



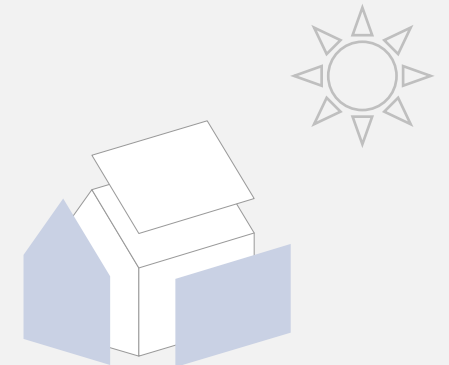
Beratungsstelle für  
bauwerkintegrierte Photovoltaik



# One year of independent BIPV consultancy Experiences, examples and lessons learned

Björn Rau, Samira Aden, Thorsten Kühn, Markus Sauerborn

Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie (HZB)



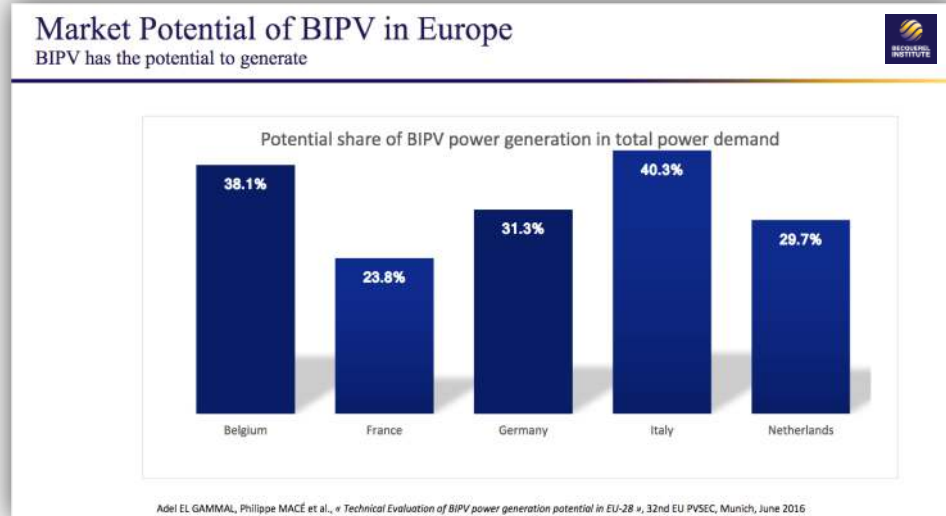
# Outline

- Introduction
- The consulting agency for BIPV – BAIP
- Case studies
- Lessons learned



# Introduction

## Need & Potential

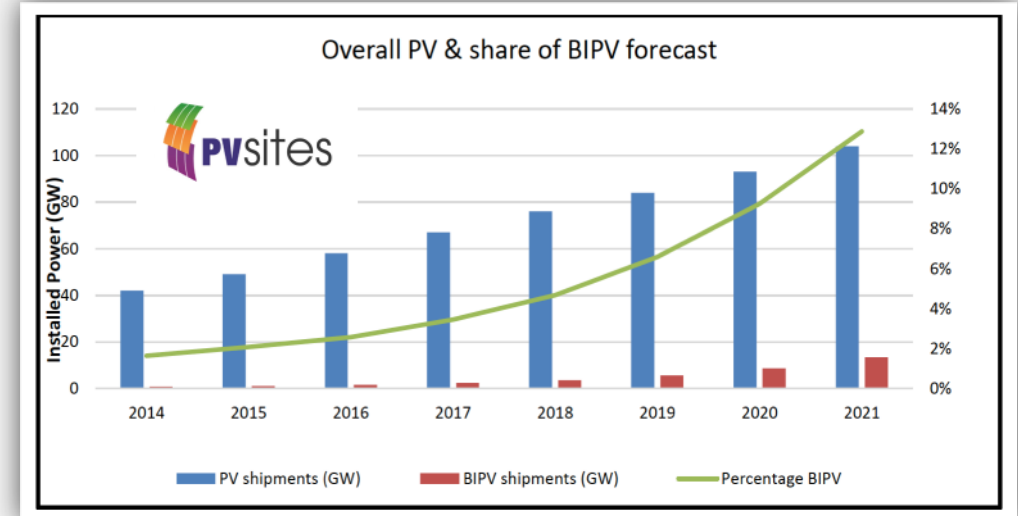


! **Green Deal / 2010/31/EU**

- + Efficient PV technologies
- + Market potential
- Well established (lazy) construction market
- Market share

## Reality

PVSites project report, Oct. 2016



Source: Pixabay



*“Photovoltaics only has a future, if it can  
be integrated harmoniously  
into architecture”*

Charles Fritts, 1880  
*(Inventor of the first solar module)*

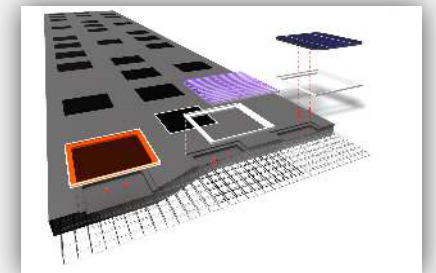


# Challenges for PV industry

- Customized solutions (size, shape, transparency, colours...)
- Easy to plan and cost-effective standard elements
- Integration into new façade elements  
→ Combination of construction materials & electricity generating elements
- Application-related properties (Resilience against temporary (local) shading)
- Legal aspects (materials, glare, safety, ...)
- Certification and testing
- Partnerships required with construction companies  
(module manufacturer usually not a direct contractor on-site)



Picture: HZB

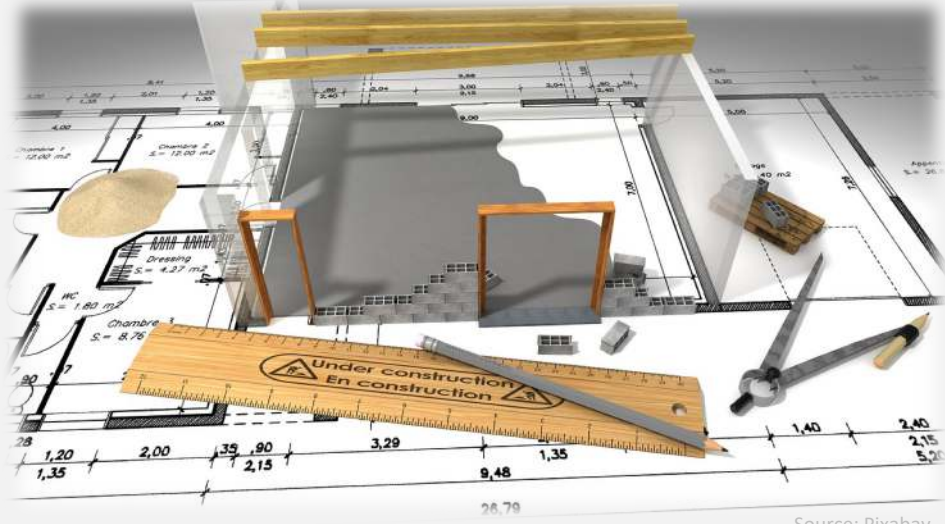


Picture: Samira Aden



Pictures: Planeco

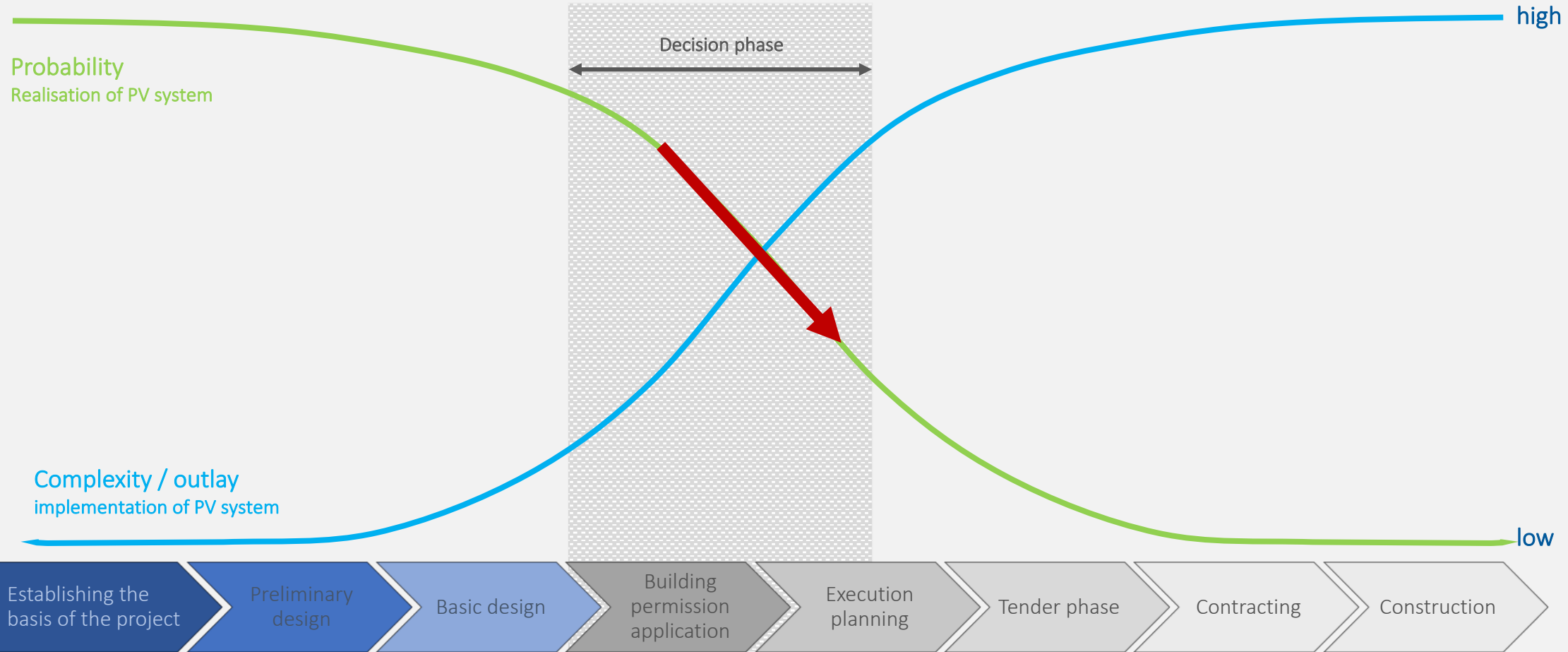
# Challenges for architects



Source: Pixabay

- Gathering information about possibilities in design, technical solutions and boundary conditions
- Use of further education and qualifications
- Reduction of reservations
- Going into intercommunication with module manufactures
- Accepting changes in common planning process (work flow, content, cost structure...)
- Recognizing chances and responsibilities and acting

# Common process flow of planning and execution



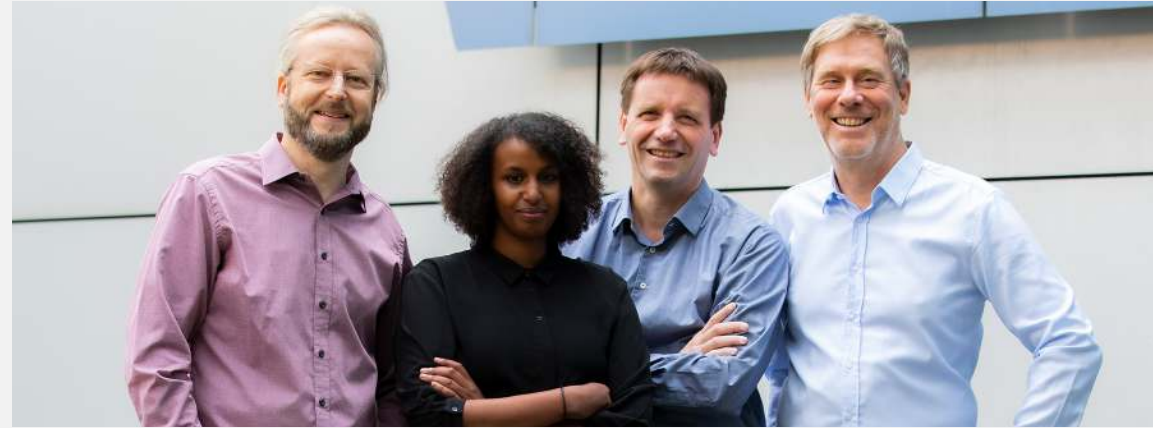
Service phases according to HOAI (Fee structure for achitects and engineers)



# Bridging the gap



Consultancy office for  
building integrated photovoltaics



Picture: Katja Bilo

**Dr. Björn Rau**  
PV / Technology Transfer

**Samira Aden**  
Architect Design Research

**Thorsten Kühn**  
Architect / Energy Expert in  
Construction

**Dr. Markus Sauerborn**  
Knowledge Transfer

**B**uilder-owners

**A**rchitects

**I**nvestors

**P**lanners

- Experienced team of PV scientists, architects and experts in knowledge transfer and communication
- Imbedded in the HZB science infrastructure, funded by **HELMHOLTZ** RESEARCH FOR GRAND CHALLENGES
- Strong partners like chambers of architects, BIPV alliance, university, sustainability council and research





# Bridging the gap



Consultancy office for  
building integrated photovoltaics

## We provide...

- **free consultancy** for the initial stakeholders of construction and renovation projects
- Individual consulting → **independent, product-neutral, free-of-cost**
- Development and organisation of **workshops and lectures** for the target group (e.g. together with chambers of architects)
- **Dialogue** between research and manufacturing AND architects and end users (round tables)
- Collaboration with universities → **educating and teaching**

## We aim...

- **inspiring and supporting the stakeholders of construction and renovation, to consider BIPV (or at least PV) in der projects.**



# Individual consultancy



Consultancy office for  
building integrated photovoltaics

- Builder owner (private/public/industry/...)
- Representatives of owner communities
- Architects in specific projects (e.g. requested by builder owner)
- Architects in preparation of competitions
- Berlin Senate Chancellery – construction departments of public properties
  
- **Renovation / construction / development of sub-districts**
- **Technology / design / legal aspects / fire protection/ yield estimations / ...**



Picture: Katja Bilo



Picture: Kai/HZB

More than  
40 clients since  
Sept. 2019



# Training courses and workshops



Consultancy office for  
building integrated photovoltaics

- Individual events for architect's and planner's offices
- Workshops and trainings jointly organized with chambers of architects\* and the German Sustainability Council
- Collaborations with "Solarzentrum Berlin" experts in general aspects of PV, energy law, models of operation, ...
- **Strong interest (architects, planners, administration...)**
- (Covid19 restrictions: some events postponed and/or changed into online courses)

\* Credit points for members



Picture: Aden/HZB



Picture: Kühn/HZB



# Case study 1



## Heightening of residential building

Owner: private  
Architects: Mensing Timofticiuc Arhitekten  
status: planning phase (SP3)

Story-addition on existing multifamily house.  
“Conflict” between Owner (yield!) and architect (design!) about integration

**Project:** Solutions for well-integrated, high-yield PV

---

### Motivation:

Story-addition (increased living space)  
Building owner demands holistic energy concept incl. PV, storage and green roof

### Findings:

- Fundamental aspects of PV unknown (although experienced architect)
- Owner had contacted module manufactures → advice towards non-integrated standard modules
- Architect had already pre-selected black c-Si modules
- Architect very open for advices, suggestions



Pictures in courtesy by Anca Timofticiuc.



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### Our service:

- Design opportunities
- PV system simulation (range/size, yield, location)
- Conveying to “Solarzentrum Berlin” for legal aspects of being an energy producer

### First conclusions:

- Design (invisibility) important -->
- Support from PV industry “misleading” (no customer-orientation)
- Finally, system size determined (< 10 kWp) by regulatory aspects (EEG levy)



Pictures in courtesy by Anca Timofticiuc.





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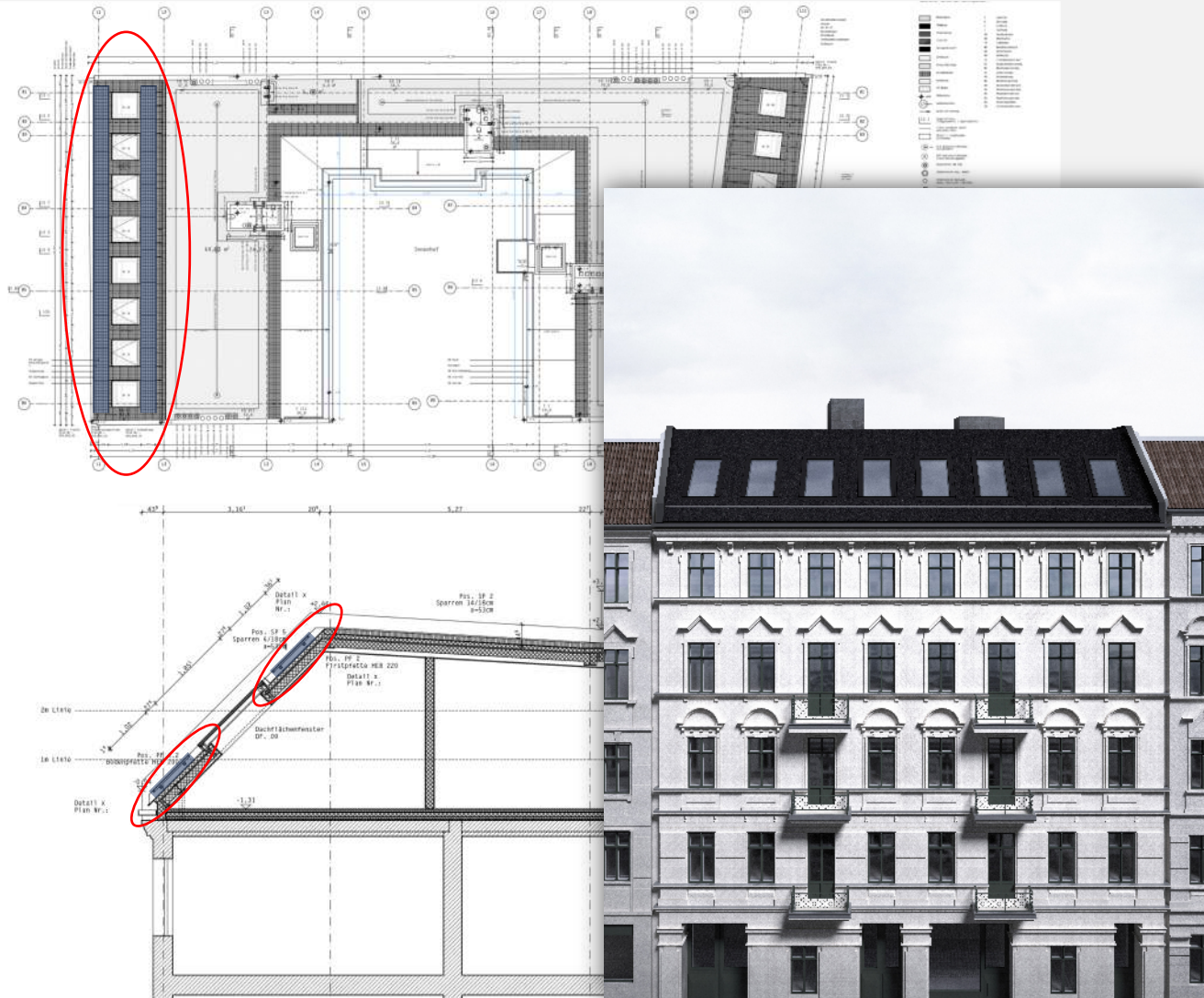
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**BIPV solution will be realized!**



Pictures in courtesy by Anca Timofticiuc.



# Case study 2



## Public buildings in Berlin

Owner: City of Berlin  
Architects: various / sometimes departments of construction  
status: SP0 .. SP3

Politics and high-level administration put pressure on their own construction departments → evaluation of PV implementation

**Projects:** Renovations and new constructions  
Schools, university buildings, hospitals, ...

**Motivation:**  
nZEB directive (2010/31 EU)  
Climate change / social pressure / Fridays for future / conviction

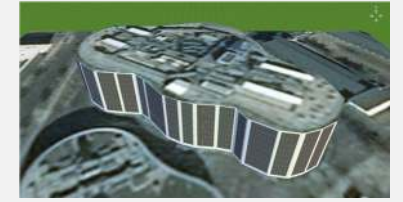
- Findings:**
- Individual decision makers are key persons
  - Different stakeholders need to be convinced
  - Reservations have to be reduced
  - Local benefit often not existing
  - Operator's models are needed
  - Green roof conflicts

**First conclusions:**  
Communication with people in charge important  
Also politicians need to be enlightened





# Case study 3



## Zentrum für Photonik und Optische Technologien

Owner: Wista Management GmbH

Architects: Sauerbruch Hutton

Constructed: 1998

Very high demand for design (colours)

Complete glass façade

Coloured blinds indoor, coloured design inside

**Project:** Replacement of blinds / Evaluation of PV active, coloured blinds

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### Motivation:

Use of PV / demonstration / positive impact

Replacement of broken blinds

Individual energy supply for each blind (avoidance of wiring)

### Findings:

- Design opportunities (colours, PV-blinds, transparency...) unknown

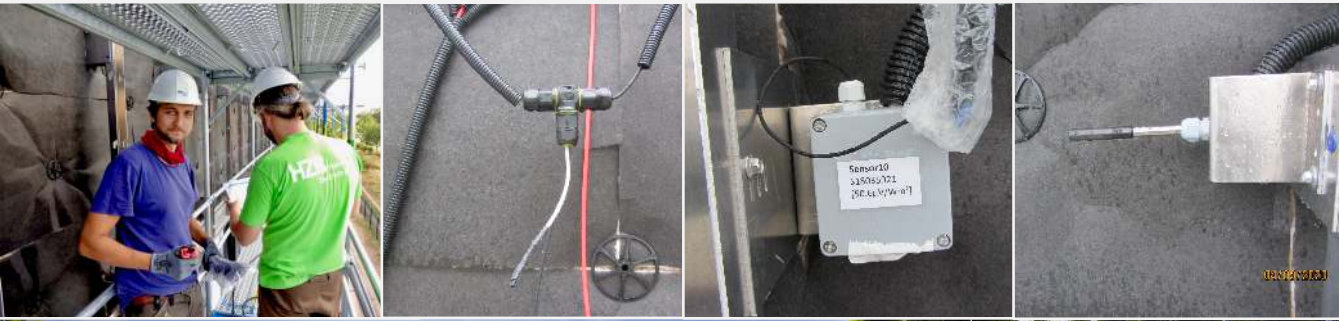
### First conclusions:

Existing concepts do not fulfil (complex) colour requirements





# BIPV real lab



## BIPV real lab @HZB

Owner: HZB  
Architects: DGI Bauwerk  
status: in construction

360 fully-integrated thin-film modules / 47 kWp

**Project:** BIPV real lab – coloured CIGS façade as ventilated curtain wall

### Motivation:

Advanced analysis of façade-integrated CIGS solar modules as complete PV system under real conditions

Measurement of yield, temperatures, ventilation with respect to specific location inside façade (N, S, W) and ventilation/isolation conditions

### Findings (so far):

- Steep learning curve on the entire chain of realizing a building with a PV façade

### First conclusions:

- “If there is a will, there will be a way”
- General building approval for used modules/building elements is quite helpful.
- ...



# Summary / lessons learned



Consultancy office for  
building integrated photovoltaics

- There is a need for a serious, independent free BIPV consultancy.
- There are architects and planners, willing to learn and to work with (BI)PV.
- Design, technologies and legal aspects of BIPV are all quite relevant topics.
- Fire protection is a point of discussion in about 50% of concretely discussed BIPV projects.\*
- Political and administrative decision makers are key persons.
- Roof top installations are still often preferred (costs/yield optimization).
- Good operator's models are strongly required.
- The earlier PV is considered in the planning phase, the lower additional cost, the saver the time plan and the higher the probability of success.

\* The Alliance BIPV (in cooperation with BAIP) will publish a guideline for fire protection soon.







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**HELMHOLTZ** RESEARCH FOR  
GRAND CHALLENGES

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