

EXPERT ANSWERS | PAULINE GROUGNET BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & PROJECT MANAGER, ACTIVSKEEN

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| PRODUCTS

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PAULINE GROUGNET Business Development & Project
ManagerACTIVSKEEN

Driven by an ambition equal to the climate challenges, ACTIVSKEEN, active solutions that aim to extend the role of the envelope. Its integrated photovoltaic panels, made to measure or semi-measured, offer multiple aesthetic possibilities for future positive energy buildings.

Editorial staff: What challenges does ACTIVSKEEN commit itself to take up with regard to environment ?

Pauline Grougnet: Our photovoltaic and aesthetic solutions respond to current and future energy and environmental challenges. In fact, depending on the projects and situations, up to 100% of the electrical requirement can be covered thanks to our active facade solutions and thus facilitate the emergence of energy self-sufficient buildings. In addition, they contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of buildings throughout their life cycle, especially during the operational phase, thanks to the production of renewable and local energy. Likewise, when judiciously positioned in a curtain wall or a glass roof, photovoltaic cells can act as thousands of mini-sunbreakers, limiting solar gain for better thermal comfort and reduced cooling needs. Finally, our solutions do not require any ground clearance, which frees up space to accommodate and develop biodiversity.

The editorial staff: With the integration of photovoltaic cells, the envelope of our buildings takes on a new function. Could you explain the principle of productive surfaces at énergie ?

P.G.: In the field of photovoltaics, this principle is known as BIPV, for *Building Integrated Photovoltaics*. This means that the traditional materials used in the building envelope (cladding, for example) are replaced by their active, photovoltaic equivalent, which must perform the same functions (thermal and acoustic insulation, protection against external weather conditions, protection of property and people, etc.) and be implemented with the same integration systems. Our photovoltaic solutions can be likened to laminated safety glass in which photovoltaic cells have been incorporated. They meet both photovoltaic electrical and building standards. Our modules can therefore be used on any surface of the building envelope: spandrels, ventilated facades, curtain walls, double-skinned walls, railings and balconies, canopies, shades and canopies, brise-soleil or even over roofs.

Wohnhaus Solaris, Zürich (Switzerland), architect: Huggenbergerfries, Unik range © Beat Bühler Fotograf

The editorial staff: How does ACTIVSKEEN support construction actors in the design of their projects ?

P.G.: ACTIVSKEEN positions itself as a complete integrator of photovoltaic solutions in the building envelope, with seamless support for our customers from the sketch to the acceptance of the installation. To achieve this, we mobilise multidisciplinary engineering equipped with the most advanced modelling tools to guide architects and project managers in their creation and design process, and thus optimise with them the benefits of these solutions. Through our subsidiary Ertex Solar, we have our own flexible production facility with unrivalled capacity to meet any technical and architectural challenge. Finally, we are involved in the definition of execution methods and site monitoring to simplify the interfaces between the parties involved (electrician, façade builder, installer). Our objective throughout the project is to ensure that we deliver an active, carbon-free energy-producing envelope without compromising on aesthetics. Résidence Lénine, Île-Saint-Denis, Horizon range

The editors: Could you please tell us about the performance and the many adaptations of the Ertex range Solar ?

P.G.: With our subsidiary Ertex Solar and its production capacities, we are able to meet extreme architectural challenges, as we can manufacture modules up to 5.1 m x 2.4 m and 1600 Wc. At the same time, for more conventional projects and to facilitate the implementation of photovoltaic solutions in the building envelope, we have developed a photovoltaic range "prêt-à-poser" depending on the functions required. To combine transparency and energy production, the Horizon range can be installed in double skins, curtain walls, glazed roofs, railings, etc. On opaque walls, for example spandrels or ventilated facades, we have a range of colours from black (with our Design Black range for a discreet photovoltaic signature) to blue, terracotta and various shades of grey in our Design Color range, to meet a variety of aesthetic expectations. Thanks to an exclusive photonic colour technology, the solutions in the Design Color range offer photovoltaic performance that is unrivalled on the market.

Interview _____ Pauline

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Visual at an Aesch, Switzerland, architect: Mark Rösli Architektur, Unik range © ertex solar
Dieter Moor

Find Activskeen's Expert Answer in Archistorm dated January - February 2021.