

Considerations for façade attachments for optimal performance



AACA Competency: Design

Module Outline: Today, architects and building owners appreciate façade attachments not only as protective elements against sun, noise and prying eyes; they even use them as stylish facade design elements.

As building design evolves to meet changing requirement for comfort, function and energy efficiency, concerns for climate change In Australia and indeed worldwide, has further emphasized the value of building energy efficient buildings. Our focus here, is to describe the concept of Double Skin Facades. Although this is not a new concept, due to the ever increasing climate change concerns, architects and designers are now putting this into practice. The evolution of Double Skin Facades has led to design innovations from the selection of different materials to the integration of smarter design elements.

All around the world, inspiring architecture achieves recognition whether it be in outdoor public spaces, residential buildings, or larger commercial buildings. The façade of a building is often thought of as the most important aspect from a design standpoint, as it sets the tone for the rest of the building. The design of a façade can positively trigger physical, physiological and psychological responses. Aesthetic appeal, energy efficiency, sustainability and convenience, the demands placed on the modern facades are high. Sliding and folding/sliding systems can solve a number of issues concurrently.

The façade plays a pivotal role with regard to placing a building in a given context-be it urban, functional, historical, societal, technological and, of course, architectural in nature. For architects, the façade is also a projection screen for creative, design-oriented expression.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe some trends for building facades (AACA Competency: Design; Conceptual Design 3.2).
2. Explain environmental design topics and relevant standards and technical provisions to improve decision making (AACA Competency: Design; Conceptual Design: 3.3 and 3.4).
3. Explain higher performing material options (AACA Competency: Design; Conceptual Design: 3.3).

Outcome: The intent of this module is to create a resource for architects and builders to refer to for the construction of non-static building facades, where the function meets design innovation.

Module Presenter: Mark Micallef has over 15 years' experience in technical sales and management roles in the Building industry working with some of Australia's leading building materials manufacturers. Mark is an expert in acoustics, thermal comfort and indoor environmental quality, with formal training in Australia and abroad, and had been involved in a design and construction capacity on many of Australia's largest building projects, including Barrangaroo, Perth Children's Hospital, Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Melbourne University School of Architecture, Eureka Tower and Melbourne 108. Mark holds an MBA from RMIT University and a Bachelors of Business (Marketing) from Victoria University, in addition to several formal and informal qualifications in building and construction-based subjects.

Duration: 1 hour

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