

# **Building Energy Simulation**

A Workbook Using  
DesignBuilder™

**Vishal Garg, Jyotirmay Mathur,  
Surekha Tetali and  
Aviruch Bhatia**



**CRC Press**  
Taylor & Francis Group

# Building Energy Simulation

## A Workbook Using DesignBuilder™

Vishal Garg  
Jyotirmay Mathur  
Surekha Tetali  
Aviruch Bhatia



**CRC Press**

Taylor & Francis Group

Boca Raton London New York

---

CRC Press is an imprint of the  
Taylor & Francis Group, an **informa** business

CRC Press  
Taylor & Francis Group  
6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300  
Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742

© 2017 by Taylor & Francis Group, LLC  
CRC Press is an imprint of Taylor & Francis Group, an Informa business

No claim to original U.S. Government works

Printed on acid-free paper

International Standard Book Number-13: 978-1-138-09323-2 (Hardback)  
International Standard Book Number-13: 978-1-4987-4451-5 (Paperback)

This book contains information obtained from authentic and highly regarded sources. Reasonable efforts have been made to publish reliable data and information, but the author and publisher cannot assume responsibility for the validity of all materials or the consequences of their use. The authors and publishers have attempted to trace the copyright holders of all material reproduced in this publication and apologize to copyright holders if permission to publish in this form has not been obtained. If any copyright material has not been acknowledged please write and let us know so we may rectify in any future reprint.

Except as permitted under U.S. Copyright Law, no part of this book may be reprinted, reproduced, transmitted, or utilized in any form by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying, microfilming, and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the publishers.

For permission to photocopy or use material electronically from this work, please access [www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com) (<http://www.copyright.com/>) or contact the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc. (CCC), 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, 978-750-8400. CCC is a not-for-profit organization that provides licenses and registration for a variety of users. For organizations that have been granted a photocopy license by the CCC, a separate system of payment has been arranged.

**Trademark Notice:** Product or corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation without intent to infringe.

Visit the Taylor & Francis Web site at  
<http://www.taylorandfrancis.com>

and the CRC Press Web site at  
<http://www.crcpress.com>

# Building Energy Simulation



# Preface

---

The *Building Energy Simulation: A Workbook Using DesignBuilder™* is an outcome of a series of training programs conducted for participants with varied backgrounds. The authors experimented with various teaching techniques and arrived at the conclusion that the most effective method of imparting these training programs is through tutorials and step-by-step instructions along with graphical illustrations.

The simulations in this workbook are performed using the DesignBuilder™ software for illustration purpose to help explain the aspects of a whole building energy simulation process. This workbook adopts the ‘learning by doing’ principle to explain the fundamentals of building physics and building services, and in turn help participants understand the concept of building energy performance. Based on participant feedback during the training programs, the authors decided to use EnergyPlus™ with DesignBuilder as the front end to explain the simulation process.

The book has been organized as follows:

- The first ten chapters of this workbook cover various aspects of simulation, such as creating the building geometry, assigning material and equipment and analysing the results.

- Chapter 11 explains simulation for the whole building performance method of the ASHRAE 90.1 standard.
- Chapters 12 through 14 provide exercises to simulate three different building projects.

The authors would highly appreciate any feedback or suggestions for improving this workbook.

# Acknowledgements

---

The authors thank all those who helped during the research, writing, review and editing process, which immensely contributed in making this workbook a reality.

We would like to start by thanking all professionals, researchers and students from all over the globe for providing their feedback during the various building simulation training programs that were conducted in the past few years. This feedback helped us improve the building simulation teaching methodology and motivated us to create this workbook.

We thank Prof. N. K. Bansal who not only introduced us to this subject of building science but also served as our role model in learning the art and science of the teaching process.

We are also grateful to DesignBuilder Software Ltd., Stroud, UK for allowing us to develop this book and answering our queries during the writing process.

This workbook would not have been possible without all those reviewers who took time out to patiently go through the content and provide their valuable feedback. The authors would especially appreciate the contribution from Gaurav Choudhary, Hema Rallapalli, Ishita Sharma, Kopal Nihar, Sraavani Gundepudi, Shivraj Dhaka and all the students from International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad, India and Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur, India who reviewed this workbook and provided feedback on the technical content and its accuracy.



Our special thanks to Naresh Arthem for running the simulations for all the tutorials, capturing screen shots, and closing the technical and editorial comments provided by various reviewers. We also thank Suchandra Dutta Roy for helping us with the technical editing of the document.

Our sincere gratitude to the team at CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group, especially Dr. Gagandeep Singh for his trust in us and the numerous extensions to the timelines for delivering this workbook.

# Authors

---

**Dr. Vishal Garg** is Associate Professor and head of the Center for IT in Building Science, International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad, India. His current research interests are in the areas of energy simulation and cool roofs. He teaches building automation and controls, energy simulation and lighting design and technology. He has conducted several national and international workshops on intelligent buildings, green buildings and energy simulation. He holds a BTech (Hons.) degree in civil engineering from MBM Engineering College, Jodhpur and a PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India. Dr. Garg is actively involved in the green building movement, development of eTools and educational platforms for advancing energy efficiency in buildings and energy efficiency building code and its implementation. He was the founding President of the Indian chapter of International Building Performance Simulation Association and chaired the organizing committee of the international conference - Building Simulation 2015.

**Dr.-Ing. Jyotirmay Mathur** is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and the founding Head of the Centre for Energy and Environment at Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, India. He has done postgraduation in energy studies from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India, and doctorate in energy systems from University of Essen, Germany. Dr. Mathur has published 65 research papers in refereed international journals and has presented more than 100 papers and

talks at international seminars and conference, besides writing five books. Dr. Mathur works in the field of energy modelling, codes and standards, energy conservation in buildings, passive cooling, adaptive thermal comfort and building integrated photovoltaic systems.

**Surekha Tetali** is an architect. She is currently pursuing her PhD in building performance and diagnostics from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Pittsburgh. She holds MS degree in IT in Building Science from IIIT, Hyderabad, India. Her current research involves modelling and simulations to analyse the impact of systems integration in buildings and built environment on microclimate, especially in urban areas. She has been working on a number of research and consulting projects involving building performance simulations and building retrofit design and analysis in the United States and India. Prior to joining CMU, she worked for five years as a building energy analyst in the Center for IT in Building Science at IIIT, Hyderabad, India.

**Aviruch Bhatia** is an energy engineer. He is currently pursuing his PhD from IIIT, Hyderabad, India. He holds MTech in Energy Engineering from Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, India, and MSc and MPhil in physics from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India. His areas of interest include building physics, calibrated energy simulation and fault detection and diagnostics in HVAC systems. Prior to joining IIIT, Hyderabad, he worked for three years as an assistant manager at Sustainability Group of Spectral Consultant Pvt. Ltd. (an AECOM company).

# Contents

---

<i>Preface</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
<i>Authors</i>	xv

<b>1 Getting Started with Energy Simulation</b>	<b>1</b>
Building energy simulation	1
What is needed for energy simulation	2
How simulation software works	3
Tutorial 1.1: Opening and simulating an example file	4
Tutorial 1.2: Creating a single-zone model	16
Tutorial 1.3: Evaluating the impact of building location and orientation	31
Tutorial 1.4: Evaluating the impact of opaque envelope components	41
Tutorial 1.5: Evaluating the impact of WWR and glass type	48
Tutorial 1.6: Evaluating the impact of occupancy density	64
Tutorial 1.7: Evaluating the impact of space activity	67
Tutorial 1.8: Evaluating the impact of lighting and equipment power	75
Tutorial 1.9: Evaluating the impact of daylight controls	78

Tutorial 1.10: Evaluating the impact of setpoint temperature	85
Tutorial 1.11: Evaluating the impact of fresh air supply	88

**2 Geometry of Buildings 91**

Tutorial 2.1: Defining thermal zoning for a building	92
Tutorial 2.2: Evaluating the effect of a zone multiplier	98
Tutorial 2.3: Evaluating the impact of the aspect ratio	102
Tutorial 2.4: Evaluating the impact of adjacency of the surface	110

**3 Material and Construction 115**

Tutorial 3.1: Evaluating the effect of lightweight and heavyweight construction	116
Tutorial 3.2: Evaluating the impact of roof insulation	126
Tutorial 3.3: Evaluating the impact of the position of roof insulation	132
Tutorial 3.4: Evaluating the impact of the air gap between roof layers	136
Tutorial 3.5: Evaluating the impact of surface reflectance	140
Tutorial 3.6: Evaluating the impact of roof underdeck radiant barrier	146
Tutorial 3.7: Evaluating the impact of a green roof	150

**4 Openings and Shading 155**

Tutorial 4.1: Evaluating the impact of window wall ratio and glazing type	156
Tutorial 4.2: Evaluating the impact of overhangs and fins	168
Tutorial 4.3: Evaluating the impact of internal operable shades	178

<b>5 Lighting and Controls</b>	<b>189</b>
Tutorial 5.1: Evaluating the impact of daylighting-based controls	189
Tutorial 5.2: Evaluating the impact of daylight sensor placement	193
<b>6 Heating and Cooling Design</b>	<b>209</b>
Tutorial 6.1: Evaluating the impact of temperature control types	209
Tutorial 6.2: Evaluating the impact of design day selection	222
Tutorial 6.3: Evaluating the impact of the air flow calculation method	229
<b>7 Unitary HVAC Systems</b>	<b>235</b>
Tutorial 7.1: Evaluating the impact of unitary air conditioner COP	235
Tutorial 7.2: Evaluating the impact of the fan efficiency of a unitary air conditioning system	241
Tutorial 7.3: Evaluating the impact of fan pressure rise	247
<b>8 Central HVAC System</b>	<b>253</b>
Tutorial 8.1: Evaluating the impact of air-cooled and water-cooled chillers	253
Tutorial 8.2: Evaluating the impact of variable speed drive (VSD) on a chiller	263
Tutorial 8.3: Evaluating the impact of VSD on a chilled water pump	272
Tutorial 8.4: Evaluating the impact of a cooling tower fan type	276
Tutorial 8.5: Evaluating the impact of condenser water pump with VSD	280
Tutorial 8.6: Evaluating the impact of an air-side economiser	283

Tutorial 8.7:	Evaluating the impact of supply air fan operation mode during unoccupied hours	288
Tutorial 8.8:	Evaluating the impact of heat recovery between fresh and exhaust air	292
Tutorial 8.9:	Evaluating the impact of boiler nominal thermal efficiency	301
<b>9</b>	<b>Simulation Parameters</b>	<b>305</b>
Tutorial 9.1:	Evaluating the impact of time steps per hour on run time	306
Tutorial 9.2:	Evaluating the impact of the solar distribution algorithm	310
Tutorial 9.3:	Evaluating the impact of the solution algorithm	316
Tutorial 9.4:	Evaluating the effect of the inside convection algorithm	319
Tutorial 9.5:	Evaluating the impact of the shadowing interval	324
<b>10</b>	<b>Natural Ventilation</b>	<b>327</b>
Tutorial 10.1:	Evaluating the impact of wind speed on natural ventilation	328
Tutorial 10.2:	Evaluating the impact of natural ventilation with constant wind speed and direction	336
Tutorial 10.3:	Evaluating the impact of window opening and closing schedule	346
Tutorial 10.4:	Evaluating the impact of window opening control based on temperature	349
Tutorial 10.5:	Evaluating the impact of window opening area modulation on natural ventilation	360
Tutorial 10.6:	Evaluating the impact of mixed mode operation	369

## **11 Building Energy Code Compliance 381**

Tutorial 11.1:	Simulating building performance in four orientations	382
Tutorial 11.2:	Creating the base case external wall for ASHRAE 90.1-2010 Appendix G	384
Tutorial 11.3:	Modelling flush windows for the base case	386
Tutorial 11.4:	Selecting HVAC system for the base case	387
Tutorial 11.5:	Calculating fan power for the base case	388
Tutorial 11.6:	Understanding fan cycling	390
Tutorial 11.7:	Specifying room air to supply air temperature difference	390
Tutorial 11.8:	Number of chillers in the base case	391
Tutorial 11.9:	Defining chilled-water supply temperature reset for the base case	396
Tutorial 11.10:	Type and number of boilers for the base case	398
Tutorial 11.11:	Defining hot-water supply temperature reset	399
Tutorial 11.12:	Hot-water pumps	401
Tutorial 11.13:	Defining exhaust air energy recovery parameters	401
Tutorial 11.14:	Defining economiser parameters	402
Tutorial 11.15:	Finding unmet hours after simulation	403
Tutorial 11.16:	Generating the performance rating method compliance report in DesignBuilder	403
Tutorial 11.17:	Finding process load for the base case	405
Tutorial 11.18:	Getting ASHRAE 62.1 standard summary in DesignBuilder	406
Reference		407

## **12 Project: Small Office 409**

Project goal	409
Overview	409
Climate and location	409
Floor plans	411



Building envelope	413
Internal loads and schedules	414
Mechanical systems	416
<b>13 Project: Single-Family Residence</b>	<b>419</b>
Project goal	419
Overview	419
Climate and location	421
Floor plans	421
Internal loads and schedules	424
Building envelope	431
Mechanical systems	434
IECC 2015 compliance	435
<b>14 Project: Large Office</b>	<b>437</b>
Project goal	437
Overview	437
Climate and location	437
Floor plans	439
Building envelope	441
Internal loads and schedules	441
Mechanical systems	443
Show compliance for ASHRAE 90.1-2010	444
Appendix A: Working of EnergyPlus™ Simulation	447
Appendix B: Weather Data and Tools	451
Index	457