

Logic to Artefact

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A Shelter for Play

Project Brief

Playfulness

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The main objective of this project is to present a solar-responsive skin that could change its responsiveness features parametrically and represent a playful design by changing its color. The shelter is located in Bristol and made of a steel structure with wooden panels. The panels are covered with thermochromic coatings that are passively tempreture-sensetive.

Computational Environmental Design

The shelter for play is responsive to sight, touch, light, and navigation to feature its playfulness nature. This project's focus is to develop a light-responsive design The integration of environmental considerations and computational methods in ligned with the design theory has led to a solar-responsive design. The energy generation potential of the shelter has been analysed for different formal iterations and throughout a year. The final form has been chosen based on the radiation and shadow studies.





Theory

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This project follows 'biomimetics' as a design approach and uses computational design as a tool to develop the design concept.



Design process



Material

Colour-changing materials

Smart material	Trigger
Photochromic	Light
Electrochromic	Electrical energy
Thermochromic	Temperature
Mechanochromic	Mechanical energy
Chemochromic	Chemical energy

Among the above options, thermochromic material is chosen considering the fact that the incident solar radiation recieved by a surface has a direct relationship with the temperature of that surface. Thermochromic (TC) coatings are dynamic solar control coatings that switch over time from high solar absorption at low temperatures to low solar absorption at high temperatures (A. Butt e t al.,2021). Also, there has been some research that introduce thermochromic films/coatings that can attain multiple color change.



Color-changing materials



Kinetic dress during various

https://www.rodeca.de/en/highlights/design-series/bicolor-1.html Ritter, A. (2007) Smart materials in architecture, interior architecture and design. Basel; Berlin; Boston; Birkhäuser, https://arquitecturaviva.com/works/centro-de-danza-laban-londres-8 https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/new-color-changing-coating-could-both-heat-and-cool-buildings/

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Abstraction: Form

Parametric equation

The form has been generated inspired by chameleon's tongue structure pattern (spirograph) using .the parametric equation method. Playing with z coordinate equations of the two generated curves has shaped the design.



1. The initial equations for x and y coordinates are x=2*cos(t)+cos(5*t) and y=2*sin(t)+sin(5*t) using the 'geogebra' website. The equation for z coordinates and further 7 manipulation on the x and y equations has been done by the designer based on the architectural considerations.

Form Generation

The x and y coordinates are constant. Different itterations have been developed by changing z coordinate.



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Form selection

3 forms (1, 6, 12) have been selected based on the following criteria:

1. The form should provide a **semi-open** space so that it can enhance

the concept of playfulness by encouraging exploration, offering flexibility, and enhancing the connection to nature

The shelter should provide the integration of stillness and

movement qualities in support of the concept of a playful shelter

Fabrication







Radiation analysis

Among the 3 selected forms, form 12 receives the most amount of solar radiation which makes it a better option for energy generation by BIPVs.



Shadow study

21st June, 9 A.M



21st June, 12 A.M



Shadow study, 21st June, 15 P.M

A comparative analysis has been done based on the forms' area of shadow in 21st June. Although the shadow coverage of all 3 forms at 12 a.m are almost the same, form 12 's shadow coverage at 9 a.m and 15 p.m is more than the other 2 forms. So, based on the radiation and shadow study, this form has been selected for the shelter.



Optimization

Maximizing solar radiation can result in maximizing solar panel efficiency because solar panels convert the energy from the sun's radiation into electrical energy. Therefore, the more solar radiation that reaches the panels, the more electrical energy they can produce.

Here, an optimization of skin's shape has been done to maximize the incident solar radiation using the combination of Galapagus and Ladybug. The shape has been created from 2 curves each of which has a u value for its z coordinate. Changing the u value has resulted in different shape variations. In the optimization step, the u value range has been redefined and limited considering the functional considerations. The results shows the shape with maximum u value for both of the curves is an optimized shape.





u1=Max, u2=Max











Maximum incident radiation= 1150.1 kWh/m^2





Maximum incident radiation= 1151.79 kWh/m^2

Thermochromic coating PVs

Abstraction: Skin's feature

Regional classification

Chameleons can change different skin regions to different colours (due to a cellular classification) and while one region becomes more orange or red, another one becomes more bluish or whitish. The Schematic diagram represents different colors based on regional classification which is the principle of this project's abstraction to achieve a color-changing configuration.



Chameleon's skin



Regional classification as a principle for the color-changing feature abstraction

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Color changing iterations

As expected, the coloration in warmer months of the year is lighter that the coloration in colder months of the year. This feature can affect the microclimate around the shelter and occupants' comfort in a positive way.



The coloured solar panels have been used in order to maintain consistency in the design. This would help the solar panels blend in with the overall aesthetic of the design, rather than standing out as a jarring element.







Form-Iteration1

Exceptions 5

Range Expression Construct Point Rang os(t)+cos(5*t) Result Interpolate Coordinate Coordinate 🐺 Point Expression Scale NU 3*sin(t)+sin(5*t) Res Degree Periodic KnotStyle Domain Geometry Plane Geometry Scale X 🛃 Scale Y Transform Merge Loft Mesh Brep Options Loft Settings Expression Number Sider 0 1.79 Number Sider 0 1:17 A Re Scale NU Settings (Custom) Number Sider 0 2.62 Plane G Scale X J Scale Y T Construct Point Number Sider 00 Range Interpolate Stitch Seams Simple Planes Redine Min Count Max Count Aspect Ratio Expression X coordinate Y coordinate 🐺 Point ns 📅 Range iber Sider 1.59 0 2.5*cos(t)+cos(5*t) Resul Degree Dength Periodic Domain Expression Number Slider 0 424 Number Sider Max Distance Max Angle Min Edge Number Sider 0 0.23 0.5 0 Expression Max Edge 1 (u*sin(t))^2 Rest Number Slider 0.0.1 Number Sider 0 437

Form-Iteration6

Exceptions Sy



Form-Iteration12

Exceptions



Form-Optimization



Radiation analysis



Shadow study



Final form



Coloration



Locating solar panels on the shelter (based on the whole year solar radiation study)