

# ALTERNATIVE SOLAR CELL PATTERNS FOR LIGHT-TRANSMISSIVE PV PANELS

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1. Introduction
2. Study approach and aim
3. Solar cell patterns of crystalline silicon cells
4. 'W(e)AVE' – tilted and wave-like cell patterns
5. Conclusion

# 1. Introduction

From the point of architectural BIPV,  
however, it seems to be reasonable  
to distinguish between  
opaque modules and  
semi-transparent or translucent modules.

# Opaque PV

Paul Horn-Arena, Tübingen, Germany



Fig.1 © Allmann Sattler Wappner Architekten, München

# Opaque PV      ↔      Light-Transmissive PV

Paul Horn-Arena, Tübingen, Germany



Fig.1 © Allmann Sattler Wappner Architekten, München

Jaume University, Castellon, Spain

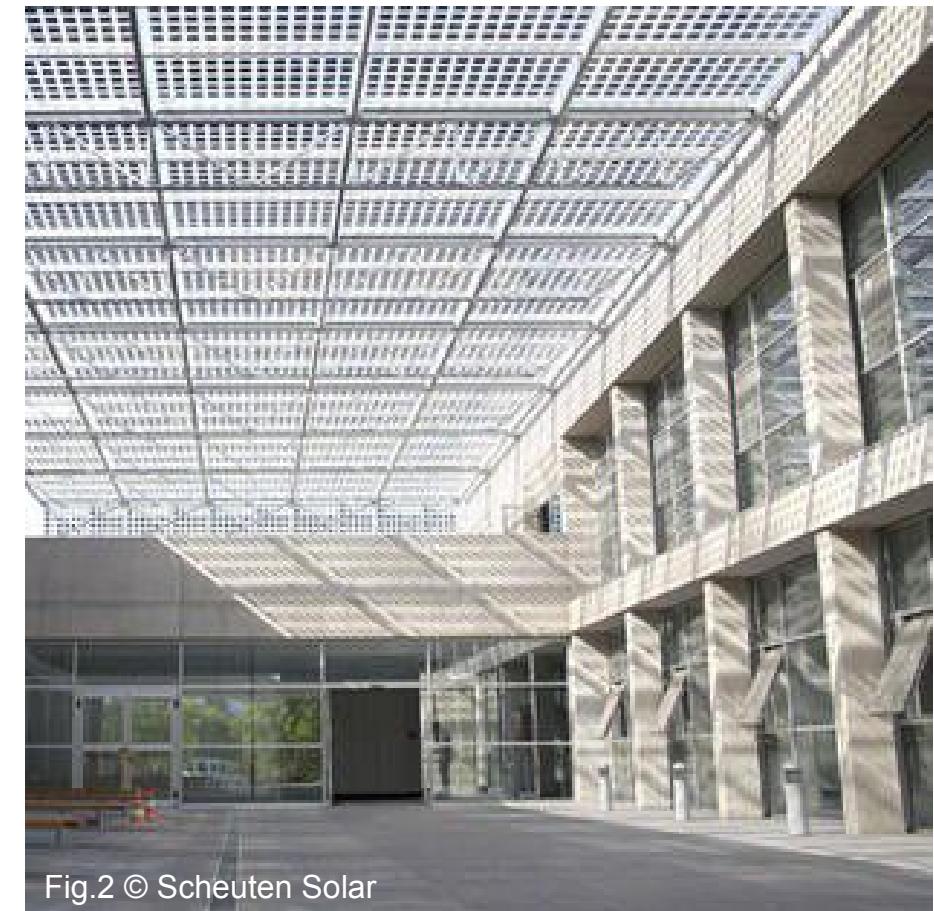


Fig.2 © Scheuten Solar

## 2. Study approach and aim

# 'light-through'



Fig.3 © BSW-Solar/Langrock

'light-through'



'see-through'



Fig.3 © BSW-Solar/Langrock



Fig.4 © Kaneka Corporation

'light-through'



'see-through'



Fig.4 © Kaneka Corporation

Fig.3 © BSW-Solar/Langrock

### 3. Solar cell patterns of crystalline silicon cells

#### *3.1. rectangular PV panels – homogeneous cell patterns*

round

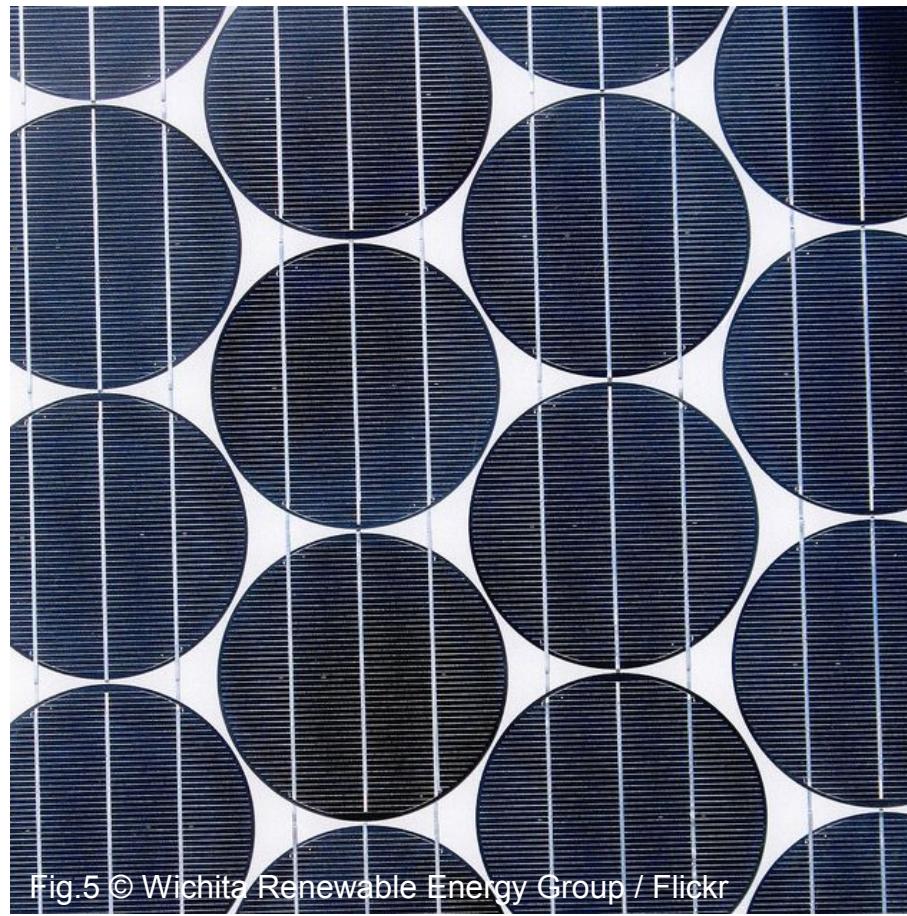


Fig.5 © Wichita Renewable Energy Group / Flickr

round



pseudo-square

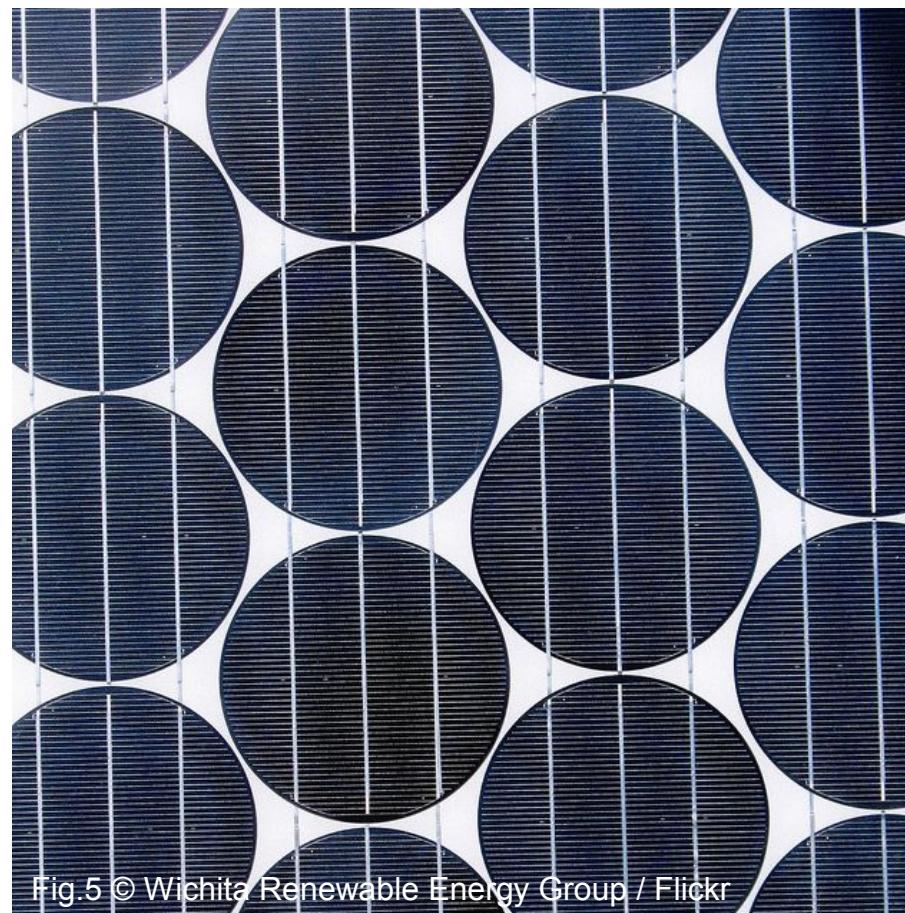


Fig.5 © Wichita Renewable Energy Group / Flickr

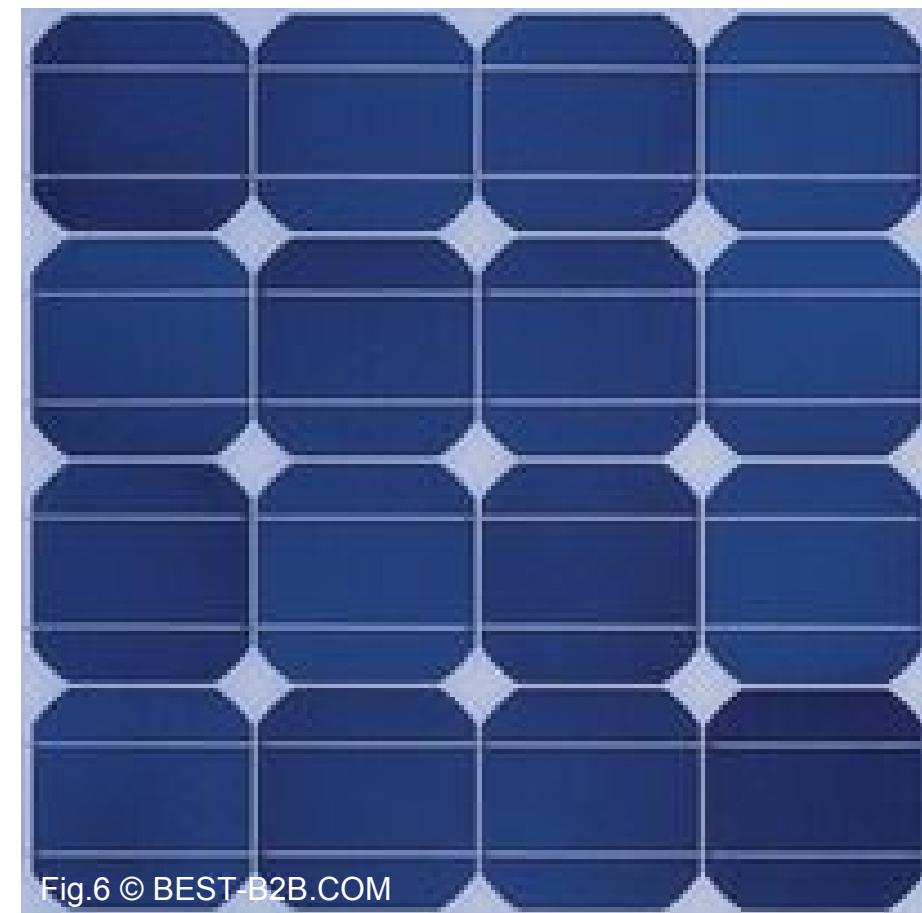
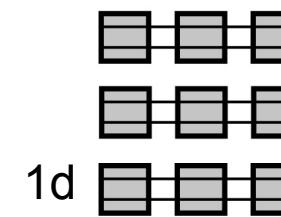
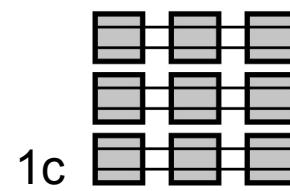
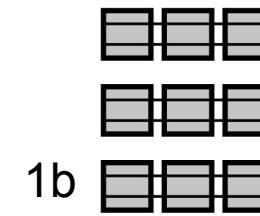
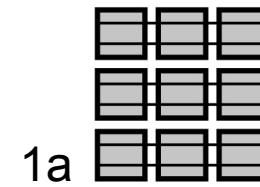


Fig.6 © BEST-B2B.COM



# Tobias Grau GmbH

Hamburg, Germany, 2001  
architect: BRT



Fig.7 © Schüco International KG

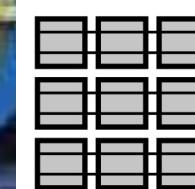




Fig.8 © Tobias Grau GmbH

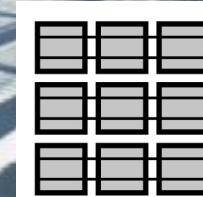




Fig.8 © Tobias Grau GmbH



Opera House  
Oslo, Norway, 2007  
architect: Snøhetta

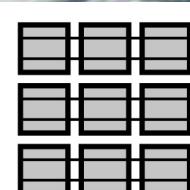


Fig.9 © Christopher Hagelund / The Telegraph

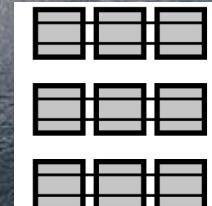




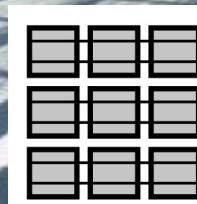
Fig.8 © Tobias Grau GmbH



Fig.10 © n.a.

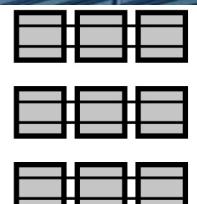


Fig.8 © Tobias Grau GmbH



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Fig.10 © n.a.



## Fire Station

Houten, the Netherlands, 2000  
architect: Samyn & Partners



Fig.11 © Ch. Richters

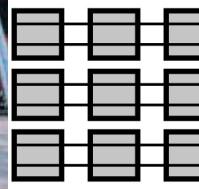




Fig.8 © Tobias Grau GmbH

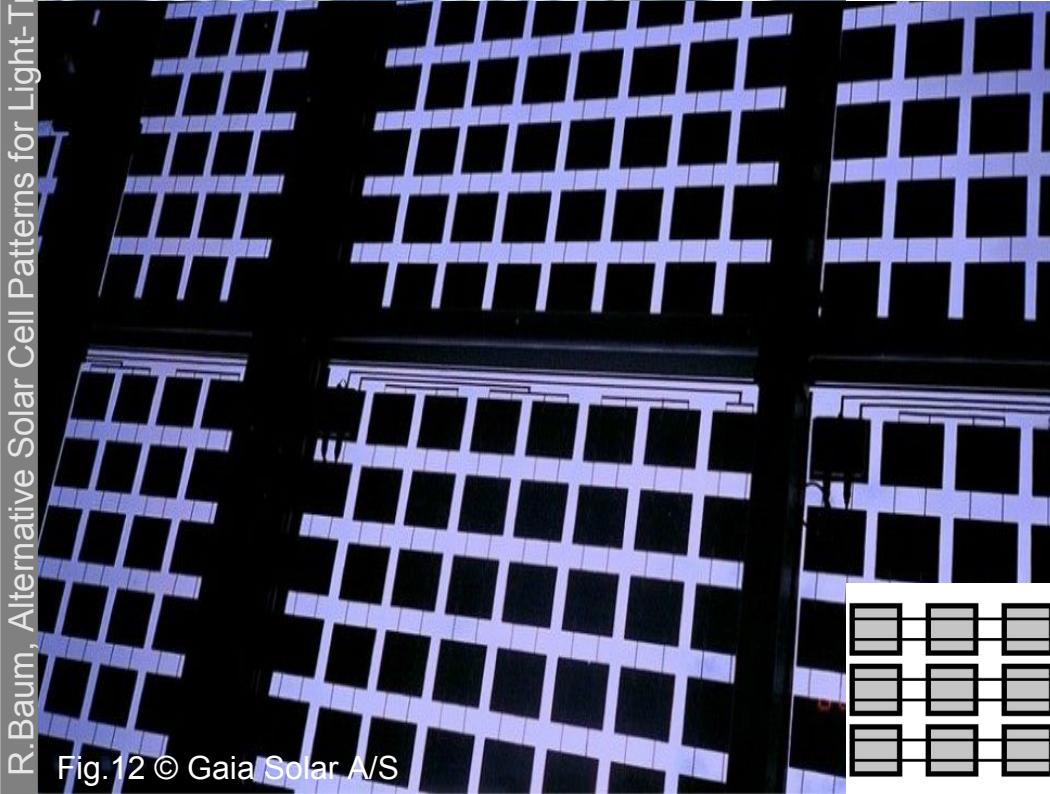
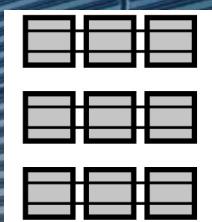


Fig.12 © Gaia Solar A/S



Fig.10 © n.a.



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Fig.8 © Tobias Grau GmbH

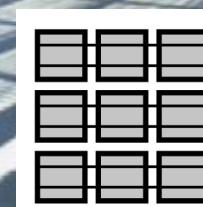


Fig.10 © n.a.

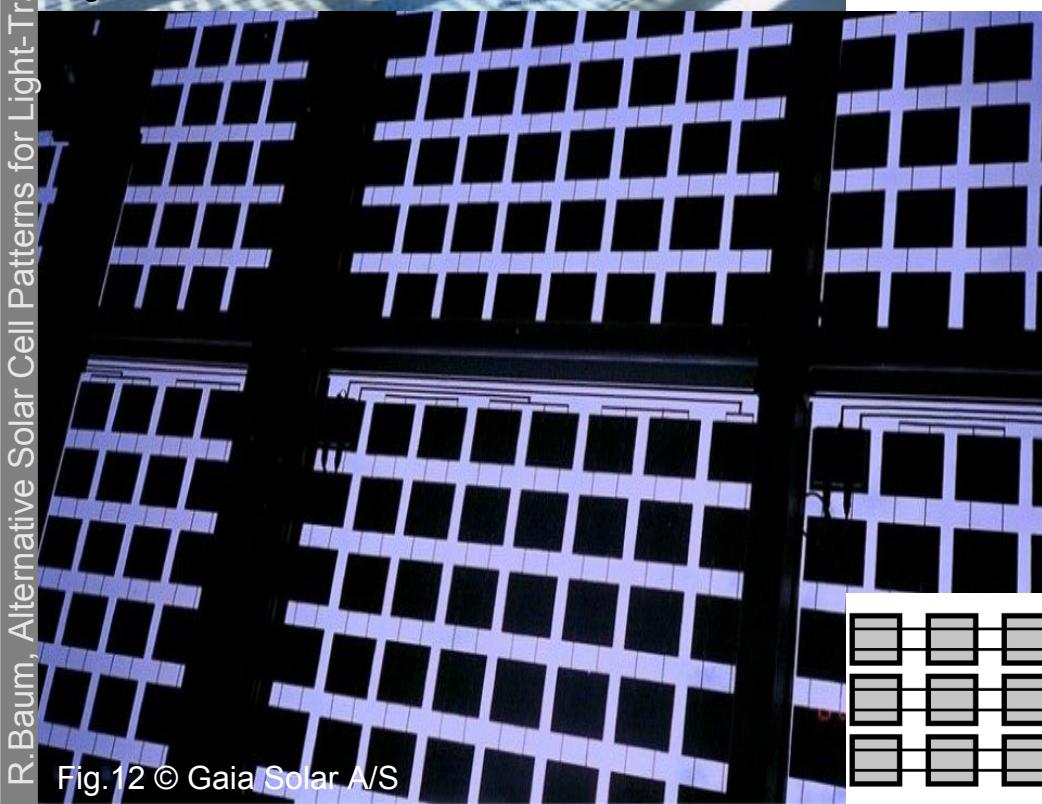
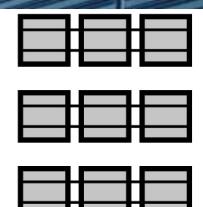


Fig.12 © Gaia Solar A/S

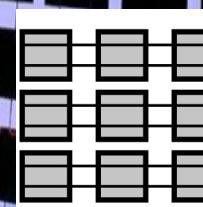
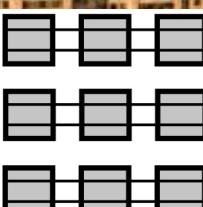


Fig.13 © Heron International



## Heron Tower London, UK, 2011 architect: Kohn Pederson Fox



Fig.8 © Tobias Grau GmbH

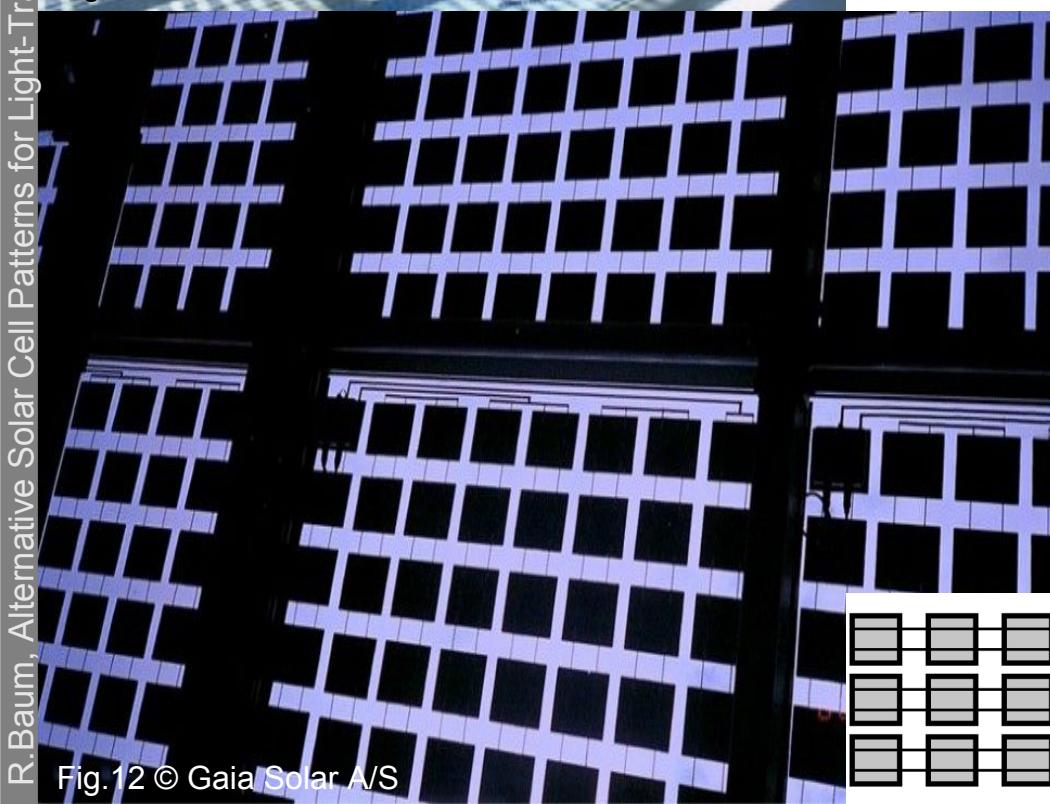


Fig.12 © Gaia Solar A/S



Fig.10 © n.a.



Fig.14 © Rob Telford

Tobias Grau GmbH  
Hamburg, Germany, 2001  
architect: BRT



Fig.7 © Schüco International KG

Opera House  
Oslo, Norway, 2007  
architect: Snøhetta

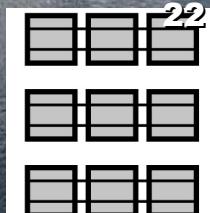
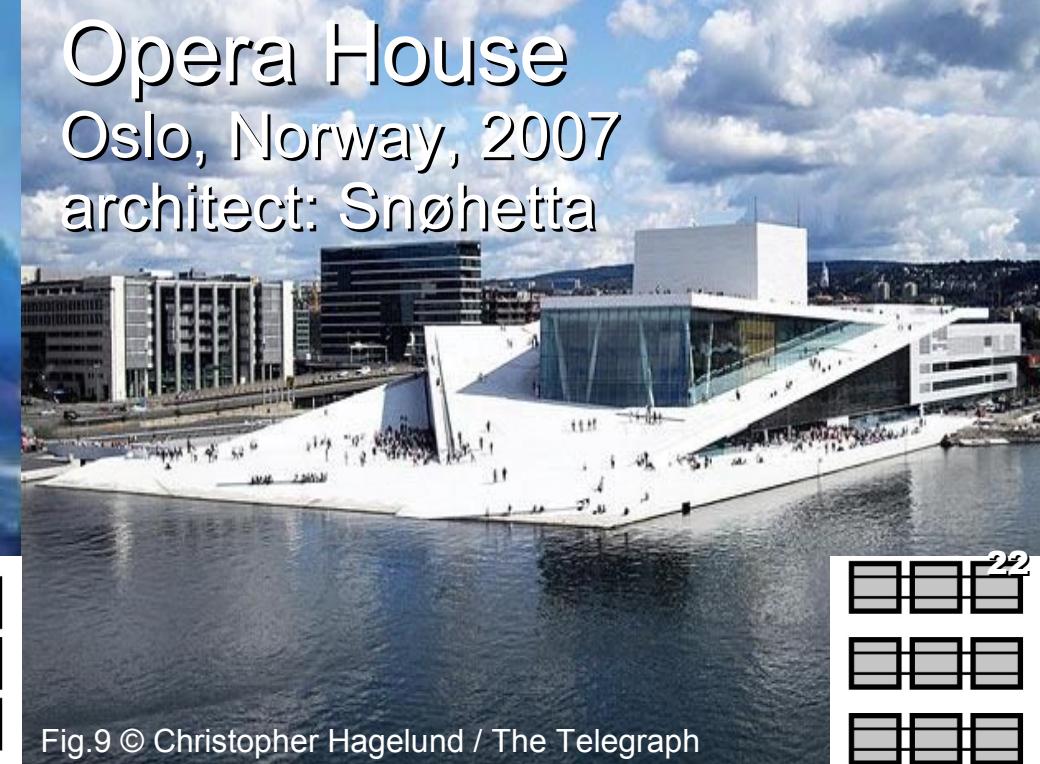


Fig.9 © Christopher Hagelund / The Telegraph

Fire Station  
Houten, the Netherlands, 2000  
architect: Samyn & Partners



Fig.11 © Ch. Richters

Heron Tower  
London, UK, 2011  
architect: Kohn Pederson Fox

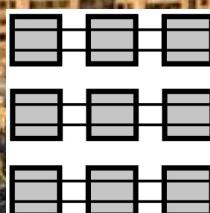
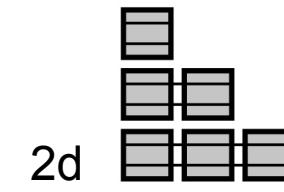
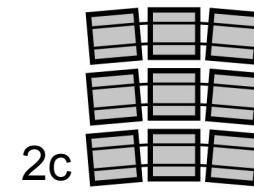
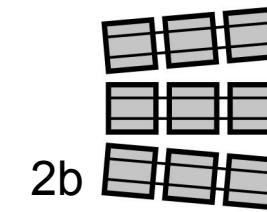
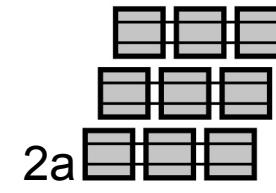


Fig.13 © Heron International

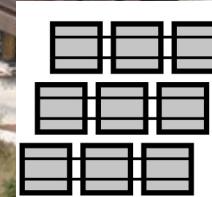
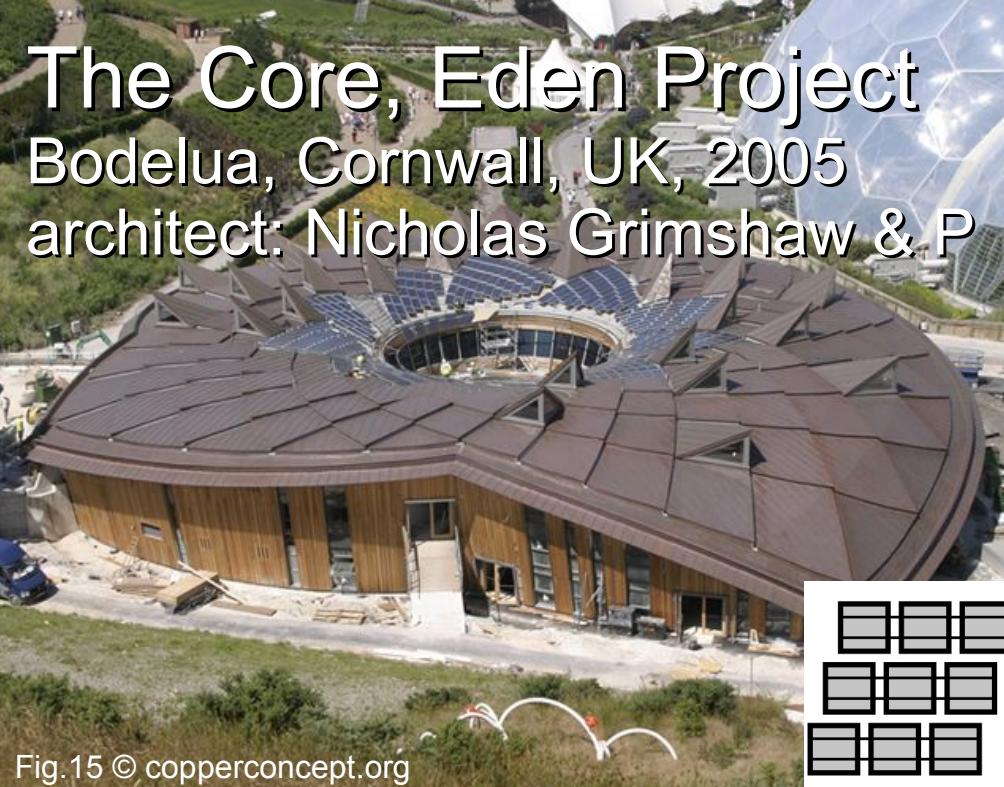
### 3. Solar cell patterns of crystalline silicon cells

#### *3.2. non-rectangular PV panels – homogeneous cell patterns*



# The Core, Eden Project

Bodelua, Cornwall, UK, 2005  
architect: Nicholas Grimshaw & P



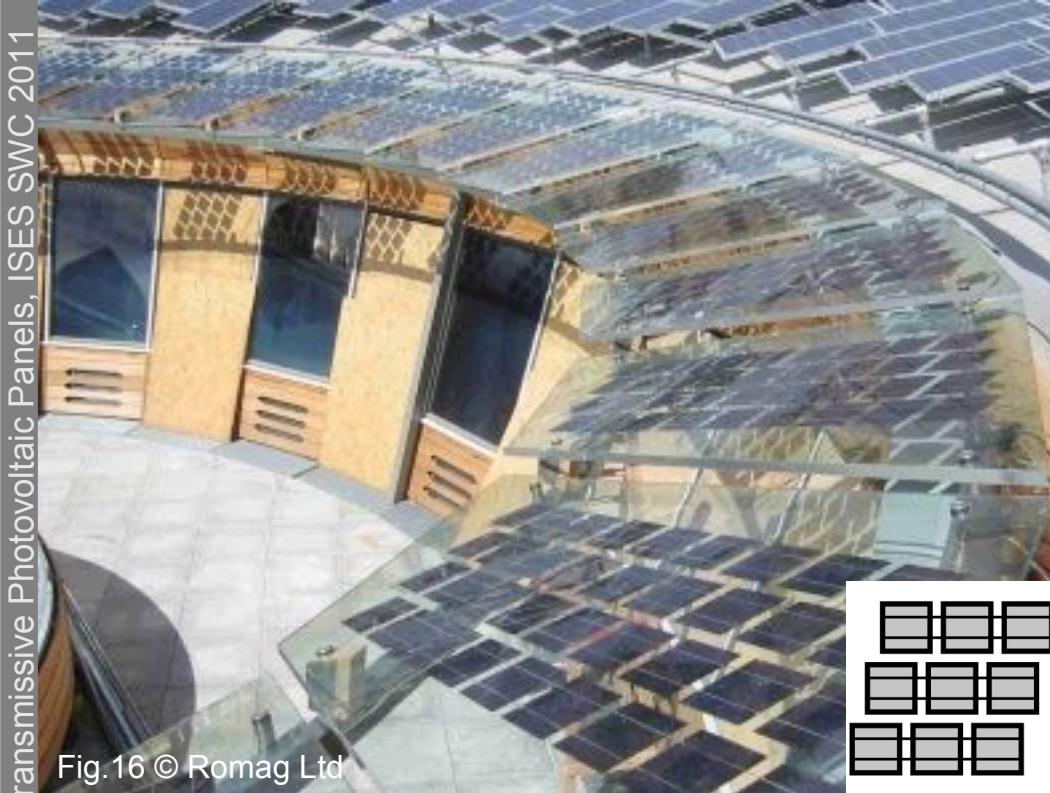
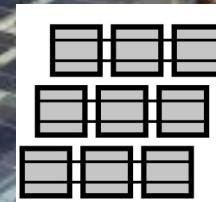


Fig.16 © Romag Ltd



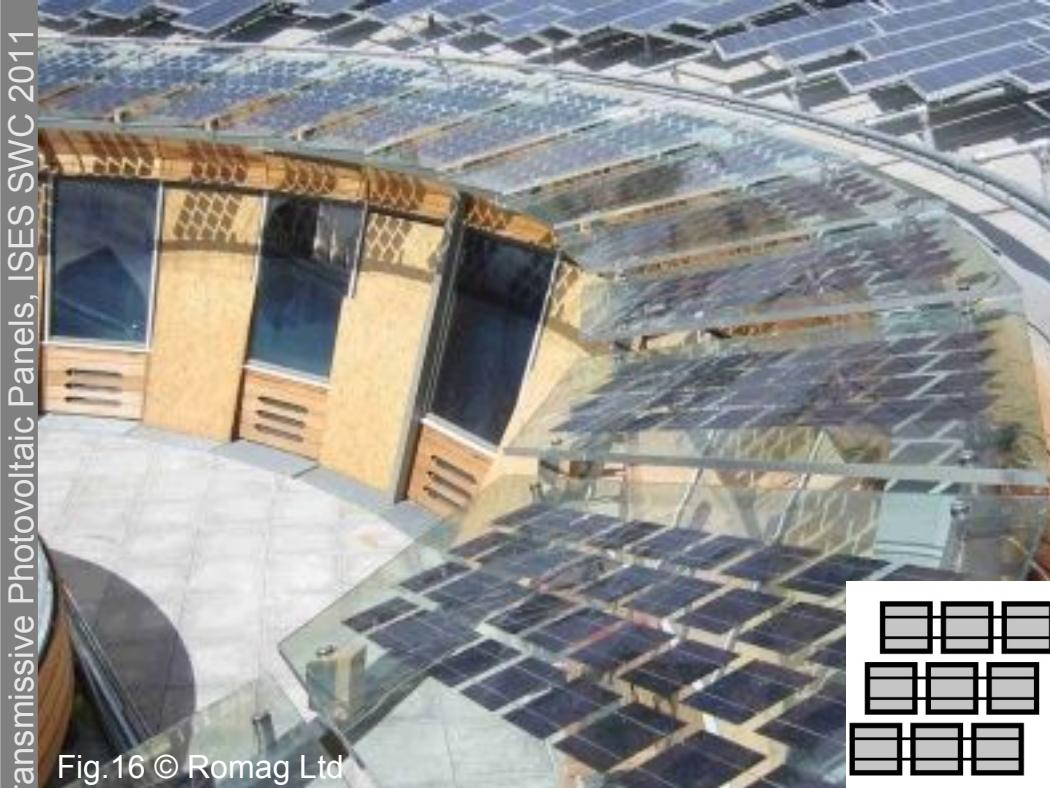
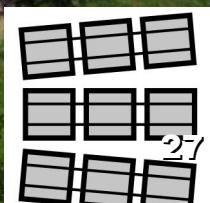
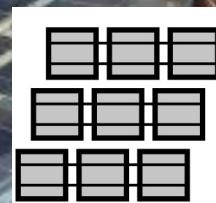


Fig.16 © Romag Ltd



Fig.17 © BSW-Solar / [www.solar-integration.de](http://www.solar-integration.de)



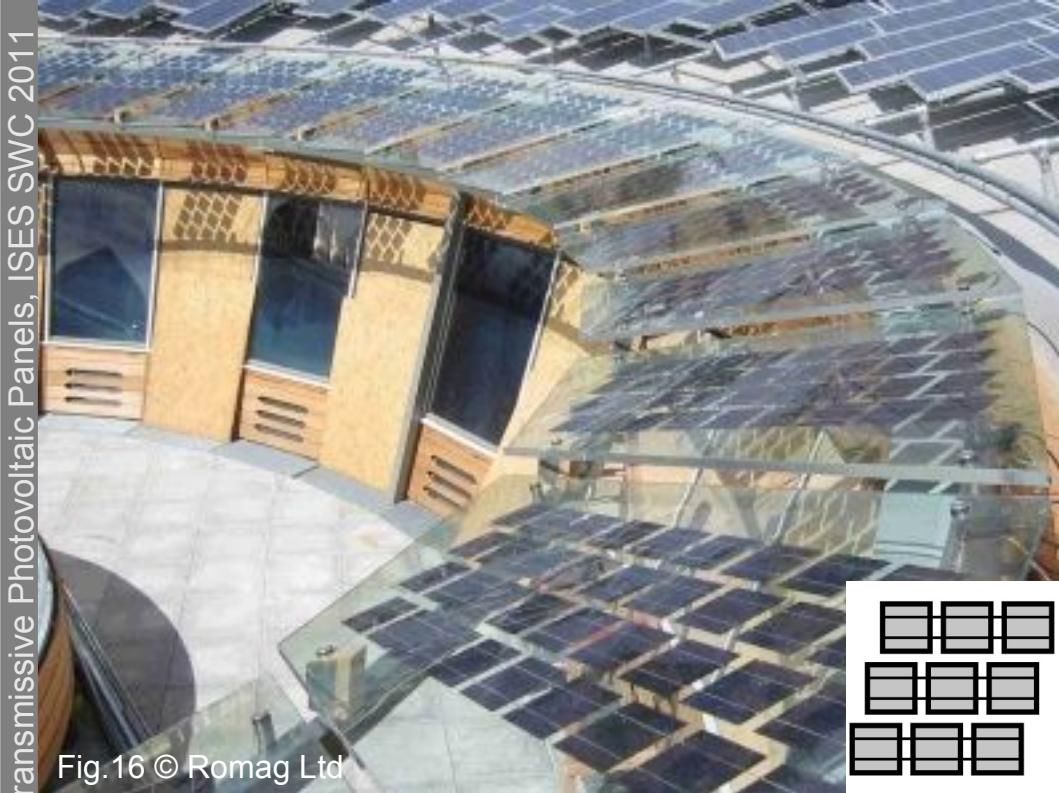
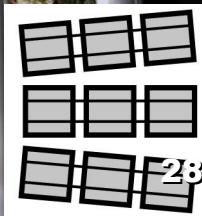


Fig.16 © Romag Ltd



Fig.18 © solarnova  
Produktions- und Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH



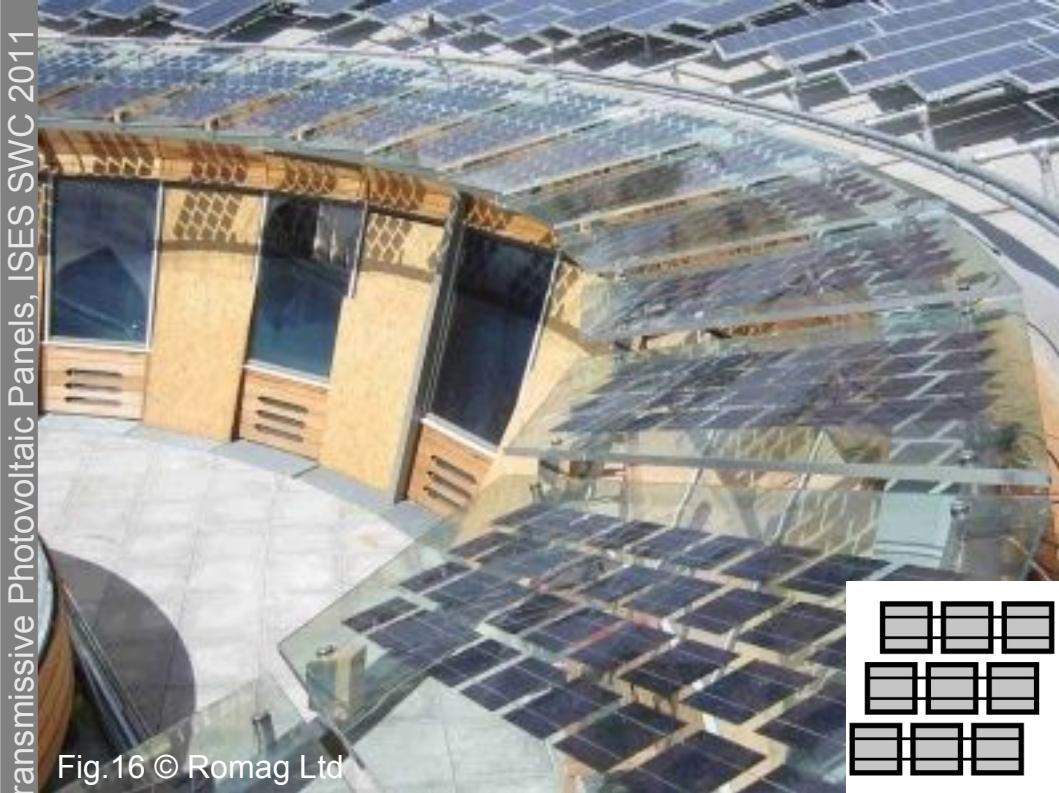


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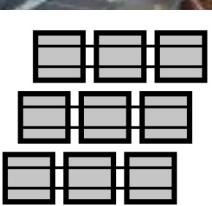
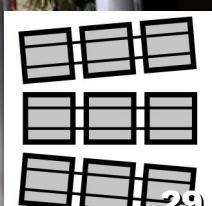


Fig.18 © solarnova  
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Gemini House  
Weiz, Austria, 2001  
architect: Erwin Kaltenegger

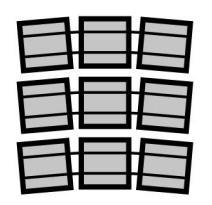


Fig.19 © Energie-Schau-Straße

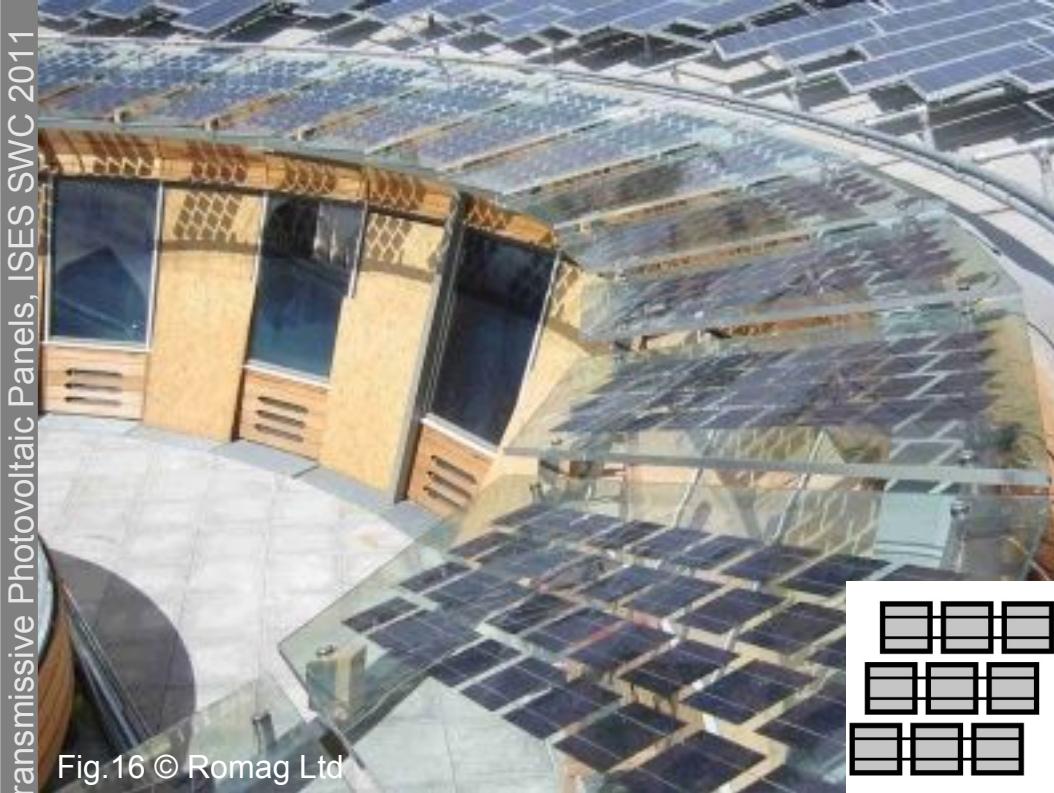


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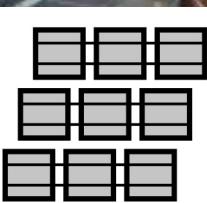
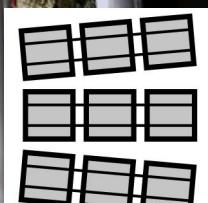


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Produktions- und Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH



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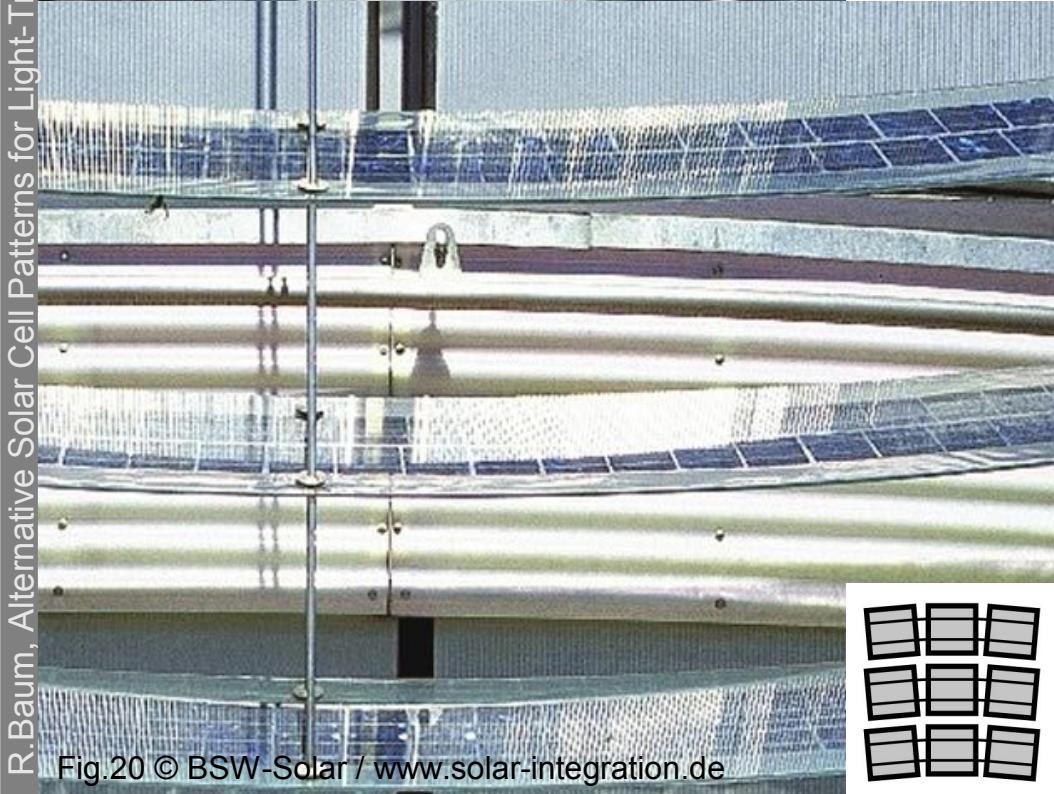
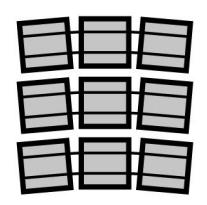


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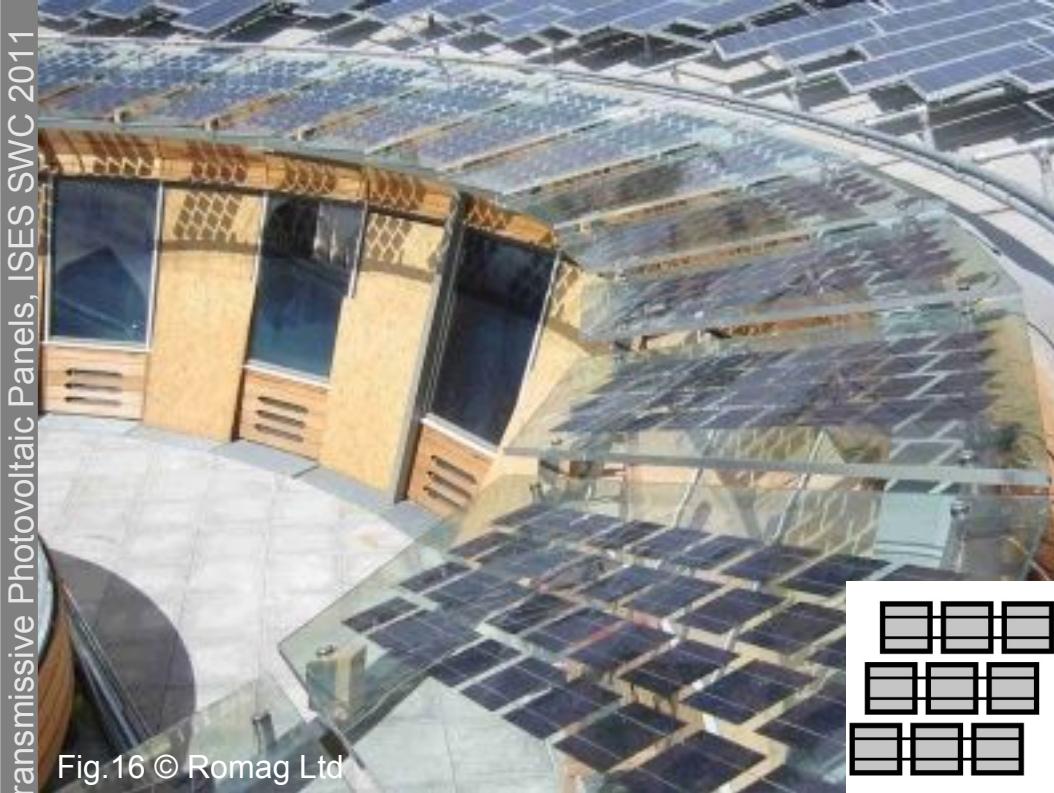


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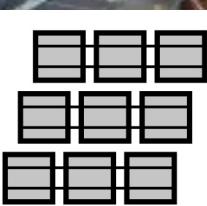


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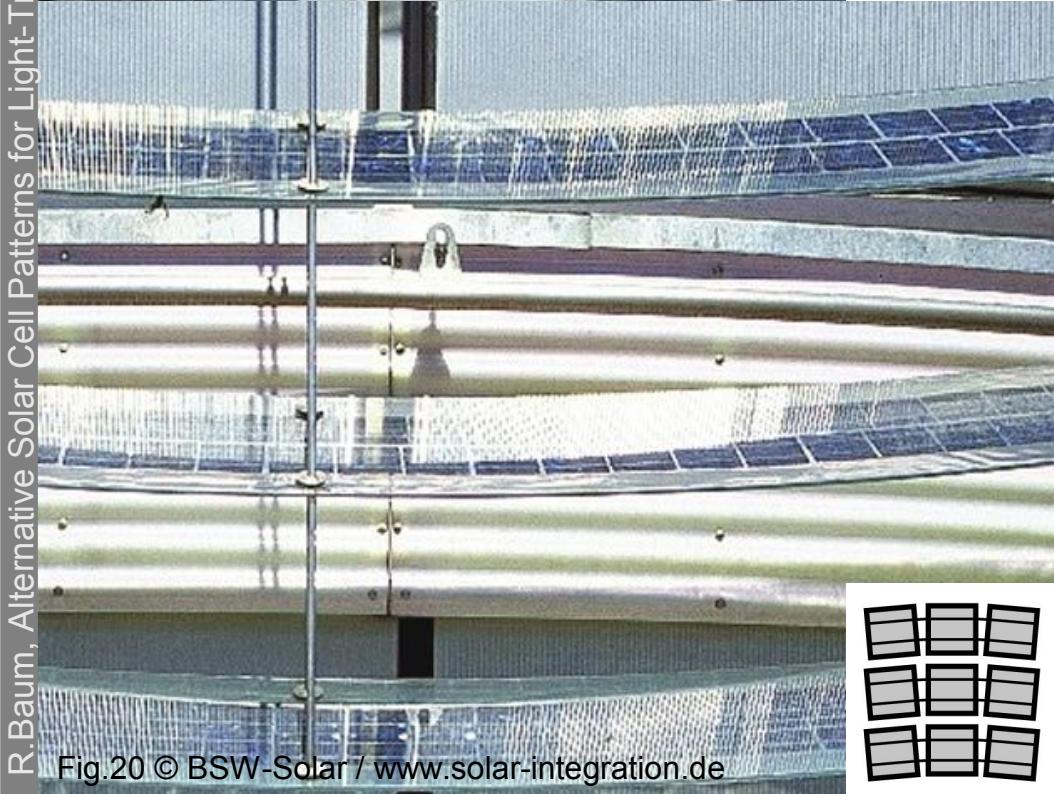
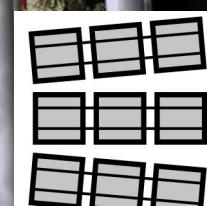


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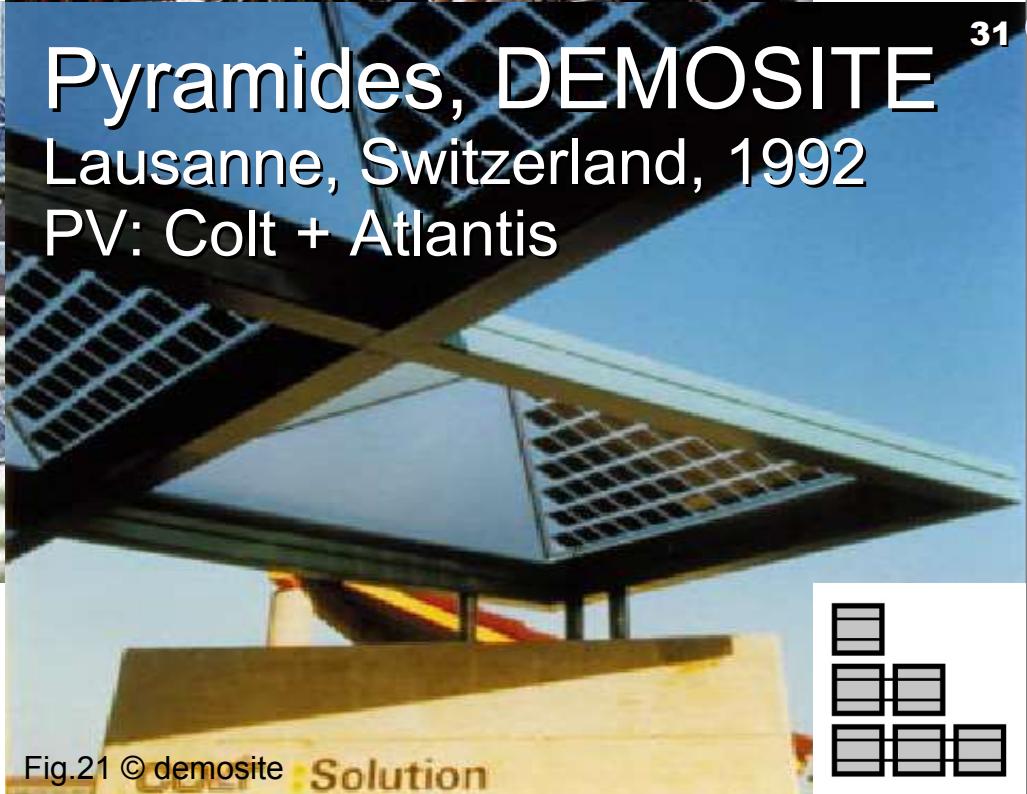
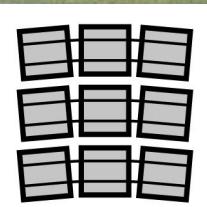
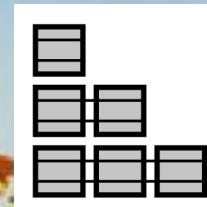


Fig.21 © demosite Solution



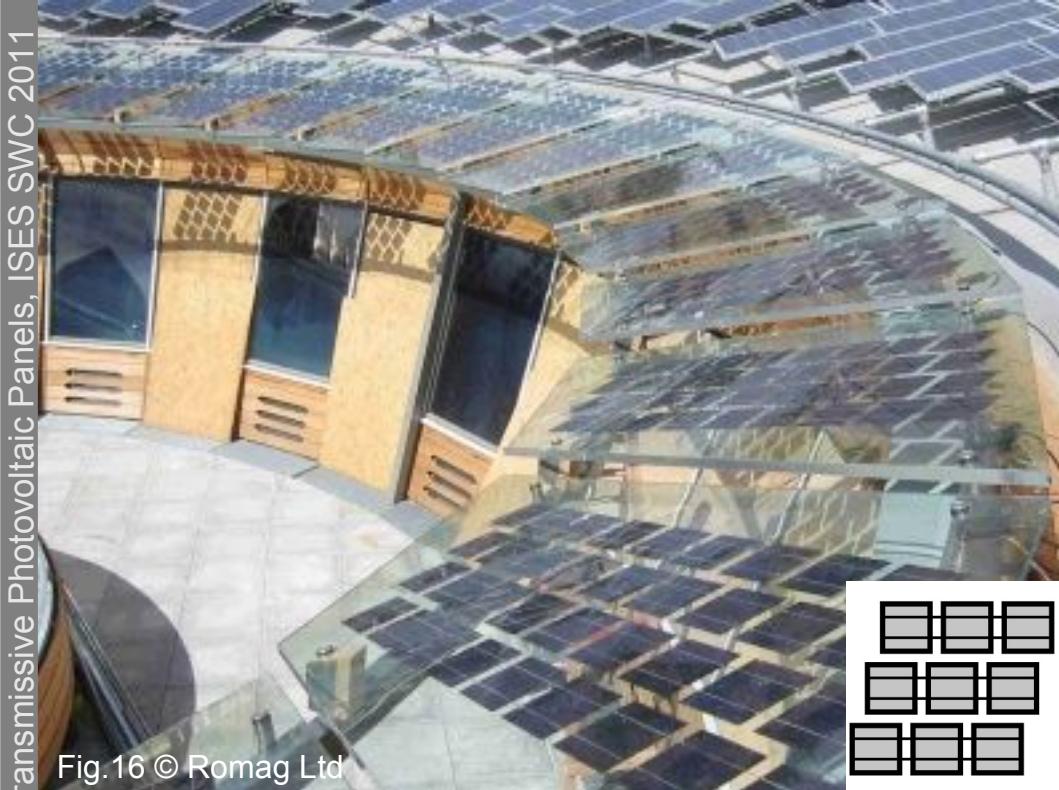


Fig.16 © Romag Ltd

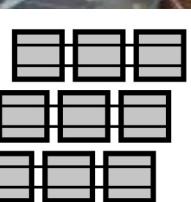


Fig.18 © solarnova  
Produktions- und Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH

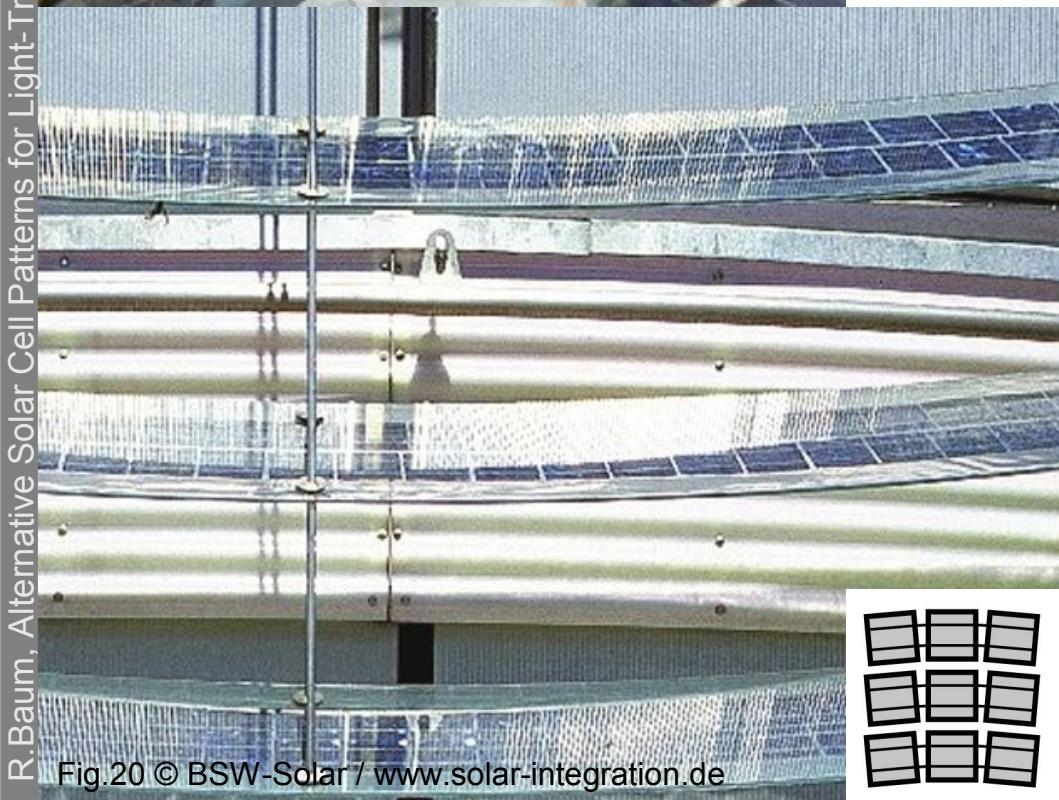
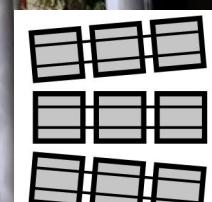


Fig.20 © BSW-Solar / [www.solar-integration.de](http://www.solar-integration.de)

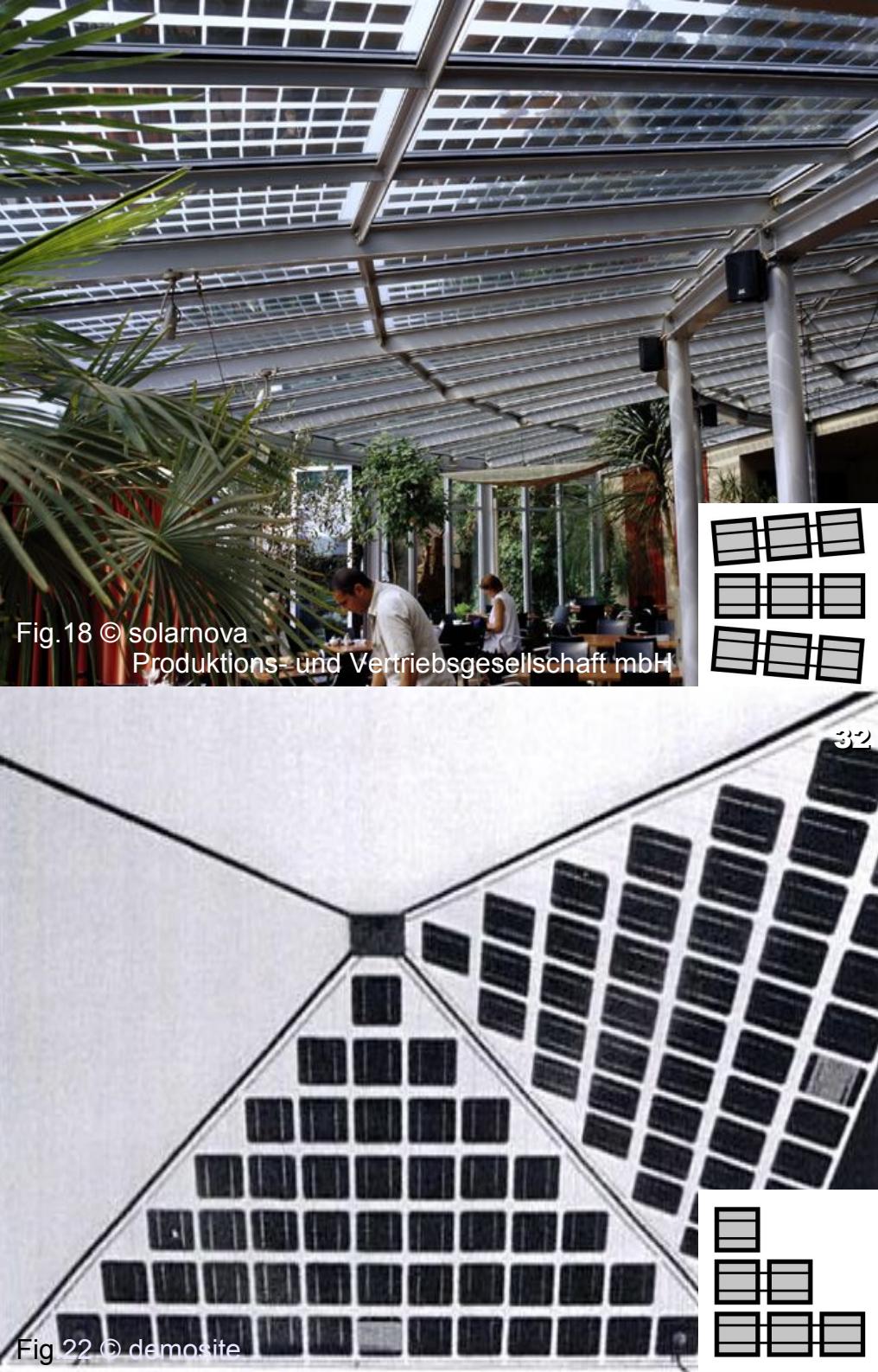
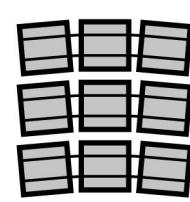
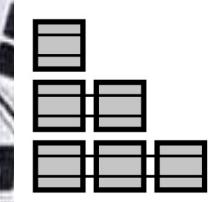


Fig.22 © demosite



The Core, Eden Project  
Bodelua, Cornwall, UK, 2005  
architect: Nicholas Grimshaw & P



Café Ambiente  
Bremen, Germany, 1997  
architect: Mencke + Tegtmeier



Gemini House  
Weiz, Austria, 2001  
architect: Erwin Kaltenegger

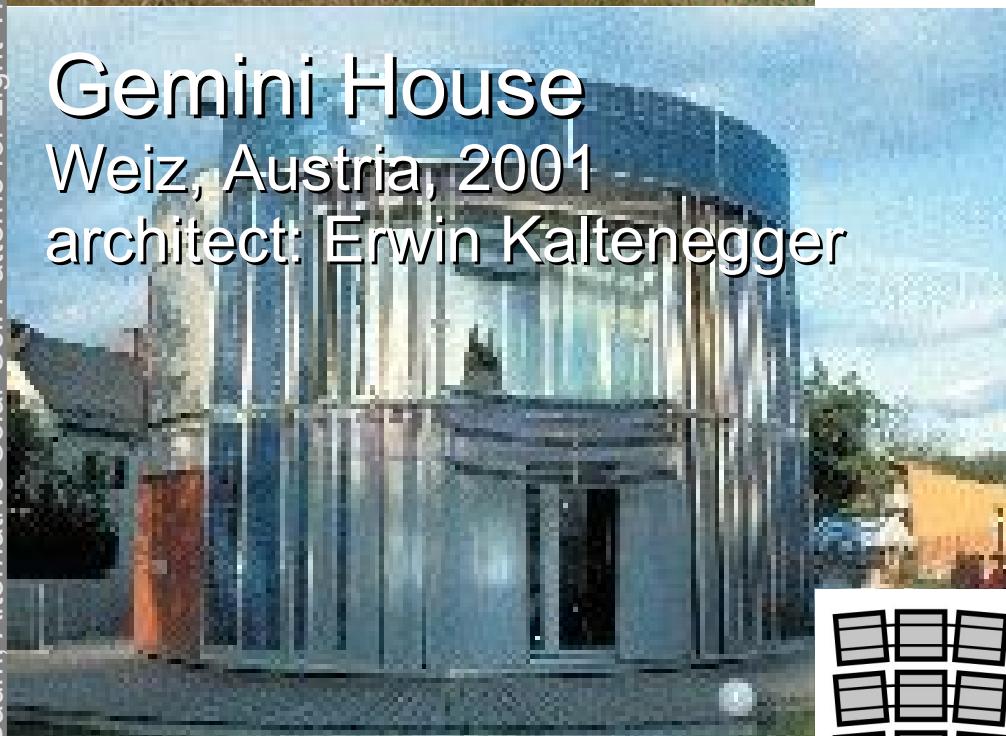
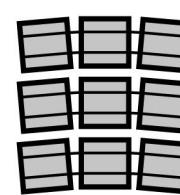


Fig.19 © Energie-Schau-Straße



Pyramides, DEMOSITE  
Lausanne, Switzerland, 1992  
PV: Colt + Atlantis

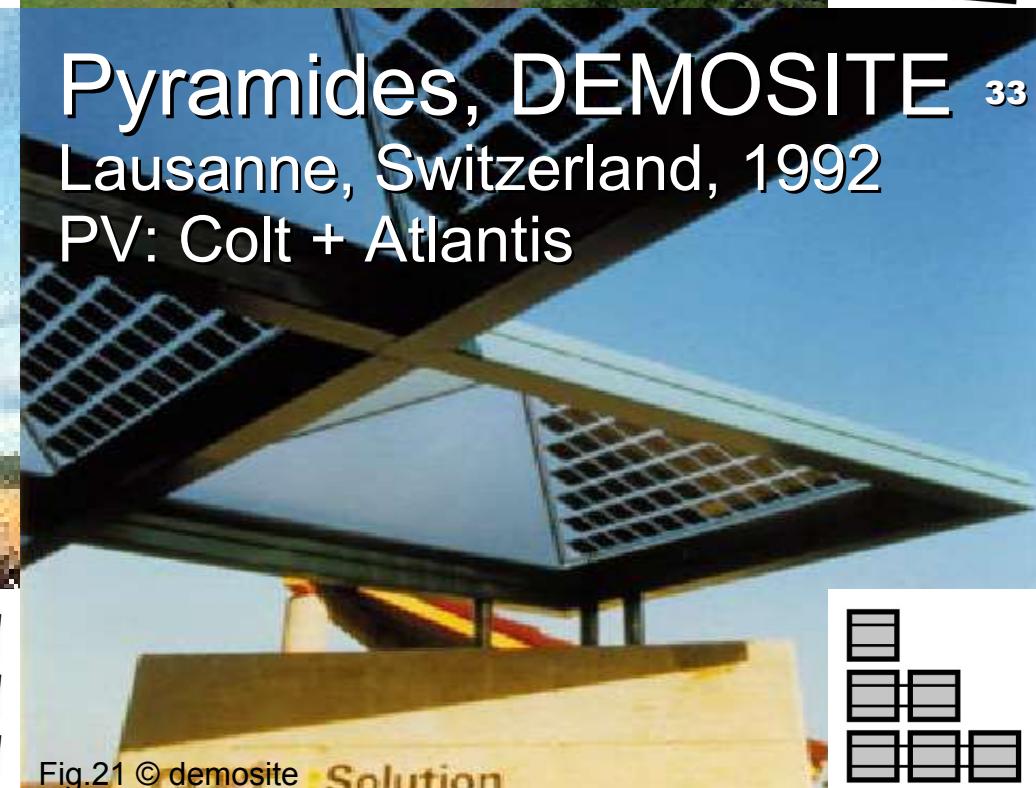
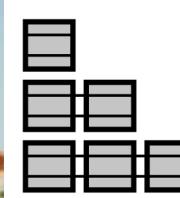
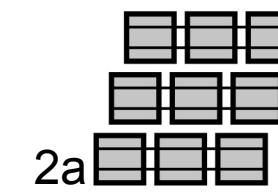
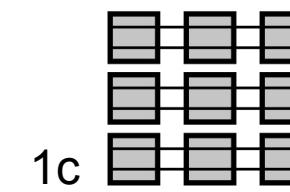
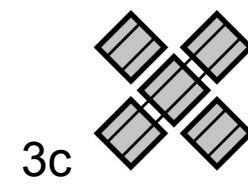
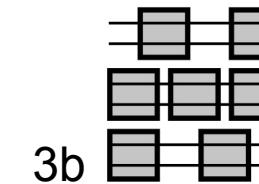
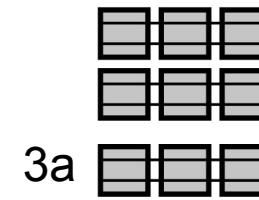


Fig.21 © demosite Solution



### 3. Solar cell patterns of crystalline silicon cells

#### 3.3. *emerging heterogeneous cell patterns*

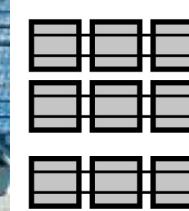


# Solar Office Doxford

Sunderland, UK, 1998  
architect: Studio E Architects



Fig.23 © Schüco International KG



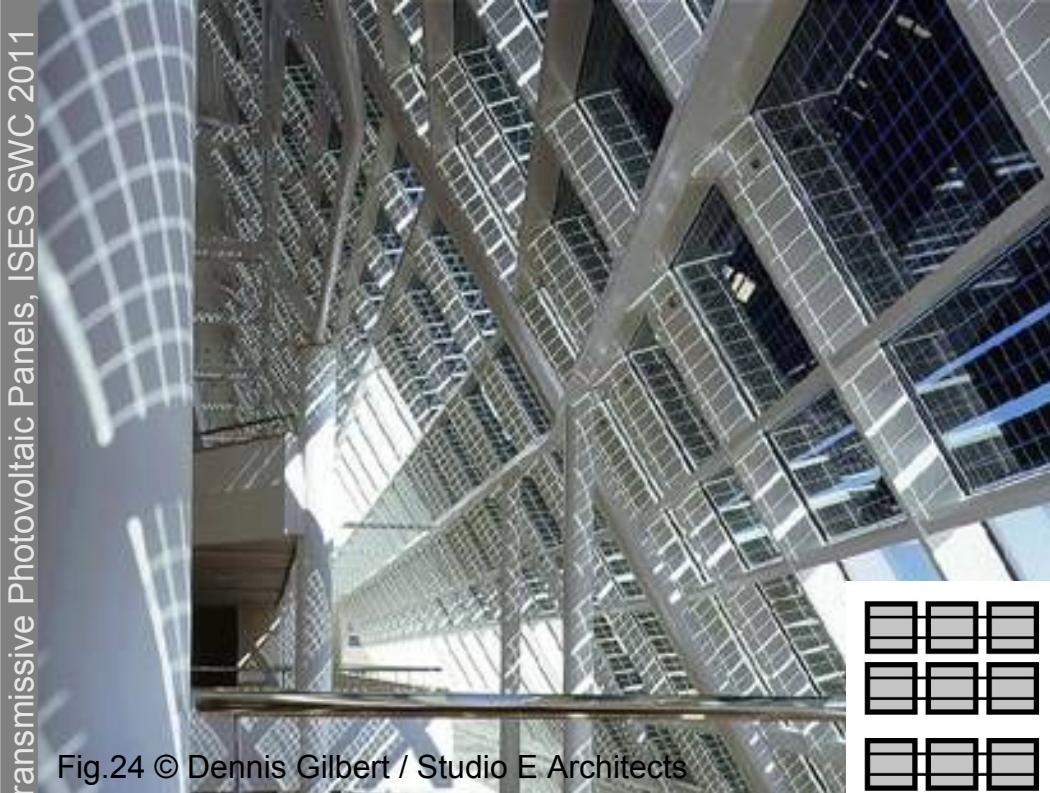
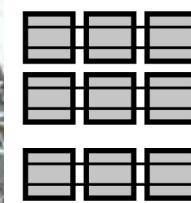


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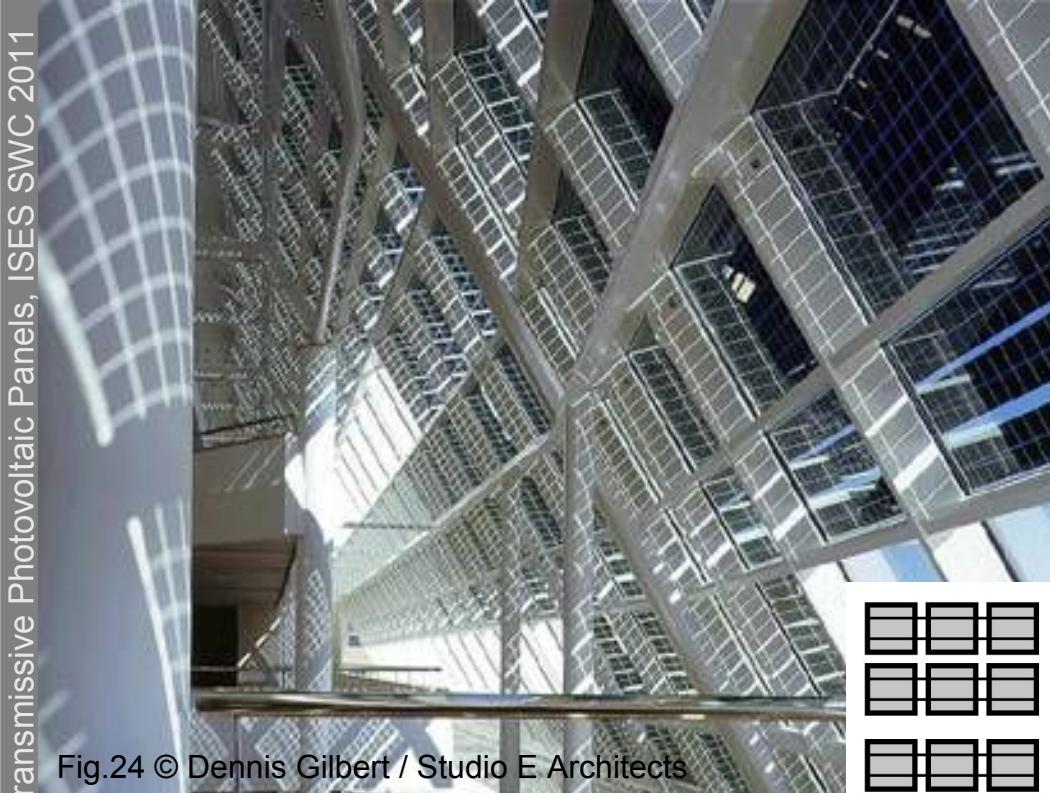


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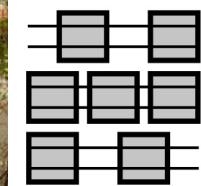




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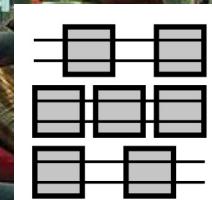




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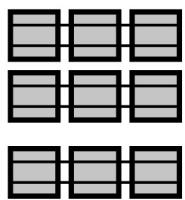
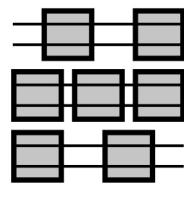


Fig.26 © Joe Morrissey / Atlantis Energy Systems



Ménara Airport  
Marrakech, Morocco, 2008  
architect: E2A architecture

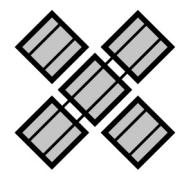


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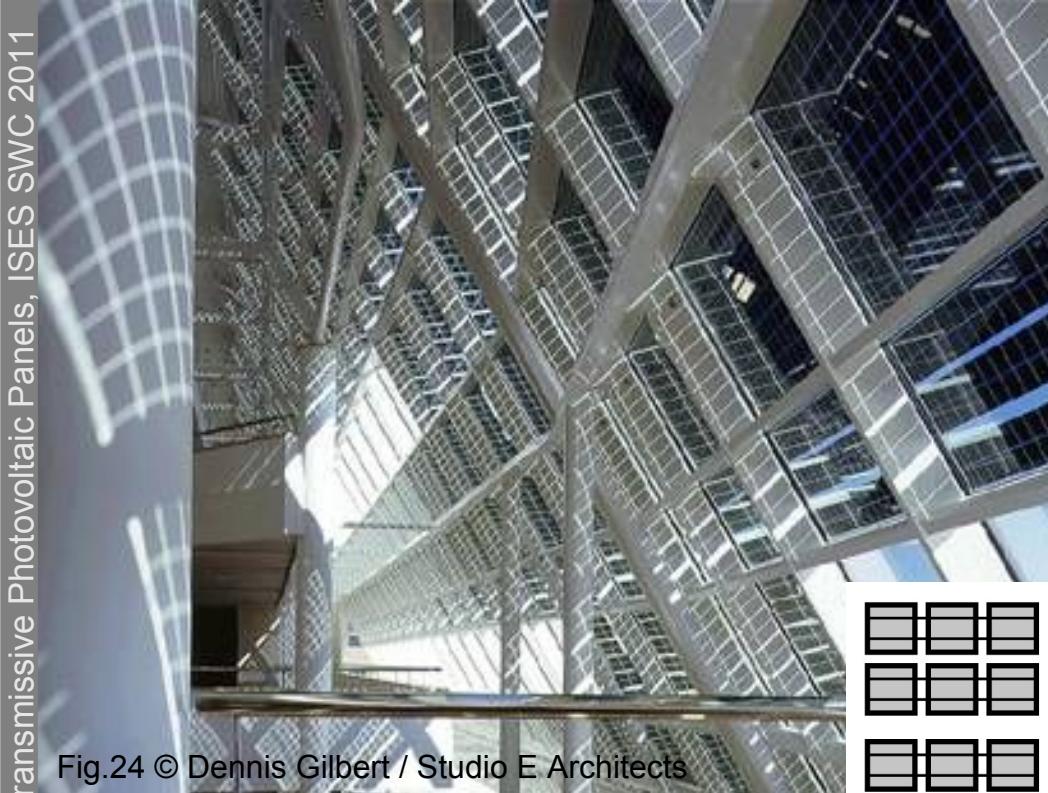


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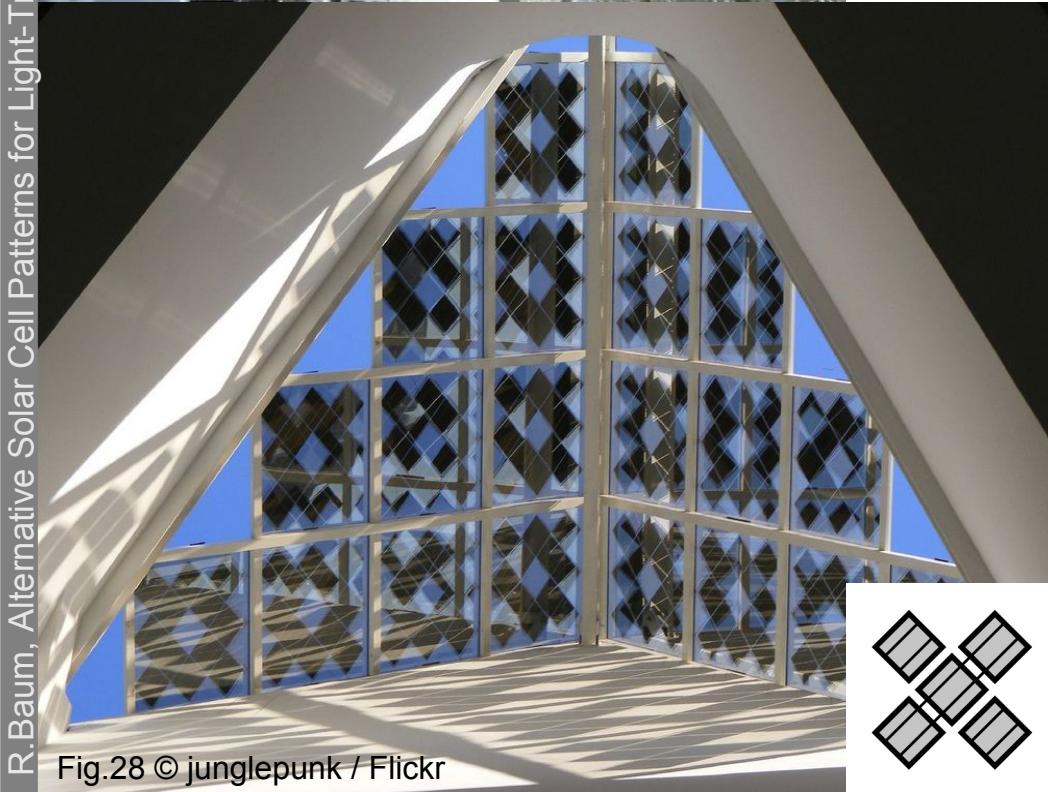


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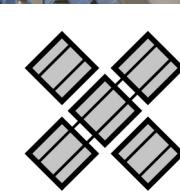




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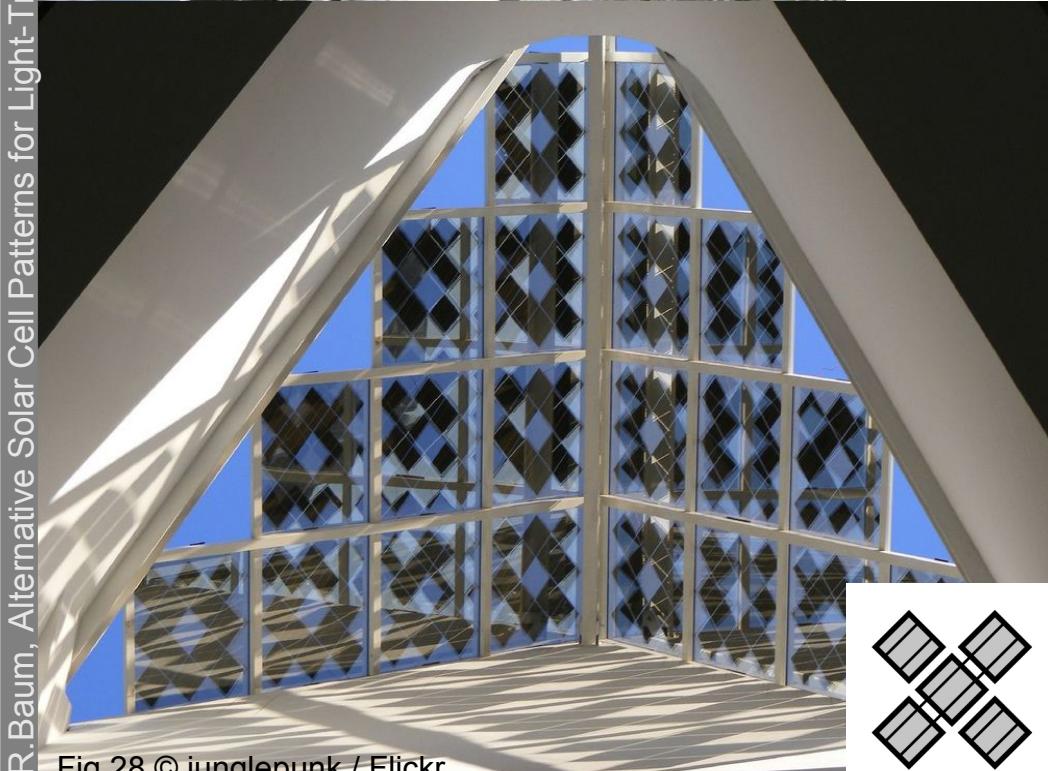


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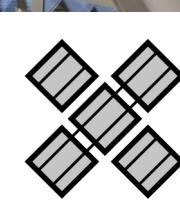


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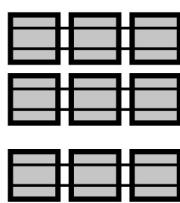


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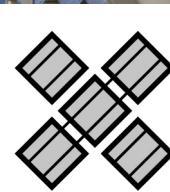
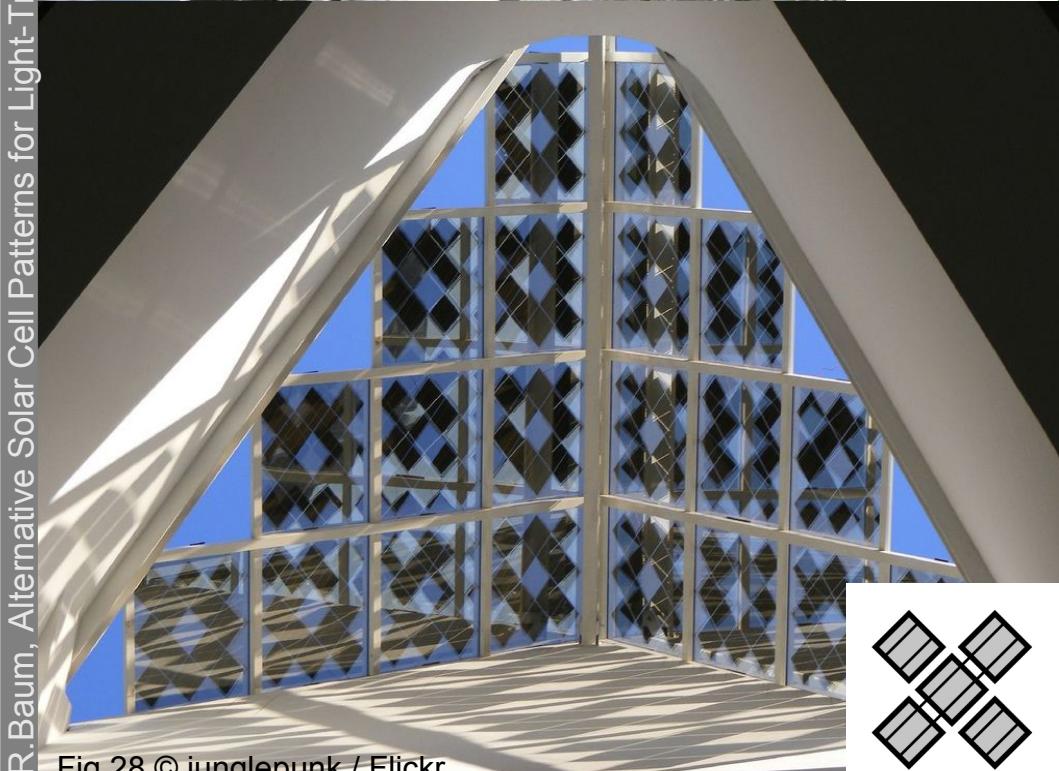
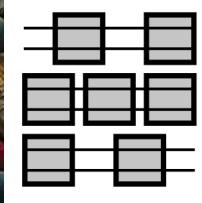


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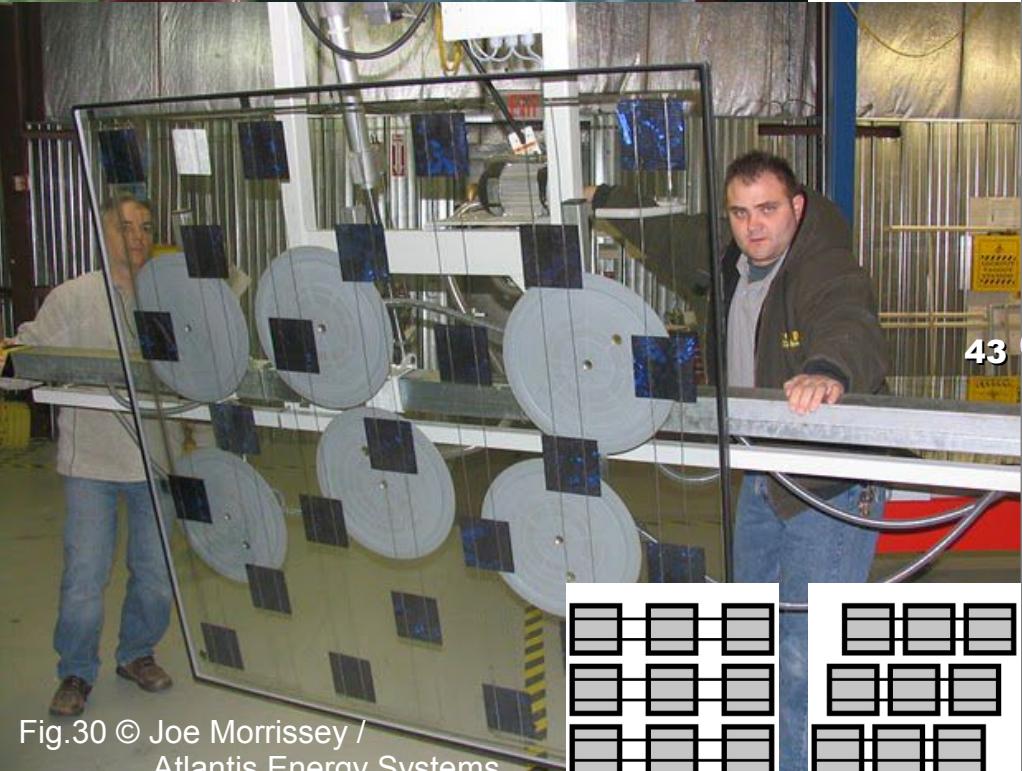
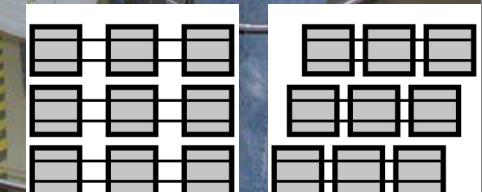


Fig.30 © Joe Morrissey / Atlantis Energy Systems



**Solar Office Doxford**  
Sunderland, UK, 1998  
architect: Studio E Architects

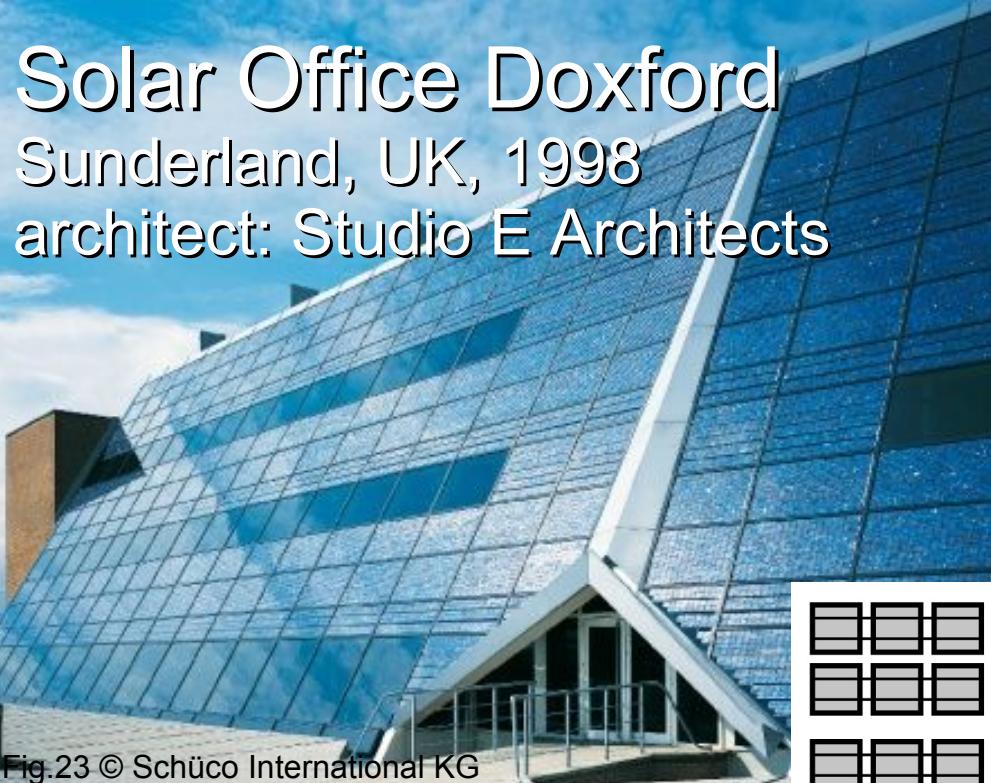


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**Ménara Airport**  
Marrakech, Morocco, 2008  
architect: E2A architecture

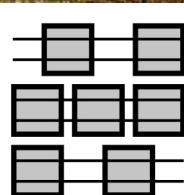


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**Christian Kindergarten**  
Dresden, Germany, 2003  
architect: Reiter & Rentzsch



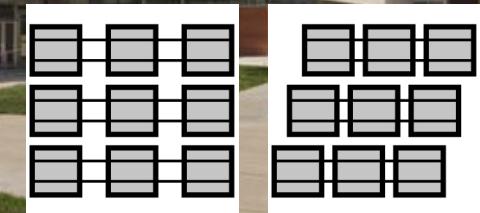
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**Community College**  
Kankakee, IL, USA  
architect: Legat Architects



Fig.29 © Legat Architects



### 3. Solar cell patterns of crystalline silicon cells

#### *3.4. the quest for designed, parametric patterns*

Patterns are

“a potent device for architectural articulation”  
(Schumacher, 2009),

“critical expressive devices” (Zaera-Polo, 2009).

“it is usually disguised by introducing an overlapped pattern or a 3-D manipulation of the surface”  
(Zaera-Polo, 2009)

“substituting orthogonal matrixes with innovative geometries developed by means of complex generative processes, based on casualness”  
(Scognamiglio et al., 2006)

## 4. 'W(e)AVE' – tilted and wave-like cell patterns

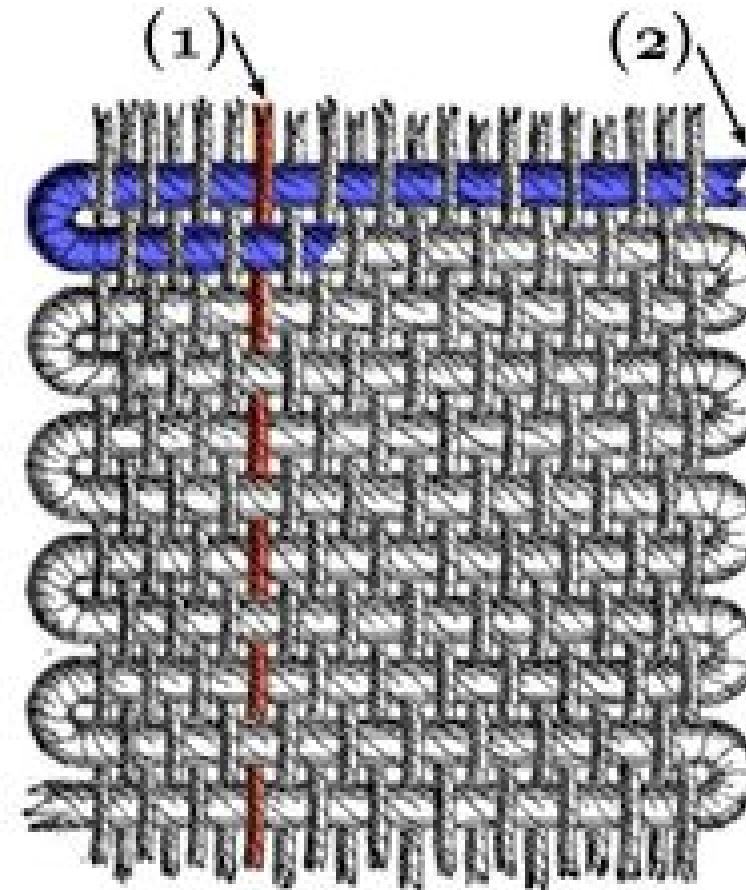


Fig.31 Wikipedia

## standard pattern

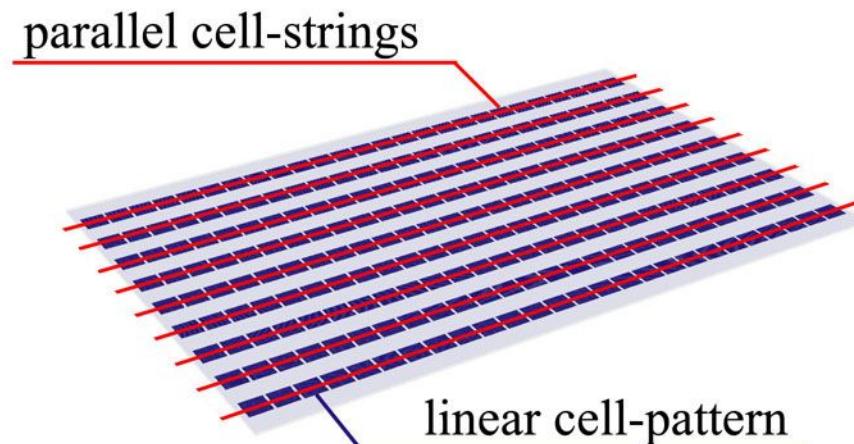


Fig.32 © Robert Baum

## 'W(e)AVE' pattern

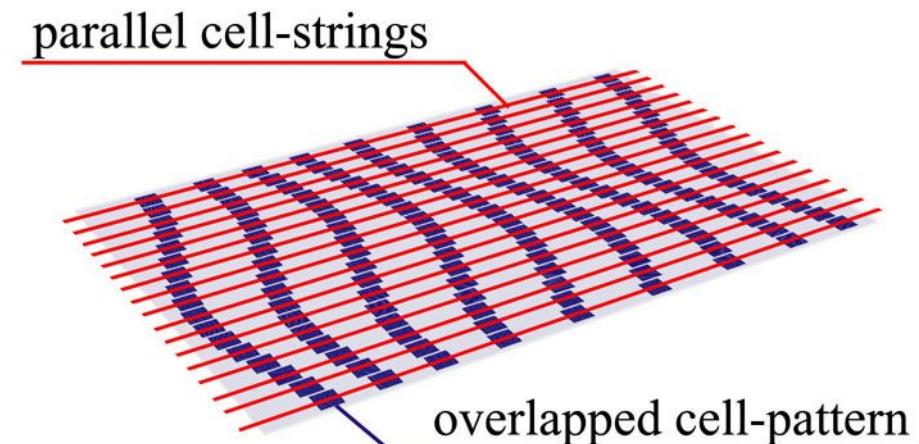


Fig.33 © Robert Baum

To make this approach operational,  
'W(e)AVE' is based on two parameters:

First, the spacing of the solar cells in cell-strings  
can have **more than one distance**.

However, linearity is kept in cell-strings.

Second, interconnection between neighbouring  
cell-strings doesn't require the cells to lie exactly  
side by side, **an offset between cells is possible**.  
However, parallel position of cell-strings is kept.

# Case study I

## tilted pattern, rendering of a two-panel BIPV

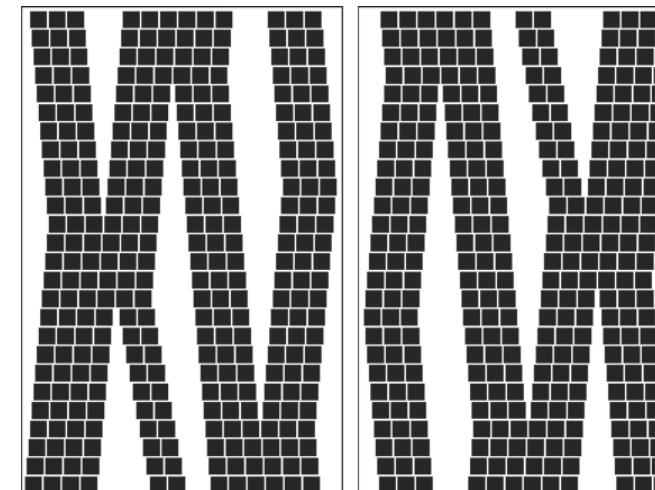


Fig.34 © Robert Baum

# Case study II

## sinusoidal patterns

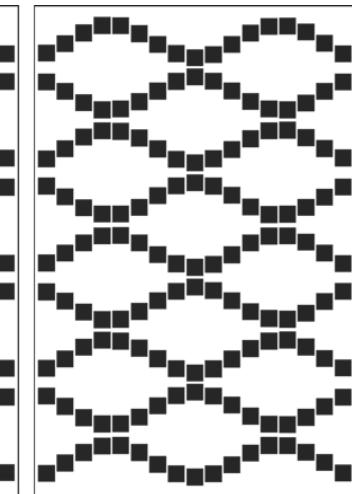
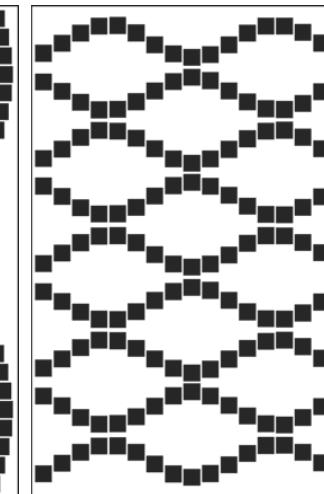
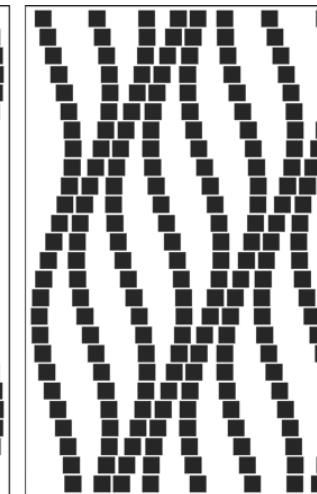
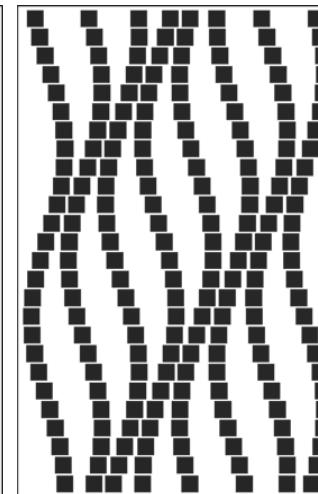
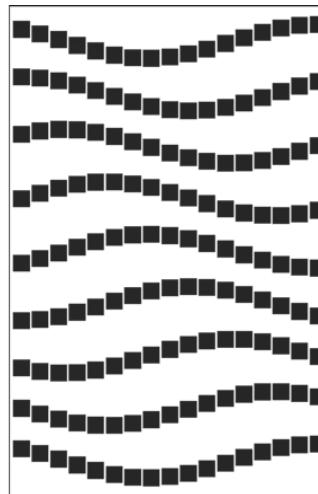
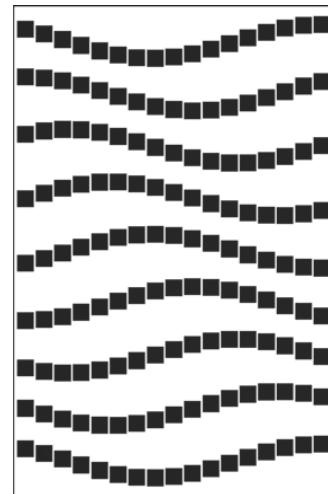


Fig.35 © Robert Baum

Fig.36 © Robert Baum

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# Case study III

free-form pattern, rendering of a five-panel BIPV

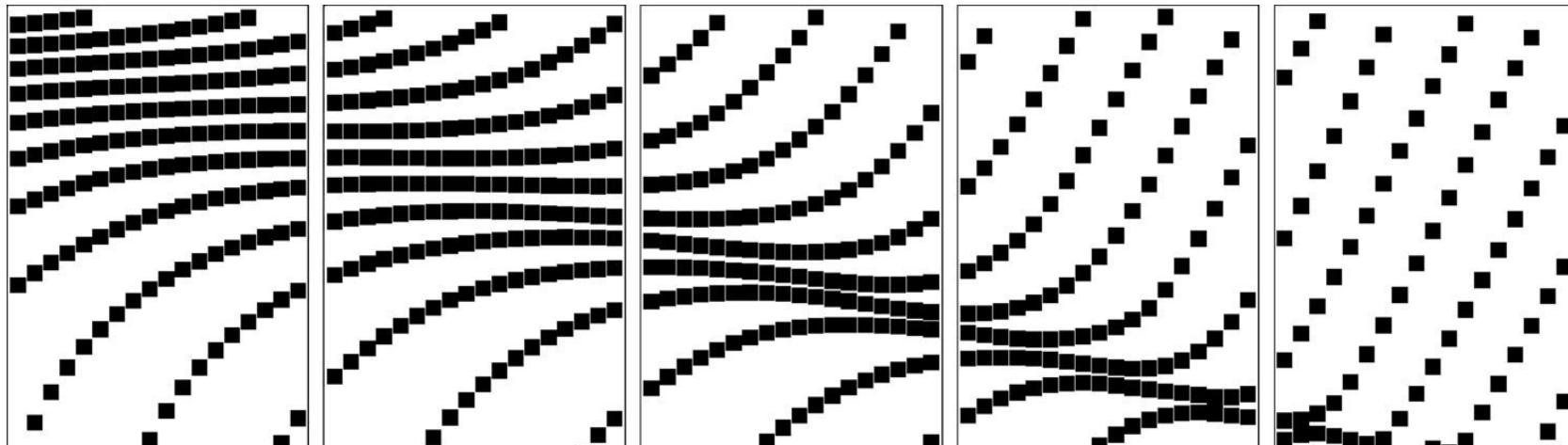


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## Case study IV

'W(e)AVE' pattern as transition between standard patterns

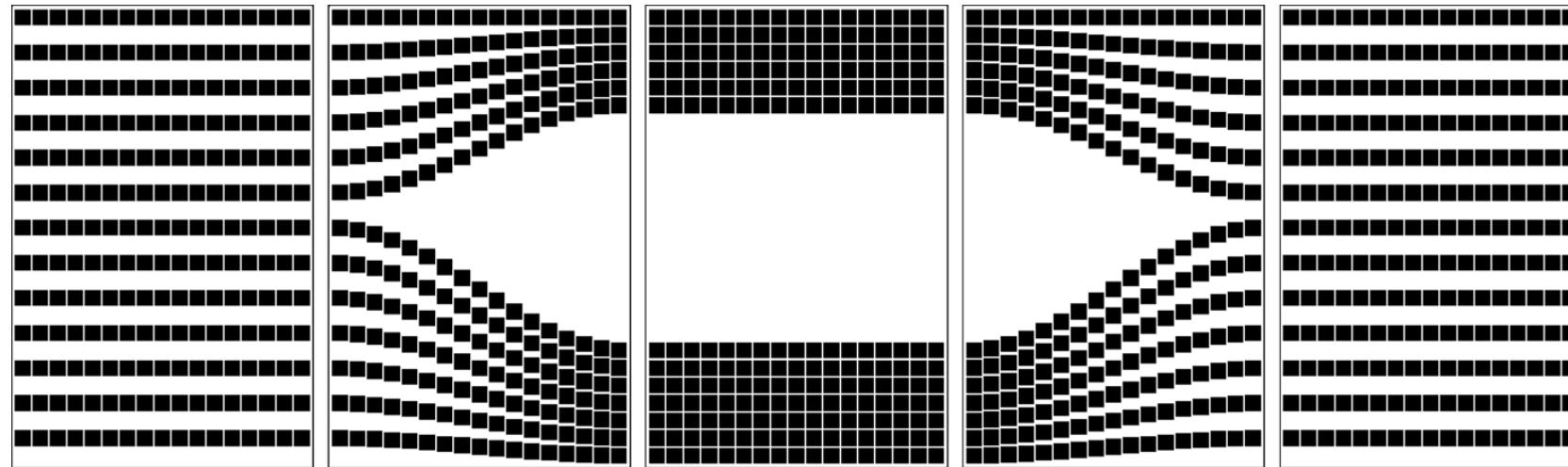


Fig.39 © Robert Baum

## 5. Conclusion

With the parametric approach 'W(e)AVE' a wide range of solar cell pattern variations akin to contemporary architectural design become possible, and enhance the options for individual designs and architectural integration of PV under the premise of “disguising” greatly.

A flexible change  
in the level of transparency  
enables the architect  
to set the visible connection  
between the interior space  
and outside of a building  
into a complex relation.

*Thank you for your attention*

Robert BAUM

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