Current solutions to the problem of direct sunlight through a window generally fit into two categories: those that require energy input and those that are fixed structures.

Typical household blinds/shades fall under the first category. The energy required is provided by the user or by a motor. When provided by the user the blinds are manually opened are closed. When provided by a motor a remote control or a programmed microprocessor signals when the motor should operate the gears that open or close the blinds.

Fixed blinds/shades are typically used for buildings such as those on the UBC campus. They fit into two further categories. In the first category, the blinds are designed based on the angle of the sun to the window. By using appropriately angled panels along the side of the window or above it (like an overhang), the direct sunlight cannot penetrate when facing the panels. The panel material varies from concrete to wood to frosted glass. In the second category, the fixed structures partially cover the window, letting in light through slits or holes (like a grill).

-Need one paragraph about how we’re selecting the material for the frame

-Mention that we’re going to do an energy assessment: eco audit software, systematic approach.