

Occupant action patterns regarding spatial and human factors in office environments

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Abstract

Since occupant behaviour impacts the energy performance of buildings, its study is relevant in order to bridge the performance gap. While the factors influencing occupant behaviour have been established, most studies have focused on those factors that motivate the action, such as environmental and temporal conditions. Contextual factors including spatial and occupant characteristics, which act as action moderators, remain a subject to explore. In this way, this article aims to identify patterns in the occupants' actions in office environments, based on spatial and human factors. A field study, including 514 occupants in 85 office spaces, was carried out in 11 buildings in Concepción, Chile. The results indicate that spatial layout is significantly related to the operation of windows, blinds, and thermostats, but not personal devices. Gender did not influence whether an occupant was active or not and age range was only significant regarding blinds. In shared spaces, there were fewer active occupants and whose acts depend on the perception of opportunity that they have, which is associated with element control distance and occupant age. The findings suggest that the probability that actions occur varies based on spatial and human factors, particularly because these factors affect occupant perception of opportunity.

Keywords: *occupant behaviour, office spaces, spatial layout, adaptive actions, active occupant, perceived opportunity, occupant position*

1. Introduction

In recent years, numerous studies have been conducted on occupant behaviour and its influence on the thermal and energy performance of buildings [1–3], given that it has been found that occupants play a key role in the gap between expected and real performance during building operation [4–6]. Thus, human behaviour has been studied with a special emphasis on the occupant actions that demand energy, in order to understand it [7,8], evaluate its impact [9,10] and integrate it into simulations for more accurate predictions [11,12].

According to the adaptive thermal comfort model, occupants carry out actions to remain comfortable [13]. Hence, they are active subjects that can modify their environment or adjust to it [14], either requiring energy or not, which implies a high potential for energy savings [15,16]. The actions taken by an occupant can be categorized as physiological, personal, spatial and environmental [17]. This last category involves interaction with control elements in the space that have the potential to modify the indoor environmental conditions, such as windows, solar shading devices or HVAC systems. Therefore, they are of particular interest to architectural design. A complete list of actions by category is described by Schweiker, Carlucci, Andersen, Dong and O'Brien [17].

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37 Various approaches have been proposed to study these actions, including fieldwork, laboratory
38 experiments [18] and lately, virtual reality [19]. The former allows exploring the phenomena in its usual
39 environment and identifying the influencing factors, while experiments allow quantifying the impact of
40 those factors since they are studied in a controlled environment; although both approaches have been used
41 to develop mathematical models. Registering actions is a complex task. It can be made directly, through
42 monitoring with equipment and sensors, which allows recording the exact moment when an action occurs,
43 but it is constrained by availability and costs which can reduce the total number of participants [20] and
44 at the same time, sensors cannot explain all the complexities associated with human behaviour [18].
45 Actions can also be recorded indirectly, through surveys or interviews, which might be subject to bias
46 since they rely on the participant [18,21]. However, they have been used in large studies to understand
47 occupant behaviour and identify trends [22,23], as well as to develop models [24,25].

48 Several influencing factors have been identified to be able to anticipate occupant behaviour. In the DNAS
49 framework, “drivers” are defined as the factors that influence the execution of actions and are classified
50 into five types, those associated with: the building, the occupant, the environment, the systems, and the
51 time [26]. More recent investigations suggest that actions are motivated by adaptive and non-adaptive
52 triggers and are moderated by contextual factors [17] that can be grouped as physical, physiological,
53 psychological, and social, as proposed initially by Fabi, Andersen, Corgnati and Olesen [27].

54 Most studies have focused on environmental and time-related factors, which are clearly quantifiable [28]
55 by addressing the problem from the point of view of “the action” and showing the physical and temporal
56 conditions in which it is most likely that an action occurs [29], developing models through different
57 modelling techniques such as logistic regressions, Markov processes, agent-based or decision trees [21,30].
58 However, few studies have investigated contextual factors, which are scarcely reported [31] or overlooked
59 [32]. They are usually considered just as characteristics which delimit the study, instead of being
60 influencing factors as such. Although they have been identified and are understood to be action
61 moderators, is not yet clear how these factors are associated with the performance of actions. The
62 contextual factors are many and varied, ranging from personality traits [33] to building characteristics [34]
63 and availability of control elements [35].

64 The location and accessibility of control elements has frequently been cited as influencing occupant
65 interaction with them [31,36,37], as well as interior design and the presence of multiple occupants [38].
66 Nonetheless, little information is understood about these factors. It has been demonstrated that desk
67 location, spatial layout, and orientation highly contribute to user environmental satisfaction [39–41] and
68 comfort in workplaces [42–44]. In the same way, it has been stated that the occupant's perception of the
69 indoor environment depends on their position in the space [45]. Yet, distance to the control element and
70 the occupant orientation regarding it, are potential influencing factors that have not been quantified in
71 relation to the action. The most studied factor related with buildings may be facade orientation, probably

72 because it is directly related with some environmental factors such as solar radiation. It has been
73 demonstrated that windows and blinds in facades with higher solar radiation are used more frequently
74 that those with less solar exposure [23,46,47]. However, these studies have examined the state of the blinds,
75 rather than the associated occupant who operates it.

76 Moreover, it has been reported that actions frequency decreases in shared spaces, although most of these
77 studies have been conducted in laboratories [48] or with few people in the shared space [49]. As yet, the
78 phenomena have not been addressed in real open plan offices. It is essential to take into consideration that
79 because of the challenges that studying groups of people entail, most studies focus on individual
80 occupants or on a few occupants that have the direct possibility to operate control elements [50,51].
81 Consequently, shared office spaces, i.e. with multiple occupants, are still a field to be explored.

82 It has also been stated that gender and age are associated with the performance of the actions [23]. This is
83 most likely because they have an impact on energy consumption [52,53] and saving attitudes [54], as well
84 as thermal comfort perception [55–57]. Nevertheless, there are few studies on their relationships with the
85 actions themselves, like [58,59].

86 Furthermore, previous research has reported the importance of perceived control on thermal comfort and
87 energy use in buildings [60–62], as well as on IEQ satisfaction [63]. Nonetheless, few studies have
88 addressed this in relation with the performance of actions like [36,48], probably because most studies are
89 conducted in spaces where the opportunity to operate control elements is clear. Yun, Steemers and Baker
90 [25] argue that “occupants with high perceived control tended to use their windows more frequently than
91 others with a low level of perceived control”. However, to date there is no consensus about how the
92 position and characteristics of the occupants influence perceived opportunity when they have to share the
93 space.

94 Together, these studies establish that contextual factors and the way they are related to the occupants’
95 actions and perception of opportunity are relevant to deeper study, in a real-world context, with multiple
96 occupants. For this reason, this research intends to study some of the factors that enable or restrict the
97 performance of actions, rather than determining what motivates them, an area that has been widely
98 covered in the literature. Contextual factors are grouped here into two categories: spatial factors, those
99 that have a direct link with the physical spaces, and therefore can be designed; and human factors, those
100 that are part of people, their social, psychological and physiological dynamics.

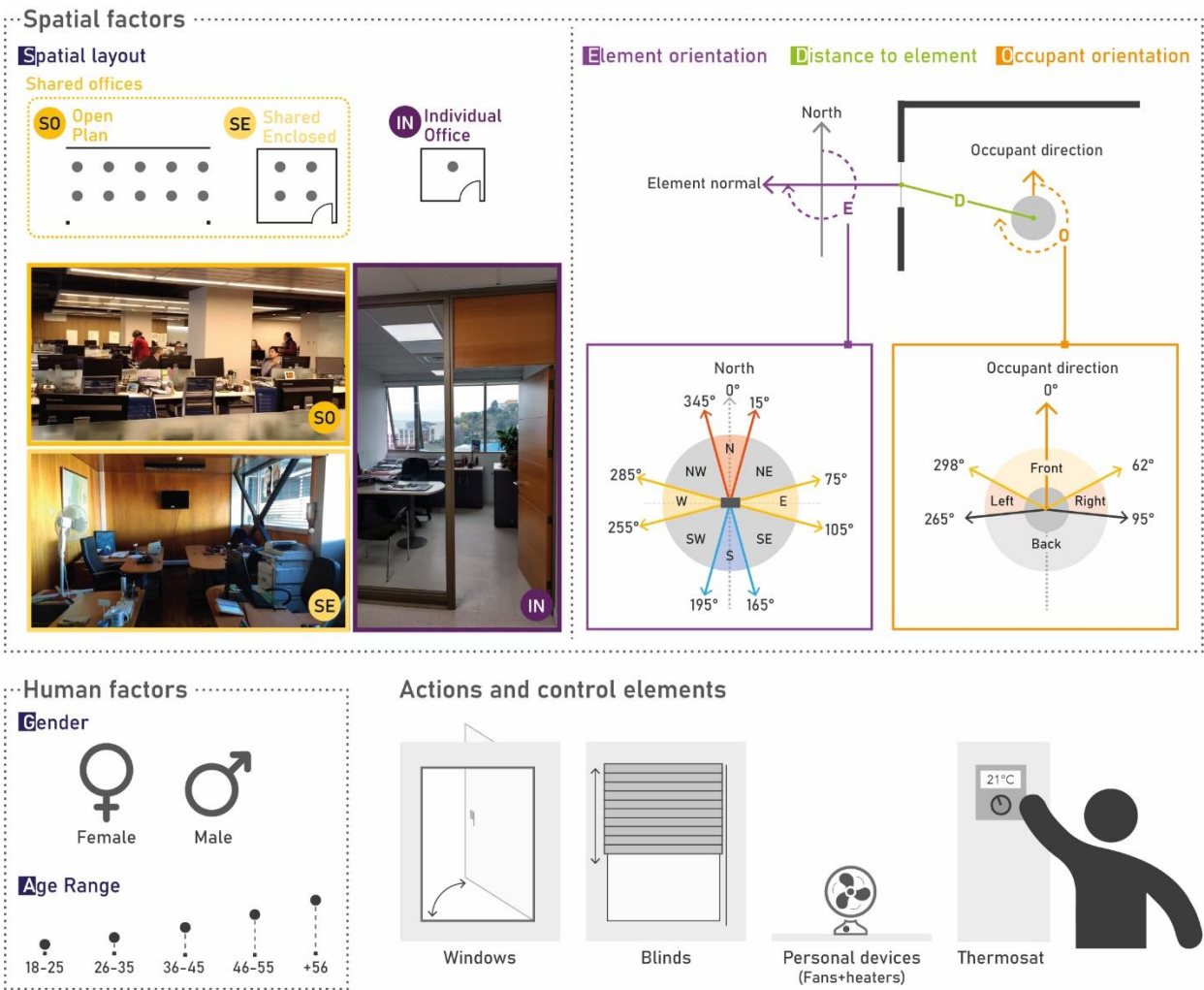
101 In this way, this paper aims to identify patterns in the occupants that perform environmental adaptive
102 actions in office spaces, based on spatial and human factors, in order to get insights about how these factors
103 are related with occupants’ actions. First, if there is a relationship between the indicated factors and an
104 occupant operating a control element such as a window is determined. Then, whether there are common
105 characteristics between those who take action and those who do not is analysed, identifying patterns.

106 Likewise, the relationship of these factors with the perception of opportunity is studied, as well as if
107 patterns exist, since this could be associated with the performance of actions.

108 **2. Methodology**

109 Due to the nature of the phenomenon, the methodology was based on fieldwork and an analysis of the
110 relationships between variables that occur naturally. A longitudinal survey in office environments was
111 performed with the objective of recording the occupants' actions as well as their perception of their
112 opportunity to operate the studied control elements, following similar studies like [23,64,65]. However,
113 rather than aiming to identify the environmental and temporal factors influencing the action, the survey
114 attempted to collect different environmental and temporal conditions where an action could occur, to later
115 contrast against the contextual factors, since these factors were constants. To gather information about
116 spatial and human factors, the occupants' characteristics were registered through a short questionnaire
117 and the indoor design conditions were recorded during the fieldwork.

118 The environmental actions considered for this study and their related control elements are window
119 opening/closing; solar shading device adjustment, such as blinds; use of personal control devices for
120 heating or cooling, such as fans or heaters; and the use of thermostats. The relationship between occupants'
121 actions and the following contextual factors is studied: 1) Spatial factors: spatial layout (open plan offices,
122 shared enclosed offices and individual offices), occupant orientation relative to control elements (front,
123 back, left or right), element orientation in relation to north (8 orientations), and distance from the occupant
124 to the element. The latter three were studied only for the windows and blinds; 2) Human factors: gender
125 and age. Figure 1 illustrates the spatial and human factors studied as well as the actions and their control
126 elements considered in this research.



127
 128 Figure 1. Spatial and human factors studied including their categories. Spatial factors are Spatial layout: Open space (SO), Shared
 129 Enclosed space (SE), Individual space (IN); Occupant orientation relative to control elements (front, back, left or right); element
 130 orientation (8 orientations) and distance from the occupant to the element. Human factors are gender and age range. The actions
 131 and their control elements considered in this research are also presented.

132 **2.1. Data collection**

133 Fieldwork was carried out between July 2017 and February 2018 in 11 office buildings located in the city
 134 of Concepción, Chile (36°S latitude, 73°W longitude). This city has a Mediterranean-oceanic climate
 135 (Köppen Csb), with no extreme winters or summers. The average temperatures in January (summer) range
 136 from 10.9 °C to 22.8 °C and in July (winter) vary from 5.8 °C to 13.2°C [66]. For this reason, buildings
 137 commonly offer passive adaptive opportunities (operable windows and blinds), as well as active
 138 opportunities (personal control devices and thermostats), thereby making it possible to study the actions
 139 of interest.



Figure 2. Office buildings studied

140
 141
 142 The office buildings examined (Figure 2) were purposely selected according to the variety of adaptation
 143 opportunities they have and possible access for the research team. Table 1 summarizes the cases and their
 144 main characteristics, in addition to the total studied areas (85). These zones were not selected previously
 145 and were chosen by the manager in each building according to institutional availability. In each building,
 146 the studied areas were classified according to their spatial layout, as presented in Figure 1: Open plan
 147 spaces (SO), with more than 8 people; shared enclosed spaces (SE), which included between 2 and 8 people;
 148 and Individual spaces (IN). Although the first two are both shared offices, they are differentiated due to
 149 the level of control and adaptation opportunities that a smaller scale space can provide. Detailed
 150 information regarding the physical characteristics of studied zones and their occupants can be found in
 151 the supplementary material.

152 Table 1. Study cases and their characteristics, showing the total studied areas by spatial layout

Case	Year built	Floors studied	Operable windows	Operable blinds	Personal control devices h/c	HVAC system	Total studied areas			Total occupants	
							SO	SE	IN		
A	2016	6	1 and 2	Yes	Some areas	Yes	Some areas	4	1	10	71
B	2016	2	GF and 1	Yes	Some areas	Yes	Yes	2	1	2	31
C	2016	8	3 and 6	Yes	Yes	Some areas	Yes	2	5	14	60
D	2005	6	2 and 5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	2	6	45
E	2016	2	GF and 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	4	3	32
F	2013	13	1 and 8	Some areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	1	2	131
G	2015	16	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	1	-	40
H	2009	3	GF	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2	2	-	55
I	2013	2	GF and 1	Some areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	4	2	39
X	2007	4	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	1	-	7
Y	2015	7	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	1	-	3
Total								23	23	39	514

SO: Open plan spaces, SE: Shared Enclosed spaces, IN: Individual spaces, GF: ground floor

153 Considering that some studies have found that occupant behaviour varies according to the season and
 154 time of day, but that the trend is similar within the same season and time [64,67,68], in each building the
 155 surveys were conducted face-to-face three times a day (morning, midday and late afternoon) for one day
 156 in winter, one day in spring, and one day in summer. Thus, the occupants had the opportunity to respond
 157 to the questionnaire up to 9 times, although the number of times the occupants participated varied due to
 158 normal office dynamics and their availability. In certain cases, some of the occupants surveyed were
 159 replaced between seasons, so that in spring and summer new occupants participated in positions that had
 160 previously been surveyed. For this reason, the same spatial position may have more than one participant.

161 The questionnaire was designed as “right-now”, seeking to capture answers associated with the actions in
 162 the instant in which the instrument was completed. However, for this study, data were grouped to perform
 163 a wider analysis focused on the occupants' profile rather than time or seasonal effects. This is further
 164 explained in the data analysis section.

165 The question used on the survey to gather the information about the opportunities and adaptive actions
 166 is presented in Figure 3. This question was designed to identify: 1) if an occupant perceived he or she had
 167 the opportunity to use a certain control element, and 2) if an occupant used the respective element during
 168 the surveyed period, that is to say, if the action occurred. An answer was required for each of the control
 169 elements associated with the actions of interest for this study (windows, blinds, fans o heaters -personal
 170 control devices-, thermostats).

Since you arrived at the office or since the last time you answered the survey, have you made any adjustments to the following environmental controls?

Does not apply / Do not have control	You have not made any adjustments	You opened (turned on/increased) without asking others	You opened (turned on/increased) after asking others	You closed (turned off/decreased) without asking others	You closed (turned off/decreased) after asking others
No opportunity	No action Perceived Opportunity	Action			

171
 172 Figure 3. Question about the occupant actions related to the control elements (windows, blinds, fans o heaters -personal control
 173 devices-, thermostats) and possible responses. The classification according to the response is also included. Please be aware that the
 174 survey was carried out in Spanish.

175 In addition, an occupant characterization section was included in the first questionnaire that the occupant
 176 answered, where gender and age range, as well as the spatial layout of his or her work zone were recorded.
 177 This information was later contrasted with the planimetry of each building.

178 For each space studied, planimetric information was gathered, including the location of windows and
 179 blinds. The position of the occupants who took part was detailed on the space's floor plan along with the
 180 direction in which they look when seated working. Similarly, the presence of personal control devices such
 181 as fans and heaters were recorded, in addition to control elements such as centralised HVAC systems and
 182 thermostats, although the exact location of these elements was not registered since the focus was on the
 183 architectural design elements. These data were later included in a BIM model of each case.

184 2.2. Data processing

185 With the information collected, the spatial opportunities available in each office space were identified,
 186 where a “spatial opportunity” is understood to be the presence of the control element in the space, as
 187 observed by the researchers. In this way, each zone was classified according to whether one or more
 188 control elements existed there: operable windows, blinds, heaters, fans and/or thermostats. Afterwards,
 189 since each occupant belonged to a specific office space, it was established whether the occupant had the
 190 spatial opportunity to operate each element.

191 Based on the responses to the indicated question, each questionnaire was classified according to whether
 192 the occupant perceived he or she had the opportunity to operate each control element and if he or she

193 operated them, as shown in Figure 3. Regarding the opportunity, each control element was classified as:
194 a) The occupant did not perceive that he or she has the opportunity, if the response was “does not apply/do
195 not have control”; or b) The occupant perceived he or she has the opportunity, if the response was one of
196 the other options, given that they imply the recognition of the existence of the element. Moreover, each
197 control element was categorized according to whether the occupant operated it, either as : a) The action
198 did not occur, if the response was “does not apply/do not have control” or “Has not made any adjustment”;
199 or b) The action occurred, if the response was one of the other options.

200 Since the occupant is taken as the unit of analysis, the questionnaires from the same participant were
201 grouped and processed to classify each occupant for each element/action. In this way, it was considered
202 that an occupant perceived the opportunity to operate the control element when he or she identified the
203 opportunity in at least one of the questionnaires. In the same sense, it was considered that an occupant
204 performed an action if he or she recorded that an action occurred in at least one of their answered
205 questionnaires. This simplification seeks to explore the data as well as recognize the occupants who
206 performed an action and perceived opportunity. It assumes that on a daily basis those who carry out the
207 actions tend to be the same and that the perception of opportunity does not vary over time. Through this
208 process, the two outcome variables associated with each occupant were defined: action and perceived
209 opportunity.

210 Regarding the spatial factors, the occupants’ distance to and their orientation with the closest window and
211 blinds, as well as the orientation of these elements in relation to north were extracted from the BIM models
212 by means of a Dynamo script in Autodesk Revit. The script associates each occupant with the closest
213 window/blinds in their zone and returns data on their distance in a horizontal plane, the occupant’s
214 orientation in relation to the element (front, left, behind and right), and the element orientation (North,
215 Northeast, East, South, Southeast, West, Northwest), as illustrated in Figure 1. The human factors (gender
216 and age range) were extracted from the questionnaire linked to each occupant.

217 In this way, gender and age range, spatial layout, occupant distance to and orientation regarding the
218 closest window and blinds, as well as the orientation of these elements in relation to the north were
219 associated as attributes of each occupant, defining their corresponding spatial and human factors, the
220 predictors variables for this research.

221 **2.3. Data analysis**

222 As this study seeks to identify the factors related to the performance of an action, for the analysis of each
223 element, only those occupants with the corresponding spatial opportunity were considered, so this
224 attribute was used as a filter for subsequent analyses.

225 Since this research seeks patterns in the occupants’ actions regarding spatial and human factors, the
226 analysis is focused on the characteristics of those occupants who performed a certain action. Furthermore,

227 the perceived opportunity to operate the control elements could be related to both the action and the
 228 factors studied, so this characteristic is also considered for data analysis. These characteristics are
 229 considered here as the outcome variables, which are expected to be related to the factors studied. Thus,
 230 the spatial and human factors (See Figure 1) are the predictor variables for this research.

231 First, it was studied if there is a relationship between whether an occupant performed an action or not and
 232 the spatial and human factors (A). Secondly, since perceived control has been shown to be related to the
 233 use of control elements, the same previous relationship was studied, but it only considers those occupants
 234 who perceived having the opportunity (APO). Finally, the perceived opportunity (PO) rather than the
 235 action was addressed, in order to study whether an occupant perceived opportunity or not in relation to
 236 spatial and human factors. The brackets show the coding for the analysis sets, which are summarised in
 237 Figure 4.



238
 239 Figure 4. Analysis sets. A (Action) studies if there is a relationship between whether an occupant performed an action or not and
 240 the spatial and human factors. APO (Action + Perceived Opportunity) considers the effect of perceived opportunity on the action,
 241 studying if there is a relationship between whether an occupant performed an action or not and the spatial and human factors, but
 242 considering only those occupants who perceived having the opportunity to use the control elements. PO (Perceived Opportunity)
 243 studies whether an occupant perceived opportunity or not in relation to spatial and human factors. All the sets consider only the
 244 occupants with spatial opportunity.

245 The analysis was divided into two parts: the first determined the relationship between the spatial and
 246 human factors and occupants' actions and perceived opportunity, according to the defined analysis sets;
 247 while the second explored the patterns in those relationships that were found to be significant.

248 The statistical analysis was carried out using the software SPSS (version 24). Since the outcome variables
 249 for this study are categorical, and the predictors are both categorical and continuous (just the distance),
 250 the bivariate analysis is differentiated according to the type of data (categorical-categorical and
 251 continuous-categorical). In concordance with other studies of this kind, the significance level was defined
 252 as $p < 0.05$ [69].

253 In order to compare the differences between categorical groups and following previous studies in the field
 254 [55,63], the Chi-squared test for independence was applied to test whether there is a relationship between
 255 variables. This is demonstrated if there are changes in the proportions of the occupants who performed an
 256 action or perceived opportunity according to the spatial and human factors. Cramer's V was used for effect
 257 size quantification. This indicator gives a number between 0 and 1, showing the strength of the relationship
 258 between the two categorical variables, where 0.1 is small, 0.3 medium and 0.5 large [70]. Values less than
 259 0.1 are then considered negligible and over that value, the relationships are of interest. Since both the Chi-

260 square test or Cramer's V do not identify the patterns of the relationship [63,71], to that aim, standardized
 261 histograms were plotted and standardized residuals were calculated [69,71].

262 In the case of distance, the only continuous variable studied, Spearman's correlation coefficient (ρ) was
 263 used to determine the strength of the relationship between variables. This coefficient was chosen because
 264 of the type of data and because it does not rely on the assumptions of the linear model [72]. It was
 265 interpreted based on Ferguson [73], like similar studies [43,74], where absolute values of $\rho < 0.20 =$
 266 negligible; $0.20 \leq \rho < 0.50 =$ small; $0.50 \leq \rho < 0.80 =$ moderate; and $\rho \geq 0.80 =$ large. A *t-test* for independent
 267 samples was applied to evaluate the difference between groups. To identify patterns in these relationships,
 268 logistic regression was used just as previous research has done with continuous variables like illuminance
 269 [49] or temperature [65], allowing estimating the likelihood of the outcome variable in function of the
 270 predictor variable, in this case, the distance.

271 3. Results

272 3.1. The participants and their distribution by studied factors

273 A total of 514 occupants participated in the study and 2,327 questionnaires were collected, with an average
 274 of 4.53 (SD = 2.41) per occupant. The number of surveys and participants by spatial layout per case is
 275 presented in Table 2. The participants were distributed over 85 office spaces throughout the 11 buildings
 276 studied. A similar number of males and females participated in the study and the most common age range
 277 was between 36 and 45 years old. Table 3 presents the total occupant distribution by spatial layout, gender
 278 and age range, factors studied for all the control elements.

279 Table 2. Surveys collected and participants by spatial layout per case.

Case	SO		SE		IN		Total	
	Surveys	Participants	Surveys	Participants	Surveys	Participants	Surveys	Participants
A	282	58	9	1	45	12	336	71
B	124	27	11	2	13	2	148	31
C	92	16	153	29	57	15	302	60
D	159	33	18	5	27	7	204	45
E	8	1	157	28	20	3	185	32
F	435	125	30	4	14	2	479	131
G	148	38	12	2	-	-	160	40
H	232	49	30	6	-	-	262	55
I	121	22	64	15	11	2	196	39
X	-	-	37	7	-	-	37	7
Y	-	-	18	3	-	-	18	3
Total	1601	369	539	102	187	43	2327	514

SO: Shared Open space, SE: Shared Enclosed space, IN: Individual space

280

281 Table 3. Occupant distribution by spatial layout, gender and age range

	Spatial Layout			Gender			Age Range					
	SO	SE	IN	Male	Female	No response	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	+56	No response
Total participants	369	102	43	251	240	23	51	128	163	99	48	25
% within factor	71.8%	19.8%	8.4%	48.8%	46.7%	4.5%	9.9%	24.9%	31.7%	19.3%	9.3%	4.9%

SO: Shared Open space, SE: Shared Enclosed space, IN: Individual space

282 Based on the data extracted from the dynamo script, the occupants' general distribution by their
 283 orientation in relation to the closest window and blinds, as well as the orientation of these elements in
 284 relation to north, is presented in Table 4. It is worthy of note that not all occupants were in zones with
 285 windows or blinds. Likewise, not all windows had associated blinds and that in some cases the blinds
 286 were located on glazed facades without operable windows. The general average occupant's distance to the
 287 window was 3.63 m (SD: 3.91, BCa 95% CI [3.29, 4.00]), and to the blinds was 2.98 m (SD: 2.40, BCa 95% CI
 288 [2.77, 3.19]).

289 Table 4. Distribution of occupant orientation in relation to the element and element orientation

	Occupants without associated element*		Occupant orientation in relation to the element				Element orientation							
			Front	Left	Behind	Right	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
Window	Total	85	109	39	241	40	36	61	35	148	27	51	28	43
	%	16.5%	21.2%	7.6%	46.9%	7.8%	7.0%	11.9%	6.8%	28.8%	5.3%	9.9%	5.4%	8.4%
Blinds	Total	35	92	82	235	70	27	106	41	120	12	55	28	90
	%	6.8%	17.9%	16.0%	45.7%	13.6%	5.3%	20.6%	8.0%	23.3%	2.3%	10.7%	5.4%	17.5%

*It refers to those occupants who were in zones without the indicated element, meaning they did not have the spatial opportunity. The remaining occupants which correspond to those with the spatial opportunity of using the indicated elements are differentiated by occupant position regarding the closest element and the element orientation.

290

291 3.2. The occupants' actions and perceived opportunity

292 Each of the occupants who took part in this study have different associated spatial opportunities, and for
 293 the analysis only those with the corresponding spatial opportunity for each element were considered.
 294 Table 5 presents the total number of occupants with the spatial opportunity for each control element based
 295 on field observations. Furthermore, Table 5 classifies the occupants according to whether they operated
 296 the element or not (Set A), whether they perceived they had an opportunity or not (Set PO), and whether
 297 they operated the element or not considering only those who perceived opportunity (Set APO).

298

Table 5. Occupants with observed spatial opportunity, classified according to the analysis sets.

Element	Spatial opportunity		Action (A)				Perceived Opportunity (PO)				Action + Perceived Opportunity (APO)			
			Action		No action		Perceived		Did not Perceive		Action		No action	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Window	429	83%	121	28%	308	72%	340	79%	89	21%	121	36%	219	64%
Blinds	479	93%	138	29%	341	71%	350	73%	129	27%	138	39%	212	61%
Personal control devices	413	80%	71	17%	342	83%	141	34%	272	66%	71	50%	70	50%
Thermostat	361	70%	48	13%	313	87%	247	68%	114	32%	48	19%	199	81%

299 In general, the number of occupants that operated the control elements is less than those who did not, and
 300 it is more likely that an occupant does not perform an action. This probability increases when considering
 301 only the occupants who perceived opportunity (APO), thereby supporting the idea that it is necessary for
 302 an occupant to be aware of the presence of the elements to use them. Likewise, there is evidence that a
 303 high proportion of the occupants perceived they do not have an opportunity, when it was in fact observed
 304 that the opportunity does exist. It should be noted that around 70% of the occupants perceived the
 305 opportunity to operate the windows, blinds and thermostat, but only a third of them perceived they can
 306 use personal control devices such as small heaters or fans.

307 The following sections break down the data and analyse whether these proportions change according to
 308 spatial and human factors. First, whether there is a relationship between spatial and occupant factors and
 309 the occupants' actions and their perception of opportunity is established. Due to the length of this paper,
 310 the contingency tables showing the proportions by factor are included as supplementary material and only
 311 the statistical test values, p-values and effect size values are presented below. The significant relationships
 312 are identified and afterwards, their patterns are presented in the subsequent section.

313 3.3. The relationship between spatial and human factors, and occupants' actions and perceived 314 opportunity.

315 Table 6 presents the results in relation to spatial factors, indicating which relationships are statistically
 316 significant and have at least a small-medium effect size [75]. The results show that the spatial factors
 317 related with the occupants' actions are mainly spatial layout, element orientation and distance. The last
 318 two are associated with the use of the window and the blinds in all the analysis sets. Spatial layout is
 319 related in all sets with the window and thermostat, and with the perception of opportunity in blinds and
 320 devices. Occupant orientation was only significant regarding the blinds, particularly in relation to the
 321 perceived opportunity.

322 Table 6. Results of the relationship between spatial factors and the occupants' actions, by analysis sets.

Factor	Element	Set	Statistical test*	p-value**	Effect size***
Spatial Layout	Window	A	$\chi^2 (2, n = 429) = 21.746$	< 0.001	0.225
		APO	$\chi^2 (2, n = 340) = 16.078$	< 0.001	0.217
		PO	$\chi^2 (2, n = 429) = 11.827$	0.003	0.166
	Blinds	A	$\chi^2 (2, n = 479) = 10.661$	0.005	0.149
		APO	$\chi^2 (2, n = 350) = 3.464$	0.178	0.099
		PO	$\chi^2 (2, n = 479) = 13.762$	0.001	0.17
	Personal control devices (fans or heaters)	A	$\chi^2 (2, n = 413) = 2.147$	0.351	0.072
		APO	$\chi^2 (2, n = 141) = 2.192$	0.342	0.125
		PO	$\chi^2 (2, n = 413) = 18.782$	< 0.001	0.213
	Thermostat	A	$\chi^2 (2, n = 361) = 36.504$	< 0.001	0.318
		APO	$\chi^2 (2, n = 247) = 27.748$	< 0.001	0.335
		PO	$\chi^2 (2, n = 361) = 6.909$	0.033	0.138
Occupant's orientation	Window	A	$\chi^2 (3, n = 429) = 2.041$	0.567	0.069
		APO	$\chi^2 (3, n = 340) = 2.093$	0.552	0.078
		PO	$\chi^2 (3, n = 429) = 0.097$	0.992	0.015
	Blinds	A	$\chi^2 (3, n = 479) = 5.493$	0.14	0.107
		APO	$\chi^2 (3, n = 350) = 5.190$	0.161	0.122
		PO	$\chi^2 (3, n = 479) = 21.493$	< 0.001	0.212
Element's orientation	Window	A	$\chi^2 (7, n = 429) = 22.200$	0.002	0.227
		APO	$\chi^2 (7, n = 340) = 15.938$	0.026	0.217
		PO	$\chi^2 (7, n = 429) = 25.658$	0.001	0.245
	Blinds	A	$\chi^2 (7, n = 479) = 23.531$	0.001	0.222
		APO	$\chi^2 (7, n = 350) = 20.488$	0.005	0.242
		PO	$\chi^2 (7, n = 479) = 23.605$	0.001	0.222
Distance	Window	A	$\rho = -0.298 [-0.38, -0.22]$	< 0.001	0.57
		APO	$\rho = -0.221 [-0.31, -0.12]$	< 0.001	0.34
		PO	$\rho = -0.39 [-0.47, -0.30]$	< 0.001	0.89
	Blinds	A	$\rho = -0.372 [-0.45, -0.30]$	< 0.001	0.78
		APO	$\rho = -0.335 [-0.43, -0.12]$	< 0.001	0.54
		PO	$\rho = -0.34 [-0.42, -0.26]$	< 0.001	0.86

A: Action, APO: Action+Perceived Opportunity, PO: Perceived Opportunity

* Statistical test: Chi-squared test for all factors except for distance, where Spearman's correlation was used. Concerning the former, df and size sample are indicated in brackets. For the latter 95% BCa CIs are reported in brackets.

** p-values in bold are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

*** Effect size for Chi-square corresponds to Cramer's V, for Spearman's correlation it is Cohen's d. Effect size indicates the strength of the relationship where 0.1: small, 0.3: medium, 0.5: large. Values in bold are effect sizes greater than >0.1.

323 Table 7 summarises the results in relation to human factors. It is observed that in general, gender is not
 324 associated with an occupant acting or not, or with him or her perceiving having the opportunity or not,
 325 except for the operation of the thermostat. In the case of age range, it is associated with the perception of
 326 opportunity for all control elements, but not with the use of any.

327 Table 7. Results of relationship between occupant factors and the performance of actions, by analysis set.

Factor	Element	Set	Statistical test*	p-value**	Effect size***
Gender	Window	A	$\chi^2 (1, n = 412) = 2.948$	0.098	0.085
		APO	$\chi^2 (1, n = 328) = 3.622$	0.063	0.105
		PO	$\chi^2 (1, n = 412) = 0.087$	0.807	0.015
	Blinds	A	$\chi^2 (1, n = 457) = 0.091$	0.838	0.014
		APO	$\chi^2 (1, n = 342) = 0.009$	1	0.005
		PO	$\chi^2 (1, n = 457) = 0.324$	0.591	0.027
	Personal control devices (fans or heaters)	A	$\chi^2 (1, n = 395) = 2.655$	0.109	0.082
		APO	$\chi^2 (1, n = 136) = 1.107$	0.307	0.09
		PO	$\chi^2 (1, n = 395) = 1.691$	0.205	0.065
	Thermostat	A	$\chi^2 (1, n = 347) = 0.020$	1	0.008
		APO	$\chi^2 (1, n = 239) = 0.177$	0.747	0.027
		PO	$\chi^2 (1, n = 347) = 4.115$	0.048	0.109
Age Range	Window	A	$\chi^2 (4, n = 410) = 3.255$	0.519	0.089
		APO	$\chi^2 (4, n = 326) = 2.433$	0.662	0.086
		PO	$\chi^2 (4, n = 410) = 18.535$	0.001	0.213
	Blinds	A	$\chi^2 (4, n = 456) = 9.075$	0.059	0.141
		APO	$\chi^2 (4, n = 341) = 7.113$	0.131	0.144
		PO	$\chi^2 (4, n = 456) = 15.958$	0.003	0.187
	Personal control devices (fans or heaters)	A	$\chi^2 (4, n = 394) = 5.724$	0.222	0.121
		APO	$\chi^2 (4, n = 136) = 3.093$	0.554	0.151
		PO	$\chi^2 (4, n = 394) = 13.399$	0.009	0.184
	Thermostat	A	$\chi^2 (4, n = 346) = 2.030$	0.735	0.077
		APO	$\chi^2 (4, n = 238) = 0.621$	0.966	0.051
		PO	$\chi^2 (4, n = 346) = 13.026$	0.011	0.194

A: Action, APO: Action+Perceived Opportunity, PO: Perceived Opportunity

*Statistical test: Chi-squared test for all factors except for distance, df and size sample are indicated in brackets.

** p-values in bold are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

*** Effect size corresponds to Cramer's V and indicates the strength of the relationship where 0.1: small, 0.3: medium, 0.5: large. Values in bold are effect sizes greater than >0.1.

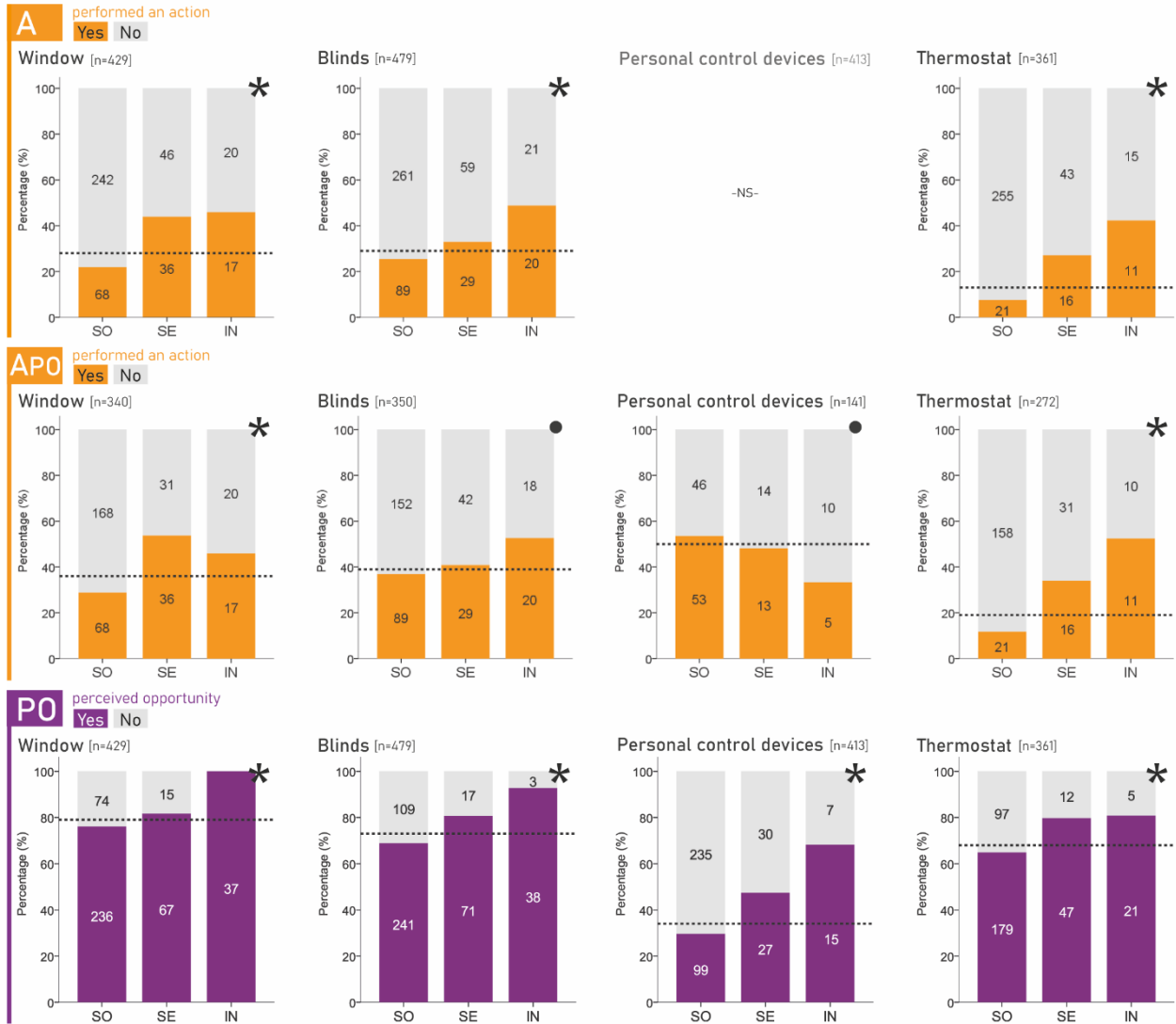
328 3.4. Patterns in occupants' actions and perceived opportunity with regard to spatial and human 329 factors.

330 The patterns in those factors and analysis sets with a significant relationship are presented below.
 331 Relationships with no statistical significance but a small-medium effect size are also included. The graphs
 332 marked with a star show statistically significant relationships, while graphs with a circle show no-
 333 significant relationship but small-medium effect size, according to Table 6 and Table 7. The graphs show
 334 the standardised proportions to better visualize whether there are differences in the distribution of the
 335 sets. As a guide, the graphs include a dotted line that indicates the general proportion of occupants who
 336 acted or not (for the A and APO sets) or who perceived having opportunity or not (PO set), without
 337 discriminating by factors. The further a category proportion moves away from this line, the more
 338 representative it will be in the relationship between variables. If one category is located below the line, this
 339 indicates that fewer of the expected occupants took action or perceived an opportunity, and the opposite
 340 is true if it is located above the line. The tables with standardized residuals for all the factors and sets can
 341 be found in the supplementary material.

342 3.4.1. Spatial layout

343 The proportion of occupants who perform an action according to the spatial layout of their work zone is
 344 presented in Figure 5. A clear pattern can be observed regarding the window, blinds and thermostat: there
 345 are fewer active occupants in offices with an open plan (SO), their number increases in shared enclosed
 346 offices (SE), and there are more in individual offices (IN). The trend is the same for the action sets (A and
 347 APO) and could suggest that the more occupants that share an office space, the less they take action.
 348 Regarding PO, the patterns are similar. For all the control elements, in shared offices, in particular those
 349 with an open floor plan, a considerable part of the occupants declare they do not have an opportunity,
 350 when they do.

Spatial layout



351
 352 Figure 5. Proportion of occupants that operate the element indicated (A, APO) or that perceived opportunity (PO), by spatial
 353 layout. The dashed line indicates the general proportion, presented in Table 5. The number in the bar indicates the total number of
 354 occupants. SO: Shared Open space, SE: Shared Enclosed space, IN: Individual space. The graphs marked with a star show
 355 statistically significant relationships, while graphs with a circle show no-significant relationship but small-medium effect size.

356 3.4.2. Occupants and element orientation

357 When the blinds were located behind the occupant, more occupants perceived they have the opportunity
 358 to operate them. Likewise, when this element was next to the occupant (left or right), fewer occupants than

359 expected perceived they can interact with it (Figure 6 left). Patterns for window and occupant orientation
 360 are not included since no relationship was found, thereby suggesting that actions or perceiving
 361 opportunity are independent of the way an occupant is oriented regarding the window.

362 The distribution by orientation can be seen in Figure 6 right. The windows facing north had the highest
 363 proportion of associated active occupants. In the case of the blinds, those that are located facing west
 364 registered the most active occupants. The windows to the southeast were those with the least active
 365 associated occupants. The trend is the same for A and APO: more occupants operated the element when
 366 it is oriented in such a way that it has more solar exposure. Regarding the PO, the pattern in this association
 367 is not clear. In the case of the window, there are more occupants that perceived they do not have an
 368 opportunity if the element is oriented towards the southeast, whereas with blinds, there are more
 369 occupants with this perception when the element is positioned towards the north and southeast.



370
 371 Figure 6. Proportion of occupants that operate the element indicated (A, APO) or that perceived opportunity (PO), by occupant
 372 orientation (left) and closest element orientation (right). The dashed line indicates the general proportion, presented in Table 5. The
 373 number in the bar indicates the total number of occupants. The graphs marked with a star show statistically significant
 374 relationships, while graphs with a circle show no-significant relationship but small-medium effect size.

375 3.4.3. Distance

376 Table 8 summarises the mean distance to the element and differentiates those who performed an action
 377 and those who did not (A and APO sets), and those who perceived opportunity and those who did not
 378 (PO). The difference between those occupants was found to be highly significant for all the sets, showing
 379 a clear pattern. Overall, the occupants who operated the elements (windows and blinds) are located closer
 380 to them than those that did not act.

Element	Set	Mean distance (SE)		Difference [BCa 95% CI]	Statistical test*	p-value**	Effect size***
		Yes	No				
Window	A	2.25 m (0.17)	4.17 m (0.25)	1.92 m [1.36, 2.53]	$t(422.89) = 6.37$	< 0.001	0.57
	APO	2.25 m (0.17)	3.07 m (0.20)	0.82 m [0.34, 1.29]	$t(327.35) = 3.18$	0.002	0.34
	PO	2.78 m (0.15)	6.87 m (0.59)	4.10 m [3.04, 5.31]	$t(96.916) = 6.35$	< 0.001	0.89
Blinds	A	1.82 m (0.13)	3.46 m (0.14)	1.63 m [1.22, 2.02]	$t(406.504) = 8.60$	< 0.001	0.78
	APO	1.82 m (0.13)	2.80 m (0.14)	0.98 m [0.59, 1.36]	$t(340.017) = 5.11$	< 0.001	0.54
	PO	2.42 m (0.10)	4.53 m (0.26)	2.12 m [1.63, 2.65]	$t(170.478) = 67.699$	< 0.001	0.86

A: Action, APO: Action+Perceived Opportunity, PO: Perceived Opportunity

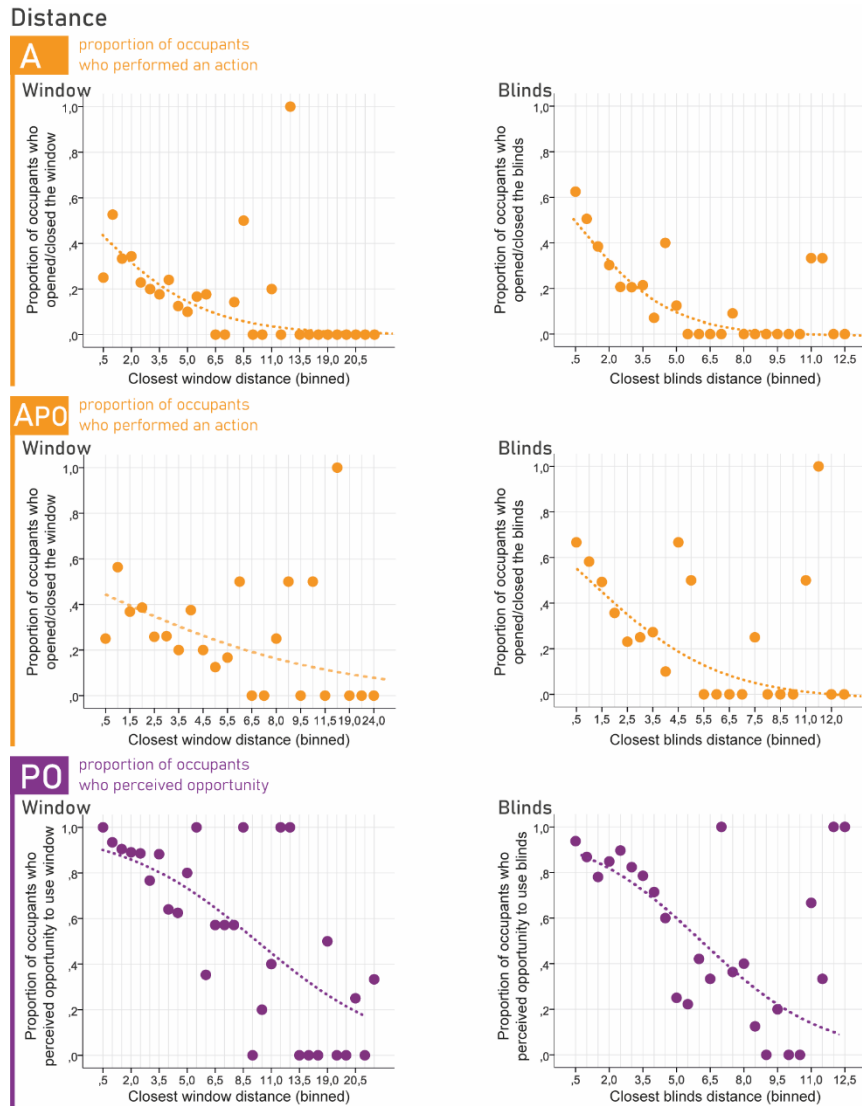
* Statistical test: t-test for independence. Df are indicated in brackets.

** p-values in bold are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

*** Effect size is Cohen's d. Effect size indicates the strength of relationship where 0.1: small, 0.3: medium, 0.5: large.

381 The proportion of occupants that performed an action according to their distance from the closest window
 382 and blinds is presented in Figure 7. Although the relationship does not seem to be constant, thereby
 383 suggesting the influence of other factors, there is an observable trend that coincides as expected: the shorter
 384 the distance to the control element, the greater the proportion of occupants that interact with it. The same
 385 trend exists regarding the perception of opportunity: in general, the greater the distance, the lower the
 386 proportion of occupants that declared having an opportunity. The graph includes the logistic regression
 387 curves showing the predicted probabilities for A, APO and PO.

Table 8. Differences between sets regarding distance to the closest element



389

390 Figure 7. Observed proportion of occupants who opened/closed (A, APO) or perceived opportunity to do so (PO), based on
 391 occupant distance (binned 0.5 m) to the element. The logistic regression curve showing the predicted probabilities is included.

392 The logistic regression showed a significant relationship both for the window and the blinds, although in
 393 the case of the former a distance was not identified at which an occupant is more likely to be active. For
 394 the blinds, this distance was 0.5 m for the A set, and 0.1 m for the APO. Regarding the distance and whether
 395 the occupant perceived having an opportunity or not, the two groups (yes or no) were clearly identified
 396 with a cut-off point of 9 m for the window and 6 m for the blinds. This means that at distances shorter than
 397 these values, it is more likely that the occupant will perceive they have an opportunity, while at longer
 398 distances, the chances are that they will perceive they do not. However, R^2 was small and therefore these
 399 results should be interpreted with caution and further studies are required to validate these distances.

400 The parameters obtained in the logistic regression, as well as the odds ratio, which shows that the greater
 401 the distance the greater the probability that the occupant does not take action (A and APO sets), as well as
 402 the greater the distance, the higher the probability that the occupant perceive he or she does not have an
 403 opportunity, despite being in a space with the control element (PO), are presented in Table 9.

404
405

Table 9. Coefficients for logistic regression models predicting whether an occupant performed an action (A-APO) or predicting whether an occupant perceived opportunity (PO) for the indicated control elements.

Set	Element	Coefficient [95% BCa]		p-value distance	95% CI for Odds Ratio			Omnibus test		
		Constant	Distance		Lower	Odds Ratio	Upper	R ^{2*}	Model	p-value
A	Window	-0.10 [-0.52, 0.43]	-0.29 [-0.48, -0.18]	0.001	0.66	0.75	0.85	0.11	$\chi^2(1) = 33.69$	p < 0.001
	Blinds	0.31 [-0.18, 0.93]	-0.50 [-0.75, -0.34]	0.001	0.51	0.61	0.71	0.17	$\chi^2(1) = 62.15$	p < 0.001
APO	Window	-0.11 [-0.52, 0.47]	-0.19 [-0.41, -0.06]	0.032	0.73	0.83	0.95	0.04	$\chi^2(1) = 10.14$	p < 0.001
	Blinds	0.46 [-0.07, 1.15]	-0.41 [-0.72, -0.19]	0.003	0.56	0.67	0.8	0.10	$\chi^2(1) = 27.54$	p < 0.001
PO	Window	2.38 [1.98, 2.95]	-0.26 [-0.38, -0.18]	0.001	0.72	0.78	0.84	0.22	$\chi^2(1) = 65.81$	p < 0.001
	Blinds	2.16 [1.80, 2.61]	-0.35 [-0.48, -0.25]	0.001	0.64	0.7	0.77	0.19	$\chi^2(1) = 68.20$	p < 0.001

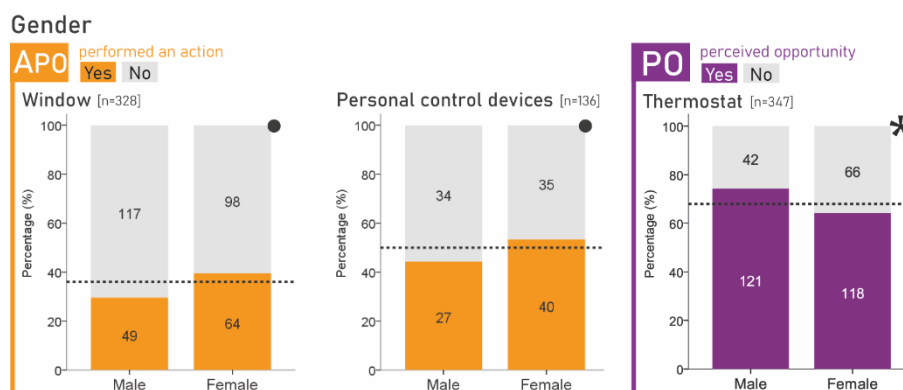
* Nagelkerke's R²

406 *3.4.4. Gender and age range*

407 Figure 8 shows the distribution of the occupants by gender and differentiates if they perform an action or
408 perceived the opportunity to operate the elements were a relationship was found. Men used less the
409 window and personal devices than women. More women perceived not having an opportunity to operate
410 a thermostat than men, when in fact they do.

411 According to age, those who least operate blinds and personal devices are the youngest. This changes in
412 the APO set for personal devices, where the ones that interact most are precisely the young. This would
413 suggest that once this group recognizes their opportunity, they take advantage of it. Likewise, the
414 probability of perceiving the opportunity varies according to age. The younger the occupant, the more
415 likely they perceive they cannot modify their environment. This trend can be identified in Figure 9 and
416 applies for all control elements. Particularly, there are always fewer occupants than expected who are
417 under age 26 and perceived opportunity.

418



419
420 Figure 8. The proportion of occupants that perform an action (A) or perceived opportunity (PO) by gender. The dashed line
421 indicates the general proportion, presented in Table 5. The number in the bar indicates the total number of occupants. The graphs
422 marked with a star show statistically significant relationships, while graphs with a circle show no-significant relationship but
423 small-medium effect size.

Age range

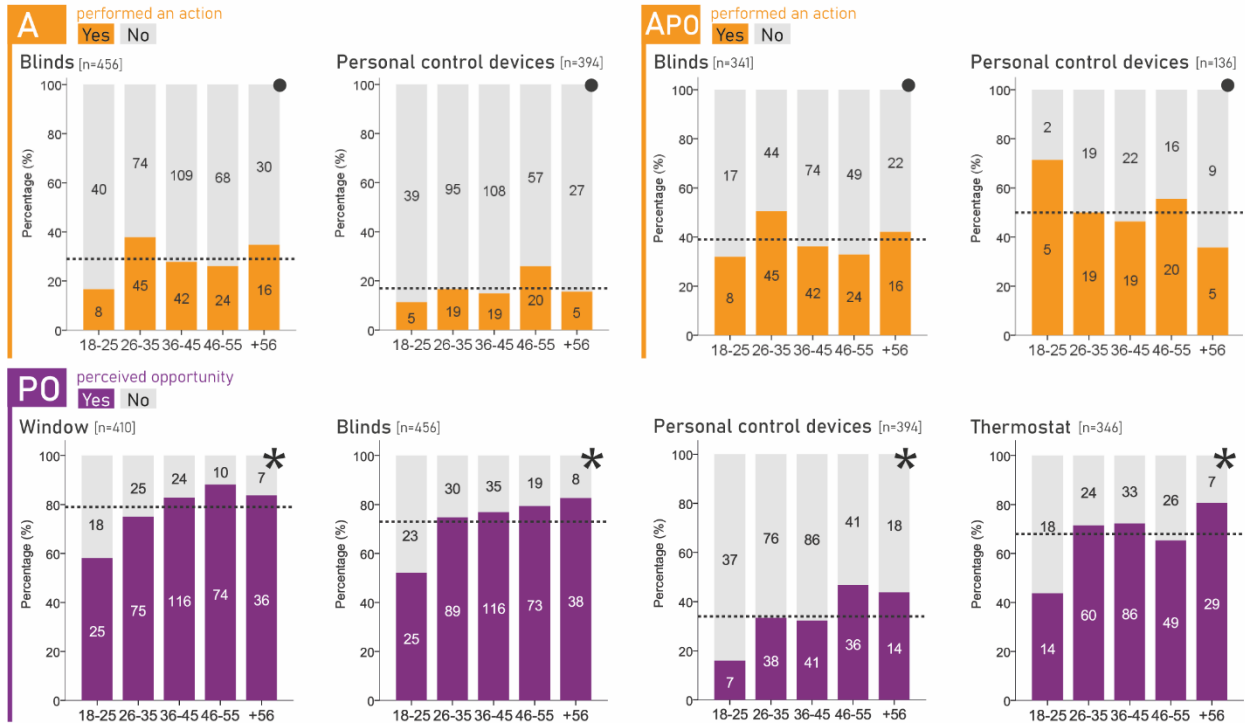


Figure 9. The proportion of occupants that perform an action (A and APO) or perceived opportunity (PO) by age range. The dashed line indicates the general proportion, presented in Table 5. The number in the bar indicates the total number of occupants. The graphs marked with a star show statistically significant relationships, while graphs with a circle show no-significant relationship but small-medium effect size.

4. Discussion

The results from this field study show the relationship between some spatial and human factors and the performance of actions. The relationship between these factors and the perceived opportunity to use a control element was also studied. In fact, the findings suggest that the spatial and human factors are more related to whether the occupant perceived having an opportunity than if they performed an action. However, given that perceived opportunity is essential for being active, these factors indirectly influence if the occupant acts or not.

It is worth mentioning that the relationship between whether an occupant performed an action or not and the perceived opportunity was found to be significant (*window*: $\chi^2(1, n=429) = 41.048, p < 0.001$; *blinds*: $\chi^2(1, n=479) = 71.447, p < 0.001$; *device*: $\chi^2(1, n=413) = 165.399, p < 0.001$; *thermostat*: $\chi^2(1, n=361) = 25.551, p < 0.001$). These findings match those observed in previous studies which suggest that as perceived control increases, the use of control elements also rises [25]. This reflects the important role of perceived opportunity or perceived control over the elements of the building in determining whether an occupant acts.

The data presented and the analysis sets made it possible to study not only the characteristics of the occupants who performed an action (the active ones) but also those who did not (the passive occupants). The latter could be divided into two groups based on the findings: the occupants that perceived they have the opportunity to perform the action but did not, which could be called "passive by choice" since for some reason they chose not to act; and their counterparts would therefore be the "passive by obligation"

447 occupants, those who declared they do not have the opportunity to use a control element even though it
448 exists in their office space, which suggests that these occupants consider themselves unable to act.

449 Regarding the active occupants, represented by the characteristics of the A set, the results indicate that the
450 factors most related to occupants being active are the spatial layout, distance from the element, and
451 element orientation. On the contrary, occupant orientation in relation to an element, gender, and age range
452 do not appear to be associated with an occupant performing an adaptive environmental action. Mainly,
453 the occupants who perform an action are those who are closer to the elements and those who are next to
454 elements facing facades with high solar exposure. Being in a shared space decreases the probability that
455 an occupant will perform an action.

456 Furthermore, as the APO set analysis suggests, there are more “passive by choice” occupants in shared
457 spaces. It also indicates that they are slightly farther away from control elements and they are associated
458 with elements with low solar exposure. Gender and age do not appear to be related to whether an occupant
459 decides to act, once he or she recognizes they have the opportunity to adjust the indoor environment.

460 Overall, spatial layout, distance and age are influencing factors for perceiving opportunity. By analysing
461 the PO set, it was found that there are more “passive by obligation” occupants in shared spaces and that
462 they are far from the control element. Likewise, these occupants are more likely to be young and in the
463 case of the thermostat, women. Regarding the blinds, if they are located to the side of the occupants, it is
464 more likely that the occupants perceive not having control over this element.

465 The main findings are summarized below by studied factor and are contrasted with the related literature.
466 As mentioned in the literature review, there are a number of studies about spatial and human factors
467 regarding satisfaction with the indoor environment and thermal comfort, but research on the influence of
468 these factors on the performance of the actions is scarce. Moreover, most studies only mention the
469 relationship, few studies present patterns or explicitly describe the relationship, and as far as is known,
470 none address the occupants’ specific position. Some studies address the influence of perceived control on
471 satisfaction with IEQ and comfort, but there are few that integrate and link it with the performance of the
472 action.

473 **4.1. Spatial layout**

474 The relationship between spatial layout and use of the window, blinds or thermostat was found to be
475 highly significant. Proportionally, there are more active occupants in individual offices than in shared.
476 This finding is consistent with previous studies for windows and blinds [48,49], and gives new insights
477 for thermostat and personal control device usage. This makes sense if it is understood that in shared
478 spaces, the availability of controls is limited, and it might not be necessary or possible for all of the
479 occupants to perform an action. In addition, spatial layout was found to be related with the perceived
480 opportunity of use for all the control elements. Occupants in shared spaces, particularly open spaces,

481 perceived they do not have opportunity, when they in fact they do. This is in line with Schweiker and
482 Wagner [48] who found that perceived control of windows and blinds was negatively affected by the
483 number of people in an experimental study.

484 The use of personal fans or heaters had an interesting inverse pattern, with more active occupants in shared
485 than in individual spaces. This was not statistically significant but rather represents a small effect size,
486 worthy of further investigation. This could suggest that in shared spaces occupants depend more on
487 personal adaptations, thus supporting the idea of personal comfort models [76].

488 Moreover, it was found that when considering only those occupants who perceived opportunity (APO
489 set), the relationship between spatial layout and blind operation was no longer significant, though it had
490 a small effect size. This could suggest that in the case of blinds, this relationship might be directly
491 associated with the perceived opportunity. Since the relationship remains significant for windows and
492 thermostats, more analysis is required to identify how spatial layout influences the interaction with these
493 elements.

494 These findings could indicate that social factors like coexistence could limit adaptive actions in shared
495 spaces, as a result of affecting the perceived opportunity. Hence, dynamics in these kinds of spaces and
496 especially the thermal comfort of occupants should be further explored to identify the specific factors that
497 cause spatial layout to be related to whether the occupant is active or not, as it has been found that spatial
498 layout is related with IEQ satisfaction and thermal comfort [39,42,74]. Both of them are higher in individual
499 offices than open offices [39,41,77].

500 **4.2. Occupants' orientation**

501 In relation to blinds, occupant orientation was associated with perceived opportunity but not with the
502 performance of actions. However, effect sizes were between small and medium, suggesting that further
503 investigation is necessary. Concerning action, a possible trend was observed: occupants with blinds in
504 front of them are more likely to use them. Regarding perceived opportunity, it was greater when blinds
505 are behind the occupant and less when to the left or right. This could be associated with factors such as
506 glare and reflected light directly on the occupants' screens. These are primary reasons to use the blinds
507 according to Inkarojrit [78], in addition to solar radiation on occupants' backs, which could cause the need
508 for the element and therefore its recognition within the space. There are numerous studies regarding blinds
509 that mainly address the relationship with building orientation, which results in solar radiation. However,
510 in reviewing the literature no data was encountered describing occupants' orientation and opportunity
511 perception, although it has been found that orientation could impact the use of blinds [37] and visual and
512 thermal comfort [47,79].

513 Regarding the windows, surprisingly, no relationship was observed either for the performance of the
514 action or the perception of opportunity based on the occupants' orientation. There were no differences

515 between those with the window in front or back, or to the left or right side. This is of interest for design
516 and suggests that it does not matter where desks are located regarding windows; the occupant will act or
517 will perceive opportunity based on other factors.

518 **4.3. Element orientation**

519 In Concepción (36°S), windows and blinds facing north are subject to greater solar radiation throughout
520 the entire year; the windows in this orientation had the highest proportion of associated active occupants.
521 This is consistent with previous studies which found that a higher solar radiation is related to a greater
522 proportion of open windows [80,81]. The windows facing southeast had the least associated active
523 occupants, which could be explained by the fact that the little solar exposure this facade receives occurs in
524 the morning, as is the case with blinds that receive less solar radiation [46,82].

525 In the case of the blinds, those that are located facing west registered the most active occupants, which
526 could be linked to the search for protection from solar radiation in the afternoon. These results agree with
527 the findings of other studies, which report that the facade with greater solar exposure in the afternoon,
528 due to lower solar altitude and deeper solar penetration, causes increased closing of the blinds [83,84]. The
529 active occupants are more in concordance with the blind closing pattern previously identified in other
530 contexts [47,48]: they increase according to the sun's movement and possible heat gains during the day.

531 **4.4. Distance**

532 Distance has scarcely been studied as an influencing factor for the performance of actions, since most of
533 the previous research has been carried out in offices with the same characteristics and thus distance was
534 not a distinctive factor. It was found to be highly related both with the performance of the action and the
535 perceived opportunity. Overall, the shorter the distance, the greater the probability of being active or
536 perceiving the opportunity. The logistic regressions done give an idea of what those distances could be.
537 However, since the model is incomplete, all spatial layouts are included and have a low R^2 , further research
538 is needed to validate the distances and integrate other factors.

539 It is worth to noting that the average distance values of those who perform an action and those who do
540 not decrease in the A set, thus suggesting that the relationship between distance and action could be a
541 reflection of the effect of distance on the perception of opportunity.

542 **4.5. Gender**

543 The results suggest that gender does not influence whether the occupant decides to perform an action or
544 not. These results are consistent with Andersen et al. [23] regarding blinds and heating, and they are
545 opposite to Schweiker and Shukuya [58] and Karjalainen [59], who found that males use thermostats more
546 often than females, though their studies were in residences. Nevertheless, a small-medium effect size was
547 found for window and personal control devices, thereby indicating that women are slightly more active
548 than men, which is in line with Andersen et al. [23]. This trend is worthy of additional research.

549 Alternately, surprisingly, it was discovered that only gender is significantly associated with the perception
550 of thermostat control. It is more likely that a woman perceives not having an opportunity, when in fact
551 she does. A similar finding was reported by Karjalainen [59] in offices in Finland.

552 **4.6. Age range**

553 According to previous studies [23,85], age is an important characteristic in determining energy use.
554 However, this study was unable to demonstrate that age influences the performance of actions. The
555 relationship between age range and interaction with windows and thermostats was not found to be
556 significant, in agreement with Karjalainen [59]. This relationship was also not significant regarding the use
557 of blinds and personal control devices. Nonetheless, the last two had a small-medium effect size that
558 would suggest this relationship could exist and should be investigated in future research. For the blinds,
559 younger people interacted less, while for the personal devices (fans or heaters) the trend was the opposite,
560 thereby showing that younger people depend more on personal adaptation.

561 Interestingly, this last trend is the same regarding the perceived opportunity for all the control elements.
562 The younger the occupant, the more likely they perceive they cannot use the control element. This could
563 be due to a social factor associated with these occupants: they may not have the confidence to make
564 changes in an environment, especially if it is shared. They could feel they do not have the authority to
565 make the decision for others or they may also have worked less time in the office, although these are only
566 speculations and should be explored in future research.

567 **4.7. Limitations and future work**

568 It is important to highlight that this study addresses occupant behaviour from the perspective of the
569 occupant, and the probability that occupants are active or passive depending on spatial or human factors,
570 as well as the influence of those factors on perceived opportunity. Case selection was purposive and based
571 on institutional availability. Thus, random case or occupant selection was not possible, even though this
572 coincides with other studies of this type [86,87]. Each office space was surveyed for one day in each season,
573 and the occupant responses were considered to be representative, keeping in mind that in these kinds of
574 spaces many of the actions and particularly those who carry them out, tend to be constant in time.
575 According to the scope of this research, a more intensive survey was not necessary, and indeed it would
576 not be possible for logistical reasons and occupants' availability. Nevertheless, occupant classification was
577 simplified for analysis purposes and findings should be validated considering the effect of environmental
578 and time-related factors. When possible, subsequent studies could consider monitoring for more days to
579 obtain a more precise occupant classification and not limit the inclusion of "occasional" active occupants.

580 With regard to recording the actions, this study was based on information provided by the occupants
581 through surveys which could be subject to self-reporting bias. To minimize this, the survey was done face-
582 to-face and observations in the field were made regarding the available control elements. Likewise, the
583 grouping of the questionnaires answered by the same participant, allowed unifying their profile and

584 avoiding potential errors in their isolate answers. It is important to note that just like other studies using
585 surveys [22,23], this research aimed to identify patterns, rather than monitor the actions.

586 Similarly, following the idea that people carry out the actions that are easier for them [31,88], the element
587 the occupant has an opportunity to operate was considered to be the one closest to him or her. However,
588 there is no certainty as to if this was the element that was operated, and future studies dealing with
589 multiple occupants should record the control elements linked to each occupant. These results therefore
590 need to be interpreted with caution. For a more precise representation of actions and spatial factors, it
591 would be interesting to evaluate the effect of the presence of other individuals between the occupant and
592 the control elements.

593 Lastly, this article presents the patterns associated with the spatial and occupant factors independently for
594 each variable studied, as a first step for future studies where these factors could be integrated into a
595 multivariable model that addresses their relationships and facilitates their application in the design
596 process. Other factors should also be considered, including diversity [89–91]. Human behaviour is
597 complex and varied, and it may not be perfectly represented in a statistical model. However, with a better
598 understanding of it, it is hoped to optimize designs and use of the built environment [92–94].

599 **5. Conclusions**

600 The results presented suggest that the probability that an action occurs is different depending on spatial
601 and human factors. At the same time, this research addresses the influence of group dynamics on the use
602 of element controls in shared offices, through fieldwork. Likewise, it presents the relationship between the
603 position of an occupant and their actions. In shared spaces, there are fewer active occupants, and those
604 who interact with elements depend on the perception of opportunity that they have, which is particularly
605 associated with the spatial layout and the occupant's age. The closer an occupant is to an element, the
606 more likely he or she is to interact with it, and the younger the occupant, the less likely that he or she is to
607 do so since this condition restricts the occupant's perception of opportunity. It is essential that occupants
608 perceive they have an opportunity so they can be active. Spatial and human factors are more related to the
609 perception of opportunity than with the performance of the action itself, although some of the factors seem
610 to function effectively as facilitators or limiters of actions.

611 While the goal is not for all occupants to perform all the actions, it is of interest to inquire how to encourage
612 the occurrence of the actions and seek better performance in buildings from an architectural point of view.
613 To this end, it is necessary to know the characteristics of those who carry out the actions so that there can
614 be a degree of certainty that the actions expected during the design phase do actually occur.

615 Alternately, integrating this study into the probability models that determine whether an action occurs or
616 not could contribute by generating an adjustment factor for the models based on environmental and/or
617 time-related factors. The latter act as predictors and could be complemented with the occupant's spatial

618 position and profile to obtain a more precise model. This could not only lead to better predict actions, but
619 also to architectural and interior design strategies that promote more active occupants.

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