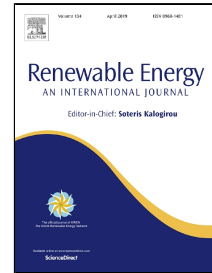


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Abstract

In the Mediterranean and North African regions, traditional vaulted roof forms have been widely used due to their significant influence on enhancing thermal indoor conditions. This research parametrically investigates the thermal performance of vaulted roofs, seeking a better understanding of the reciprocal relationship between the solar irradiance received by these roofs and the resulting energy consumption in the hot-arid city of Aswan (23.58°N), Egypt. The methodological procedure is realized through two phases. The annual simulations of solar irradiance and energy consumption are carried out in the first phase, where the quantitative performance of 2,310 different cases are predicted in terms of six vaulted roof forms against eleven key influencing variables. The unsupervised technique of Principal Component Analysis is used in the second phase to reduce the higher dimensionality of the resulting dataset and extract important information from newly established orthogonal principal components. The outcomes of this work aim to provide architects and practitioners with an optimized dataset to use in the design and application of vaulted roof forms and support decision makers addressing the development strategies by providing essential data for setting regulations of newly built environments in harsh hot-arid contexts.

Key Words: Solar Irradiance; Energy Consumption; Vaulted Roofs; Parametric Approach; Principal Component Analysis.

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1 Introduction

2 In Egypt, almost 42% of energy is consumed by the buildings sector (EMEE, 2012), with more than 90% of
3 its generated electricity from non-renewable resources (Atlam and Rapiea, 2016). Climate change causes
4 a steep increase in air temperature due to heat waves, coupled with a continuous use of HVAC systems
5 that only surged the energy demand. These expanded the anthropogenic polluted heat, and in turn, the
6 urban heat island. Last two decades, the Egyptian residential building sector have witnessed a stressed
7 electricity demand, with a steady increase annually (Mourtada, 2009). Today, the predominant character of
8 the major Egyptian cities manifests repetitions of minimalistic, identical, underlit, and unventilated
9 residential blocks (Fahmy, 2010). Also, many passive design techniques of the Egyptian traditional
10 architecture have vanished, particularly passive cooling strategies that prevents against overheating in the
11 indoor built environment (Santamouris and Asimakopoulos, 1996). Such factors have accelerated the
12 reliance on air conditioners and mechanical acclimatization allover Egypt, resulting in high rates of energy
13 consumption that cannot be converged by electricity-generating capacity (EERA, 2014). For that very
14 reason, the strategic objectives of the Egyptian Residential Energy Code's (EREC) directed stakeholders
15 towards utilizing energy conservation techniques in buildings designs (EERA, 2014). Some of the main
16 concepts EREC identifies is the 'building envelope' and its thermal insulation that are recommended to
17 reduce heat gain and hence energy consumption by controlling the heat flow in and out of the building
18 (Okba, 2005; Attia, 2010; AlQadi, et al., 2018). To achieve higher comfort levels, traditional architecture
19 incorporated varied aspects such as natural ventilation, shading, thermal mass and passive cooling
20 techniques as some of the most important features in Egyptian traditional architecture (Fathy, 1986;
21 Elnokaly and Elseragy, 2013). In hot-arid climate regions, 70-80% of total energy consumption is used to
22 operate active cooling systems (Koch-Nielsen, 2013), and consequently, reducing the reliance on those will
23 have a drastic impact on energy consumption. An optimized envelope design can improve the thermal
24 performance through passive solar techniques (Fahmy, et al., 2015), and the building roofs has a deep role
25 to play in this process (Ayoub and Elseragy, 2018). Limitations in understanding environmental and thermal
26 performances of architectural geometries have to some extent hindered their acceptance by clients and the
27 building industry (Elseragy and Elnokaly, 2007). Since roofs receive the highest amount of solar irradiance,
28 causing overheating in this climate (Elnokaly and Elseragy, 2006), the indoor thermal comfort depends on
29 reducing this solar intensity without the reliance on mechanical devices (Elseragy and Gadi, 2003a; 2003b;
30 Elseragy and Elnokaly, 2007). There are other variables that influence indoor thermal comfort such as
31 thermos-physical properties of the building's envelope material (Zeng et al, 2011); the roof optical
32 properties, namely the albedo, thermal emissivity and the roof insulation (Ramamurthya et al, 2015;
33 Santamouris et al, 2011; Meyn and Oke, 2009) that was demonstrated to play a very important role in the
34 energy balance of buildings (Costanzo, 2013). However, this study mainly examines the impact of various
35 geometrical forms of vaulted roofs, as part of the building envelope elements, on indoor thermal behavior
36 under different conditions in hot-arid climate of Egypt. Vaults and domes are useful treatments used in the
37 traditional architecture to adapt with the hot-arid climate. These traditional curved forms have many

1 advantages reducing the total heat gain from the roof and providing a passive cooling effect for buildings
2 by increasing the height of the space, and consequently, warm air rises far above the occupants, as heat
3 is lost by convective ventilation through certain roof openings to the outdoors (Fathy, 1986).

4 5 **Review of Vaulted and Domed Roofs**

6 Qualitative explanations were previously presented on the ability of curved roofs in hot-arid regions to
7 maintain lower indoor temperatures during the hot summer and reflect more solar radiation, compared to
8 flat roofs (Fathy, 1986; Bowen, 1981; Koita, 1981). Nevertheless, many of them were provided without
9 factual or empirical data. In spite their logic, further quantifications are required to investigate their ability to
10 mitigate undesirable environmental conditions. In one of earlier studies, Olgyay (1973) showed that the
11 lower indoor air temperature of curved roof buildings is due to the lower absorbed solar radiation, compared
12 to flat roofs. His findings were later confirmed by Konya (1980). Mainstone (1983) claimed that the reason
13 behind this is due to higher ground and sky reflected radiation heat loss. However, it was not until 1990s
14 when Pearlmutter (1993) conducted the first attempt to quantitatively compare the thermal behaviour of
15 vaulted roof forms (VRFs) against flat roofs in terms of indoor temperatures. His study revealed the ability
16 of VRFs to offer greater thermal stability, providing favorable daytime temperature. Following this work, only
17 few studies have used empirical methods to explore the impact of various VRFs (Elseragy, 2003; Elseragy
18 and Gadi, 2003b; Elseragy and Elnokaly, 2007). Elseragy (2003) established a theoretical basis of these
19 claims and validated the thermal advantages of curved roof forms in hot-arid regions. He tested both the
20 vaulted and domed roofs with various inclinations and orientations and provided a mathematical model for
21 measuring the solar irradiance on tilted/curved surfaces. Semi-circular domes were examined by Gómez-
22 Muñoz et al. (2003) who validated Elseragy's work. Elseragy (2003) identified "self-shading" property as an
23 advantage of curved roofs, which was agreed by Gómez-Muñoz et al. (2003) and referred to as "auto
24 shading." Later, this advantage was also confirmed by Hadavand and Yaghoubi (2008). While many
25 researches put the focus on other climate-related issues, Tang et al. (2003a and 2003b) asserted that the
26 use of curved roofs in contemporary architecture of hot-arid regions has yet to be explored on their influence
27 of solar radiation and heat transfer. Other researchers investigated the use of domed roofs but very little is
28 done on VRFs. Faghih and Bahadori (2011) studied the performance of domed roofs, considering air flow,
29 solar radiation, and heat transfer. They revealed that domed roofs outperform flat roofs on warm days,
30 especially the domes covered with glazed tiles. In certain cases, they found that wind flow direction and
31 speed are not essential in decreasing room temperature of the domed roofs. Soleimani et al. (2016)
32 conducted a computational simulation of the wind-induced ventilation in a geodesic dome in a hot climate.
33 They reported that natural ventilation by upper roof openings can reduce the indoor air temperature during
34 winter periods. During hot summer periods, however, this technique cannot satisfy thermal requirements,
35 in accordance with Faghih and Bahadori (2011) results, recommending that complementary cooling
36 solutions should be considered. Some other researchers considered the impact of the external form of the
37 building on energy consumption, as in the work of Zerefos et al. (2012), while others studied the thermal

1 performance of tilted/curved roof forms. **Sirimanna and Attalage (2016)** conducted a study on buildings in
2 the Mediterranean region, where they concluded that the external form of a building has a great impact on
3 energy consumption despite of the materials and its usage. Tilted/curved roof geometries of high angles of
4 incidence from solar radiation are advantageous than flat ones in energy consumption reduction, hence,
5 cooling loads are reduced. In a recent study, **Ayoub and Elseragy (2018)** confirmed the ability of domed
6 roofs to significantly decrease the received solar irradiance in comparison to flat roof surfaces throughout
7 the year. However, they only considered domed roof forms rather VRFs. Though interesting findings, the
8 collective conclusions of the reviewed studies suggest that an additional work should put the focus on
9 expanding the investigations to fully comprehend the thermal behaviour of VRFs against different variables
10 on an annual basis with reference to hot-arid climates. In addition, no researches on these techniques have
11 been conducted for VRFs in Aswan.

13 **Vaulted Roof Forms**

14 Geometrically, there is a wide variety of vaults (**Figure 1**), which are arched forms used to provide spaces
15 with a ceiling or roof. Vaults apply lateral load that requires continuous walls of a significant thickness as
16 counter load-resisting elements. The simplest kind of a vault is the Barrel Vault, resembling a continuous
17 semicircular arch, where the length is usually greater than or equal to its diameter. A variety of a Barrel
18 Vault is the Pointed Vault, which has been widely employed because of its greater strength and reduced
19 load applied on the walls. Another example is the intersecting barrel vault, or the Groin Vault. It is used for
20 spaces of great dimensions, where two semicircular barrel vaults of the same diameter cross each other.
21 Their intersection is an ellipse that is known as a groin, down which the load of the vault is carried to the
22 cross walls. A diversiform of Groin Vault is the Pointed Groin Vault, where its own weight is applied more
23 directly downward than the groin vault, requiring less thick walls as counter load-resisting elements, and in
24 turn, allows for larger openings beneath the outer ribs. Another type of vaults is the domical vault or Cloister
25 Vault that consists of four concave surfaces meeting at a curve, or a point in the case of Pointed Cloister
26 Vault, above its center. The Cloister Vault is the intersection of the space beneath two barrel or pointed
27 vaults perpendicular to each other. In this way, it differs from a Groin Vault that is also formed by two barrel
28 or pointed vaults perpendicular to each other, yet a Cloister Vault is the union of spaces beneath them.

30 **Aim of the Study**

31 This research addresses the question of achieving indoor thermal comfort by integrating the traditional
32 VRFs into contemporary buildings in Aswan, Egypt. The parametric approach is utilized to investigate the
33 solar irradiance received by these roofs along with the resulting energy consumption of several VRFs by
34 means of computational simulations of the Average Hourly Total Irradiance (AHTI) (kWh/m^2), and the
35 resulting Average Hourly Energy Consumption (AHEC) (kWh/m^2) for potential cooling loads. This approach
36 reflects a mediation to an existing situation that is associated with hot-arid environments, to ultimately
37 improve the indoor environmental quality. Several empirical equations verified that at the same

1 geographical latitude, solar irradiance received by a surface differs significantly according to its geometrical
2 configuration, form, orientation, and other related variables (Elseragy and Gadi, 2003a; Elseragy and
3 Elnokaly, 2007). This signifies the necessity to investigate different VRFs against a number of these
4 influencing variables.

6 Methodology

7 The methodological procedure includes identifying the simulations tools and settings of solar irradiance and
8 energy consumption. The reference residential study model and its key influencing variables are then
9 described, on which the simulations are conducted. The calculations of solar irradiance and the resulting
10 energy consumption would require conducting annual simulations on an hourly-basis with regard to the
11 selected geographic location. Herein, this parametric study is realized through two phases. The first phase
12 utilizes an algorithm that derives a number of pre-defined variables to model and simulate different VRFs.
13 This will reveal their quantitative performance against these variables through the computational
14 simulations, concluding VRFs that receive lower solar irradiance, and consequently, yield less energy
15 consumption. However, the increased number of the study variables makes it difficult to comprehend the
16 relationships between them, even with traditional statistical techniques. The objective of the second phase
17 is to reduce the higher dimensionality of the dataset resulted from the first phase, revealing fewer variables
18 to consider. This can be achieved by Principal Component Analysis (PCA), which converts a multivariate
19 dataset into uncorrelated variables, representing a combination of the original variables. The dimensionality
20 reduction is achieved by considering the most important components that hold as much information as
21 possible of the original dataset. The quantitative measurements of this work will provide an extensive set
22 of data to be used by architects, planners, and policy makers in the building industry.

24 Simulation Tools and Settings

25 In this study, Rhinoceros's Grasshopper developed by David Rutten at Robert McNeel and Associates
26 (Tedeschi and Andreani, 2014), is used to create different 3D models of VRFs. It is a graphical algorithm
27 editor that supports the associative parametric approach (Ayoub, 2016). Grasshopper runs under
28 Rhinoceros 3D modeling platform, which is a NURBS-based 3D modeling platform commonly used in
29 industrial design, architecture, and other multimedia and graphic designs (Becker and Golay, 1999). The
30 solar irradiance and energy simulations are performed using Diva-for-Rhino (Jakubiec, and Reinhart, 2011),
31 developed by Solemma LLC: Environmental analysis for buildings, while the energy simulations are
32 conducted using Archsim by Timur Dogan (Dogan et al., 2014). Diva-for-Rhino is a plug-in for Rhinoceros
33 that interfaces Radiance (Ward, 1994), a validated engine for daylighting and solar irradiance simulations
34 (Lagios et al., 2010; Jakubiec, and Reinhart, 2011; Costanzo et al., 2018). It creates a continuous
35 cumulative sky radiance map distribution method called GenCumulativeSky, in which it is significantly faster
36 with a minimal sacrifice in accuracy compared to other methods (Robinson and Stone, 2004). Archsim
37 Energy Modeling is a multi-zone energy simulation tool that interfaces the validated EnergyPlus engine for

1 energy simulations (Winkelmann, 2001). The EnergyPlus operates in compliance with the ANSI/ASHRAE
 2 Standard 140-2011 Standard Method of Test for the Evaluation of Building Energy Analysis Computer
 3 Programs (ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 140, 2011). As a part of the DIVA-for-Rhino analysis suite, Archsim's
 4 energy consumption predictions are seamlessly combined with DIVA-for-Rhino's solar irradiance
 5 calculations (Jakubiec and Reinhart, 2011). The investigations consider the simulation run period to be
 6 annually based on hourly resolution. The effect of solar irradiance is undetectable during nocturnal hours,
 7 they were added to the results dataset, since the residential space may have different characteristics of
 8 energy consumption during these hours. The simulation settings are consistent to Aswan's (23.58°N)
 9 Typical Meteorological Year (TMY) weather data file. Radiance and EnergyPlus parameters are shown in
 10 (Table 1). Each generated roof geometry is divided into discrete counterparts. The discretization size, or
 11 grid spacing, is set to be 0.45 m, which is less than LEEDv4 requirement of 0.60 m (USGBC, 2019). DIVA-
 12 for-Rhino actually calculates the number of divisions that closely matches the input grid size, thus, it's more
 13 of an average than an exact number. This step is usually carried out to construct counterparts suitable for
 14 analysis and implementation of computational investigations of solar irradiance in DIVA-for-Rhino.

15
 16 *Table 1: Computational Simulations Settings*

Computational Investigations Settings	
Location	Aswan, Egypt (23.58°N)
Study Period	Annual with and Hourly Resolution
Analysis Grid Size	0.45
Radiance Parameters	
Ambient Accuracy (aa)	0.15
Ambient Bounce (ab)	6
Ambient Division (ad)	1024
Ambient Resolution (ar)	256
Ambient Sampling (as)	128
EnergyPlus Parameters	
People	0.20 Person/m ²
Lighting	12 W/m ²
Cooling Setpoint Temperature	26°C
Electrical Equipment, Mechanical Ventilation, and Hot Water	No

17
 18 **Reference Residential Study Model (RRSM)**
 19 The developed algorithm by the authors is utilized to generate the Reference Residential Study Model
 20 (RRSM). It represents a domestic residential space located at the ground floor that reflects different
 21 orientations and other geometrical configurations of VRFs. The RRSM is covered by a variable VRF to
 22 receive the solar irradiance, in which its form is manipulated by a range of variable Cross-Sectional Ratio
 23 from 0.00 to 2.00 (Figure 2), and orientations from 0° to 180° with an increment 45° counterclockwise. The
 24 RRSM parameters, configurations, and materials (Table 2) are meant to act as a baseline for the
 25 computational investigations in the first phase. The wall and roof sections for the thermal model are selected
 26 according to the optimized case for the Egyptian typical wall section for the residential sector, assuming to
 27 coincide with the Egyptian Code for Energy Efficiency in Residential Buildings, ECP 306-2005 - First
 28 Section (306/1) (EERB, 2008). In this case, the energy simulations are instructed to calculate cooling

energy only and consider the effect of thermal transmittance through walls and roofs, while floor are set to be adiabatic. The total U-value of the external wall is 0.34 W/m²K, and the external roof is 0.48 W/m²K, retrieved with modification from (Attia, and Wanas, 2012). The energy simulation discards internal heat gains from any electrical equipment, mechanical ventilation, and hot water, to focus the energy consumption due to VRFs only. Screens of RRSM are represented as horizontal strips, co-planar with each wall to eliminate the effect of opening orientation. The centers of the screens are aligned to 50% of the wall height, with equal sills and lintels of 1.00 m.

Table 2: RRSM Parameters, Configurations, and Materials

Reference Residential Study Model (RRSM) Parameters				
Base Level	Ground floor level			
Width	10.00, 7.50, and 5.00 m			
Length	10.00, 7.50, and 5.00 m			
Height	3.00 m			
Roof/RRSM Combinations	Width	x	Length	10.0x10.0, 10.0x7.5, 10.0x5.0, 7.5x5.0, 7.5x10.0, 5.0x10.0, and 5.0x7.5 Combined with Heights (from 0 to 10) with 77 Combinations in Total.
Surfaces Materials				
Walls	30% reflectance			
Roof	20% reflectance			
Glazing	88% visual transmittance			
Screen Parameters				
Glazing	Single Panel Clear Glazing, Thickness=6 mm			
Window Frame	Wooden Frame of 5 cm without any dividers			
Screen Dimensions	Horizontal Stripes on each wall Sill=1.00 m, Lintel=1.00 m			
Screen Glazing Material	U-value=5.778, SHGC=0.819, TSOL=0.775, TVIS=0.881			
SHGC: Solar Heat Gain Coeff.; TSOL: Solar Transmittance Coeff.; TVIS: Visible Transmittance Coeff.				

Key Influencing Variables and Parametric Algorithm

The accumulations of the previously reviewed researches examined a number of related factors with the intention of quantitatively comparing thermal behaviour of VRFs. They showed that the enhancement of solar irradiance levels and energy consumption are significantly affected by numerous key variables, related to the geometry of VRFs. This suggests a derived rule-of-thumb is hard to acquire, yet the investigation of these variables of VRFs would explain the relationship between roof geometries and the received solar irradiance along with the resulting energy consumption. The key influencing variables and their associated ranges are shown in (Table 3). They are investigated through a multiple simulation process, where the computational investigations simulations calculate the AHTI and AHEC for each VRF considering the specified ranges of the influencing variables. These variables are considered independent variables, while AHTI and AHEC are dependent variables. The total number of simulation runs is: 6 VRFs x 5 RRSM Orientations x 77 VRFs/RRSM Combinations = 2,310.

Table 3: The Key Influencing Variables and their Associated Ranges

No.	Key Influencing Variables	Unit	Minimum	Maximum
1	Rotational Angle	Degrees	0.00	180.00
2	Roof Height	m	0.00	10.00
3	Roof/RRSM Width	m	5.00	10.00
4	Roof/RRSM Length	m	5.00	10.00

5	RRSM Internal Area	m ²	25.00	100.00
6	RRSM Internal Volume	m ³	75.00	1065.27
7	Thermal Envelope: Sum of External Walls and Roof Total Area	m ²	110.00	613.33
8	Roof External Area	m ²	25.00	240.28
9	Roof Aspect Ratio: Length/Width	-	0.5	1.00
10	RRSM Compactness Ratio: Thermal Envelope/Volume	m ⁻¹	1.46	0.57
11	Roof Cross-Sectional Ratio: Height/Width	-	0	2

1
2 In Grasshopper's computational environment, the authors developed an algorithm to derive the simulations
3 for large number of VRFs (Figure 1) with varying configurations and orientations. It utilizes the parametric
4 methodology through numerical inputs, geometric transformations, mathematical formulas, and logical
5 relationships. Grasshopper is used to automate the overall process (Figure 3). The modeling of VRFs
6 basically consists of two curves lofted together to create different vaults according to the defined
7 VRFs/RRSM variables shown in (Table 2) and (Table 3). By manipulating these variables using brute-force
8 exhaustive search, numerous 3D models are generated, each of which Grasshopper sends to Diva-for-
9 Rhino and Archsim for the simulation and calculation of AHTI and AHEC respectively based on the
10 simulation settings (Table 1). The AHTI and AHEC values are then sent back to Grasshopper, where it is
11 used this time to collect the results of each run along with their corresponding inputs variables. Grasshopper
12 then exports the resulting dataset to Microsoft Excel for further analysis and representation.

13 14 Results and Discussion

15 The first subsection illustrates the simulation results of AHTI and AHEC in terms of the 11 key influencing
16 variables. In addition, it presents the processing of the subsequent data to conclude the optimal VRFs
17 configurations that yield minimized solar irradiance with less energy consumption. Following, the second
18 subsection shows the steps of the developed PCA to reduce the higher dimensionality of the resulting
19 dataset including the charts of the established principal components.

20 21 The First Phase: Evaluation of Solar Irradiance and Energy Consumption

22 Using Diva-for-Rhino and Archsim, the annual solar irradiance and energy consumption simulations are
23 conducted for each VRF configuration. The simulation and data extraction process took approximately 270
24 hours on an Intel i7-4790K CPU, with installed memory (RAM) of 16.0 GB, and 64-bit operating system. To
25 offer a comprehensive visualization of the simulation runs against the influencing variables, a parallel
26 coordinates plot (Figure 4) is drawn where the variables are represented on 11 vertical and equally spaced
27 parallel axes. This plot contains additional two axes for the resulting AHTI and AHEC. It displays the
28 simulation runs as polylines in the 11-dimensional experiment space, where each variable value is
29 represented by a point on a polyline. This makes parallel coordinate plots similar in appearance to line
30 charts, but the way data is translated into a plot is substantially different. The slopes of the line charts
31 indicate the change from one value to another, as the polylines connect a series of values each associated
32 with a different variable measure. The scales of these variables are standardized to range from 0.0 of
33 1.0. This visualization is an effective technique to plot many variables together along with the relationships

1 between them, when it is difficult to visualize complicated datasets of higher dimensionality. In order to
 2 review and explain the simulation results, they must be processed first, allowing to handle larger datasets
 3 with the available computational power. The data-processing of simulation results includes a number of
 4 steps. After extracting the hourly results from Grasshopper to Microsoft Excel and arranging them in a
 5 tabular format, they are converted into monthly average hourly data: $AHTI_{Monthly}$ and $AHEC_{Monthly}$. These
 6 new metrics are derived from the original datasets by calculating the average hourly observations in a given
 7 month. For each VRF, the $AHTI_{Monthly}$ addresses all the first hour observations of each day in a given month
 8 and calculates their monthly average hourly solar irradiance. Then it takes all the second hour observations
 9 of each day in the same month and calculates its average, and so on. This procedure is repeated for all
 10 months of the year. Likewise, $AHEC_{Monthly}$ addresses each hour of each day in a given month and calculates
 11 its energy consumption monthly average hourly. For each VRF, these results in 288 data entries consisting
 12 of 24 hours per 12 months. In order to test the similarity and association between the original hourly AHTI
 13 and AHEC and the newly generated $AHTI_{Monthly}$ and $AHEC_{Monthly}$, a two tailed t-test is performed to compare
 14 the means and variances of the two continuous datasets for all the study's VRFs. There are two hypotheses
 15 to test here, the Null Hypothesis H_0 : where there is no difference between the two datasets, and the
 16 Alternate Hypothesis H_1 : in which there is a difference between the two datasets. As shown in (Table 4-a)
 17 and (Table 4-b), all VRFs yielded smaller t-stat values than their corresponding two tail t-critical values
 18 confirming the rejection of the alternate hypothesis in favour of the null hypothesis. Additionally, the t-test
 19 results showed an association between the two datasets, where their p-values are considerably larger than
 20 the significance level of 0.05. Therefore, there is enough evidence to support the null hypothesis and to
 21 reject the alternative hypothesis. There is no statistical difference between the two datasets, and the original
 22 dataset is well represented in the new one.

24 Table 4-a: Example of Barrel VRF (Rotational Angle = 0.00) with their Corresponding Roof Widths, Lengths, and Heights showing
 25 the Two Tailed t-test Results for the AHTI and $AHTI_{Monthly}$.

Roof Config.		t-stat	t-critic.	p-value	Original Dataset Mean	Original Dataset Variance	Monthly Dataset Mean	Monthly Dataset Variance
W x L	H							
10.00x10.00	0	0.0078	1.9602	0.9938	248.0457	133408.94	247.8756	117575.00
	1	0.0093	1.9602	0.9926	251.5160	145603.38	251.3040	133717.12
	2	0.0101	1.9602	0.9920	231.9139	137359.56	231.6905	129030.89

	8	0.0096	1.9602	0.9924	142.3363	68079.35	142.1867	64097.66
	9	0.0097	1.9602	0.9923	140.6427	66887.47	140.4934	62952.08
	10	0.0096	1.9602	0.9924	139.3040	65986.04	139.1567	62096.67
10.00x07.50	0	0.0078	1.9602	0.9938	248.0457	133408.94	247.8756	117575.01
	1	0.0093	1.9602	0.9926	251.5229	145611.83	251.3110	133725.92
	2	0.0101	1.9602	0.9920	231.9137	137359.33	231.6904	129030.65

	8	0.0096	1.9602	0.9924	142.3363	68079.36	142.1867	64097.67
	9	0.0097	1.9602	0.9923	140.6427	66887.47	140.4934	62952.08
	10	0.0096	1.9602	0.9924	139.3040	65986.04	139.1567	62096.67
05.00x10.00	0	0.0078	1.9602	0.9938	248.0457	133408.94	247.8756	117575.01
	1	0.0101	1.9602	0.9920	231.9426	137402.26	231.7191	129073.87
	2	0.0101	1.9602	0.9919	166.1697	86683.27	165.9910	81946.48

	8	0.0095	1.9602	0.9925	135.1751	62908.13	135.0332	59131.13
	9	0.0094	1.9602	0.9925	134.1172	62369.85	133.9766	58628.90
	10	0.0094	1.9602	0.9925	133.2559	61793.57	133.1156	58071.02
05.00x07.50	0	0.0078	1.9602	0.9938	248.0457	133408.94	247.8756	117575.01
	1	0.0101	1.9602	0.9920	231.9424	137402.01	231.7189	129073.61
	2	0.0101	1.9602	0.9919	166.1697	86683.27	165.9910	81946.48

	8	0.0095	1.9602	0.9924	134.8370	62853.41	134.6948	59083.29
	9	0.0094	1.9602	0.9925	134.1493	62324.37	134.0086	58582.29
	10	0.0094	1.9602	0.9925	133.2559	61793.57	133.1156	58071.02

1
2
3

Table 4-b: Example of Barrel VRF (Rotational Angle = 0.00) with their Corresponding Roof Widths, Lengths, and Heights showing the Two Tailed t-test Results for the AHEC and AHEC_{Monthly}

Roof Config.		t-stat	t-critic.	p-value	Original Dataset Mean	Original Dataset Variance	Monthly Dataset Mean	Monthly Dataset Variance
W x L	H							
10.00x10.00	0	0.1116	1.9602	0.9112	0.0584	0.0002	0.0583	0.0002
	1	0.1124	1.9602	0.9105	0.0585	0.0002	0.0584	0.0002
	2	0.1134	1.9602	0.9097	0.0587	0.0002	0.0586	0.0002

	8	0.1196	1.9602	0.9048	0.0604	0.0003	0.0603	0.0003
	9	0.1202	1.9602	0.9043	0.0607	0.0003	0.0605	0.0003
	10	0.1209	1.9602	0.9038	0.0609	0.0004	0.0608	0.0003
10.00x07.50	0	0.1095	1.9602	0.9128	0.0607	0.0002	0.0606	0.0002
	1	0.1106	1.9602	0.9119	0.0608	0.0002	0.0607	0.0002
	2	0.1119	1.9602	0.9109	0.0610	0.0002	0.0609	0.0002

	8	0.1190	1.9602	0.9053	0.0631	0.0004	0.0630	0.0003
	9	0.1197	1.9602	0.9047	0.0635	0.0004	0.0633	0.0004
	10	0.1204	1.9602	0.9041	0.0638	0.0004	0.0636	0.0004
05.00x10.00	0	0.1054	1.9602	0.9161	0.0676	0.0004	0.0674	0.0004
	1	0.1063	1.9602	0.9153	0.0678	0.0005	0.0677	0.0004
	2	0.1080	1.9602	0.9140	0.0685	0.0005	0.0683	0.0005

	8	0.1155	1.9602	0.9080	0.0720	0.0008	0.0718	0.0007
	9	0.1161	1.9602	0.9075	0.0725	0.0009	0.0723	0.0008
	10	0.1166	1.9602	0.9071	0.0730	0.0009	0.0728	0.0008
05.00x07.50	0	0.1043	1.9602	0.9169	0.0696	0.0005	0.0695	0.0005
	1	0.1055	1.9602	0.9159	0.0700	0.0005	0.0698	0.0005
	2	0.1073	1.9602	0.9145	0.0707	0.0006	0.0706	0.0005

	8	0.1149	1.9602	0.9086	0.0747	0.0009	0.0745	0.0008
	9	0.1155	1.9602	0.9081	0.0753	0.0010	0.0751	0.0009
	10	0.1159	1.9602	0.9077	0.0758	0.0011	0.0756	0.0010

4

5 A set of charts is plotted showing the performance for Barrel VRF of different configurations (Figure 5). It is
6 divided vertically into seven different combinations of Roof/RRSM widths and lengths, and horizontally into
7 five different rotational angles. Due to limited space, each rotational angle is divided into only 3 roof heights
8 of 0.00, 5.00, and 10.00 m. For each chart, the x-axis represents hour of the day, and y-axis represents the
9 Monthly Average Hourly Total Irradiance (AHTI_{Monthly}) and Monthly Average Hourly Energy Consumption
10 (AHEC_{Monthly}), where significant differences are varying from one case to another. The next step is to realize
11 the relative performance of different VRFs in relation to their corresponding flat roof as a benchmark for
12 comparison, AHTI_{Monthly} and AHEC_{Monthly} are converted into AHTI% and AHEC% (Table 5) considering the
13 following expressions by the authors:

$$AHTI_{\%} = \frac{(AHTI_{Monthly} - AHTI_{Monthly (Flat Roof)})}{AHTI_{Monthly (Flat Roof)}} \quad Eqn. (1)$$

$$AHEC_{\%} = \frac{(AHEC_{Monthly} - AHEC_{Monthly (Flat Roof)})}{AHEC_{Monthly (Flat Roof)}} \quad Eqn. (2)$$

This procedure will be repeated using (Equation 1) and (Equation 2) for determining VRFs that reduce the received solar radiation and consume less energy than their corresponding flat roof configuration. However, the results generally exhibit controversial effects where the solar irradiance decreases by increasing roof heights, while the energy consumption increases due to the increased internal volume, as can be seen in (Table 05). Therefore, there is need to recognize the VRFs' resulting total performance comprehensively. The last step includes summarizing the results by introducing the new Performance Index (PI) by the authors. It is based on a simple optimization technique, where the solar irradiance and energy consumption are realized simultaneously and standardized by converting their numerical values of different scales to a common one. This will prevent higher scales from having a larger influence on the estimation of PI. The $AHTI_{\%}$ are added to the standardized $AHEC_{\%}$ term to obtain PI value as an integrated indicator for the varying performance of different VRFs following this expression:

$$PI = AHTI_{\%} + \left(\frac{AHTI_{max}}{AHEC_{max}} \cdot AHEC_{\%} \right) \quad Eqn. (3)$$

For example, for Barrel VRFs of rotational angle of 0° and different roof heights, the typical values of $AHTI_{\%}$ vary between 0.00 to 46.30%, while $AHEC_{\%}$ values vary between 8.76 to 0.00%. Using (Equation 3), the optimum performing VRF is having $PI = -0.275$, $AHTI_{\%} = 40.72\%$, and $AHEC_{\%} = 2.28\%$, while the worst case is having $PI = 0.00\%$, $AHTI_{\%} = 43.86\%$, and $AHEC_{\%} = 6.77\%$, as seen in (Figure 6). The variations of the standardized PI values and ranges imply their ability to express the relative importance of integrated metrics in the optimization procedure. The PI provides means for a VRF-to-VRF comparison under different geometrical configurations. It is worth mentioning that lower PI values indicate that a given VRF performs, on average, better than its corresponding flat roof, while VRFs of higher PI values are expected to receive larger amount of solar irradiance and consume more energy for cooling.

Table 5: Example of Barrel VRF Performance (Rotational Angle = 0.00) showing the Total $AHTI_{Monthly}$ and $AHEC_{Monthly}$ with their Corresponding Roof Widths, Lengths, and Heights, in addition to the $AHTI_{\%}$ and $AHEC_{\%}$ Compared to Flat Roof RRSM Performance

Roof Config.		H	$AHTI_{Monthly}$	$AHEC_{Monthly}$	$AHTI_{\%}$	$AHEC_{\%}$
W x L						
10.00x 10.00	0		71,388.18	16.80	0.00%	0.00%
	1		72,375.56	16.83	1.38%	0.17%
	2		66,726.88	16.88	6.53%	0.45%

	8	40,949.78	17.35	42.64%	3.28%
	9	40,462.09	17.43	43.32%	3.74%
	10	40,077.12	17.51	43.86%	4.18%
10.00x07.50	0	71,388.18	17.44	0.00%	0.00%
	1	72,377.56	17.48	1.39%	0.25%
	2	66,726.83	17.55	6.53%	0.64%

	8	40,949.78	18.14	42.64%	4.03%
	9	40,462.09	18.23	43.32%	4.55%
	10	40,077.12	18.32	43.86%	5.05%
05.00x10.00	0	71,388.18	19.42	0.00%	0.00%
	1	66,735.10	19.49	6.52%	0.37%
	2	47,805.39	19.67	33.03%	1.31%

	8	38,889.56	20.68	45.52%	6.49%
	9	38,585.25	20.82	45.95%	7.23%
	10	38,337.29	20.96	46.30%	7.95%
05.00x07.50	0	71,388.18	20.02	0.00%	0.00%
	1	66,735.04	20.11	6.52%	0.48%
	2	47,805.39	20.33	33.03%	1.57%

	8	38,792.12	21.46	45.66%	7.21%
	9	38,594.47	21.62	45.94%	8.00%
	10	38,337.29	21.77	46.30%	8.76%

1
2 The results of Barrel Vaults show that VRFs of rotational angle 135° obtained significant lower PI values
3 than the other angles, particularly the ones of heights from 3 to 5 m. For example, 05.00x10.00 configuration
4 with vault height of 3m and rotational angle of 135° (PI= -0.329) showed a significant decrease in both
5 AHTI_% of 48.94% and AHEC_% of 2.33%. It is followed by 05.00x07.50 configuration with vault height of also
6 3m and rotational angle 135° (PI= -0.320) where it showed a noteworthy decrease in both AHTI_% of 48.96%
7 and AHEC_% of 2.76%. While VRFs of rotational angle 45° tended to yield higher PI values than the other
8 angles. For instance, 10.00x5.00 configuration with vault height of 5 m and rotational angle 45° (PI= -0.120)
9 tended to be the least worst performing Barrel Vault as it yielded AHTI_% of 31.29% and AHEC_% of 3.92%,
10 even though it had less PI value compared to other heights of that rotational angle. With regard to Pointed
11 Vaults, it is apparent that VRFs of rotational angle 135° showed lower PI values than the other angles, also
12 mainly the ones heights from 3 to 5m. For example, 05.00x10.00 configuration with vault height of 3 m and
13 rotational angle of 135° (PI= -0.317) showed a significant decrease in both AHTI_% of 48.94% and AHEC_%
14 of 2.33%. It is followed by 05.00x07.50 configuration with vault height of also 3 m and rotational angle 135°
15 (PI= -0.306) where it showed a noteworthy decrease in both AHTI_% of 48.96% and AHEC_% of 2.76%. On
16 the other hand, VRFs of rotational angle 45° tended to yield higher PI values than the other angles. For
17 instance, 10.00x5.00 configuration with vault height of 6 m and rotational angle 45° (PI= -0.123) tended to
18 be the least worst performing Pointed Vault, as it yielded AHTI_% of 38.68% and AHEC_% of 4.61%, yet it had
19 less PI value compared to other heights of that rotational angle. Interestingly, the rest of VRFs followed the
20 similar pattern, only with different values. Groin, Pointed Groin, Cloister, and Pointed Cloister Vaults of

1 rotational angle 135° showed lower PI values than the other angles, mostly for ones of heights from 3 to 5
2 m as well. For all of these VRFs, configuration 05.00x10.00 with vault height of 4 m and rotational angle of
3 135° (PI= -0.316 to -0.227) showed a significant decrease in both AHTI% from 48.30 to 48.35% and AHEC%
4 from 2.68% to 2.78%. It is followed by 05.00x07.50 configuration with vault height of also 4 m and rotational
5 angle 135° (PI= -0.301 to -0.224) where it showed a remarkable decrease in both AHTI% from 48.23 to
6 48.33% and AHEC% from 2.95 to 3.26%. In the same manner, VRFs of rotational angle 45° tended to yield
7 unfavourably higher PI values than the other angles. For all of these four VRFs, 10.00x5.00 configuration
8 with vault height of 4 m and rotational angle 45° (PI= -0.151 to -0.134) tended to be the least worst
9 performing one, as it yielded AHTI% of 28.66 to 23.52% and AHEC% of 2.64 to 2.78%, yet it had less PI
10 value compared to other heights of that rotational angle. In (Figure 6), the performance results of all VRFs
11 with different configurations are summarized, emphasizing the reciprocal relationship between the solar
12 irradiance received by these roofs and the resulting energy consumption simultaneously.

13
14 The convergence of the previous results interestingly encourages to deeply inspect the collective impact of
15 Roof Heights, Rotational Angles, and VRF configurations on average solar irradiance and energy
16 consumption. Using (Equation 1) and (Equation 2), the AHTI% and AHEC% of all VRFs are averaged and
17 summarized in relation to the corresponding flat roofs, as seen in (Figure 7-a) and (Figure 7-b). The x-axis
18 represents Roof Heights and Rotational Angles, respectively, while y-axis represents AHTI% and AHEC%.
19 Herein, regardless of Rotational Angle and VRF configurations, the relative performance of VRFs exhibited
20 a contradicting behaviour with Roof Heights, divergent to previous results as seen in (Figure 7-a).
21 Increasing roof heights from 0 to 10 m yielded an advantageous decrease in AHTI% on average by 39.59
22 to 52.99% yet coupled with unfavorable increase in AHEC% on average by 5.15 to 5.44%.

23
24 On the effect of Rotational Angle, regardless of Roof Height and VRF configurations, it can be concluded
25 from (Figure 7-b) that VRFs of rotational angles 0° , 90° , 180° yielded an average decrease in AHTI% by
26 46.77 to 48.18% yet coupled with a slightly better performance than other angles in AHEC% by 5.15 to
27 5.24% on average. Although, VRFs of rotational angle 45° and 135° obtained a noteworthy decrease in
28 AHTI% on average, they also showed an increase in AHEC% by 5.44% on average. Looking at the received
29 solar irradiance and the resulting energy consumption simultaneously, VRFs of rotational angle 135°
30 yielded the optimum performance compared to other angles. VRFs of rotational angle 45° obtained the
31 lowest performance, with averaged AHTI% and AHEC% of 39.59% and 5.44% respectively.

32
33 Yet again, looking back into the previous results in (Figure 6), the performance of different VRFs were
34 varying significantly from roof configuration to another, where they showed a tendency to be enhanced by
35 decreasing Roof Widths. This is evident in configuration 05.00x10.00 that showed the best relative
36 performance among other ones, followed by configurations 05.00x07.50; 07.50x10.0; 07.50x05.00;
37 10.00x10.00; 10.00x07.50; and 10.00x05.00. With regard to the effect of VRF types, (Figure 6) confirms

1 that AHTI_% and AHEC_% values fluctuate significantly from one type to another, especially when considering
2 different roof heights, rotational angles. This suggests that acquiring a rule-of-thumb is complicated.
3 However, to simplify the comparison, the best performing VRFs, those with heights from 3 to 5 m and
4 orientation of 135° are evaluated here with regard to corresponding PI values, to detected significant
5 performance differences. As shown in (Figure 6), Barrel Vaults showed the best performance compared to
6 other types, with PI= -0.329, then Pointed Vaults with PI= -0.317. They were followed by Groin Vaults with
7 PI= -0.316 and Pointed Groin Vaults with PI= -0.270. Lastly, Cloister Vaults with PI= -0.257, followed by
8 Pointed Cloister Vaults that showed the worst performance of them all with PI= -0.227.

9
10 To sum things up, it can be concluded that VRFs configuration 05.00x10.00 of height from 3 to 4 m and
11 orientation of 135° yielded the lowest amount of received solar irradiance and energy consumption
12 simultaneously of all the investigated configurations. This was verified by minor PI values that ranged from
13 -0.329 to -0.227, with reduced AHTI_% from 48.94 to 48.35% and reduced AHEC_% from 2.33 to 2.78%
14 respectively. However, it is worth mentioning that the difference in AHTI_% and AHEC_% scales in (Figure 7-
15 a) and (Figure 7-b) suggests that Roof Heights and Rotational Angles have diverse effects on the amount
16 of the received solar irradiance and the resulting energy consumption. In this, by increasing Roof Heights,
17 the decrease in the received solar irradiance occurs mainly due to the increase in the inclined angle of
18 VRFs accompanied with an increase in self-shaded areas, while the increase in the energy consumption is
19 owed to the increased internal volume of RRSM. However, how can the resulting dataset be used to extract
20 and quantify significant associations among the study variables themselves in relation to different VRFs?
21 This inquiry has not been yet fully answered and tackling it would require post-processing of the simulation
22 results, providing a better understanding of the magnitude, distribution, and occurrence of the reciprocal
23 relationship between solar irradiance and energy consumption and the study influencing variables.

24 25 **The Second Phase: Principal Component Analysis**

26 To uncover relationship patterns between the study variables and the simulation results, a conventional
27 scatter plot matrix is created for the simulation results of Barrel VRF as an example. It shows plots for all
28 the pairs of variables, where the x-axis represents the 11 independent variables, and y-axis represents
29 dependent variables of AHTI and AHEC (Figure 8). Due to the complex interconnections between the
30 variables in the multidimensional dataset, it is hard to extract important patterns from the independent and
31 dependent variables, or even realize how they are related to each other by this traditional statistical method.

32
33 The unsupervised data reduction technique of Principal Components Analysis (PCA) (Jolliffe, I., 2010;
34 Krzanowski, W., 2000) can be utilized to describe the variability of a multivariate dataset. By means of
35 orthogonal transformations, PCA converts the dataset's possibly correlated variables into a set of linearly
36 uncorrelated variables, called principal components, each of which represents a linear combination of the
37 original variables. At that point, the data dimensionality reduction can be achieved by dropping the least

1 important principal components, while keeping the first few components that typically represent a higher
 2 variability of the original dataset, extracting as much information as possible. The principal components are
 3 then visualized by a two-dimensional plot to interpret the dataset variability. PCA follows a standard
 4 procedure to carry out such an analysis. Herein, PCA model is developed corresponding to the Pearson's
 5 correlation coefficient in XLSTAT, a Microsoft Excel's add-in created by Addinsoft. First, the XLSTAT
 6 standardizes the data numerical values to a comparable scale to prevent giving a false importance to larger
 7 values. Then, a correlation table is created (Table 6) by reporting a Pearson's correlation two tailed test,
 8 which determines the correlation between each variable and the simulation results. Decisions are made
 9 based on important correlations, not only from a statistical hypothesis testing perspective, but also from an
 10 architectural point of view. It is noticeable that the Roof Height, Cross-Sectional Ratio, and Compactness
 11 Ratio are highly correlated to AHTI. Also, RRSM Internal Volume, Thermal Envelope, and Roof External
 12 Area have an average correlation with AHTI. While Rotational Angle, Roof/RRSM Width, Roof/RRSM
 13 Length, RRSM Internal Area, and Roof Aspect Ratio have a low correlation with AHTI and could have been
 14 neglected without effecting the quality of the results. On the other hand, it is clear that RRSM Internal Area,
 15 RRSM Internal Volume, Thermal Envelope, and Compactness Ratio are highly correlated to AHEC. Also,
 16 Roof/RRSM Width, Roof/RRSM Length, and Roof External Area have an average correlation with AHEC.
 17 While Rotational Angle, Roof Height, Roof Aspect Ratio, and Cross-Sectional Ratio have a low correlation
 18 with AHEC, and could have been also removed from PCA without effecting the quality of the results. These
 19 preliminary results suggest that the received amount of solar irradiance is greatly influenced by the
 20 geometrical configurations of VRFs. However, the energy consumption is affected secondarily by roof
 21 forms, but rather mostly by the configurations of the space itself. It is also noted that the correlations of
 22 Rotational Angle with AHTI and AHEC are not high, and the reason behind this is owed to statistical and
 23 architectural explanations. Statistically, the correlation table examines the unconditional correlations
 24 between the study variables and results, depending on the data structure and size. The Rotational Angle
 25 shows a low correlation because it may be collinear by other variable or several ones in tandem, which in
 26 turn are correlated with the simulation results. This makes the Rotational Angle change from correlated to
 27 uncorrelated. Architecturally, the Rotational Angle has a low correlation with AHTI due to of the Earth's
 28 rotation, where the received solar irradiance in the northern-hemisphere changes rapidly throughout the
 29 day and differs also on a monthly or seasonal basis. Also, the established window configurations, which
 30 are set to be horizontal stripes on each wall (Table 2) to eliminate the effect of opening orientation and
 31 focus on the effect of roof form, minimize the impact of Rotational Angle on AHEC.

32
 33 *Table 6: The Correlation Table of the Study Influencing Independent and Dependent Variables*

No.	Key Influencing Variables	AHTI	AHEC
(1)	Rotational Angle	-0.09	0.00
(2)	Roof Height	-0.87	0.06
(3)	Roof/RRSM Width	0.10	0.60
(4)	Roof/RRSM Length	0.02	0.62
(5)	RRSM Internal Area	0.10	0.99
(6)	RRSM Internal Volume	-0.53	0.72

(7)	Thermal Envelope	-0.54	0.72
(8)	Roof External Area	-0.46	0.43
(9)	Roof Aspect Ratio	-0.06	-0.09
(10)	RRSM Compactness Ratio	0.68	-0.62
(11)	Roof Cross-Sectional Ratio	-0.79	-0.19

1
2 Two variability charts (Figure 9) are then developed to demonstrate the quality of the data reduction from
3 the 11-dimensional original dataset to a lower number of dimensions. They show the mathematical values
4 that correspond to the amount of variability in the original data represented by magnitudes (Eigenvalues)
5 (Figure 9-a) and directions (Eigenvectors) (Figure 9-b) of the resulting principal components. For instance,
6 the eigenvalue of the first principal component is 4.846 representing 44.05% of the data variability. Thus, if
7 the data is represented by one component, only 44.05% of the data would be explained. The sum of all
8 eigenvalues equals the number of variables. Since the data was standardized, a principal component with
9 an eigenvector near zero indicates that the corresponding variable contributes less to the component,
10 whereas larger eigenvalue indicates that the corresponding variable contributes more to the component.

11
12 In the developed PCA model, the first two principal components account for a cumulative variability of
13 67.11% to explain the original data, providing a sufficient approximation of the relationships among most of
14 the study's independent and dependent variables and how they are related to each other. These two
15 components are plotted (Figure 10), where the variables are represented by vectors pointing away from the
16 origin, while the angles between them approximate their inter-correlations. A small angle indicates a positive
17 correlation, and an angle of 90 degrees shows that the variables are not correlated, while an angle close
18 to 180 degrees designates a negative correlation. The length of the vector line and its closeness to the
19 outer circle indicate how well the variables is represented. By visually inspecting the two-dimensional plot,
20 interesting conclusions could be detected. A fair positive correlation is represented between AHTI and
21 Compactness Ratio by the small angle between their two vectors. A stronger negative correlation between
22 AHTI and Cross-Sectional Ratio, Roof Height, and Roof/RRSM Length is signified the by the larger angles
23 between AHTI vector and other ones close to 180 degrees. On the other hand, A strong positive correlation
24 between AHEC and RRSM Internal Area, RRSM Internal Volume, Thermal Envelope, and Roof External
25 Area is noticed by the small angle between AHEC vector and other ones. A strong negative correlation is
26 observed between AHEC and Compactness Ratio, confirmed by a large angle between their two vectors.
27 However, there is not necessarily a direct interpretation to the principal components, since some information
28 may be hidden in the poorly represented variables, and care must be taken when realizing the resulting
29 plot. For example, Roof/RRSM Length is poorly represented here as indicated by the short length of its
30 vector, since it is mostly associated with the third principal components (Figure 9-b). Likewise, the first two
31 components did not account for the Rotational Angle in the plot as indicated by the shorter length of its
32 vector, since it is well represented only by the fourth principal component (Figure 9-b). However, the effect
33 of Rotational Angle can be realized only by considering its variations for individual VRFs of identical
34 configurations. It is clear that those results comply with the preliminary findings of the correlation test (Table

6), supporting the conclusion that the received amount of solar irradiance is mainly influenced by the geometrical configuration of VRFs. However, in the case of energy consumption, the size of the internal spaces should primarily be taken into consideration.

Since the newly developed principal components represent combinations of the original dataset variability, interesting new features can be detected out of these transformations. The first principal component, represented by the x-axis, is strongly correlated with six independent variables, in addition to two dependent variables. It is proportional to Roof Height, RRSM Internal Area, RRSM Internal Volume, Thermal Envelope, Roof External Area, and AHEC, while it is inversely proportional to Compactness Ratio and AHTI. This correlation suggests that these variables vary together. For example, AHTI tends to increase by increasing the positively correlated variables, and by decreasing the remaining ones as well. In fact, the first principal component is strongly correlated with the Thermal Envelope, RRSM Internal Volume, Roof External Area, and Compactness Ratio, making it primarily a measure of the Compactness Ratio, where it is expressed by the other variables. Compactness Ratio is the ratio between the building's thermal envelope area and its internal volume, while, the Thermal Envelope is the area that separates the indoor environments from the outdoors. In this, it can be concluded that buildings in hot-arid regions that have VRFs of higher compactness ratio are less compact, as they have a larger thermal envelope in proportion to their volume. This would make them tend to have a larger amount of AHTI due to larger exposed surfaces to solar radiation, accompanied by a lower amount of AHEC due to lower internal volume, and vice versa. The second principal component, represented by the y-axis, is highly correlated with three independent variables and two dependent variables. It is positively proportional to Roof/RRSM Width, AHTI, and AHEC, while it is inversely proportional to Roof Aspect Ratio and Cross-Sectional Ratio. Therefore, this component can be viewed mainly as a measure of the concaveness of VRFs in terms of Cross-Sectional Ratio, since it is expressed by a diversification of the other two independent variables. In this, it can be concluded that buildings in hot-arid regions that have VRFs of higher cross-sectional ratio are more concave, and therefore have a larger self-shaded area. This means they would have a lower amount of AHTI due to larger shaded surfaces that are unexposed to solar radiation, accompanied by also a lower amount of AHEC due to lower internal dimensions, and vice versa.

Conclusions

This research blurs the demarcation between contemporary and traditional approaches, arising from the need to put forward passive solutions for reducing energy use for cooling and improving indoor thermal conditions in buildings. It is sought to eliminate the implied prejudices that often lead to miscomprehending the environmental treatments of traditional architecture. Those that are taken for granted as ideas architects think of, rather than ideas architects think with. In Egypt, with the heavy reliance on the generated electricity out of non-renewable resources, the major problem that the energy-sector encounters is the increasing energy demand, ultimately causing weather changes and irreversible deteriorations to the built

1 environment. While Egypt is a country of deep history and tradition, manifestations of its traditional
2 architecture were lost. Existing Egyptian cities represent repetitions of building blocks, with no consideration
3 to the local traditional techniques that used to prevent overheating and enhance the environmental
4 performance. In this, many researchers have previously asserted the ability of domed roofs to significantly
5 decrease the intensity of the received solar irradiance compared to flat roof surface, in the summer as well
6 as in the winter as thoroughly reviewed in this paper. The work of this research expanded this endeavor
7 and presented a comprehensive method investigating the thermal behaviour of six vaulted roof geometries,
8 where the solar irradiance and energy consumption are realized simultaneously with reference to the hot-
9 arid climate of Aswan, Egypt. The methodological procedure incorporated a simulation study, supported by
10 the developed parametric algorithm, facilitated an automated generation of 2,310 cases of these VRFs
11 rather than by direct manipulation. The integration between the computational simulation with the
12 parametric modeling easily provided detailed performance quantifications of VRFs. The annual simulations
13 were based on an hourly resolution, where the outputs were exploited to construct a large dataset covering
14 11 interconnecting explanatory variables. Although this approach may seem time-consuming, especially
15 when a preliminary approximation is required, yet it signifies the implementation of performance-based
16 methods at the early stages of design to obtain optimization, advancement and efficiency.

17
18 The simulations preliminary results suggested that the received amount of solar irradiance is mainly
19 influenced by the geometrical configuration of VRFs. In the case of energy consumption, the size of the
20 internal spaces should primarily be taken into consideration. The PCA showed even more interesting
21 conclusions on how the study's independent and dependent variables were related together. It thoroughly
22 disclosed the significant associations between the study independent (geometrical influencing variables)
23 and dependent variables (the solar irradiance and energy consumption) by Pearson's Correlation and by
24 Two-Dimensional Plot of the Principal Components. The final results were in good agreement with the
25 preliminary findings of the correlation test, supporting that buildings in hot-arid regions that have VRFs of
26 higher compactness ratio would tend to have a larger amount of solar irradiance due to larger exposed
27 surfaces, accompanied by a lower amount of energy consumption due to lower internal volume. Buildings
28 with more concave VRFs that have a larger self-shaded area receive lower amount of solar irradiance,
29 accompanied by a minimized energy consumption due to lower internal dimensions. One of the major
30 benefits of PCA lies in overcoming the issue of confounding, where a number of independent variables
31 might be in collinearity with each other. This could be prevented by PCA that yields uncorrelated linear
32 combinations of the original variables. Moreover, utilizing the principal components as regressors in future
33 models might be better than using the original dataset directly, as they represent most of the data variability
34 related to the dependent variables, reducing the risk of overfitting by estimating less input variables. The
35 results of this study will contribute to the promotion of the use of curved roof forms and the adoption of
36 vaulted roof forms in building energy codes and can be added to the Egyptian Code for Energy Efficiency
37 in Buildings.

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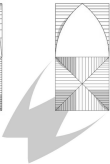
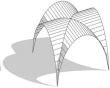
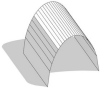
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- 16

Parametric Investigation of Traditional Vaulted Roofs in Hot-Arid Climates

Highlights:

- The research seeks to enhance the indoor thermal comfort in Hot-Arid regions.
- A parametric approach is used to derive annual simulations.
- Vaulted roofs with varying cross-section ratios and orientations are investigated.
- Optimized forms with minimum quantity of received solar irradiance are concluded.



1. Barrel Vault

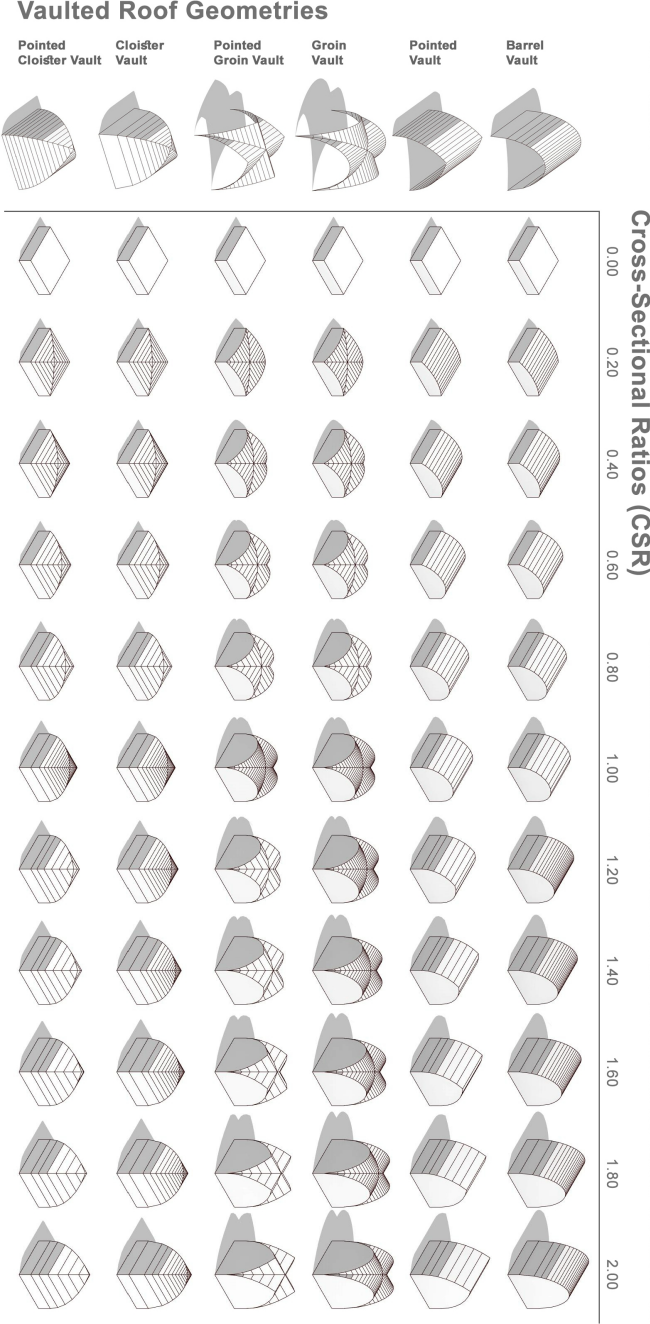
2. Pointed Vault

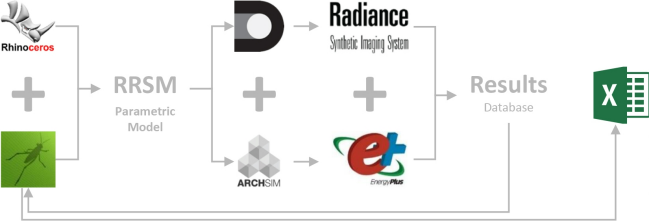
3. Groin Vault

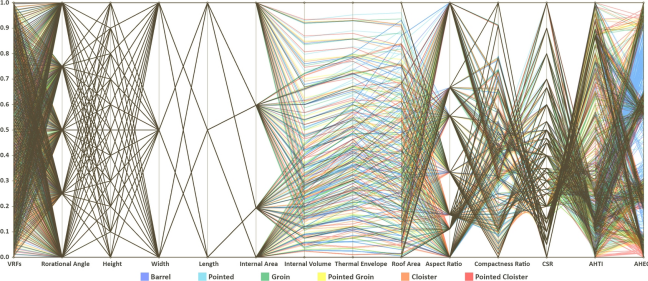
4. Pointed Groin Vault

5. Cloister Vault

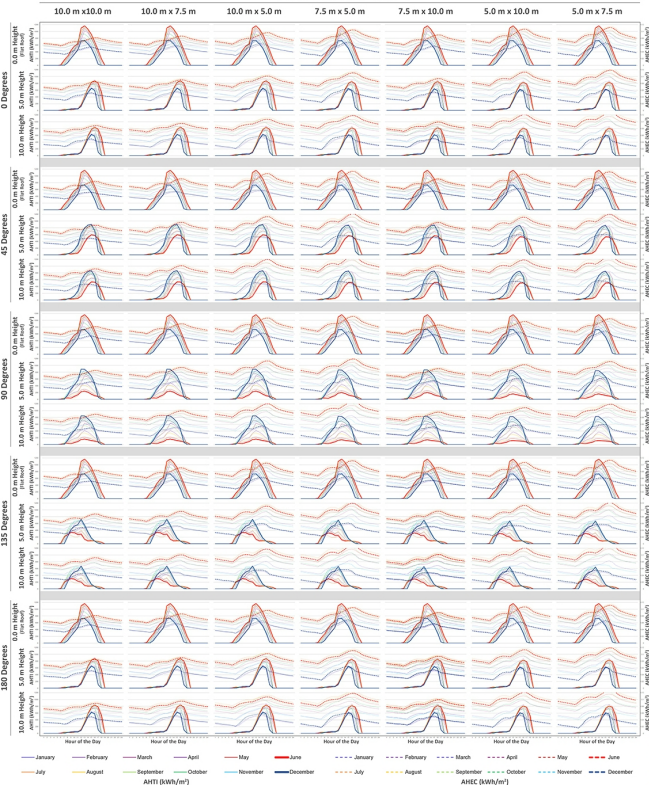
6. Pointed Cloister Vault

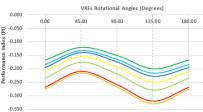
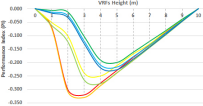




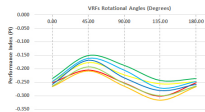
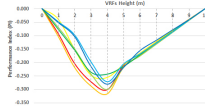


Barrel VRF: Different Combinations

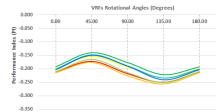
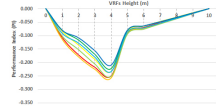




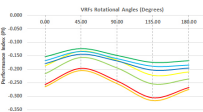
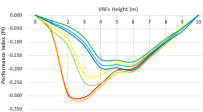
Barrel VRFs



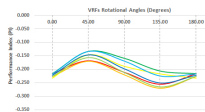
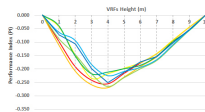
Groin VRFs



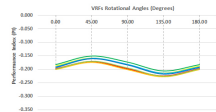
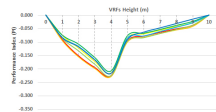
Cloister VRFs



Pointed VRFs

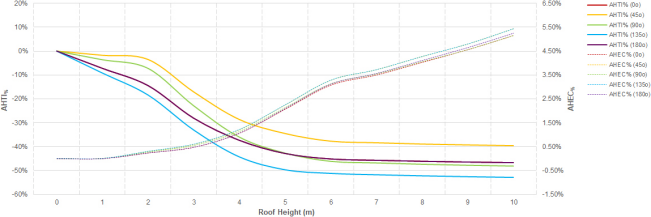


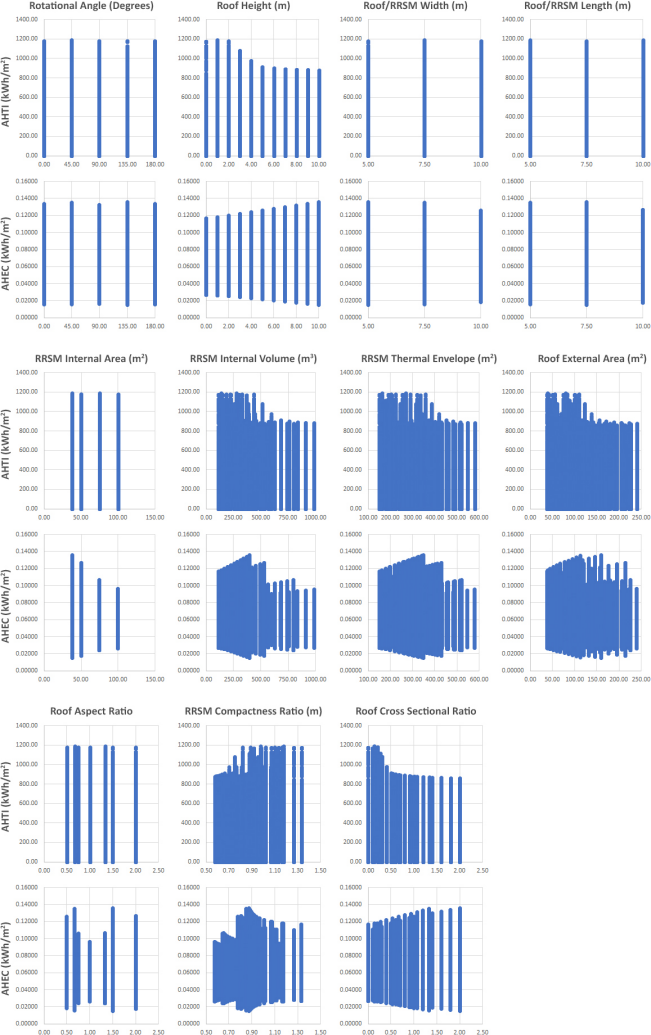
Pointed Groin VRFs

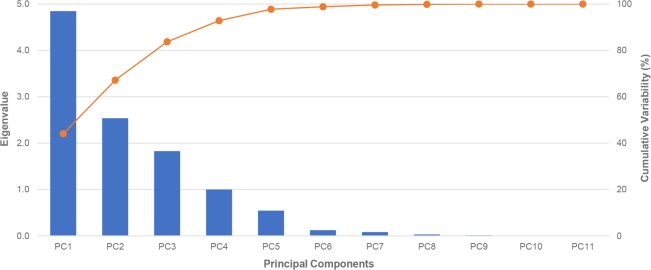


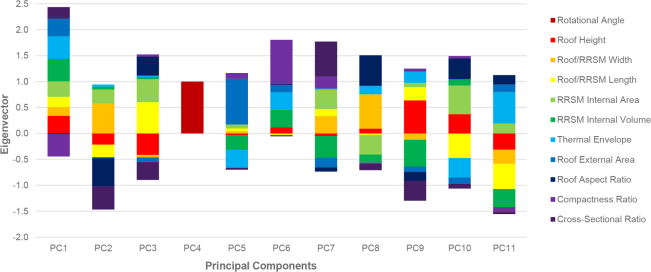
Pointed Cloister VRFs











Components PC1 and PC2 (67.11%)

