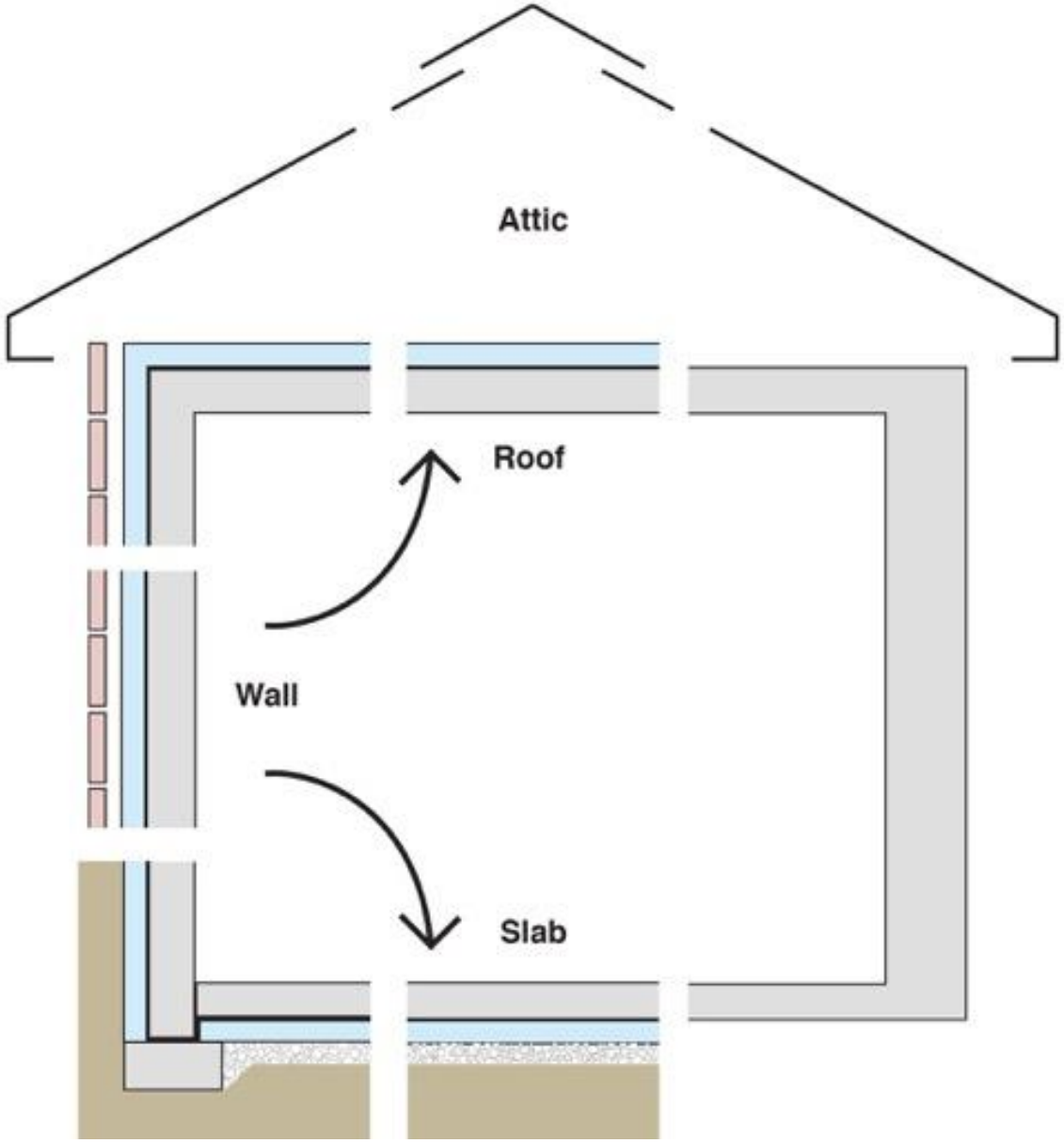

Parapet
Roof
Wall
Slab

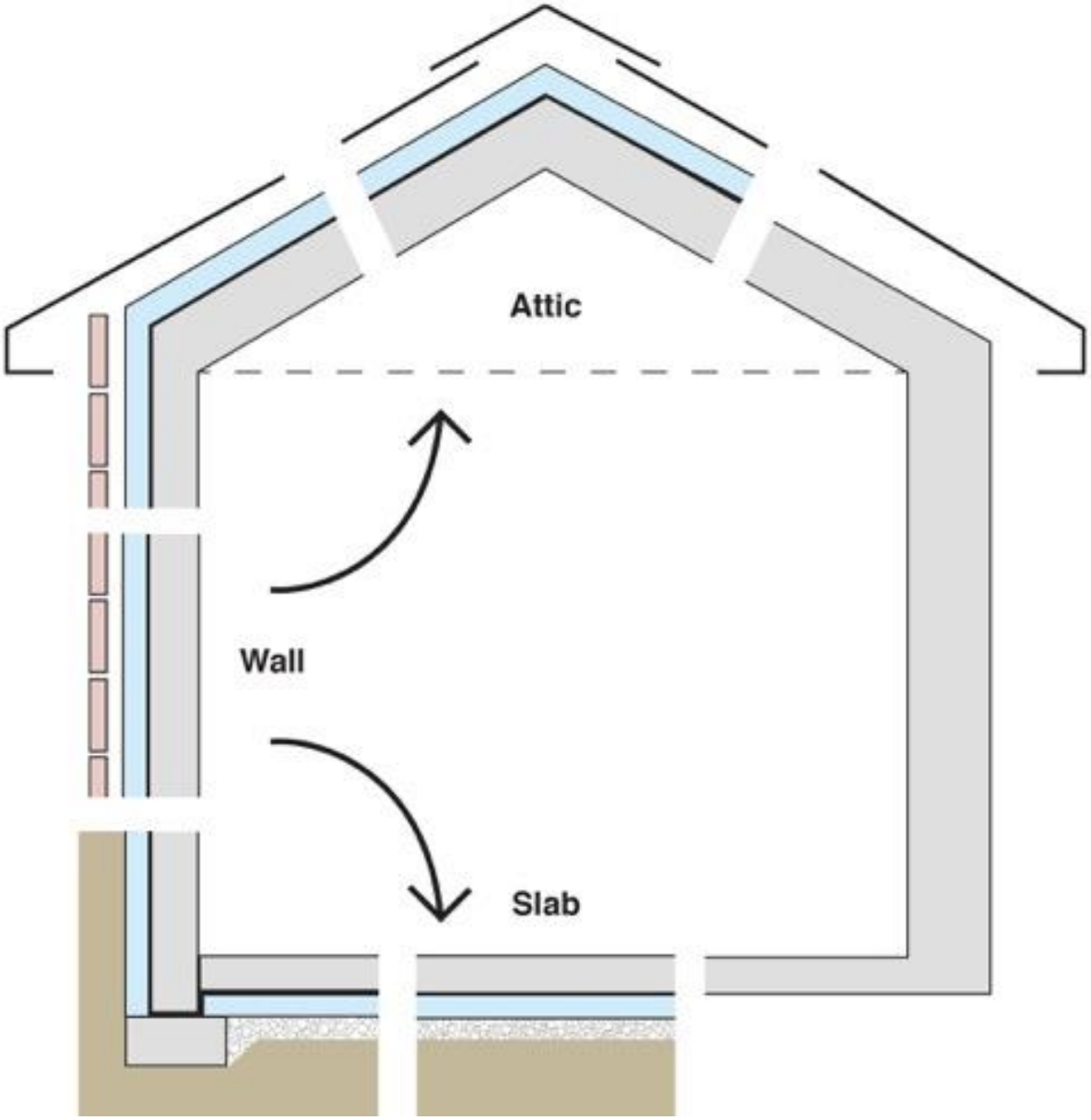

Parapet
Roof
Wall
Footing
Slab

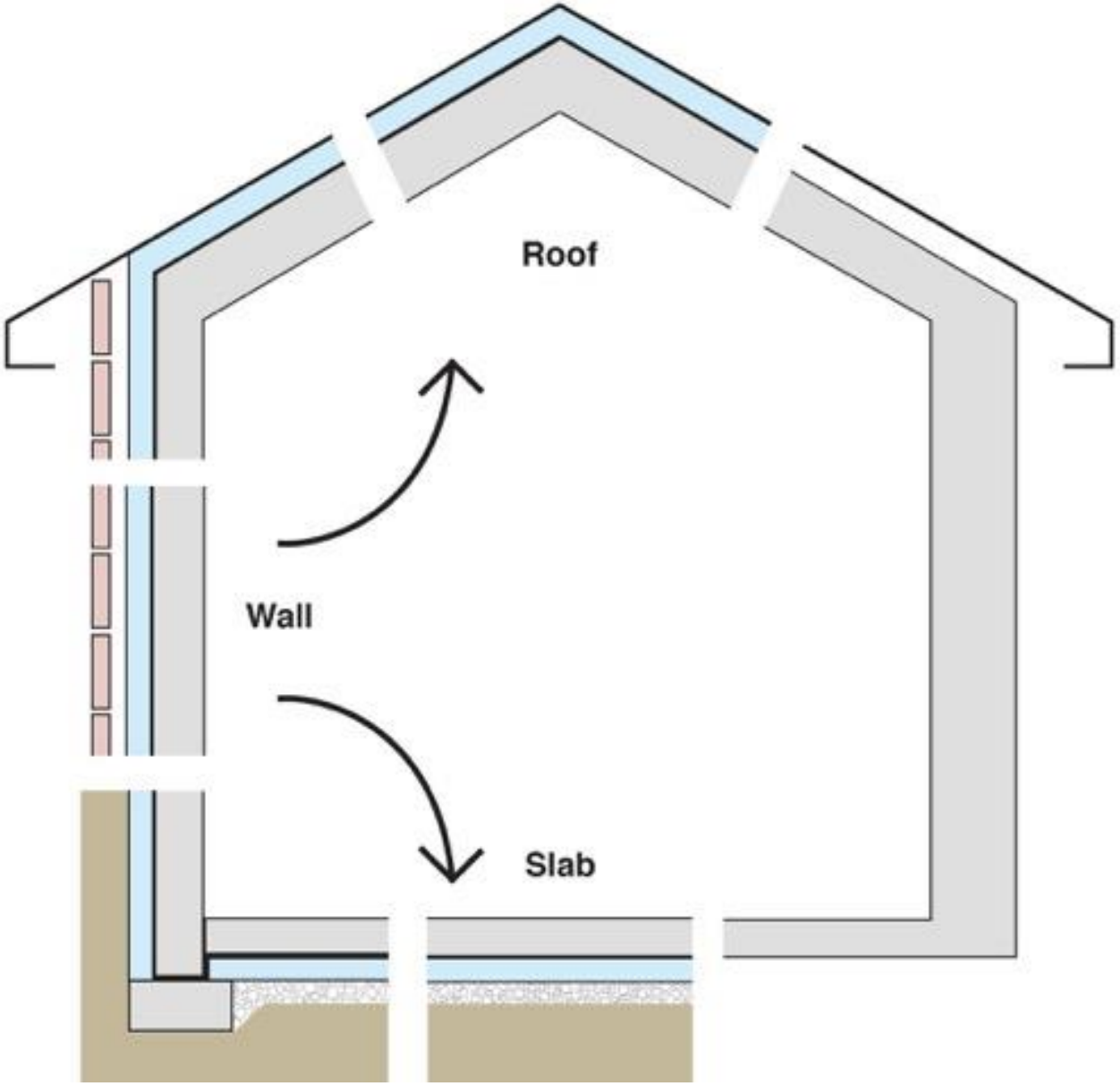

Parapet
Roof
Window
Wall
Footing
Slab


Control layer
Control layer
Roof structure

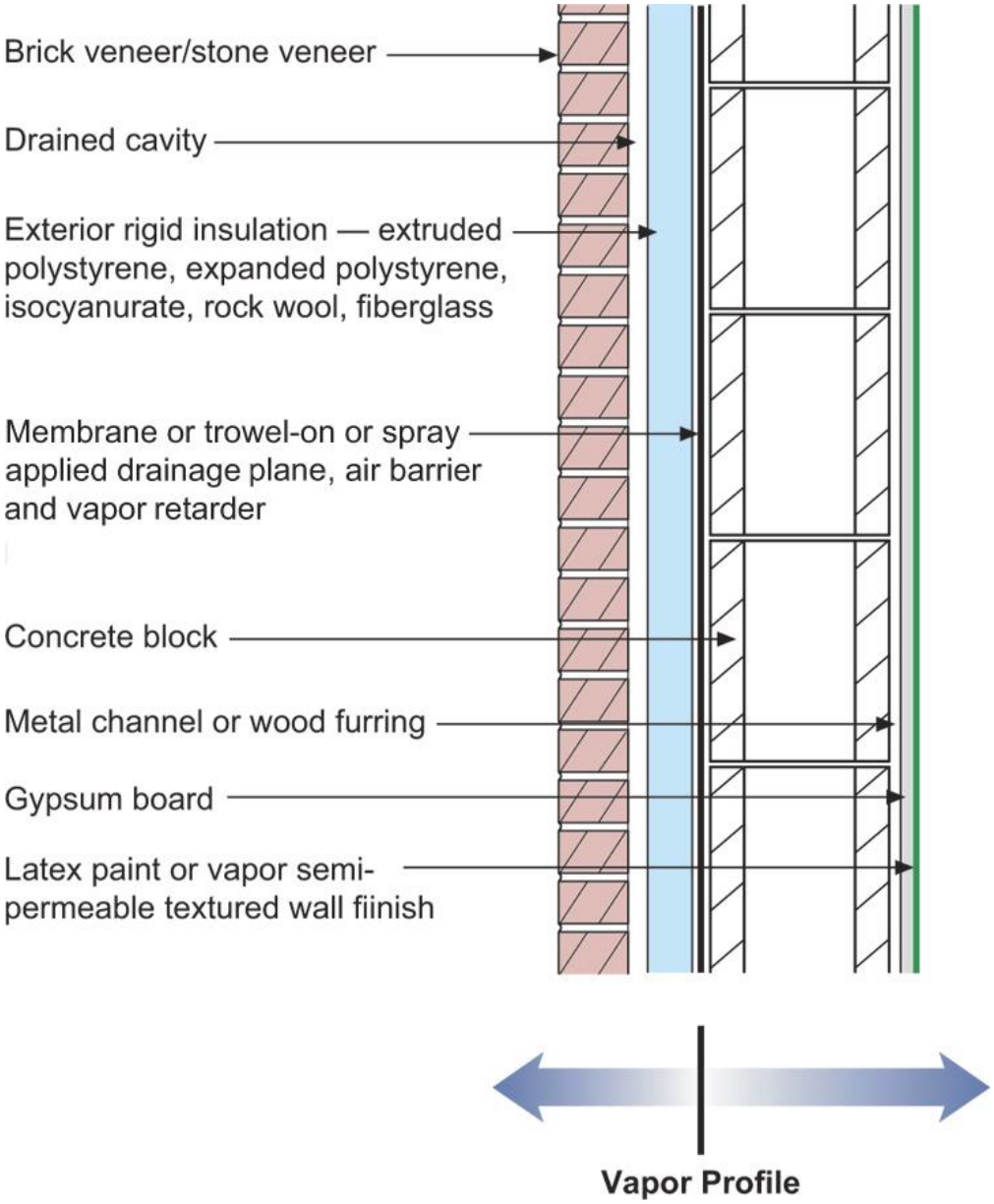

Parapet
Roof
Wall
Footing
Slab

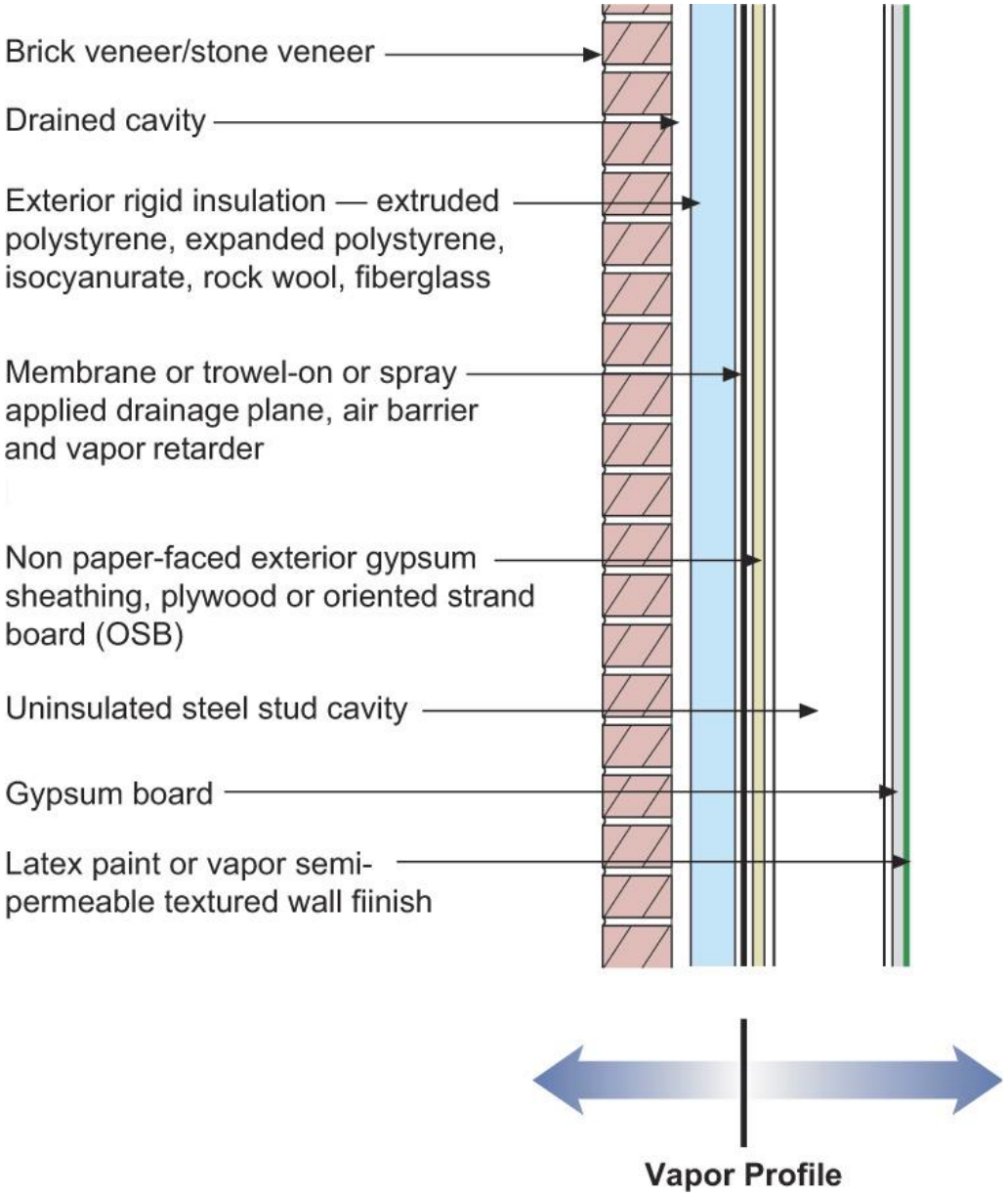

Attic
Roof
Wall
Slab

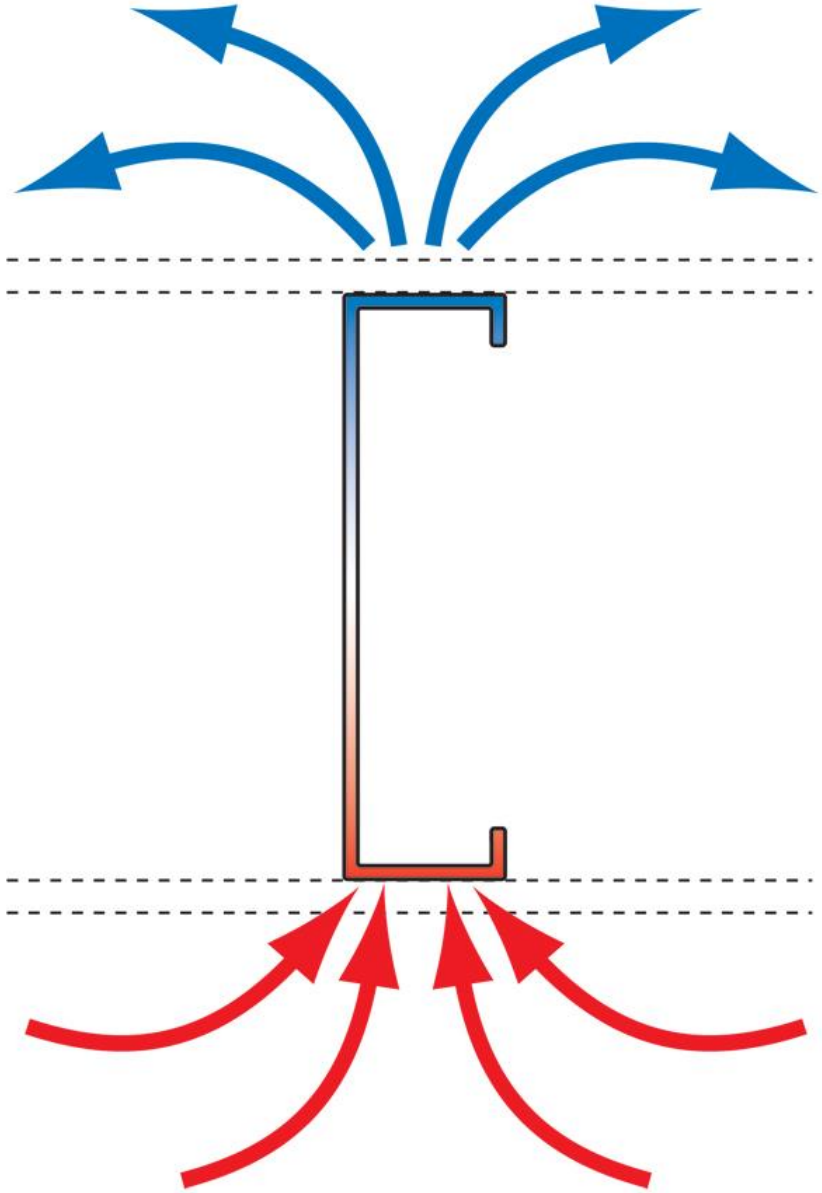

Attic
Wall
Slab

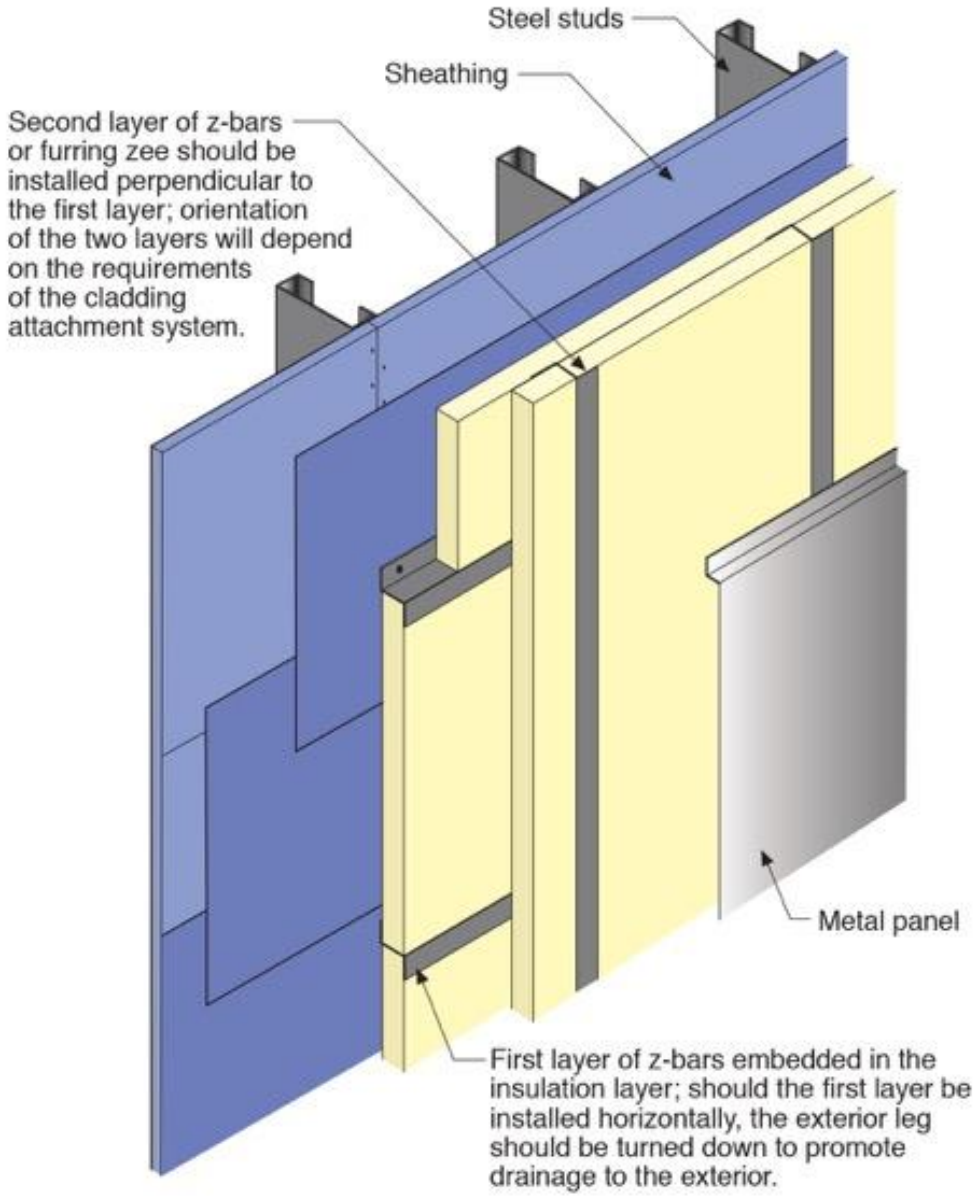

Roof
Wall
Slab

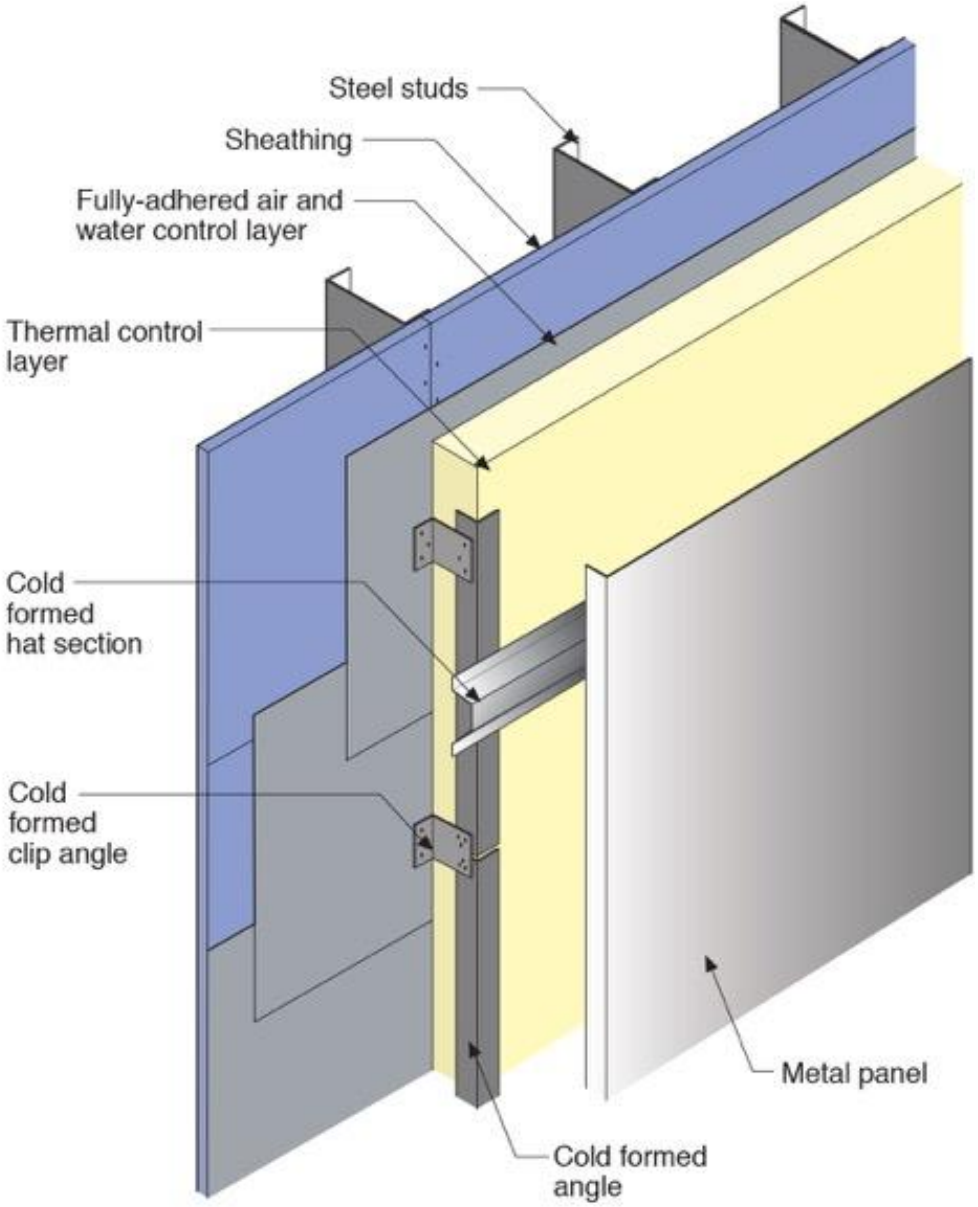
Configurations of the Perfect Wall

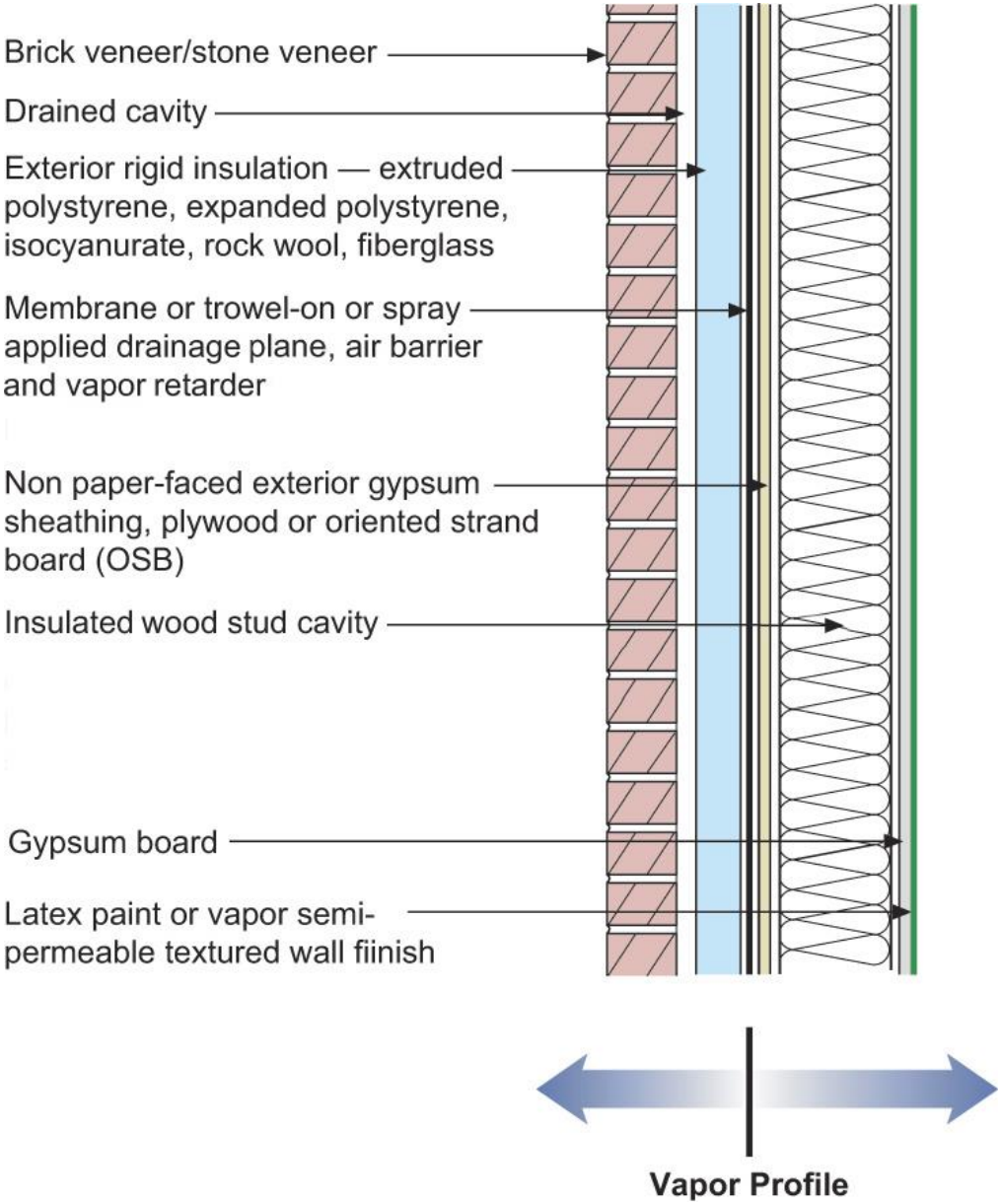

Brick veneer/stone veneer
Drained cavity
Exterior rigid insulation — extruded polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, isocyanurate, rock wool, fiberglass
Membrane or trowel-on or spray applied drainage plane, air barrier and vapor retarder
Concrete block
Metal channel or wood furring
Gypsum board
Latex paint or vapor semi-permeable textured wall fiinish
Vapor Profile


Brick veneer/stone veneer
Drained cavity
Exterior rigid insulation — extruded polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, isocyanurate, rock wool, fiberglass
Membrane or trowel-on or spray applied drainage plane, air barrier and vapor retarder
Non paper-faced exterior gypsum sheathing, plywood or oriented strand board (OSB)
Uninsulated steel stud cavity
Gypsum board
Latex paint or vapor semi-permeable textured wall fiinish
Vapor Profile

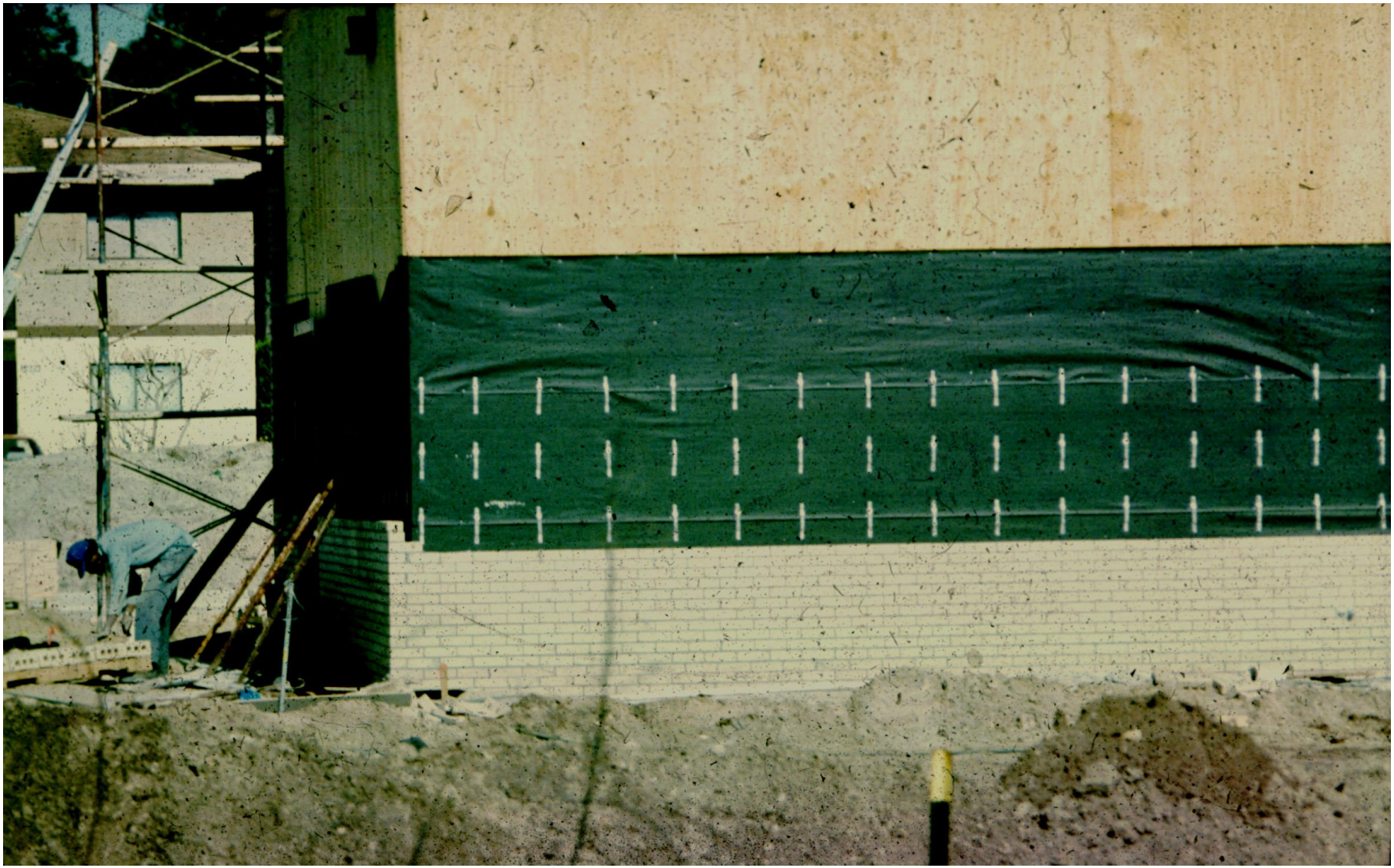


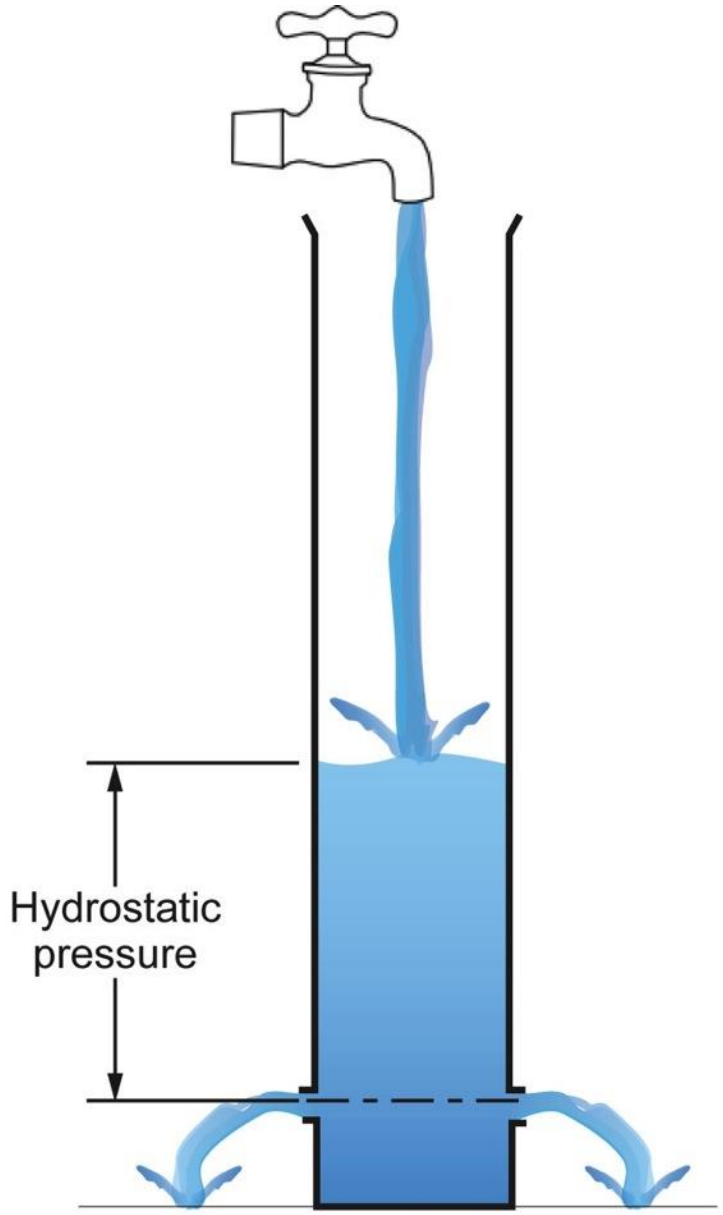

Steel studs
Sheathing
Second layer of z-bars or furring zee should be installed perpendicular to the first layer; orientation of the two layers will depend on the requirements of the cladding attachment system.
Metal panel
First layer of z-bars embedded in the insulation layer; should the first layer be installed horizontally, the exterior leg should be turned down to promote drainage to the exterior.

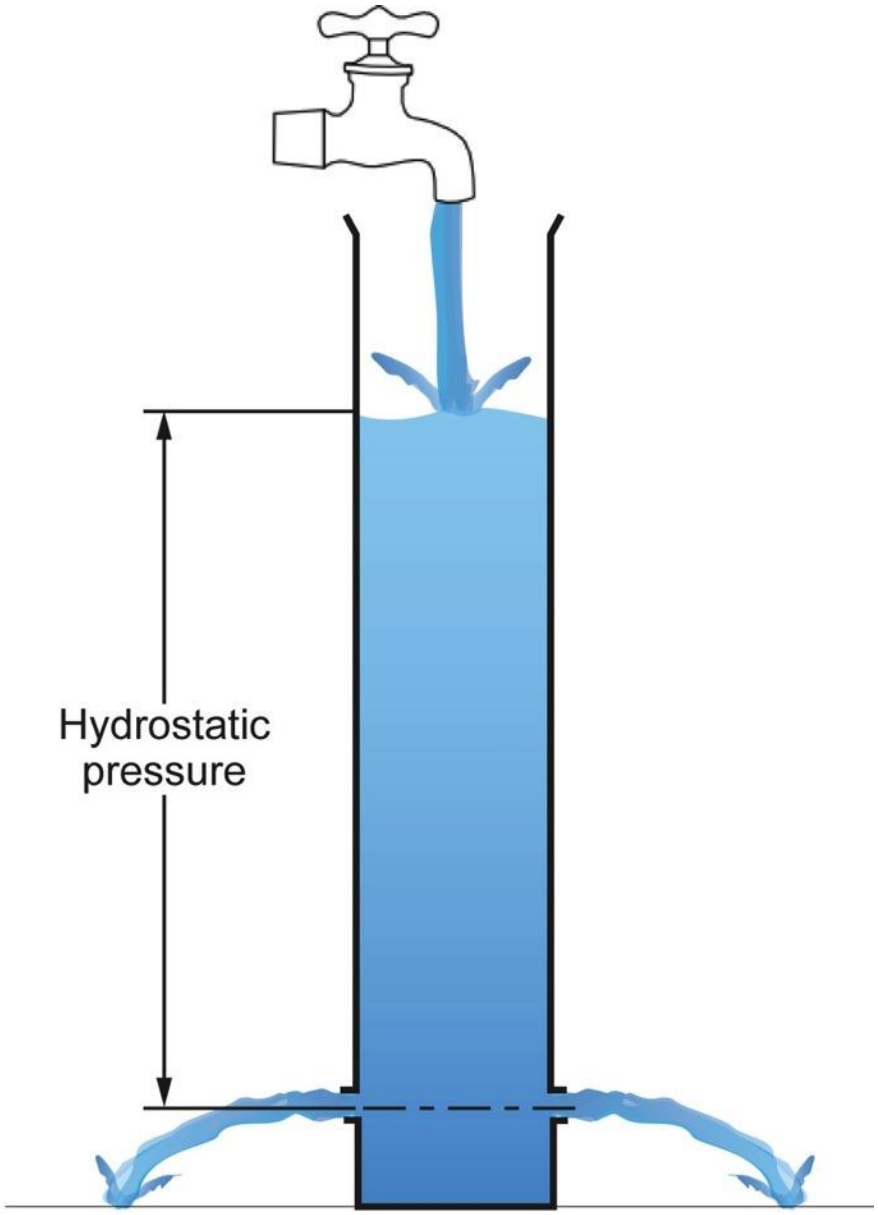

Steel studs
Sheathing
Fully-adhered air and water control layer
Thermal control layer
Cold formed hat section
Cold formed clip angle
Metal panel
Cold formed angle


Brick veneer/stone veneer
Drained cavity
Exterior rigid insulation — extruded polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, isocyanurate, rock wool, fiberglass
Membrane or trowel-on or spray applied drainage plane, air barrier and vapor retarder
Non paper-faced exterior gypsum sheathing, plywood or oriented strand board (OSB)
Insulated wood stud cavity
Gypsum board
Latex paint or vapor semi-permeable textured wall fiinish
Vapor Profile

Rain




Hydrostatic
pressure


Hydrostatic
pressure

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omeWrap
Tyve
HomeWra

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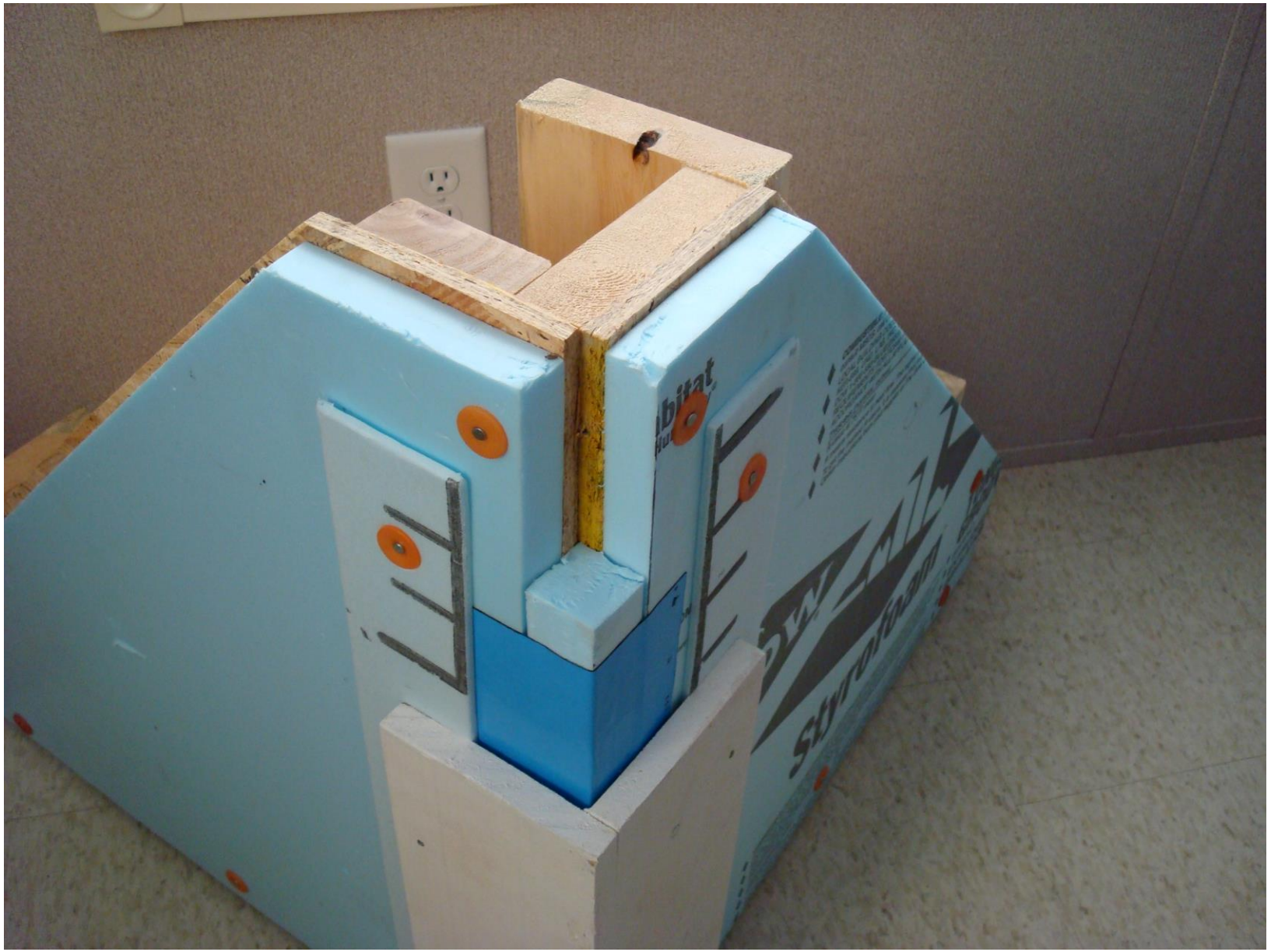
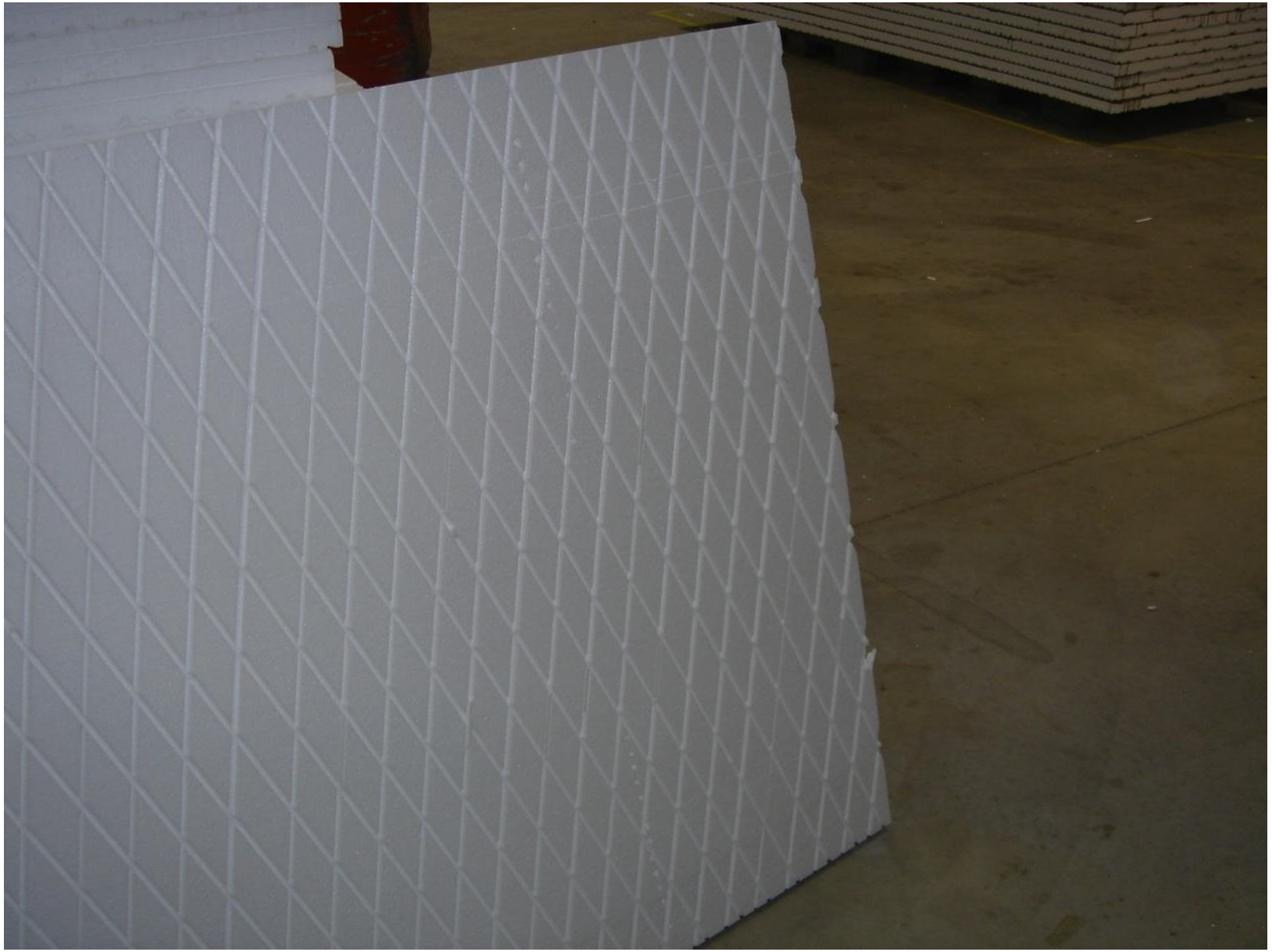
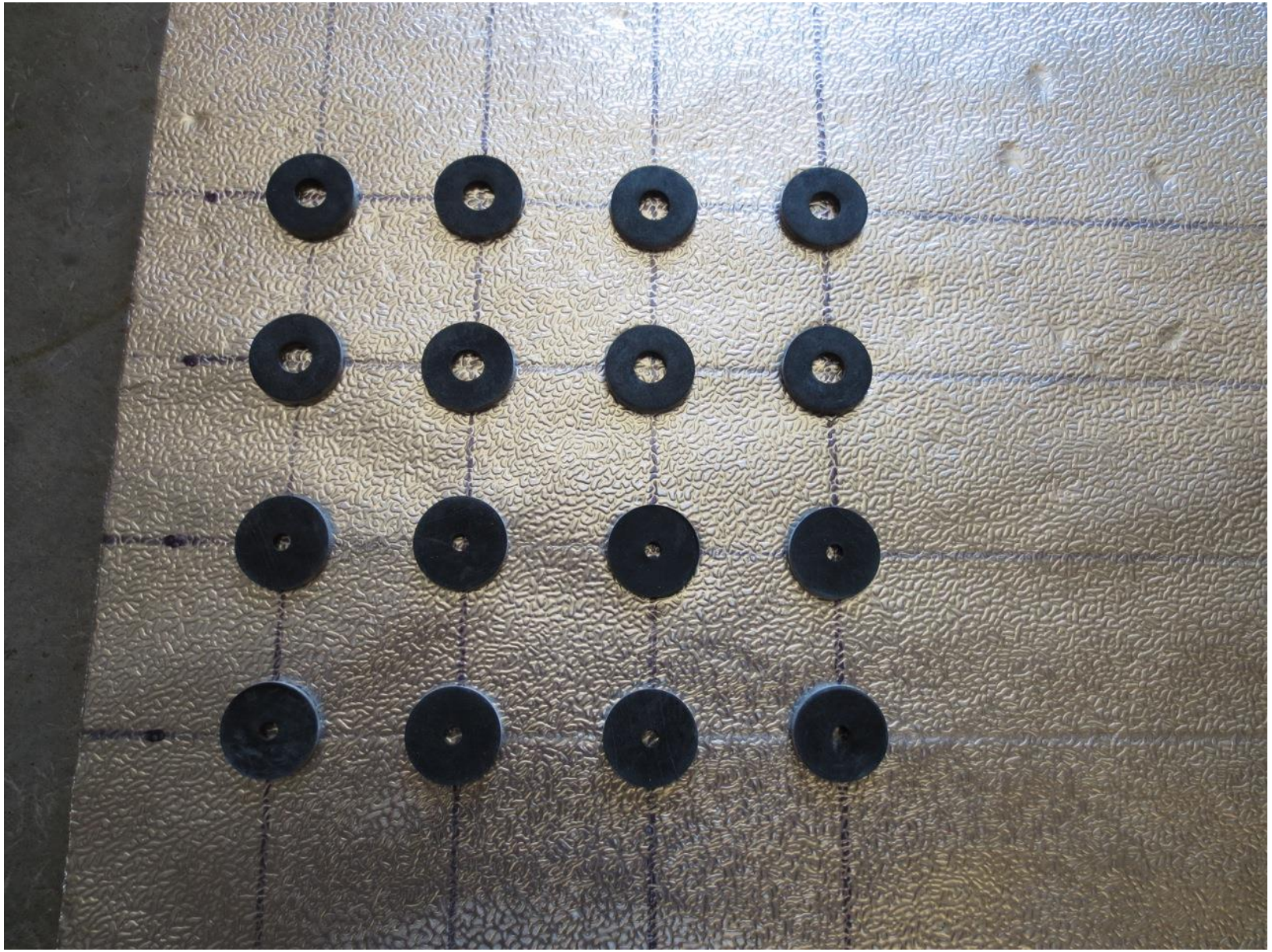
WWW.TYVEK.COM


Styrofoam

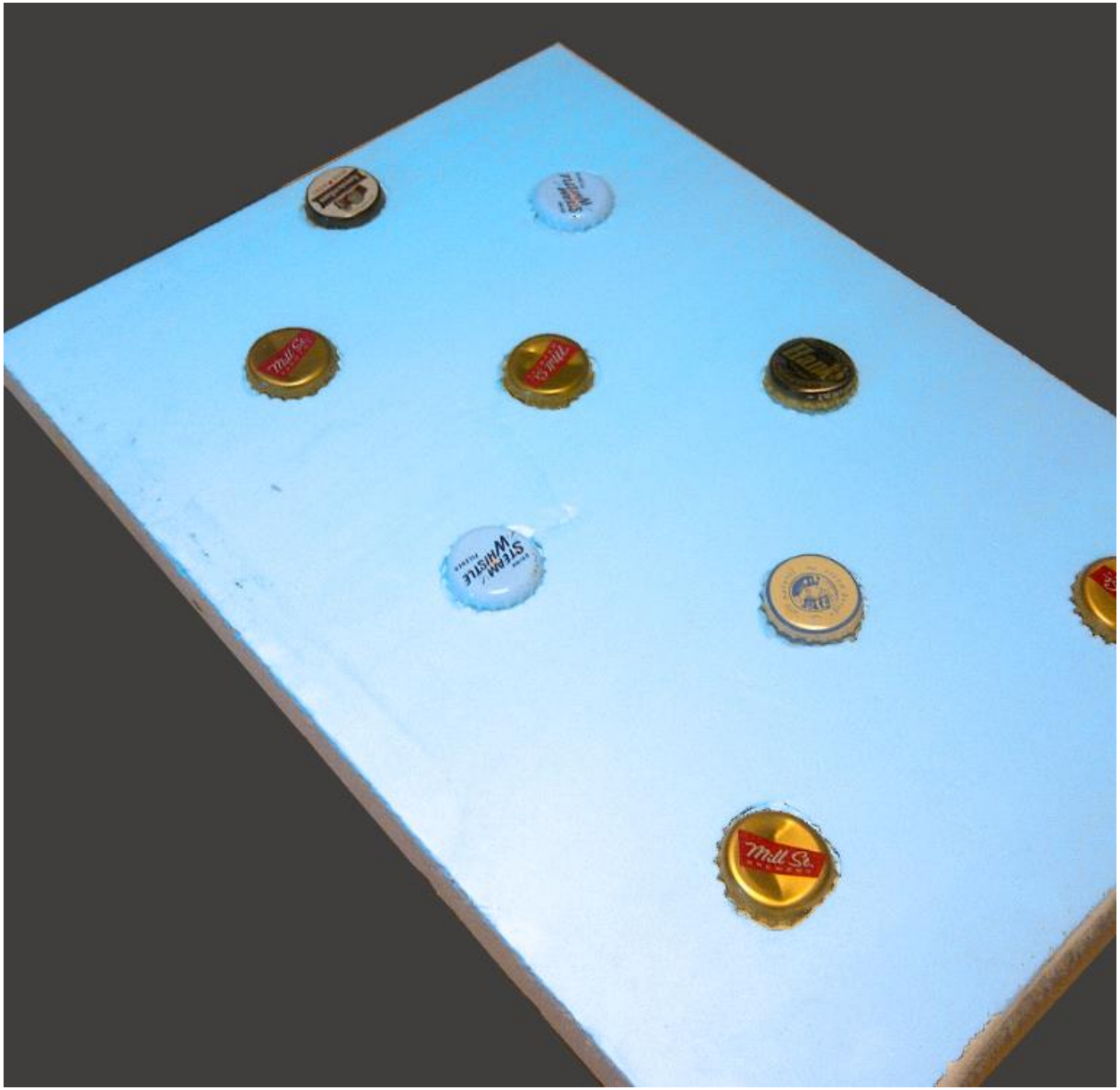
Tyvek
Tyvek



Rain Screen



Beer Screen?


Mill St.
Steam Whistle
Mill St.