

## Solar façades

### Main barriers for widespread façade integration of solar technologies

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# Solar façades – Main barriers for widespread façade integration of solar technologies\*

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## Abstract

*Solar energy has been actively promoted as a clean energy source since 1973's oil crisis, evidenced by the emergence of initiatives such as the Solar Heating & Cooling Programme of the International Energy Agency or the US Department of Energy. Nonetheless, solar technologies have not been widely used in the built environment, limiting their operation to industrial and macroscale applications. Commercially available products such as building integrated PV panels (BIPV) or building integrated solar thermal collectors (BIST); and novel prototypes and concepts for solar cooling integrated facades are seen as interesting alternatives for the development of new performance based façade components for high-performing commercial buildings. However, there are barriers to overcome in order to promote widespread application of architecturally integrated solar components.*

*The present paper seeks to discuss perceived barriers for widespread façade integration of solar technologies, in order to define the current scenario and generate guidelines for future developments. In order to achieve this, the paper presents the results of a survey addressed to professionals with practical experience in the development of façade systems for office buildings, situated at any stage of the design and construction process. Hence, architects, façade consultants, system suppliers and façade builders were considered. The outcome of this study is the definition of the main perceived barriers for façade integration of solar technologies, discussing the results from the survey along with other related experiences found in the literature.*

*This study is part of the ongoing PhD research project titled COOLFAÇADE: Architectural integration of solar cooling strategies into the curtain-wall, developed within the Façade Research Group (FRG) in the Green Building Innovation programme (GBI) of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, TU Delft.*

## Keywords

*Solar technologies, PV, Solar thermal collectors, Solar cooling, Façade integration, Survey*

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- 229 **FAÇADE ENGINEERING**
- 231 **A zero-energy refurbishment solution for residential apartment buildings by applying an integrated, prefabricated façade module**  
Thaleia Konstantinou, Olivia Guerra-Santin, Juan Azcarate-Aguerre, Tillmann Klein, Sacha Silvester
- 241 **Timber Prototype – High Performance Solid Timber Constructions**  
Hans Drexler, Oliver Bucklin, Angela Rohr, Oliver David Krieg, Achim Menges
- 253 **Powerskin – Fully Fashioned\***  
Claudia Lüling, Iva Richter
- 255 **Solar Concentrating Façade**  
Sidi Mohamed Ezzahiri, Badia S. Nasif, Jan Krieg, Anco Bakker, Carlos Infante Ferreira
- 267 **Viability study of Solar Chimneys in Germany – Analysis and Building Simulation**  
Lukas Schwan, Eabi Kiluthattil, Madjid Madjidi, Thomas Auer
- 279 **Hybridization of solar thermal systems into architectural envelopes**  
Beñat Arregi, Roberto Garay, Peru Elguezabal
- 289 **Solar façades – Main barriers for widespread façade integration of solar technologies\***  
Alejandro Prieto, Ulrich Knaack, Thomas Auer, Tillmann Klein
- 291 **Solar PV Building Skins – Structural Requirements and Environmental Benefits\***  
Claudia Hemmerle
- 293 **Infra-Lightweight Concrete – A monolithic building skin**  
Mike Schlaich, Alex Hückler, Claudia Lösch
- 305 **Cellular Lattice-Based Envelopes with Additive Manufacturing\***  
Roberto Naboni, Anja Kunic, Luca Breseghello, Ingrid Paoletti
- 307 **3d-Printed Low-tech Future Façades – Development of 3d-printed Functional-Geometries for Building Envelopes**  
Moritz Mungenast
- 319 **Convective Concrete – Additive Manufacturing to facilitate activation of thermal mass\***  
Dennis de Witte, Marie L. de Klijn-Chevalerias, Roel C.G.M. Loonen, Jan L.M. Hensen, Ulrich Knaack, Gregor Zimmermann

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**TU München**, Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Auer, **TU Darmstadt**, Prof. Dr. Ing. Jens Schneider and **TU Delft**, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Knaack are organizing the PowerSkin Conference in collaboration with BAU 2017. It is the first event of a biennial series. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 architects, engineers and scientists present their latest developments and research projects for public discussion.

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