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1 **Passive cooling of buildings with phase change materials using whole-** 2 **building energy simulation tools: A review**

3 Mohammad Saffari¹, Alvaro de Gracia², Svetlana Ushak^{3, 4}, Luisa F. Cabeza^{1*}

4 ¹GREA Innovació Concurrent, Universitat de Lleida, Pere de Cabrera s/n, 25001, Lleida, Spain.

5 ²Departament d'Enginyeria Mecànica, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Av. Països Catalans 26, 43007, Tarragona, Spain.

6 ³Center for Advanced Study of Lithium and Industrial Minerals (CELiMIN), University of Antofagasta, Av. Universidad de
7 Antofagasta 02800, Campus Coloso, Antofagasta, Chile.

8 ⁴Solar Energy Research Center (SERC), Av. Tupper 2007 4th Floor, Santiago, Chile.

9 * Corresponding author: lcabeza@diei.udl.cat

10 11 **Abstract**

12
13 Buildings contribute to climate change by consuming a considerable amount of energy to
14 provide thermal comfort for occupants. Cooling energy demands are expected to increase
15 substantially in the world. On this basis, technologies and techniques providing high energy
16 efficiency in buildings such as passive cooling are highly appreciated. Passive cooling by means
17 of phase change materials (PCM) offers high potential to decrease the cooling energy demand
18 and to improve the indoor comfort condition. However, in order to be appropriately
19 characterized and implemented into the building envelope, the PCM use should be numerically
20 analyzed. Whole-building energy simulation tools can enhance the capability of the engineers
21 and designers to analyze the thermal behavior of PCM-enhanced buildings. In this paper, an
22 extensive review has been made, with regard to whole-building energy simulation for passive
23 cooling, addressing the possibilities of applying different PCM-enhanced components into the
24 building envelope and also the feasibility of PCM passive cooling system under different
25 climate conditions. The application of PCM has not always been as energy beneficial as
26 expected, and actually its effectiveness is highly dependent on the climatic condition, on the
27 PCM melting temperature and on the occupants behavior. Therefore, energy simulation of
28 passive PCM systems is found to be a single-objective or multi-objective optimization problem
29 which requires appropriate mathematical models for energy and comfort assessment which
30 should be further investigated. Moreover, further research is required to analyze the influence of
31 natural night ventilation on the cooling performance of PCM.

32
33 **Keywords:** Passive cooling; PCM; EnergyPlus; TRNSYS; ESP-r; Natural night ventilation;
34 Whole-building energy simulation.

1. Introduction

The building sector (both residential and non-residential buildings) is responsible of consuming roughly 32% of the global final energy use (Figure 1) [1] and emitting roughly 36% of all greenhouse gas emissions [2]. For instance, according to the EU reference scenario trend projection 2016, the share of energy consumption in houses and buildings accounts for about one-third of the final energy consumption in all sectors and it is expected to be increased slightly by 2050. This sector also contributes to the urban heat island (UHI) phenomenon in urban areas which causes higher surface and air temperature in city centers than in outskirts [3].

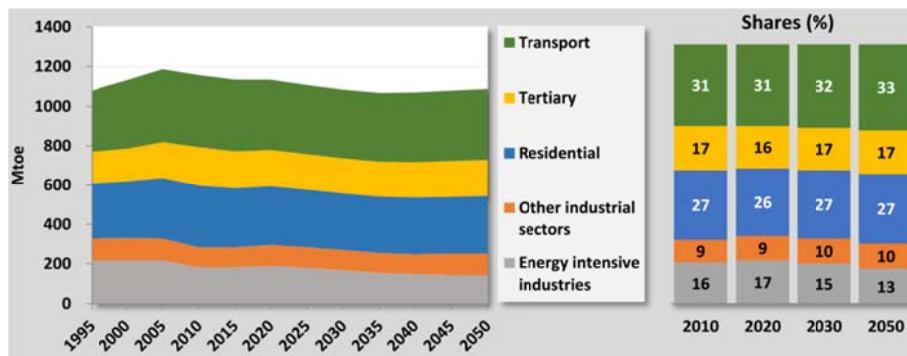


Figure 1. Final energy consumption by sector in EU countries [4].

A substantial upsurge for cooling energy demands is expected by 2050. The estimated increase is roughly 150% worldwide and about 300%-600% in developing countries [5]. Figure 2 shows an outlook of this sharply increasing cooling energy demand in some developing nations (Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Latin America, India, and China) [1].

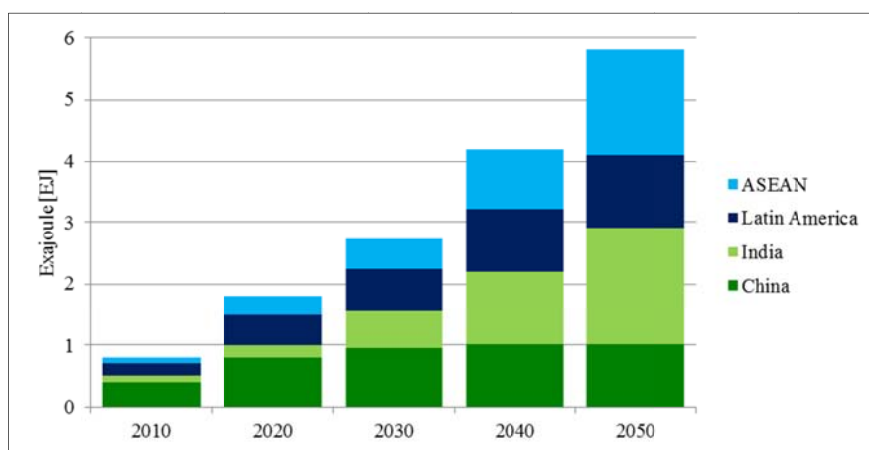


Figure 2. Perspective of cooling energy demand up to 2050 [1].

To overcome this global concern, policy makers are endeavoring to put energy-efficient solutions on the table since the energy efficiency is found to be the most economic and instantly accessible way to diminish carbon emissions [3]. For instance, the Roadmap 2050 long-term

62 policy [6] is seeking pathways to achieve low-carbon economy with a minimum cost in Europe
63 [7]. The improvement of the building envelope is an essential step to achieve this goal, as 20%
64 to 60% of all energy consumed in buildings is affected by the design and construction of the
65 building envelope [5].

66

67 Today, the energy beneficial of the thermal energy storage (TES) is well known. TES is a
68 promising technology to achieve a low-carbon future [8]. It is accounted as an initiative to
69 reduce the energy consumption in buildings [8], to alleviate the UHI effects in cities [3] and to
70 increase the energy efficiency and comfort by creating a balance between diurnal and nocturnal
71 energy demand [9] Energy could be stored physically or chemically. In physical processes
72 energy is accumulated as sensible or/and latent heat, on the other hand thermochemical energy
73 storage takes place when a chemical reaction with high heat of reaction happens [10]. For
74 building applications, mostly sensible and latent heat storage are considered, although today
75 thermochemical energy storage is increasing in interest within researchers [11]. For sensible
76 heat TES, massive materials (concrete, stone, etc.) are required to store considerable amounts of
77 heat, however, in latent heat TES higher amounts of energy per volume can be stored. Latent
78 heat storage takes place by phase transition of the storage material. When heat is transferred to
79 the storage material, melting takes place at a specific and quasi constant temperature, storing a
80 large quantity of heat, which is called melting temperature or phase change temperature. After
81 this stage, further increase of heat results in an addition of sensible heat storage. This heat then
82 dissipates by solidification of the storage material. Regularly, for building applications solid-
83 liquid phase change is used since it presents high energy density and no volume expansion
84 problems. Materials with a solid-liquid phase change which are capable to store heat and cold
85 are generally called phase change materials (PCMs) [9,10,12]. Previous researches [13–16]
86 were documented and classified different types of PCM for building applications. These
87 materials can be incorporated in buildings either as passive [17] or active [18] systems. In
88 passive design approach the PCM is incorporated into the building construction and elements as
89 an integrated-design. Enhancing the benefits of sunlight to reduce heating requirements or
90 reducing energy needs for cooling by minimizing heat gains in summer are principal objectives
91 of integrated designs.

92

93 An appropriate passive design by means of PCM can provide long-term energy efficiency,
94 thermal comfort, stabilization of indoor air temperature and a reduction of the use and size of
95 the HVAC systems [19,20]. Commonly, in passive design approach for building applications
96 the PCM is incorporated into the building envelope as an integrated material into building walls,
97 roofs, floors, slabs, fenestration, insulation, façade, and shading system [21,22]. However,
98 before applying these innovative materials their performance should be analyzed using validated

99 numerical simulation tools since application of PCM requires special attention to proper
100 materials selection, the location, and the quantity of PCM in the envelope [23].

101

102 With the advent of digital computers, mathematical modeling and computer simulation has now
103 become a crucial economical and quickest way to providing a broad understanding of the
104 practical processes involving PCM [24]. Reliable whole-building energy simulation tools can
105 numerically facilitate design, analysis and optimization of the PCM-enhanced building
106 component with no need to set up expensive and time consuming whole-building field
107 experiments [25]. Further on, computer-based simulation tools help designers and engineers to
108 evaluate potential decisions and achieve long-term targets. For example, some researchers
109 developed thermal load predictive models of commercial buildings using building energy
110 simulation software [26]. In another study, whole-building simulation was used for the
111 benchmarking of residential buildings [27]. Additionally, the validated model can always be
112 employed for parametric or optimization studies and has more general applications than an
113 experimental work. Therefore, numerical simulation is a widely-used method for economically
114 and efficiently analyzing complex physical phenomena, such as the modeling of PCM [24].

115

116 Accordingly, a considerable amount of literature was published on the building energy
117 simulation pointing out the advantages of using the PCM as a passive cooling or free cooling
118 approach [21]. The current paper presents a holistic review of the numerical simulation of
119 buildings containing PCM for passive cooling purposes using whole building energy simulation
120 tools. The present study is an attempt to address the methods that have been used to evaluate
121 and analyze the effects of passive PCM-based design on the cooling energy performance in
122 buildings through whole building energy simulation software. In this regard, an extensive study
123 was done to address the previous, current and future research trends toward the application of
124 PCM in buildings for passive cooling by means of building energy modeling tools.

125

126 **2. Whole-building energy simulation for PCM-based passive design**

127

128 The use of whole-building energy simulation is an essential step to evaluate and analysis the
129 performance of PCM-enhanced buildings. These tools can numerically analyze the dynamic
130 thermal behavior of the building passively enhanced with PCMs. Today, there are many
131 validated whole-building energy simulation programs which are capable of carrying out
132 dynamic energy simulation for different applications [28] but there are few validated whole
133 building energy simulation programs that can analyze energy performance and indoor comfort
134 of PCM-enhanced passive buildings. This section overviews the commonly used and important
135 simulation tools for building passive cooling design based on the PCM technology. According

136 to literature review, EnergyPlus [29], TRNSYS [30], and ESP-r [31] have been extensively used
137 by researchers to study the behavior of PCM in buildings and several studies have been carried
138 out to validate these simulation tools [32].

139

140 **2.1. EnergyPlus v8.6.0**

141

142 EnergyPlus is an open-source and multi-platform building energy performance modeling with
143 the most popular capabilities of BLAST and DOE-2.1E with many highlighted features.
144 Furthermore, it is possible to develop new modules and/or control strategies and integrate them
145 into the program as subroutines using energy management system (EMS) as a dedicated
146 computer that could be programmed to control the whole energy-related systems of the
147 building, such as heating, cooling, ventilation, hot water, interior lighting, exterior lighting,
148 on-site power generation, and mechanized systems for shading devices, window, actuators,
149 and double facade elements [33]. Additionally, functional mock-up unit (FMU) for co-
150 simulation import interface allows EnergyPlus to conduct co-simulation with various simulation
151 programs that are packaged as FMUs [34]. Other capabilities which give power to this software
152 are advanced fenestration analysis as well as general envelope calculations (outside and inside
153 surface convection algorithms), advanced infiltration, ventilation, room air and multi-zone
154 airflow calculations, environmental emissions and developed economic evaluation including
155 energy costs, and life cycle costs. In addition, comparing to other simulation tools, EnergyPlus
156 includes several developed human thermal comfort algorithms for analyzing the occupant's
157 thermal well-being and indoor air quality measures. Moreover, there are several graphical
158 interfaces for EnergyPlus to simplify the use of this software by different types of users such as
159 students, researchers, architects and engineers [28,35].

160

161 **2.2. TRNSYS v17**

162

163 TRNSYS is a flexible transient systems simulation program with a modular structure. It is a
164 component-based simulation program, in which the user selects the components that comprise
165 the energy system and interconnects them using appropriate input/output ports. The TRNSYS
166 library consists of various components specifically designed for simulation of buildings, HVAC,
167 lighting, ventilation, solar energy, thermal energy storage, and also component routines to
168 support input of weather data or other time-dependent forcing functions and output of
169 simulation results. In addition it facilitates the addition of new mathematical models not
170 included in the software and couples them with existing components. TRNSYS became globally
171 a well-known software for researchers and engineers. It can simulate solar thermal and

172 photovoltaic systems, low energy buildings and HVAC systems, renewable energy systems,
 173 cogeneration, fuel cells, and active and passive PCM systems [36].

174 **2.3. ESP-r**

175

176 ESP-r is a general purpose, multi-domain building thermal, inter-zone air flow, intra-zone air
 177 movement, HVAC systems and electrical power flow, simulation program. ESP-r allows its user
 178 to explore the complex relationships between form, envelope, air flow, plant and control of a
 179 building. ESP-r is based on a finite volume, conservation approach in which a problem is
 180 transformed into a set of conservation equations which are then integrated at consecutive time-
 181 steps in response to climate, occupant and control system impacts [28,31]. In ESP-r, the PCM
 182 can be modelled using the concept of special materials facility [37,38].

183

184 **2.4. PCM mathematical models used in whole-building energy simulation software**

185

186 Energy and comfort analysis of buildings enhanced with PCMs for passive cooling purposes
 187 strongly depend on the PCM melting temperature and quantity, its thermal characteristics, the
 188 location of PCM in the building envelope, climatic conditions, outdoor and indoor boundary
 189 conditions, and design of the building. Mathematical modeling of PCM is an essential step
 190 towards optimal design and proper material selection for passive buildings [39]. On this basis,
 191 several numerical modeling methods have been used in whole-building energy simulation tools
 192 to simulate the thermal response of PCM. These methods could be classified based on their
 193 mathematical model, PCM model, and discretization approach. More importantly, various
 194 experimental, analytical, and comparative analyses were performed with the objective of
 195 producing accurate, reliable, and validated models. Table 1 summarizes the current methods and
 196 models used in whole-building energy simulation tools to simulate the thermal performance of
 197 PCM-enhanced buildings.

198

199 Table 1. Numerical methods used to simulate PCM in dynamic building simulation software, adopted from [32].

Software	Module identification	Mathematical method	PCM model	Discretization	Constrains	Validation	Reference
EnergyPlus	Conduction Finite Difference (CondFD)	FDM: 1D	Enthalpy method	Fully implicit/ Crank-Nicolson	-Time step < 3 min -Hysteresis in PCM cannot be modeled currently -Phase change at isothermal temperature cannot be modeled	Analytical, comparative & experimental	[40–43]

TRNSYS	"TYPE285"	FVM: 1D	Enthalpy method	Fully implicit	-Hysteresis and sub-cooling are not considered	Experimental, comparative	[44]
	"TYPE272"	FVM: 1D	Heat capacity method	Fully implicit	-Internal convective heat transfer of the liquid state PCM is not considered - PCM with multiple peaks is not supported	Experimental	[45]
	Modified "TYPE36"	FDM: 1D	Enthalpy method	Explicit	-Low time step	Limited validation using experimental results for concrete	[46,47]
	"TYPE58"	FDM: 2D	Enthalpy method	Explicit	NA	Experimental	[48]
	"TYPE204"	FDM: 3D	Heat capacity method	Implicit, semi-implicit	-Computationally inefficient	NA	[49]
	"TYPE101"	FDM: 1D	Heat capacity method	Crank-Nicolson	-A correction factor to account for cold bridges has to be used for model accuracy	Experimental	[50]
	TRNSYS "Active Wall"	Equivalent heat transfer coefficients	Variable heat source function mimicking PCM behavior	---	-Real heat transfer physics in PCM is not modeled	Experimental	[51]
	"TYPE241"	FDM: 1D	Heat source method	Implicit	NA	NA	[52]
	"TYPE260"	FDM: 1D	Enthalpy method	Implicit	-Thermal properties including heat capacity are based on previous time step (i.e, explicit scheme)	Experimental	[53]
	Modified "TYPE101"	FDM: 1D	Enthalpy method	Implicit	-Developed for internal partition wall	Experimental	[54]
	"TYPE1270"	Lumped method using heat balance	Quasi-heat source method	---	-Very simplified method -Internal layer within an envelope - Based on lumped heat balance -Low accuracy for PCM at fixed temperature	Experimental data in literature	[55,56]
"TYPE399" available in TRNSYS v.17	FDM: 1D	Enthalpy method	Crank-Nicolson	-Hysteresis phenomena of PCM are considered in the model -It could be applied in both active and passive systems	NA	[30,57]	
ESP-r	SPMCMP53-SPMCMP56	FDM: 1D	Heat capacity and heat source method	---	-Low time step	Experimental	[37,58-61]

1D:One-Dimensional, FDM:Finite Difference Method, FVM: Finite Volume Method, NA: Not Available.

200
201

3. Potential of passive PCM design for energy savings and thermal comfort

Several publications have appeared in recent years addressing the importance of free cooling [62] and the numerical modeling of the PCM for building applications [32] of which a considerable number of studies have been performed using EnergyPlus software [63–69].

Various issues have been discussed and argued among the researchers to clarify to which degree the application of PCM can be more energy beneficial and to see to what extent these materials may or may not increase the thermal comfort of occupants [70], depending on control and implementation strategies as mentioned by Barzin et al. [71]. Moreover, the payback period was an important topic of discussion among the researchers [72,73].

The PCM passive system has been incorporated into the building envelope by different means such as PCM-enhanced drywall, PCM plaster, macro-encapsulated PCM panels, Multi PCM (honeycomb), PCM-enhanced insulation, and PCM green roof. Further on, these advanced building elements have been installed in different locations of the building envelope such as ceilings, exterior walls, partitions and attic floor. In this section the results of simulation-based studies for different building-integrated passive PCM systems are categorized and discussed with respect to energy savings and thermal comfort.

3.1. Gypsum boards and plaster with PCM

The impact of installing DuPont™ Energain® PCM drywalls (Figure 3) on the energy performance of single-zone residential buildings was studied by Soares et al. [74]. It was found that from 10% to 62% reductions in energy consumption could be achieved by inclusion of PCM depending on the climate zone. Moreover, the best PCM drywall thickness was found as 4 cm for all studied climates.



Figure 3. DuPont™ Energain® installed into the ceilings and walls [75].

233

247 Along with the similar lines, some authors [76] have studied the feasibility of energy retrofitting
248 of a historic educational building by using PCM with the aim of improving the thermal comfort
249 and the energy performance. Regarding the PCM application, two different scenarios were
250 examined to reduce the cooling loads of the building; first applying PCM wallboard melting at
251 27 °C and 3 cm of thickness over the inside surfaces of the building envelope, and second
252 installing the PCM wallboard melting at 32 °C on the outer surface of the walls. The analysis of
253 the energy retrofitting scenarios have shown that despite 27% of primary energy savings in
254 summer, the highest annual primary energy savings (38%) for both cooling and heating periods
255 were achieved when a retrofitting scenario without PCM solution was applied. This retrofitting
256 package was consisted of substitution of old windows with low-emissive ones, application of
257 thermal insulation for the roof slab and using thermal plaster for the opaque vertical envelope.
258 However, it is noteworthy to say that the PCM solution was designed to reduce the energy needs
259 in the cooling period, so that, when the annual energy performance (cooling and heating) was
260 evaluated, less annual energy savings were shown in retrofitting scenarios with PCM.

248

256 In another study, the cooling energy performance of a massive and highly insulated building
257 with PCM-enhanced plaster envelope was studied under some European regions climate
258 condition by Ascione et al. [77]. Addition of the PCM plaster (Figures 4) to the inner surface of
259 the exterior envelopes with different thicknesses, melting points and locations in walls was
260 analyzed and it was found that the best energy savings and comfort for the cooling period could
261 be obtained when the PCM plaster melting at 29 °C with 3 cm thickness is incorporated into the
262 vertical envelopes in all studied cities. It was concluded that, depending on the region, 2.5 to
263 7.2% of the cooling energy could be saved.

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Figure 4. (a) Electron microscopy of PCM in gypsum plaster Micronal® [78];
(b) PCM gypsum plaster finishing on the wall ©BASF [79,80];
(c) PCM micro-capsules integrated into the interior plaster [61].

281 Additionally, Marin et al. [81] studied the feasibility of reducing the severe indoor air
282 fluctuations in relocatable lightweight buildings to reduce HVAC needs under major Chilean
283 climate condition. Such single-zone buildings widely used in mining camps or relocatable
284 lightweight buildings. Then, their research was extended to more climate zones according to the
285 Köppen Geiger classification [128]. The PCM plasterboard with 25 °C of peak melting point
286 containing 18% of microencapsulated PCM was installed on the inner surface of walls and roof
287 to moderate the indoor air temperature. Two approaches were considered; controlled indoor
288 comfort temperature (18 °C for heating and 25 °C for cooling) with HVAC system and free
289 floating (FF) mode. In cases with HVAC system the PCM passive system could achieve cooling
290 energy savings from about 10 to 130 kWh in different climate zones. Moreover, in FF
291 condition, the application of PCM could increase the percentage of comfort hours in all studies
292 climates from 10% to 30% except in tropical areas. As it was concluded by the authors, in order
293 to increase the benefits of PCM, the optimization of PCM melting temperature under different
294 climate zones is required. Further on, Ozdenefe and Dewsbury [82] investigated the impact of
295 adding PCM wallboard into lightweight residential buildings in Cyprus to increase their energy
296 performance. Respectively, different retrofitting scenarios with PCM inclusion were applied and
297 eventually for the best scenario 14% of cooling energy savings were obtained.

282

283 **3.2. Macro-encapsulated PCM panels**

284

290 Under Australian weather conditions, Alam el al. [83] carried out parametric analysis to find out
291 the potential energy savings by integrating BioPCM pouches with 0.005 m thickness and the
292 latent heat of 219 kJ/kg (Figure 5) with different melting points (from 20 to 23 °C) into the
293 building envelope. Energy simulation results showed that the energy saving varies from city to
294 city and depending on the climatic region the total annual energy savings could change from
295 17% to 23%.

291



292
293
294

Figure 5. BioPCM™ pouches (Left) [84], BioPCM™ inclusion in attic floor (right) [85].

296 Moreover, the feasibility of enhancing the energy performance of building prototypes
297 containing Rubitherm compact storage modules (CSM) (Figure 6) was investigated by Saffari et

202 al. [96]. The simulation results were shown that about 10-15% of the annual energy could be
203 saved using PCM melting at 27 °C in their studied climate. However, the energy savings for the
204 cooling period were found much higher than the total heating and cooling consumption.
205 Additionally, it was found that depending on the HVAC control, 20%-60% of the cooling
206 energy could be saved. Also, it should be added that installing this type of PCM panel is simple
207 which enhances the installation speed and reduces the maintenance cost.
303



Figure 6. Rubitherm CSM [86].

304

305

306

307

308 **3.3. Multi PCM or Honeycomb**

309

315 A methodology was presented by Evola et al. [70] to evaluate the summer thermal comfort
316 performance of an office prototype where honeycomb PCM wallboards (Figures 7 & 8) were
317 installed on the inner surface of the partition walls to passively regulate the indoor air
318 temperature. Inclusion of the PCM honeycomb into the partition walls showed about 0.3-0.7 °C
319 reductions in peak operative temperature and about 5% to 7% increase of thermal comfort in the
320 temperate months of July and August.



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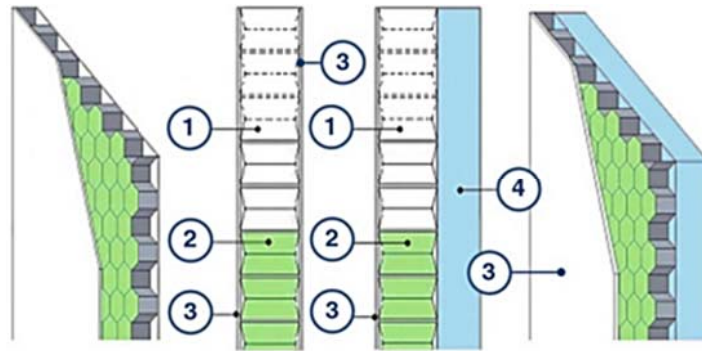
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Figure 7. Honeycomb panel sample filled with paraffin, before to stick the upper aluminum skin [87].

320



321

322

Figure 8. Multilayer Micronal[®] PCM-enhanced sandwich board with aluminum honeycomb core. Elements: 1.

323

Aluminum Honeycomb 2. RACUS[®] PCM infill. 3. Magnoboard[®] 4. PIR or Phenolic Foam [25].

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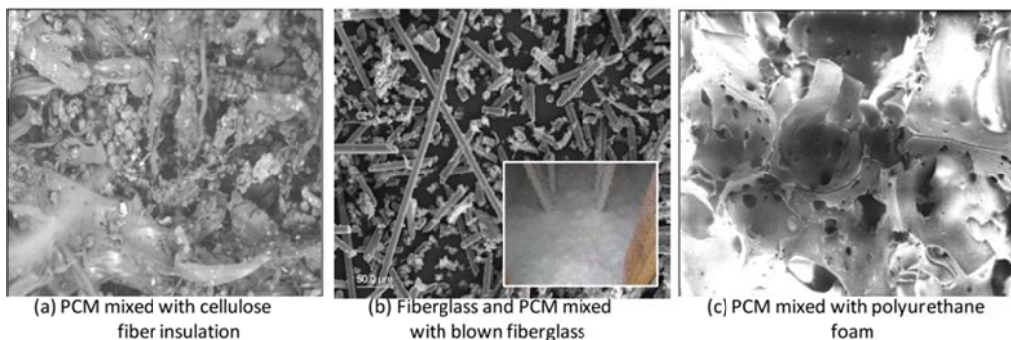
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326 3.4. PCM-enhanced insulating materials

327

334 From the previous literature review, it can be seen that the PCM has been commonly applied to
335 the interior and exterior surfaces of the walls, ceilings, and floors as a concentrated layer, or
336 impregnated into the gypsum wallboards, drywalls and gypsum plaster, however, the
337 impregnation of the PCM into the insulation (Figure 9) has gained interest due to its ability to
338 significantly diminishing and shifting peak hour thermal loads by building fabrics [73]. There
339 have been some studies in the literature reporting the energy benefits due to the application of
340 PCM-enhanced insulation [63,88,89].

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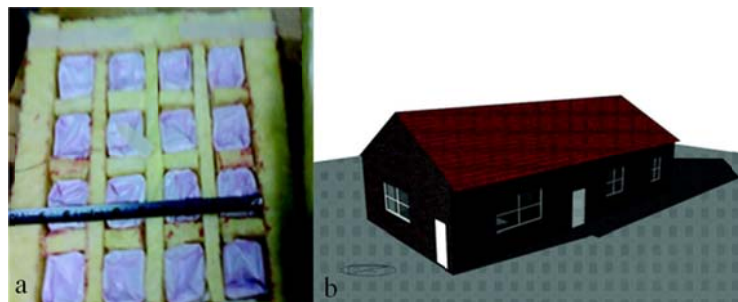
Figure 9. Scanning electron microscope (SEM) images of different mixtures of microencapsulated PCM [73].

338

344 For instance, Kośny et al. [63] evaluated the thermal performance of a complex thermal storage
345 membrane containing pouches filled with 80 wt.% of bio-based PCM separated by fiber glass
346 strips (Figure 10.a) to enhance the energy performance of a residential building (Figure 10.b).
347 The PCM membrane was installed into the exterior walls and the attic floor which resulted in
348 10% reduction in annual wall-generated heating and cooling loads. However, it should be noted
349 that, addition of the PCM may not increase the thermal resistance of the building components

346 significantly; hence, a proper combination of thermal mass and insulation should be considered
347 [63].

348



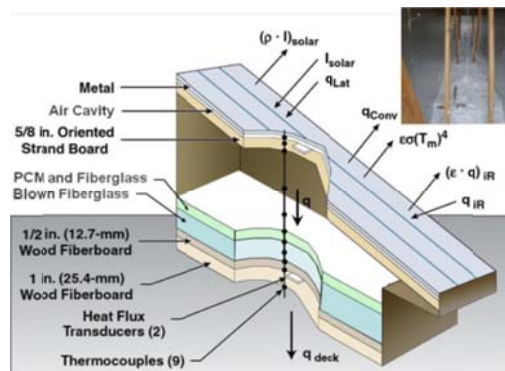
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Figure 10. (a) PCM-enhanced fiberglass; (b) Single-story ranch house [63].

350

357 Similarly, the potential benefits of incorporating the PCM-enhanced blown fiber glass insulation
358 into the residential attics (Figure 11) was investigated through experiment and numerical
359 analysis under hot and mixed U.S. climates [89]. Therefore, it was concluded that the
360 application of PCM-enhanced insulation can improve the roof-generated peak loads by 70-80
361 %. By the way, as it has been discussed in the literature, further research is required to
362 investigate the heat transfer in such composites and to evaluate their potential contribution to
363 energy saving in buildings [90].

358



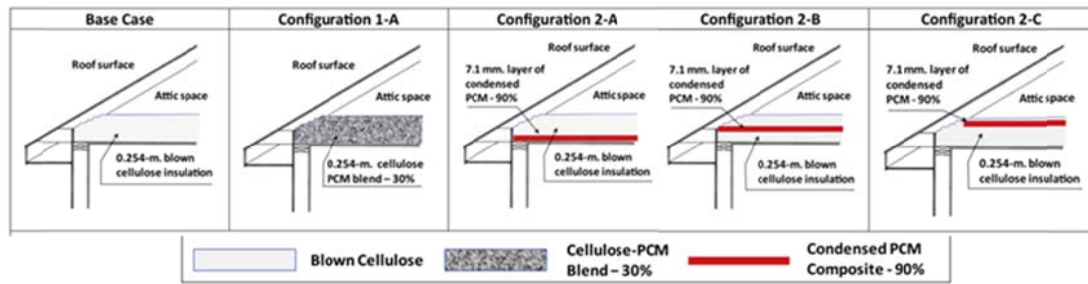
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Figure 11. Instrumentation of attic containing PCM-enhanced fiber glass insulation [89].

361

367 Košny et al. [59] studied the passive cooling potential due to addition of PCM-enhanced
368 insulation into residential attics under weather condition of Phoenix, Arizona. Two types of
369 PCM were used. A 30% by weight uniform blend of PCM with fiber insulations, and a 90% by
370 weight blend of shape stabilized PCM with plastic composite, both with 26.5 °C of melting
371 point. Different scenarios (as shown in Figure 12) were investigated by ESP-r whole-building
372 simulation tool to understand the underlying effects of using PCM in the studied building.

368



369

370

Figure 12. Different scenarios of PCM-enhanced cellulose insulation & concentrated PCM into attic envelope [59].

371

378

Several results were achieved by the authors; the simulation study showed that the attic insulation scenario with concentrated PCM achieves lower cooling loads than the scenario with PCM-enhanced cellulose (Configuration 1-A). Higher cooling savings obtained for Configurations 2-A and Configurations 2-B with 6.8% and 6.6% of cooling energy savings which are better than dispersed PCM (Configuration 1-A) with 3.1% cooling savings. Further on, the best strategies to integrate concentrated PCM were found to be PCM on the bottom and in the middle of the attic floor insulation, Configurations 2-A and 2-B, respectively.

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3.5. PCM in roof

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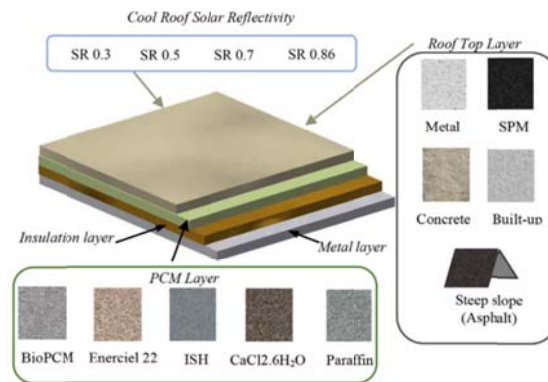
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Until now, far too little attention has been paid to the potential of passive PCM systems to reduce the UHI. In a recent paper by Roman et al. [91] the possibility of reducing the energy consumption and UHI effect applying cool roof and PCM-enhanced roof technologies was investigated (Figure 13). From the simulation results it was concluded that the PCM has great potential to improve both indoor and outdoor environment thermal conditions. The PCM roof could reduce 54% of heat flux entering the building indoor environment through the roof and more interestingly, the PCM-incorporated roof showed 40% lower heat flux emitting from the roof surface to the outdoor environment in peak hours comparing with the cool roof technology. These results are consistent with the finding of Karlessi et al. [92] which has shown that PCM doped coatings can reduce the surface temperature by 12%. These findings are promising since they have proved that the PCM can improve both the microclimate and the macroclimate thermal conditions. Further on, Pisello et al. [93] investigated the influence of integrating PCM into two different types of roofing membranes to increase the energy performance of a building prototype. A traditional bitumen roofing membrane and an advanced cool polyurethane-based membrane enhanced with PCM with 26 °C of melting point were studied under the climate condition of Perugia. Their simulation results showed 10% and 23% of cooling energy savings by the integration of PCM-enhanced bitumen roofing membrane and PCM-enhanced cool polyurethane-based membrane, respectively. Additionally, when the insulation layer was

317

409 removed, cooling savings increased to 39.4%. The recent study of Pisello et al. [94] is
 410 confirmatory evidence that the use of PCM as a passive cooling approach can enhance the
 411 durability of cool roof membrane by reducing its severe thermal stress under solar radiation.
 412 These promising results open a new horizon over the application of PCM to improve the cooling
 413 performance of buildings and to enhance the durability of building materials. With this regard,
 414 further whole-building energy simulation and optimization studies are necessary to evaluate the
 415 cooling energy performance of these innovative passive systems under different climatic
 416 conditions, and with different construction design to evaluate their contribution to enhance the
 417 thermal comfort of occupants.

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Figure 13. PCM-enhanced cool roof [91].

429 Furthermore, the thermal performance of a typical naturally ventilated single-story residential
 430 building with PCM-enhanced roof construction was investigated by Jayalath et al. [56] under
 431 weather condition of Melbourne and Sydney. The BioPCM melting at 23 °C was integrated into
 432 the roof construction before interior steel layer to moderate the temperature fluctuations of the
 433 indoor environment and to improve the thermal performance of the residential building. Later
 434 on, PCM with 21 °C, 23 °C, 25 °C, and 27 °C melting points were used to investigate the
 435 melting point influence on the cooling performance in the simulated building under two
 436 different climate zones. Eventually, it was found that in both cities the optimum temperature of
 437 PCM to increase the thermal comfort is 23 °C. As concluded by the authors, 25% and 39% of
 438 cooling load savings were achieved in Sydney and Melbourne, respectively. It was also
 439 mentioned that addition of PCM as a roof layer was more effective in reducing cooling loads
 440 than heating loads. However, regarding the results presented in above-mentioned article the
 441 authors of the present paper would like to comment that both cities of Melbourne and Sydney
 442 are heating dominant and the addition of PCM with 23 °C resulted in higher savings for heating
 443 period than cooling period with 42.5 and 17.9 mJ/m² per year for Melbourne and Sydney,
 444 respectively.

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3.6. Comparison between existing technologies

Different building models such as office buildings, residential buildings, and simple single-story were numerically analyzed by researchers, using macro-encapsulated or microencapsulated PCMs. Various strategies have been applied to integrate the PCM into the building envelope such as adding concentrated or compact PCM layer [72], PCM dispersed into insulation materials [95], PCM added to the gypsum boards and plaster [77]. In a great number of articles parametric analysis has been used to find out the best PCM melting point, latent heat capacity and layer thicknesses considering its addition in different locations of walls, ceiling, roof and floor. A considerable number of literatures were been published on the application of PCM gypsum boards or PCM-enhanced wallboards and concentrated PCM layers/panels for their high contribution in cooling energy saving, feasibility of installation on the inner surface of walls an being cheap [96]. More recently, special attention was paid to apply PCM in cool roof to increase the thermal comfort of occupants, to reduce the cooling energy consumption and to enhance the durability of cool roof membranes [94,97]. Additionally, through whole-building energy simulation, now it is possible to analyze the effects of PCM in reducing the heat island effects in urban area [91] and enhancing the thermal inertia of residential buildings to resist severe thermal shocks of heat waves by peak load and discomfort hours reduction of indoor temperature [98]. In addition, the feasibility of improving the thermal performance of lightweight relocatable buildings for mining camps or post-disaster rapid housing was investigated [81]. A detailed literature review was done regarding numerical analysis of PCM-integrated buildings based on EnergyPlus, TRNSYS, and ESP-r whole-building energy simulation tools which is presented in Table 2. According to this literature review on the simulation-based passive cooling for building applications, EnergyPlus software was the most prominent tool to investigate the passive cooling effects of PCM in buildings; however, this does not deny the strength of other energy simulation tools at all.

Table 2. Passive cooling in buildings by means of whole-building energy simulation tools.

Building type	Encapsulation	Latent heat [kJ/kg]	Melting [°C]	Thickness [m]	Installation	Results	Simulation tool	Reference
1. Office building	NA	175	26 to 29	0.005, 0.01 0.02, 0.03	Inner surface of vertical walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater cooling performance and comfort were achieved with 3 cm PCM in all vertical walls. From 3% to 7.2% cooling savings, depending on the climate zone were achieved. 	EnergyPlus	Ascione et al. [77]
2. Office building	Microencapsulated	NA	23 to 28	0.02	Inner surface of partition walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organic honeycomb PCM was more effective in temperate climate rather than in hot Mediterranean climate. 	EnergyPlus	Evola et al. [70]
3. Single-room house	Macroencapsulated	165-200	20 to 25	0.005	Parametric analysis was performed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 17% to 23% of energy savings depending on the climate zone were achieved. PCM had very little effect in hot and humid climates. 	EnergyPlus	Alam et al. [83]
4. Passive house duplex home	Macroencapsulated	165-200	23, 25	0.015	Interior surface of the envelopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM installed on the interior surface of the walls provided higher comfort. About 50% of discomfort hours were decreased using PCM melting at 25 °C. 	EnergyPlus	Sage-Lauck et al. [99]
5. Passive house duplex home	Macroencapsulated	165-200	23, 25, 27, 29	0.015	All exterior & interior vertical and horizontal envelopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone uncomfortable hours were reduced by 93% adding PCM (3.1 kg/m²) melting at 25 °C. 	EnergyPlus	Campbell et al. [100]
6. Residential building	Microencapsulated	70	18 to 28	0.01, 0.015, 0.02, 0.025, 0.03, 0.035, 0.04	Interior surface of the interior envelopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 46% to 62% of cooling savings were achieved under warm climate condition. The best savings achieved with 4 cm layer PCM. 	EnergyPlus	Soares et al. [74]
7. Research center building	Macroencapsulated	281 230, 235, 267	20, 21, 24, 29	0.0064	Between insulation & interior gypsum board of all exterior walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cooling savings were insignificant (1%). Night ventilation coupled with PCM increased the cooling performance to about 9%. 	EnergyPlus	Seong et al. [68]
8. Historic building	NA	110	27, 32	0.03	Interior and exterior faces of the envelope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM application was not feasible and it increased the annual energy consumption. 	EnergyPlus	Ascione et al. [76]
9. Office building	Microencapsulated	33.5	21 to 26	0.013	Interior and exterior faces of the envelope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooling savings were increased in all cases with PCM. Annual savings between -25% to 33% depending on 	EnergyPlus	Vautherot et al. [101]

						the PCM melting point were achieved.		
10. Single-story house	Microencapsulated	112	23	0.01117	Between interior framing and the air gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% reduction in annual wall-generated heating and cooling. • Proper combination of thermal mass and insulation is required. 	EnergyPlus	Kosny et al. [63]
11. Single-story house	Microencapsulated	170	29	0.1	On the attic floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70-80% reductions of roof-generated peak hour loads. 	EnergyPlus	Kosny et al. [23]
12. Office building	Microencapsulated	41	23	0.02	Inner surface of the interior partition walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCM storage efficiency increased by 10% to 30 %. 	EnergyPlus	Evola et al. [64]
13. Residential building	Microencapsulated	110	23, 25, 27	0.012, 0.024, 0.036, 0.48, 0.06	On the inner surface of the vertical walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCM cooling savings in August 2011 was recorded as 40%. • The cooling savings are expected to increase further by 2050. 	EnergyPlus	Sajjadian et al. [65]
14. Residential building	Microencapsulated	70	26	0.052	On the inner surface of the vertical walls and ceiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of PCM during the cold months of Montreal was not very effective; however, energy savings were achieved in warmer seasons. • In Mediterranean climate (Palermo) 87% of cooling reduction was shown at peak hours. 	EnergyPlus	Guarino et al. [69]
15. Simplified cubicle	NA	223	22 to 32	0.003-0.020	Parametric analysis for different locations of PCM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21-32% reduction of heat gains achieved by using PCM • Better energy performance achieved when PCM was installed to the exterior surface of the envelope. 	EnergyPlus	Lei et al. [66]
16. Residential building	Microencapsulated	70	21.7	0.005	After exterior layer of mosaic tile and cement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low annual cooling energy savings achieved (2.9%). • PCM with higher melting points should be studied in Hong Kong climate. 	EnergyPlus	Chan [67]
17. ASHRAE-140 case-600	Macroencapsulated	148	23, 25, 27	0.005 0.01	Interior surface of vertical walls & ceiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 to 15 % annual energy savings achieved with 10 mm concentrated PCM melting at 27 °C. 	EnergyPlus	Saffari et al. [72]
18. Residential building	Macroencapsulated	200	23	0.015	Inner surface of the exterior walls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47-76% cooling savings at peak hour were obtained. • Higher energy savings (28-63%) achieved in the heating period. 	EnergyPlus	Nghana et al. [102]
19. Hospital building	Macroencapsulated	196 177 188	21-24 18-29 26-28	0.074 0.003 0.0063	Rooftop, innermost layer, middle layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCM-enhanced roof reduced the heat flux through the roof to the building interior by 54% at peak hour. • The sensible heat flux from roof surface to the 	EnergyPlus	Roman et al. [91]

		152 160	21-24 28.5-30.2	0.0033 0.0162		surrounding environment decreased by 40%.		
20. Office building	Macroencapsulated	219	27, 29	0.01	Before the inner layer of walls, attic, ceiling, floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual cooling loads were reduced by 47% using PCM melting at 27 °C coupled with fan-assisted night ventilation. 	EnergyPlus	Solgi et al. [103]
21. Cubicle (single-zone building)	Microencapsulated	46	25(peak melting)	0.0125	Inner surface of vertical walls & roof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The highest cooling savings recorded from 150 to 171 kWh. PCM optimization is needed to improve savings in some climates. 	EnergyPlus	Marin et al. [81]
22. Cubicle (single-zone building)	Macroencapsulated	170	26	0.01, 0.02	Interior surface of exterior walls before bricks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most influential factors for cooling savings were defined as PCM melting point and thermal conductivity. 	EnergyPlus	Mazo et al. [104]
23. Residential building	Microencapsulated	140	26	0.15	Inner surface of vertical walls & ceilings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cooling energy consumption reduced by 14%. 	EnergyPlus	Ozdenefe & Dewsbury [82]
24. Prototype test-room	Microencapsulated	110	26	0.004, 0.01	Exterior surface of the roof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM in roofing membranes resulted in 9.4% to 39.4% of cooling energy savings. 	EnergyPlus	Pisello et al. [93]
25. Test-room	Microencapsulated	70	18-24	0.005	Interior surface of walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual cooling reduced by 50% in heating-dominant climate. Natural/fan-assisted ventilation can increase the cooling performance in highly glazed buildings. 	EnergyPlus	Guarino et al. [105]
26. Single-story building	Macroencapsulated	182	25, 27, 29	0.03	Interior surface of walls, exterior surface of walls, interior & exterior surface of walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM finishing layer melting at 25 °C could save cooling energy from 2% to 13% under Mediterranean climate condition. 	EnergyPlus	Ascione et al. [106]
27. Multi-story office building	Macroencapsulated	250	27	0.010	Before interior vertical mortar wall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM saved summer cooling energy needs from 1500 to 2300 kWh in 3 cities of China with cold and hot summer climate condition. Optimization of PCM melting temperature has been suggested as a solution to increase energy savings and economic benefits. 	EnergyPlus	Mi et al. [107]

28. Two-story residential building	Macroencapsulated	219	29	0.02 (optimization applied)	Interior Surface of roof before gypsum board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM layer melting at 29 °C added to roof envelope and no economic savings observed under climate condition of Iran. 	EnergyPlus	Baniassadi et al. [108]
29. Two-story house	Macroencapsulated	134	25	0.02	Into ceiling and into ceiling and walls interior surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM could reduce discomfort hours from 34% to 52% depending on the behavior of occupants. 	EnergyPlus	Jamil et al. [109]
30. Two-story house	Microencapsulated	86	24	0.22	Inner Surface of all external walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM has significant effect in reducing overheating in residential building in the UK. A proper combination of insulation and PCM level should be investigated. The effectiveness of PCM in lightweight buildings is higher. 	EnergyPlus	Auzeby et al. [110]
31. Residential building	Macroencapsulated	219	27	0.02	Inner Surface of walls and ceiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM passive cooling system combined with mechanical night ventilation could reduce the hours of extreme heat stress by 23% to 32% in Melbourne. 	EnergyPlus	Ramakrishnan et al. [98]
32. Residential building	Macroencapsulated	200 (parametric study 50 to 300)	20 to 27 (parametric study)	0.0125	Interior surface of walls, exterior surface of walls, in the middle of wood assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Phoenix cooling savings were insignificant (0.8% annual cooling savings) In Seattle 15.8% of annual cooling savings recorded. 	TRNSYS	Al-Saadi and Zhai [44]
33. Single-story residential building	Macroencapsulated	210	21, 23, 25, 27	0.0121	Interior Surface of roof before steel finishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Melbourne 39% and in Sydney 25% of cooling energy savings achieved. 	TRNSYS	Jayalath et al. [56]
34. Single-story residential building	Microencapsulated	119	26.50	0.15, 0.255, 0.357, 0.459, 0.083, 0.050	Homogenously blended PCM into cellulose insulation of attic, condensed layer of PCM into different locations of the attic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCM-enhanced cellulose achieved 3.1% of cooling savings. Concentrated PCM layer achieved from 0.56% to 6.6% of cooling savings. 	ESP-r	Košny et al.[59]

NA: Not available

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4. Passive PCM-enhanced building with natural ventilation

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Natural ventilation is considered as a passive or free cooling method in which the cool nighttime air flows into the building zone to provide cooling [111]. In natural ventilation cooling system, the flow process is driven by wind and/or stack effect. An appropriate use of natural ventilation techniques can enhance the PCM performance by increasing the possibility of full charging and discharging process [112]. Coupling PCM as an innovative thermal mass with natural night ventilation could be an ideal solution to increase the cooling performance of buildings, nevertheless, it is not the only parameter found to be critically important for the appropriate and efficient operation of PCM in buildings. Many factors such as outdoor air temperature, wind speed, wind direction etc. affect the performance of this passive system. Therefore, using numerical simulation tools which are capable of simulating both the PCM and the natural ventilation effects on the energy performance of the building is essential. Natural night ventilation creates a heat sink system by help of wind and indoor-outdoor temperature difference to provide cool air or to remove excessive or unwanted heat stored in the building envelope resulting better indoor air quality, comfort and cooling loads reduction.

Several publications have mentioned the advantages of passive cooling by means of natural ventilation using numerical simulation [113–115].

In the literature, there are numerous studies of coupling thermal mass and natural night ventilation by means of whole-building energy simulation [116,117], nevertheless, there are only a few examples in which the effect of coupling PCM with natural night ventilation is analyzed [68,70,109]. Also, some authors have investigated the effect of fan-assisted night ventilation with high ratios of air exchange per hour (ach) which was highly effective to discharge the PCM. Studies have found that the integration of natural night ventilation strategies [69,82] or fan-assisted night ventilation [103] can effectively increase the cooling performance of the PCM-enhanced buildings in climates with cool nighttime outdoor temperature. For example the effectiveness of night ventilation to enhance the performance of PCM passive system was investigated by Evola et al. [70]. Different air change rates per hour (2-8 ach) were applied between 21:00 and 06:00 which caused a reduction in the mean daily and peak operative temperature; nevertheless, introducing more than 4 ach did not add significant benefits. However, the simulation results showed that coupling the proper night ventilation with PCM system can improve the thermal comfort by 10% in comparison to the PCM-enhanced model without night ventilation. With the same objective Seong et al. [68] showed that adding 6 m³/m²-h of ventilation during the night period can enhance the annual cooling performance by about 9% compared to the PCM model without night ventilation. With the same objective, the feasibility of reducing peak zone temperature and improving occupant thermal comfort in a

499 naturally ventilated 5-star energy rated house located in Melbourne using passive PCM cooling
500 approach was studied by Jamil et al. [109]. Two different scenarios were considered to apply the
501 PCM into the building envelope; spreading PCM melting at 25 °C only in ceiling, and
502 incorporating the same PCM in ceiling and walls. Additionally, controlled (manual) night
503 ventilation by opening 20% of windows from 19:00 to 7:00 to boost the solidification of PCM
504 since the nighttime outdoor temperature was always below 23 °C (below the melting point of
505 used PCM). Their results showed that a combination of PCM in ceiling coupled with natural
506 night ventilation can increase the effectiveness of PCM for passive cooling and reduce the
507 discomfort hours (according to ASHRAE 55-2013 [118]) up to 34% (with PCM only in
508 ceilings), and 52% (with PCM in ceilings and walls); nonetheless, this improvement strongly
509 depends on the behavior of occupants to properly follow the proper night ventilation strategy. In
510 addition, Solgi et al. [103] applied fan-assisted night ventilation to an office building in order to
511 improve the annual cooling performance and the thermal comfort condition. The night
512 ventilation with specific indoor-outdoor temperature control strategy was considered between
513 24:00-7:00 with different fan ach (5 to 30). The simulation results were shown that the annual
514 cooling load could be reduced from 30% in the PCM-enhanced case to about 46% in the PCM
515 model with fan-assisted night ventilation with 15 ach, nevertheless, further increase of air
516 change per hour showed an increase in the total energy consumption.

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518 **5. Technical barriers**

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520 When designing a passive system based on the PCM technology, one crucial fact that should be
521 considered is that the PCM passive system can improve the energy efficiency of buildings,
522 nonetheless, the discomfort due to the elevated humidity ratio should be considered in hot and
523 humid climates. Very high humidity ratios might affect the thermal comfort of the occupants
524 which is consistent with findings of [67,69,83,102]. Although high cooling energy savings
525 could be achieved by proper PCM passive solutions but the ability of these materials to absorb
526 the latent heat is very limited. Accordingly, in regions with high ratios of humidity, a proper
527 HVAC system should be selected to control the dehumidification in order to provide the
528 occupants with thermal comfort [119]. Also, solar renewable system could be a solution to
529 provide cooling and dehumidification [120].

530

531 On the other hand, a proper PCM design ties with a balance between energy provisions and
532 comfort criteria. It should be considered that adding the PCM does not always ensure the
533 increase of comfort but in order to get the best results, the PCM melting range should be within
534 the comfort range [101], otherwise limited energy savings could be achieved [121]. Moreover,
535 the highest comfort level does not certainly lead to high savings in energy, but, the highest

536 comfort might be achieved by cost of higher energy consumption which is also discussed by
537 other authors [72].

538

539 As it has been discussed, night cooling could be an effective way to enhance the performance of
540 the passive PCM system. For example, in office buildings it offers the opportunity for system
541 downsizing in climates where the air temperature decreases at night [100]. However, it should
542 be considered that this outdoor temperature decrease should be lower than the PCM melting
543 point in order to be able to solidify the PCM; otherwise, night ventilation may have reverse
544 effect on the cooling performance in climate with high temperature nights [122]. In addition,
545 more sophisticated night ventilation techniques [113] considering the outdoor boundary
546 conditions such as wind pressure coefficients and wind velocity along with customized control
547 strategies coupled with passive PCM approach could be studied and investigated using whole-
548 building energy simulation tools.

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550 Also it is noticeable to mention that in many simulation-based studies the parametric analysis is
551 unfairly referred as optimization; however, to the best of authors knowledge, no report was
552 found so far using optimization algorithms to optimize the e.g. PCM melting point temperature,
553 and very few literature is available on the multi-dimensional analysis [74] and until now little
554 importance has been given to single- and multi-objective mathematical optimizations [101] and
555 there few cases of multi-objectives optimization of PCM-enhanced passive buildings, however,
556 recently more attention has been paid to simulation-based optimization of passive PCM
557 buildings to increase the thermal comfort and energy performance of building [106], to
558 optimization the thickness of insulation and PCM layers [121], and to investigate the life cycle
559 and environmental impact of building with PCM [123–125]. Parametric analysis may help to
560 find the best solution among the available options but not always the optimum solution and it is
561 time consuming. In order to find the optimum solution in such systems, optimization tools and
562 statistical methods are appreciable to reduce the simulation cost and to increase the energy
563 efficiency [126].

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565 Simulation-based studies can give valuable information about the energy and comfort benefits
566 due to the integration of PCM in buildings, however, it should be taken into account that today,
567 only few commercially available computer models use separate enthalpy–temperature curves for
568 melting and freezing such as ESP-r [37]. Currently, in EnergyPlus whole-building energy
569 simulation software identical algorithm for thermal characteristics of melting and freezing
570 processes is used. On this basis, PCMs without noticeable subcooling should be considered for
571 simulation [127].

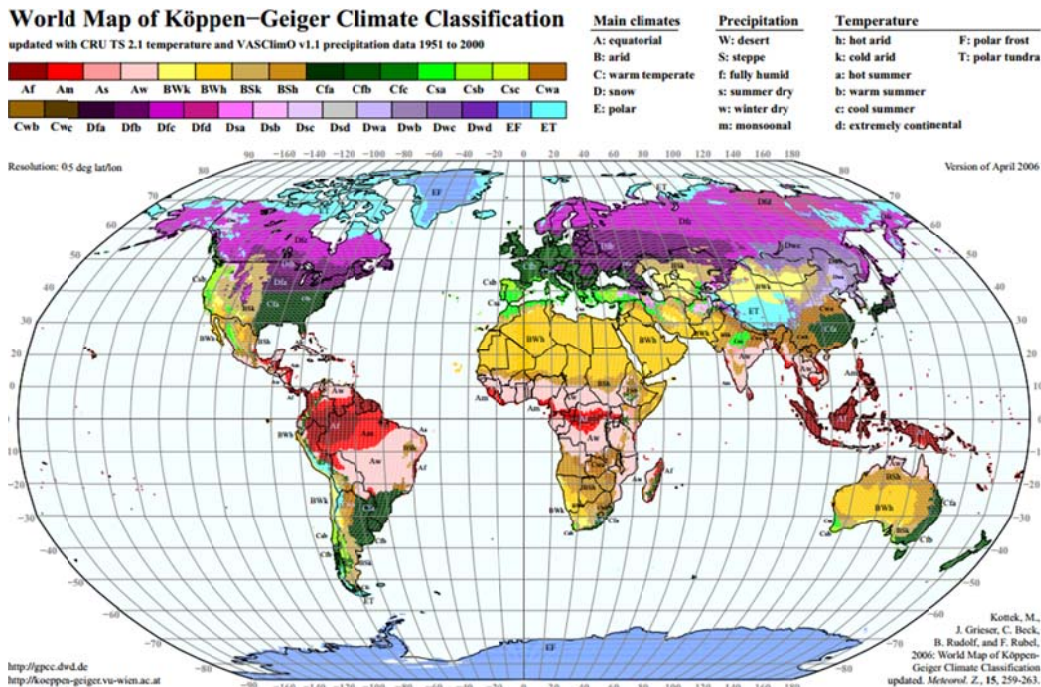
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574 **6. Potential of passive PCM use in different climates**

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584 According to the findings of researchers, the application of PCM yielded different results in
 585 terms of energy saving in different climates. On this basis, in the following sections the
 586 feasibility of using passive PCM system will be discussed and categorized according to the
 587 Köppen Geiger main climates classification (Figure 14). In this classification the main climates
 588 are categorized in A: equatorial, B: arid, C: warm temperate, D: snow and E: polar.
 589 Additionally, the level of precipitation is defined as W: desert, S: steppe, f: fully humid, s:
 590 summer dry, w: winter dry, m: monsoonal. Further details are provided regarding temperature
 591 as h: hot arid, k: cold arid, a: hot summer, b: warm summer, c: cool summer, d: extremely
 592 continental, and F: polar frost.

585



586 Figure 14. World Map of Köppen–Geiger climate classification [128].

588

596 The feasibility of enhancing the cooling energy performance and the indoor thermal comfort in
 597 buildings by applying the PCM technology has been studied under various climatological
 598 conditions worldwide such as some regions in Europe [69,70,77], North America [102], South
 599 America [81], Australia [83], New Zealand [101], and some specific regions in Asia [66,67] and
 500 the Middle-East . A considerable amount of literature was published on the application of PCM
 501 for passive cooling in buildings under warm temperature climates (C). The practicability of
 502 using the PCM has been studied for new construction buildings and for retrofitting of the
 503 existing buildings [77] including historical buildings [76].

597

6.1. Equatorial (A)

Lei et al. [66] examined the effectiveness of PCM in climate of Singapore (Af) conducting parametric studies. The PCM with 28 °C melting point temperature was used which could significantly decrease the heat gains which was estimated about 21-32% per year, nonetheless, the energy savings results were not presented. Further on, in the studied climate, better energy performance was achieved when the PCM was applied to the exterior walls since during night the stored heat could dissipate to the outdoor environment and not to the air-conditioned zone. In another study which was performed by Alam et al. [83] the potential of PCM to reduce the annual energy consumption was negligible in Darwin (Aw) due to hot and humid summers and hot winters.

6.2. Arid (B)

Campbell and Sailor [100] measured the impacts of integrating PCM in high performance super-insulated homes lacking from insufficient thermal mass to increase the thermal storage and stabilize the temperature fluctuation in such buildings in cooling season over different climate zones across the United States. The simulation results were shown only 6.4% of occupants thermal comfort increase in hot-arid climate of Phoenix (BWh) due to elevated nighttime temperatures and low storage density of PCM melting at 25 °C. However, these results are in consistent with findings of Al-Saadi and Zhai [44], where 0.8% savings of annual cooling load achieved in Phoenix. Also, it should be highlighted that some researchers achieved about 46% savings in cooling energy consumption using the PCM with 27 °C melting temperature into the external walls, ceiling and roof under climate condition of Yazd (BWk) by taking advantage of the night cooling and control strategy [103]. From the results mentioned above, it can be seen that the PCM passive system works better in cold arid climates since at nighttime the accumulated heat in the PCM can be dissipated by the cool outdoor air temperature. This effect could be increased in regions with high altitudes. For example some researchers [83] achieved about 23.5% annual energy savings with PCM melting at 22 °C under climate condition of Adelaide (BSk) with about 700 m of altitude.

6.3. Warm Temperate (C)

A great effort has been made to study the energy-related impacts by applying the PCM into the building envelope in warm temperature climate. For example, the study carried out by Ascione et al. [106] adds more results regarding the application of passive PCM technology to improve the cooling energy performance of a single-story building under the Mediterranean climate

634 condition (Csa). Different wall compositions enhanced with PCM-enhanced gypsum
635 plasterboard melting at 25 °C, 27 °C, and 29 °C were numerically studied and optimized.
636 According to their results, the integration of PCM melting at 25 °C, adding PCM to the inner
637 surface of vertical walls could improve the annual cooling energy performance by roughly 2%,
638 4%, 7% and 13% in Madrid, Nice, Athens, and Naples, respectively. Moreover, the simulation
639 results of Campbell et al. [100] showed significant improvements in occupant comfort in Los
640 Angeles (Csb), Portland (Csb), and Denver (Cfa). The results were shown up to 44% and 79%
641 reductions in zone discomfort hours in Los Angeles and Denver, respectively. However, the
642 highest thermal comfort was achieved in Portland with about 93% reductions in uncomfortable
643 hours using 3.1 kg/m² of PCM melting at 25°C. As argued by the authors, these thermal comfort
644 improvements could be associated with less severe daytime temperature and also cool nighttime
645 temperature which facilitated the proper charging and discharging of the PCM. Similarly,
646 Ramakrishnan et al. [98] concluded that enhancing the thermal inertia of non-air-conditioned
647 buildings in Melbourne (Cfb) by adding PCM with 27 °C melting point into vertical walls and
648 ceiling can effectively reduce heat stress risks during extreme heat waves by 23%, however,
649 when mechanical night ventilation was considered, discomfort hours reduced to 32%. However,
650 it should be considered that when mechanical ventilation system is considered the building is no
651 longer non-air-conditioned.

652

653 Furthermore, Chan [67] investigated the cooling energy performance of the living room and
654 bedroom of a typical residential flat with PCM-enhanced facade under the climate condition of
655 Hong Kong (Cwa). The results showed very low annual cooling energy savings (2.9%) for the
656 living room and approximately 1% rise in the cooling energy consumption for the bedroom.
657 Consequently, a very long payback period in years (91 years) was estimated. As it was argued
658 by the author, the melting point temperature of the selected PCM which was 21.7 °C could not
659 adequately absorb the heat; and the interior surface temperature of the PCM wall was mostly
660 above 28 °C, even at night and the PCM could barely discharge. So that, the existence of the
661 low cooling savings implies that PCM with higher melting point should be used under this
662 climatic region. Likewise, Mi et al. [107] investigated the energy and economic benefit of
663 adding PCM to vertical walls of a multi-story office building under climate zones of China.
664 They used PCM with melting temperature of 27 °C to increase the summer cooling
665 performance. However, in spite of achieving some cooling savings (e.g. 2100 kWh in case of
666 Hong Kong), generally low energy and economic benefits were obtained for summer cooling
667 period. Although, when energy savings for both heating and cooling periods were considered,
668 the energy and economic benefits increased further.

669

670 Additionally, Vautherot et al. [101] carried out a parametric study to find out the best PCM
671 solution from two different aspects of energy saving and comfort level for the weather condition
672 of Auckland (Cfb). Different energy savings were shown due to the application of PCM with
673 various melting point temperatures. It was shown that higher thermal comfort could be achieved
674 (17-31%) by using PCM with higher melting point temperature (24 °C), however, the best
675 annual cooling and heating energy performance was achieved (23-32%) when PCM with lower
676 melting point (20 °C) was applied into the building envelope. Also, this trend was observed in
677 the simulation results of other researchers [83,106] under the weather condition of Canberra
678 (Cfb). This could be justified since in heating dominant climates such as New Zealand, with
679 proportionally higher heating demands, optimizing the PCM melting point temperature for the
680 heating period would result in higher annual energy savings. The authors of the present paper
681 would like to highlight that; far too little attention has been paid to above mentioned issue and
682 in the available literature regarding the passive PCM technology for building applications
683 further studies are required for numerical optimization studies under different weather
684 conditions.

685

686 **6.4. Snow (D)**

687

688 As reported by Seong & Lim [68] installing PCM pouches with various melting points into the
689 vertical envelopes of a research center in Seoul (Dfa) showed no evidence of significant cooling
690 energy reductions (only around 1%). Several arguments were given in an attempt to explain the
691 scant effects due to the application of PCM in their studied climate such as the location of the
692 PCM layer in the envelope, PCM quantity, PCM latent heat capacity, melting temperature, and
693 HVAC operation schedule. However, the cooling savings increased to 9% when night
694 ventilation was coupled to the passive system. Besides, it has been shown by some researchers
695 [72] that the HVAC operation in office buildings may unfavorably influence the energy
696 performance depending on the climate condition (e.g. sunshine hours and the intensity of solar
697 irradiation), but also, other factors such as internal gains [129], ventilation, control strategies
698 [84,86] and PCM thermal characteristics are highly influential. Further on, it was added by
699 Kosny et al. [89] that in climate of Chicago (Dfa) about 11% of the annual cooling loads were
700 decreased by application of PCM-enhanced insulation in attic floor of a building.

701

702 According to the findings of Soares et al. [74] in cold climates of Warsaw (Dfb) and Kiruna
703 (Dfc), the total energy savings due to application of PCM was limited to 24% and 10%,
704 respectively. Furthermore, they added that the optimized incorporation of PCM in the room
705 could reduce the cooling energy demand by 74% and 87% in Warsaw and Kiruna, respectively.
706 Similarly, Guarino et al. [69] investigated the energy benefits of adding PCM to a small and

707 lightweight test-hut under the weather condition of Montreal (Dfb). Energy analysis results
708 showed about 47% to 76 % of the peak cooling energy reduction in cold climate of Montreal;
709 nevertheless, the annual energy performance in Montreal was limited to 11-19%. In lines with
710 previous simulation results, some researchers [81,107] achieved limited energy savings due to
711 the use of PCM in cold climates with no optimized PCM melting temperature in those specific
712 climate zones.

713

714 It should be considered that in heating dominant climates, high amount of energy is needed for
715 heating than cooling, so that, in such climates the PCM melting temperature should be
716 optimized to enhance the total annual cooling and heating energy performance and not only the
717 cooling period.

718

719 **7. Conclusions**

720

721 Passive cooling technologies with phase change material (PCM) have the potential of reducing
722 the increasing cooling demand, however, in order to properly implement this technology in
723 buildings, numerical simulation is essential. The present paper set out to review numerical
724 methods provided by whole-building energy simulation tools to analyze the passive cooling
725 potentials of PCM-enhanced buildings. It was shown that EnergyPlus, TRNSYS, and ESP-r
726 were used to analyze the cooling energy performance of buildings when PCM integrated into
727 the building envelope in different ways such as dispersed PCM in drywall, dispersed PCM in
728 gypsum board, pouches filled with PCM, PCM-enhanced insulation and PCM plaster.
729 Additionally, researchers incorporated PCM in various parts of the building such as vertical
730 walls, partitions, floors, ceilings, attic floor and as a component of green roofs as well as cool
731 roofs.

732

733 The application of PCM-enhanced wallboards was popular among researchers due to their
734 feasibility of incorporation into the interior surface of walls and ceilings, lower price, and high
735 effectiveness to moderate the indoor temperature and reduce the cooling energy requirements.
736 In many simulation-based studies, the PCM was added to the interior surface of the building
737 envelope.

738

739 The application of PCM for passive cooling purposes under warm temperature climates
740 (Köppen Geiger classification (C)) was investigated numerically more than other climates and
741 considerable cooling energy savings were shown, however, in heating dominant climates the
742 melting point temperature of PCM should be optimized in order to achieve higher total annual
743 savings.

744 In addition, the importance of coupling the PCM passive system with natural night ventilation to
745 enhance the PCM performance is highlighted by many researchers; however, literature reviews
746 indicated that there was no detailed analysis of such system using more sophisticated numerical
747 methods and it was limited to the simple analysis methods. More interestingly, the whole-
748 building energy simulation tools have been used to investigate the effectiveness of PCM in
749 reducing the urban heat island and extreme summer heat waves. In addition, the application of
750 PCM to enhance the durability and effectiveness of cool roof elements was suggested and
751 investigated recently.

752

753 Furthermore, many researchers used a parametric method to find out the best PCM solution,
754 however, the numerical optimization of PCM-enhanced passive buildings is getting more
755 popular.

756

757

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759

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