

# Exploring Novice Approaches to Smartphone-based Thermographic Energy Auditing: A Field Study

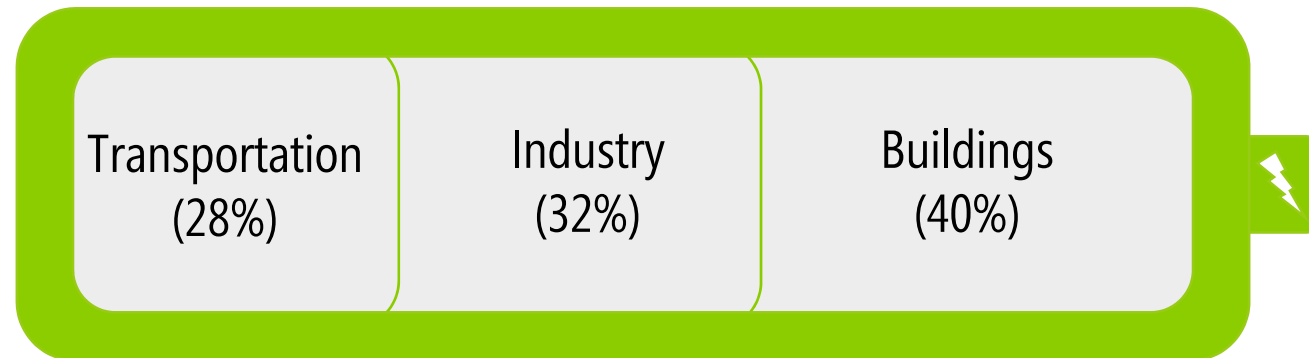
Matthew Louis Mauriello, Manaswi Saha, Erica Brown, Jon E. Froehlich

Makeability Lab | Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL)  
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University of Maryland, College Park

CHI2017, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017



What does energy use look like in the United States. ?



Most (95%) of building in the United States are residential and approximately a quarter (25%) of their energy consumption goes toward heating or cooling.





Common reasons for **building inefficiencies** include their design, materials, and age.

To address these issues, **renovations and retrofits of existing building stock** has become a pressing need.

The **US Department of Energy (DOE)**, for example, has set a goal of **reducing housing energy use by up to 70%**.


Norberg-Bohm, V. and White, C. Building America Program Evaluation. 2004

The logo consists of two blue banners with white text. The top banner says 'ENERGY' and the bottom banner says 'SAVER'. Between the banners is a white icon of a house with a roof.

ENERGY  
SAVER

# Energy Saver 101: Home Energy Audits

Take the first step to improving your home's energy efficiency: get a home energy audit.

A large, faint, brown house icon is centered in the background of the slide.

## What is a home energy audit?

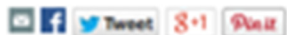
A home energy audit helps you pinpoint where your house is losing energy and **what you can do to save money**. A home energy auditor will also assess health and safety issues that might exist in your home.

The audit involves two parts: the **home assessment** and **analysis** using computer software.

Home > Thermographic Inspections

# Thermographic Inspections

June 25, 2012 - 3:27pm



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

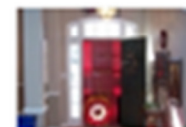
Energy auditors may use thermography -- or infrared scanning -- to detect thermal defects and **air leakage** in building envelopes.

### RELATED ARTICLES



Professional Home Energy Audits

### Energy Audits



Home Energy Audits Can Help You Keep That New Year's Resolution

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# The Energy Efficiency Information Gap

Only **5%** of residential buildings have been audited.

Common recommendations for most homes include:

- Sealing air leaks
- Adding insulation
- Improving lighting
- Increasing efficiency of appliances

Including thermal imagery in reports increases the likelihood that recommendations will be implemented.



Palmer et al. 2013

FLIR ONE

Thermal imaging device for your iPhone 5/5s.

\$249.99

~223 Million Smartphone users in the US.

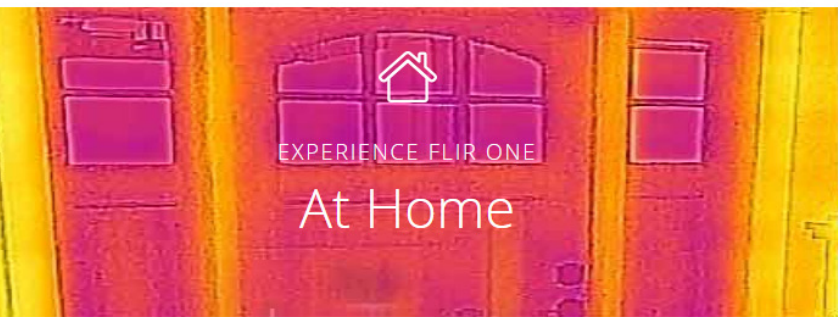
WATCH THE VIDEO

LAUNCH SIMULATOR

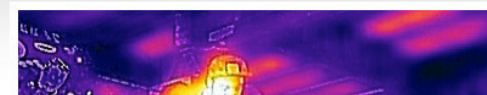
BUY NOW



POPULAR SCIENCE TOP TEN BEST FOR APRIL



Win a second FLIR ONE. The perfect gift for a friend.





# FLIR Approved Applications

In addition to the official FLIR apps, we've built a showcase of the best of breed apps written for the FLIR ONE. When your app achieves FLIR Approved App status, it will automatically be added to the gallery.



## Featured App Boat Beacon for FLIR ONE

by PacketMariner

Boat Beacon uses AIS to show the positions of ships around you when at sea including bearing and distance and closest point of approach (CPA). It also has a Marker button (MOB) which you can use to mark a spot and track its location. Boat Beacon's Augmented Reality view shows the ship positions, a thermal view, and MOB overlaid on the live Camera View.

*The Apps listed on this page have been reviewed and approved by FLIR and have been given the "FLIR Approved" status, which is verification that the App conforms to FLIR's corporate guidelines and policies for appropriate content and user experience. FLIR does not review the App for compliance with Intellectual Property rights, safety, or other potential factors that may result in liability to the Developer; thus FLIR disclaims any and all liability that may arise through a third party's use of the App or whether the App will meet any quality standard or level of merchantability.*

### FLIR ONE App

Provides a simple user interface with a variety of functions for operating your new FLIR ONE device.



### FLIR Approved Apps

What does FLIR Approved app mean and what's the process for getting an app approved? Find out here ▶

### FLIR Certified Developer Program

FLIR Certified Developers are trained by FLIR on thermal imaging and FLIR ONE developer tools. Want to become one of the elite certified developers? Learn more on the process ▶

iPhone Apps iPad Apps **Android Apps**

## Apps for Android



### Baby Monitor for FLIR ONE

by Mobile Toys & Tools

This application monitors your baby during sleep and raises alarm if he/she is out of rectangular Region of Interest defined by you.



### CompassEye with FLIR

by Electric Pocket

A Professional Bearing Compass designed to help navigate at sea and used much like a pair of Compass Binoculars. When held vertically it shows the real-time camera view with a compass, bearings and artificial horizon overlaid, when flat it shows a real time map centred on where you are with the bearings and compass overlaid.



### NovaVision

by NovaCoast

NovaVision utilizes the thermal image processing from the FLIR One to create thermal goggles for the user. The screen is divided in half and each half contains an image view, where the content comes directly from the FLIR One.



### Remote Thermal Cam f. FLIR ONE

by Sven Killig

Remote Thermal Cam is a useful Android app that lets you use Your FLIR ONE as a Webcam for Your PC by sending an MJPEG stream to a SmartCam server via WIFI.



### Thermal Camera for FLIR ONE

by Georg Friedrich

Thermal Camera uses the Flir One v2 to display a live infrared image. To achieve this task it uses its own render mechanism, that uses the 14bit raw data from the Flir SDK. Due to the nature of this implementation it can add new features, which are Flir independent.



### Thermori-on

by malfyduh

Thermori-on is a thermal musical instrument, inspired by the "Tenori-on", and using your FLIR thermal imaging camera.



### ThermoVisual Motion Detector

by Mobile Toys & Tools

ThermoVisual Motion Detector (TVMd) is an intelligent, easy to use application that detects thermal and/or visual motion or changes automatically by using FLIR ONE infrared camera.



### Thermal Paint for FLIR ONE

by Whale Tale Games

With Thermal Paint you can draw areas of the thermal image on top of the aligned visible-light image from the FLIR One. Highlight important areas of an image, or get creative and create unique works of art.

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS



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- 1** How might novice users of commercial thermal cameras assess the built environment?

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- 2 What attributes of the built environment do they focus on, learn about, and what do they discover?

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1** How might novice users of commercial thermal cameras assess the built environment?
- 2** What attributes of the built environment do they focus on, learn about, and what do they discover?
- 3** What challenges do they encounter and what benefits do they perceive?



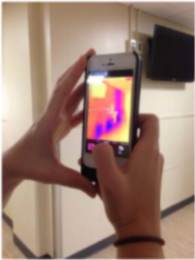
# STUDY DESIGN





# STUDY DESIGN: UNSTRUCTURED PILOT STUDIES

## The Future Role of Thermography in Human-Building Interaction



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**Abstract**  
With recent sensor improvements and falling costs, energy auditors are increasingly using thermography—  
infrared (IR) cameras—to detect thermal defects and analyze building efficiency. In this workshop paper, we view thermographic energy auditing as a Human-Building Interaction (HBI). We provide an overview of emerging thermal data collection techniques in research and industry. We also reflect on our own work in this area and present our vision of citizen-science/DIY thermography (Figure 1), which has the potential to engage the public in new HBIs by expanding their ability to: perform energy audits, survey public infrastructure, and contribute to urban energy analysis.

**Author Keywords**  
Thermography; Human-Building Interaction

**ACM Classification Keywords**  
H.5.m. Information interfaces and presentation (e.g., HCI): Miscellaneous

**Introduction**  
Buildings account for 41% of primary energy consumption in the US—more than any other sector—and contribute an increasing portion of carbon dioxide emissions (33% in 1980 vs. 40% in 2009) [18]. One reason for these high emissions is building age.

**Figure 1:** Thermal cameras have recently been introduced into the smartphone ecosystem and provide an opportunity for users to detect, identify, and assess thermal defects in buildings. Here, a FLIR One [21] (connected to an iPhone 5s) is used by one of our pilot study participants to assess a hallway in a building on the University of Maryland's campus.

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Part of the Future of Human-Building Interaction Workshop at CHI'16, May 7 – May 12, 2016, San Jose, California, USA.

Mauriello *et al.* 2016

# STUDY DESIGN: UNSTRUCTURED PILOT STUDIES

## Non-Visible Wall Degradation







# STUDY DESIGN: UNSTRUCTURED PILOT STUDIES

## Non-Visible Wall Degradation



# STUDY DESIGN: UNSTRUCTURED PILOT STUDIES

## Partially Visible Moisture Intrusion



## Partially Visible Moisture Intrusion





# STUDY DESIGN: UNSTRUCTURED PILOT STUDIES

Unstructured use of thermal cameras did not provide clear goals or motivation for participants.

To address this issue, we adapted a method of providing weekly prompts from previous technology studies.

Digital Fabrication Landscapes

DIS 2014, June 21–25, 2014, Vancouver, BC, Canada

## Everyday Making: Identifying Future Uses for 3D Printing in the Home

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### ABSTRACT

Low-cost and commercially available 3D printers are predicted to be the next disruptive innovation in technology. However, little research has examined how non-designers might interact with fabrication tools in their homes. To explore the potential uses of 3D printers and other fabrication devices in the home, we conducted a study in which 10 households (with 28 individuals) kept a faux 3D printer in their homes for four weeks. Participants kept a log of items that they would want to print, and completed a series of design probes. We found that participants' use of the fabrication tools involved three activities: replicating existing objects, modifying and customizing existing objects, and creating new custom objects. Our study also provides insights on the types of objects that individuals wish to create, and how the faux 3D printer was situated in our participants' homes.

### Author Keywords

Everyday making; 3D printing; creativity; DIY; personal scale manufacturing; design probes; cultural probes

### ACM Classification Keywords

H.5.m. Information interfaces and presentation (e.g., HCI): Miscellaneous.

### INTRODUCTION

Making things has been a part of everyday home life for centuries: people may make many different types of objects at home, including clothing, food, furniture, arts and crafts. Advances in crafting technology provide individuals and families with the ability to make objects easier, or even to make entirely new types of objects. For example, the advent of the personal computer [13] and graphic design software made it easier to create signs and posters, while the proliferation of consumer-grade printers made it possible to easily create many copies of physical documents.

Recently, a number of companies have begun to market consumer-grade 3D printers. These devices are priced at a level that can be purchased by an individual or household

(between several hundred and several thousand US dollars), and provide the capability to produce 3D objects from digital models, typically from plastic. Unlike other home making tools, such as power saws or drills, a 3D printer can produce a copy of a complex 3D model without the user's intervention, making it possible for everyday users to produce complex physical objects at home.

The proliferation of consumer-level 3D printers raises questions about how consumers will adopt and use this technology. What types of objects will consumers want to create? In what situations will they choose to create objects, rather than buying them? Will they create objects for practical use around the home, for their work, or to express their creativity? Just as computers are used differently at home than at work, it seems likely that consumers and end-users will use 3D printing technology at home differently than designers or engineers will use similar technologies.

Given the rapid emergence of this technology, and its potential to change the ways that individuals and families create and use objects around the home, we are interested in exploring possible uses of rapid fabrication technology by everyday consumers. We do not only consider the creation of crafts or artistic works, but instead explore the potential everyday uses of fabrication technology at home, which we call *everyday making*. We focus on typical consumers, rather than on technology enthusiasts or early adopters, to better understand how 3D printing technology will be used when widespread. As most consumers do not currently own 3D printers, we thus explored their potential uses for such technology using experience prototyping [1], a technique in which users explore the experience of using an emerging technology by interacting with a mock-up or prototype of that technology.

In this paper, we report on a preliminary field study of everyday making in the home using 3D printers. We deployed a set of faux 3D printers, constructed from cardboard boxes to 10 homes with a total of 28 individuals, for a period of four weeks. During this time, our participants took notes about what types of objects they might create and completed a set of design probe activities that required participants to use their 3D printer to solve problems in and around the home. The data that we collected provides numerous insights about the future applications of 3D printing by everyday users. By examining how people integrated the printer into their homes, we can better understand why and how consumers may adopt 3D printers.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/2598510.2598544>

815

Shewbridge *et al.* 2014

## makeability lab



### Participants Needed for Four Week Study on Emerging Smartphone-based Environmental Technology

Are you interested in environmental sustainability? Do you have an iPhone? Come help University of Maryland researchers explore the future of smartphone-based technology used to document and explore sustainability issues in urban environments!

As a participant in our study, we will provide you with a thermal camera attachment for your iPhone mobile device. You will be asked to take thermal pictures throughout the four-week study (as you go about your daily life). Once or twice a week, we will also prompt you to take pictures around a particular theme (e.g., energy usage in the home), to record brief notes about these pictures, and to complete a short survey about your weekly activities. The expected time commitment is approximately 1-2 hours per week.

At the end of the fourth week, we will schedule a 1-hour interview about your experience. We will discuss your activities, notes, the images you collected, and you will return the thermal camera attachment. Participants will receive \$100 for the successful completion of the field study and exit interview.

#### Qualifications

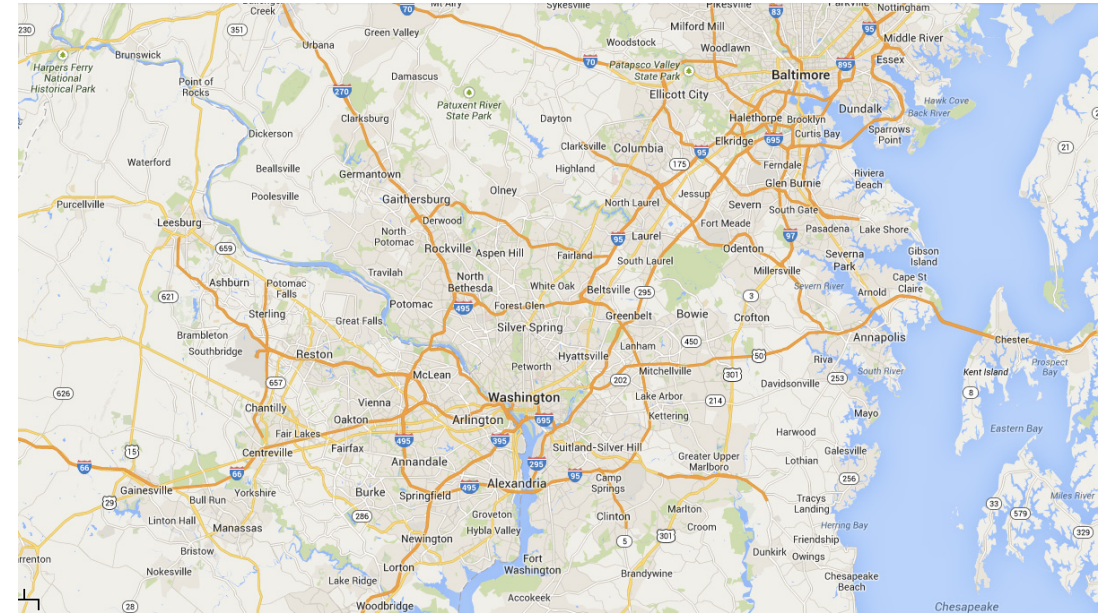
Any person above 18 years old can participate; however, you must have and use an iPhone device, version 5 or greater, as your primary phone and should live within the DC metropolitan area (including Virginia and Maryland suburbs). Apart from these requirements, we encourage people of all genders and ethnicities to participate.

#### Contact Information

If you have any questions or would like to participate in this study, please email Matthew Mauriello ([mattm@cs.umd.edu](mailto:mattm@cs.umd.edu)). Feel free to take a look at our research lab's website to find out more about our research program: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil>. Please also feel free to redistribute this posting.

Sincerely,

~Matthew Mauriello, MS  
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--  
<http://www.cs.umd.edu/~mattm/>  
Twitter @mattm401



We recruited local participants using listserv, community message boards, and word-of-mouth.



## STUDY DESIGN: PARTICIPANTS



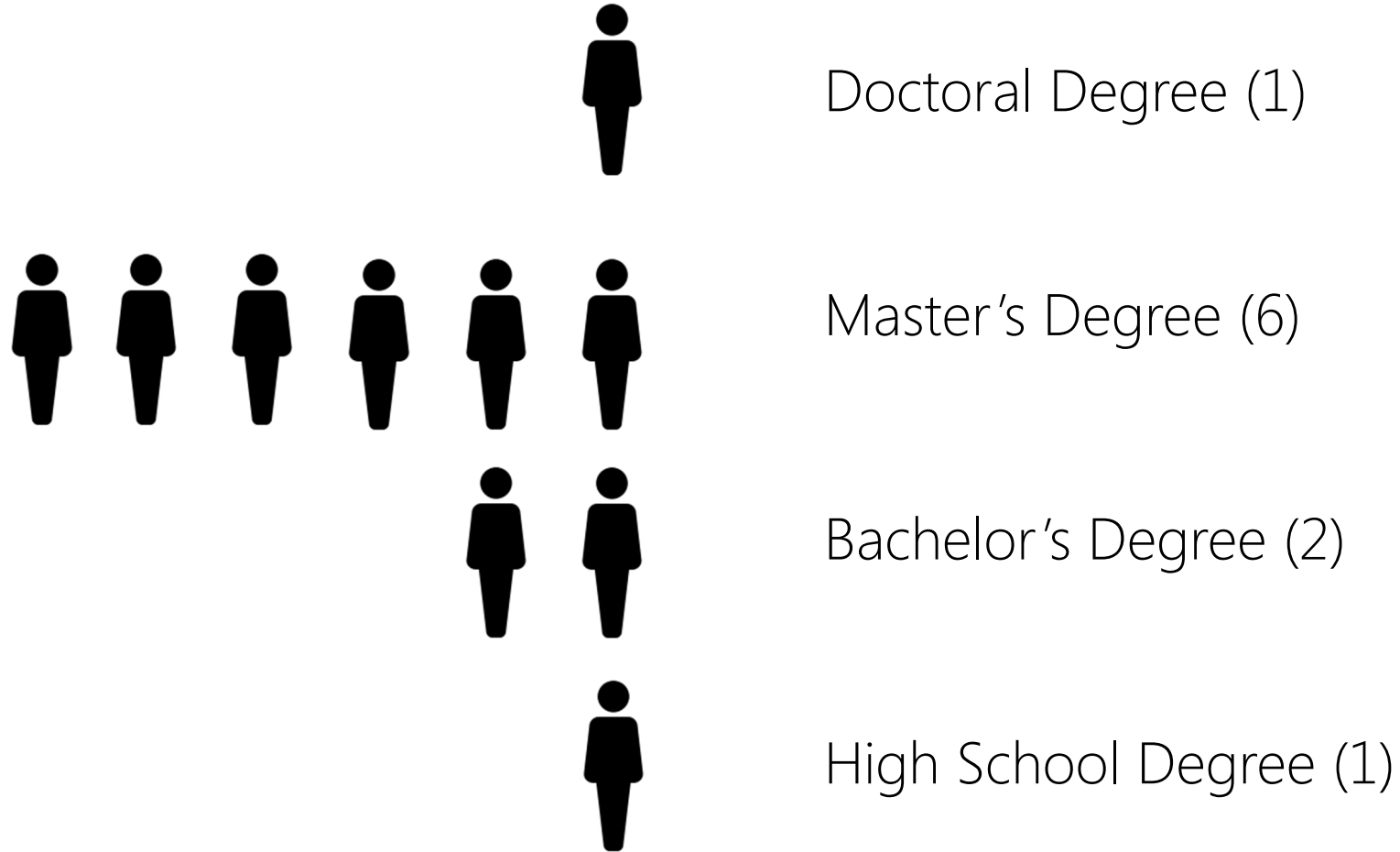
10 Participants (5 Female)

Avg. Age: 37.7 Years

Avg. Green: 6.7 (7pt Likert)



## STUDY DESIGN: PARTICIPANTS





# STUDY DESIGN: PARTICIPANTS



Scientist/Engineers (3)



Other Professionals (4)



UX Designer (1)



Graduate Students (2)





# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE





# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE

## Pre-Study Questionnaire





# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE

Pre-Study  
Questionnaire



Introduction  
Meeting



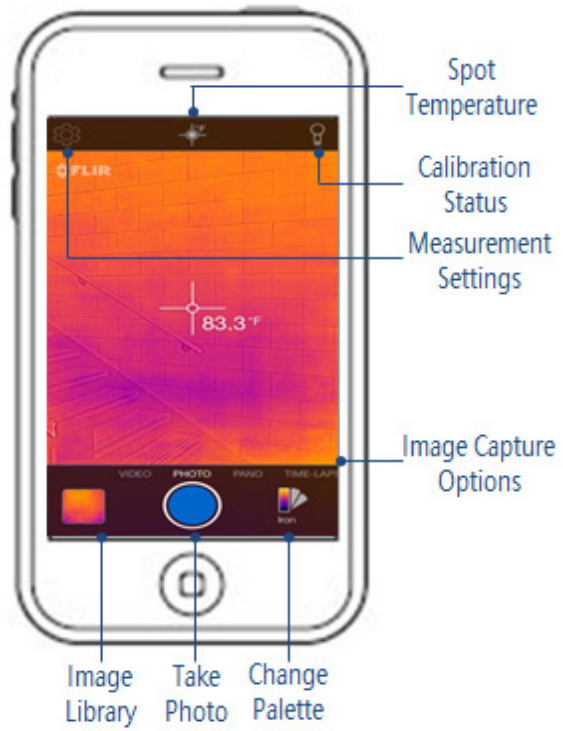




# STUDY DESIGN: TRAINING



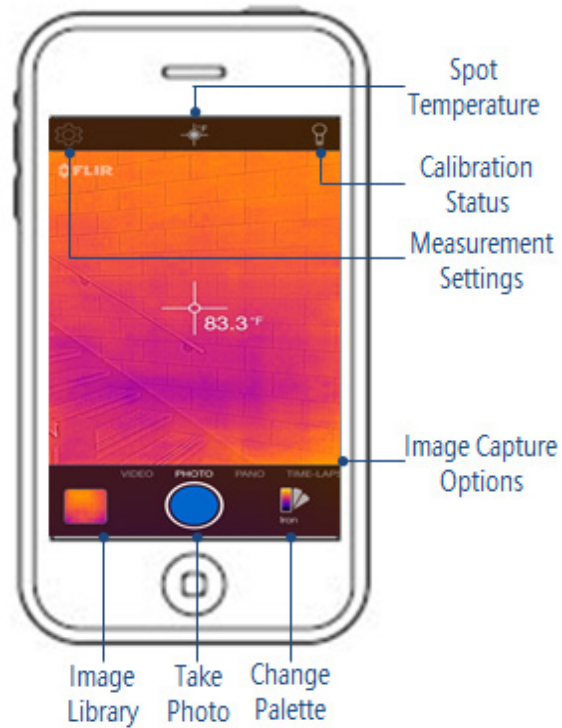
# STUDY DESIGN: TRAINING




## Hardware/Software Overview



# STUDY DESIGN: TRAINING



Hardware/Software  
Overview

makeability lab **FLIR One Thermal Camera**   
A guide to assembling and using

**Working the Camera**  
Open the "FLIR ONE" application with your camera attached. Press the power button on the module. When you open the application, you will be prompted to connect and turn the camera module on; give the application a moment to register the camera module. Once camera is detected you can start taking photos!

**How to Conduct a Thermal Inspection**  
The Department of Energy recommends the following regarding thermographic inspections:  
"A thermographic inspection is either an interior or exterior survey. Interior scans are more common, because warm air escaping from a building does not always move through the walls in a straight line. Heat loss detected in one area of the outside wall might originate at some other location on the inside of the wall. Also, it is harder to detect temperature differences on the outside surface of the building during windy weather. Because of this difficulty, interior surveys are generally more accurate because they benefit from reduced air movement."  
"The most accurate thermographic images usually occur when there is a large temperature difference (at least 20°F [14°C]) between inside and outside air temperatures. In northern states, thermographic scans are generally done in the winter. In southern states, however, scans are usually conducted during warm weather with the air conditioner on."

**Additional tips include:**

1. When starting exploration, perhaps in your home, start with the basement and utility rooms; you will want to inspect equipment in these areas (e.g., hot water heater).
2. From the lowest floor to the top floor inspect: walls, windows, doors, and paths to outside air.
3. Work your way to the top floor and inspect any hatches that may access unconditioned spaces.
4. The best times to perform thermographic inspections will be early in the morning or a few hours after sunset; days with cloud cover are even better.
5. Different materials have different thermal signatures. Metals and reflective materials will likely appear hot and indeed they might be; however, not every bright spot indicates a problem.
6. Sunlight, reflective materials, and heat from electrical technology can all impact what you see.
7. The shape of an object or surface can also influence what you see.
8. If you see something in a thermal camera and think it might be an issue try moving and observing the anomaly from a different angle; if the anomaly moves then it probably isn't an issue, but if it remains relatively stationary than it may be an issue.
9. Try to capture thermal images from approximately 1 meter (3 feet) away from the subject of the image (e.g., a window) and try to center the subject in the center of the image.
10. More photos are better than less! Take photos of things you're curious about.

**Additional Links:**

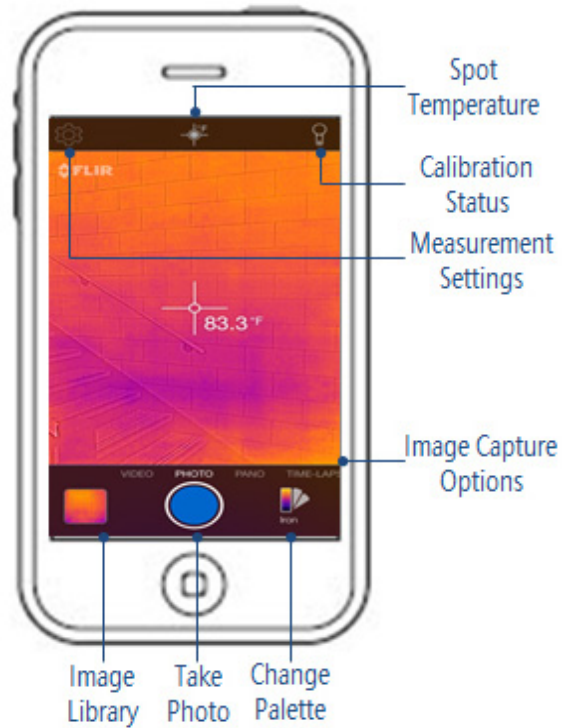
1. <http://energy.gov/energysaver/thermographic-inspections>
2. <http://energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-home-energy-audits>

4-Page Thermographic  
Inspection Guide

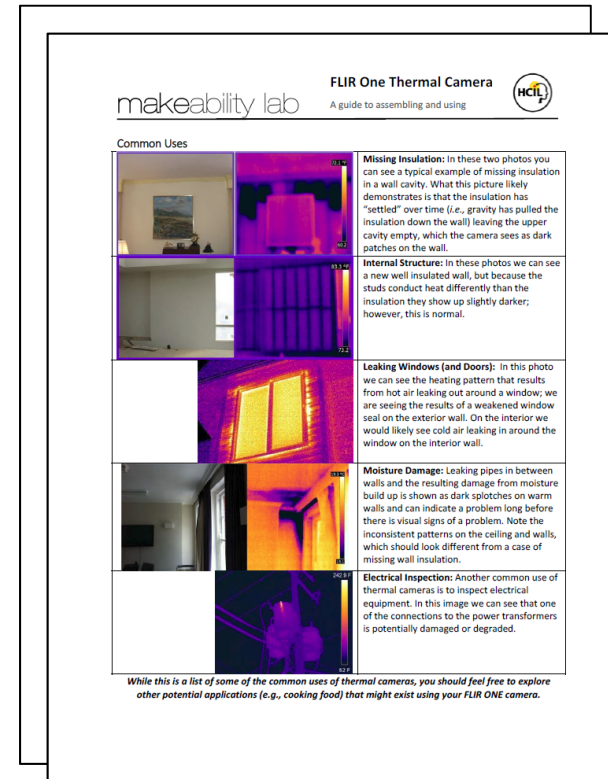




# STUDY DESIGN: TRAINING



Hardware/Software Overview



4-Page Thermographic Inspection Guide



# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE

Pre-Study  
Questionnaire



Introduction  
Meeting



# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE

Pre-Study  
Questionnaire

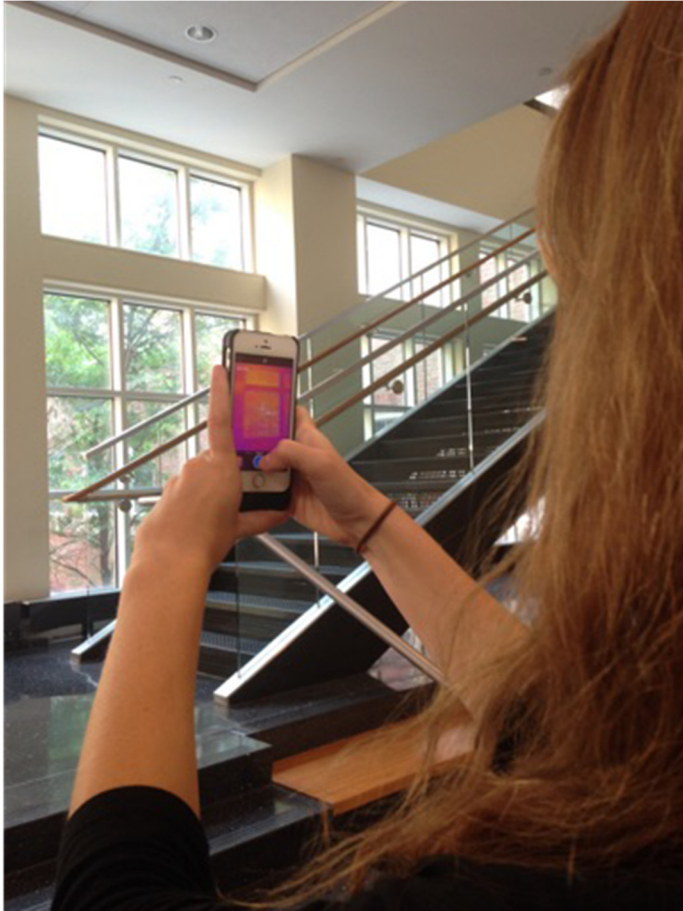
Thermography  
"Mission"



Introduction  
Meeting



## STUDY DESIGN: MISSIONS



*"Investigate your home with your thermal camera for signs of energy inefficiencies; collect at least 25 photos that highlight aspects of your investigation."*



# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE

Pre-Study  
Questionnaire

Thermography  
"Mission"



Introduction  
Meeting



# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE

Pre-Study  
Questionnaire

Thermography  
"Mission"



Introduction  
Meeting

Survey



## Thermography Field Study: Weekly Questionnaire

### Location

Please describe, to the best of your knowledge, the building(s) you explored during your mission.

6. What type of building(s) did you explore during your mission? \*

- House (i.e., a building completely separated from any others)
- Apartment / Condo (i.e., a residence in a building with many others)
- Townhouse / Row House (i.e., many homes sharing a wall with each other)
- Warehouse
- Office Building
- Commercial Building
- Manufacturing Building
- Other - Write In (Required)  \*

7. To the best of your knowledge, what materials were used in the construction of the building(s)? \*

### Photograph Descriptions

Please provide a brief summary of the images that you submitted

18. What types of issues did you look for during your mission? \*

19. Did you find any evidence of issues (e.g., missing insulation)? \*

20. Did you find anything else that interested you during your mission? \*



# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE

Pre-Study  
Questionnaire

Thermography  
"Mission"



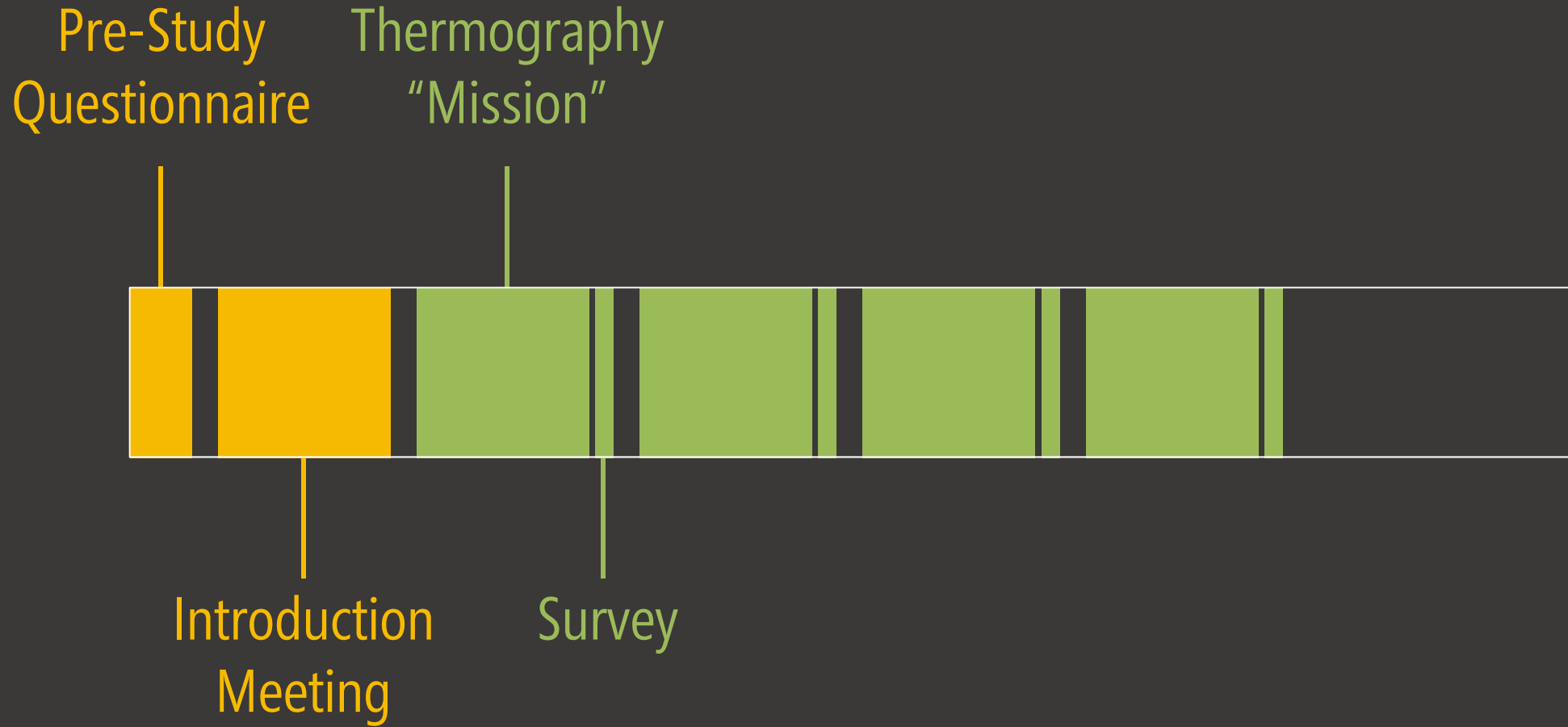
Introduction  
Meeting

Survey



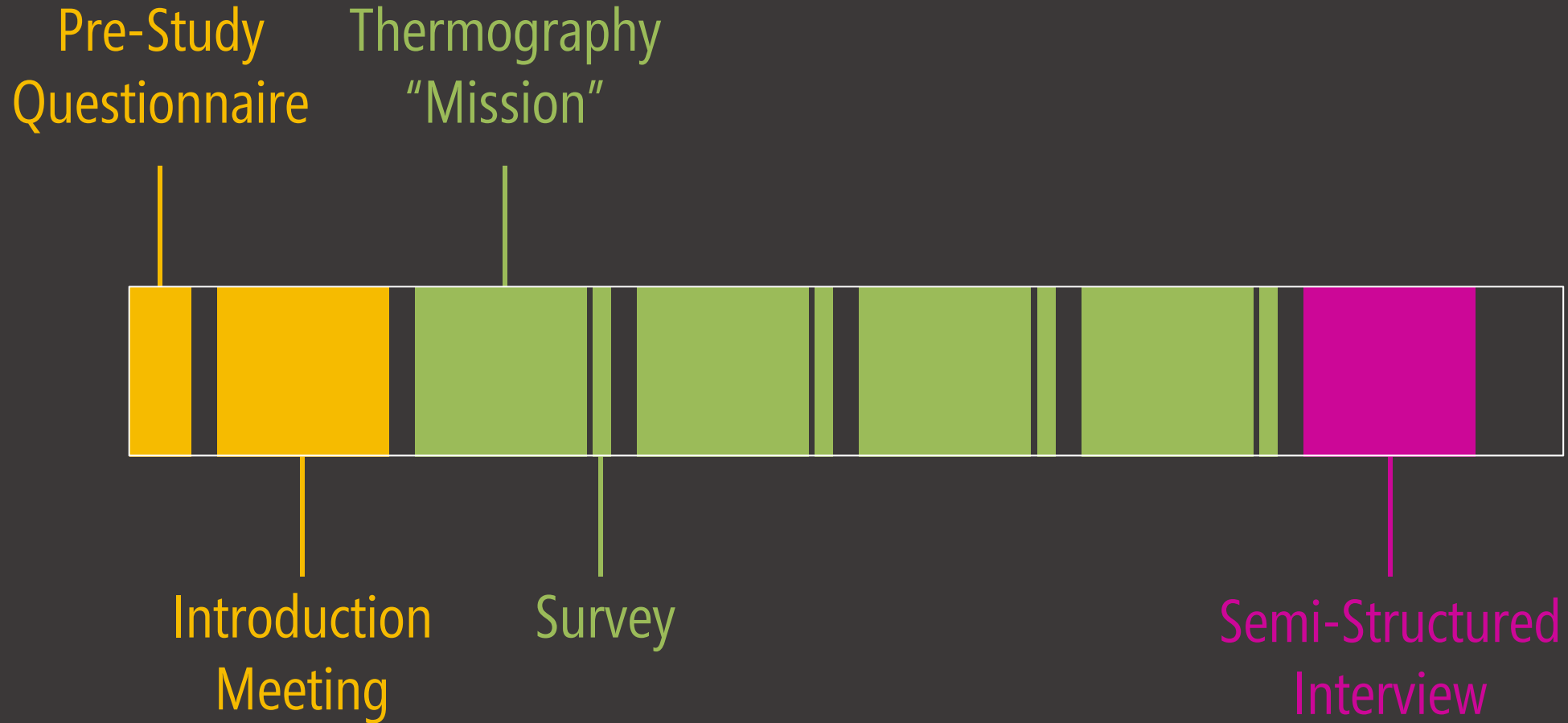


# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE





# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE





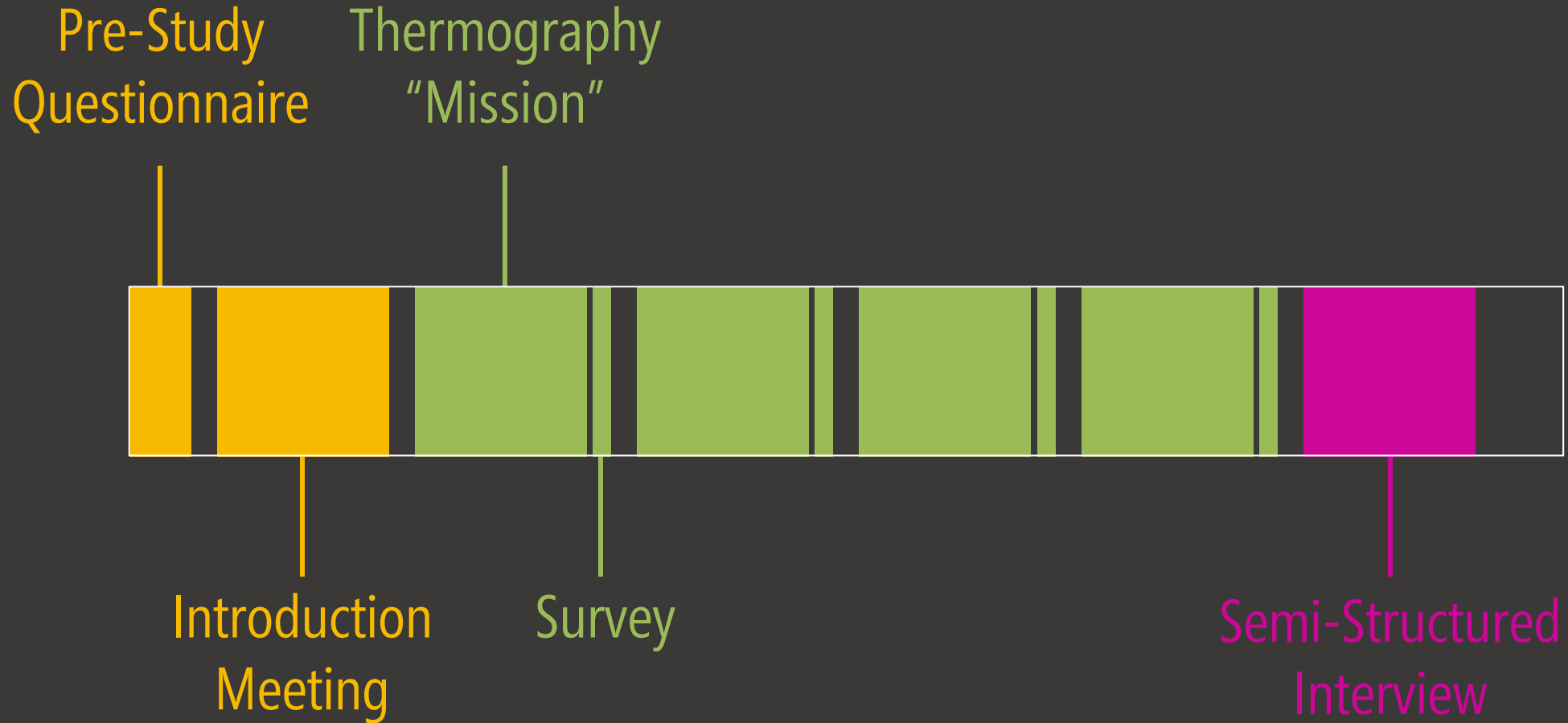
## STUDY DESIGN: SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW



*"It was pretty clear to me that the air seals around this door were not doing a very good job of preventing cold air from leaking into this room."*

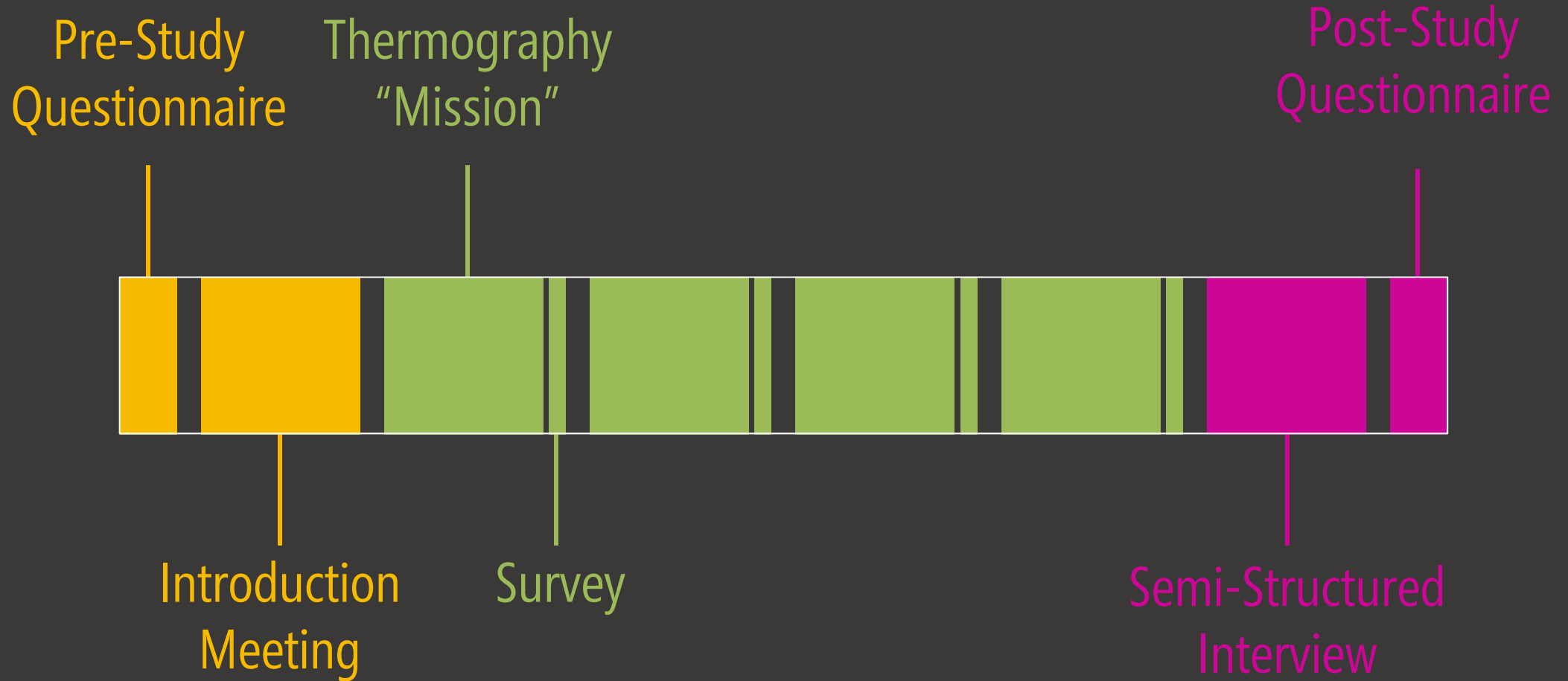


# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE





# STUDY DESIGN: FIELD STUDY PROCEDURE



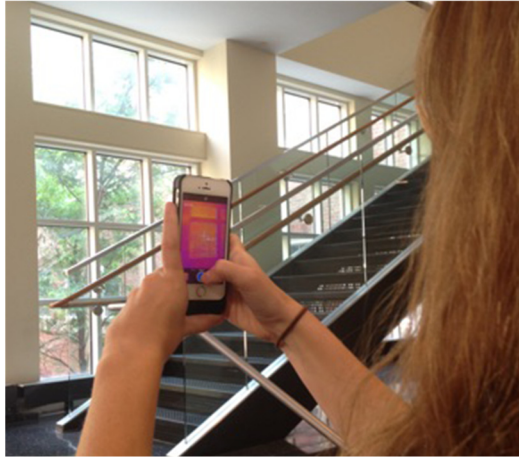


# STUDY DESIGN: DATA ANALYSIS

We **qualitatively coded** the survey, interview, and image data to uncover themes.

# STUDY FINDINGS

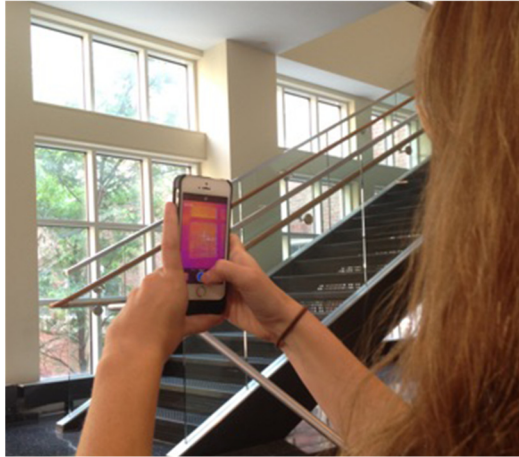
# STUDY FINDINGS



## Field Activities



# STUDY FINDINGS

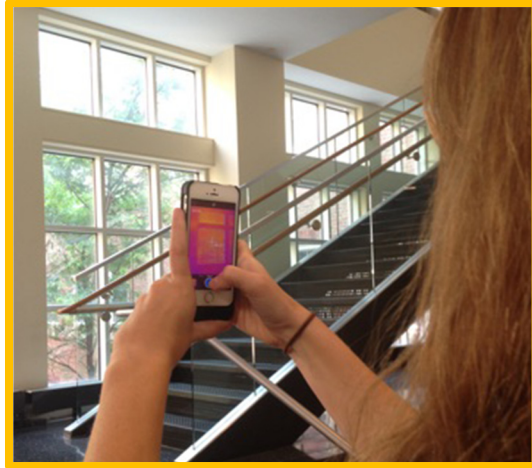


Field  
Activities



Semi-Structured  
Interviews

# STUDY FINDINGS



Field  
Activities



Semi-Structured  
Interviews

# **STUDY FINDINGS:** FIELD ACTIVITIES

## **Week**

Home

Workplace

Commercial

Community

# STUDY FINDINGS: FIELD ACTIVITIES

<b>Week</b>	<b>Images</b>
Home	572 ( <i>Avg=52</i> )
Workplace	405 ( <i>Avg=14</i> )
Commercial	415 ( <i>Avg =16</i> )
Community	516 ( <i>Avg =13</i> )
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,991 (Avg=46)</i>

# STUDY FINDINGS: FIELD ACTIVITIES

<b>Week</b>	<b>Images</b>	<b>Time (mins)</b>
Home	572 ( <i>Avg=52</i> )	34 ( <i>SD=15</i> )
Workplace	405 ( <i>Avg=14</i> )	32 ( <i>SD=14</i> )
Commercial	415 ( <i>Avg =16</i> )	28 ( <i>SD=16</i> )
Community	516 ( <i>Avg =13</i> )	27 ( <i>SD=16</i> )
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,991 (Avg=46)</i>	<i>30</i>

# **STUDY FINDINGS:** FIELD ACTIVITIES

# STUDY FINDINGS: FIELD ACTIVITIES

## Context



(a) Indoor (64.2%)



(b) Outdoor (35.6%)

# STUDY FINDINGS: FIELD ACTIVITIES

## Context

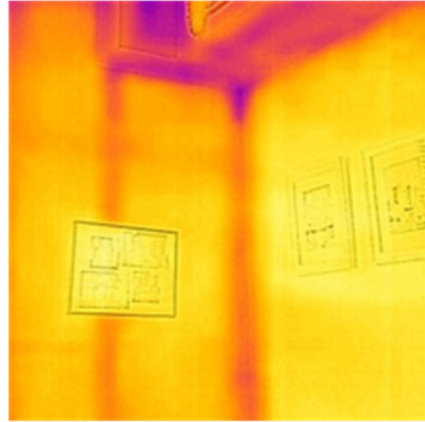


(a) Indoor (64.2%)



(b) Outdoor (35.6%)

## Subjects



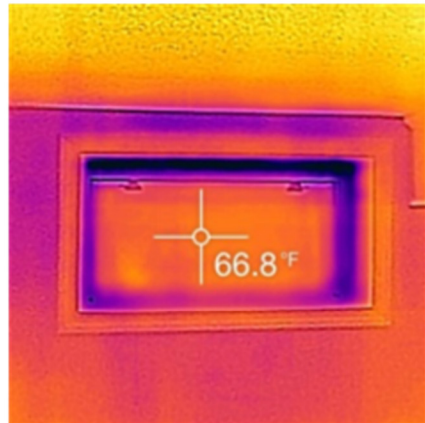
(c) Walls (71.6%)



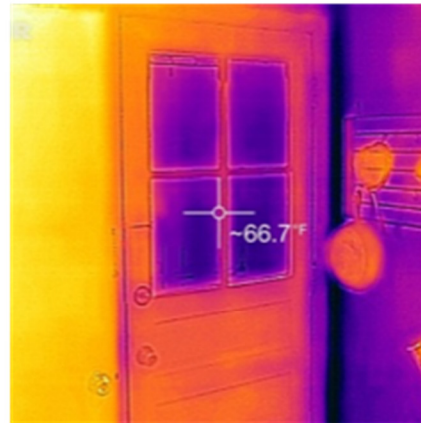
(e) Electronics (24.7%)



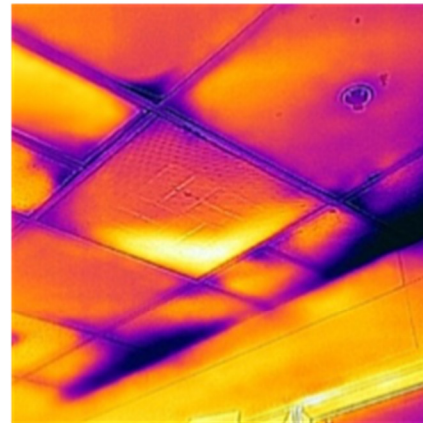
(g) Light Fixtures (23.8%)



(d) Windows (30.3%)



(f) Doors (24.4%)



(h) Ceilings (22.7%)



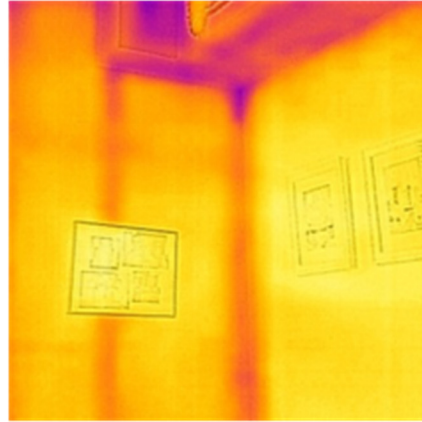
# STUDY FINDINGS: FIELD ACTIVITIES

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(a) Indoor (64.2%)

## Subjects



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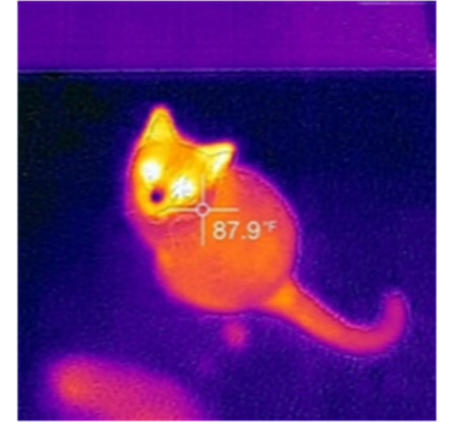


(e) Electronics (24.7%)



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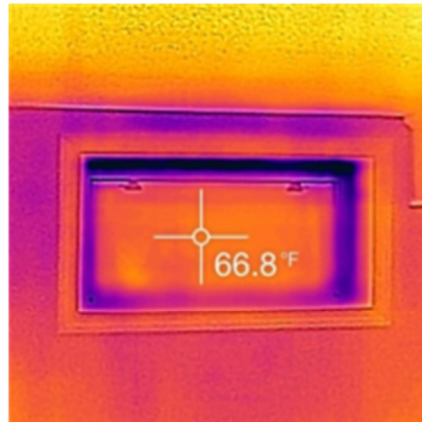
## Misc./Fun



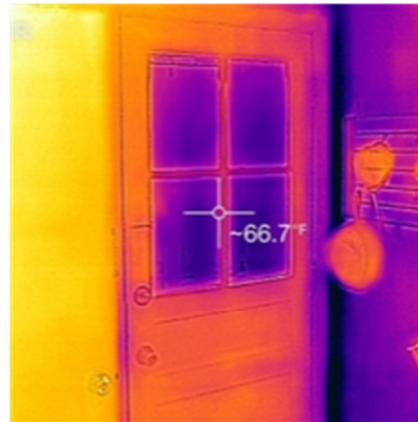
(i) People/Pets (4.7%)



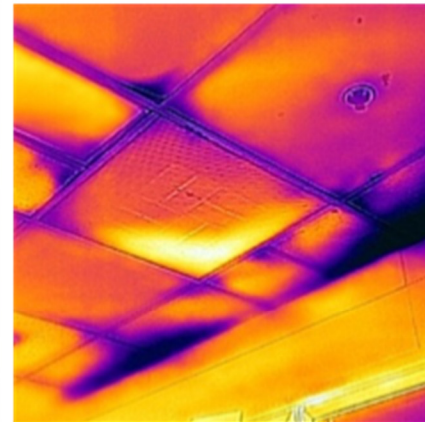
(b) Outdoor (35.6%)



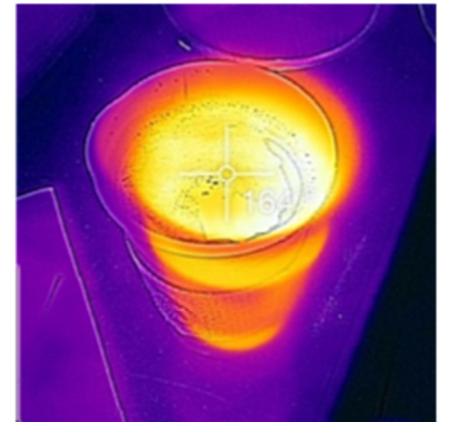
(d) Windows (30.3%)



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(h) Ceilings (22.7%)



(j) Play/Experiments (1.0%)

# STUDY FINDINGS: FIELD ACTIVITIES

<b>Week</b>	<b>Images</b>	<b>Time (mins)</b>
Home	572 ( <i>Avg=52</i> )	34 ( <i>SD=15</i> )
Workplace	405 ( <i>Avg=14</i> )	32 ( <i>SD=14</i> )
Commercial	415 ( <i>Avg =16</i> )	28 ( <i>SD=16</i> )
Community	516 ( <i>Avg =13</i> )	27 ( <i>SD=16</i> )
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,991 (Avg=46)</i>	<i>30</i>

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# **STUDY FINDINGS:** FIELD ACTIVITIES

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---

During the home mission, participants:

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---

During the home mission, participants:

- Collected 572 photos (AVG=57.2, SD=52.27).

## Home Mission

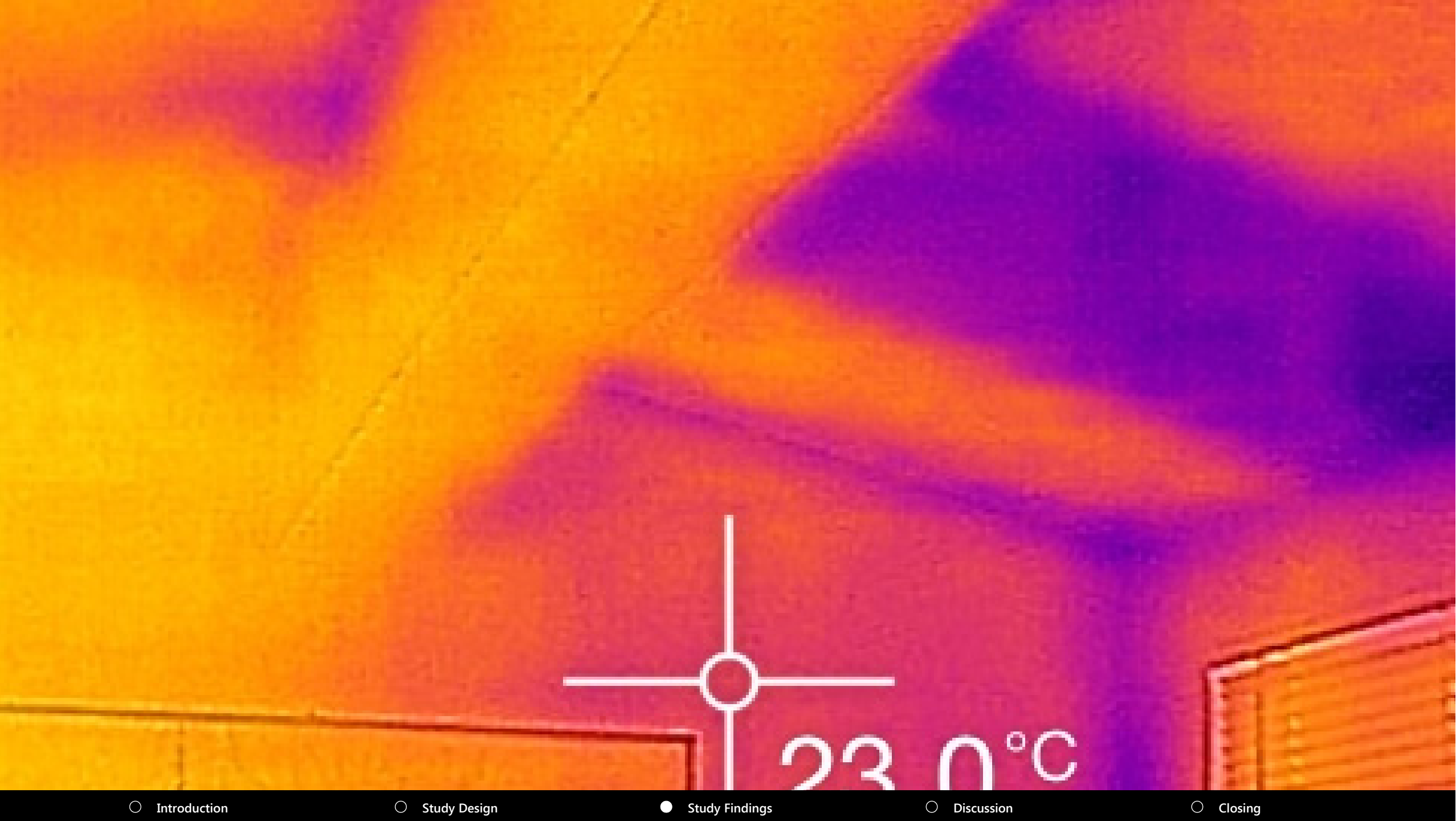
---

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- Most (8) reported investigating pre-existing comfort issues.







23.0°C

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- A few (3) reported investigating electrical issues due to safety concerns (e.g., fire).

# STUDY FINDINGS: FIELD ACTIVITIES

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## **STUDY FINDINGS:** FIELD ACTIVITIES

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- All participants (10) reported looking for leaky windows, doors, and noted interesting heat signatures produced by electronic devices. Half (5) reported finding concerning issues.







“I was stunned to realize that my monitor doesn't completely turn off when it goes to sleep. It was unused for the weekend but still appeared hot. So I turned it off when I went to lunch and when I came back it was indeed cooler.” –P4

## Workplace Mission

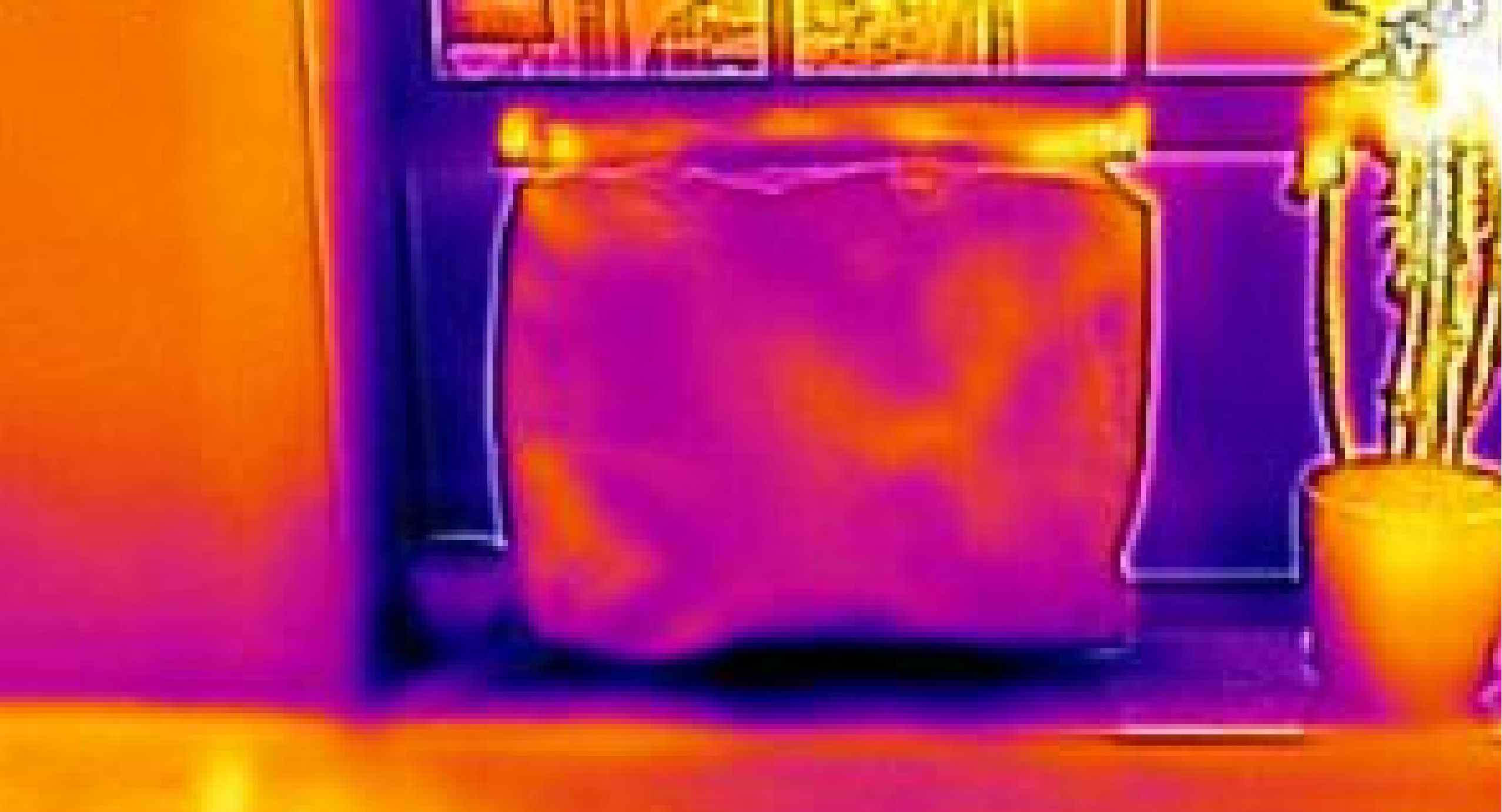
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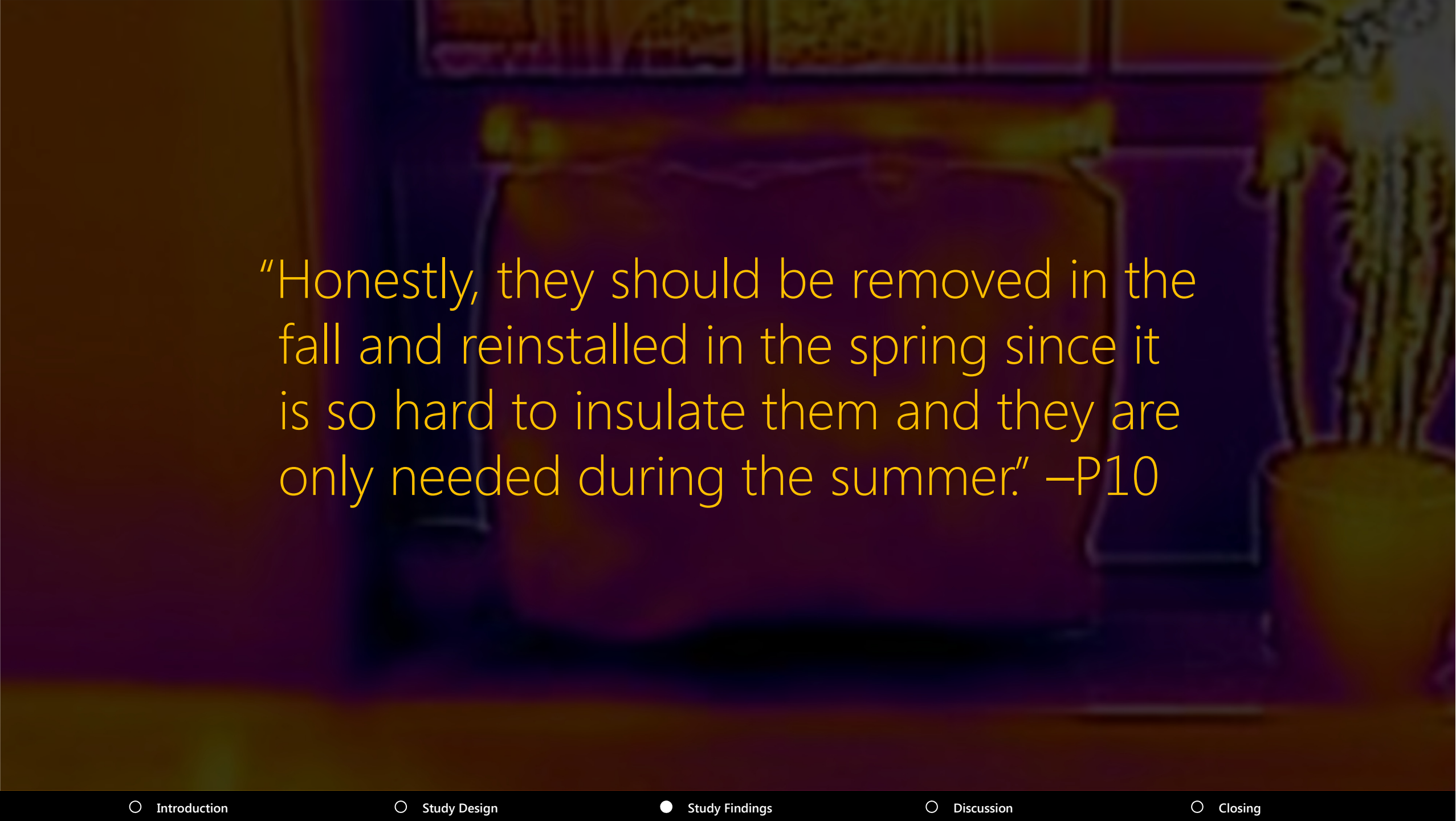
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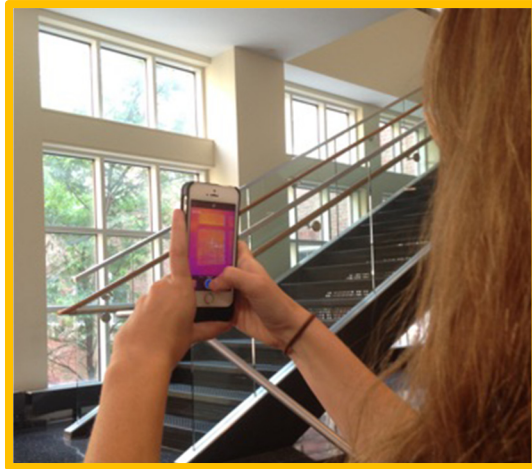
- Collected 405 photos (AVG=40.5, SD=18.02).
- All participants (10) reported looking for leaky windows, doors, and noted interesting heat signatures produced by electronic devices. Half (5) reported finding concerning issues.
- A few (2) explored comfort issues in shared office spaces.





“Honestly, they should be removed in the fall and reinstalled in the spring since it is so hard to insulate them and they are only needed during the summer.” –P10

# STUDY FINDINGS

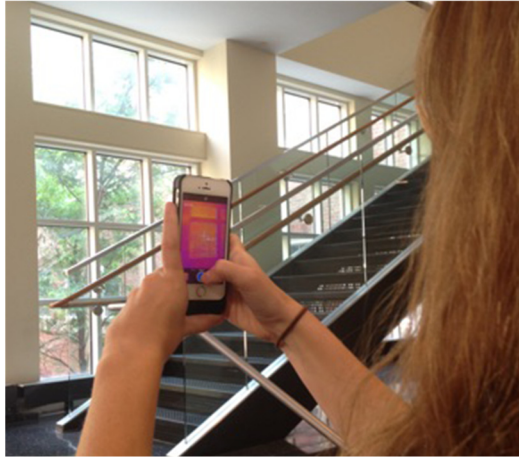


Field  
Activities



Semi-Structured  
Interviews

# STUDY FINDINGS



Field  
Activities



Semi-Structured  
Interviews



# **STUDY FINDINGS:** INTERVIEWS

Knowledge Discovery

Current Practices

Potential Benefits

Locus of Control

Hardware Issues

Software Issues

Interpretative Issues

Design Ideas

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Knowledge Discovery

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# Potential Benefits Mission

Participants thought that the benefits of their application of thermography included:

## Potential Benefits Mission

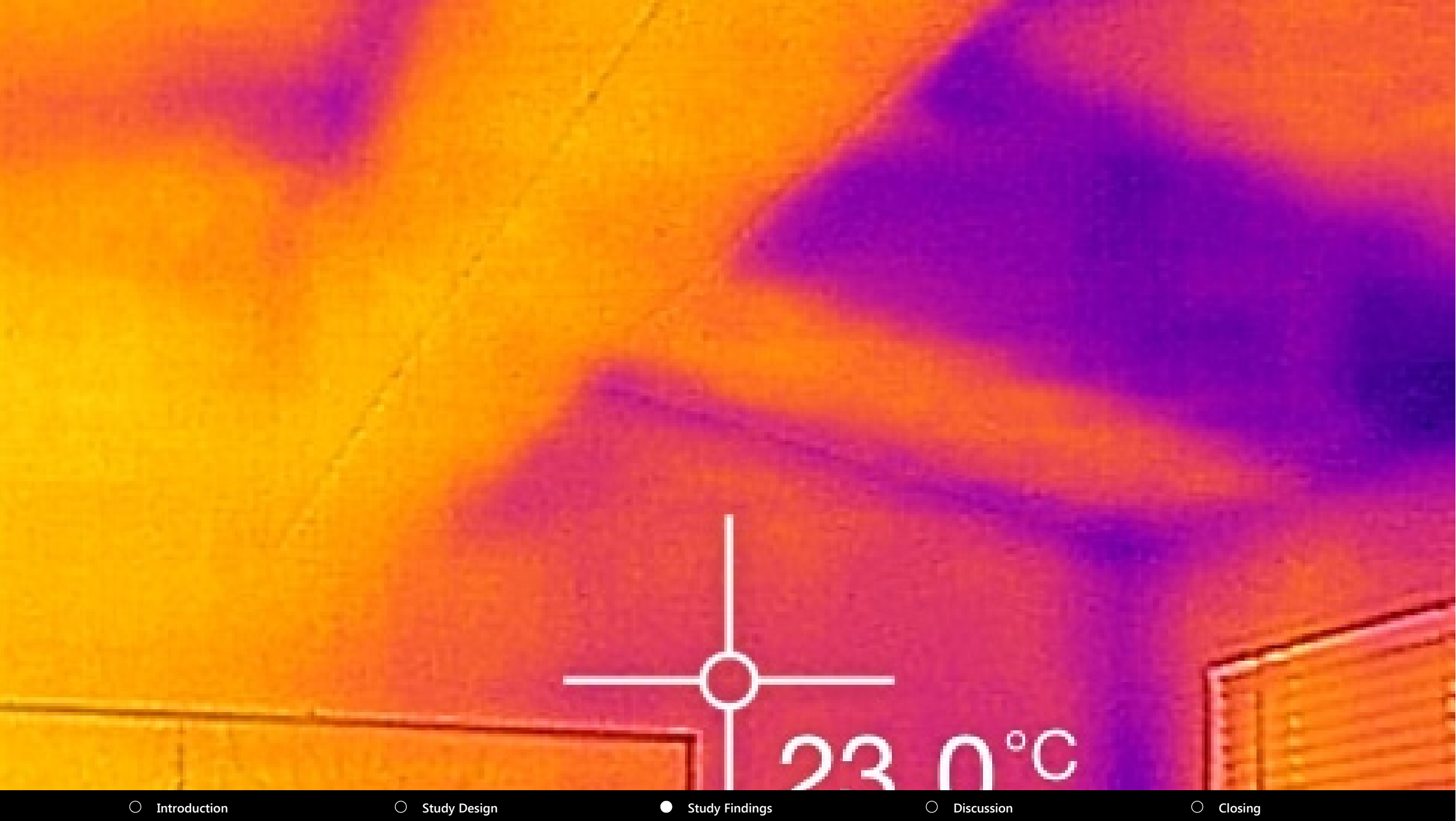
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- All participants (10) considered the thermal camera a valuable investigative tool.
- Most (8) suggested that thermal imagery could provide supporting evidence for decisions makers with respect to making retrofit decisions.



23.0°C

"I've been meaning to contact my landlord with these images and say, look, there seems to be a clear issue here that I think you should address." -P7



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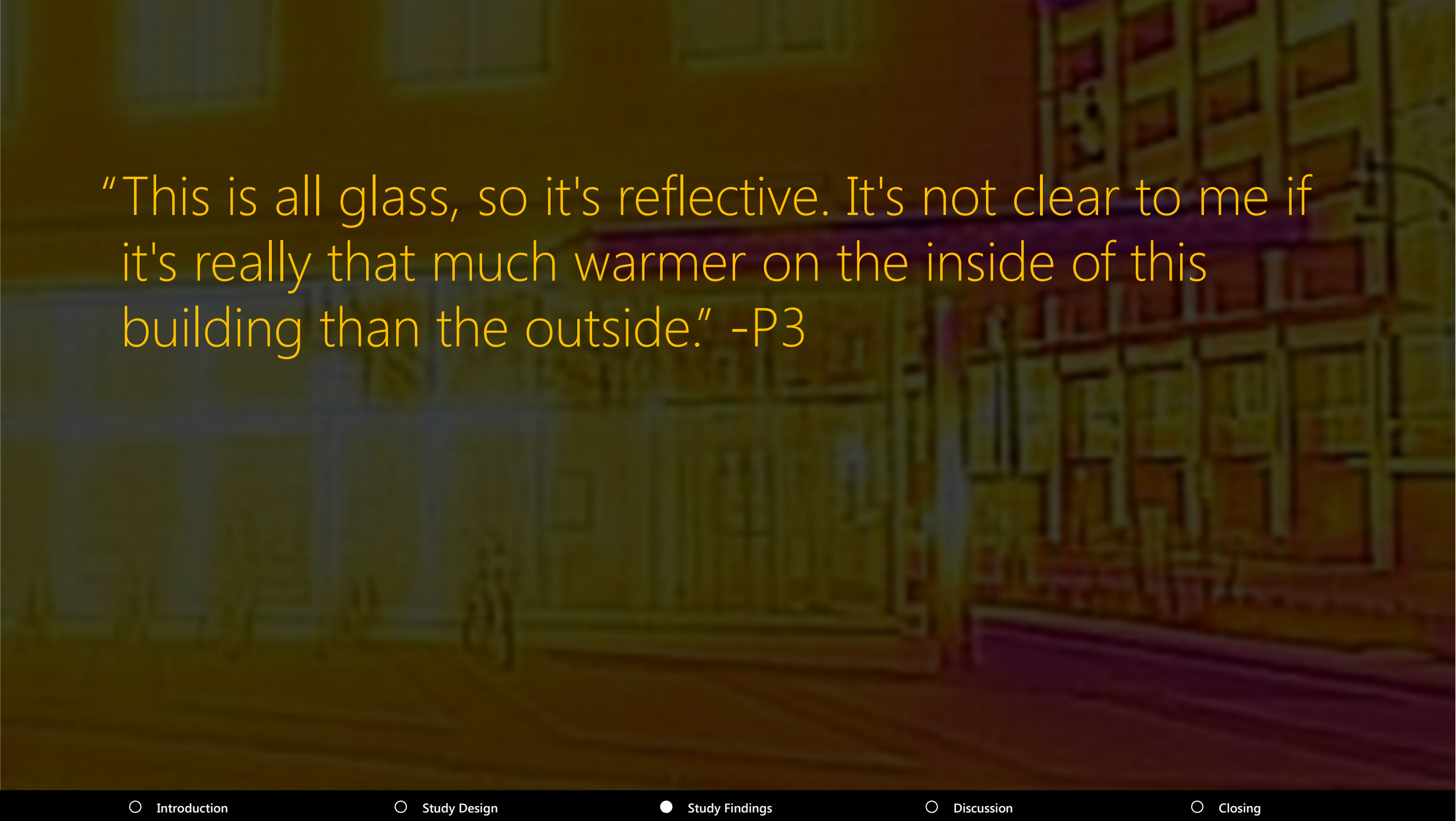
---

Participants frequently discussed challenges associated with their ability to interpret issues they discovered:

- All participants (10) described capturing imagery that they could comfortably interpret and imagery that they did not understand.
- Most (8) believed that their ability to interpret thermographic images was limited by confounding variables (e.g., heating elements, lack of materials knowledge).







“This is all glass, so it's reflective. It's not clear to me if it's really that much warmer on the inside of this building than the outside.” -P3

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- Most (8) believed that their ability to interpret thermographic images was limited by confounding variables (e.g., heating elements, lack of materials knowledge).
- Most (6) found it difficult to determine the significance of an issue they discovered.



“I don't know how much [the issue] really affects the energy use of my apartment.” -P2

# STUDY FINDINGS: INTERVIEWS

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Current Practices

**Potential Benefits**

**Locus of Control**

Hardware Issues

Software Issues

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## Locus of Control

---

Participants frequently discussed challenges associated with their ability to effect change:

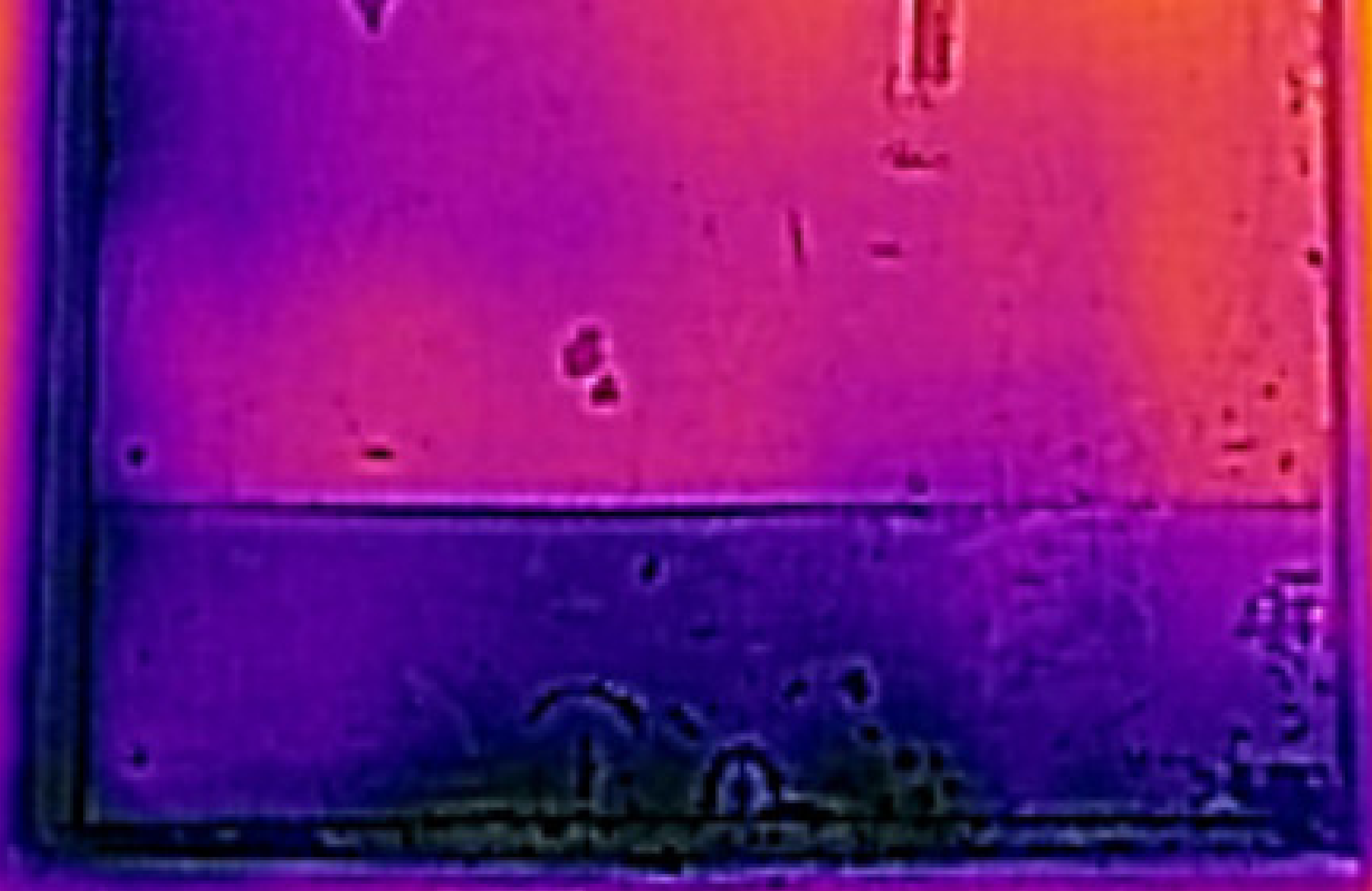


## Locus of Control

---

Participants frequently discussed challenges associated with their ability to effect change:

- 4 participants (who rented or lived in a housing cooperative) were concerned that if they found evidence of a problem they would not be in a position to make retrofit decisions.



“If I took a picture that showed an issue, I don’t necessarily think the owner would get on top of fixing it.” -P5

## Locus of Control

---

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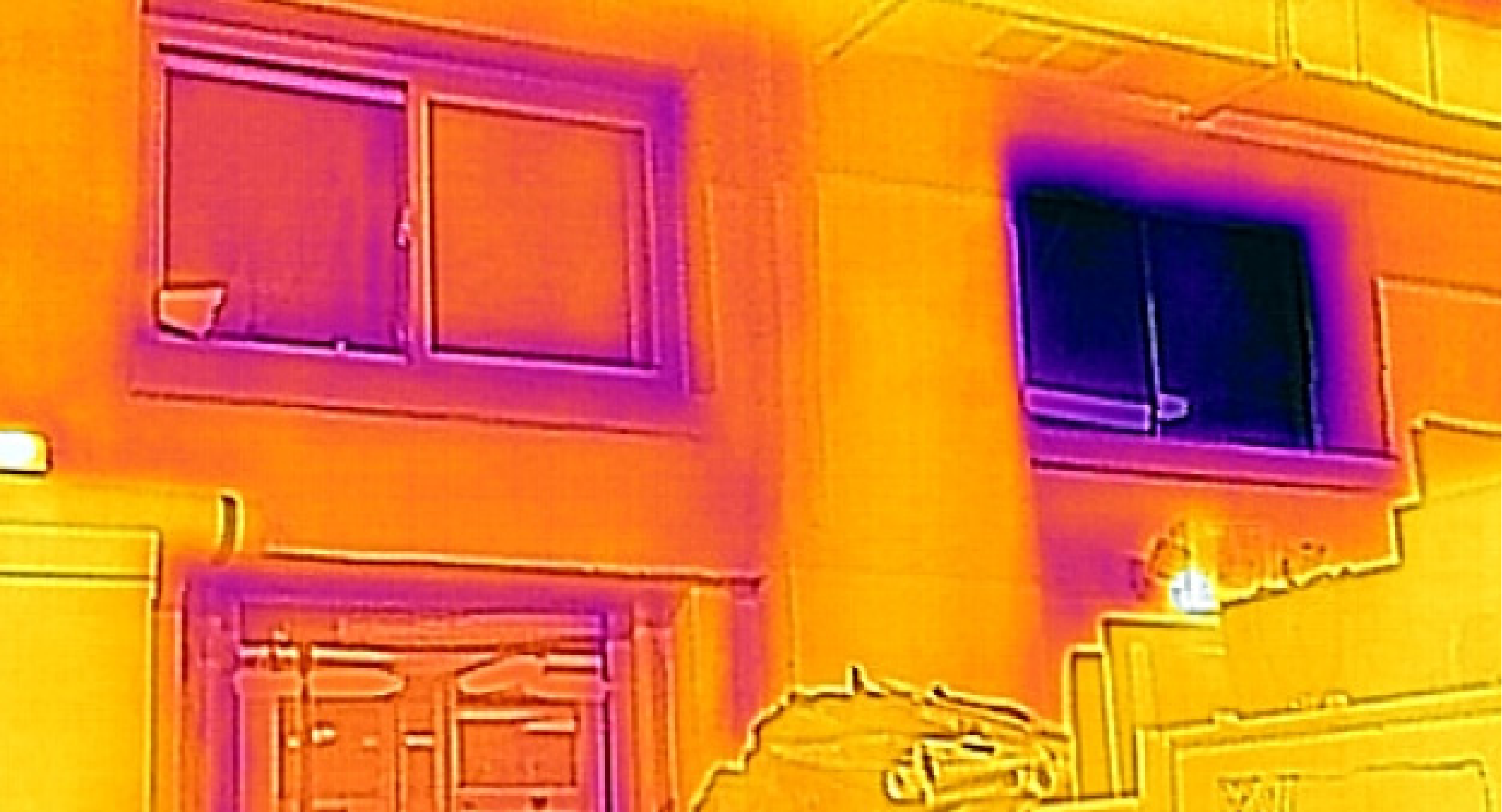
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## Locus of Control

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Participants frequently discussed challenges associated with their ability to effect change:

- 4 participants (who rented or lived in a housing cooperative) were concerned that if they found evidence of a problem they would not be in a position to make retrofit decisions.
- In missions outside of the home (or the workplace), 2 participants expressed that it was not clear who they should talk to if they discovered an issues.



“If I find an issue, who am I going to tell and are they really going to care? My biggest concern is what if something is wrong and they don't want to do anything about it.” -P2



# DISCUSSION



Barriers to Novice Thermography

Privacy and Sharing

Implications for Public Auditing

Limitations

Barriers to Novice Thermography

Privacy and Sharing

**Implications for Public Auditing**

**Limitations**

Barriers to Novice Thermography

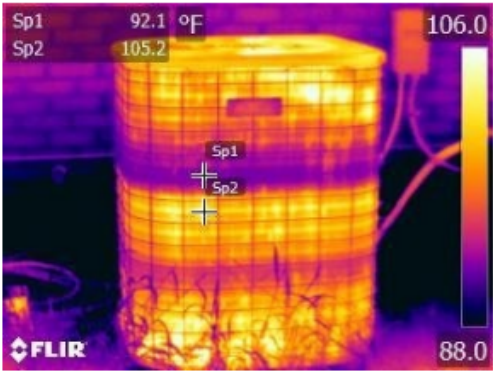
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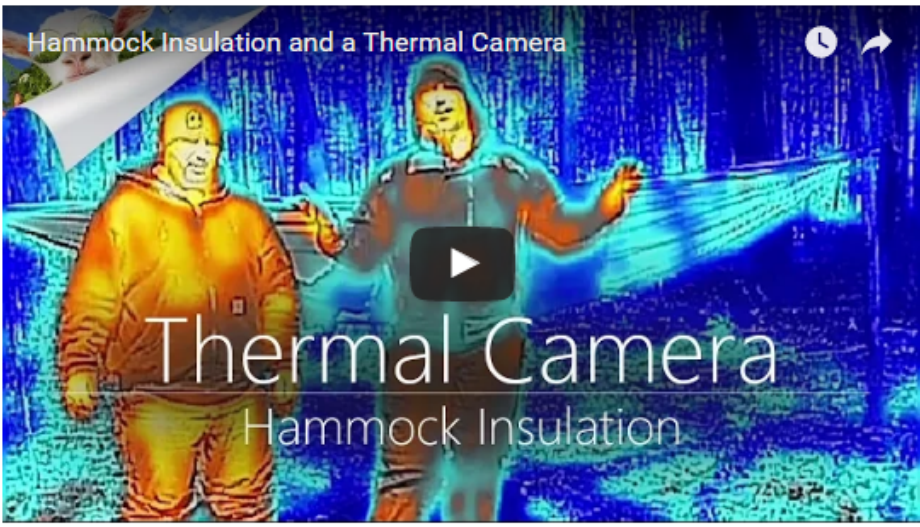
1 1 Request! Playing cards (self:FLIR)  
submitted 4 months ago by immolated\_  
2 comments share save hide report

2 2 This Heat Pump's coils are stopped up. Time for a replacement, or can it be repaired? (i.redd.it)  
submitted 7 months ago by juliet\_delta  
1 comment share save hide report



3 1 Why does radiant barrier roof decking look like this in IR? Hot were the rafters touch the decking? (i.redd.it)  
submitted 7 months ago by juliet\_delta  
1 comment share save hide report

4 3 Hammock Insulation and a Thermal Camera (youtube.com)  
submitted 7 months ago by fathergoat\_adventure  
comment share save hide report





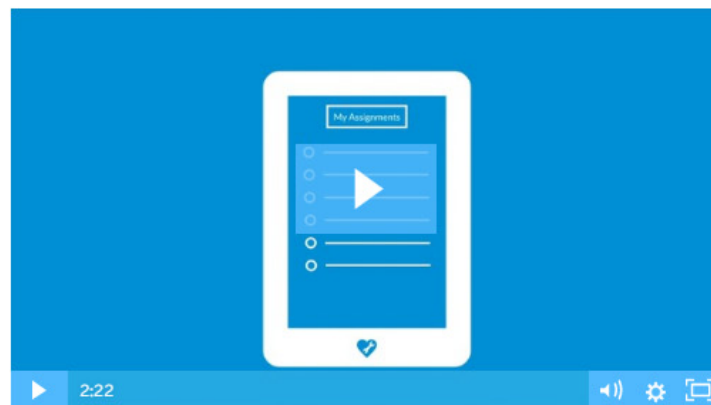




## It's Nice to Know My Town is Listening

SeeClickFix allows you to play an integral role in public services — routing neighborhood concerns like potholes and light outages to the right official with the right information.

[🔧 Connect With Your Community](#)



Manage Requests in Your Area?

## Meet SeeClickFix Work

A new cornerstone in our comprehensive civic technology suite for citizens and governments.

Barriers to Novice Thermography

Privacy and Sharing

**Implications for Public Auditing**

**Limitations**



Barriers to Novice Thermography

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**Limitations**



## DISCUSSION: LIMITATIONS

Some limitations of this work include:

- As our field study was semi-structured, findings may not translate to unguided use.
- While a trained thermographer reviewed participant data, we did not try to systematically verify participant reporting accuracy.
- While participant discussed potentially taking actions based on their audits, we did not conduct follow-ups.



# CLOSING: SUMMARY





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1

First human-centered study of novice smartphone-based thermal camera use.



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First human-centered study of novice smartphone-based thermal camera use.

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Through weekly missions, we assessed how novice users approach auditing tasks and the challenges they encounter.



## CLOSING: SUMMARY

- 1 First human-centered study of novice smartphone-based thermal camera use.
- 2 Through weekly missions, we assessed how novice users approach auditing tasks and the challenges they encounter.
- 3 Through semi-structured interviews, we explored potential benefits and barriers to effecting change.



# CLOSING: NON-BRANDED ICON, IMAGE, AND VIDEO CREDITS



Design – Dan Helix  
<https://thenounproject.com/term/design/30483>



Expert Beacon  
[https://expertbeacon.com/sites/default/files/styles/180x112/public/how\\_to\\_build\\_your\\_dream\\_home\\_from\\_the\\_ground\\_up.jpg](https://expertbeacon.com/sites/default/files/styles/180x112/public/how_to_build_your_dream_home_from_the_ground_up.jpg)



Inspecting MyPlayHouse – My PlayHouse  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PpyvW\\_w6K8&t=493s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PpyvW_w6K8&t=493s)



Magnify – Curve  
<https://thenounproject.com/term/magnify/735893>



Silkiner Residence  
<http://www.advancedhomeenergykc.com/Untitled/images/Silkiner%20Residence%20035.jpg>



Hold Your Breath - Earthworks  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwAvP-vrHsw>



Discussion – Thomas Miller  
<https://thenounproject.com/term/discussion/942880>



Android Central  
[http://www.androidcentral.com/sites/androidcentral.com/files/styles/xlarge\\_wm\\_brw/public/article\\_images/2015/07/flirone.jpg?itok=ztZ5OcSt](http://www.androidcentral.com/sites/androidcentral.com/files/styles/xlarge_wm_brw/public/article_images/2015/07/flirone.jpg?itok=ztZ5OcSt)



Time – Dmitry Baranovskiy  
<https://thenounproject.com/term/time/6732>



Digiato  
<http://digiato.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/flir-one-thermal-camera-8452.0.jpg>



Person – Wilson Joseph  
<https://thenounproject.com/term/people/48863>



## CLOSING: MORE INFORMATION

The full paper is available at:

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025471>

For more information about this project, please visit:

<http://makeabilitylab.io/projects/thermography/>

Presenter contact information:

<http://www.cs.umd.edu/~mattm>

[mattm@cs.umd.edu](mailto:mattm@cs.umd.edu)

[@mattm401](#)



# Exploring Novice Approaches to Smartphone-based Thermographic Energy Auditing: A Field Study

Matthew Louis Mauriello, Manaswi Saha, Erica Brown, Jon E. Froehlich

Makeability Lab | Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL)  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Maryland, College Park

CHI2017, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

