ENERJOY® Installation: Compuware Detroit, Michigan

Perimeter and Task Heating



The Compuware Building is the showcase office structure in Detroit's revitalized Campus Martius area. The building is a 15-story state of the art steel and glass construction with 1.1 million square feet, of which 60,000 square feet is floor level space leased by prime retail tenants. Attached is a dedicated 12-story attached parking garage for visitors and over 4000 Compuware employees. The Compuware facility includes an expansive day care center, cafeteria, fitness center, multi-function atrium, auditorium and meeting areas.

To provide wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling comfort, over 1/3 of a mile of custom dimension, flush mounted, end-to-end ENERJOY ceiling panels are located in the perimeter ceiling soffit in day care center rooms, the large employee cafeteria, and the Executive Offices. Installation was very easy as the panels were wired in parallel and 'dropped' into the J- bead, T-bar grid-like channel that was designed into the soffit, running along the ceiling of the entire perimeter with floor-to-ceiling glass in areas to be heated.

The entire building is controlled by a computer software management system centrally monitored by the building engineer who is able to adjust the operating parameters for the ENERJOY panels to assure building comfort based upon the comfort requirements within the actual space. Specifically, the panels were designed to the optimum watt density to assure long, low wattage operation and to eliminate short cycling-related occupant discomfort. Panel activation is based upon the outside air temperature. The set point was chosen in relation to the building balance point at which perimeter mean radiant temperature may lead to occupant discomfort.





A refinement of the original control system enables harvesting of solar energy heat gain by deactivating air based temperature signals to the central system. Installation of radiant sensing thermostats at the perimeter on the sides of the building where winter solar gain is significant not only turns off the heat when unneeded, but also assures optimum occupant thermal comfort based upon operative temperature at all times.

Chris Hewitt, Engineering Manager from Hines, the company responsible for building operation, says "The ENERJOY radiant perimeter design works as intended providing infant, employee, and executive comfort right up the edge of the building, without maintenance, noise, or intrusion into the floor space. There are no comfort complaint calls."

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