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REVIEW ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

The Role of Private Outdoor Greenery in Enhancing Indoor Air Quality, Thermal Comfort and Energy Efficiency: A Critical Review

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ABSTRACT

Urbanisation and climate change are degrading indoor conditions by intensifying heat stress, air pollution and reliance on mechanical cooling, yet the role of private residential greenery in mitigating these effects remains insufficiently understood. This review is aimed at critically evaluating how private outdoor greenery influences indoor air quality (IAQ), thermal comfort and energy efficiency in residential buildings. A systematic screening of 3750 Scopus records identified 54 relevant studies, which were synthesised to assess design determinants, climatic sensitivity and methodological approaches. Quantitative findings indicate that private greenery can reduce indoor air temperature by 3.4°C, lower mean radiant temperature by up to 22.9°C and achieve up to 25% cooling energy savings, depending on tree placement and density. Reported magnitudes vary widely across climates, vegetation configurations and methodological approaches. However, direct empirical evidence linking private outdoor greenery to measured indoor IAQ improvements remains limited, with many IAQ-related findings inferred from pollutant deposition, ventilation interactions or outdoor air quality changes rather than direct indoor measurements. Integrated assessments of IAQ, thermal comfort and energy performance are rare in residential contexts, and design thresholds remain undefined. This review contributes a consolidated evidence base and identifies critical research directions to support climate-responsive, evidence-based residential greening strategies.

1 | Introduction

This review does not aim to comprehensively review urban greening but critically synthesises evidence relevant to private residential outdoor greenery and indoor outcomes. Rapid urbanisation and industrialisation have profoundly reshaped the built environment [1, 2], intensifying the urban heat island (UHI) effect [3–6], increasing air pollution [7–10] and driving higher energy demand in residential buildings [11–13]. These pressures

directly degrade indoor environmental conditions [14–16], particularly indoor air quality (IAQ) [17–19] and thermal comfort [20, 21], which in turn increase reliance on energy-intensive cooling and ventilation systems [11, 22]. Climate change further exacerbates these challenges by increasing the frequency and intensity of heat events [23–25], reinforcing the need for strategies that can simultaneously improve indoor conditions and reduce building energy consumption [16]. Given that buildings account for approximately 40% of global energy demand [26, 27],

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addressing these interconnected pressures is critical for achieving sustainable urban development.

The degradation of IAQ and thermal comfort is closely linked to urban densification [28, 29], vegetation loss [30–32] and rising pollution levels [28–30, 33–35]. Elevated outdoor temperatures and pollutant concentrations infiltrate indoor spaces through building envelopes and ventilation systems [36–38], increasing indoor contaminant levels [39–43] and cooling and ventilation energy demand [11, 22]. These effects are particularly pronounced in low-greenery urban areas, where heat-retaining surfaces intensify UHI impacts [44–47] and amplify indoor cooling loads [25]. Expanding urban populations and industrial activity further accelerate pollutant emissions [9, 10], with strong correlations reported between outdoor and indoor PM_{2.5} concentrations [42, 43], as observed in dense urban contexts such as Chennai [48].

To mitigate these challenges, urban design research has increasingly focused on two broad approaches: nature-based solutions (NbS) and artificial solutions (AS). NbS, particularly green infrastructure (GI), are widely recognised for their cost-effectiveness [49, 50] (and multiple environmental, social and economic cobenefits [51–54], whereas AS rely on technically intensive interventions such as cool materials and engineered surfaces [55, 56]. Comparative studies consistently demonstrate that passive, vegetation-based strategies including tree shading [57, 58], green roofs [59, 60] and natural ventilation [61, 62] are among the most effective measures for mitigating UHI effects, highlighting the resilience potential of NbS [63–65]. At the building scale, trees, green roofs and green walls are identified as particularly integrable solutions [66, 67], with trees offering strong microclimatic regulation through shading and evapotranspiration [68], reducing heat stress [69–71] and improving well-being [72–74].

Despite extensive evidence supporting urban-scale greening such as parks, street trees and urban forests [75–78], the role of private residential outdoor greenery (front yards, backyards, small gardens and courtyards) remains underexplored [79]. This omission is significant given the prevalence of these spaces in residential urban form and their direct interaction with building envelopes. Existing reviews either address greenery in general without distinguishing private domains [80, 81], focus narrowly on green roofs and façades [82, 83] or examine outdoor environmental quality without tracing indoor impacts. Moreover, while private outdoor greening faces constraints such as limited space [66, 84] and potential ventilation trade-offs [85], its localised capacity to improve air quality, regulate microclimates and reduce dependence on mechanical systems has not been systematically synthesised [86–90].

Addressing this gap, the present review systematically synthesises evidence from a screening of 3750 publications, identifying 54 studies directly relevant to private outdoor greenery and indoor environmental outcomes. The review focuses on three analytical objectives: (1) examining the functional pathways through which private outdoor greenery influences IAQ, thermal comfort and building energy performance; (2) identifying key design determinants and vegetation characteristics that condition these effects at the residential plot and building scale and

(3) critically evaluating the methodological approaches used to quantify greenery-related environmental impacts across different climatic contexts. By structuring the analysis around these mechanisms, determinants and methodological approaches, this paper provides a building-scale, private-domain-focused synthesis of residential greenery research, consolidates quantitative evidence across diverse study methods and critically assesses the feasibility and limitations of existing evaluation approaches across climatic contexts.

2 | Methodology

This review is conducted as a structured narrative review with critical synthesis, following systematic literature screening and selection criteria. This review is not intended as a full systematic review or meta-analysis, because its purpose is to provide an interpretive synthesis of mechanisms, design determinants and methodological patterns, rather than an exhaustive quality appraisal or statistical aggregation of all available evidence.

This review is structured around two analytical objectives that guided the systematic selection, screening and synthesis of the literature. Together, these objectives align with the overarching research aim of clarifying how greening private outdoor spaces can enhance IAQ, thermal comfort and energy performance in residential buildings.

The first objective focuses on synthesising mechanistic evidence linking outdoor greenery to indoor environmental outcomes, whereas the second objective examines the design determinants and methodological pathways through which these effects are mediated across climates and spatial scales.

Figure 1 illustrates the overall research framework, connecting urban-scale pressures, research gaps and greenery-based solutions to the analytical structure of the review.

Table 1 summarises how the analytical components of this review—mechanisms, design determinants, quantification frameworks and methodological approaches—are distributed across the Literature Review and Discussion sections to support an integrated synthesis.

2.1 | Literature Screening and Selection Criteria

A structured literature search was carried out in Scopus to identify literature on the impact of greening private outdoor spaces on IAQ, thermal comfort and thermal performance. As illustrated in Figure 2, the search process utilised keyword combinations categorised into three primary themes: Greenery, Indoor Environment and Building. Both basic and extended keyword sets were iteratively applied to ensure comprehensive coverage across disciplinary boundaries.

During the literature search, the highlighted combination initially yielded 3750 articles. This broad search strategy was employed to ensure comprehensive coverage across various aspects of greenery, IAQ, thermal comfort and building-related studies. To refine the selection, Figure 3 illustrates the application of

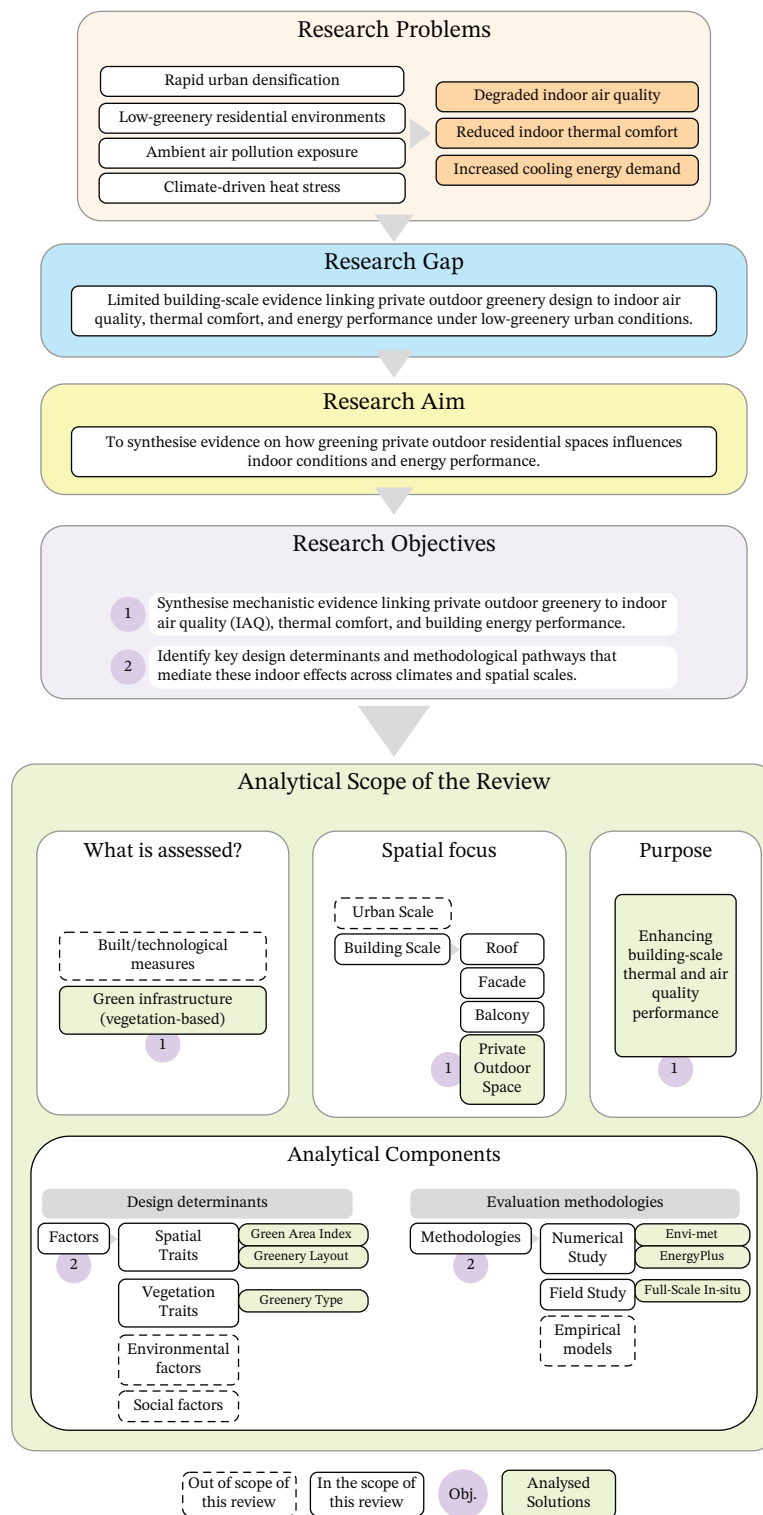


FIGURE 1 | Conceptual framework linking urban research problems, evidence gaps and analytical components for assessing the role of private outdoor greenery in improving indoor condition.

the inclusion and exclusion criteria. During the identification stage, 1761 articles were removed due to irrelevance to the research focus, such as publications outside the Engineering, Environmental Science and Energy fields or pre-2014 articles. In the screening phase, 1513 additional articles were excluded because the articles' titles or abstracts did not align with the research objectives, or the full text was inaccessible.

Of the 476 full-text articles assessed for eligibility, 422 were excluded. These primarily included studies addressing only outdoor environmental quality without indoor implications, investigations focused solely on indoor plants, green roofs or green walls without private outdoor context, or studies limited to psychological or visual comfort outcomes. An additional 44 studies were excluded at the final stage as they addressed only

TABLE 1 | Alignment between analytical components and paper structure.

Analytical component	Section	Section focus
Urban pressures and indoor environmental challenges	3.1	Synthesises evidence on how urbanisation, low greenery and climate-related stressors degrade IAQ, thermal comfort and energy demand in residential buildings.
Greenery as a nature-based solution (NbS)	3.2	Reviews the role of vegetation in modifying microclimates and mitigating indoor environmental stressors, with emphasis on physical mechanisms rather than prescriptive design.
Functional pathways linking outdoor greenery to indoor performance	3.1	Integrates mechanistic evidence (e.g., deposition, shading, evapotranspiration and airflow modulation) connecting private outdoor greenery to indoor outcomes.
Design determinants at the private outdoor scale	3.1, 3.3	Identifies key spatial, vegetative and quantitative factors (e.g., layout, LAI, GPR and canopy geometry) that condition indoor environmental effects.
Quantification and evaluation frameworks	3.3	Reviews indices and metrics used to quantify greenery extent and density, highlighting strengths and limitations for private outdoor applications.
Methodological pathways and validation challenges	3.4	Compares field studies, numerical simulations and empirical models used to assess greenery–IAQ and thermal comfort relationships, including issues of scale transfer and validation.

(Continues)

TABLE 1 | (CONTINUED)

Analytical component	Section	Section focus
Interpretive synthesis and research implications	4	Integrates findings across mechanisms, design determinants and methods to identify research gaps, practical implications and future research directions.

outdoor design guidelines or planning frameworks; however, these sources were retained for contextual reference where relevant.

Ultimately, a focused corpus of studies directly addressing IAQ, thermal comfort and/or energy performance in relation to private outdoor greenery formed the evidence base of this review. Figures 4, 5 and 6 are derived from a subset of 10 studies selected from the 54 included studies. These studies were shortlisted based on reported comparable greenery input variables and at least one directly assessed or clearly modelled indoor outcome. For all other tables and figures, data from all 54 studies were used. The limited number of eligible studies highlights a significant research gap at the building and plot scale, reinforcing the need for synthesis-oriented analysis.

2.2 | Analytical Framework

The analytical framework adopted in this review was designed to systematically evaluate how greening private outdoor spaces influences IAQ, thermal comfort and energy performance in residential buildings. Following literature screening, eligible studies were categorised according to research methodology (field measurements, numerical simulations or empirical modelling) and spatial scale (urban/neighbourhood vs. building/private outdoor space).

Key variables extracted from each study included greenery type, spatial layout, density or coverage indicators and the environmental context in which greenery was implemented. These variables were analysed in relation to reported indoor outcomes, including changes in pollutant concentrations, thermal comfort indices and building energy demand.

In addition to performance outcomes, the framework examined methodological limitations and evidence reliability, particularly the balance between simulation-based studies and empirical validation. This approach enabled cross-comparison of findings, identification of dominant research patterns and recognition of structural gaps in current knowledge particularly the underrepresentation of private outdoor spaces and multidomain IAQ and thermal comfort assessment.

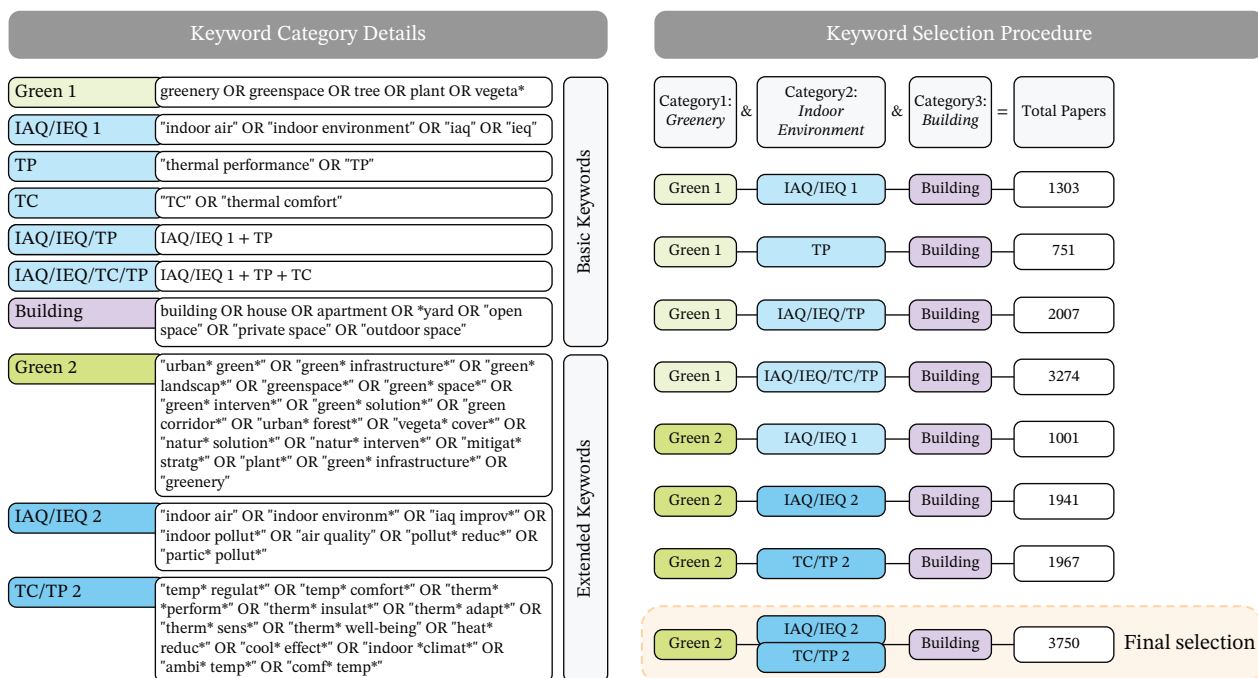


FIGURE 2 | Systematic keyword selection across three thematic domains: Greenery, Indoor Environment and Building.

3 | Literature Review

3.1 | Functional Pathways Linking Private Outdoor Greenery to IAQ, Thermal Comfort and Energy Performance (Objective 1)

Private outdoor greenery influences indoor environmental quality through five interrelated functional mechanisms: (1) pollutant attenuation via deposition and filtration processes, (2) shading and solar radiation control, (3) evapotranspirative cooling (green cooling), (4) wind modulation and ventilation mediation, and (5) vegetation configuration and spatial optimisation effects. Together, these mechanisms link outdoor microclimatic modification to IAQ, thermal comfort and building energy performance. While some pathways operate directly through infiltration and air exchange, others act indirectly by modifying façade heat gains, ambient air temperature or neighbourhood-scale pollutant dispersion patterns. These mechanisms operate through distinct but interacting physical processes, which are synthesised in Table 2 together with their associated design determinants and climatic sensitivities.

Table 2 synthesises evidence-based design determinants influencing the performance of private outdoor greenery at the private plot and building scale. Rather than prescribing implementation strategies, the table summarises key vegetation characteristics and spatial parameters reported in the literature (e.g., LAI, tree height, canopy diameter, GPR, vegetation porosity and façade proximity), together with potential trade-offs and climate sensitivities that may influence indoor outcomes. It highlights how vegetation characteristics and placement influence IAQ, thermal comfort and energy consumption within dwellings. In contrast, Table A1 (in Appendix) consolidates broader urban-scale and district-level evidence that supports the mechanistic plausibility of these

pathways. Although much of the empirical literature operates at neighbourhood or street-canyon scale, the underlying physical processes (e.g., deposition, shading, evapotranspiration and airflow modification) remain transferable to the private outdoor context.

Importantly, these mechanisms are nonlinear and involve trade-offs. Pollutant deposition benefits may be offset if dense vegetation suppresses ventilation and reduces air exchange. Similarly, increased GPR enhances thermal comfort up to identified thresholds, beyond which marginal benefits diminish. Shading reduces cooling demand in warm climates but may obstruct beneficial winter solar gains in temperate conditions. Wind modulation can improve cold-climate protection yet increase stagnation risk in polluted corridors. These interactions demonstrate that greening outcomes depend not only on vegetation presence but also on configuration, density and climatic context.

Although much of the quantified evidence originates from urban-scale simulations or monitoring studies, scale transfer to private outdoor spaces is justified by shared boundary-layer processes and building-envelope interactions. Microclimatic modifications occurring within the immediate vicinity of façades, such as reductions in surface temperature, changes in wind velocity and altered pollutant dispersion, directly influence infiltration rates and conductive heat transfer. Therefore, while magnitude may vary with scale, the direction and functional logic of impacts remain consistent between neighbourhood-level greening and private plot interventions. To avoid overloading the main synthesis, Table A2 (Appendix) provides a complementary overview of supporting studies that examine vegetation-related mechanisms at urban or neighbourhood scales.

Figure 7 consolidates quantified ranges of temperature reduction, pollutant attenuation, ventilation modification and

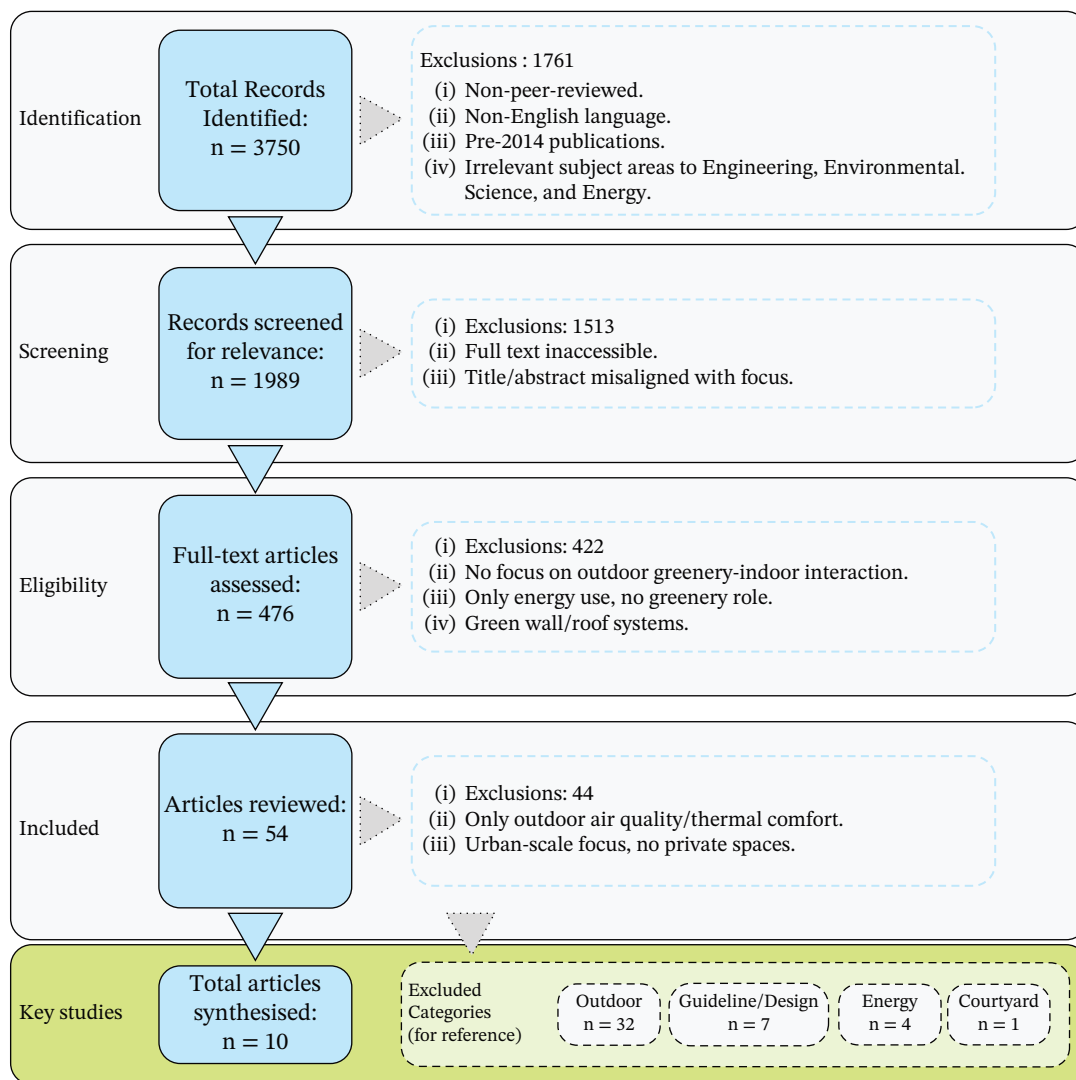


FIGURE 3 | The literature screening workflow based on selection criteria.

energy savings reported across the literature, linking mechanistic pathways (Tables 2 and A1) to measurable environmental outcomes. While outdoor cooling and surface temperature reductions are well documented, direct empirical evidence of IAQ and energy impacts remains limited. The predominance of outdoor-scale quantification suggests strong potential indoor benefits, yet highlights a critical evidence gap in building-scale validation. This reinforces the need for future research to directly measure and model indoor environmental responses to private outdoor greening interventions.

3.2 | Design Determinants and Performance Gaps

To identify the design determinants and methodological pathways mediating indoor environmental performance, this section synthesises quantitative evidence, climate-scale distribution patterns and input-output coupling structures across the reviewed literature. Where indoor IAQ outcomes are inferred from outdoor deposition studies, this is explicitly noted, and such evidence should be interpreted as indicative rather than conclusive.

3.2.1 | Definition of Private Outdoor Greenery

•Private outdoor greenery encompasses residential plot-scale vegetation located within the private residential parcel and directly adjacent to the dwelling, including front and back yards, small gardens, courtyards and terraces. This review focuses on vegetation that is spatially and functionally linked to the dwelling envelope, while excluding public street trees, urban parks and broader neighbourhood greening unless their influence on the specific dwelling is explicitly analysed. Typical vegetation characteristics include the following:

- o. Tree height: typically, 3–10m depending on species and site constraints.
- o. Hedges and shrubs: 0.5–2-m height, often used as privacy screens or windbreaks.
- o. Lawns and ground cover: contributing to surface cooling and infiltration.
- o. Vegetation types: deciduous versus evergreen, high-stomatal species for pollutant deposition and species with significant evapotranspiration for cooling.

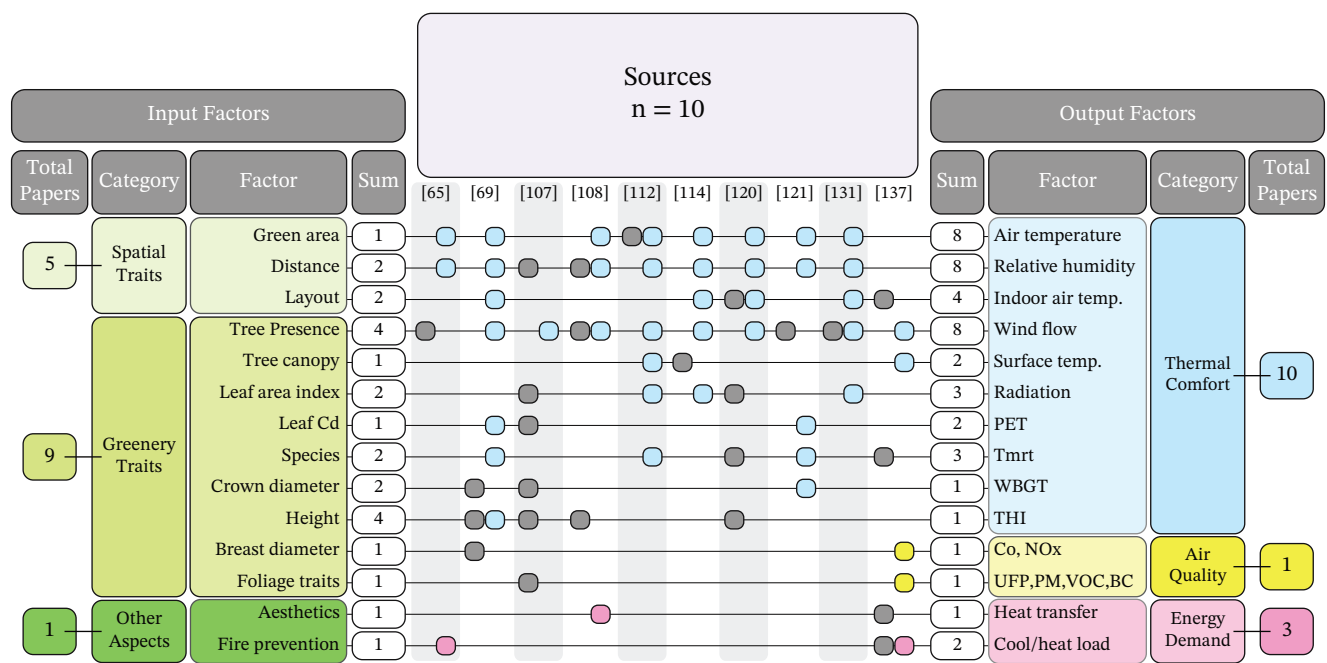


FIGURE 4 | Critical design factors of greenery influencing IAQ, thermal comfort and energy consumption.

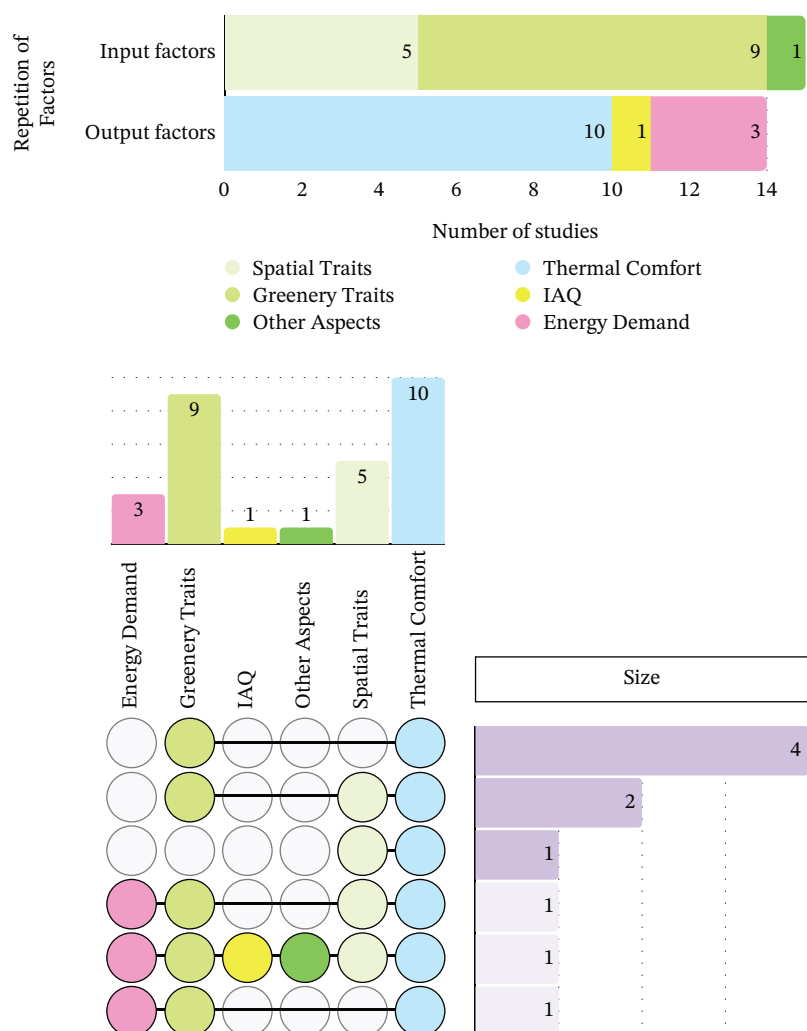


FIGURE 5 | Repetition and co-occurrence of input and output factor categories identified in the reviewed literature.

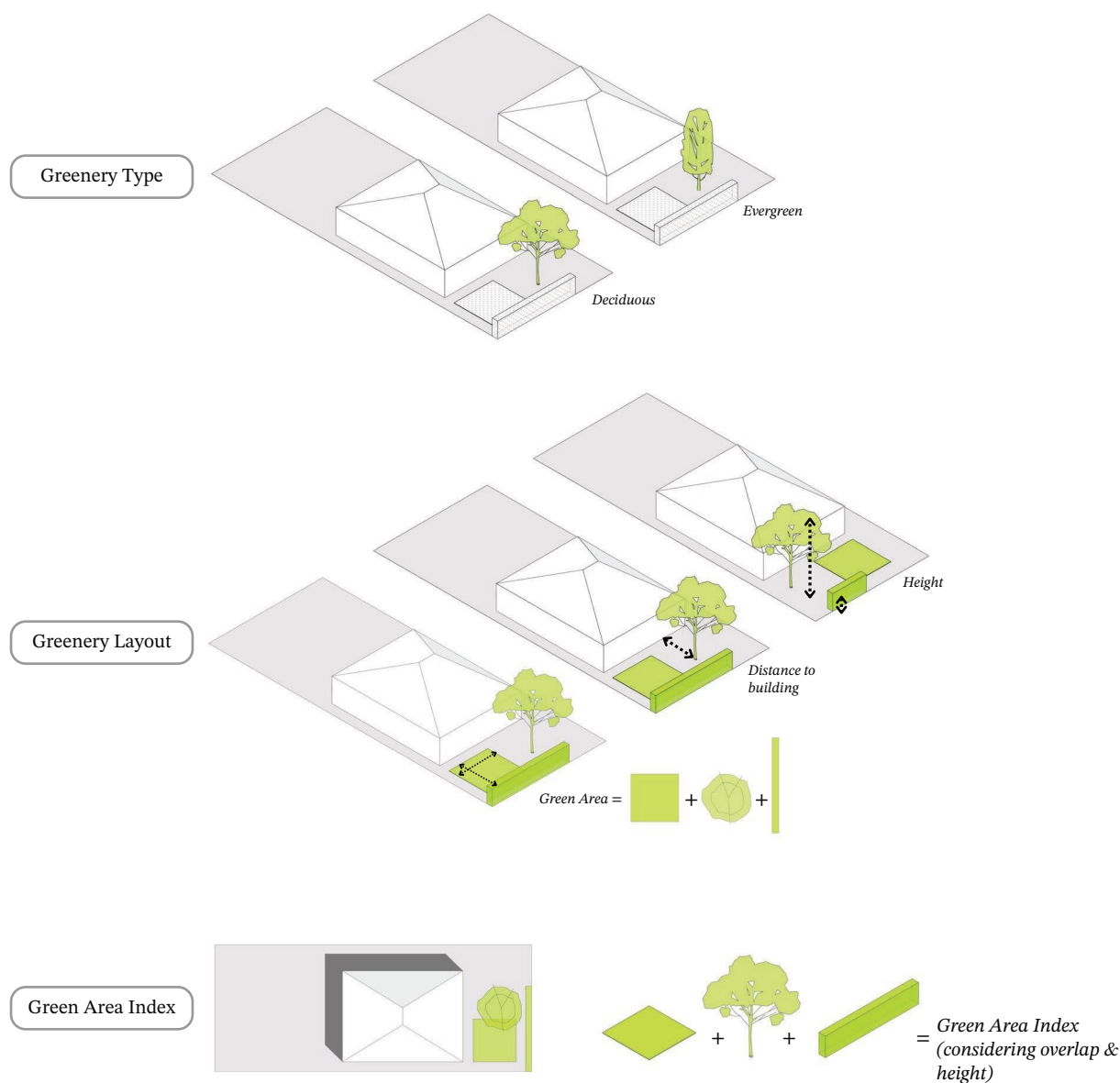


FIGURE 6 | Key design factors influencing the impact of greenery on IAQ, thermal comfort and energy consumption.

These characteristics determine shading capacity, pollutant capture, wind modulation and overall contribution to indoor environmental outcomes.

3.2.2 | Quantitative Evidence Across Climate and Scale

Table 3 summarises reported magnitude ranges of greenery-related environmental impacts across the reviewed studies. To improve transparency, the table distinguishes among three types of evidence: (1) directly measured indoor outcomes at the building scale, (2) outdoor microclimatic outcomes measured at the plot or neighbourhood scale and (3) inferred indoor implications derived from outdoor environmental improvements. This separation clarifies the methodological basis of the reported ranges and avoids conflating indoor measurements with broader urban-scale evidence. Climatic contexts in the reviewed studies are reported according to the

Köppen–Geiger classification, a widely used system categorising climates based on temperature and precipitation patterns [146]. Cooling-related outcomes dominate the current evidence base, particularly for outdoor microclimate indicators such as PET, MRT and surface temperature. Direct measurements of indoor air temperature and building energy impacts remain comparatively limited, and IAQ quantification is especially scarce. In many cases, potential IAQ benefits are inferred from outdoor pollutant deposition or dispersion effects rather than directly measured indoor concentration changes. The study-level evidence underpinning these quantitative ranges, including input factors, output variables, Köppen climate classification, spatial scale and methodological approach, is systematically summarised in Table A2 (Appendix).

Climate representation is uneven. Temperate (C-type) regions are disproportionately studied, whereas arid (B-type), tropical (A-type) and cold (D-type) climates remain underrepresented,

TABLE 2 | Evidence-based design determinants and associated trade-offs influencing the performance of private outdoor greenery.

Functional mechanism	Primary indoor objective	Key design determinants	Climate sensitivity	Potential trade-offs/risks
Pollutant attenuation (deposition/filtration)	Reduce outdoor PM _{2.5} , PM ₁₀ and NO ₂ infiltration into indoor spaces [48, 91–95]	High LAI; leaf roughness and hairiness; species with high stomatal conductance; proximity to façade openings; vegetation alignment with prevailing wind; buffer width	Stronger effect in polluted urban corridors	Pollutant accumulation on foliage; resuspension; allergen emissions; limited indoor benefit without adequate air exchange control
Shading and solar radiation control	Reduce indoor overheating and cooling loads via façade shading [22, 92, 96–98]	Tree height (~7–8 m effective); canopy diameter; deciduous versus evergreen selection; tree-to-wall distance; façade orientation (west/south priority); canopy density	Most effective in hot climates; deciduous species advantageous in temperate climates	Winter solar obstruction; façade dampness; reduced daylight; increased heating load under evergreen canopy
Evapotranspirative cooling (green cooling)	Lower ambient air temperature influencing indoor thermal comfort [25, 95, 99–102]	Species evapotranspiration capacity; irrigation strategy; soil moisture; canopy coverage ratio; spatial distribution (distributed vs. clustered planting)	More effective during hot, clear days; reduced performance in winter or humid climates	Increased humidity in already humid climates; irrigation demand; diminishing marginal cooling beyond canopy saturation
Wind modulation (green barriers/ventilation mediator)	Optimise air exchange rates for IAQ and thermal comfort [95, 103]	Vegetation porosity; leaf drag coefficient; tree–building distance (avoid 1H–3.5H stagnation zone); upstream/downstream placement; façade versus roof vegetation strategy	Wind shielding beneficial in cold climates; configuration sensitive in warm climates	Reduced cross-ventilation (up to ~20% reported); potential stagnation near openings; unintended overheating if airflow blocked
Cooling-energy interaction pathway	Reduce cooling energy demand through microclimate modification [22, 96–98, 100, 104–108]	UGF (optimal ~0.5–3.5); vegetation distribution pattern; tree orientation; tree-to-wall distance; canopy diameter; integration with building geometry	Stronger in low-rise, open urban fabrics; diminishing returns beyond threshold GPR	Limited benefit in high-rise blocks; possible nighttime discomfort; winter heating penalties

limiting geographic generalisability. Methodologically, urban-scale simulations and hybrid field–model approaches dominate, whereas empirical building-scale validation of IAQ and energy performance is rare. This imbalance suggests that much of the evidence supporting indoor benefits remains indirectly inferred from outdoor-scale analyses (Figure 8).

3.2.3 | Input–Output Coupling and Research Concentration

Figure 4 maps the recurrence of input and output factors across the reviewed studies, revealing a strong concentration on vegetation traits particularly tree presence, LAI, canopy density, species selection and crown dimensions. Spatial determinants

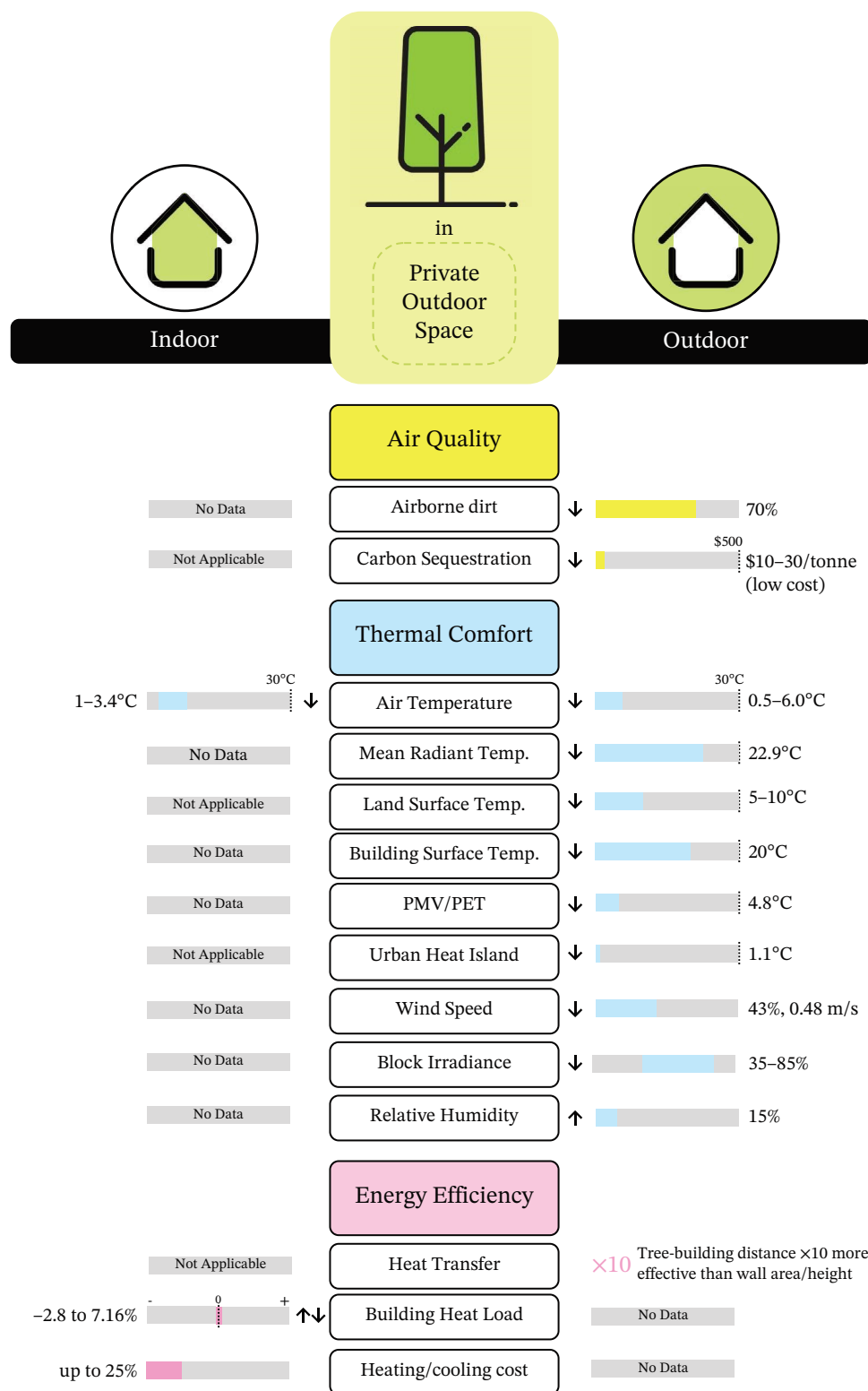


FIGURE 7 | Quantified impact of private outdoor greenery on indoor and outdoor environmental performance.

such as tree-to-wall distance and layout configuration are examined less frequently and are typically analysed in combination with vegetation variables rather than independently.

On the output side, thermal comfort overwhelmingly dominates the literature, appearing in nearly all reviewed studies. Energy performance is examined in a smaller subset, often treated as

a secondary outcome of thermal mitigation. IAQ remains marginal, with only limited direct investigation of ventilation-mediated or filtration-based indoor improvements.

Figure 5 synthesises the coupling patterns between input and output categories, demonstrating that vegetation–thermal pathways constitute the primary analytical focus. Multidomain integration,

TABLE 3 | Reported magnitude ranges of greenery-related environmental impacts across reviewed studies, distinguishing directly measured indoor outcomes, outdoor microclimatic effects and inferred indoor implications.

Functional mechanism	Typical quantified outputs	Reported magnitude range	Climate representation	Scale and method concentration	Evidence gap indicators
A. Directly measured indoor outcomes (building-scale evidence)					
Shading and solar radiation control	Indoor air temperature; cooling/heating energy demand	Indoor air temperature reduction 1°C–3.4°C (up to 14°C with dense foliage) [98, 105, 143]; annual cooling/heating reduction 8%–12% [92] and energy consumption 17.3% [145]; summer energy reduction up to 25% [91]	Strong dominance of temperate climates (Cfa and Cfb)	Mixed building-scale simulations and empirical modelling	Limited long-term monitoring validation of indoor temperature impacts
Wind modulation (green barriers/ventilation mediator)	Air exchange rate (AER); cross-ventilation; wind speed	Trees planted within 1H–3.5H upstream reduce cross-ventilation by 20%–24% [107]; green façade decreases AER by ~19%; green roof increases AER up to 13% [103]	Limited explicit climate differentiation	Building-scale simulations and experimental studies	IAQ consequences of altered ventilation rarely quantified concurrently
B. Outdoor microclimate outcomes (plot or urban-scale evidence)					
Shading and solar radiation control	PET; MRT; outdoor air temperature	PET reduction up to 4.8°C [69]; MRT reduction up to 22.9°C [128]; outdoor air temperature reduction up to 6.0°C [145];	Temperate climates (Cfa and Cfb) dominate	Field measurements and simulation studies at urban and neighbourhood scale	Seasonal heating penalties inconsistently quantified
Evapotranspirative cooling (green cooling)	Land surface temperature (LST); ambient air temperature; canopy air temperature; relative humidity; thermal perception	LST of impervious surfaces 5°C–10°C higher than green surfaces [101]; ambient temperature reduction ~6°C in UGI contexts [119]; 1.1°C campus-scale cooling with 17% tree increase and 20.8% indoor comfort improvement [144]; PET reduction up to 4.8°C [128]; canopy air temperature reductions 0.8°C–3.2°C depending on cloud cover; ‘very hot/hot’ perception reduced by 16% (sunny) and 11% (cloudy) [99]	Temperate (Cfa and Cfb), continental (Dfa) and semi-arid climates represented	Satellite observations, field monitoring and coupled simulations	Indoor linkage often inferred rather than directly measured; cloud-condition sensitivity rarely modelled

(Continues)

TABLE 3 | (CONTINUED)

Functional mechanism	Typical quantified outputs	Reported magnitude range	Climate representation	Scale and method concentration	Evidence gap indicators
Cooling-energy interaction pathway	MRT; wind speed; thermal stress index; dynamic heat transfer coefficients	Increasing LAI from 0.79 to 4.77 m ² /m ² reduced MRT by 3.27°C and wind speed by 0.48 m/s [106]; GPR 0.5 → 1.5 reduced thermal stress category; GPR 3.5 achieved 'moderate' UHI intensity [124]; tree-driven variable explains 91.12% weight in wall heat transfer modelling [108]; presence of trees reduces summer energy up to 25% [65]	Predominantly temperate and continental climates (Cfa/Cwa and BSk-Cwa)	Urban block simulations dominate	Empirical validation of simulated energy savings remains limited
C. Inferred indoor implications based on outdoor environmental effects					
Pollutant attenuation (deposition/filtration)	PM capture; dust retention; NO ₂ reduction; CO ₂ moderation	Up to 70% airborne dirt retained along planted streets; mature trees intercept ~50 lbs particulates/year [92]; measurable PM deposition up to 12 m above ground [109]	Arid (BSh) and temperate (Cfa) contexts represented	Urban-scale field monitoring and review-based assessments dominate	Limited building-scale infiltration modelling; sparse direct indoor PM quantification
Carbon sequestration and atmospheric CO ₂ moderation	CO ₂ reduction; atmospheric moderation	Urban trees reported as up to 15× more valuable than rural trees for CO ₂ limitation; planted streets retain up to 70% airborne dirt [92]	Broad climatic mention; limited stratified comparison	Review-based and policy-scale assessments dominate	Negligible short-term indoor IAQ quantification; scale mismatch at dwelling level

simultaneously assessing IAQ, thermal comfort and energy, is rare. As a result, the literature remains fragmented, with limited understanding of cross-performance trade-offs at dwelling scale.

3.2.4 | Emerging Determinants and Structural Gaps

Figure 6 synthesises the critical design determinants emerging from the reviewed literature and clarifies the analytical boundary of the current study. The framework distinguishes three principal determinant categories influencing indoor environmental outcomes: (i) greenery type, (ii) greenery layout and (iii) greenery area quantification.

Greenery type refers to biological and morphological characteristics, including deciduous versus evergreen selection, canopy density, LAI, species-specific evapotranspiration capacity and seasonal variability. These attributes directly mediate shading efficiency, pollutant deposition potential and microclimatic cooling intensity.

Greenery layout captures spatial configuration parameters such as tree-to-wall distance, planting height relative to façade openings, upstream-downstream positioning with respect to prevailing wind and the degree of canopy overlap. Unlike vegetation traits alone, layout determines how greenery interacts dynamically with airflow, solar exposure and building-envelope heat transfer processes.

Green area quantification represents a third, cross-cutting determinant. Because greenery may include horizontal, vertical and overlapping vegetated elements, its effective extent cannot be described solely by planar coverage. This study therefore adopts the term Green Area Index as a conceptual umbrella for quantifying greenery magnitude and density, acknowledging that multiple operational indices exist. The formal evaluation tools used to calculate greenery coverage and weighting such as GPR, UGF and GFS are discussed in Section 3.3.

The graphic summary further clarifies the scope boundary of the present research. The current study focuses on private outdoor

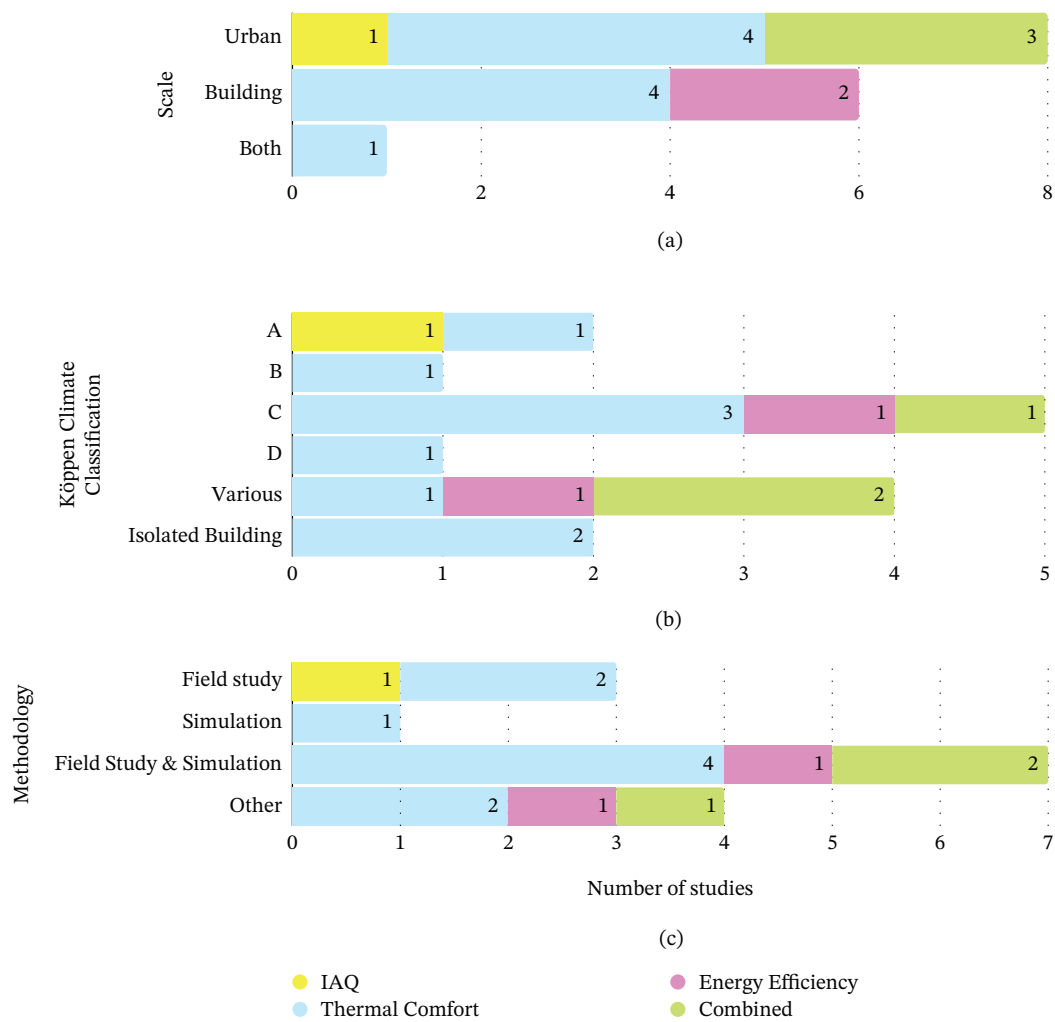


FIGURE 8 | Integrated analysis of scale, climate, focus area and methodology.

greenery at the dwelling scale, examining its influence on IAQ, thermal comfort and energy efficiency. Future research directions include expanding analysis toward (i) building-envelope integration strategies, (ii) interactions with adjacent buildings and (iii) linear nature strips within the broader urban fabric. This staged approach prevents scale conflation while maintaining conceptual continuity with neighbourhood-level processes identified in Section 3.1.

Collectively, this determinant hierarchy emphasises that indoor performance outcomes are not governed by greenery presence alone, but by the interaction between vegetation traits, spatial configuration and quantifiable greenery magnitude. Also, this determinant hierarchy provides the structural foundation for selecting quantification frameworks (Section 3.3) and methodological evaluation pathways (Section 3.4).

3.3 | Quantification Frameworks for Greenery Magnitude and Density

Accurate quantification of greenery magnitude constitutes a critical methodological challenge in assessing its impact on indoor environmental quality. Unlike discrete design variables such as tree height or façade distance, greenery area may

involve horizontal surfaces, vertical elements, overlapping canopies and density variations. Consequently, planar coverage alone cannot adequately represent vegetation intensity or performance potential.

To address this complexity, several formal indices have been developed to quantify greenery extent and density. These tools operationalise what was conceptually defined in Section 3.2.3 as the 'Green Area Index', enabling standardised comparison across sites and studies. Table 4 summarises three widely applied indices: Green Plot Ratio (GPR), Urban Greening Factor (UGF) and Green Factor Score (GFS).

- GPR is derived from LAI and expresses greenery density as a ratio between leaf surface area and ground area. It provides a vegetation-intensity metric that captures three-dimensional canopy characteristics more effectively than simple coverage ratios. Studies [129, 147] demonstrate its application in linking 3D greenery density to UHI mitigation and thermal stress reduction.
- UGF, introduced by the Mayor of London [150], expands quantification to include both horizontal and vertical greenery through weighted surface-cover scoring. While it improves representation of layered vegetation, its

TABLE 4 | Indices for evaluating greenery coverage and density.

Source	Index	Description	How does it work?
[129, 147]	GPR	Based on leaf area index (LAI), refers to the single-sided leaf area per unit ground area.	The GPR represents the average LAI of site greenery, expressed as a ratio.
[128, 148]	UGF	Based on surface cover types and factor scores.	The UGF is the total area of greenery (including vertical surfaces and overlapping surfaces) with its factor score divided by the total area of the plot.
[149]	GFS	Based on a ‘weighted-index’ of green infrastructure on a site, to its area.	The GFS is an index-like measure of the volume and efficacy of a site’s green infrastructure elements. The ‘greening efficacy’ of each element is determined by its unique green element weight. This weight is scored on the basis of the element’s capacity to service a set of Ecosystem Services, including urban temperature regulation and social cohesion.

formulation does not explicitly account for spatial configuration, which can result in misleading equivalence between differently distributed greenery systems. Empirical application in school environments [139] showed correlations between UGF scores and classroom temperatures but also highlighted configuration-related heat disparities.

- GFS, adopted by the City of Melbourne Council [149], extends beyond physical coverage to incorporate ecosystem service weighting. Each green element receives a performance weight based on functions such as urban cooling, runoff mitigation, habitat provision and social cohesion. Although comprehensive from a planning perspective, GFS introduces subjective weighting that may complicate direct linkage to measurable indoor IAQ and thermal comfort outcomes.

While these indices provide structured quantification methods, none fully integrate vegetation spatial arrangement, airflow interaction or façade proximity—factors shown in Section 3.2 to mediate indoor outcomes. Moreover, indices designed for urban planning objectives may not directly correspond to building-scale IAQ or energy performance metrics. Therefore, although GPR, UGF and GFS offer valuable standardisation tools, adaptation or hybridisation may be required to support dwelling-scale, performance-oriented greenery evaluation frameworks.

3.4 | Methodological Pathways and Validation Challenges

Assessing the indoor impacts of private outdoor greenery requires methodological approaches capable of capturing dynamic interactions among vegetation, microclimate and building performance. Across the reviewed literature, three

principal methodological pathways are identified: field studies, numerical simulations and empirical models (Figure 9). To improve transparency regarding how IAQ, thermal comfort and energy performance are assessed across the reviewed studies, Table A3 (Appendix) summarises the tools, sensors, sampling methods and simulation platforms employed in field-based and modelling studies.

3.4.1 | Field-Based Measurement Approaches

Field studies rely on in situ monitoring of thermal, air quality and energy parameters under real environmental conditions. Most reviewed studies adopt full-scale measurements, reflecting strong preference for real-world validation [144]. Experimental setups such as climate-controlled test houses and wind tunnel modelling [103] remain less common but offer controlled investigation of building-scale microclimate interactions. Field studies provide high empirical reliability and contextual accuracy. However, they are resource-intensive, time-consuming and often limited in scenario flexibility.

3.4.2 | Numerical Simulation and Coupled Modelling

Numerical simulations constitute the dominant predictive approach. At the urban microclimate scale, ENVI-met is the most frequently applied tool, appearing in the majority of reviewed simulation-based studies. Its strength lies in modelling vegetation–atmosphere interactions and outdoor thermal fields. At the building scale, EnergyPlus is widely used to simulate indoor thermal behaviour and energy consumption. Several studies demonstrate coupled workflows, where ENVI-met-generated outdoor boundary conditions are integrated into EnergyPlus to assess indoor responses [156, 157]. This approach enables scenario testing and optimisation of

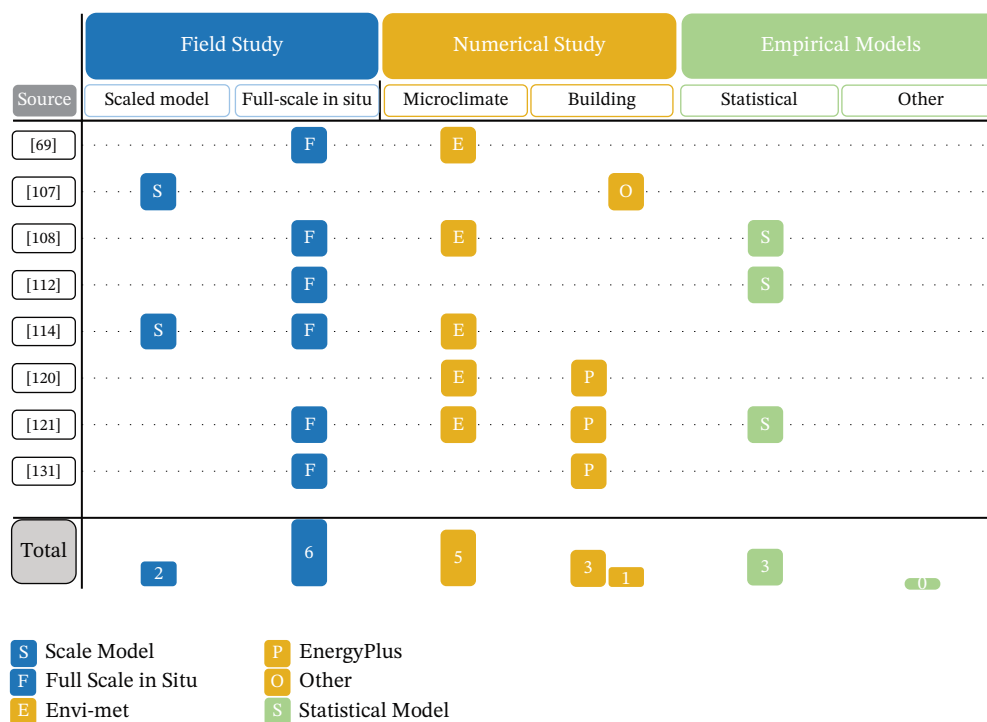


FIGURE 9 | Methodologies employed in relevant studies.

greenery configurations. Despite their scalability and scenario flexibility, simulation models depend heavily on parameter assumptions and require robust validation against field measurements.

3.4.3 | Empirical and Data-Driven Models

Only a limited number of reviewed studies employed empirical statistical models. Machine learning and advanced data-driven approaches were not widely represented, although they offer significant potential for identifying nonlinear relationships and multivariable interactions across climatic contexts. The relative scarcity of empirical modelling suggests an opportunity for integrating data-driven techniques with physics-based simulation to enhance predictive robustness.

3.4.4 | Comparative Resource and Validation Assessment

Figure 10 presents a comparative synthesis of methodological characteristics based on reported cost, time investment and feasibility. Field studies demonstrate high empirical credibility but require substantial resources. Numerical simulations provide moderate resource demand and high scalability, making them suitable for optimisation studies. Empirical models offer cost efficiency but may lack contextual precision for complex building–vegetation interactions. Overall, while numerical simulations particularly ENVI-met coupled with EnergyPlus play a central role in modelling greenery impacts, systematic field validation remains essential to strengthen reliability and improve cross-climate transferability. The predominance of outdoor-scale modelling, combined with limited

indoor validation, underscores a critical methodological gap in current research.

4 | Discussion and Synthesis of Findings

This review synthesised mechanistic, design and methodological evidence to clarify how private outdoor greenery mediates indoor environmental quality under conditions of urbanisation, pollution and increasing thermal stress. Rather than treating IAQ, thermal comfort and energy performance as isolated domains, the findings reveal their interdependence through shared microclimatic pathways.

4.1 | From Urban Pressures to Dwelling-Scale Mediation

Urbanisation and industrial activity intensify pollutant exposure and exacerbate UHI effects, increasing cooling demand and degrading indoor environmental conditions. While extensive research has addressed these issues at neighbourhood and city scales, this review demonstrates that similar boundary-layer processes operate at the private dwelling scale. Deposition, shading, evapotranspiration and airflow modulation function as transferable mechanisms capable of influencing façade heat exchange and pollutant infiltration. However, private outdoor greenery remains comparatively underexamined, despite its potential to provide site-specific, building-integrated mitigation strategies. This gap suggests that dwelling-scale greening represents an underutilised lever for enhancing IAQ and thermal comfort within existing urban fabrics.



FIGURE 10 | Methodology comparison based on cost, time and feasibility.

4.2 | Potential Risks and Trade-Offs

While private outdoor greenery provides multiple environmental benefits, potential risks and trade-offs should be considered:

- Moisture-related risks: Dense shading may reduce solar penetration, leading to dampness and increased winter heating demand.
- Structural concerns: Large trees with extensive root systems may damage foundations or underground services.
- Maintenance challenges: Irrigation, pruning and pest management require ongoing resources.
- Airflow trade-offs: Poorly configured vegetation may reduce natural ventilation and cause stagnation zones indoors.

These risks reinforce the importance of layout, density thresholds and façade proximity. A balanced design approach, considering both benefits and risks, is critical for effective implementation.

4.3 | Mechanisms, Determinants and Performance Coupling

The synthesis reveals that indoor performance outcomes are governed not merely by greenery presence, but by the interaction between vegetation traits, spatial configuration and quantifiable greenery magnitude. Shading and evapotranspirative cooling consistently reduce thermal stress and cooling loads, yet benefits exhibit threshold behaviour and diminishing returns. Similarly, pollutant deposition and wind modulation may improve IAQ under certain configurations but can also suppress ventilation or create stagnation zones if improperly positioned.

Vegetation–thermal pathways dominate the literature, whereas IAQ and energy efficiency are often treated as secondary outcomes. Multidomain assessments simultaneously evaluating IAQ, thermal comfort and energy remain rare. This imbalance limits understanding of cross-performance trade-offs and reinforces the need for integrated, building-scale evaluation frameworks.

4.4 | Methodological Constraints and Evidence Reliability

The review highlights a methodological landscape dominated by numerical simulations, particularly ENVI-met for outdoor microclimate modelling and EnergyPlus for indoor energy analysis. While coupled modelling approaches enable scenario testing and optimisation, empirical validation at the dwelling scale remains limited.

Field studies provide critical real-world evidence but are resource intensive and often geographically constrained. Empirical and data-driven approaches are underutilised, despite their potential to capture nonlinear interactions and cross-climate variability.

Furthermore, climatic representation is uneven, with temperate regions disproportionately studied. This geographic skew limits transferability of findings to arid, tropical and cold climates, where vegetation performance and cooling dynamics differ substantially.

4.5 | Implications for Design Practice and Research Agenda

The determinant hierarchy identified in this review (e.g., greenery type, layout configuration and quantifiable magnitude) provides a structured foundation for performance-oriented

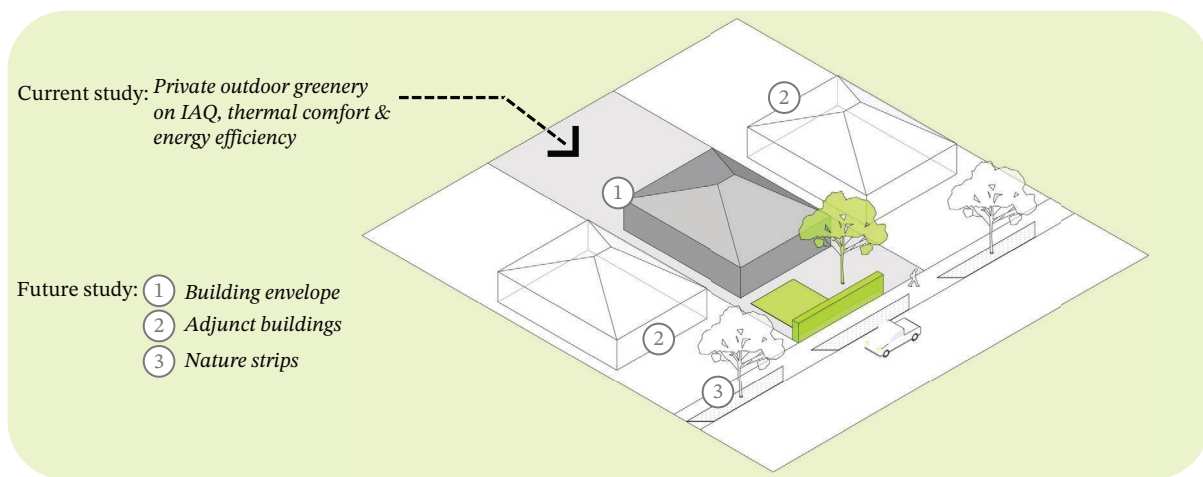


FIGURE 11 | Conceptual shift in research scope from isolated dwelling-scale vegetation to multiscale greening interactions involving building envelopes, neighbouring buildings and street-level vegetation systems.

greening strategies. Effective design requires alignment between vegetation traits, spatial placement relative to façade openings and appropriate density thresholds to balance shading, ventilation and energy effects. Rather than prescriptive guidelines, this review provides evidence-bounded design determinants and performance ranges that can inform future guideline development.

Building upon the design determinants and performance ranges identified in this review, future research should extend beyond isolated dwelling plots toward envelope-integrated greening systems, adjacent-building interactions and linear nature-strip configurations within the broader urban matrix (Figure 11). This staged expansion maintains conceptual continuity while preventing scale conflation.

4.6 | Research Gaps and Strategic Directions

Several structural gaps persist:

- Limited direct measurement of indoor IAQ improvements attributable to private greenery.
- Scarce multidomain studies integrating IAQ, thermal comfort and energy performance.
- Insufficient cross-climate comparative analysis.
- Overreliance on outdoor-scale modelling without building-scale validation.
- Minimal application of data-driven modelling approaches.

Addressing these gaps requires integrated simulation–field validation workflows, standardised greenery quantification metrics tailored to building-scale IAQ and thermal comfort and cross-climate experimental designs. Such advances will enable development of climate-responsive, evidence-based guidelines for private outdoor greening as a nature-based solution for improving indoor environments.

5 | Conclusion

This review evaluated the role of private outdoor greenery in enhancing IAQ, thermal comfort and energy efficiency in residential buildings, addressing a scale and domain that remain underrepresented in urban greening research. Through a systematic synthesis of field measurements, numerical simulations and empirical models, the review indicates that greenery at the building and plot scale has the potential to moderate indoor environmental conditions, particularly by reducing thermal loads and influencing ventilation and pollutant pathways, which may contribute to improvements in IAQ and reduced reliance on mechanical cooling. However, the evidence base remains fragmented across performance domains and climates, with limited studies integrating IAQ, thermal comfort and energy efficiency within a unified assessment framework. Moreover, the absence of standardised design thresholds and climate-responsive guidance constrains the translation of research findings into practice. Addressing these gaps is essential for advancing private outdoor greenery from a qualitative sustainability concept to a quantifiable, evidence-based design strategy for healthier and more energy-efficient housing.

Key conclusions include the following:

Performance potential: Private outdoor greenery can meaningfully improve IAQ, enhance thermal comfort and reduce energy demand at the residential scale, particularly in dense and low-greenery urban contexts.

Design dependency: Outcomes are strongly conditioned by green area index, vegetation type and spatial layout, underscoring the need for climate- and typology-specific design guidance.

Research gap: Integrated assessments and validated design thresholds remain scarce, highlighting priorities for future empirical and multi-scale research.

Nomenclature

GFS	green factor score
GPR	green plot ratio
IAQ	indoor air quality
LAI	leaf area index
LSTs	land surface temperatures
MRT	mean radiant temperature
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
PET	physiological equivalent temperature
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter ≤ 2.5 μm
PM ₁₀	particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter ≤ 10 μm
RH	relative humidity
UGF	urban greening factor
UGI	urban green infrastructure
UHI	urban heat island

Author Contributions

Vali Shishebori: conceptualisation, methodology, investigation, formal analysis, writing – original draft, writing – review and editing, visualisation. **Nima Izadyar:** conceptualisation, supervision, methodology, writing – review and editing, project administration. **Elmira Jamei:** conceptualisation, supervision, writing – review and editing. **Keivan Bamdad:** supervision, writing – review and editing, validation. **Mahsan Sadeghi:** supervision, writing – review and editing, validation/resources.

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Disclosure

All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript. Nima Izadyar had full access to all of the data in this study and takes complete responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Data Availability Statement

The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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Supporting Information

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section. **Supporting Information.**

Appendix

TABLE A1 | Broader urban-scale and indirect evidence supporting functional pathways linking private outdoor greenery to indoor IAQ and thermal comfort.

Functional mechanism	Scale of evidence	Key findings	Supporting studies	Indoor relevance pathway
Pollutant attenuation (deposition and filtration)	Urban vegetation modelling; urban monitoring; regional source attribution;	Leaf roughness, branch complexity, stomatal conductance critical for PM and NO ₂ deposition; up to 70% airborne dirt retained by planted streets; mature trees intercept up to 50 lbs particulates/year	[48, 91–95, 109–118]	Outdoor pollutant reduction influences indoor exposure via infiltration and air exchange
Shading and solar radiation control	Urban microclimate; neighbourhood simulations; building studies	7.5-m tree → 8%–12% annual cooling/heating savings; AC savings 25%–80%; deciduous trees block 35% winter and 85% summer irradiance	[22, 92, 96–99, 106, 119–127]	Reduced façade solar gains and cooling loads
Evapotranspirative cooling and UHI mitigation	Urban square; neighbourhood; satellite LST; district modelling	Grass pavers –1.35°C; vegetation –0.60°C; LST 5°C–10°C lower over green surfaces; distributed green spaces more effective than centralised	[25, 95, 99–102, 113, 128–136]	Reduced ambient air and surface temperatures affecting building envelope heat exchange
Vegetation configuration and spatial optimisation	District-scale coupled simulations	GPR 0.5–3.5 improved comfort; diminishing benefit when GPR > 3.5; low-rise districts show greater cooling-energy benefit	[96, 104, 137–139]	Quantifies threshold effects relevant for private plot greening
Wind modulation and air exchange	Wind tunnel building-scale experiment	Façade greening ↓ air exchange up to 19%; roof greening ↑ air exchange up to 13%	[95, 103]	Directly modifies ventilation-driven IAQ pathway
Energy–pollution interaction pathway	Building monitoring and regression analysis; building systems	1% increase indoor PM _{2.5} → 1.478% increase lighting energy intensity; using low-energy ventilation systems	[22, 96–98, 100, 104, 105, 140, 141]	Demonstrates interaction between pollution and building energy use
Carbon sequestration and long-term atmospheric regulation	Regional climate strategy; urban vegetation literature	Forests absorbed ~19% state emissions; urban trees up to 15× more valuable than rural trees in CO ₂ limitation	[92, 142]	Long-term atmospheric moderation (indirect indoor relevance)

TABLE A2 | Effects of greenery on indoor/outdoor environment.

Source	Input factor(s)	Output factor(s)	Results	Köppen classification	Scale	Methodology
[109]	●Leaf surface of six trees and six forbs	○Particulate matter pollution	●Tree and forb cultivation: captures large amounts of dust particles reaching up to 12m above ground.	BSh	Urban	Field study
[119]	●UGI	○Thermal comfort	●UGI reduces ambient temperatures (~6°C) and building surface temperatures (up to 20°C), increases relative humidity (15%) and decreases wind speed near facades (43%).	Various	Urban/building	Review
[69]	●Input: greenery forms (tree height, crown diameter, diameter at breast height, green facades and green roofs)	○PET and THI	●Planting trees can reduce PET up to 4.8°C (0.2°C) in PET (temperature–humidity index or THI)	Cfa	Urban	Field study + simulation
[143]	●Grow bags in terrace garden	○Temperature and humidity (indoor and outdoor)	●Temperature reduction: lowers internal room temperature by 4°C–11°C; up to 14°C with a 2–3-ft soil bed and dense foliage.	As	Building	Field study + simulation
[128]	●UGF ●Tree shade ●Materials	○Air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, globe temperature and surface temperature	●Tree shade: lowering air temperature and mean radiant temperature by up to 6.4°C and 22.9°C. ●Ts of natural grass was constantly less than 35°C.	Cfb	Building	Field study

(Continues)

TABLE A2 | (CONTINUED)

Source	Input factor(s)	Output factor(s)	Results	Köppen classification	Scale	Methodology
[107]	●Trees' locations ●Geometry (height, width and thickness) ●Foliage (shape and thickness) ●Leaf area density ●Leaf drag coefficient	○Wind flow	●Trees shorter than 0.25H and thinner than 0.168H, with sparse conical foliage, are suitable upstream of buildings but should not be planted within 1H–3.5H, as they reduce cross-ventilation by 20%–24%. ●Maintain airflow, trees should be arranged either beyond 10H or closer than 1H upstream of ventilation openings.	Isolated simulated building	Building	Simulation
[103]	●Vegetation position	○Air exchange	●Green façade: decreases local air exchange rates by nearly 19%. ●Green roof: increases local air exchange rates by up to 13%.	Isolated simulated building	Building	Field study
[101]	●Landscape composition and patterns	○Land surface temperatures (LSTs)	●LSTs of the impervious surfaces are 5°C–10°C higher than that of the green surfaces.	BSk	Urban	Satellite imagery
[144]	●Land cover	○UHI ○Indoor thermal comfort	●By adding 17% more trees cooled the campus by 1.1°C and improved indoor thermal comfort by 20.8% on the hottest day.	Cfb	Urban	Field study + simulation

(Continues)

TABLE A2 | (CONTINUED)

Source	Input factor(s)	Output factor(s)	Results	Köppen classification	Scale	Methodology
[99]	●Trees	○Local urban microclimate ○Human thermal comfort	●Trees reduced ‘very hot’ and ‘hot’ perception by 16% on sunny and 11% on cloudy days during the hottest hours. ●No substantial changes in CR and Ta/RH range among sites on cloudy/cool days ($p > 0.05$); significant differences on clear/hot days ($p < 0.0005$). ●On maximum and average Ta within the tree canopy were 1.8°C (SD = 0.7°C) and 0.8°C (SD = 0.2°C) lower on cloudy days; differences increased to 3.2°C (SD = 0.5°C) and 1.5°C (SD = 0.2°C) on clear days.	Dfa	Urban	Field study + simulation
[108]	●Tree height ●Distance between trees and buildings ●Distance between trees ●Wall area ●Building height	○Dynamic and static equivalent heat transfer coefficients and thermal resistances for the virtual wall	●X1, driven by tree height, tree–building distance (d1) and tree spacing (d2)—accounts for 91.12% of the weight, whereas X2—dominated by wall area and building height—accounts for only 8.86%.	Cfa/Cwa	Building	Field study + simulation

(Continues)

TABLE A2 | (CONTINUED)

Source	Input factor(s)	Output factor(s)	Results	Köppen classification	Scale	Methodology
[65]	●Presence of trees	○Energy reduction	●Presence of trees can reduce energy consumption up to 25% in summer.	Various	Building	Review
[106]	●Original epw weather data: air temperature, relative humidity, wind direction and speed, solar and sky radiation ●Block configuration: building geometries, vegetation configurations and pavement materials	○Heating load analysis ○Microclimate analysis: variation of air temperature, relative humidity, radiation and wind speed	●Increasing the leaf area index of green land from 0.79 to 4.77 m ² /m ² reduced mean radiant temperature by 3.27°C, lowered wind speed by 0.48 m/s and raised air temperature by 0.47°C at the block scale. ●In three blocks, the BHL of thermal zones within tree canopy height increased by 7.16%, 1.52% and 3.57% on sunny days, but decreased by 2.80%, 0.55% and 0.06% on cloudy days (evergreen trees in winter)	BSk-Cwa	Urban	Field study + simulation
[96]	●Original epw weather data: air temperature, relative humidity, wind direction and speed, solar and sky radiation ●Simulation cases: building geometries and materials, vegetation configurations	○Cooling load analysis ○Microclimate analysis: air temperature variation, relative humidity variation and radiation ○Variation, wind speed variation	●GPR 0.5 to 1.5: reduces thermal stress from 'very strong' to 'strong' in building overhead and north-south street spaces. ●GPR 3.5: results in 'moderate' UHI intensity for all four space types.	BSk-Cwa	Urban	Field study + simulation

(Continues)

TABLE A2 | (CONTINUED)

Source	Input factor(s)	Output factor(s)	Results	Köppen classification	Scale	Methodology
[92]	● Presence of the vegetation	○ UHI ○ Cooling microclimate ○ Sound barrier ○ CO ₂ reduction ○ Dust absorption	● Single tree (7.5 m tall): reduces annual cooling/heating costs by 8%–12%; air-conditioning savings 25%–80%. ● Creepers: lower indoor temperature from 17°C–33°C to 18°C–28°C; constant 2.5°C cooling effect. ● Deciduous trees: block ~25% sunlight in winter; reduce irradiance by 35% in winter, 85% in summer. ● CO₂ reduction: urban trees 15× more valuable than rural; well-planted streets retain up to 70% airborne dirt; mature trees intercept up to 50 lbs of particulates/year.	Cfa	Urban	Review

TABLE A3 | Tools and equipment used to assess IAQ, thermal comfort and energy consumption.

		Field study	Simulation			
Category	Measured variable	Tool/sampling method	Ref.	Software/tool	Ref.	
Thermal comfort	CO ₂ concentration	CO ₂ sensor	[151]	Envi-met, ANSYS-Fluent, OpenFoam, UMEP and Ladybug	[152]	
	Air temperature	Air temperature sensor				
		Thermo-hygrometric sensor				
	Globe temperature	Globe thermometer				
		Heat stress meter		Envi-met, ANSYS-Fluent, OpenFoam, UMEP and Ladybug		
	Relative humidity	Humidity sensor				
		Thermo-hygrometric sensor		Envi-met, ANSYS-Fluent, OpenFoam, UMEP and Ladybug		
	Air velocity	Air velocity sensor				
	Anemometer	Envi-met, ANSYS-Fluent, UMEP and Ladybug				
Solar radiation	Pyranometer					
	Surface temperature	Thermal camera	Envi-met, UMEP and Ladybug			
IAQ	CO ₂ , RH and temperature	Q-Trak monitor (TSI Inc.): nondispersive infrared analyser	[150]	CONTAM Envi-met	[152, 153]	
		Integrated data loggers (Hobo HO-8) IAQ meter (IAQ-CALC model 7545)				
	CO	Electrochemical sensor (Draeger Pac III) FIM CO- Tester Tx for exhaled air				
	NO ₂	Passive samplers (Palmes tubes) containing triethanolamine absorbent and analysed by a spectrophotometer				
	PM ₁₀	Dust-Trak air monitor (Model 8520, TSI Inc.), light scattering pumped gravimetric method Model 2100 Mini- Partisol air sampler (Ruprecht & Patashnick Co.) coupled to a ChemPass model 3400 GRIMM environmental dust monitor, light scattering technology Minivol portable air sampler (Airmetrics, PAS 201) with pall flex membrane filter (47 mm)				
	PM _{2.5}	PTFE filters (37-mm diameter, 2-μm porosity) Low volume sampling pump (model 224-PCXR8) with PEM impactor				
	VOC	Diffusive samplers Proton transfer reaction mass spectrometer (PTR-MS) Air collected on adsorbent tubes and analysed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry				

(Continues)

TABLE A3 | (CONTINUED)

Category	Measured variable	Field study	Ref.	Simulation	Ref.
		Tool/sampling method		Software/tool	
Energy efficiency	Electricity	Current (current transducer)	[154]	EnergyPlus, Design Builder, TRNSYS and IES-VE	[155]
	Natural gas	Natural gas meter			
	Water consumption	Water flow (water meter)			