Best Practices for HVAC Systems in Cold Climates

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https://uaf.edu/cfos/academics/courses/distance-learning-opportu/



Resiliency

- The ability for a commercial building to withstand an interruption in the function of the heating system
 - Rate of temperature degradation with time
 - High/Low resiliency based on building construction and system design

Alaska, 1989

- 2 week sustained cold snap
- -65F temperatures
- Building maintenance measures
- Monitoring cost
- Building damage

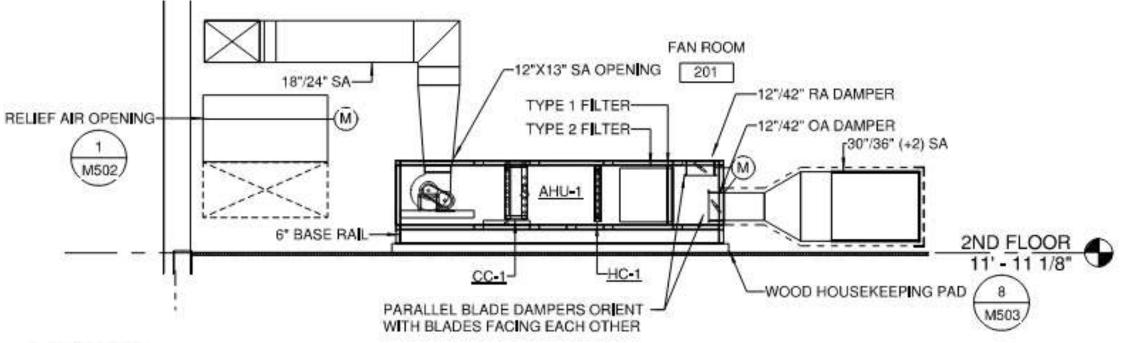


Heating Plants

- Hydronic heating
 - Improved comfort
 - Better heat transfer medium compared to air
- Fuel Oil Cast Iron Sectional Boilers
- Natural Gas Condensing Boilers
- District Steam
 - Steam to glycol shell and tube heat exchanger

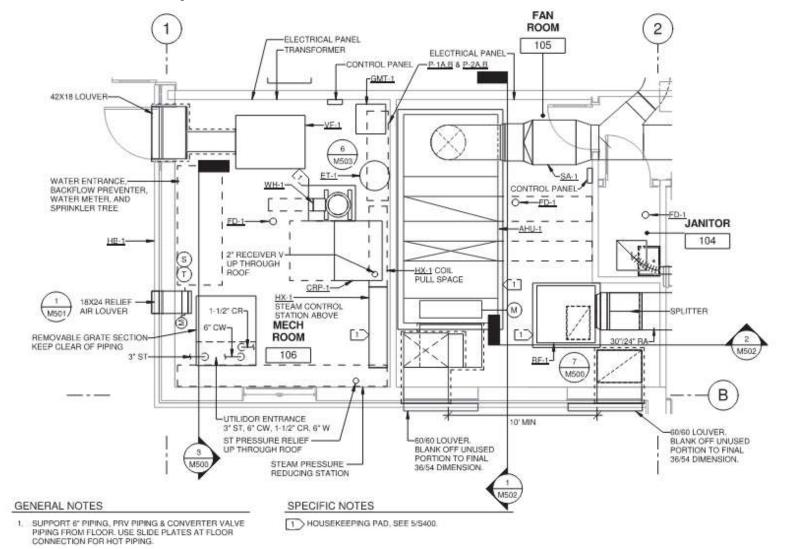
Mechanical Space in the Building Footprint

- Consider the location of AHU
 - Fan room
 - Rooftop with heated vestibule



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Mechanical Spaces





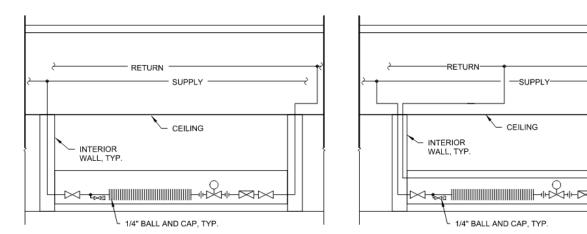
Heating Systems

- Glycol performance de-rate and wetted surfaces must be rated for use with % glycol
- Partially or fully redundant equipment
- Multiple heat sources
- Critical infrastructure: N+1 levels of redundancy at all levels of the building systems
- Coordinate building envelope and heat load



Finned Tube Radiators

- Most economical first cost
- Flexible for future remodels
- High output with 180F heating system fluid
- Piping is accessible
- Concern with furniture placement
- Aesthetic concerns
- Lower resiliency compared to radiant slab

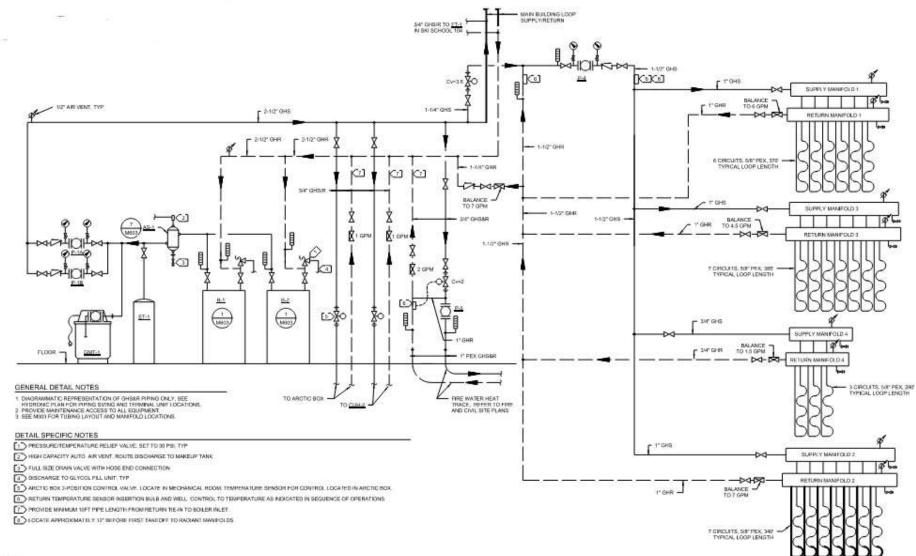




Radiant Slab

- Performs well on thermal degradation tests
- Comfortable heat for occupants
- Flexibility limited
- Careful considering for manifold locations
- Return water temperature
- Slower response time
- May need backup heat source for pickup load

Radiant System





Radiant Tubing Installation

Humidification System Design

ELECTRODE CANISTER





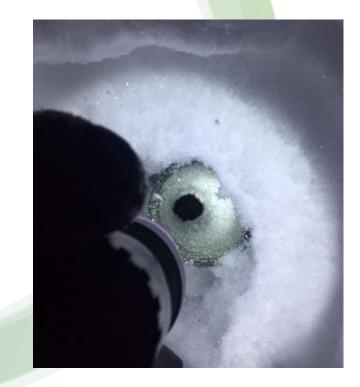




www.armstronginternational.com/sites/default/files/resources/documents/steamtosteam.pdf

Plumbing Systems

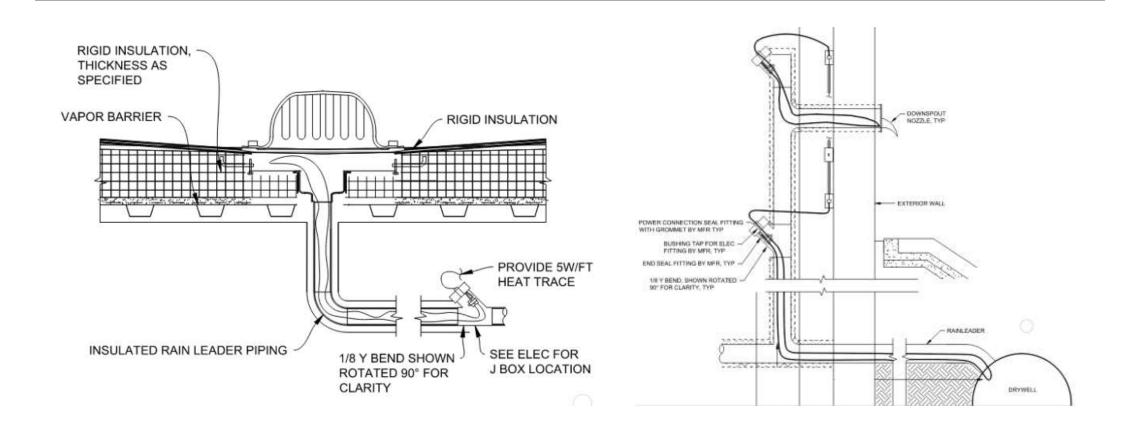
- Route through interior walls or fur out exterior walls
- VTR sizing
- Freeze risks in Mechanical Rooms
- Roof drain and overflow heat trace
- Shoulder season issues



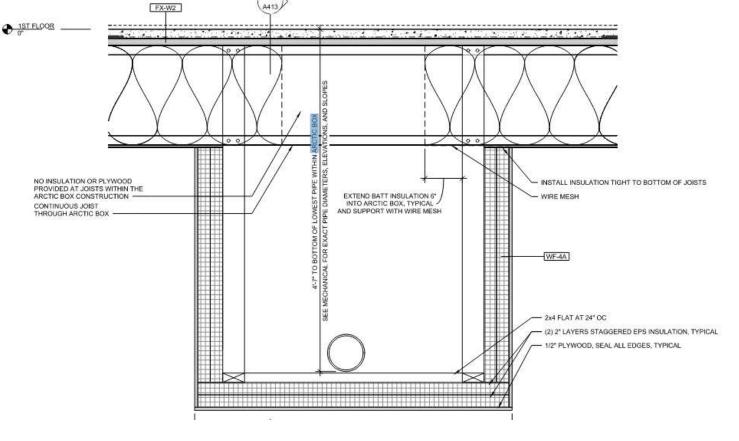


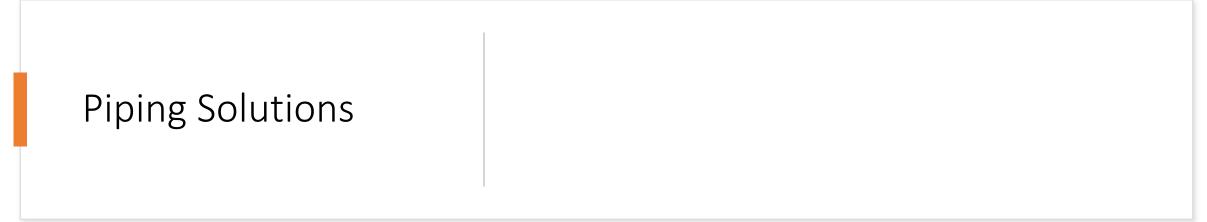


Heat Trace









Glacier Formations





Glaciers

Remote Sites

- Preventative Maintenance
 Programs
- Maintenance guide on site and updated regularly
- Improved documentation
- Redundancy
- Stock spare parts
- Robust building envelope



The *Right* Approach

Consider the building function

Anticipated maintenance capabilities

Future of the building

Cost constraints

THANK YOU

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