# A method for human-centered appraisal of façade design for serviceability

MSc BT | Sagar Oke | 5578752

#### Mentors

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#### **Advisor**

Pedro de la Barra

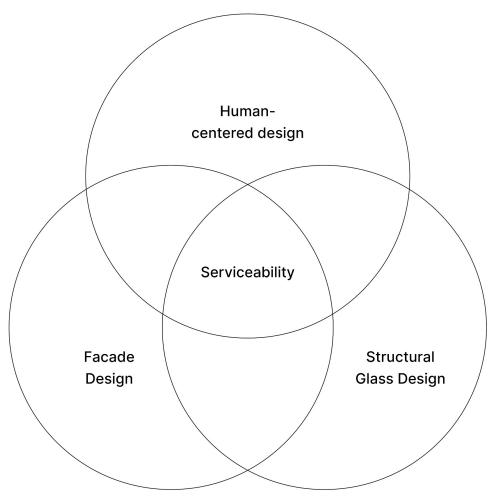
**Industry Partner** 

**AGC INTERPANE** 





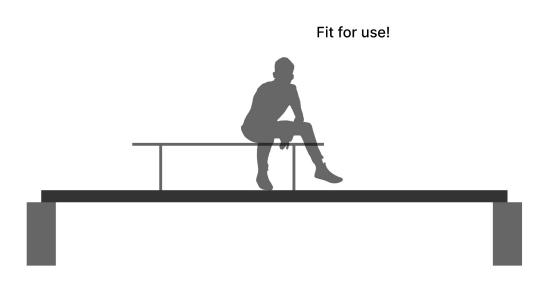
A method for human-centered appraisal of façade design for serviceability



Problem Statement State-of-the- art Review Design of the Experiment Feasibility Tests Conclusions

### Serviceability

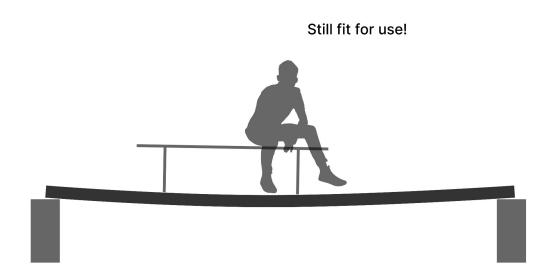
Conditions under which a structure/ component is considered 'fit for use'.





### Serviceability

Conditions under which a structure/ component is considered 'fit for use'.



Acceptable deformations/ vibrations

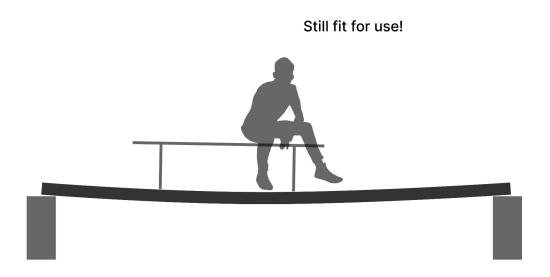


#### Serviceability

Conditions under which a structure/ component is considered 'fit for use'.

### Serviceability Limit State (SLS)

Conditions beyond which specified service requirements for a structure or structural member are no longer met.



Serviceability Limit



### Background

### Serviceability

#### Serviceability

Conditions under which a structure/ component is considered 'fit for use'.

### Serviceability Limit State (SLS)

Conditions beyond which specified service requirements for a structure or structural member are no longer met.





Serviceability Limit Crossed

=

Structurally safe, but not fit for use



### Serviceability

Conditions under which a structure/ component is considered 'fit for use'.

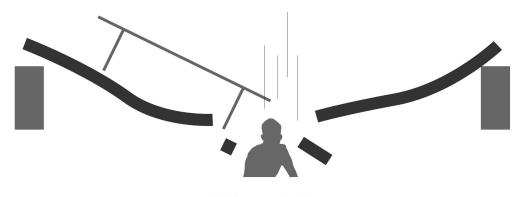
### Serviceability Limit State (SLS)

Conditions beyond which specified service requirements for a structure or structural member are no longer met.

#### **Ultimate Limit State (ULS)**

Conditions at which a structure undergoes failure.

•••••



**Ultimate Limit** 



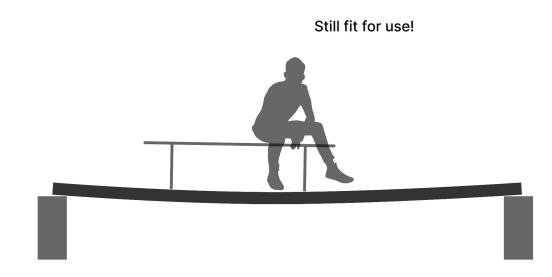
#### Serviceability

Conditions under which a structure/ component is considered 'fit for use'.

### Serviceability Limit State (SLS)

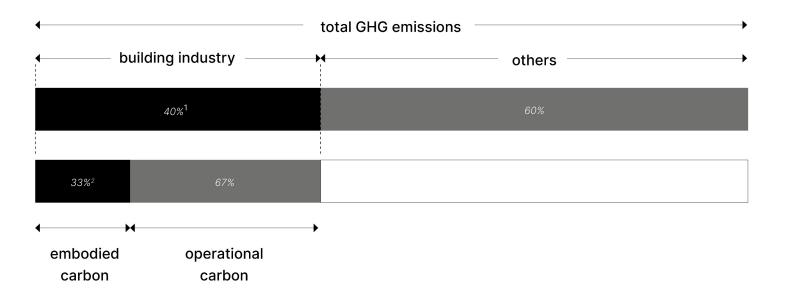
Conditions beyond which specified service requirements for a structure or structural member are no longer met.

• Leaner structures = Reduction in embodied carbon



Serviceability Limit

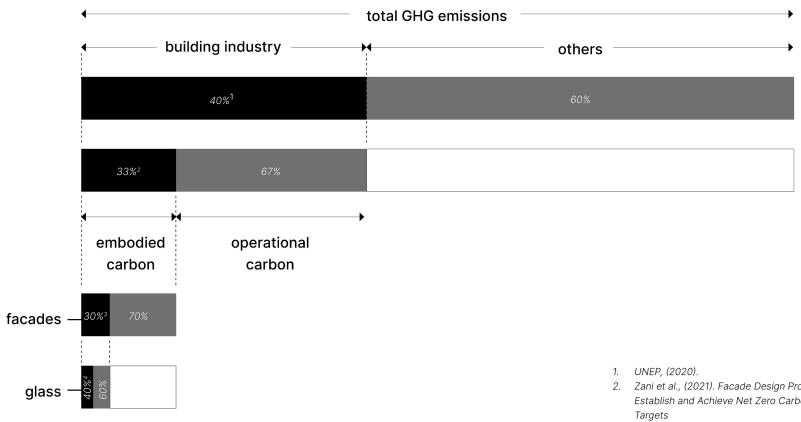




- 1. UNEP, (2020).
- 2. Zani et al., (2021). Facade Design Process to Establish and Achieve Net Zero Carbon Building Targets



### **Contributions of facade** glazing



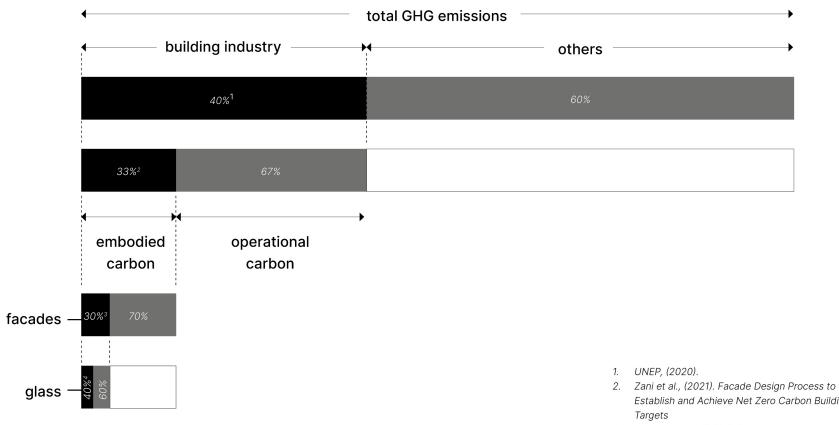
- 2. Zani et al., (2021). Facade Design Process to Establish and Achieve Net Zero Carbon Building
- 3. Hartwell, et al. (2021). Circular economy of façades: Real-world challenges and opportunities.
- 4. Arup & SGG. (2022). Carbon footprint of facades: significance of glass.
- 5. Mao et al. (2015). Energy Consumption, Environmental Impacts and Effective Measures of Green Office Buildings: A Life Cycle Approach.)



### **Contributions of facade** glazing

Reducing even 1mm thickness of glass can reduce up to 3 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup> facade area.



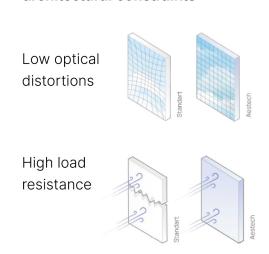


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- 3. Hartwell, et al. (2021). Circular economy of façades: Real-world challenges and opportunities.
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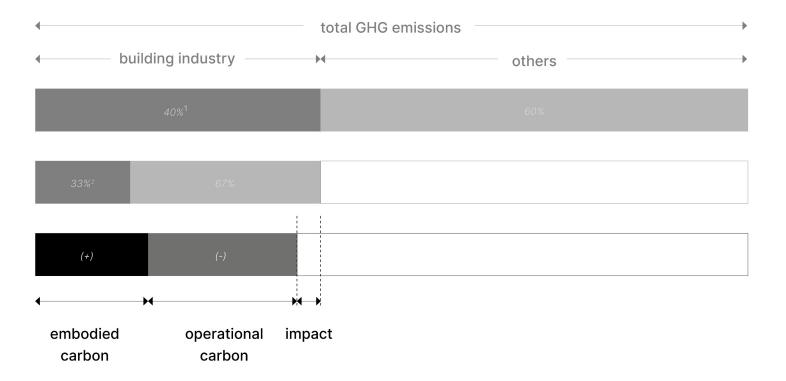




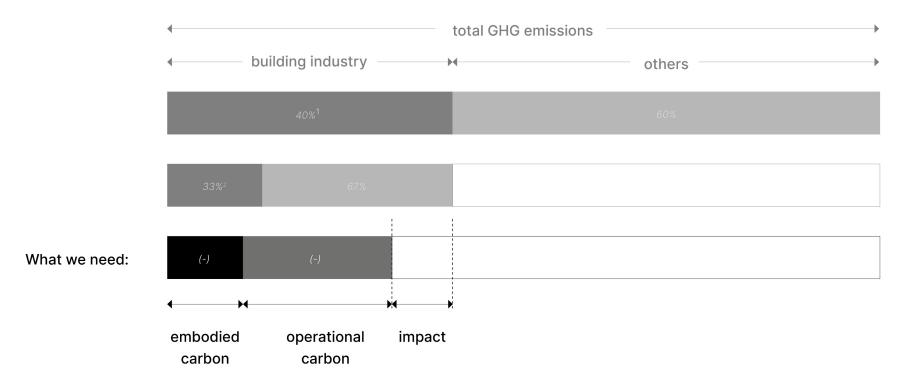
# Aestech — our frameless glazing technology removes old architectural constraints



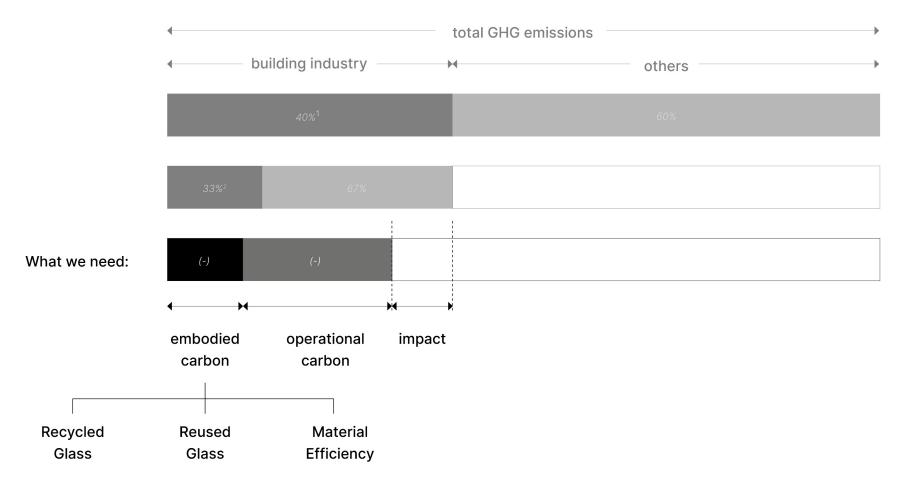
Source: Promotional email of Aestech: frameless glazing technology provider.



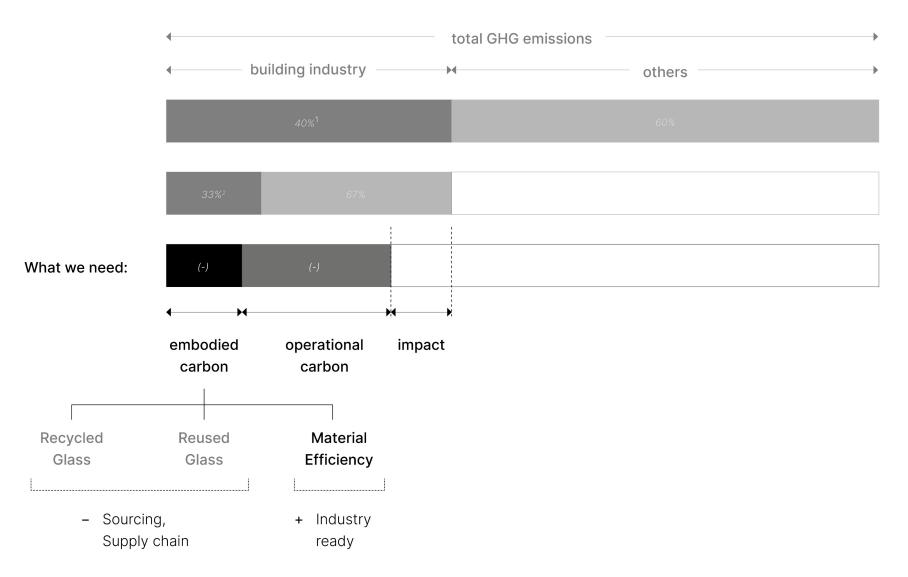














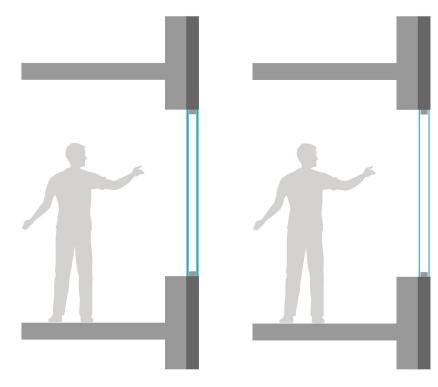
### **Material Efficiency**



AGC Falcon (Aluminosilicate)
Thin glass: 0.5mm to 2.0 mm thickness<sup>1</sup>



AGC Fineo Vacuum Insulated Glazing: 4-0.1-8 mm²

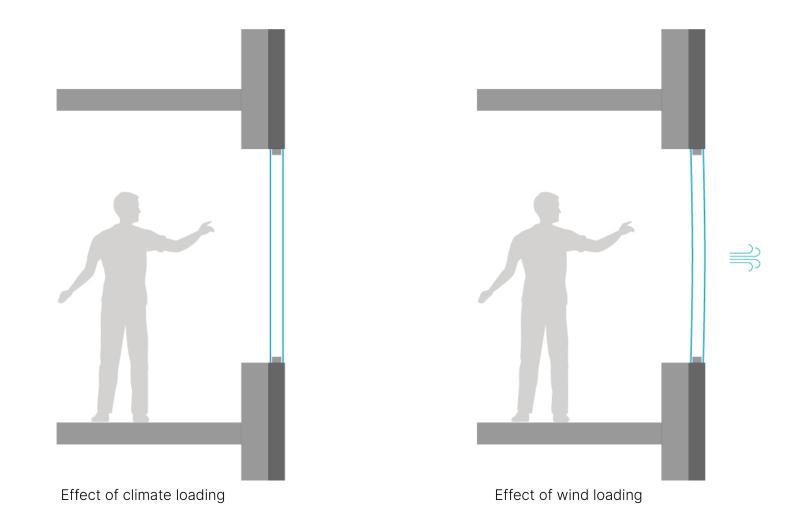


Reducing thickness of conventional facade glazing



OR

### **Material Efficiency**



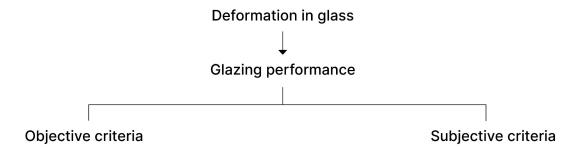
Serviceability Limits in facade glazing → Deformation in glass



### **Deformations**





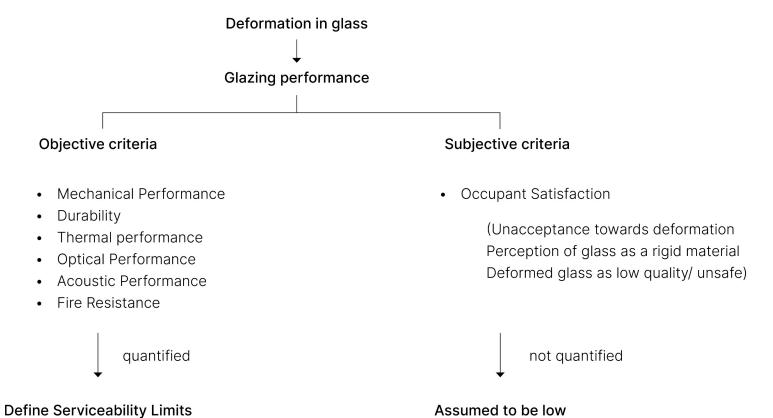


- Mechanical Performance
- Durability
- Thermal performance
- Optical Performance
- Acoustic Performance
- Fire Resistance

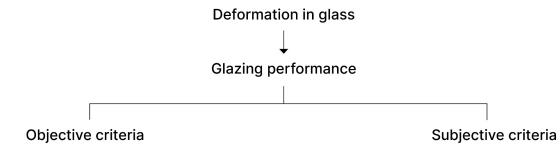
• Occupant Satisfaction

(Unacceptance towards deformation Perception of glass as a rigid material Deformed glass as low quality/ unsafe)

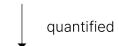








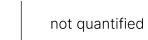
- Mechanical Performance
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**Define Serviceability Limits** 

• Occupant Satisfaction

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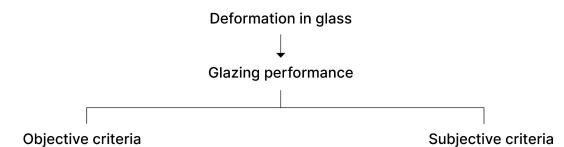


#### Assumed to be low

- + Require fulfilment of objective criteria
- + Thresholds can be increased to accommodate imperfections
- + Important for comprehensive definition of serviceability limits







- Mechanical Performance
- Durability
- Thermal performance
- Optical Performance
- Acoustic Performance
- Fire Resistance

quantified

**Define Serviceability Limits** 

## Occupant Satisfaction

(Unacceptance towards deformation Perception of glass as a rigid material Deformed glass as low quality/ unsafe)

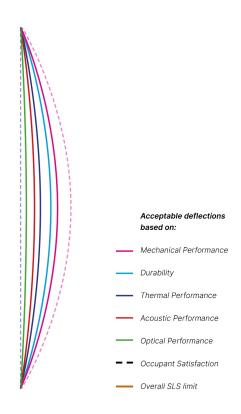
not quantified

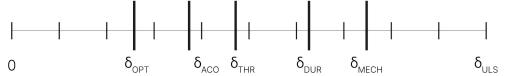
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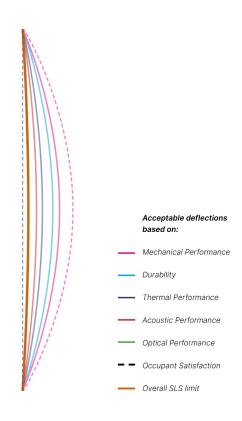
# Serviceability limits based on criteria

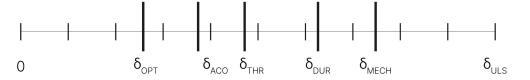


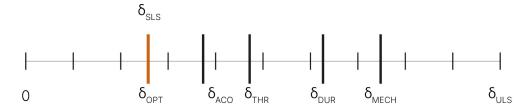




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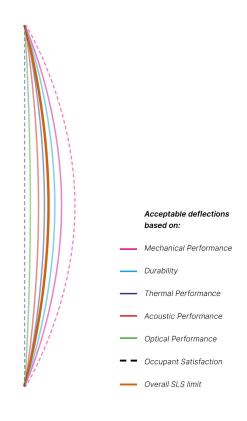




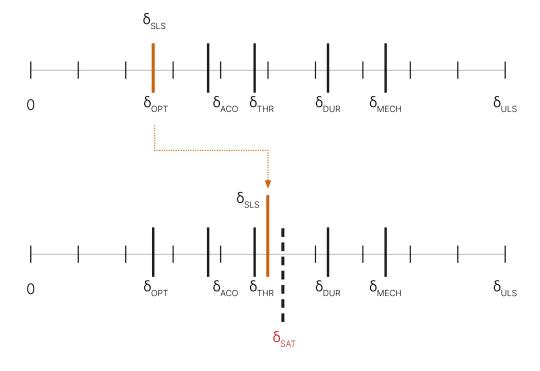




# Serviceability limits based on criteria









### **Hypothesis**

Conventional perception of glass as a rigid material influences the acceptance threshold of deformation.

Increasing the threshold of acceptance could pave way for <u>transition towards use of thinner glass</u> in facades.



### **Research Question**

How can we <u>empirically</u> determine the relationship between <u>occupant satisfaction</u> and <u>level of deformation</u> in façade glazing?

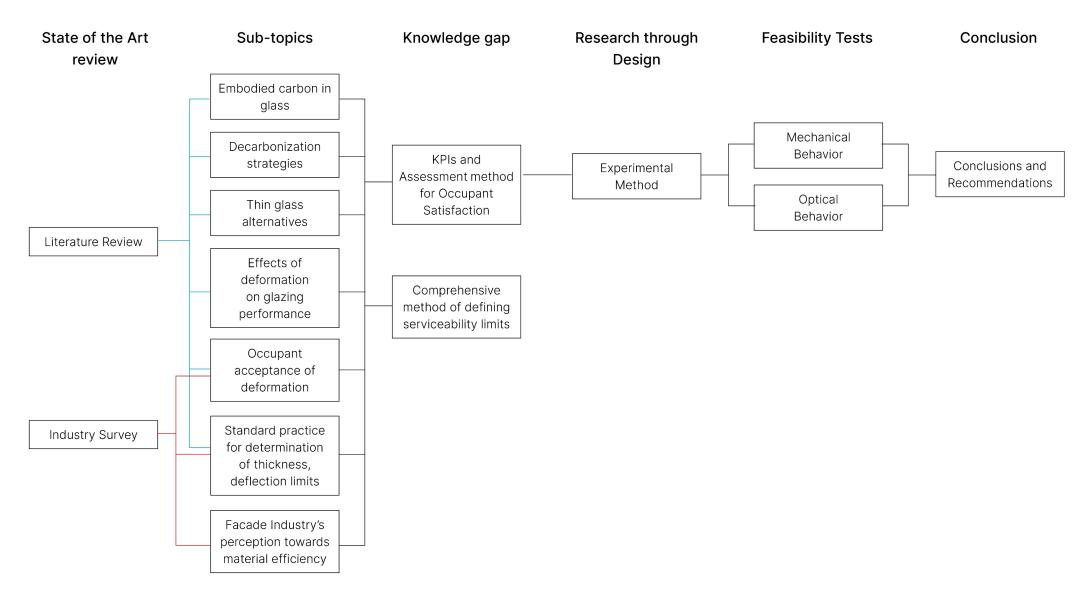


### **Research Methods**

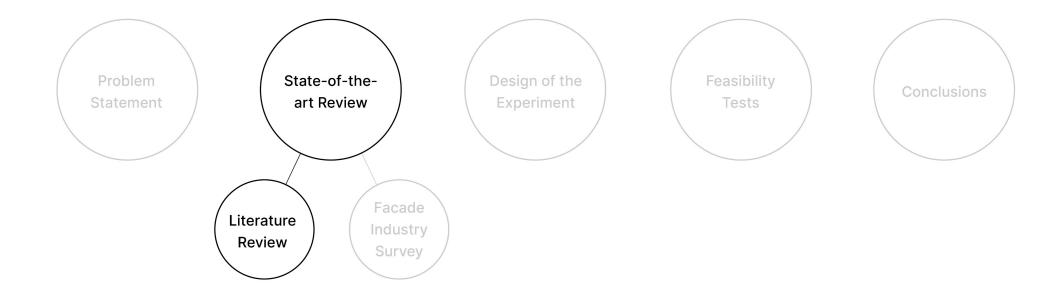
Research Question	Sub Questions	Methods
How can we <u>empirically</u> determine the relationship between <u>occupant satisfaction</u> and <u>level of deformation</u> in façade glazing?	What are the <u>factors influencing amount of</u> <u>deformation</u> in façade glazing?	Literature Review
	What are the <u>effects of deformation</u> of façade glazing <u>on its performance</u> ?	Literature Review
	What are all the <u>serviceability criteria</u> that govern the limits on façade deformation?	Façade Industry Survey and Literature Review
	Which <u>criteria and industry standards are followed</u> <u>in practice</u> to determine the glass thickness and deflection limits?	Façade Industry Survey and Literature Review
Design Question	What is a <u>feasible method</u> to <u>empirically</u> determine the relationship between <u>occupant satisfaction</u> and <u>level of deformation</u> in façade glazing?'	Research Through Design
	What is the <u>level of occupant acceptance</u> towards façade deformation under wind or climatic loads?	Experiment



### **Process**



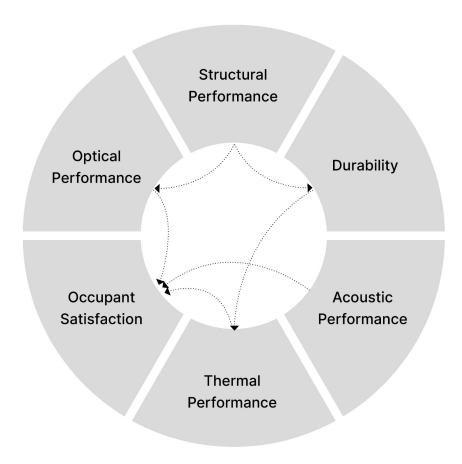






# **Interdependency of performance indicators**

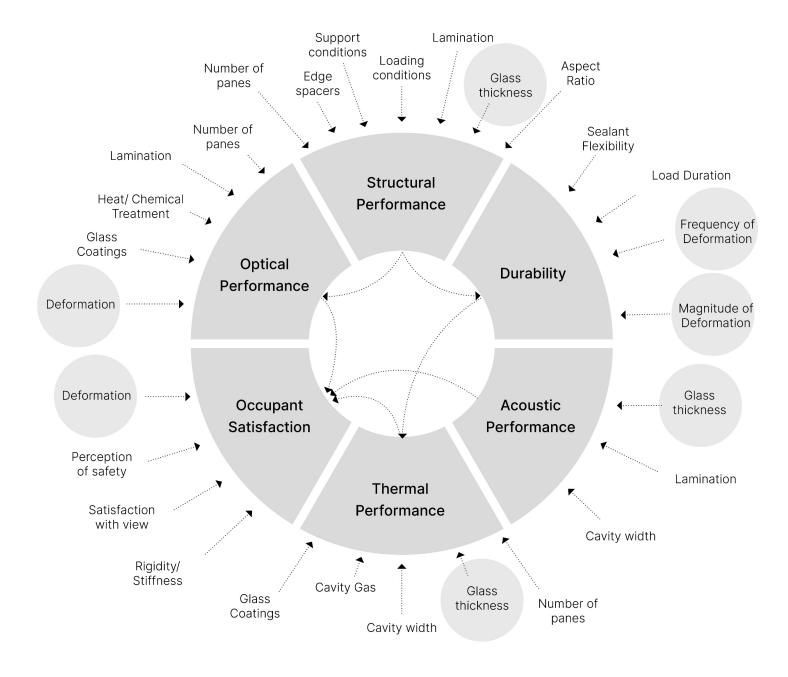
- Performance criteria are interdependent.
- Occupant satisfaction depends on optical, thermal and acoustical performance.





# Interdependency of performance indicators

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- Glass thickness/ deformation alone does not affect any performance criteria.





# Effects of deformation on glazing performance

- Performance criteria are interdependent.
- Occupant satisfaction depends on optical, thermal and acoustical performance.
- Glass thickness/ deformation alone does not affect any performance criteria.
- Performance indicators and assessment methods for occupant satisfaction were not found.

Glazing properties affected by deformation	Primary Effects of deformation	Performance Indicators	Assessment methods as per literature review	Alternative assessment methods
Structural Performance	Unfavourable stress concentrations; effect of load sharing; buckling performance	Stress and strain states	Numerical and analytical methods; lab testing	Not required
Durability	Excessive and repetitive straining of sealants resulting in leakage of air cavity	Edge strain in glass	Numerical and analytical methods; lab testing	Not required
Thermal Performance	Climate loads cause change in gap-width of IGU, affecting its thermal performance	U-value of glazing	Numerical and analytical methods; field measurement	Not required
Optical Performance	Distortions in reflected image and view through glazing	Optical distortion	Zebra-board testing (not sufficient)	Field testing, high precision optical simulations
Acoustic Performance	Change of gap width causing change in acoustic performance.	R-value	Not found	Field testing, Lab testing
Occupant Satisfaction	Feeling of alarm or disturbance due to movement in glass	Not defined	Not found	Empirical assessment through experiment



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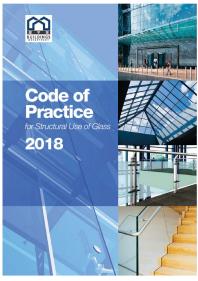


### **Standards governing** glass thickness and deflection limits

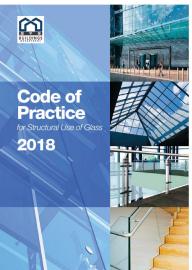
- Performance criteria are interdependent.
- Occupant satisfaction depends on optical, thermal and acoustical performance.
- Glass thickness/ deformation alone does not affect any performance criteria.
- Performance indicators and assessment methods for occupant satisfaction were not found.
- Comprehensive assessment of serviceability is not done.
- Limits in different criteria are different and the basis for the limits was not clear.



EN 1990:2002 - Eurocode: Basis of structural design



Code of Practice for Structural Use of Glass, 2018, Buildings Department of Hong Kong



Designation: E1300 - 16

#### Standard Practice for Determining Load Resistance of Glass in Buildings

ASTM E1300-16 - Determining load resistance of Glass in Buildings

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION SPÉCIFICATION TECHNIQUE TECHNISCHE SPEZIFIKATION FINAL DRAFT FprCEN/TS 19100-1

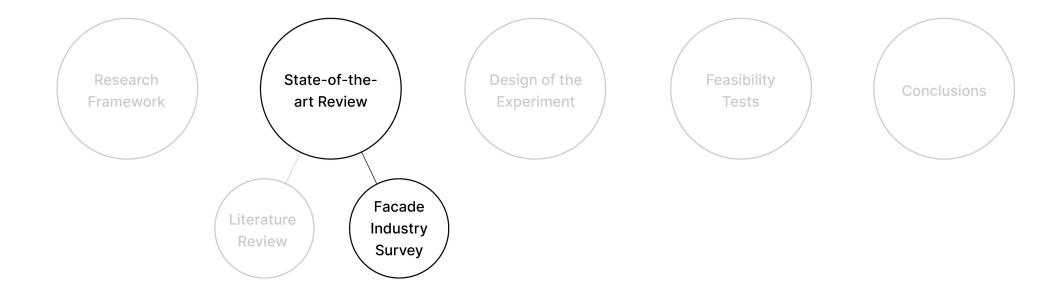
English Version

Design of glass structures - Part 1: Basis of design and



FprCEN/TS 19100 - Final Draft: Design of glass structures (Parts 1, 2 and 3)





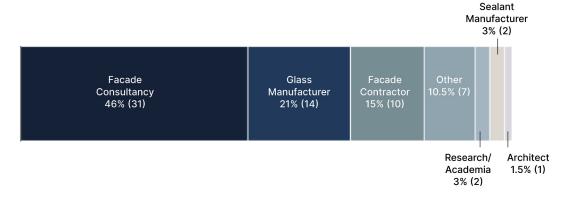


## Respondents

- Sent to 200+ professionals from the facade industry
- 67 responses were found fit for analysis
- Mainly Consultants/ Engineers from Facade Consultancy.
   Glass Manufacturing company or Facade Contractors

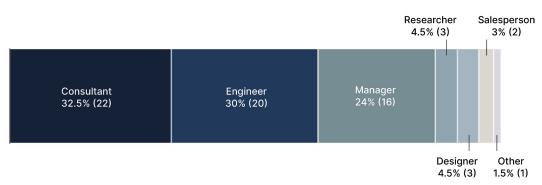
#### Organization type

Q2.1 Which of the following best describes your organization?



### Role in the company

Q2.2 How would you best describe your role in the organization?



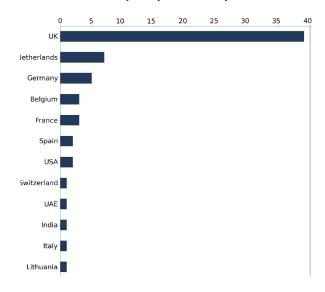


## Respondents

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- Maximum respondents based out of the UK
- Moderate to High level of knowledge on SLS

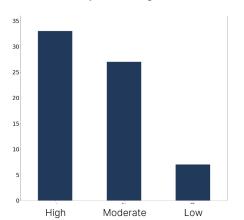
#### Respondents' Location

Q2.5 Which country are you currently based out of?



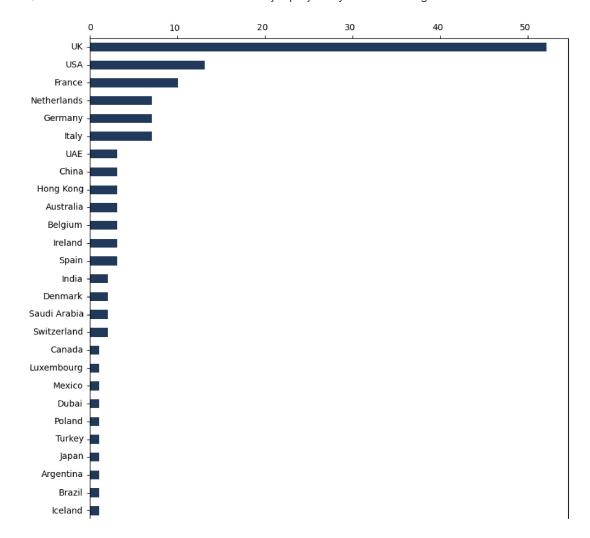
#### SLS knowledge

Q4.1 How would you rate your knowledge on serviceability limits of glass in facades?



#### **Project Location**

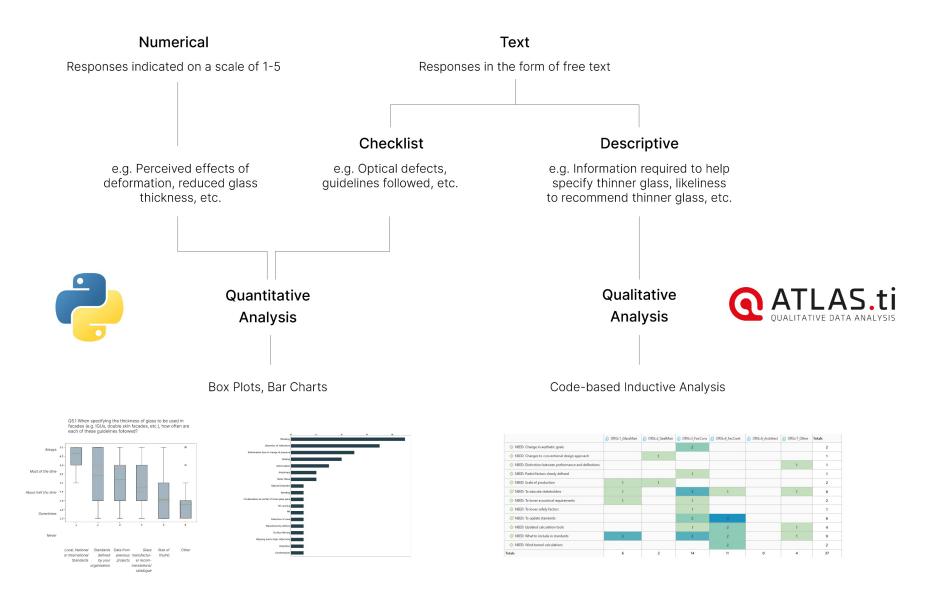
Q3.2 In which countries are some of the major projects you are working on located?





# Types of responses and analysis

- Sent to 200+ professionals from the facade industry
- 67 responses were found fit for analysis
- Mainly Consultants/ Engineers from Facade Consultancy.
   Glass Manufacturing company or Facade Contractors
- Maximum respondents based out of the UK
- Moderate to High level of knowledge on SLS
- Quantitative and Qualitative analysis was conducted



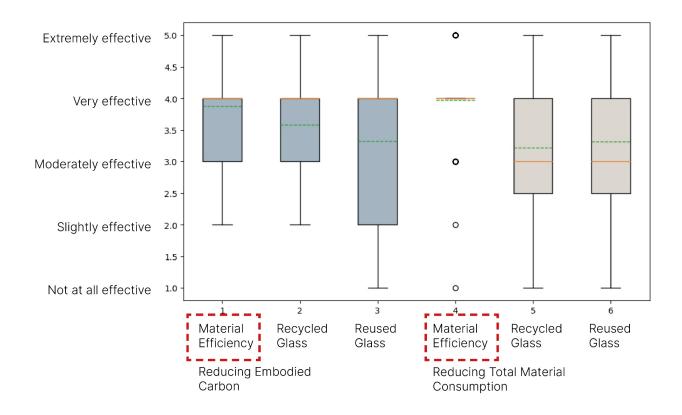


# Perceived effect of sustainable strategies

 Material Efficiency is perceived as a more effective strategy compared to using reused or recycled glass

Q3.3 To what extent do you consider the following strategies effective in reducing the embodied carbon in facades?

Q3.4 To what extent do you consider the following strategies effective in reducing the total material consumption in facades?

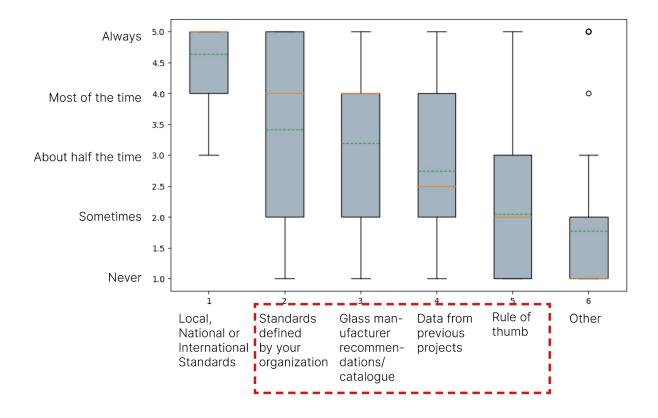




# **Guidelines followed in practice**

- Material Efficiency is perceived as a more effective strategy compared to using reused or recycled glass
- In addition to standards, other guidelines also followed.

Q5.1 When specifying the thickness of glass to be used in facades (e.g. IGUs, double skin facades, etc.), how often are each of these guidelines followed?





Facade Industry Survey

# Criteria to determine glass thickness

- Material Efficiency is perceived as a more effective strategy compared to using reused or recycled glass
- In addition to standards, other guidelines also followed.
- Criteria for glass thickness in order of importance -Mechanical, Durability and Optical

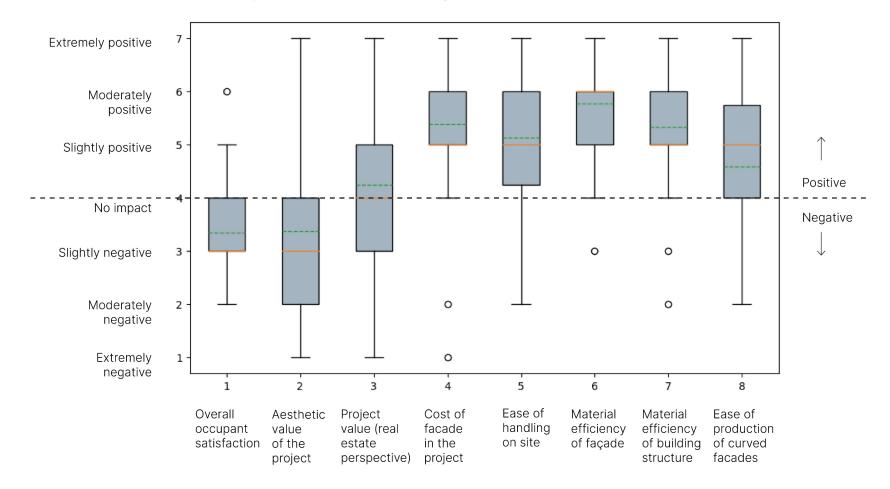
Acoustic	Acoustic Performance		Glass stress Limits
Durability	Adhesive/ Cohesive failure of edge seals and weather seals		Intrusion Resistance
	Condensation resistance		Mode of breakage
	Durability		Post breakage behavior
	Weathering Conditions		Resonance
Feasibility	Client Needs		Safety
	Availability as per standard stock		Soft body impact
	Production feasibility		Stability
	Technical feasibility		Vibration frequency
Fire	Fire Resistance		VIV and other wind instabilities
Maintenance	Cleaning and Maintenance		Altitude difference
Mechanical	Breakage by climatic loads, thermal stress or impact	Optical	Optical defects - reflection distortion
	Deflection		Optical defects - roller wave distortion
	Deflection for occupant comfort		Optical performance
	Deflection under barrier loads		Solar factor
	Deflection under climatic loads		Visual replacement
	Deflection under mechanical loads	Sustainability	Carbon Footprint
	Edge Deflection		Conflict Materials
	Edge Stability		Life Cycle
	Eigen Frequency		Recycled content
	Glass strength	Thermal	Thermal Performance



### Impact on value

- Material Efficiency is perceived as a more effective strategy compared to using reused or recycled glass
- In addition to standards, other guidelines also followed.
- Criteria for glass thickness in order of importance -Mechanical, Durability and Optical
- Negative impact on Aesthetics, occupant satisfaction
- Positive impact on costs, operations, curved facades and overall material efficiency

Q5.3 If thinner glass was to be specified, how would you rate the impact it would have on the following factors?





### **Barriers**

- Material Efficiency is perceived as a more effective strategy compared to using reused or recycled glass
- In addition to standards, other guidelines also followed.
- Criteria for glass thickness in order of importance -Mechanical, Durability and Optical
- Negative impact on Aesthetics, occupant satisfaction
- Positive impact on costs, operations, curved facades and overall material efficiency
- Main barriers: Lack of data, high level of requirements, perception towards glass and conservative standards.

Conservative design approach	Consultants being conservative
	Not learning from other countries/ peers
Lack of data	On engineering properties of thinner glass
	On occupant/ user acceptance levels of deformation
Changes required	To glazing systems
	In warranties and liabilities
Perceived challenges	Manufacturing
	Effect on glazing performance
	Handling and transportation
	Structural calculations
High level of requirements	Architectural/ aesthetic quality
	Robustness
	Optical performance
	Acoustic
Manufacturing challenges	Lines not being well equipped
	Cost and scale required to implement change
Perception	Of deformation as inferior quality
	Of deformation as unsafe
	Of glass as a rigid material
Standards	Being conservative
	Being non uniform across countries
	Not being up to date



### **Conclusions**

- Willingness to implement material efficiency
- Barriers: Conventional perception, design methods and standards
- Needs: Scientific research on impact of deformation on objective performance and occupant satisfaction
- Not answered: Who are the main actors to bring about change - architects/ owners/ consultants?



Problem
Statement

State-of-theart Review

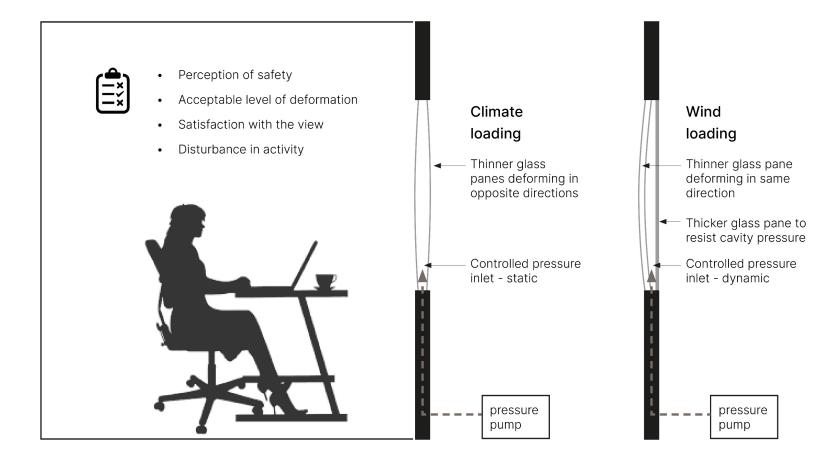
Design of the
Experiment

Feasibility
Tests

Conclusions

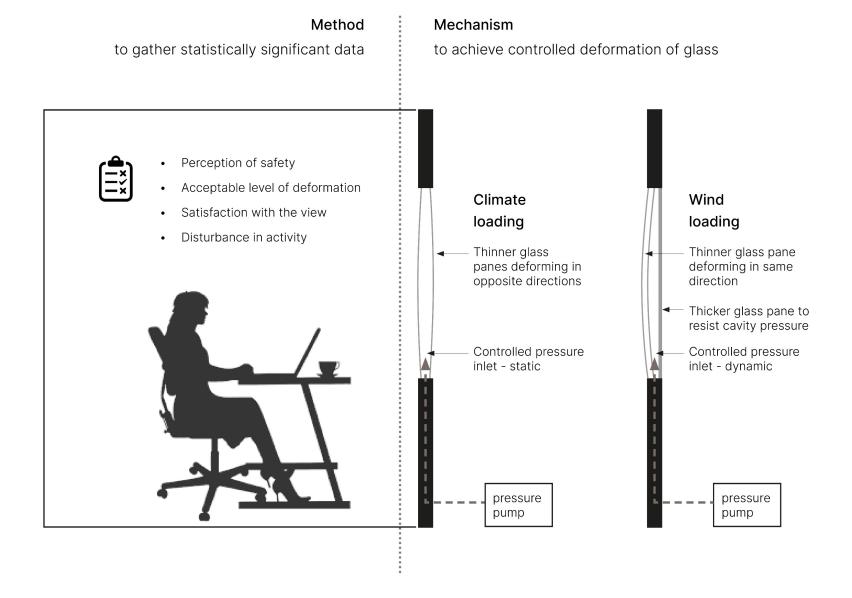


## Concept

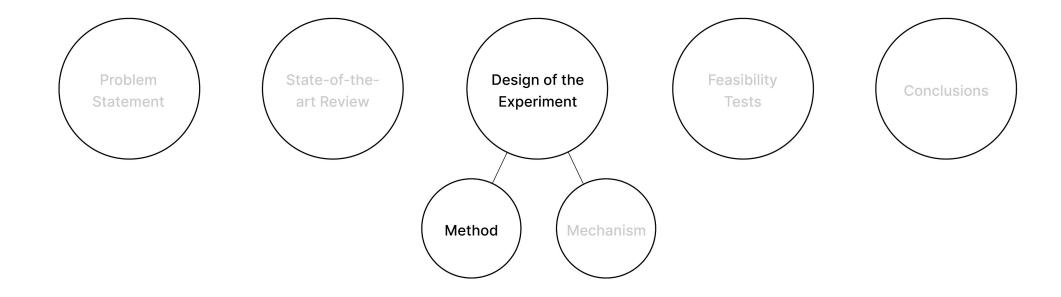




## Concept









## **Experiment - Variables**





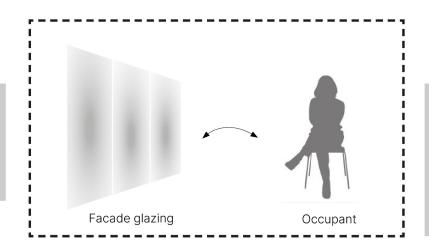
## **Experiment - Variables**

Independent Variables
Manipulated -----

#### Nature of motion

Centre of glass deflection Frequency of deformation

Duration of deformation



**Dependent Variables** 

Recorded

#### **Occupant Satisfaction**

Perception of Safety

Acceptance of Deformation

Satisfaction with respect to view

Disturbance in activity

**Confounding Variables** 

Fixed/ Balanced -----

#### **External Factors**

**Acoustic Cues** 

Visual Cues

View

Time of the day

Weather

Type of façade

Indoor Environment Quality (temperature, humidity, air quality etc.)

# Relationship between occupant and facade

Distance in between body and facade

Body's orientation

Body's motion

Activity performed/ engagement with façade

#### Individual traits

Age

Sex

Country of origin

Country having lived in for most part of life

Level of Education

#### **Prior Knowledge**

Expectancy of motion

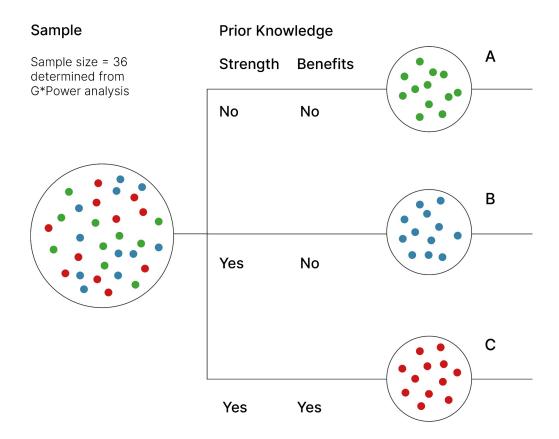
Knowledge about material's capacity

Knowledge about benefits of using thinner glass

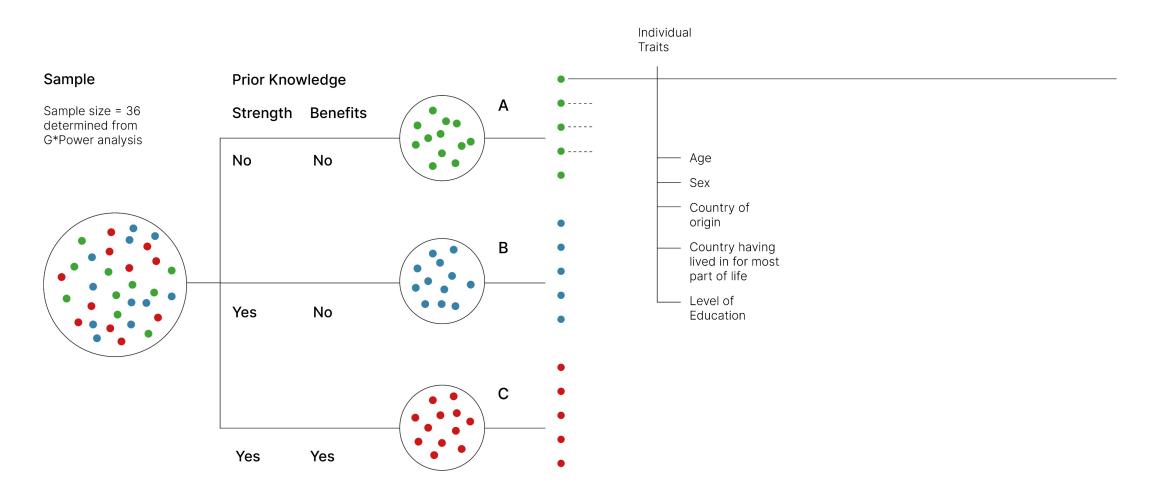
Controlled (per group)

Recorded

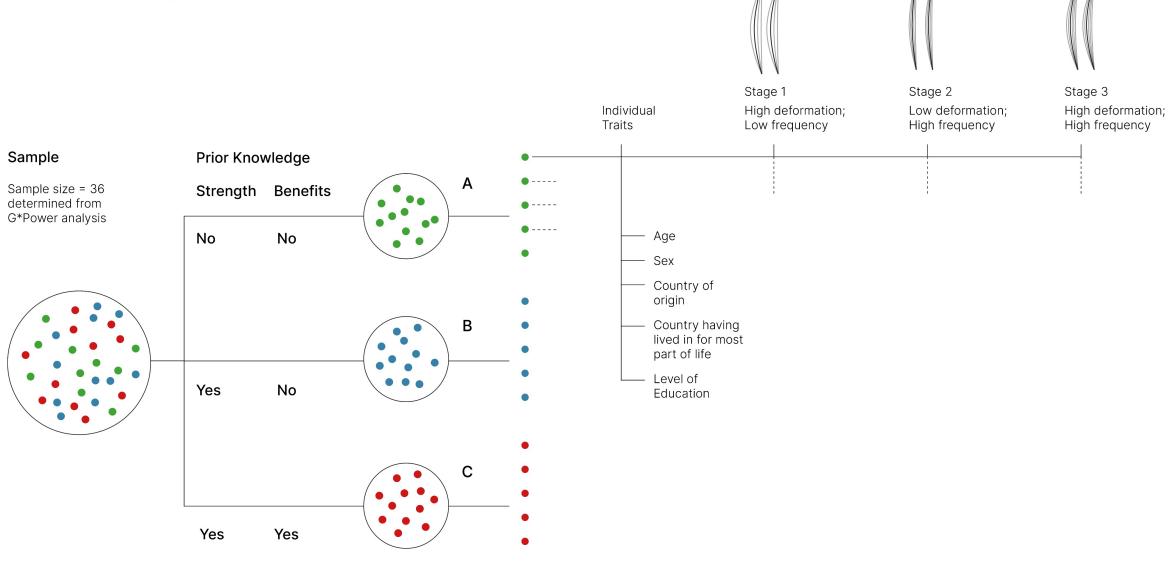




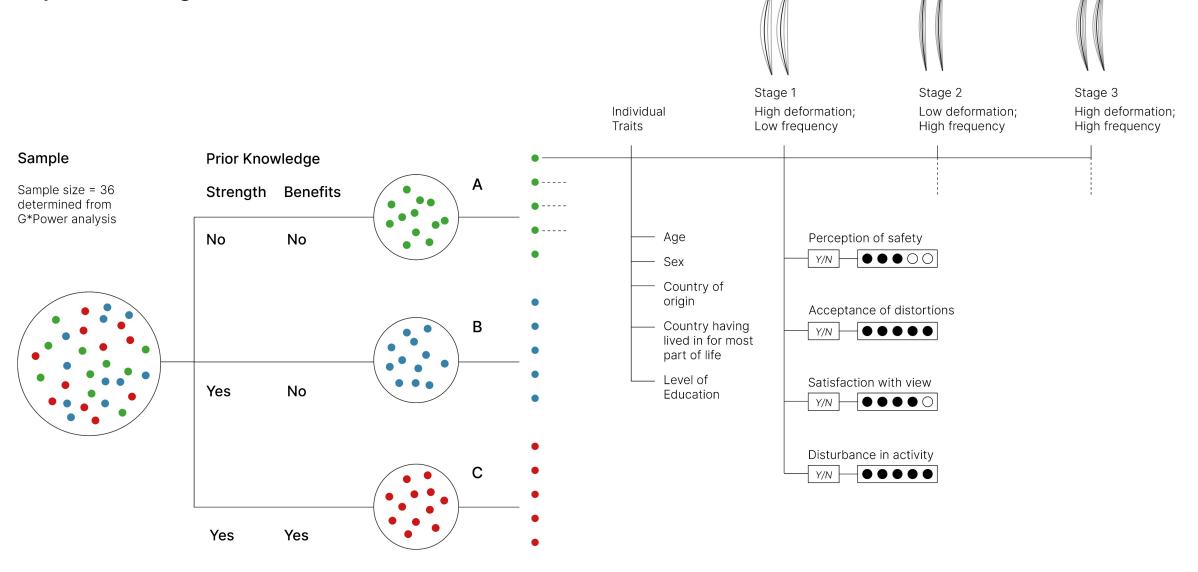




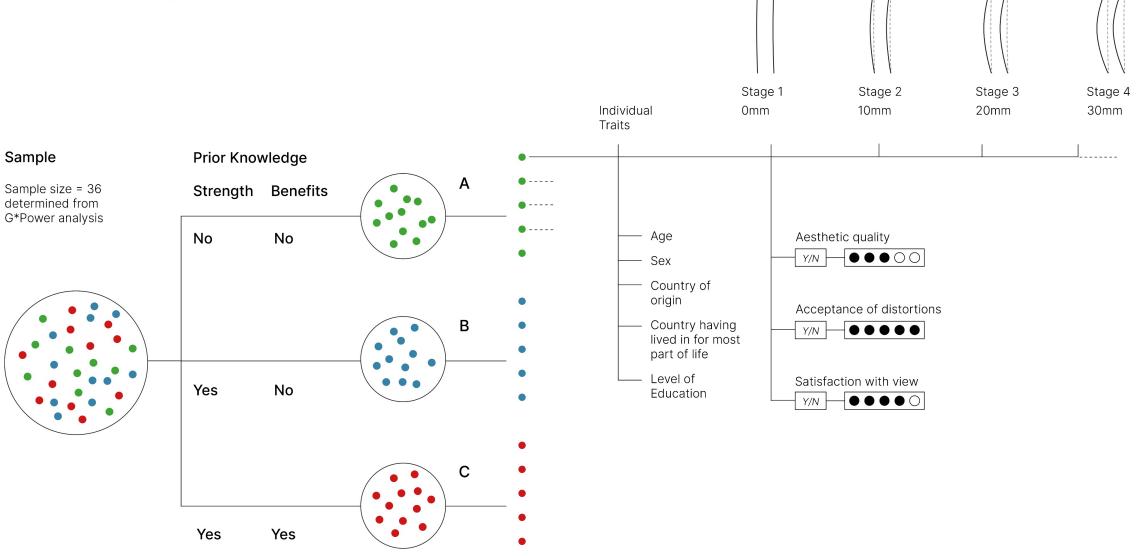












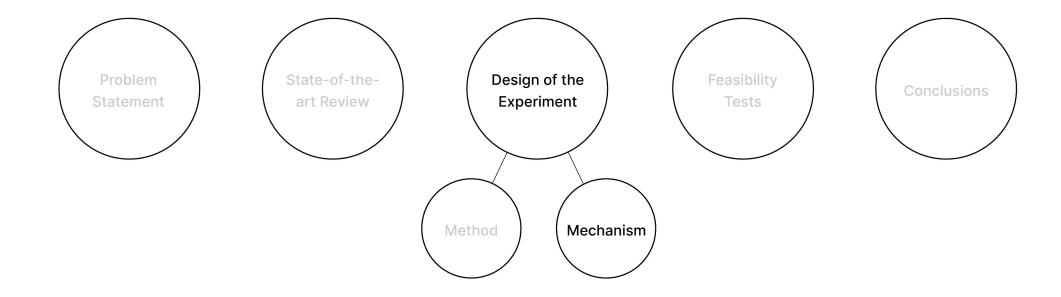


## Light Van - mobile lab







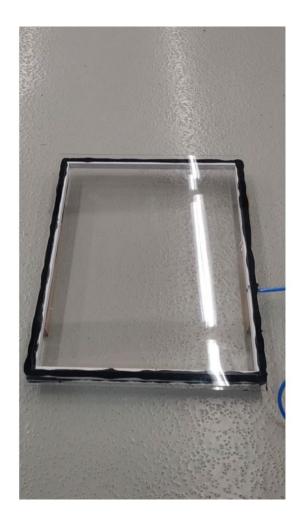




## Concept

Variation in cavity air pressure

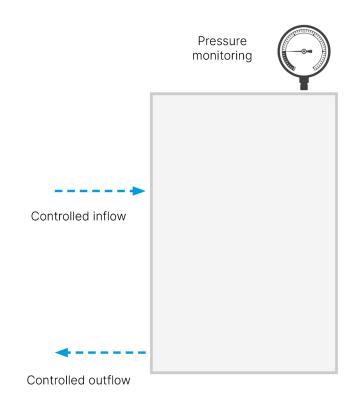
Deformation and vibration in glass





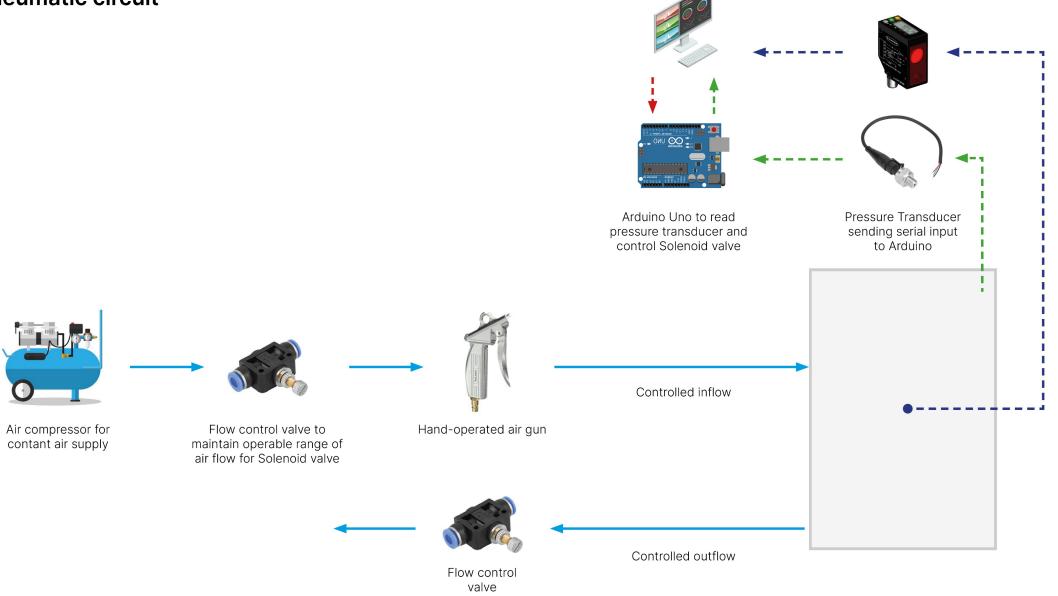


## Concept





# **Electropneumatic circuit**

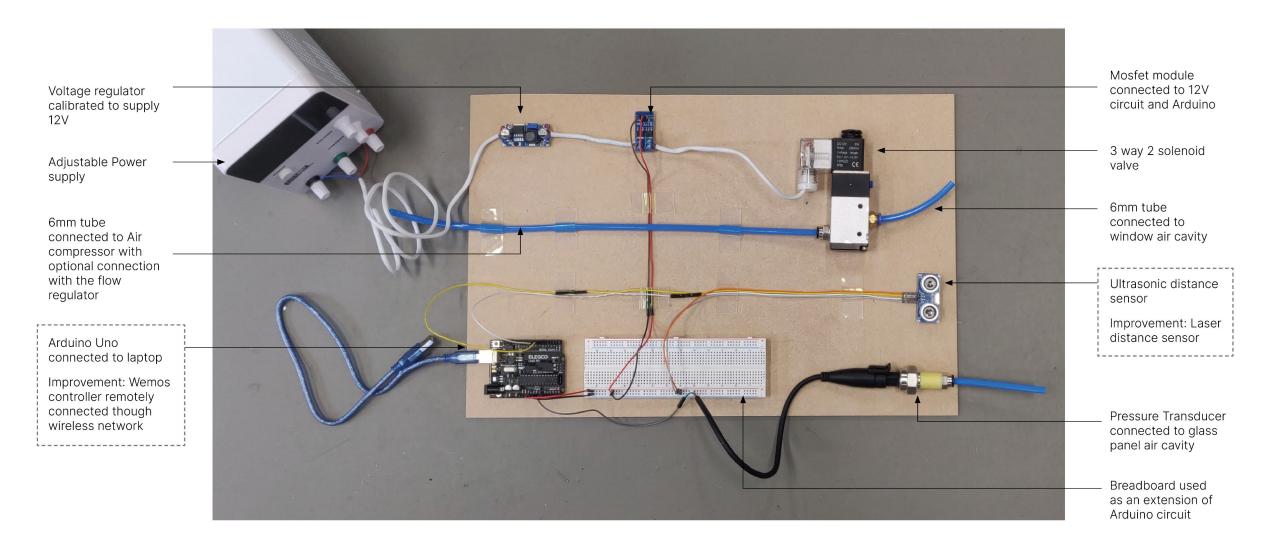




### **Electropneumatic circuit** Adjustable power supply Voltage regulator Mosfet module Arduino Uno to read Pressure Transducer for constant voltage also acting as a fuse acting as relay pressure transducer and sending serial input switch between control Solenoid valve to Arduino Arduino and valve Controlled inflow Air compressor for Flow control valve to 3 way 2 Solenoid valve to contant air supply maintain operable range of start and stop airflow based air flow for Solenoid valve on Arduino's input Controlled outflow Flow control valve



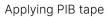
## **Electropneumatic circuit**





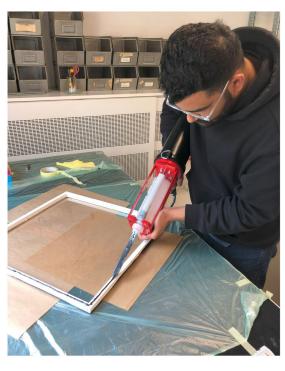
## **Prototype making**







2 component glue



Applying glue using a pneumatic gun



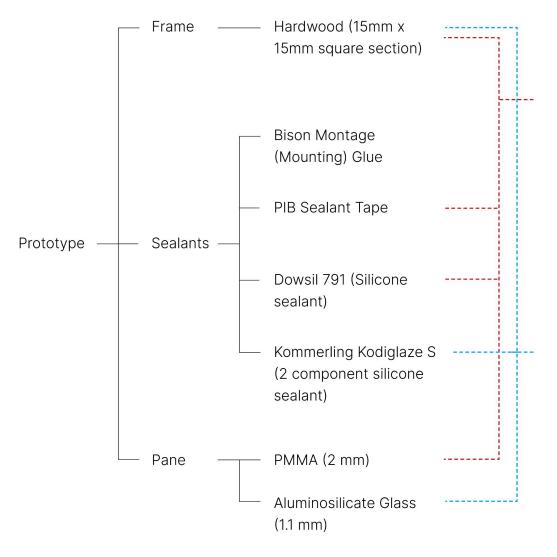
Placing glass



Final product



## **Prototype making**



#### **PMMA Prototype**

Testing air pressure system for constant and dynamic pressure conditions



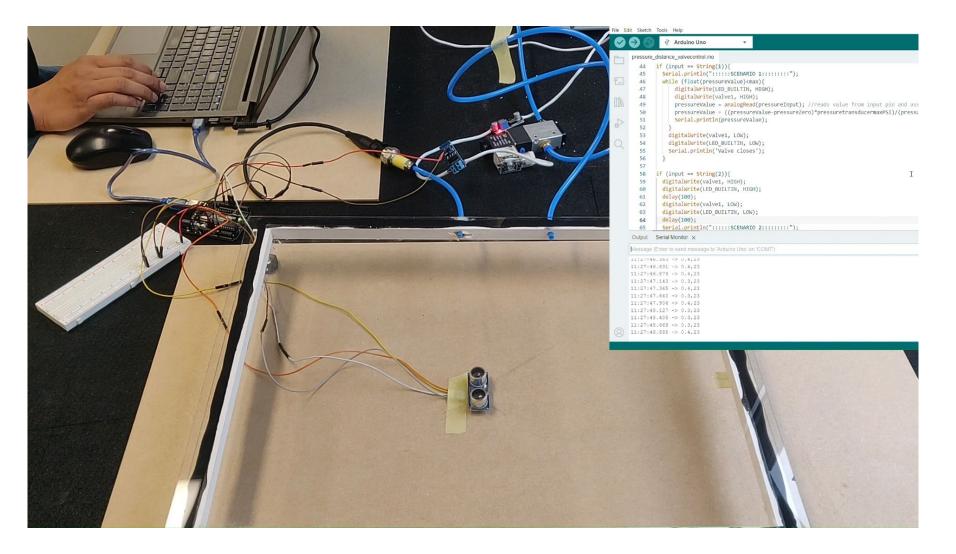
#### **Glass Prototype**

Testing self-adhesive film for optical distortions and breaking test





## **Testing the mechanism**





## Safety film testing

#### Strain energy as equating factor

Strain energy in prototype at point of failure of full size panel = 264.23 MPa

Failure stress of CT-ASG (glass prototype) = 325.00 MPa

#### Film on one side



Shards from pane without film spread in all directions

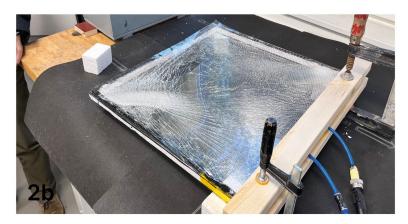


Crack in pane with film did not propagate

#### Film on both sides



Shards from pane with film were held in place



Clamping of weak edge was required to avoid bending during experiment



# **Testing the safety film**





Problem
Statement

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Design of the
Experiment

Feasibility
Tests

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## Glass build-up

#### As per numerical calculations:

Glass size: 1467mm x 972mm

Glass thk: 4mm

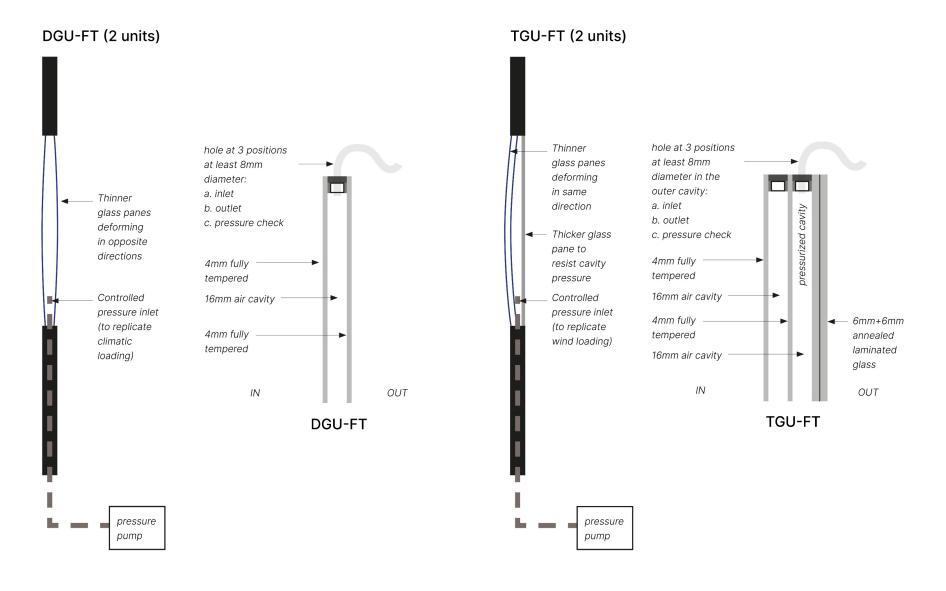
Pressure: 2000 Pa

Support: simply supported

Max deflection: 34.44 mm Max prin. stress: 60.32 MPa

SLS limit: 23.00 mm

Failure stress FT 80.00 MPa





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# Facade Panels from AGC Interpane





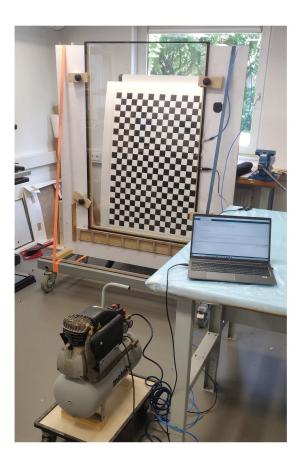


## Installation for testing





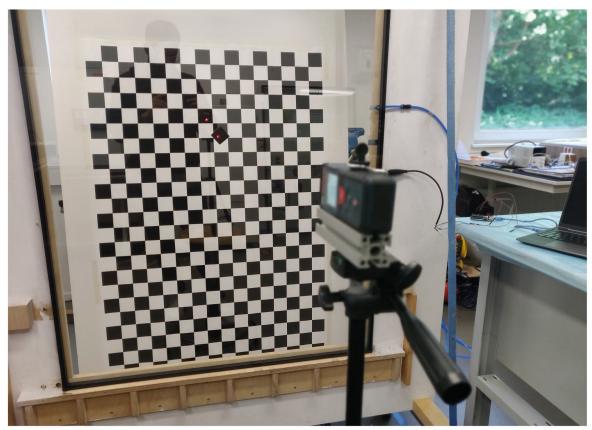






# Pressure vs. Deflection measurements





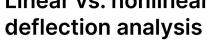


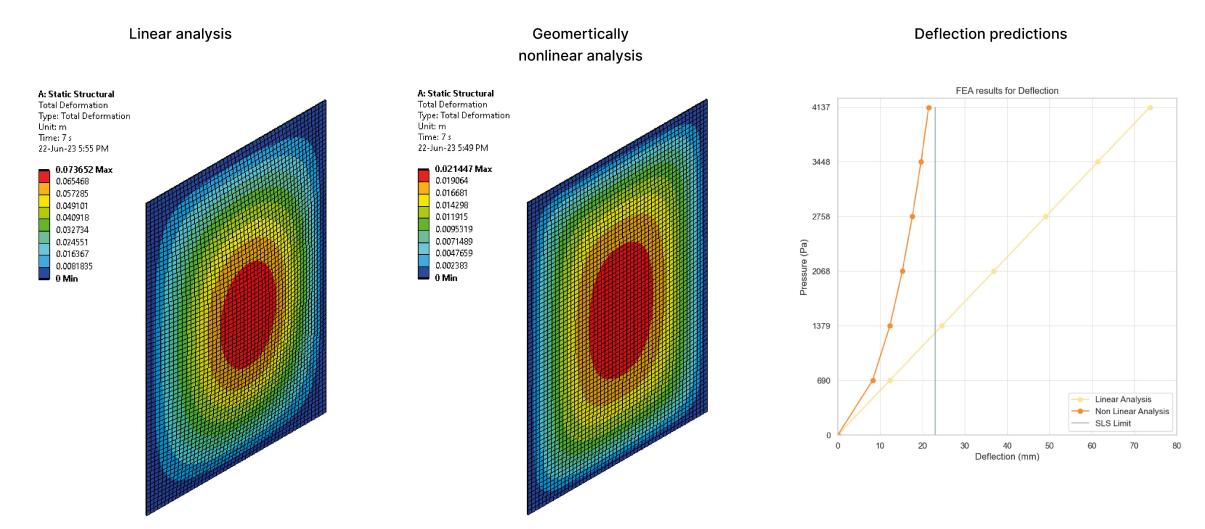
# Pressure vs. Deflection measurements

Pressure Measured (PSI)	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
Pressure Measured (Pa)	0.0	689.5	1379.0	2068.5	2758.0	3447.5	4137.0
TGU-1	0	5	10	13	13	13	13
TGU-2	0	5	9	11	11	13	13
TGU-3	0	3	8	10	11	12	12
DGU-1	0	8	15	18	21	23	#N/A
DGU-2	0	6	11	14	21	28	#N/A
DGU-3	0	10	15	20	24	26	#N/A



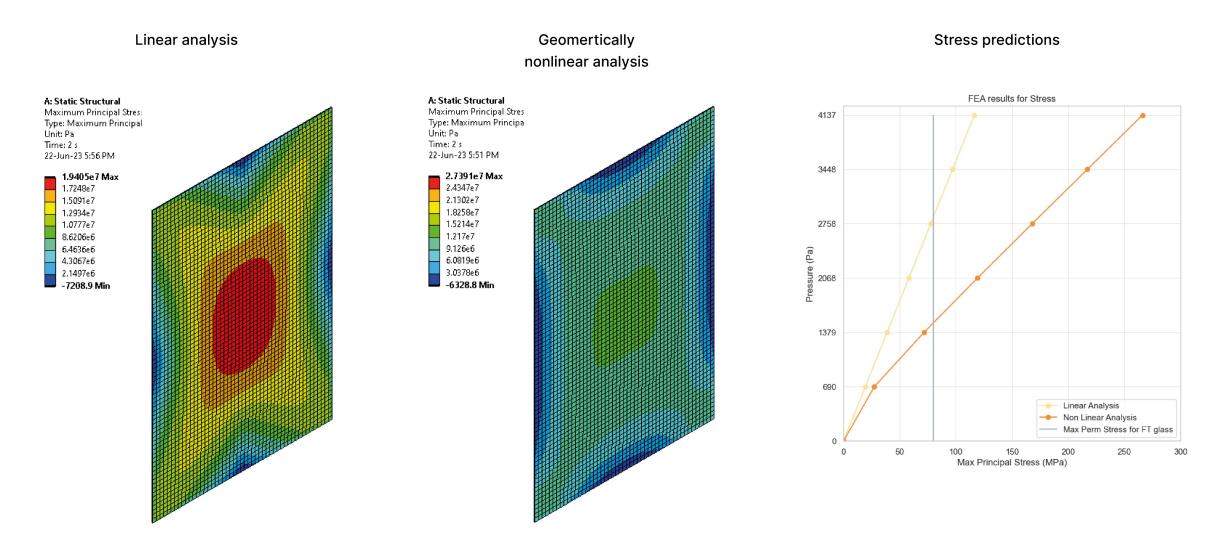
## Linear vs. nonlinear







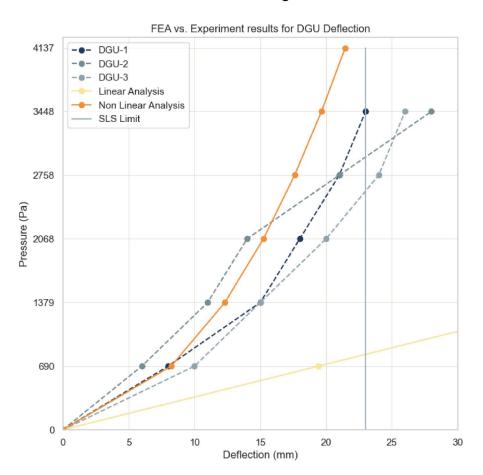
# Linear vs. nonlinear stress analysis



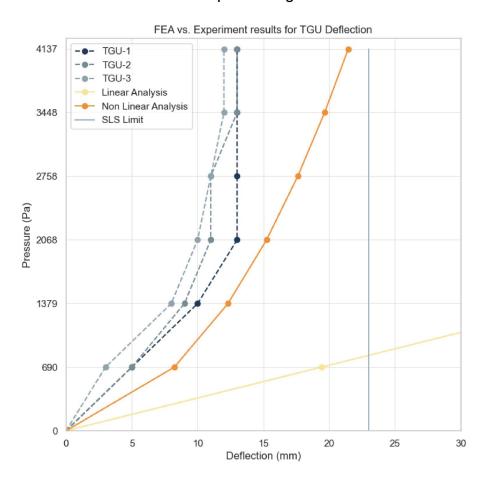


### Nonlinear FEA Results vs. Experiment Readings

#### **Double Glazing Unit**



#### **Triple Glazing Unit**



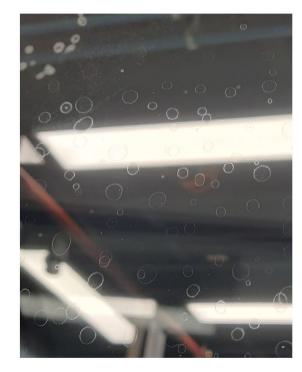


#### Recommendations

- Air leaks and clamping erros must be rectified before experimentation
- Safety film installation may lead to unwanted optical defects



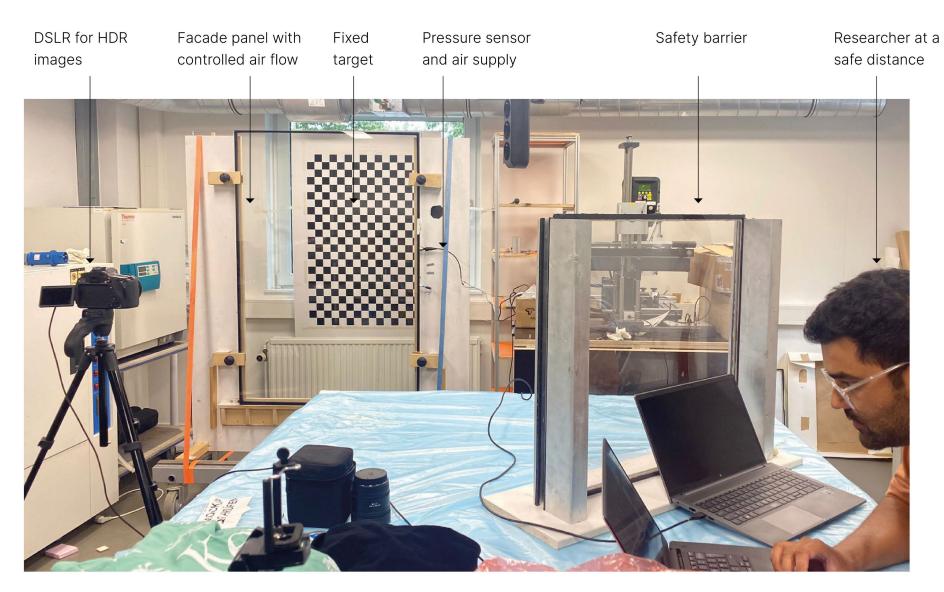
Top edge of glass pane deformed; since it was not clamped



Safety film application errros made it unfit for testing



## **Setup for optical tests**



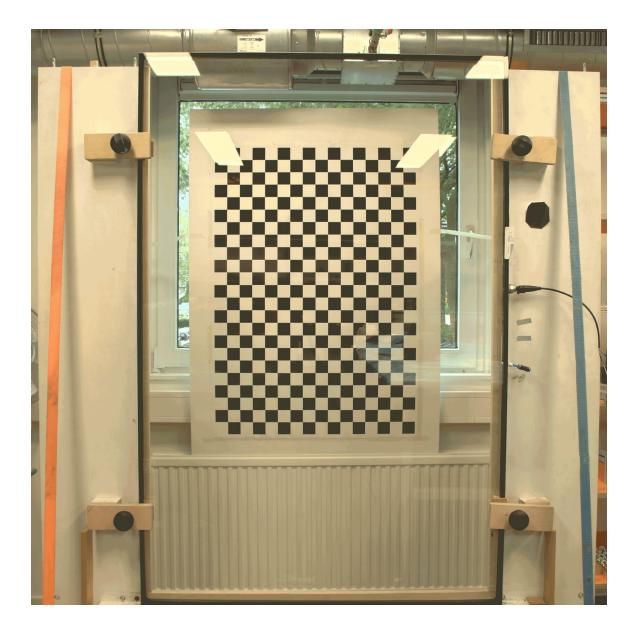


# Optical test results view of the outside



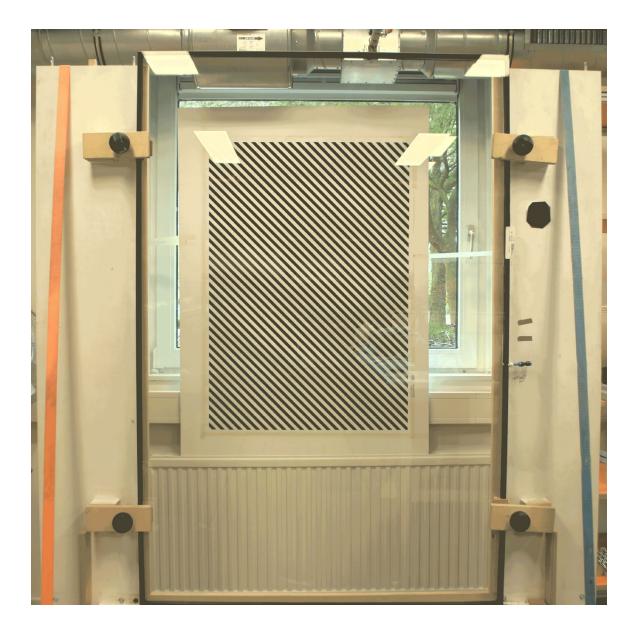


# Optical test results checkerboard





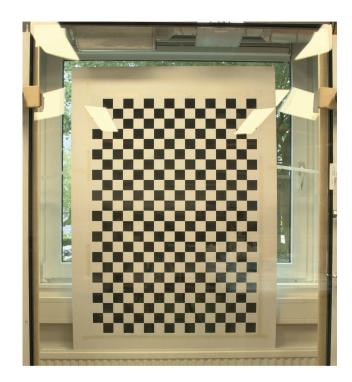
# Optical test results zebra-board





#### Recommendations

- Air leaks and clamping erros must be rectified before experimentation
- Safety film installation may lead to unwanted optical defects
- Subjective tests must inquire into human perception of distortions with respect to reflections.
- Objective evaluation of image similarity using suitable similarity indices.
- Wireless control using Wemos as an additional step for safety



View through the glass not affected
Distortions are perceived through reflections



Objective evaluation : Reference from OpenCV



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#### Conclusion

- Proof of concept for the mechanism has been provided; however experiment with volunteers needs to be tested and improved
- Setup is versatile and can be applied for testing multiple objectives

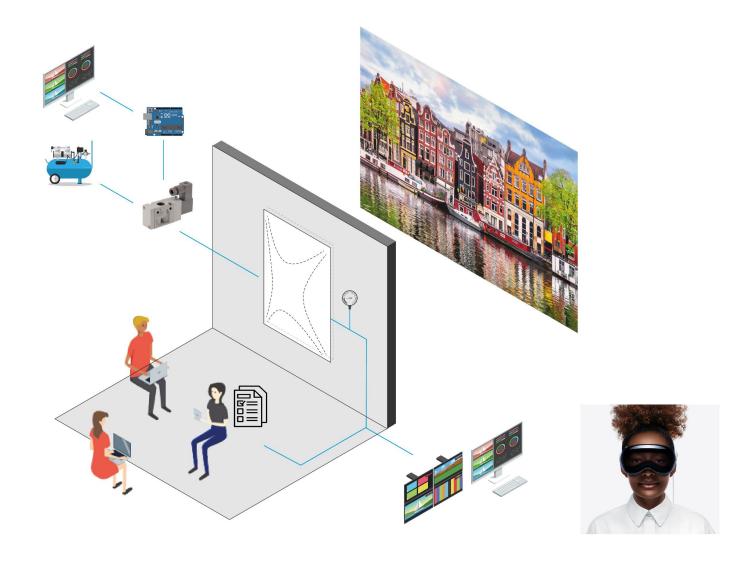


Subjective tests



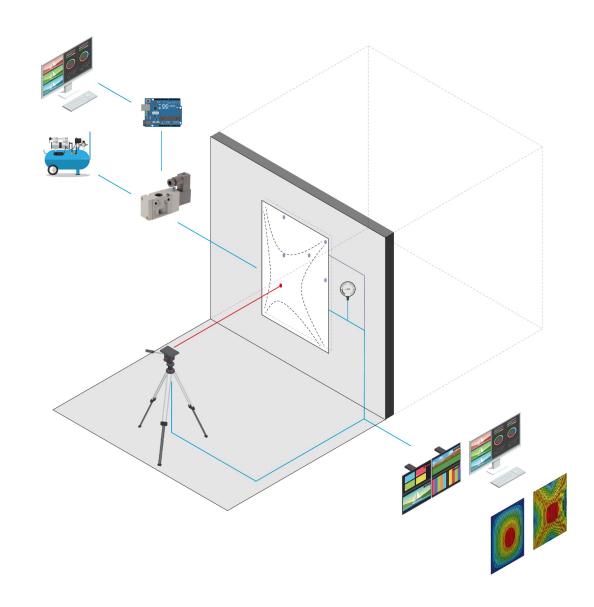


- Subjective tests
- Include multiple persons
- Include VR setup



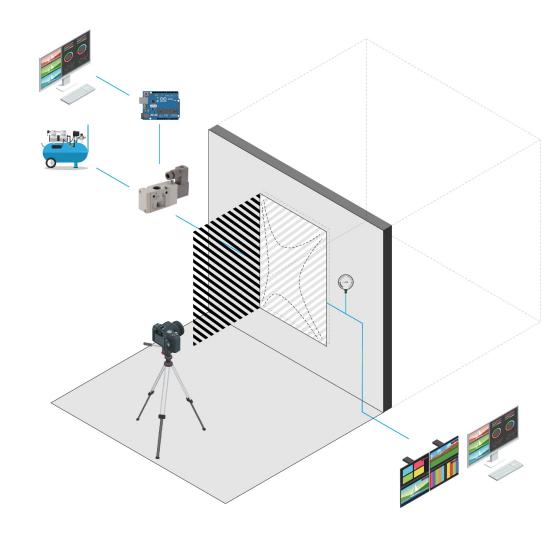


- Subjective tests
- Include multiple persons
- Include VR setup
- Mechanical behavior using strain gauges, laser serial input generator





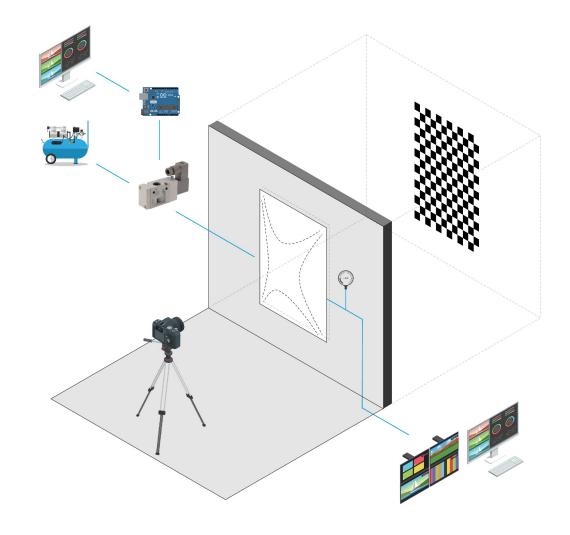
- Subjective tests
- Include multiple persons
- Include VR setup
- Mechanical behavior using strain gauges, laser serial input generator
- Optical tests for reflections







- Subjective tests
- Include multiple persons
- Include VR setup
- Mechanical behavior using strain gauges, laser serial input generator
- Optical tests for reflections
- Optical tests with varying distances and angles between target and camera



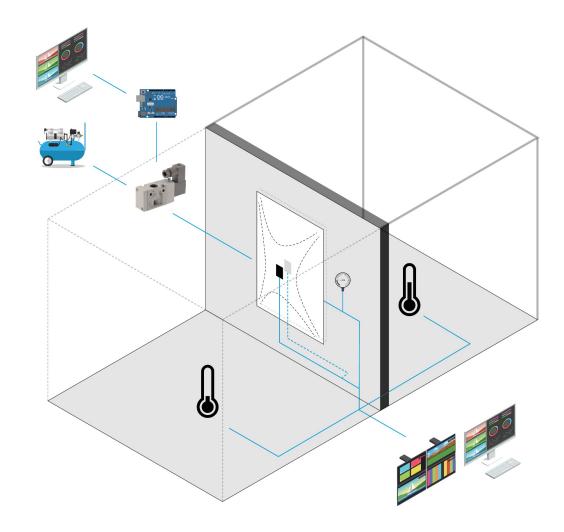


- Subjective tests
- Include multiple persons
- Include VR setup
- Mechanical behavior using strain gauges, laser serial input generator
- Optical tests for reflections
- Optical tests with varying distances and angles between target and camera
- · Optical tests with different views



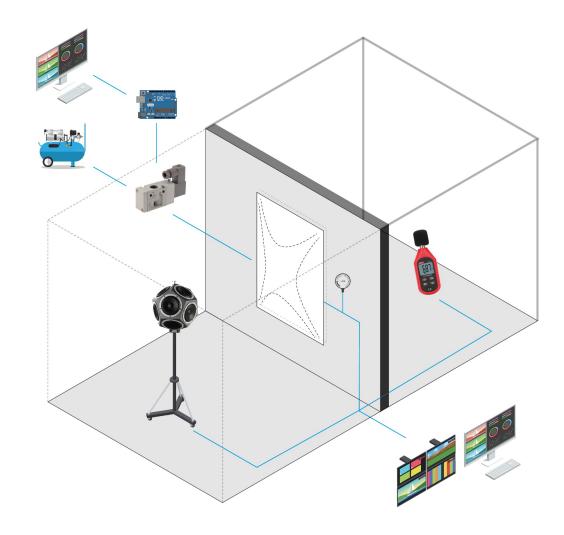


- Subjective tests
- Include multiple persons
- Include VR setup
- Mechanical behavior using strain gauges, laser serial input generator
- Optical tests for reflections
- Optical tests with varying distances and angles between target and camera
- · Optical tests with different views
- Thermal insultation tests at different pressure steps



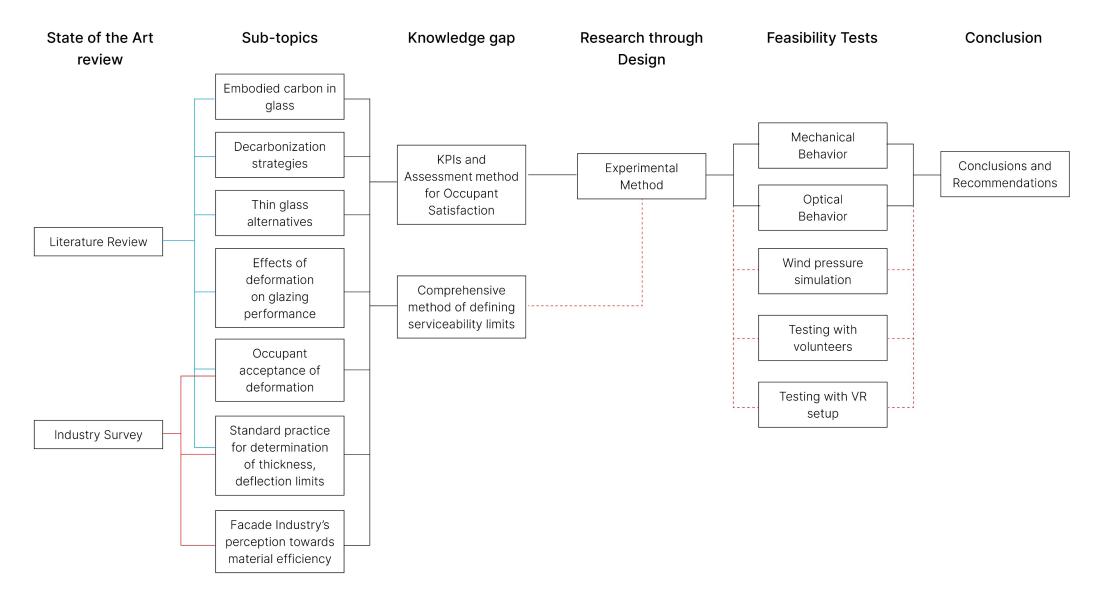


- Subjective tests
- Include multiple persons
- Include VR setup
- Mechanical behavior using strain gauges, laser serial input generator
- Optical tests for reflections
- Optical tests with varying distances and angles between target and camera
- · Optical tests with different views
- Thermal insultation tests at different pressure steps
- Acoustical insultation tests at different pressure steps





### **Next Steps**





### Thank you!

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