

Project Case Studies

- Epler Hall - Portland
- Sitka Apartments - Portland
- Thornton Place - Seattle
- Pearl Family Housing - Portland

Stephen Epler Hall

Portland State University



Epler Hall (PSU) – 2002

- Five-story wood frame student housing above one-story concrete frame classroom / office space
- Enclosure measures included:
 - Advanced framing
 - R-21 fiberglass batt cavity insulation at walls
 - R-30 polyisocyanurate rigid board insulation at roof
 - Air barrier (exterior sheathing approach)
 - Moderate performance vinyl windows
 - Rainscreen cladding (brick veneer, metal siding)
 - Kraft paper vapor barrier (variable perm rating)

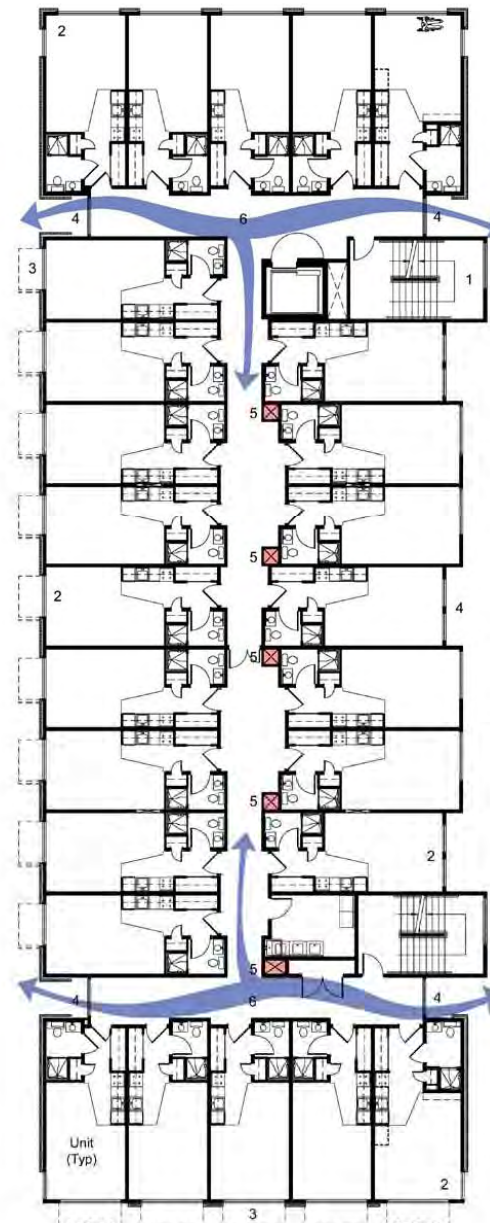
THE DESIGN STRATEGIES (CONTINUED)

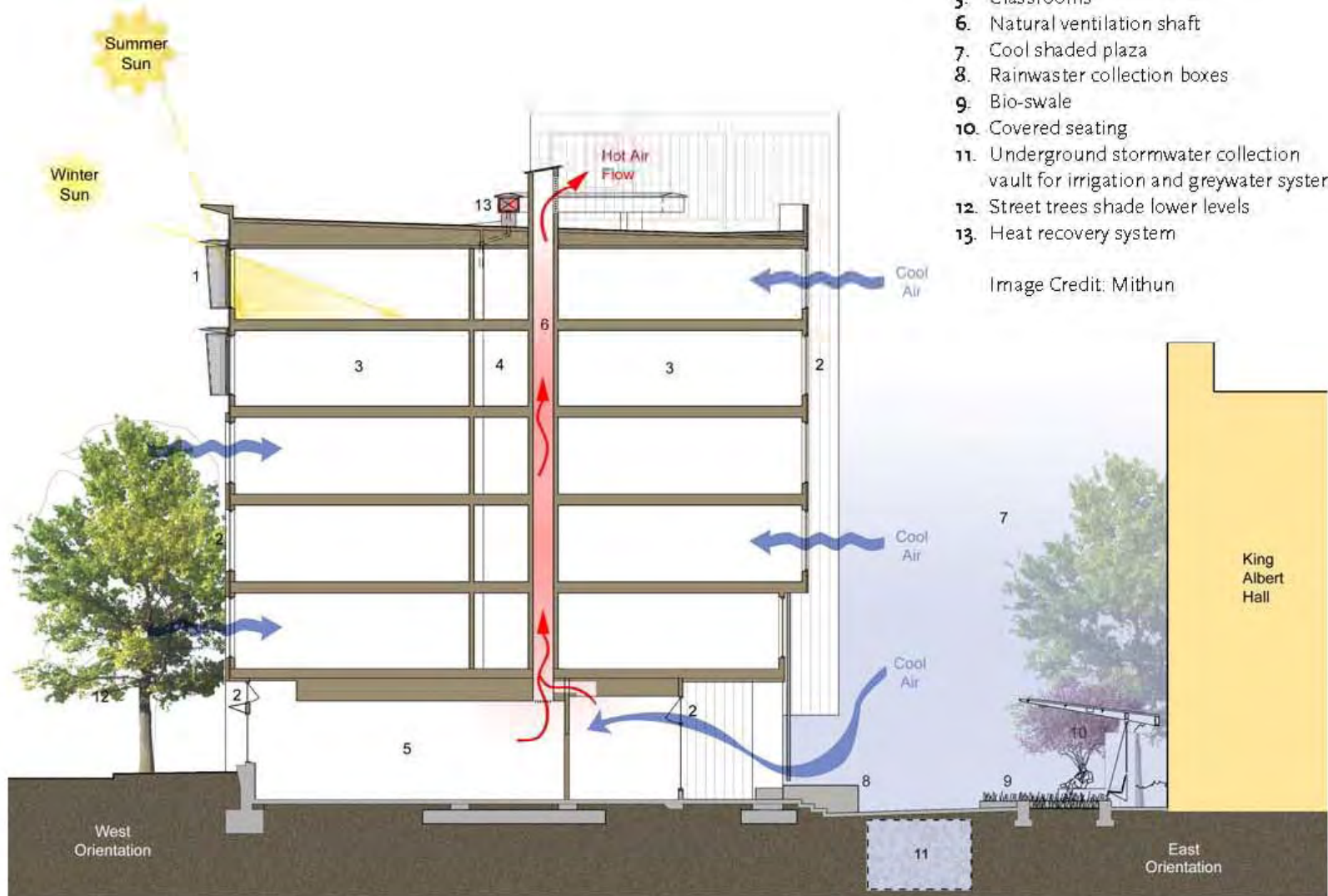
Ron van der Veen AIA, the lead designer from Mithun notes, "The simple rectangular building was refined into a "smart structure" that responds to the micro-climate of each building facade." Each facade takes advantage of its orientation by addressing its unique solar aspects, wind, noise and views. Operable windows naturally remove heat and provide cooling and daylight to over 98% of the internal spaces. Additional energy-saving techniques, including natural lighting, exhaust-heat recovery, stack ventilation, and low-flow fixtures, dramatically increase building performance and reduce resource consumption well beyond code requirements.

The building is oriented north-south to maximize its development potential and preserve major trees within the site. Fronting an urban sidewalk to the west, it reinforces the city and allows for a cool urban plaza that provides fresh air for the building. The plaza is shielded from highway noise and the western sun which creates cool air that is then drawn into the naturally ventilated spaces.

1. Oversized stair to encourage pedestrian travel
2. Windows correspond to solar orientation
3. Sunshades on south & west elevations
4. Operable windows (typ)
5. Natural ventilation shafts
6. Thru ventilation

Image Credit: Mithun

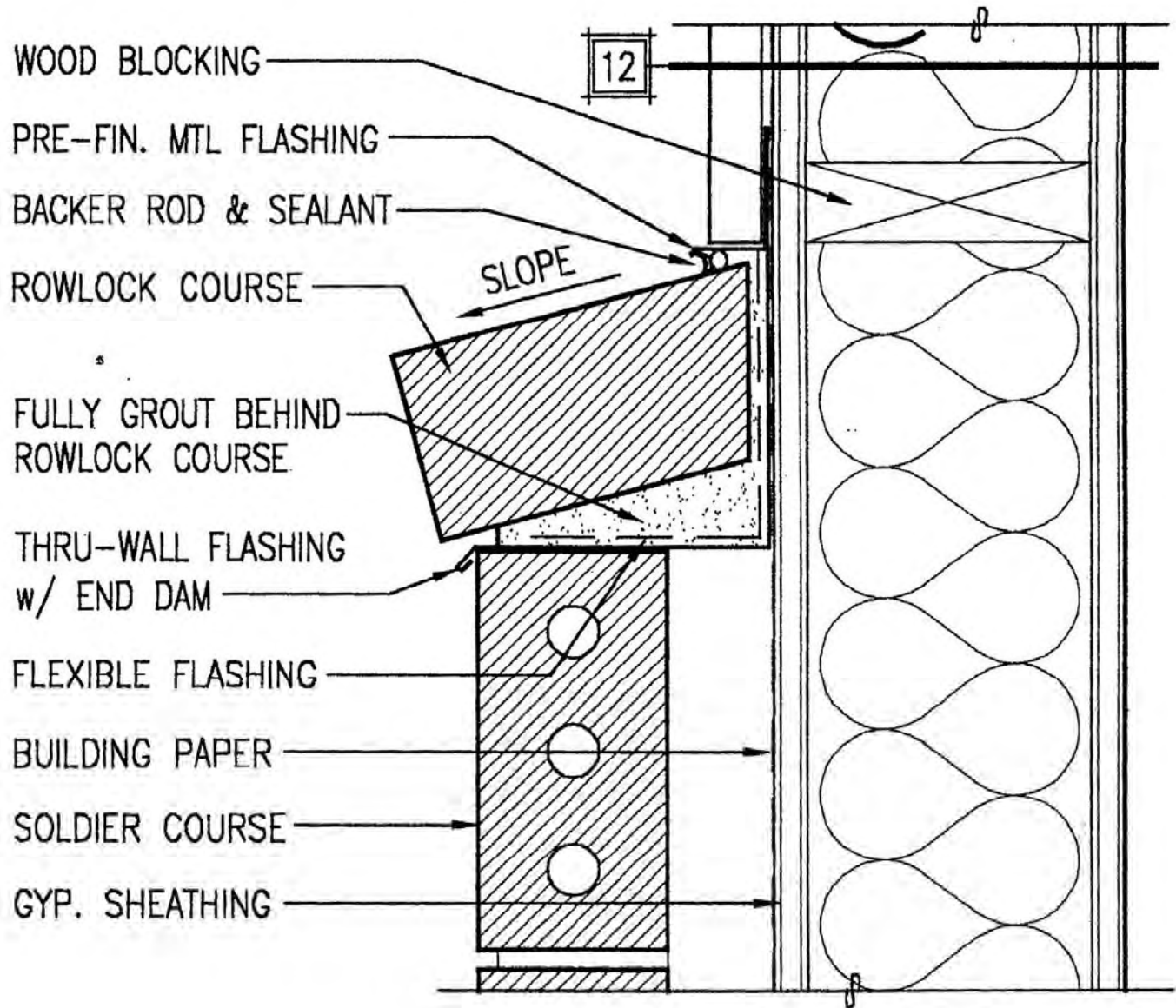




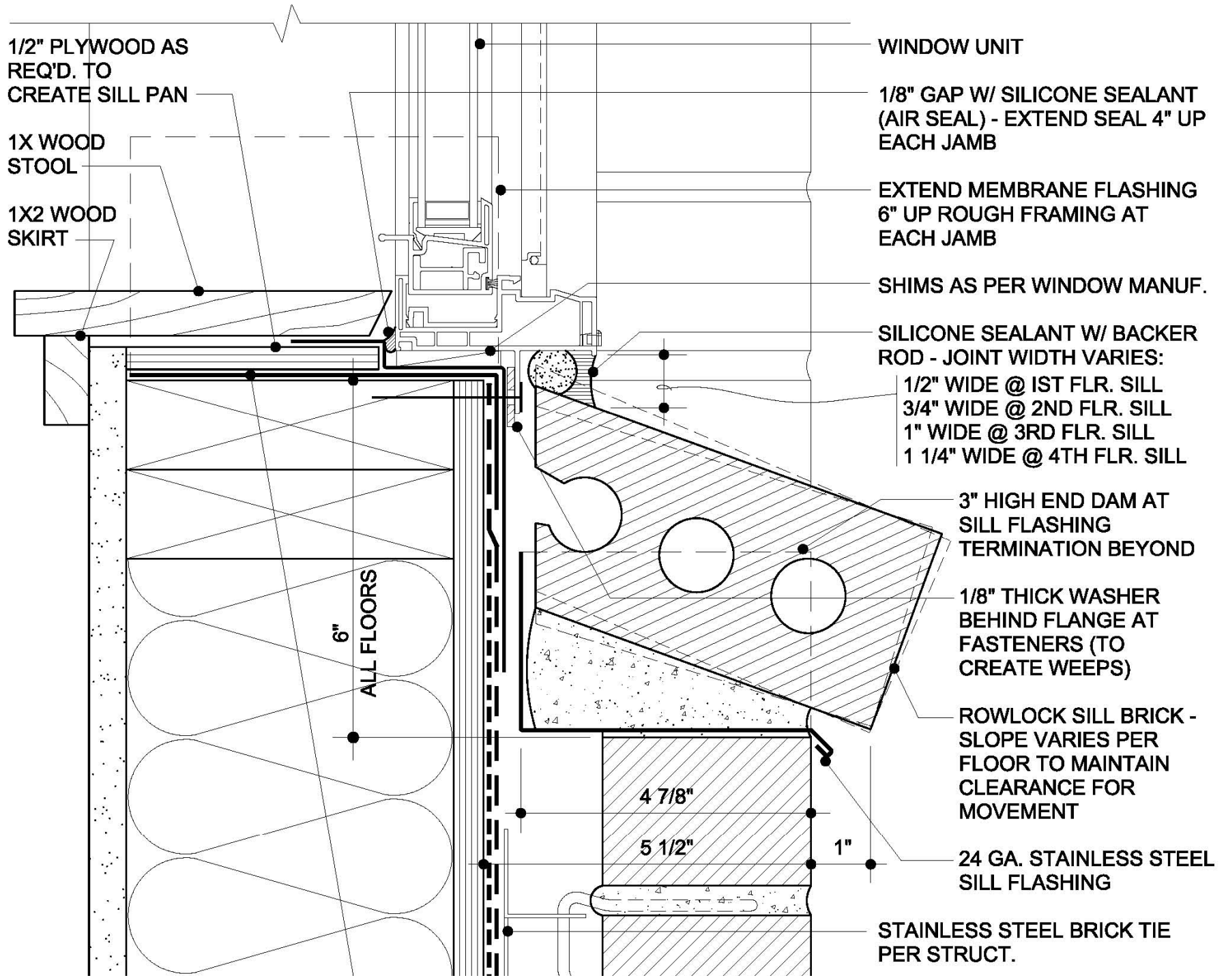








17 MTL PANEL TO BRICK TRANSITION
 3" = 1'-0"



1/2" PLYWOOD AS
REQ'D. TO
CREATE SILL PAN

1X WOOD
STOOL

1X2 WOOD
SKIRT

6"
ALL FLOORS

WINDOW UNIT

1/8" GAP W/ SILICONE SEALANT
(AIR SEAL) - EXTEND SEAL 4" UP
EACH JAMB

EXTEND MEMBRANE FLASHING
6" UP ROUGH FRAMING AT
EACH JAMB

SHIMS AS PER WINDOW MANUF.

SILICONE SEALANT W/ BACKER
ROD - JOINT WIDTH VARIES:
1/2" WIDE @ 1ST FLR. SILL
3/4" WIDE @ 2ND FLR. SILL
1" WIDE @ 3RD FLR. SILL
1 1/4" WIDE @ 4TH FLR. SILL

3" HIGH END DAM AT
SILL FLASHING
TERMINATION BEYOND

1/8" THICK WASHER
BEHIND FLANGE AT
FASTENERS (TO
CREATE WEEPS)

ROWLOCK SILL BRICK -
SLOPE VARIES PER
FLOOR TO MAINTAIN
CLEARANCE FOR
MOVEMENT

24 GA. STAINLESS STEEL
SILL FLASHING

STAINLESS STEEL BRICK TIE
PER STRUCT.

4 7/8"

5 1/2"

1"









Sitka Apartments

Portland



Sitka Apartments – 2004

- Five-story wood frame workforce housing above one-story concrete frame retail above one-story below grade parking garage
- Enclosure measures included:
 - Advanced framing
 - R-21 fiberglass batt cavity insulation at walls
 - R-30 polyisocyanurate rigid board insulation at roof
 - Air barrier (exterior sheathing approach)
 - High performance aluminum windows
 - Rainscreen cladding (brick veneer, metal siding)
 - “Smart” vapor barrier (variable perm rating)













Airtightness Testing

- Blower door tests at 20 units
- Air leakage rates 50% to 70% lower than other tested apartment buildings in Portland area (0.16 ACH avg.)







A photograph of a building facade. The building has a red brick lower section and a tan upper section. A window in the tan section has a sign that reads "NOT GWB". To the left, there is a green tree. To the right, there is a balcony with a metal railing. The sky is blue.

NOT
GWB





