

November 22 - 25, 2022

# WILL CITIES SURVIVE?

The future of sustainable buildings and urbanism in the age of emergency.

PLEA STGO 2022

PLEA STGO 2022: WILL CITIES SURVIVE?

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**ABOUT** 

PLEA Association is an organization engaged in a worldwide discourse on sustainable architecture and urban design through annual international conferences, workshops and publications. It has created a community of several thousand professionals, academics and students from over 40 countries. Participation in PLEA activities is open to all whose work deals with architecture and the built environment, who share our objectives and who attend PLEA events.

PLEA stands for "Passive and Low Energy Architecture", a commitment to the development, documentation and diffusion of the principles of bioclimatic design and the application of natural and innovative techniques for sustainable architecture and urban de-

PLEA serves as an open, international, interdisciplinary forum to promote high quality research, practice and education in environmentally sustainable design.

PLEA is an autonomous, non-profit association of individuals sharing the art, science, planning and design of the built environment.

PLEA pursues its objectives through international conferences and workshops; expert group meetings and consultancies; scientific and technical publications; and architectural competitions and exhibitions.

Since 1982 PLEA has been organizing highly ranked conferences that attract both academia and practicing architects. Past Conferences have taken place in the United States, Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and Australia.

After almost a decade the PLEA conference is coming back to South America, Santiago (Chile), to be organized by the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC). Inevitably,

the theme of PLEA 2022 is inspired by the current pandemic which has put the whole world on alert and makes us rethink our built environment in terms of health and safety. Whereas due to its current social unrest and significant social divide Santiago and South America in general provides a great ground to talk about inequalities and revisit social movements, that spanned around the globe from Lebanon, France to Chile and other countries just before the pandemic hit.

The aim of the PLEA 2022 is to guestion the whole idea of a city, the way we inhabit and use them generating the definitive inflection point that a sustainable city requires.

For decades, the climate crisis has been demanding our action and commitment. Numerous efforts to reach an international consensus via climate summits, such as COP25, and Paris Agreement have not had any expected results yet. However, even though the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the sense of urgency, many talks about climate change were put on hold during 2020, when the new virus put the world on alert.

In no time it has become a global issue and provoked various reactions from political leaders around the world-from absolute denial to the harshest restrictions—adjusting and learning in the process by trial and error.

This process has not been easy as COVID-19 highlighted critical deficiencies in our built environment and urban design. Even though infections battered affluent areas too, the pandemic hit the hardest when the virus reached sectors with high rates of poverty. Dense neighborhoods and overcrowded buildings could facilitate the rapid spread of infections due to the difficulty of generating social distancing and the application of extensive quarantines.

Yet, various changes have been adopted rapidly. Hygiene protocols, wearing masks, social distancing and other strategies has become part of our ordinary life. On top of that, the use of public spaces, streets, parks, homes and all buildings had to be adjusted to control the spread of the virus transforming our habits and conception of them. Numerous studies showed great variations in the use of transportation during the pandemic too. But the questions are: are those changes here to stay? What does the future hold for our built environments?

Some even go as far as to question: Will cities survive? While many intellectuals and academics call for the end of cities (at least as we know them), some stakeholders urge to return to normality, or so-called status quo.

**GOAL AND THEME** 

Is this the last opportunity to effectively build a healthy, livable and equitable city? It is clear that cities can no longer be conceived as before and it is time to question the way we inhabit and use them. What are the standards, mechanisms and criteria to define a sustainable city and building? Do they respond to the problems and deficiencies in the age of emergency? History shows us how cities reacted to and changed after health crises similar to COVID-19; this is the time to question everything around us and strive for environmentally sustainable and socially just cities.

The aim of PLEA 2022 is to be a relevant part of the discussion and bring about proposals to the developing and developed world. It is a great chance to talk about the changes that affected cities around the globe since the start of the pandemic and bring the scientific knowledge generated in this short time to the discussion.

Social inequality should also be a part of the debate as both health and climate emergencies may further increase the injustice and, at the same time, the inequality may make such crises worse. Latin America, as the most unequal region, and Chilean case might serve as a great example of such issues and could become a source of inspiration to find the definitive inflection point that a truly sustainable city requires.

STG0 2022

Dynamic and cosmopolitan Santiago is a vital and versatile city. Home to many events show-casing the very best of Chilean culture, it also hosts superb international festivals of sound, flavor and color. The Chilean capital breathes new life into all its visitors!

The city's diversity shines through in its many contrasting neighborhoods. Set out to explore the city streets and you'll discover beautiful and original art galleries, design shops and handicraft markets, as well as a great selection of restaurants, bars and cafes. Night owls can enjoy a taste of lively Latino nightlife in hip Bellavista!

Visit downtown Santiago to get a real feel for the city. Learn more about the country in its many fine museums, or wander around the famous Central Market – a gourmet's delight.

Fans of the great outdoors can head for the hills that surround the city and marvel at panoramic views of Santiago with the magnificent Andes as a backdrop. Take the opportunity to grab a picnic and visit one of the city's many parks.

In Chile there are places that have not seen a drop of rain in decades, while there are others where the rain brings out the green in the millenial forests.

This diversity captivates and surprises its visitors. Because, as a consequence of its geography, Chile has all the climates of the planet and the four seasons are well differentiated. The warmest season is between October and April and the coldest, from May to September

The temperature in Chile drops down as you

travel south. In the north, the heat of the day remains during the day while the nights are quite cold. The central area has more of a Mediterranean climate and the south has lower temperatures and recurring rainfall throughout the year.

The conference will be held at the Centro de Extensión de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, located at Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 390, Santiago, Metropolitan Region. Universidad Católica subway station, Line 1

The Center is located in the center of the city of Santiago, with excellent connectivity to the rest of the city and the most characteristic neighborhoods of the capital, either through the Metro network (Line 1) or other means of public transport such as Transantiago (Santiago's public bus network).

To make your hotel reservations, we recommend looking in the Providencia or Las Condes districts, close to Metro Line 1. We also have some suggestions for accommodation close to the conference venue.

#### 1. Sustainable Urban Development

- Regenerative Design for Healthy and Resilient Cities
- Sustainable Communities, Culture and Society
- Low Carbon Neutral Neighbourhoods,
   Districts and Cities
- Urban Climate and Outdoor Comfort
- Green Infrastructure
- Urban Design and Adaptation to Climate Change

#### 2. Sustainable Architectural Design

- Resources and Passive Strategies
- Regenerative Design
- Energy Efficient Buildings
- Net-zero Energy and Carbon-neutrality in New and Existing Buildings
- Vernacular and Heritage Retrofit
- Building Design and Adaptation to Climate Change

#### 3. Architecture for Health and Well-being

- Comfort, IAQ & Delight
- Thermal Comfort in Extreme Climates
- IAQ and Health in Times of Covid-19
- Comfort in Public Spaces

#### 4. Sustainable Buildings and Technology

- Renewable Energy Technologies
- Energy Efficient Heating and Cooling Systems
- Low Embodied Carbon Materials
- Circular Economy
- Nature-based Material Solutions
- Water Resource Management and Efficiency

#### 5. Analysis and Methods

- Simulation and Design Tools
- Building Performance Evaluation
- Surveying and Monitoring Methods
- User-building Interaction and Post-occupancy Evaluation

#### 6. Education and Training

- Architectural Training for Sustainability & Research
- Professional Development
- Sustainable Initiatives and Environmental Activism
- Methods and Educational Practices
- Strategies and Tools

#### 7. Challenges for Developing countries

- Energy poverty
- The Informal City
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Affordable Construction and Architecture Strategies
- Urban Planning and Urban Design Policies for Sustainable Development
- Housing and urban Vulnerability





# **DORADOR** Keynote speaker

CHII F

**CRISTINA** 

Between July 2022 and July 2022 she served as a member of Chile's constitutional convention. She is currently back to teaching at the Universidad de Antofagasta.

Chilean scientist, doctor and politician who conducts research in microbiology, microbial ecology, limnology and geomicrobiology. She is also an associate professor in the Department of Biotechnology of the Faculty of Marine Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Antofagasta. From July 2021 to July 2022 she served as a member of the Constitutional Convention representing District No. 3, which represents the Antofagasta Region.

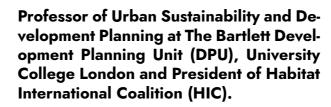
Her achievements include the coordination in Chile of the Extreme Environments Network for the study of ecosystems in the geographic extremes of Chile and having developed biotechnological tools to value the unique properties of some altiplanic

microbial communities such as resistance to ultraviolet radiation to elaborate cosmetic creams, joining the field of cosmetic Biotechnology. She has also led application projects such as the development of textile material using the photoprotective properties of altiplanic bacteria.

She was a member of the transition council of the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research in 2019 that gave rise to the National Agency for Research and Development of Chile, and has been recognized nationally and internationally as one of the most relevant researchers in Chile.



Keynote Speaker **ARGENTINA** 



Adriana has over 30 years of international experience in research, graduate teaching, advocacy and consulting in over 25 countries in the global South, she has specialized in the fields of development planning, socio-environmental justice and feminist political ecology.

She is currently President of Habitat International Coalition (HIC), as well as a regular advisor to UN agencies, positions from which she is actively engaged in promoting urban justice through advocacy and policy evidence, social learning and fostering international collaboration both within UCL and globally. Through the lens of risk, water and sanitation, land and housing, food and health, her work examines the interface between everyday city-making practices and planned interventions and their capacity to generate transformative social and environmental relations.

Adopting a feminist political ecology per-



spective, her work combines qualitative, digital/mapping, and visual research methods to decolonize urban planning practices and elucidate the "cracks" in which transformative planning can be reinvented, nurtured, and pursued. Her work focuses on three interrelated themes: urban justice, everyday city-making, and transformative planning. Over the years, she has worked at the interface between insurgent practices and planned interventions and their capacity to generate socio-environmentally just cities.

This work stems from her engagement with the analysis of governance approaches to address structural deficits at the interface between "policy-driven" and "needs-driven" approaches and emerging improvements at scale - in water and sanitation, as well as in other areas such as food security, land, housing and health. Since 2008, she has explored the intersection of urbanization and climate change, with a particular focus on the generation and distribution of risks, vulnerabilities and capacities for action in southern cities. A third strand of her research focuses on urban planning as a field of networked governance and pedagogical strategies to decolonize planning education and shape pathways for urban equality.





## Economist with a track record of more than 20 years working on the issues of slums, social housing and urban policy.

She is currently Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Lincoln Land Institute of Policy. She also serves as a member of the editorial board of Vivienda magazine of INFONAVIT - México. And previously she worked as a consultant on housing and urban development issues for the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank).

She worked in the Prefecture of São Paulo, supporting the Brazilian Ministry of Cities in the design and implementation of the Brazilian housing policy. She founded and served on the board of directors of the NGO INTER-AÇÃO, which supported the development of high-impact projects in communities in the state of São Paulo and Recife.

As a senior consultant to the World Bank. she provided technical assistance for the development and implementation of Brazilian housing policy and slum upgrading for 10 years, including two major programs: the "PAC Favelas" slum upgrading and the "Minha Casa, Minha Vida" housing subsidy.

## **ANACLAUDIA ROSSBACH**

Keynote speaker BRA7II

She acted as a senior specialist in social housing for the World Bank and other research and project organizations in Brazil and several countries around the world such as the Philippines, China, India, South Africa and Mozambique, among others.

She was Regional Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Cities of Alliance Global Informality Program where the exchange of experiences and knowledge through different networks was consolidated and structured.

The main achievements in Latin America are the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub (UHPH), which brings together practitioners and networks working in the field of social housing. In the global south, multi-sectoral and disciplinary communities of practice on the theme of slum upgrading in the global south with emphasis on the countries: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Paraguay, Brazil, South Africa and India.

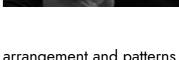


Keynote Speaker **ARGENTINA** 



He has been a visiting professor at several Colombian universities, as well as at world-renowned academic institutions such as Harvard, Columbia and Princeton, and is the first Colombian architect to have his works in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA) and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Giancarlo has more than 30 years of professional experience and his studio, El Equipo Mazzanti has gained notoriety due to its design philosophy based on modules and systems, which generate flexible elements capable of growing and adapting over time, seeking an architecture that is closer to the idea of strategy than to a finite and closed composition. The idea of architecture as an operation was born from exploring the different forms of material and spatial organization, considering concepts such as repetition, the indeterminate, the unfinished, instability,



arrangement and patterns.

Equipo Mazzanti also stands out for its research on play and its link to the world of architecture. It is precisely this interest in the play-architecture relationship that has led it to seek new collaborations with professionals from different areas of knowledge, finding new opportunities for cooperation and developing projects and exhibitions that have been presented throughout the world under the We play You play brand.

Social values are at the core of Mazzanti's architecture, who seeks to realize projects that give value to social transformations and build communities. He has dedicated his professional life to improving the quality of life through environmental design and to the idea of social equality.

His work has become a reflection of the current social changes occurring in Latin America and Colombia, demonstrating that good architecture manages to build new identities for cities, towns and inhabitants, transcending reputations of crime and poverty.



#### Waldo Bustamante

Mechanical Civil Engineer from the University of Chile. Master in Urban Development from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and PhD in Applied Sciences from Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urban Studies from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. Director of the Centre for Sustainable Urban Development (CEDEUS).



#### **Felipe Encinas**

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WILL CITIES SURVIVE?

ANALYSIS AND METHODS

## PLEA SANTIAGO 2022

Will Cities Survive?

# Green Infrastructure to reduce cooling loads and heat stress in Mediterranean Climates

A building simulation and machine learning approach

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ABSTRACT: Climate change impact on cities and urban warming due to anthropogenic effects are urgent problems to be solved. Among the most beneficious strategies to reduce those impacts we can account the development of green infrastructures in cities, a kind of intervention that assure both mitigation of global warming by reducing greenhouse gases emissions, and adaptation to warmer urban environments. This work presents a building simulation and machine learning methodology to estimate the energy and comfort-related benefits that can be obtained by using a green infrastructure to shadow buildings' façades and roofs. We used previously developed simulation models to test the energy savings provided by different types of trees planted to produce shadows on buildings. Then, we tested different algorithms to predict using a machine learning approach the saving that can be obtained in different buildings-trees contexts for the cities of Catania, Rome, Santiago de Chile and Viña del Mar. Results show that the saving obtained is in the range 5-60%, mainly depending on the number of façade shadowed and on the specie of trees; and the prediction accuracy of machine learning process is over 90% for a binary classification (energy saving > 15% or <15%).

KEYWORDS: Urban Heat Island, Urban Climate, Green Infrastructure, Building Performance Simulation, Machine Learning

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

During the last decades, global warming and land use change have intensified the urban heat stress condition, affecting energy loads of buildings and both indoor and outdoor thermal conditions. The problem is so deep that in 2021 the world experimented the record temperatures of 48.5 Celsius degrees in Canada during the summer and peaks of 29 Celsius degrees in central Chile in the middle of the winter season. Scientific community is agreeing that urgent measures should be taken to mitigate the global warming and the urban heat island (UHI) phenomenon. At the same time, there is an urgent need to develop adaptation strategies to face warmer environments, including nature-based solutions to restore ecological services in cities and reduce the probability of heat stress under heat waves [1]. Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategy to achieve these goals, and has more benefits such as CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, reduction of flood damages, visual and acoustical better environment, biodiversity development. Many authors assessed in the past the possible reduction in UHI intensity provided by trees and vegetal surfaces [2-3]. The influence of trees on indoor thermal environment has also been assessed by various studies [4-5]. In previous works, authors established a strategy to simulate not only theoretical solutions, but real

configurations of trees-buildings relations, depending on availability of space in case studies sectors placed in Mediterranean climates [6]. Mediterranean climates are normally located between 30 and 45 degrees of latitude in both hemispheres, covering the Mediterranean Sea basin, the South and North America Pacific coasts, and small parts of Australia and South Africa (figure 1) [7].

Figure 1:

Mediterranean climates and cities considered in this study



Machine learning (ML), a branch of artificial intelligence that learn from a set of data to do a prediction or a classification of new configurations performance, has been used to predict the energy loads reduction in summer and the indoor heat stress probability, with the objective to help urban

planners in deciding where to place the GI considering the global cost-benefits results [8].

In this work, the methodology developed in previous works is applied to the cases of Rome, Catania, Santiago de Chile and Viña del Mar, evaluating the capability of GI to reduce cooling loads and indoor heat stress as well as the accuracy of ML process to predict the results for new cases.

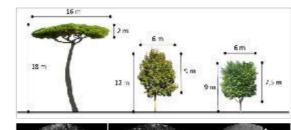
#### 2. METHODOLOGY

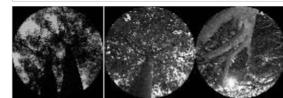
To establish the capability of a GI to reduce cooling loads and heat stress probability, we followed a three steps methodology. Firstly, some real case studies has been considered (Catania, Roma, Santiago de Chile, and Viña del Mar) and a classification of effective building-trees configurations has been obtained. This process includes the identification of typical urban morphologies and buildings' shapes and design of linear GI configurations to be placed to an appropriate distance from the building's façades.

Secondly, the interaction building-trees has been modelled by using shadow masks in TRNSYS Studio version 17. The trees are represented as simplified solar shadow elements with a permeability to sunlight obtained by field assessment using fish-eye images and Gap Light Analyzer (GLA) software to process the radiation data [9]. Finally, a set of simulations was run out to obtain the base case (without trees) and the configuration performance. Buildings were modelled in TRANSBUILD type of TRNSYS and simulation was run with TRNSYS Studio.

Once obtained the simulation results, a ML technique was developed to predict the cooling load and the probability of heat stress occurrence for new configurations. We tested different algorithms to obtain two different classifications: one with a single value (15% energy saving and heat stress probability reduction) and the other with a five categories strategy to indicate the estimated amount of reduction obtained with the GI.

Figure 2:
Trees' morphology and solar permeability





Simulations were done in Mediterranean climates, characterized by slightly different behaviour determined by latitude and coast distance: Catania (Mediterranean semi-arid, on the Mediterranean Sea), Rome (Mediterranean, at 20 km from the Mediterranean Sea), Santiago de Chile (Mediterranean-continental, at 100 km from the Pacific Ocean), and Valparaiso-Viña del Mar (Mediterranean semi-arid, on the Pacific Ocean).

Weather files for selected locations have been obtained from the webpage climate.onebuilding.org [10,11] and modified by using Urban Weather Generator (UWG) tool to consider the urban heat island effect of the sectors. UWG tool was developed by Bueno et al. [12] and updated several times to improve accuracy of the prediction [13,14]. It was tested in different climates [15,16,17] locations and permits to realize parametric studies on the influence of urban form on microclimate.

UWG needs for many inputs for running. Most important are: inputs on urban morphology (as built up area, façade to site ratio, average building height, green areas, albedo values for all surfaces, anthropogenic heat production in the urban sector). Here we focused on morphological parameters to generate the representative urban weather file. Anthropogenic heat and albedo values have been left as a fixed value across the cases.

Urban heat island intensity has been found to be higher in Santiago than in the other cases. The phenomenon is positive at night and slightly negative during the day. Table 1 resumes the parameters values used for UWG simulations and table 2 shows the max and min values of UHI intensity for all locations.

**Table 1:**Parameters used in UWG simulation

Location	Built	Fac.	Н	Green
Location	Area	ratio	(m)	Area
Tor Bella Monaca	0.11	2.64	24	0.25
Casale Caletto	0.12	0.62	15	0.08
Trimesteri Etneo	0.19	0.88	12	0.05
Les Condes	0.15	0.73	15	0.27
Benidorm	0.07	0.36	12	0.24
	0.20	0., 0		0.2.

**Table 2:** *UHI intensity for locations studied* 

Max UHI	Min UHI
3.7	-1.0
2.4	0.6
2.8	-1.1
6.1	-1.5
2.0	-0.4
	3.7 2.4 2.8 6.1

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#### 2.1 Selection of urban compounds

Urban compounds to be studied were selected among urban development sectors since the '60 decade until today in Rome (Tor Bella Monaca and Casale Caletto), Catania (Tremesteri Etneo), Santiago de Chile (Las Condes) and Viña del Mar (Benidorm). The analysis conducted on the sectors leaded to the selection of 40 specific configurations, considering the availability of space to plant trees, the building morphology and the green areas already present in the sector (figures 3-7).

Casale Caletto compound and configurations analysed

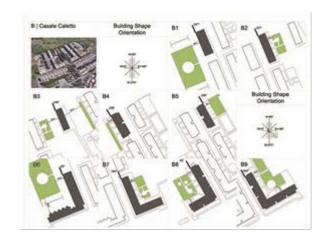
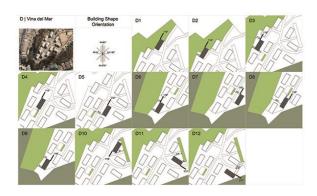


Figure 4: Benidorm compound and configurations analysed



Las Condes compound and configurations analysed



Figure 6: Tor Bella Monaca compound and configurations analysed

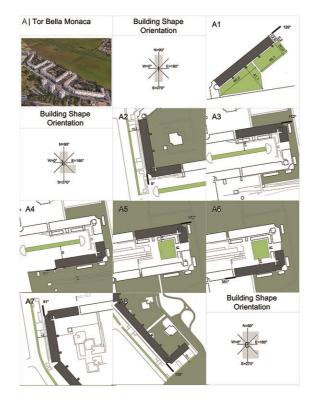
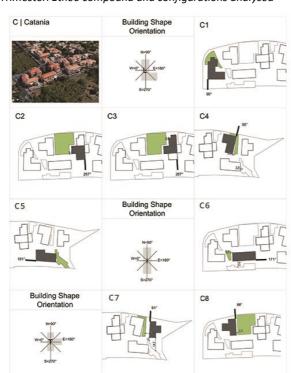


Figure 7: Trimesteri Etneo compound and configurations analysed



#### 2.2 Simulations of cooling loads

To simulate the cooling loads, buildings of selected compounds were firstly grouped in standard types by plan shape. We used "T", "C", "L" and "I" typical shapes. Each shape has its standardized dimensions and internal distributions. Figure 8 shows the plan shape of typical buildings. Figure 8:

Standard building shapes considered in this study



Simulations consider standard materials used in Mediterranean climates, with solar absorptions and thermal transmittances for walls and roofs resumed in table 3. Windows to wall ratio depends on the building form, as shown in table 4. For all cases, radiation control was considered to simulate the use of blinds or other internal system. Table 5 shows operational settings used.

Table 3: Envelope values for all buildings

Element	Constructio n	Thermal transmittanc e (W/m²K)	Solar absorptio n or g- value windows	
Walls	Bricks - XPS	0.56	0.60	
Flat roofs	Conc XPS	0.32	0.60	
Window	Alum. single	5.80	0.86	

Windows to wall ratios for building tyipes

Shape	Floor	Window/wall	Window/wall
	surface	ratio main fac	ratio other
T	480 m <sup>2</sup>	20%	7%
С	800 m <sup>2</sup>	20%	20%
T	400 m <sup>2</sup>	20%	15%
L	528 m <sup>2</sup>	20%	20%

Table 5: Operational settings used in the study

Description	Schedule or control	Value
Light gains	18-22 h	5 W/m <sup>2</sup>
Cooling set point	0-24 h	26 °C
People	0-24 h	1 met
Occupancy	0-24 h	50 m <sup>2</sup> /p
Solar shading open	120 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.0
Solar shading closed	140 W/m <sup>2</sup>	0.4

In TRNSYS, shadows are simulated as geometrical masks obtained by projecting the inclination angle for minimum and maximum solar incidence on each floor. The point to see the sky or the tree was set into the middle of the façade (figure 9). Equations (1)-(6) show the calculation procedure to obtain the inclination angles.

$$lpha_{min} = arctan \frac{a_{min}}{b}$$

$$(1)$$
 $lpha_{max} = arctan \frac{a_{max}}{c}$ 

$$(2)$$

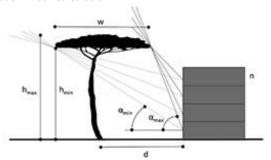
$$a_{\min(n)} = h_{min} - [1.5 + 3 \times (n-1)]$$
 (3)

$$a_{\max(n)} = h_{\max} - [1.5 + 3 \times (n-1)]$$
 (4)

$$b = d + \frac{w}{2}$$
(5)

$$c = d - \frac{w}{2} \tag{6}$$

Figure 9: Shadow mask calculation



#### 2.3 Machine Learning

Once obtained simulation results, a machine learning strategy was developed to predict, based on certain numbers of predictors, the final cooling load reduction that can be reached by planning trees in a determined configuration. As a continuous prediction of cooling load is difficult to be obtained, we developed a classification method to divide the configurations in categories. In a first attempt, we used a 15% of reduction in cooling load as the threshold value to be used. In a more interesting attempt, we established five ranges: very low saving (0-5%), low saving (5-15%), medium saving (15-25%), high saving (25-35%) and very high saving (more than 35%). We used different algorithms to predict the results: Loess, Random Forst, KNN, GLM and a combination (ensemble) of all them. Respect to predictors, we used: climate classification, type of urban environment, altitude, latitude, sea distance, number of floors, number of facades on shadow, plan shape, orientation, distance, and tree species.

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#### 3. RESULTS

Simulation results show that the energy savings that can be reached in summertime are in a range 2-60%. Figure 9 resumes the values for 120 simulations (40 representative configurations, 3 species of trees). Figure 10 shows the average savings obtained by location, divided by tree species.

Figure 9: Base case and improved case (with trees) cooling loads

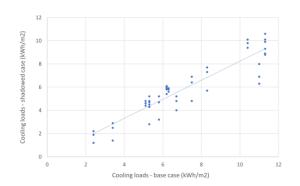
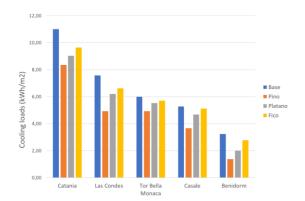


Figure 10: Average cooling loads by location and tree specie



Looking at figure 10, it is immediate to notice that Benidorm has a summertime energy demand quite lower than other cases, around 2-3 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. In the sectors of Rome, cooling loads of the base case are around 5-6 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> year, while in Santiago loads are around 6-8 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> year. The hottest location is Catania, with summer cooling loads of 10-11 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. Influence of Pacific Ocean's breeze and latitude are the most relevant factors for this.

If the savings over 45% belongs to the case of Benidorm, where cooling loads are low even without shading, the range 2-45% apply to all studied cases. There is a big difference among 2% or 45% of cooling load reduction. So, it is interesting to understand which are the most influencing factors that explain these results.

Among the cases studied, Tor Bella Monaca is clearly the case more difficult to be shadowed. This is obvious because of the number of floors (8) of

buildings in this sector, compared with the others (5-4 floors). West façades are confirmed as important façades to be shadowed, and "I" buildings are detected as easier to be shadowed respect other shapes buildings. The case of Santiago is particularly interesting because of the UHI intensity of the

Green infrastructure can be used as a mitigation/adaptation strategy to reduce the impact of urban heat in the city. Table 6 resumes the number of cases analysed and the performance achieved in a 5-categories classification.

Classification of cooling reduction in 5 categories

	Very	Low	Medium	High	Very
Location	low				high
Bella		7	1	0	
Monaca	3	-	_	_	1
					_
Casale	2	14	8	0	6
Trimesteri	1	5	3	1	2
Les Condes	0	11	5	9	5
Benidorm	0	2	12	10	12
TOTAL	_	39	29	20	26
CASES	6				26

More than the half of cases have a result higher than 15% reduction in cooling loads, confirming the findings of previous studies [18]. More than one third of the cases present a saving higher than 25% of cooling loads reduction. This allows stakeholders to invest in green infrastructure projects, whit a return of investment guaranteed in a relatively short time lapse.

Machine learning resulted to be guite accurate, achieving the extraordinary result of a 96% of accuracy in a binary categorization process. While a 5-categories classification is required, the accuracy is quite lower but still acceptable for the ensemble of

Among algorithms, best results are achieved by the ensemble and by random forest procedure. Random forest is particularly interesting because the output information includes the priority of predictors, putting in evidence that the number of façades on shadow is the key factor to predict the performance. This result is perfectly in accordance with previous studies [19] and with our interpretation of simulation results. The algorithm used the predictor "number of façades on shadow" in the first places of the decision tree, followed by "tree specie", "distance from the sea", "altitude", and "distance from the façade".

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This paper showed how the development of a green infrastructure can help to prevent overheating in buildings and to reduce energy use for cooling during summertime in Mediterranean climates. This benefit must be accounted in a general analysis to establish the convenience to plant trees in urban environments. Green areas has certainly some costs, due to maintenance, water consumption and the process of planting, however the benefits in terms of several ecosystem services provided to the inhabitants shows that the development of a green infrastructure is almost always convenient.

Building performance simulation can be used as a part of the cost-benefit accounting in establishing where to place a green intervention. Machine learning processes can be useful to reduce time to be spent in simulations, allowing technicians to quickly obtain a first assessment of the convenience of the trees under an energy use point of view.

Future works will regard the simulation of different macroclimatic locations, where other factors take more importance: seasonality, heating loads increase, water needs for trees, among others.

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Will Cities Survive?

## Comparative analysis of Viçosa's weather files

### Simulation adequacy for urban microclimate

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ABSTRACT: A microclimate denotes the distinctive climatic conditions within a few meters of a given point. The anthropogenic heat, ground cover, surrounding vegetation, shading, and &c. contribute to thermal comfort level variations within buildings and present prospects and obstacles analogized to the macro and mesoclimatic scales. In this sense, it is essential to determine the fittest weather file for building simulations to reduce propagating errors. Therefore, this study's scope was to appraise four different weather files (TMY3 and Multiyear datasets), relying on indoor and outdoor surveyed and simulated dry-bulb temperature (DBT) and relative humidity (RH) for two institutional buildings in Viçosa, Brazil (20.75° S, 42.88° W), microclimateaffected and not. We pre-selected the best datasets collecting EnergyPlus' Site Outdoor Air DBT and RH outputs and comparing them with outdoor surveyed DBT and RH, later adopting the most representative weather files for indoor simulations. We concluded that the TMY3 file conveyed the best overall results and the lowest Root-Mean-Square Error (RMSE) for RH in microclimate conditions. At the same time, the Multi3Y-High showed better temperature results for the anthropogenic-affected building. Therefore, if pre-testing a weather file is not an option, we indicated TMY3 as the best dataset.

KEYWORDS: On-site survey, Building Simulation, Root-Mean-Square Error, Weather File.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

A microclimate is a local set of atmospheric conditions that differ from its surrounding area in outdoor air temperature variations, surface temperatures, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction [1], [2]. Anthropogenic heat, evaporation, evapotranspiration, trees shading, and ground cover can modify latent heat exchange between buildings and the outdoors in urban areas, heavily influencing thermal comfort levels inside buildings.

The outdoor climate directly relates to indoor air quality and thermal comfort. Analyzing its relationship with building thermal environmental performance, solar access, and ventilation is a primary research goal on microclimate that will reproduce miscalculations when overlooked [3].

Access to accurate weather data denotes a barrier to more assertive analyzes of the local climate. Meteorological conditions in simulations rely upon data from weather stations, which are typically secluded. Moreover, this data is usually averaged over several years, masking the effect of the urban surroundings and possible site-specific characteristics [2].

Building simulation is a leading method for predicting interactions between indoors and outdoors. Few studies established generic models based on field surveys and statistical analyses, preventing oversimplification. For instance, Scheller

et al. [3] compared three different weather files using dry-bulb and dew-point temperature and global and diffuse horizontal irradiance for 15 Brazilian cities, concluding that most analyzed weather files were precise but not.

Toparlar et al. [1] performed building energy analysis in Antwerp for microclimate simulation and characterization. Results showed higher average air temperatures at urban sites away from the park, with 13.9% less cooling demand near the park.

Hence, this study appraised the application of four different weather files (TMY3, Multi3Year-Low, Medium, and High) [4] through surveyed indoor and outdoor data for two similar adjacent institutional buildings in Viçosa, Brazil (20.75° S, 42.88° W), with differing surrounding conditions and microclimates. Our main goal was to pre-select the fittest weather file for microclimate assessment, analyzing its suitability when comparing collected dry-bulb temperature (DBT) and relative humidity (RH) with weather file data and later simulating and comparing indoor DBT and RH with surveyed indoor information.

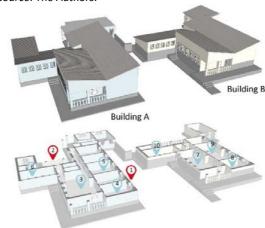
#### 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

According to the Köppen classification, Viçosa is warm and temperate (Cwa) with hot and humid summers and cool to mild winters. Both elected buildings (Fig. 01) are part of Universidade Federal de

Viçosa's Psychosocial Division (20.75° S, 42.88° W).

The buildings were originally designed as housing complexes for university educators and later converted into office spaces and psychological and psychiatric care. Both buildings are one-story, butterfly-roofed, and naturally ventilated. Building A is 155m<sup>2</sup>, and building B is 129m<sup>2</sup>. Building A presents an explicit microclimate caused by a mass of vegetation that provides shading and evapotranspiration, wind exposure, and surrounding lawn (lower ground temperatures and albedo, and constant irrigation). Conversely, building B is in-between constructions, anthropogenic-influenced (higher surrounding surface temperatures and albedo).

Figure 1: Building configuration and data logger's placement. Source: The Authors.



Note: red markers represent outdoor loggers, while blue represents indoor surveyed points.

We scrutinized indoor/outdoor walls, partitions, and roofing materials during the cataloging and field survey stage, adopting Weber et al.'s [5] equivalent reference models and construction layers and NBR 15.220-2's [6] material properties.

Table 1 shows the adopted building layers, thicknesses (Thk), transmittances (Ut), and thermal capacities (Ct). The material layers appear from the exterior to the interior, following EnergyPlus construction inputs. We also considered outdoor thermal absorptance of 0.40 for building A and 0.30 for building B (light blue and yellow) [6].

We collected indoor and outdoor DBT and RH in the Southern summer period from February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>. 2020, using HOBO data loggers (HOBO/ONSET U12 Temp/RH/Light) recording every minute. However, we only considered data between March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> due to the uncommon intense precipitation until March 7<sup>th</sup>. We also surveyed daily occupation patterns, users, electromechanical equipment, and natural conditioning tactics and modeled 10 thermal zones for building A and 8 compatible zones for building B since building A has an additional office space and aisle. The building calibration applied the uncertainty analysis procedure [7], considering varying occupancy and equipment loads.

We selected four comparable spaces (Fig. 01) to place the data loggers (points 3 and 7 are receptions; 4, 5, 8, and 9 are office spaces; 6 and 10 are cookrooms) and two outdoor locations (point 1 and 2), one microclimate-affected (point 2) and one not (point 1). Point 1 is in-between buildings and presents higher neighboring surface temperatures and albedo, while point 2 is wind-exposed and vegetation-affected.

We divided the methodology into two branches. Section one concerns outdoor surveyed DBT and RH comparison with four standard weather files: TMY3, Multi3Year-Low, Medium, and High [4]<sup>1</sup>; i.e., TMY3 (Typical Meteorological Year) is similar to a TRY (Test Reference Year) weather file that summarizes monthly data from different years to compile an artificial climate year [4]; the Multi3Year method presents a year with low temperature and radiation values (Multi3Y-Low), a year with high values (Multi3Y-High), and an average year (Multi3Y-Medium). Normally, simulations applying Multiyear files run several times, according to compiled data. However, we use the Multi3Y-Low, Medium, and High separately to reduce computational demand.

Section one applies EnergyPlus's Site Outdoor Air DBT and RH outputs for comparing simulated and surveyed data.

Table 1:

Building c	omponents for wall	s and roof.	Source: Th	e Authors.					
-	indoor/outdoor	walls and p	artitions			1	oof		_
orick 9 cm	material	Thk cm	Ut W/m²°C	Ct KJ/m²°C	slab	material	Thk cm	Ut W/m²°C	Ct KJ/m²°C
e hollow bri : 14x19x19 cı	outdoor plaster	0.25	1.83	11	ete	fiber cement	0.80		
	ceramic	1.65			ncr	sheet	0.80		
	air chamber	10.70			11	8	air chamber	0.25	2.06
9-hole block	ceramic	1.65				1	solid		10.00
9 <u>1</u>	indoor plaster	0.25			SS	concrete	10.00		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Guimarães [4] created all four files using climatic data from UFV's

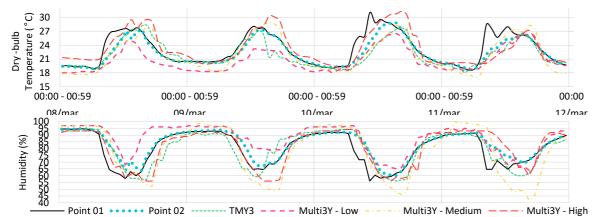
Laboratório de Tecnologias em Conforto Ambiental e Eficiência Energética - LATECAE/UFV provides said files.

automatic weather station, assembled by INMET [7]. Also, the

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Figure 2: DBT and RH on Point 01, Point 02, TMY3, Multi3Y-Low, Medium, and High from March 8th to 12th. Source: The Authors.



We selected TMY3 and Multi3Year files considering that the Multi3Year offers the most reliable simulation results for Viçosa, Brazil [4] but presents high computational costs, while TMY3 shows promising results with a single simulation.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (simulated_i - surveyed_i)^2}{N}}$$
 (1)

RMSE - Root-Mean-Square Error simulated; - predicted/simulation values surveyed<sub>i</sub> - surveyed data N - total number of observations

For comparing the outdoor measured data, we adapted a methodology that assesses the highest overall variable (DBT or RH), the daily highest, the overall mean, the daily lowest, and the overall low, over a defined period (5 days) assembled into a boxplot graph [3]. We also applied the Root-Mean-Square Error (RMSE) "Equation (1)" to select the weather file representing the outdoor DBT and RH

Section two comprised the simulation process for both buildings using the best weather files selected in section one for each situation. We adopted EnergyPlus' Zone Air Temperature and Relative Humidity and compared the simulation results with indoor surveyed data for points 3 to 6 (building A) and 7 to 10 (building B). We reassessed the methodology adopted in section one, calculating the RMSE and presenting results as boxplot graphs.

#### 3. RESULTS

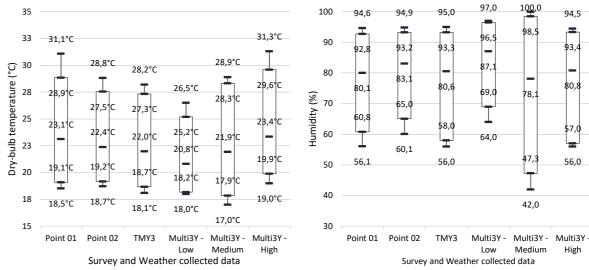
Fig. 2 shows the DBT and RH for the surveyed data (points 1 and 2) and weather files TMY3, Multi3Y-Low, Medium, and High from March 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. For point 1, we observe that the highest discrepancy occurs with Multi3Y-Low with an overall RMSE of 3.05 for the temperature plot (Table2) due to the closeness with sun-exposed walls, concrete slabs, and other human-made materials. Higher surface temperatures influence immediate air temperatures, and consequently, weather files with lower temperatures should show higher dissimilarities.

Table 2: DBT (first section) and RH (second section) percent divergencies for survey data and weather files. Source: The Authors.

	Point 1 x TMY3	Point 1 x Multi3Y-L	Point 1 x Multi3Y- M	Point 1 x Multi3Y-H	Point 2 x TMY3	Point 2 x Multi3Y-L	Point 2 x Multi3Y- M	Point 2 x Multi3Y-H
Min. DBT	2.27%	2.81%	8.21%	2.58%	3.26%	3.79%	9.13%	1.56%
Mean Min. DBT	2.18%	4.80%	6.50%	4.23%	2.62%	5.22%	6.92%	3.77%
Mean DBT	4.88%	9.93%	5.10%	1.06%	1.73%	6.94%	1.96%	4.41%
Mean Max. DBT	5.29%	12.66%	1.83%	2.59%	0.81%	8.52%	2.82%	7.45%
Max. DBT	9.28%	14.75%	7.02%	0.70%	2.14%	8.04%	0.29%	8.62%
Min. RH	0.17%	14.10%	25.12%	0.17%	6.86%	6.44%	30.15%	5.86%
Mean Min. RH	4.54%	13.56%	22.24%	6.19%	10.78%	6.14%	27.32%	12.32%
Mean RH	0.62%	8.76%	2.39%	0.92%	3.03%	4.81%	5.93%	2.74%
Mean Max. DBT	0.52%	4.02%	6.18%	0.66%	0.01%	3.49%	5.64%	0.14%
Max. DBT	0.39%	2.50%	5.67%	0.14%	0.14%	2.25%	5.41%	0.38%
		1			1 . 6 .			

Note: Colors represent deviation between the selected points and weather data. Colors closer to saturated green have smaller deviations, while the opposite is true for red. Comparisons between same DBT and RH (same line) classifications work best.

Figure 3: Overall max, daily highs, overall means, daily lows, and overall low DBT and RH comparison. Source: The Authors.



Note: Information is according to headline, from top to bottom (overall max, daily highs, overall means, daily lows, and overall low).

The disparity happens due to a difference in the max temperatures of about 14.75%, which corresponds to almost 5°C dissonance (Table 2 and Fig. 3). For the RH analysis, the highest differences occur with Multi3Y-Medium, with humidity values 25% lower and an RMSE of 11.59.

Still, for point 1, the best results indicate Multi3Y-High as the fittest weather file for DBT and TMY3 for RH. primarily due to the immediacy of human-made materials. However, RH in the Multi3Y-High is also very representative, with only a few divergencies compared to the TMY3. Fig. 3 shows the parallelism between point 1 and Multi3Y-High with maximum differences of 0.8°C.

For point 2, the highest DBT divergencies also occur with the Multi3Y-Low, but with an RMSE of 1.80. Daily highs differ at 3.7°C, which corresponds to an 8.52% incongruency that is still very representative, surpassing some point 1 survey/weather data percentages. For the RH analysis, the discrepancy also occurs with Multi3Y-Medium, with RH values 30.1% lower and an RMSE of 11.31 (still lower than the RMSE for RH in point 1, which can correlate to the surrounding vegetation, evapotranspiration, shading, and irrigation).

0.2°C, and the highest variance is between the minimums with 0.6°C (Table 2 and Fig. 3). TMY3, Multi3Y-Low, and Multi3Y-High are comparable for RH, with a 4% humidity discrepancy at maximum. However, Multi3Y-Low should not apply due to the DBT divergence discussed above. Highlighting, according to França, Silva, and Carlo

The highest Point 2 similarities for DBT are with

TMY3, with an RMSE of 2.21. Daily highs differ only

[9], and Guimarães [4], simulations with TMY3 already presented lower statistical deviations, while Multi3Y-Low had higher RMSE.

We employed the TMY3 and the Multi3Y-High (single simulation with no Medium and Low data) as weather files for both buildings based on the abovementioned results. Since building A is microclimate-affected (and therefore closer to point 2 results), we hypothesize that TMY3 would perform better, while Multi3Y-High (most similar to point 1 result, susceptible to building shading, surrounding impermeable paving, and wind-sheltered) would be the fittest for building B.

Table 3 shows the RMSE for the selected thermal zones in both buildings. For building A, all RMSEs (DBT and RH) are lower for the TMY3 file.

ndoor DBT and RH RMSE for each survey/simulation point. Source: The Authors.									
			RMSE 1	for DBT			RMSE	for RH	
Build. A	File	Point 3	Point 4	Point 5	Point 6	Point 3	Point 4	Point 5	Point 6
	TMY3	1.41	1.56	1.38	3.23	1.79	1.51	2.39	1.02
	Multi3Y-High	2.15	2.51	2.00	4.33	5.91	7.76	6.20	21.29
	File	Point 7	Point 8	Point 9	Point 10	Point 7	Point 8	Point 9	Point 10
Build. B	TMY3	1.27	1.21	1.47	2.38	7.84	8.04	11.08	12.71
ш	Multi3Y-High	0.80	0.93	1.37	2.37	7.14	7.48	9.91	11.84

Note: abbreviations stand for: (Build.) building. The lowest RMSEs are highlighted in green.

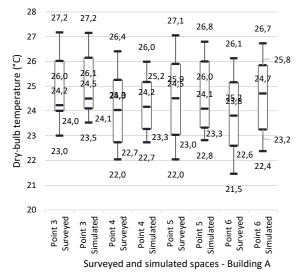
Figure 4:

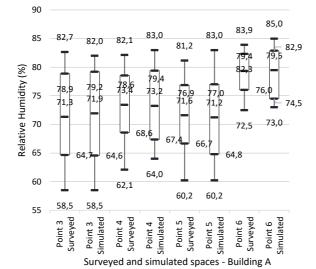
Table 3:

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Indoor overall max, daily highs, overall means, daily lows, and overall low DBT and RH for Building A. Source: The Authors.





The highest discrepancy for DBT is in point 6, the cook-room, which we consider a possible modeling issue due to the surrounding vegetation evapotranspiration (not included in EnergyPlus modeling file). For the best-represented space (point 5), the temperature differed 0.3°C at most; for point 6, temperatures differed 0.9°C.

Even though the Multi3Y-High performed worse than the former, RMSE is not among the worst results (up to a 9.0 RMSE for other weather files).

For the same building, the RH simulation using the TMY3 showed the best congruency in all results; principally considering the proximity of the survey dates to a cold front and the lack of evapotranspiration simulation. The most divergent space is point 5, with an RMSE of 2.39 and RH values 1.9% lower (Fig. 4).

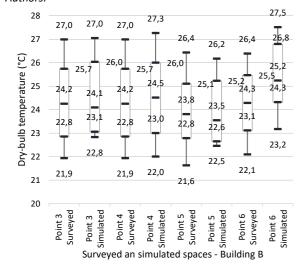
As we anticipated, the Multi3Y-High presents the

best results for building B. The DBT RMSE is the best amongst all simulations with the highest deviation on point 10 (also representing a cook-room in the same orientation as point 6). Due to the low RMSE, air temperatures only vary between 0.2 and 0.4°C (Fig. 5).

However, the RH analysis shows high RMSE for the file mentioned above and even higher deviations for the TMY3. We deduce that, even though the weather file represents accurate air temperatures, surface temperatures, wind speed, and wind direction, it does not account for the foliage specificities and anthropogenic irrigation of the

We also point out that we only considered vegetation as shading geometry, not accounting for evapotranspiration, which could increase RH values.

Indoor overall max, daily highs, overall means, daily lows, and overall low DBT and RH comparison for Building B. Source: The Authors.



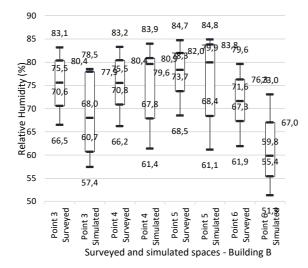


Fig. 4 and 5 show simulated results as lower than surveyed data, corroborating our analysis for both RH simulation values.

Persistently, point 10 (cook-room) showed higher deviations with an RMSE of 11.84 for building B, corresponding to 9% to 12% lower RH values, which could be due to the surveyed dates being right after a cold front with a high precipitation rate.

Since the TMY3 simulations showed the best overall results, we appoint the file as a standard selection for urban spaces, microclimate-affected or not, in Viçosa, Brazil. Even though a traditional Multiyear approach would perform one simulation for each file, we consider Multi3Y-High a possible selection for buildings in urban spaces, especially when away from vegetation (since humidity values are even lower than the TMY3), wind-sheltered spaces, and impermeable ground cover. We also point out that building A showed the best overall results because its surroundings were similar to Viçosa's weather station (approximately 1.5 km from the selected buildings and distant from anthropogenic interventions), which culminates in weather data more suitable for microclimateaffected spaces.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

This paper presented a process for selecting, analyzing, and adopting a correct weather file (among TMY3, Multi3Y-Low, Medium, and High) for microclimate and anthropogenic-influenced buildings and urban sites considering single simulation procedures for saving computational time and demand.

We selected two institutional office buildings in Viçosa, Brazil, with similar floorplans but distinct surrounding conditions for surface temperatures, humidity through evapotranspiration and irrigation, and wind exposure.

We performed indoor and outdoor on-site DBT and RH surveys, adopting the outdoor data for the weather file analysis and pre-selection. After conducting the RMSE calculations, we pre-elected the TMY3 and the Multi3Y-High as the fittest datasets.

The TMY3 presented the best overall results and the lowest RMSEs for humidity in microclimate conditions. The Multi3Y-High showed better temperature results for the building with less surrounding vegetation but failed to represent the surveyed RH with an RMSE from 7.14 to 11.84, a 12% discrepancy between surveyed and simulated data.

Prevailing, building A had better results due to the Viçosa's weather station's location, heavily vegetated, near water bodies, and away from anthropogenic interventions, influencing the

weather datasets and creating biased weather files that best represent microclimate-affected spaces.

Therefore, we demonstrate that the TMY3 and the Multi3Y-High present good results for both cases among the four weather files. The former bestrepresenting RH for microclimate-affected spaces and the latter DBT for urban spaces. Finally, if pretesting a weather file is not an option or computational demand is a limitation, we favor TMY3 as the most promising dataset since it does not require multiple simulations and presents the allaround lowest divergences.

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