

BIM-based parametric adaptive design of kinetic shell facades in buildings

Prof Ibrahim Motawa* and Khaled Habach

Belfast School of Architecture and Built Environment, Ulster University, Belfast, UK



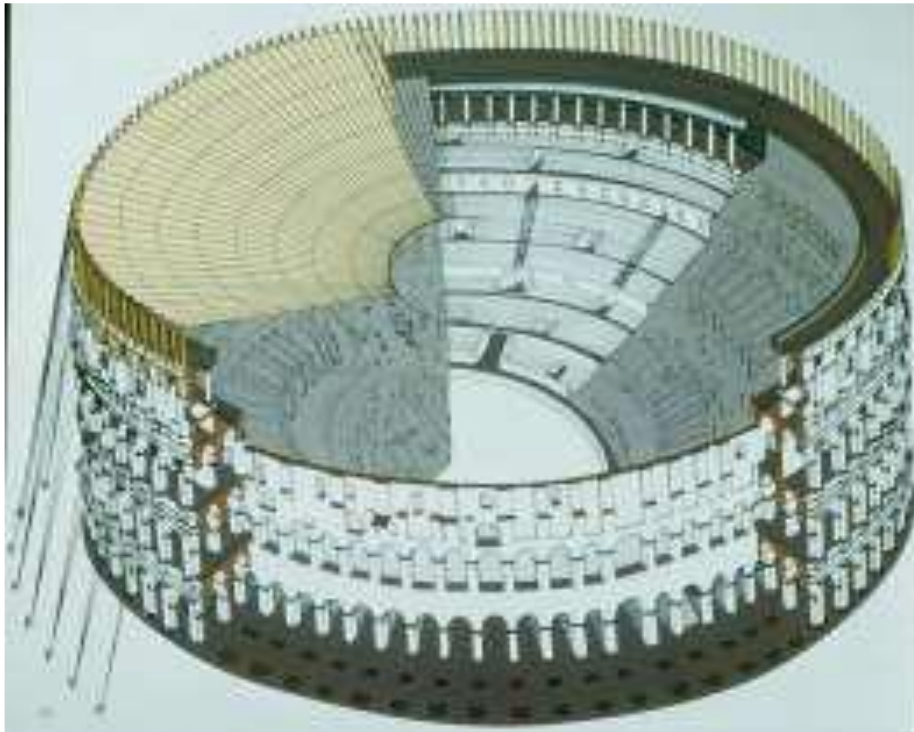


- Adaptive Architecture
- A BIM-based parametric workflow to design and test adaptive kinetic façades



Visual representation of the Roman Colosseum Roof system.

Courtesy of: bewminate.com, 2017.



Fort of Ponta da Bandeira Drawbridge, Portugal.
Geroges Jansoone, Self-photographed, 2006.

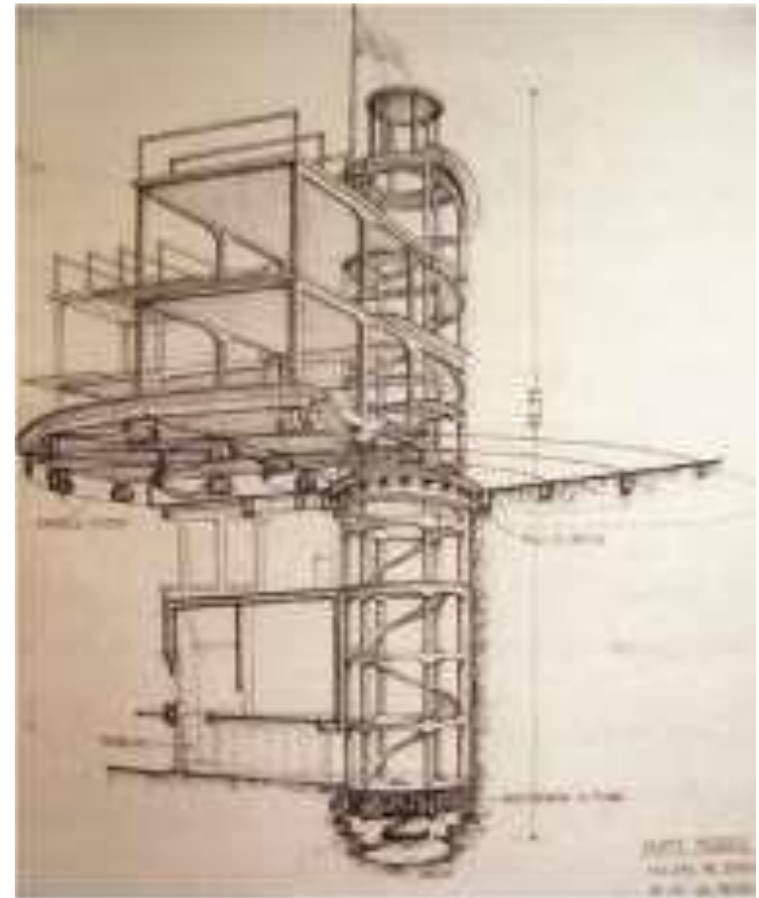




Villa Girasole, Marcellise VR, Italy.
Courtesy of: casa.it.



Gears and mechanical revolving system
Courtesy of: skolnick.com



Gears and mechanical revolving system



Examples of Buildings with Kinetic façade systems

Building Name	Location	Year built	Purpose of façade
Arab Institute	Paris, France	1987	NLC**
Nordic Embassies	Berlin, Germany	1999	NLC
Council House 2	Melbourne, Australia	2006	SRP**, NLC
Al Bahar Towers	Abu-Dhabi, U.A.E.	2012	SRP
Dubai Apple Store	Dubai, U.A.E.	2017	SRP, NLC

**NLC → Natural Light Control

SRP → Solar Radiation Protection

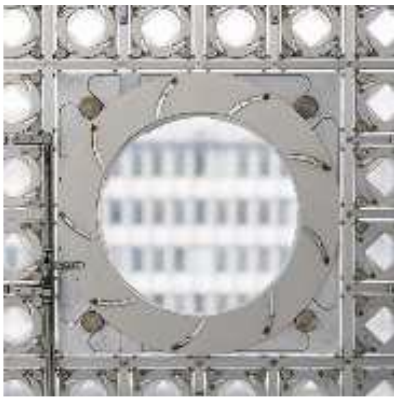


The Arab World Institute visual
Courtesy of: www.as.architecture-studio.com



The Mashrabiya Diaphragms Used for The Façade
Courtesy of: www.new-hotel.com





Circular Shaped Diaphragm



Square Shaped Diaphragm



8 Points Star Shaped Diaphragm

Courtesy of: <https://www.imarabe.org/en/architecture>

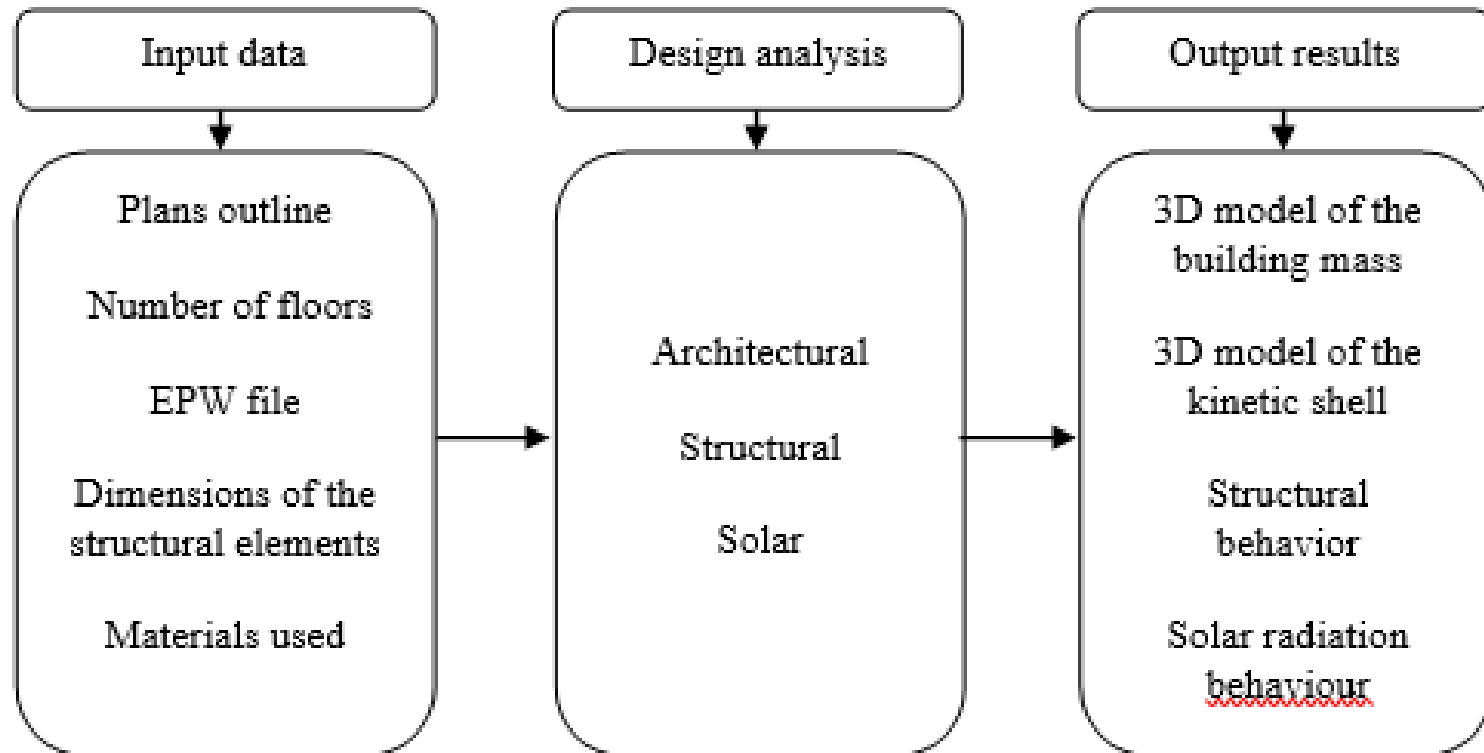


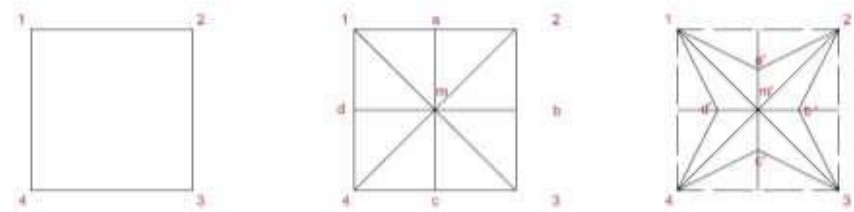
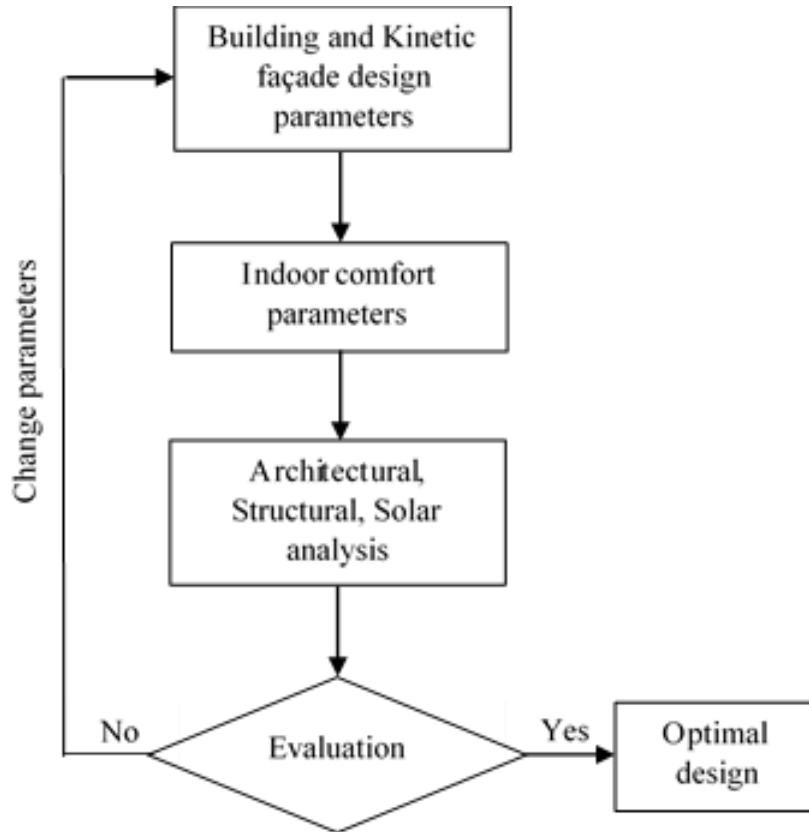
Nordic Embassies, Berlin
Green Cladding wall louvres motion
Courtesy of Lucas Gray, talkitect.com, 2008

Al Bahar Towers Daytime View
Courtesy of: aedas.com

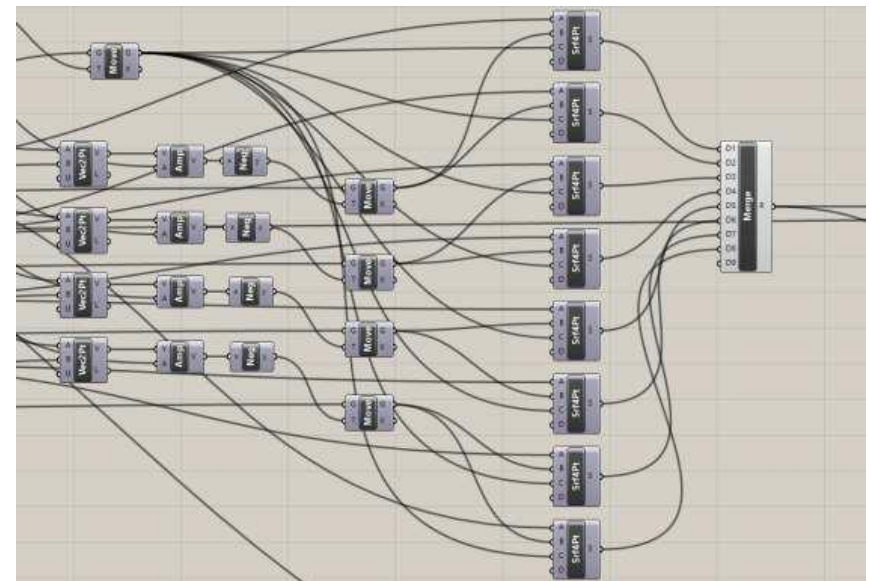


The Shutters on The Western Kinetic Façade System in CH2
Courtesy of the official governmental website of the City of
Melbourne, Australia, [Online].

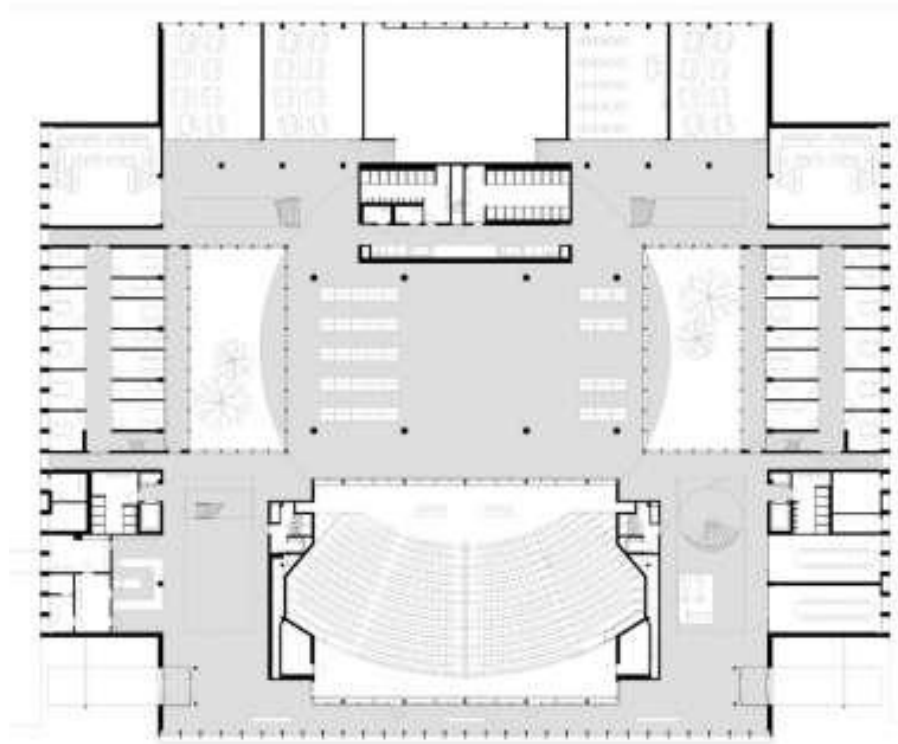




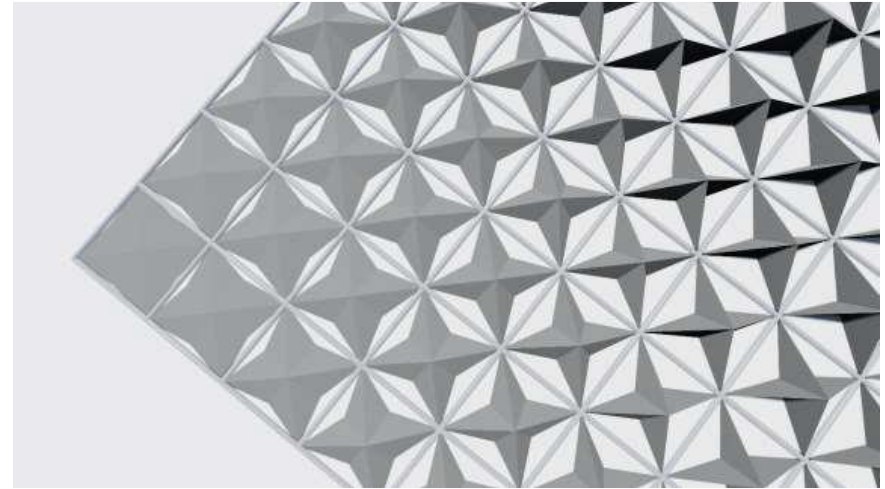
Cells Mechanism



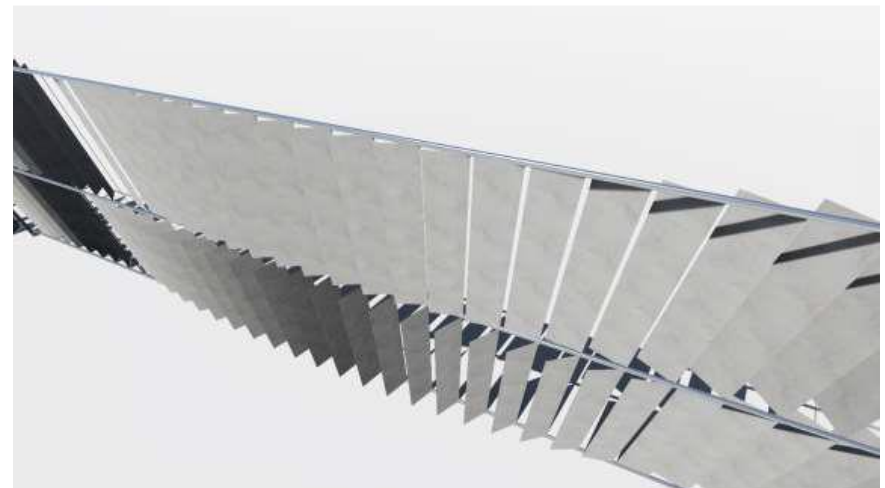
Simulation of cells of the kinetic shell façade (Grasshopper file)



Cube, Tilburg, Netherlands, Floor Plan.
Courtesy of <http://kaanarchitecten.com>, 2018



Option 1, Cells Render



Option 2, Vertical Panels Render



Building Model	Date	Time	Amount of radiation (kWh/m ²)	Time	Amount of radiation (kWh/m ²)
Original Mass Option	31 st Dec.	10:00-11:00	46.266344	08:00-09:00	123.280769
		11:00-12:00	46.4565	11:00-12:00	98.978298
		12:00-13:00	191.440829	14:00-15:00	80.27975
	21 st June	10:00-11:00	277.007711	08:00-09:00	389.43389
		11:00-12:00	299.808008	11:00-12:00	287.712422
		12:00-13:00	307.093605	14:00-15:00	271.900825
Option 1	31 st Dec.	10:00-11:00	35.878934	08:00-09:00	36.701323
		11:00-12:00	57.429033	11:00-12:00	47.130328
		12:00-13:00	112.646116	14:00-15:00	39.128479
	21 st June	10:00-11:00	219.433151	08:00-09:00	222.656853
		11:00-12:00	236.437601	11:00-12:00	157.438307
		12:00-13:00	241.654189	14:00-15:00	158.284735
Option 2	31 st Dec.	10:00-11:00	31.509894	08:00-09:00	25.243718
		11:00-12:00	50.503567	11:00-12:00	41.921875
		12:00-13:00	99.228155	14:00-15:00	29.989777
	21 st June	10:00-11:00	197.213665	08:00-09:00	149.671351
		11:00-12:00	210.014963	11:00-12:00	144.079064
		12:00-13:00	212.283023	14:00-15:00	137.323117



- Traditional design stages could be changed due to the emergence of adaptive design workflows and algorithms that enable data communication among various design tools/teams quickly and effectively
- By leveraging this design approach, it becomes possible for designers to generate more effective solutions.
- The developed BIM-Based parametric design workflow model of kinetic shell facades can help in the analysis of the façade performance to reduce the solar radiation on different times during the day.
- Further development can improve the model functions by providing more flexible design for any building shape or choice of materials and structure.
- Further development can utilise AI techniques to analyse/refine more optimum design solutions.