



Cairo University

SMART BUILDING SKIN AND ITS EFFECT ON
BUILDING SYSTEM
(Analytical study for smart skin types and evaluation)

By

Marina Maged Malak

A Thesis Submitted to the
Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
in
Architectural Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, CAIRO UNIVERSITY
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Smart building skin and its effect on building systems
(Analytical study for smart skin types and evaluation)

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Smart Building Skin; Smart Material; Building Skin Classification; Sustainability;
Evaluating Building Skin

Summary:

Smart building skin is considered the first defense line for the building, main element affecting the building energy consumption rates, main connection between the external environment and the internal environment of the building and it presents a big percentage of the construction cost of the building. By understanding the smart building skin concepts, types and technical aspects we will be able to make a classification for the building skin types to assist us in studying the effect of the building skin on energy consumption and generating design guidelines for smart building skin, evaluation form to evaluate existing building skin, and a study the availability of applying the different types of smart building skins in Egypt with considering the technical and economic issues that will face the designer when applying the smart technologies in the buildings.

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Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	I
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	II
LIST OF TABLES.....	V
LIST OF FIGURES.....	VI
ABSTRACT	X
CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.2. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION	1
1.3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	3
1.4. METHODOLOGY	5
CHAPTER 2 : SMART BUILDING SKIN.....	7
2.1. INTRODUCTION	7
2.2. SMART BUILDINGS.....	7
2.2.1. Concept of smart buildings	7
2.2.2. Relation between human intelligence and building intelligence.....	8
2.2.3. Human brain and BMS	8
2.2.4. Definitions of smart building	8
2.2.5. Evolution of smart buildings through years	9
2.2.5.1. First Stage: from 1981 to 1985.....	9
2.2.5.2. Second stage: from 1986 to 1991	11
2.2.5.3. Third stage: since 1991.....	12
2.2.6. How to achieve smart buildings	13
2.2.7. Design requirements for smart buildings	14
2.3. SMART BUILDING SKIN.....	15
2.3.1. Definitions of smart building skin.....	15
2.3.2. Human skin and smart building skin:.....	15
2.3.3. Function of the smart building skin:	16
2.3.4. Characteristics of the smart building skin:	17
2.3.4.1. Variation:	17
2.3.4.2. Learning ability.....	17
2.3.4.3. Flexibility.....	17
2.3.5. Difference between traditional building skin and smart building skin:	17
2.3.6. Advantages of the smart building skin:.....	18
2.3.7. Disadvantages of the smart building skin:	19
2.4. CONCLUSION	19
CHAPTER 3 :HISTORY OF BUILDING SKIN	21
3.1. INTRODUCTION	21
3.2. TRADITIONAL WALL CONSTRUCTION HISTORY	22
3.2.1. First stage: Using natural materials as building skin:	22

3.2.1.1.	Stone:	22
3.2.1.2.	Wood:	23
3.2.2.	Second stage: Using manufactured building materials as building skin:	24
3.2.2.1.	Concrete:	25
3.2.2.2.	Glass:	26
3.2.2.3.	cladding and membrane systems as building skin	27
3.2.3.	Third stage: Using smart materials as building skin:	28
3.3.	CONCLUSION	29
CHAPTER 4 : SMART MATERIALS		31
4.1.	INTRODUCTION	31
4.2.	SMART MATERIAL DEFINITION:	31
4.2.1.	Smart structure definition:	32
4.2.2.	Smart materials role in the smart building skin structure.....	32
4.2.3.	Smart material definitions:	32
4.3.	SMART MATERIAL CHARACTERISTICS:	33
4.4.	SMART MATERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS:	34
4.4.1.	Factors affecting smart material classifications:	35
4.4.2.	Main Smart material classifications and types:	35
4.4.2.1.	Property changing smart material:	36
4.4.2.2.	Energy – exchange smart materials:	38
4.5.	SMART MATERIAL MAIN TYPES:	40
4.5.1.	Main building skin structure:	40
4.5.2.	Cladding materials:	44
4.5.3.	Smart glazing: (openings)	46
4.5.4.	Insulation materials:	52
4.5.5.	Sensors:	55
4.6.	NANO TECHNOLOGY IN SMART MATERIALS:.....	57
4.6.1.	Definition of Nanotechnology:	57
4.6.2.	Nanotechnology in smart building skin:	59
4.6.2.1.	Coating:.....	60
4.6.2.2.	Insulation materials	62
4.6.2.3.	Nano sensors:.....	62
4.6.2.4.	Temperature regulation films	63
4.6.2.5.	Nano concrete.....	64
4.7.	ADVANTAGES OF SMART MATERIAL.....	64
4.8.	DISADVANTAGES OF SMART MATERIAL.....	64
4.9.	CONCLUSION	65
CHAPTER 5 : INTEGRATION OF SMART BUILDING SKIN WITH CONTROLLING SYSTEMS.....		69
5.1.	INTRODUCTION	69
5.2.	SMART BUILDING SKIN CONTROLLING SYSTEM:	69
5.3.	BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: (BMS).....	70
5.3.1.	Indoor air quality:.....	71
5.3.1.1.	Smart HVAC system:	72
5.3.1.2.	Ventilation controllers:.....	73
5.3.1.3.	Cooling and heating devices:	75

5.3.2.	Lighting levels:	75
5.3.2.1.	Smart artificial lighting system :	76
5.3.2.2.	Smart solar shading:	77
5.3.3.	Acoustic comfort:	84
5.3.3.1.	Sound insulation:	84
5.3.3.2.	Openings ratio:	85
5.4.	INTEGRATION BETWEEN SMART SYSTEMS:	85
5.4.1.	Types of integrations:.....	86
5.4.2.	Advantages of integration between smart systems:	86
5.4.3.	Disadvantages of integration between smart systems:	87
5.5.	CONCLUSION	87
CHAPTER 6 : SMART BUILDING SKIN CLASSIFICATION		89
6.1.	SMART BUILDING SKIN CLASSIFICATION:	89
6.1.1.	Passive smart building skin:.....	90
6.1.1.1.	Solar shaded skins	90
6.1.1.2.	Double skin:.....	91
6.1.2.	Responsive smart building skin	95
6.1.2.1.	Smart materials in smart skin:	95
6.1.2.2.	Kinetic and dynamic smart building skin	99
6.1.2.3.	Smart membranes:	104
6.1.3.	Responsive building skin to renewable energy	106
6.1.3.1.	responsive to solar energy:	106
6.1.3.2.	responsive to wind energy	107
6.1.4.	Smart green building skin	108
6.2.	CONCLUSION	111
CHAPTER 7 : SMART BUILDING SKIN CASE STUDY		115
7.1.	SOLAR SHADING CASE STUDY: SWANSTON ACADEMIC BUILDING.....	115
7.2.	DOUBLE SKIN CASE STUDY: UNILEVER’S HEADQUARTER.....	118
7.3.	SMART MATERIAL CASE STUDY: HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL	120
7.4.	KINETIC SKIN CASE STUDY: AL BAHR TOWERS	123
7.5.	SMART MEMBRANE SKIN CASE STUDY: MEDIA ICT	125
7.6.	SOLAR ENERGY IN SMART BUILDING SKIN: QATAR NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE	128
7.7.	RENEWABLE ENERGY CASE STUDY: PEARL RIVER TOWER	130
7.8.	SMART GREEN CASE STUDY: ALGAE HOUSE.....	133
7.9.	CONCLUSION:	135
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS.....		139
REFERENCES		153
APPENDIX A		157
APPENDIX B.....		159

List of Tables

Table (2.1): Comparison between human	8
Table (2.2): The difference between traditional building skin and smart building skin	18
Table (2.3): The evolution of smart building through ages.....	19
Table (3.1): Comparison between types of traditional building skin materials	30
Table (4.1): Smart material classification	35
Table (4.2): The piezo electrical smart material process of functioning	39
Table (4.3): Shows the 3 scales of Nano materials	58
Table (4.3): Relation between smart material and architectural function	67
Table (5.1): Showing the factors affecting buildings systems	88
Table (6.1): Show advantages and disadvantages of smart building skin types	114
Table (7.1): Analytical comparison for the case studies	136
Table (7.2): Evaluation guidelines for smart building skin type choosing.....	145
Table (7.3): Analytic study of availability of each.....	148
building skin type to be applied in Egypt.....	148
Table (7.4): Factors affecting choosing the type of smart building skin type in Egypt.....	148
Table A.1: Sample 1	158
Table B.1: Sample 2	160

List of Figures

Fig. (1.1): Shows the effect of increased rates of building construction.....	2
Fig. (1.2): Energy consumed by lighting and HVAC globally.....	3
Fig. (1.3): Energy consumed by buildings' types globally	3
Fig. (1.4): To show the three scales to reach sustainable city	4
Fig. (1.5): Shows the methodology process	5
Fig. (2.1): Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Building	10
Fig. (2.2): shows the building plan Fig. (2.3): Arab World Institute	10
Fig. (2.4): Building skin module	11
Fig. (2.6): Ark hills building	11
Fig. (2.7): Olympic Village	12
Fig. (2.8): A diagram shows the effect of the form on the airflow of Swiss Tower	13
Fig. (2.9): Shows the building cross section plans	13
Fig. (2.10): Process to achieve smart building	14
Fig. (2.11): Shows a smart grid connecting smart building with the power grid.....	14
Fig. (2.12): Shows the three phases of the building skin processing	16
Fig. (2.13): Factors affecting building skin.....	20
Fig. (3.1): Port of liver pool building Fig. (3.2): Stone structure.....	23
Fig. (3.3): in the early ages stones were used in the building walls and floors.....	23
Fig. (3.4): Golden hall in Japan Fig. (3.5): A house in California	24
Fig. (3.6): Shows the wooden frames used in houses.....	24
Fig. (3.7): Liege Gullemins station Fig. (3.8): Aula TU Delft building.....	25
Fig. (3.8): Azadi monument, Iran.....	26
Fig. (3.9): Cloister La Tourette.....	26
Fig. (3.10): Mies Van De Rohe building.....	26
Fig. (3.11): Basque health department headquarters	27
Fig. (3.12): Metal Cladding Fig. (3.13): PVC cladding	27
Fig. (3.14): Fiber reinforced Cladding Fig. (3.15): Fiber reinforced Cladding.....	28
Fig. (3.16): World Expo in Shanghai using transparent concrete	28
Fig. (3.17): Using PV cells on the building façade	29
Fig. (4.1): Shows how the electro chromic material works.....	36
Fig. (4.2): Shape memory alloy	37
Fig. (4.4): Shape memory alloy	38
Fig. (4.5): Shape memory alloy exhibit thermally induced shape memory effects.....	38
Fig. (4.5): Photo – electric smart materials	39
Fig. (4.6): Chronos chromos concrete	41
Fig. (4.7): Smart concrete.....	41
Fig. (4.8): Transparent concrete	42
Fig. (4.10): Smart brick with the electrical connections inside it.....	43
Fig. (4.11): Transparent alumina	43
Fig. (4.12): Raw amorphous material.....	44
Fig. (4.13): Light reflecting Concrete	44
Fig. (4.15): Calme tiles on the inner building skin.....	45
Fig. (4.16): Aero formed aluminum sheet.....	45
Fig. (4.17): Inner partitions made of coagulated smart glass	47
Fig. (4.18): Photo chromatic smart glass.....	47
Fig. (4.19): The effect of electric charges on the inner liquid particles	48

Fig. (4.20): The effect of electric charges on the inner suspended particles	48
Fig. (4.21): Insulator glass panels.....	49
Fig. (4.22): Plastic glass panels as skylight.....	49
Fig. (4.23): Shows the way light is directed Fig. (4.24): HOE glass panels	50
Fig. (4.25): Microsorber glass panels	50
Fig. (4.26): Fire rated glass.....	51
Fig. (4.27): Thermochromic windows.....	51
Fig. (4.28): Photovoltaic panels	52
Fig. (4.29): Glass panels containing algae tubes	52
Fig. (4.30): shows the ways of losing heat	53
Fig. (4.31): Aero gel is not affected by direct heat.....	53
Fig. (4.33): Helioran honeycomb structure	54
Fig. (4.34): Kapilux	55
Fig. (4.35): Optical fiber.....	56
Fig. (4.36): Piezoelectric sensors	56
Fig. (4.38): Thin PV cells sheet.....	58
Fig. (4.39): Carbon Nano tubes	59
Fig. (4.40): Three dimensional Nano particle	59
Fig. (4.41): Self-cleaning coats (lotus effect).....	60
Fig. (4.42): Self-cleaning coats	60
Fig. (4.43): Anti-fingerprint coats	61
Fig. (4.44): Anti-reflective coats	62
Fig. (4.45): Vacuum insulation panel	62
Fig. (4.46): Shows the scale of nano vents Fig. (4.47): Nano vent units	63
Fig. (4.48): Nano vent skin Fig. (4.49): Air flow rotates Nano vents	63
Fig. (4.50): Inner formations of temperature regulation films	63
Fig. (4.51): Nano concrete.....	64
Fig.(5.1): Factors affecting the decisions made by the BMS	70
Fig. (5.2): a chart of the adaptive behavior of BMS.....	71
Fig. (5.3): How the smart HVAC system operates.....	72
Fig. (5.4): Responsive HVAC system	73
Fig. (5.5): Is showing the effect of motorized windows on the natural ventilation in the building.....	74
Fig. (5.6): Is showing a type of motorized windows that can be controlled by users through digital controlling devices.....	74
Fig. (5.7): An openable panels in the building skin act as windows to enter the natural airflow through the building.....	74
Fig. (5.8):Radiant slabs concept	75
Fig. (5.9): Radiant slabs system Fig. (5.10): Earth heat exchange pipes	75
Fig. (5.11): Shows how the lighting levels differ according to the entering light amount from the window and by the help of the ALS sensors that gives the BMS the data	77
Fig. (5.12): sun rays angles affecting the design of sun breakers.....	78
Fig. (5.13): Dynamic louvers automated according to the sunlight angles	79
Fig. (5.14): Shows some of the fixed (on the left) and dynamic (on the right) shades types.....	80
Fig. (5.15): Perforated aluminum louver Fig. (5.16): Anti-glare blind louvers	80
Fig. (5.17): showing how the daylight system reflects the sun light rays	81
Fig. (5.18): Glass louvered sun shades	82
Fig. (5.20): Carbon fiber point support curtain wall system	83
Fig. (5.21): Shows louvers that rotate according to the sun light direction.....	83

Fig.(5.22): Diffusers implanted to the building skin to scatter the sound waves	84
Fig. (5.23): A double skin façade to reduce the noise effect.....	85
Fig. (5.24): Double façade of the CCBR at University of Toronto (South façade)	85
Fig. (6.1): Mestre Nicolau 19 building façade	91
Fig. (6.2): Business Promotion Centre, Germany	92
Fig. (6.3): Burogebaude Felbermayr, Salzburg, Austria	93
Fig. (6.4): Daimler Benz (Debis) Building, Berlin.....	94
Fig. (6.5): New York Times Building Fig. (6.6): Ceramic shades	94
Fig. (6.7): Shows the concept of responsive smart skin	95
Fig. (6.8): Ara Pacis Museum, Rome, Italy	96
Fig. (6.9): Commercial Building, Pula, Croatia	96
Fig. (6.11): MAC Louisville, Kentucky, USA	97
Fig. (6.12): AKT – Am kaiser’s TXirm Heilbronn, Germany	97
Fig. (6.13): G-Flat, Tokyo, Japan	97
Fig. (6.14): Housing estate Duisburg, Germany	97
Fig. (6.17): Sonnenschiff center Freiburg, Germany	98
Fig. (6.20): Design parameters of the kinetic building skin	101
Fig. (6.21) : A/B-sampling data from sensors and information portals; C/D-visual programming interface controlling prototype facade (Janssen and Kramer); E- tectonic wind wall (Ned Kahn); F- agesis hyposurface (Gaulthorpe et al).....	101
Fig. (6.22): Simons center Fig. (6.23): Atrium of the center	102
Fig. (6.24): Expandable skin Fig. (6.25): Building skin unit	102
Fig. (6.25): Foldable building skin Fig. (6.26): Café-restaurant Open.....	103
Fig. (6.27): Q1 Headquarters Fig. (6.28): Rotating shades	103
Fig. (6.29): Rotating shades elevation Fig. (6.30): Shades are affected by sunrays	103
Fig. (6.31): Jean Nouvel’s panel on L’Institut du Monde Arabe	104
Fig. (6.32): Eden project in London	105
Fig. (6.33): Munich Arena using ETFE.....	105
Fig. (6.34): Beijing water cube using double ETFE cladding.....	106
Fig. (6.35): Solar tracking louver Fig. (6.36): PV cells on roof.....	106
Fig. (6.37): Building in London using vertical.....	107
Fig. (6.38): Bladeless wind turbine in front of the Delft University of technology	107
Fig. (6.40): Western façade of CH2 Fig. (6.41): Greens in northern façade.....	109
Fig. (6.42): Wind exhaust on the roof	109
Fig. (6.43): Section in the council house 2	110
Fig. (6.45): Smart building skin classification	111
Fig. (7.1): Swanston Academic Building	115
Fig. (7.2): Natural air ventilation ducts Fig. (7.3): Solar panels over the roof.....	116
Fig. (7.4): Solar shades on the building facades.....	117
Fig. (7.5): Section in the building to show vertical zoning	117
Fig. (7.6): Unilever’s headquarter	118
Fig. (7.7): Shows double skin Fig. (7.8): The atrium inside the building	119
Fig. (7.9): The green panels for sound insulation Fig. (7.10): The atrium providing suitable light	119
Fig. (7.11): HRH hospital.....	120
Fig. (7.12): Shows the different degrees of tint glass.....	121
Fig. (7.13): Shows inner spaces of the hospital with different level of lighting	121
Fig. (7.14): Shows the energy consumption saved by the smart skin	122
Fig. (7.18): Shows the effect of the smart glass on the entering light and solar heat...	122

Fig. (7.19): Al Bahr Towers	123
Fig. (7.20): The stages of movement of the triangular panels.....	123
Fig. (7.21): Show the kinetic façade with different degrees of enclosure	124
Fig. (7.22): Fiber glass panels	124
Fig. (7.23): Media ICT building in Spain.....	125
Fig. (7.24): Media ICT building structure	125
Fig. (7.25): shows the ETFE building skin details	126
Fig. (7.26): shows the ETFE building skin	126
Fig. (7.27): PV panels on the building roof.....	127
Fig. (7.30): Pearl River tower elevation	130
Fig. (7.31): Shows the lovers automated by PV cells.....	131
Fig. (7.32): Vertical wind turbines inside the building	132
Fig. (7.33): Algae House Fig. (7.34): Building skin panels	133
Fig. (7.35): Shows how the algae panels work.....	134
Fig. (7.36): Aspects affecting the smart building skin analysis	135
Fig. (7.37): Energy saved by each type of smart building skin.....	137
Fig. (7.38): Classification of the smart building skin.....	140
Fig. (7.39): Aspects affecting the building skin analysis	141
Fig. (7.40): Factors affecting choosing building skin type in Egypt.....	145
Fig. (7.41): Sustainable methods that can be utilized in smart building skin.....	149

Abstract

In the beginning of the 20th century, the side effects of the increasing rates of building constructions has appeared clearly causing environmental problems as greenhouse effect. It became a necessity to use smart building technologies to solve these problems as smart buildings are the buildings that have integration between smart technology, the means of communication and controlling systems to respond to the user's demands and to achieve users comfort zone.

The main goal is to decrease the energy consumed by the building through its skin to decrease the environmental problems, this will be reaching through three scales: large scale which is the macro urban scale where its concerned by planning of the city, then the medium scale which is concerned by the building as a whole unit and its form, then the small scale which is concerned by the building skin.

In this thesis it will be concerned with studying the smart building skin, as the building skin is considered as the first defense line for the building, main element affecting the building energy consumption rates, main connection between the external environment and the internal environment of the building and it presents a big percentage of the construction cost of the building.

By understanding the smart building skin concepts, types and technical aspects we will be able to make a classification for the building skin types to assist us in studying the effect of the building skin on energy consumption through artificial lighting systems, HVAC systems and the ability to connect the smart building skin with responsive smart building systems to enhance the air quality of the inner environment and improve the users comfort.

After making a classification for the smart building skin types according to their composition, function, advantages and disadvantages, we will be able to choose the needed type for every type of climate in Egypt to study the availability to be applied either on existing building or to be considered from the early stages of design.

To analyze the building skin there are some aspects to be evaluated as: the location of the building, climate type, the effect of the building skin on the indoor air quality and lighting levels, integration between the building skin and the building management systems, the ability to generate renewable energy through building skin, energy consumption through occupation of the building, and the maintenance and technical aspects of the building skin should also be considered.

The expected outcome of the thesis will be design guidelines for smart building skin, evaluation form to evaluate existing building skin, and a study the availability of applying the different types of smart building skins in Egypt with considering the technical and economic issues that will face the designer when applying the smart technologies in the buildings.