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Glazing solutions for low cost, high performance housing in Tijuana, Mexico

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Abstract: The Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at Cal Poly Pomona has created a low-cost, high performance housing model for the informal squatter settlements of Tijuana, Mexico. Interior temperatures of the housing model are still outside of the human comfort range, especially during winter nights. It was hypothesized that the fenestration system could be improved to maximize passive solar gain in the wintertime and thus improve night temperatures. This thesis compared the performance of different low-cost window and glazing systems that are relevant to the design and context of the Tijuana housing model. Results showed that single glazing, either glass or clear plastic, in a hand built frame, provided the warmest night temperatures. This is also the most cost-effective choice and offers the option for using salvaged materials.

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