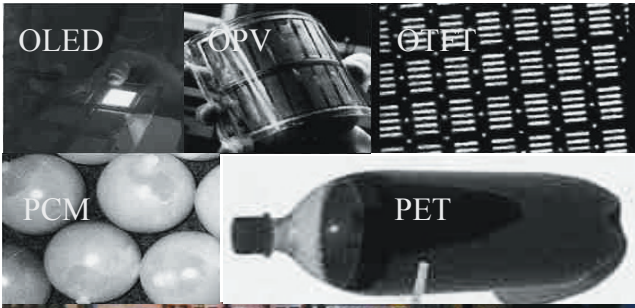


Performative Skins



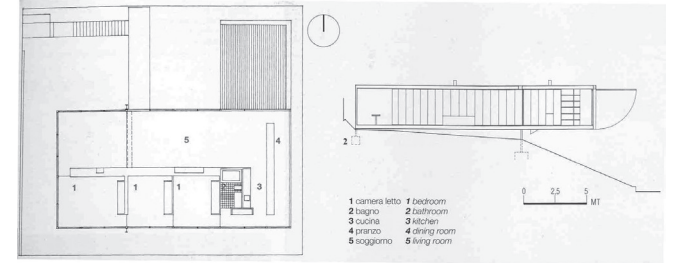
SmartWrap
Kieran and Timberlake

Passive	❖❖❖❖	Active
Low-Tech	❖❖❖❖	High-Tech

Stephan Kieran and James Timberlake propose Smartwrap as a building skin of the future. It is potentially the source for power, lighting, climate control and protection from the elements, as well as a canvas for information display.

In their Pavilion project for the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, Kieran and Timberlake envision a skin that can be easily customized by the user to display information of their choosing, as well as support the dwelling functions.

While the realization of such a skin and its availability to a large market may take 5–10 years, the vision of a skin that serves the inside and the outside of a dwelling so appropriately through environmentally powered technology is provocative and appealing.

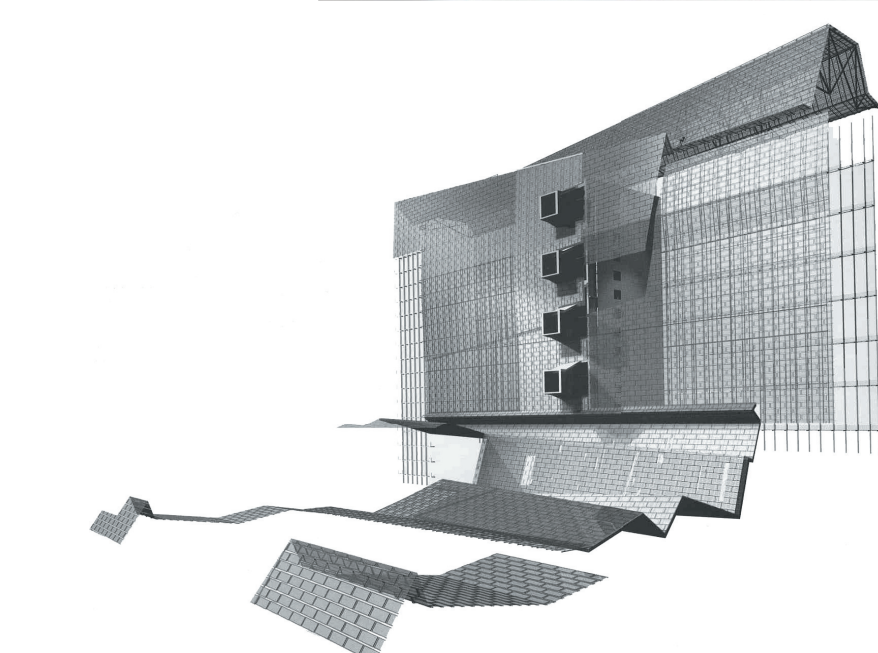


Kew House
Sean Godsell
Melbourne, Australia

Passive	❖❖❖❖	Active
Low-Tech	❖❖❖❖	High-Tech

The rusted steel mesh of this facade acts as a privacy screen and shading device in addition to providing a unique interior setting. The house design also employs a steel-louvre system run by hydraulic jacks along the long wall exposed to strong northern sunlight. However, it is the low-tech, low-cost use of an unorthodox domestic material that creates an open but intimate living space and serves as a reminder of the high-impact potential of passive systems.

Watts, Andrew. *Modern Construction Facades*. New York: Springer-Verlag, 2005.



Federal Building
Morphosis

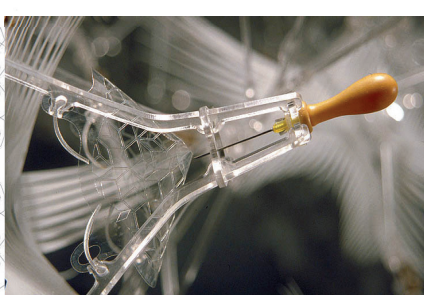
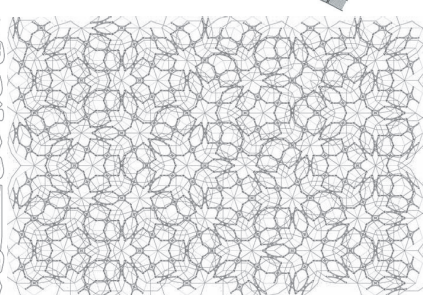
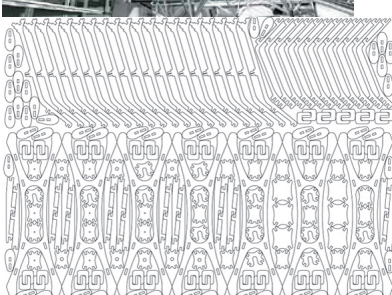
Passive	❖❖❖❖	Active
Low-Tech	❖❖❖❖	High-Tech

The skin of the federal building can be considered performative in that its design was based not on an aesthetic aspiration, but on an intensive analysis of airflow and daylighting.

“As if its radical design wasn’t enough, workers in San Francisco’s new federal office building now under construction will actually be able to open their windows.”
www.bizjournals.com/wichita/sto-

Despite all of these out of the ordinary design considerations, the construction cost of the building was still less than for typical class A construction in this area.

The skin is made of perforated metal and was conceived by Morphosis as a “living skin”



Orgone Reef
Philip Beesley

Passive	❖❖❖❖	Active
Low-Tech	❖❖❖❖	High-Tech

A digitally-fabricated geotextile that responds to and captures elements of its surrounding environment through the use of embedded computing technology. Although current installations are solely interior, room-lining applications, it was developed as a speculative proposal for an exterior skin. It’s matrix structure acts as a site for a living skin to take root, similar to Beesley’s earlier landscape investigations (Haystack Veil and Erratics Net), creating a collaborative confusion between the artificial and the natural.

Architectural Design, vol. 75, no. 4, pp. 46–53, July/August 2005.

Beesley, Philip. (ca.geocities.com/pba.inc@rogers.com/index.html).

