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Temperature and Velocity Distributions in a Church with Floor Heating in Various Seasons / Barozzi, Giovanni Sebastiano; Dumas, Antonio; S., Mazzacane. - STAMPA. - 2:(1998), pp. 25-32. (Intervento presentato al convegno ROOMVENT '98 tenutosi a Stockholm, Sweden nel 14-17 June, 1998).

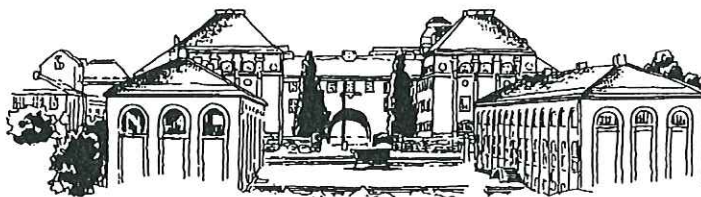
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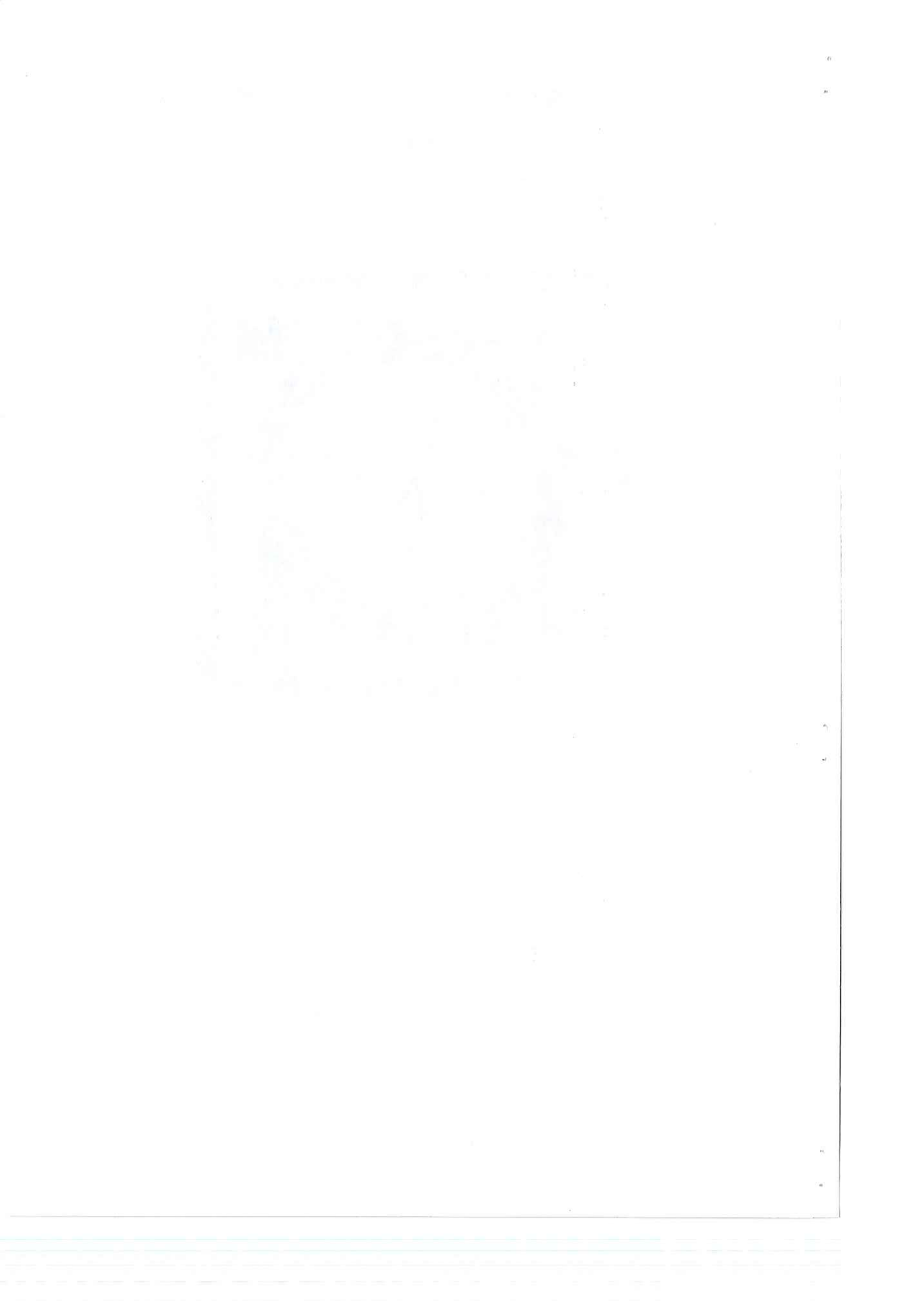
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**6th International Conference  
on  
AIR DISTRIBUTION IN ROOMS**



**Hosted by KTH  
Stockholm, SWEDEN  
June 14-17, 1998**



# **ROOMVENT '98**

**6th International Conference on  
Air Distribution in Rooms  
Stockholm - Sweden  
June 14 - 17, 1998**

**Proceedings: Volume 1**

**Editors:  
Elisabeth Mundt  
Tor-Göran Malmström**

## ROOMVENT '98

Proceedings: Volume 1 of 2

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Approx. price: SEK 1000,00

KTH, Stockholm (1998)  
ISSN 0284 - 141X  
ISRN KTH/IT/M--45--SE

Printed by Pricor, Stockholm, Sweden, 1998.

## PREFACE

It is a privilege to host the 6th ROOMVENT Conference, ROOMVENT '98, in Stockholm, Sweden. This is the principal international conference in this field.

The quantitative and qualitative control of indoor air flow is widely regarded as an important matter of public concern. It is one of the important means to control indoor climate and air quality, and it is important for energy conservation. Adequate air flow control is also essential in special fields such as clean rooms for use in high-tech industries.

New tools give new possibilities for the study of this important field. Computer simulation techniques are developing rapidly and progress is also being made in measuring techniques.

International symposia provide ideal venues for free exchange of information on state-of-the-art methodologies. ROOMVENT '98 brings together prominent researchers from universities and institutes, industrial engineers and government officials with the goal of surveying the latest techniques for analysing indoor air flow and evaluating ventilation effectiveness.

The ROOMVENT Conferences are initiated by SCANVAC, the Scandinavian Federation of Heating, Ventilating and Sanitary Engineering Associations in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The first conference, ROOMVENT '87, was held in Stockholm followed by Oslo, Aalborg, Kraków and most recently Yokohama in 1996.

As the ROOMVENT Conferences now enter their second decade, it is a special pleasure for those of us who arranged the first conference to again have this opportunity to welcome each of you.

We are pleased to acknowledge the valuable help received from the co-sponsoring organisations and the work of the international scientific committee, who reviewed the papers.

Tor-Göran Malmström

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# TEMPERATURE AND VELOCITY DISTRIBUTIONS IN A CHURCH WITH FLOOR HEATING IN VARIOUS SEASONS

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper the experiences carried out in a large church of Bologna equipped with a floor radiant panels heating plant are presented. High intensity air flows were measured not compatible with thermal comfort. Experimental data will form the basis for understanding and controlling thermal instabilities in very high halls.

## KEYWORDS

Natural convection, Thermal comfort, Full scale experiments, Public buildings

surfaces (floor, walls, ceilings, windows, etc.) and those relating to any internal thermal sources (lighting equipment and mechanical and electrical components) may create natural convection phenomena of great intensity.

This causes objective difficulties in controlling thermal comfort, indoor air quality and the dispersal of polluting substances.

An engineering solution commonly utilised is the installation of floor radiant panels heating systems.

Several are typical of that techniques advantages :

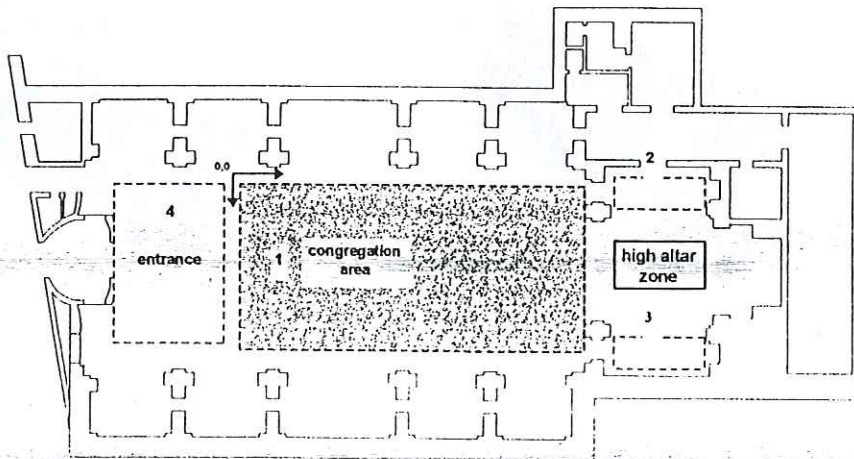


Fig.1 - Planimetry of the Church; 1, 2, 3 and 4 are representative of heated zones

## INTRODUCTION

Buildings used in industry are nearly always characterised by volumes and dimensions of considerable size, mainly in height, which favour the occurrence of thermal instability phenomena independently of the air-conditioning system or HVAC plants used. Indeed, the presence of temperature differences between the building curtain

- a lower vertical air stratification compared with classic HVAC systems;
- reduced energy consumption on account of the low temperature of the heating fluid (35-45°C);
- absence of the obstacles due to the presence of HVAC terminal components.













altar area and the zone under row S13 the entrance of the church.

The data show that in the congregation zone air velocity is in general high up to 33.3 cm/s. Similar values are found in the entrance zone. Velocity is lower in the altar zone, values ranging from 6 to 22,3 cm/s. In the congregation zone the air velocity decreases from the entrance to the altar with presence of two minima in the crosswise direction. All values are characterised by a high turbulent intensity, up to 30%.

maximum temperature values are found in correspondence with velocity minima.

Results at 1.25 m, shown in Figs. 4 and 5, indicate the velocity and temperature fields remain similar to the previous data but generally the velocity are higher and temperature lower. The second survey was made in March. Outdoor temperature was about 16 °C. Data were taken at heights 1.25 and 3.0 m. It is interesting to observe that in this case the general air flow was directed from the altar towards the entrance.

At 1.25 m the data are shown in Figs. 6 and

	9,6				7,3				14,3
	10,9				7,9				11,0
	8,0				13,5				11,5
	12,0								14,3
	17,8				16,8				17,4
S1	14,4	n.r.	n.r.	14,2	14,5	16,0	n.r.	n.r.	12,5
S3	17,5	n.r.	n.r.	18,0	17,7	18,5	n.r.	n.r.	17,6
S5	18,0	n.r.	n.r.	22,2	24,3	23,5	n.r.	n.r.	20,8
S7	16,8	n.r.	n.r.	22,1	24,3	21,5	n.r.	n.r.	12,5
S9	16,0	n.r.	n.r.	18,4	24,7	24,2	n.r.	n.r.	17,5
S11	10,0	n.r.	n.r.	24,8	25,3	30,9	n.r.	n.r.	18,1
S13	17,3	n.r.	n.r.	22,3	24,5	22,5	n.r.	n.r.	34,3
	18,5				19,4				11,0
	15,8				13,0				14,8

	21,0					20,9			20,5
	21,0					20,9			21,0
	21,1					20,5			20,9
	20,7								20,6
	20,4					20,7			20,7
S1	20,6	n.r.	n.r.	20,7	20,7	20,7	n.r.	n.r.	20,8
S3	20,3	n.r.	n.r.	20,8	20,4	20,6	n.r.	n.r.	20,5
S5	20,6	n.r.	n.r.	20,6	20,8	20,4	n.r.	n.r.	20,4
S7	20,5	n.r.	n.r.	20,6	20,7	20,9	n.r.	n.r.	20,6
S9	20,6	n.r.	n.r.	21,0	20,6	20,5	n.r.	n.r.	20,7
S11	21,0	n.r.	n.r.	21,1	20,6	20,7	n.r.	n.r.	20,7
S13	20,7	n.r.	n.r.	21,3	21,3	21,4	n.r.	n.r.	22,1
	20,7					21,3			21,6
	20,8					21,3			20,7
	21,1					21,2			21,1

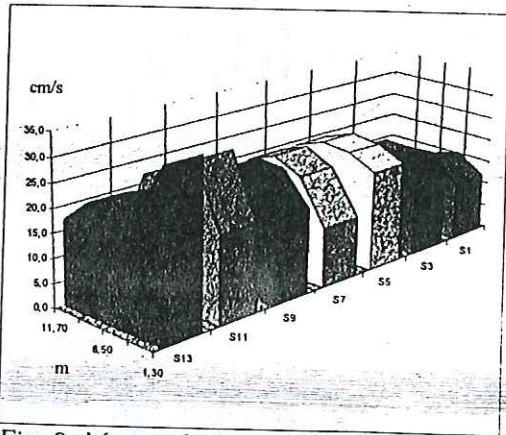


Fig. 8 - Mean velocity values (cm/s) - h=3 m on the floor - march 96

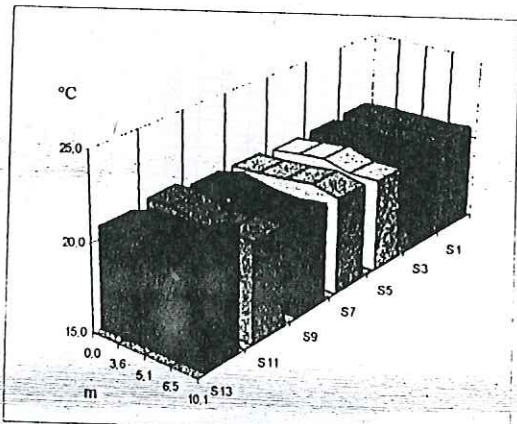


Fig. 9 - Mean temperature values (°C) - h=3 m on the floor - march 96

In the same area the temperature values are everywhere higher than 16 °C and therefore sufficient for thermal comfort. However thermal conditions are highly non uniform. Air temperature increases from the entrance zone to the abside and the crosswise

7. In comparison with the data of February velocities are more uniform with a variability range of 10 cm/s, but the distribution is much less regular. The temperature distribution is now much more uniform then in first survey ranging between 19.2 and 20.3 °C.

1  
4  
7  
10  
13

12,3				4,7			12,3	
14,7				8,0			16,4	
11,7				17,3			14,4	
13,1							14,2	
				11,9			13,3	
11,9	n.r.	19,3	n.r.	21,6	n.r.	23,2	n.r.	11,0
15,8	n.r.	12,3	n.r.	19,2	n.r.	18,9	n.r.	13,7
16,7	n.r.	18,2	n.r.	24,9	n.r.	20,3	n.r.	14,3
10,0	n.r.	14,4	n.r.	24,7	n.r.	16,3	n.r.	12,1
13,0	n.r.	17,3	n.r.	18,6	n.r.	13,9	n.r.	12,7
11,9		13,7		22,3		17,1		14,3
12,4		13,9		18,6		17,8		17,3
14,0		13,0		17,1		19,8		12,3

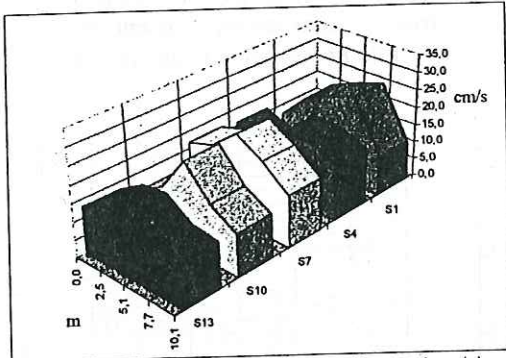


Fig. 10 - Mean velocity values (cm/s) -  $h=0.15$  m - april 96

14,1				4,3			10,4	
9,3				6,2			9,3	
11,4				15,3			10,4	
11,3							10,3	
13,2				20,8			14,3	
14,1	n.r.	17,3	n.r.	13,9	n.r.	17,7	n.r.	13,3
6,8	n.r.	20,3	n.r.	14,0	n.r.	19,2	n.r.	16,1
13,4	n.r.	14,4	n.r.	19,0	n.r.	17,0	n.r.	18,1
10,2	n.r.	13,6	n.r.	22,7	n.r.	13,3	n.r.	12,0
8,1	n.r.	11,4	n.r.	18,3	n.r.	13,9	n.r.	10,0
13,3		13,8		10,0		8,2		8,0
16,0		11,6		14,7		10,2		11,6
13,9		13,3		9,3		12,0		11,1

S1  
S4  
S7  
S10  
S13

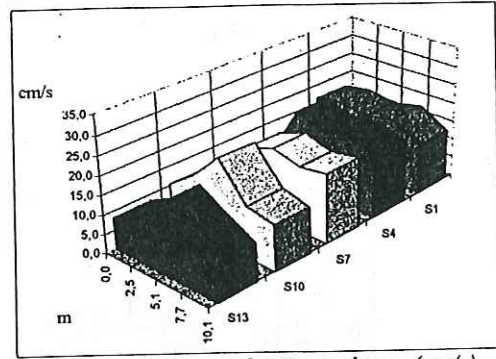


Fig. 12 - Mean velocity values (cm/s) -  $h=1,25$  m - april 96

22,3				23,0			22,3	
22,3				22,3			22,3	
22,4				22,0			22,8	
22,7							22,5	
22,3				22,2			22,5	
21,8	n.r.	22,3	n.r.	21,4	n.r.	21,3	n.r.	22,6
22,1	n.r.	22,8	n.r.	21,6	n.r.	22,3	n.r.	22,2
21,7	n.r.	22,3	n.r.	22,0	n.r.	22,6	n.r.	21,6
22,3	n.r.	22,3	n.r.	21,9	n.r.	22,8	n.r.	21,9
21,3	n.r.	22,2	n.r.	22,2	n.r.	22,1	n.r.	21,6
22,2		22,1		21,6		21,6		21,0
22,3		22,3		22,2		22,1		22,0
22,3		22,3		22,1		21,6		21,2

S1  
S4  
S7  
S10  
S13

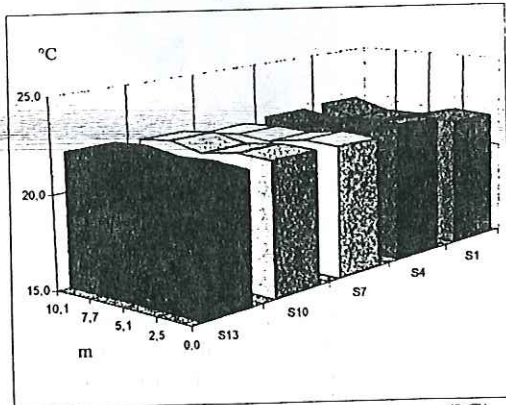


Fig. 11 - Mean temperature values (°C) -  $h=0.15$  m - april 96

22,6				21,2			22,8	
22,7				22,8			22,4	
22,7				22,2			22,5	
22,6							22,3	
22,3				22,4			22,6	
21,8	n.r.	21,9	n.r.	21,4	n.r.	21,4	n.r.	22,0
22,2	n.r.	21,7	n.r.	21,8	n.r.	21,6	n.r.	21,9
21,9	n.r.	22,0	n.r.	21,7	n.r.	21,8	n.r.	21,7
22,0	n.r.	22,1	n.r.	21,8	n.r.	22,2	n.r.	22,0
21,8	n.r.	22,0	n.r.	21,9	n.r.	22,2	n.r.	22,1
22,3		22,2		22,0		22,1		22,1
22,3		22,1		21,9		22,0		22,1
22,0		22,2		22,1		21,9		22,1

S1  
S4  
S7  
S10  
S13

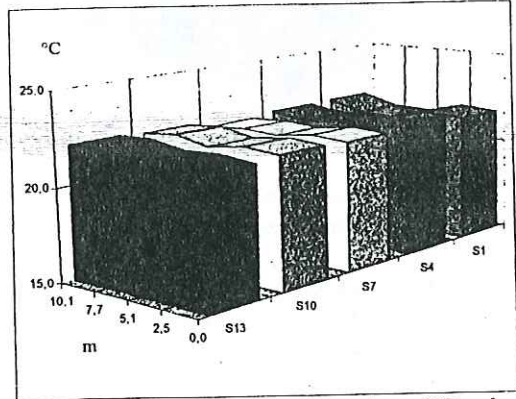


Fig. 13 - Mean temperature values (°C) -  $h=1,25$  m - april 96



The data, at 3 m from the floor, just confirm the above trend and are shown in Figs. 8 and 9. The third survey was carried out in April with external temperature of about 20 °C. Two heights, 0.15 and 1.25 m, were considered and less measurement points was utilised (Figs. 10, 11, 12 and 13). The overall air movement, in this case also, was from the altar towards the entrance, with a pronounced left component

As expected the velocity are lower and the temperatures higher than in the second survey This can be observed in Figs. 12 and 13 at 1.25 m from the floor.

A summary of walls, ceiling, floor temperatures, as obtained by infrared thermography, is given in Table 1: are reported average values of the air temperatures at 1.25 m from the floor and the inlet of the working fluid.

Tab. 1 - Mean temperature (°C) of the different internal structures of the Church, of internal, external air and heating fluid

	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Nave floor	20 ÷ 21	23,5 ÷ 24	25
Altar zone floor	14 ÷ 14,8	16,4 ÷ 17	18 ÷ 18,5
Altar corridors	20 ÷ 21	25	26
Ceiling	12,5 ÷ 13,5	17 ÷ 18	18,5 ÷ 19
Raised structures	15,5 ÷ 12,5	18,5 ÷ 17,5	19
Closure walls	20	23	25
Air ambient	17	20	22
External air	0 ÷ 2	16	20
Heating fluid	38	38	38

It can be note that the latter temperatures remain constant throughout the whole heating period, due an incorrect setting of the temperature controller.

The maximum difference between the ceiling and the floor was 8 °C in February. In March and April this dropped to 6 °C even if the ceiling temperature was as high as 18-19 °C.

## DISCUSSION

The whole experience demonstrates that the introduction of a new radiant panel heating system originates the uncomfortable conditions within the church. These derive from the very high velocity and turbulence level at the living quotes. On the other hand

the heating plants is efficient in terms of air temperature provided.

The complete structure of the air movement within could not be detected due to the size of the height of the hall (22 m at the top of the vault). However, it is possible to infer from the data the formation of a large convective cell filling the whole ambient, characterized by horizontal current at the living quotes which should be balanced by a reversed current at the vault level.

The literature indicates that the leading parameters for natural convective circulation in enclosures is the Grashof number  $Gr$ . This is based on the leading temperature difference and third power of the vertical dimensions, as follows:

$$Gr = \frac{gL^3 \beta \Delta T}{\nu^2}$$

Using the temperature difference between the floor and the ceiling as  $\Delta T$  and the average height of the vault as  $L$ , it is found that the Grashof number is as high as  $10^{13}$ . Such a very high value is no only sufficient to promote and sustain a convective cell but also corresponds to high turbulence levels [1]. That it is coherent with the experimental data. This basic model is, however, influenced by a number of secondary elements, whose relevance is impossible to predict for the time being. These are:

- the temperature of the vertical surfaces which vary during day and along the season. The lateral temperatures actually influence the direction of the circulation;

- the presence of large windows in the upper part of the enclosure which locally affects the vertical wall temperatures;
- the presence of non heated areas of the floor;
- the complex geometry of the ambient with columns and secondary chapels in the lateral naves.

It is therefore evident that the above scheme is not sufficient to explain all the characteristics of the problem. In fact the Grashof number does not change too much during the heating period, while qualitative and quantitative differences are stressed by the experimental data.

### CONCLUSIONS

The results of the experimental campaign carried out in the church of S. Maria della Pietà in Bologna can be synthesized as follows:

- horizontal air currents are present at the living quotes with prevailing direction from the entrance towards the altar zone in February. The current reverses in March and April;
- velocities are particularly high in February with a maximum of 33.3 cm/s. The turbulence intensity is also very high, up to 30%, in this period. Lower velocity and turbulence levels are detected in subsequent surveys;
- pronounced velocity and temperature non-uniformities are detected in February.
- longitudinal lines with maximum temperature and minimum velocity are observed in correspondence to central columns at the end of the congregation area (in evidence in fig. 1);
- the internal surface temperatures are quite different all along the heating period with a maximum difference temperatures of 8 °C

between the heated floor and the main vault.

The above effects are linked to the presence of a large convective cell filling the church enclosure. This is promoted by the temperature difference between floor and ceiling, but is definitely affected by a number of secondary elements which probably contribute qualitative and quantitative modifications to the flow structure.

The complexity of the problem imposes the necessity of the use of CFD modelling .

### REFERENCES

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