

Frodeparken





Aesthetic integration

The curved façade fits the surroundings and the black surface of the thin-film modules is not obviously PV to the non-expert eye. In addition, a few customized modules, which are not electrically connected, were needed to fill the whole façade with modules. (Mats Egelius - White arkitekter, Åsa Reinsson – Uppsalahem, Lars Hedström - Solkompaniet).

Energy integration

The PV electricity is used only for building functions and is not used by the households in the building. The annual electricity generation is around 70 000 kWh. 43% of the PV electricity is self-consumed, which corresponds to 28% of the total annual demand for the building functions, and the rest is fed into the external electric grid.

Technology integration

The building is constructed with a concrete façade on which the PV modules were installed with a mounting system from the German company U-kon. Metal hooks were fastened with rivets to the module frame and the module was then hang onto vertical bars attached to the building structure.

The curved façade was a challenge for the installation. Thin-film modules were chosen because of their smaller size than standard silicon modules, offering greater flexibility for the construction, so that standard modules could be used, lowering the cost of the façade. A tolerance of 10 mm in height for mounting 14 modules was needed. (Mats Egelius - White arkitekter, Åsa Reinsson – Uppsalahem, Lars Hedström - Solkompaniet).

Decision making

The idea of a BIPV façade on this building was raised by White arkitekter when they were hired for the town-planning process of the area. A glass façade was an alternative to a BIPV façade far into the design process. Uppsalahem wanted something that stood out. It was also an owner directive by politicians on the board of the city-owned Uppsalahem to promote renewable energy. The main reasons for the project were profiling and to enhance PV competence within the company.

The original design was made with blue silicon cells and customized modules but during the design process, it evolved to black standard-sized thin-film modules with frames. Uppsala is a university city with outstanding research in thin-film solar cells. The CIGS thin-film technology used was originally researched and developed in Uppsala. This was one of the reasons why it was chosen to replace the blue silicon cells by black CIGS. (Mats Egelius - White arkitekter, Åsa Reinsson – Uppsalahem, Lars Hedström -Solkompaniet).

Lesson learnt

The architect Mats Egelius was a key person in the process. He was the person who introduced the idea of a PV façade. He was hired as a city planner already when the restructuring of the neighborhood next to the train station was planned. It would be a new entrance to the city and the current building would be a symbol of innovation and sustainability. When black modules were suggested instead of blue, it was said that a building permit was not going to be allowed for a black façade. However, Mats had a large mock-up built and prepared detailed written material, much more accessible than normal, since he and

Uppsalahem wanted this to be built. In the discussions with the Uppsala municipality about the building permit, Mats also borrowed a black module to demonstrate it. He managed to convince the officials to give a permit for the black façade.

One crucial success factor was that BIPV was included very early in the process and integrated into the design. It would have been much more difficult to include BIPV if the idea had come at a later stage. The PR value became higher than expected, including media attention, visits by politicians, and other study visits at both national and international levels. The curved façade in Frodeparken made the installation more difficult than if the façade had been a straight façade. The building owner Uppsalahem is very pleased with the BIPV façade. Even though Uppsalahem has not made a similar façade installation since this one, they now consider PV on roofs in every project and plan buildings to accommodate PV installations on roofs in the future. For instance, they plan the position of other installations on the roof such that they would not prevent PV installations from being added in the future.

Of the 350000 € total investment, the share for the PV contractor part was 280000 € and the rest was for sheet metalwork, connections and internal costs. The PV module share of the PV contractor cost was 32%. The installation work represented a large share of the cost, since it was more complex than a standard installation on a roof. In the first investment decision, the PV façade was not included. It was added in an extra decision, in a meeting regarding the building permit and budget in 2010. Until then, an alternative glass façade had been discussed. An investment subsidy of 120000 € was granted for the PV installation. However, this was not vital for the decision to install PV, since the decision was taken before the subsidy was granted and the subsidy was considered as a bonus. If a glass façade had been chosen instead, the façade cost had been about 250000 – 300000 €, similar to the PV façade cost. Taking the investment subsidy into account, the cost for the PV façade became lower than for a glass façade. In addition, it is believed that the PV installation increases the value of the building. Additional income is obtained from electricity certificates, with a value of 0.01 €/ kWh early in 2018, and from tax deductions for excess electricity fed into the grid, maximized to 1800 €/year per company. The tax deduction was introduced in 2015 and had no influence on the investment decision.

PROJECT DATA

Project type	New construction
Building function	Residential
Integration system	Opaque cold façade
Location	Stationsgatan 52, 753 40 Uppsala, Sweden

BIPV SYSTEM DATA

Module type	Standard modules
Solar technology	CIGS thin-film
Nominal power [kWp]	100
System size [m²]	898
Module size [mm]	1,196 x 636

Orientation	South-West to South-East
Tilt [°]	90

BIPV SYSTEM COSTS

Total cost [€]	-
€/m²	-
€/kWp	-

PRODUCER DATA

Producer	Solibro GmbH
Address	Sonnenallee 32, 06766 Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Germany
Contact	-
Web	https://www.solibro-solar.com/



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1. Curved BIPV façade © White arkitekter, Thomas Zaar 2017
2. Next to the train station and the city centre © White arkitekter
3. PV modules start above ground floor level © White arkitekter
4. The installation was made with a scissor lift © Solkompaniet
5. Evolvement of the BIPV façade. (1) Original design in building permit © White arkitekter
6. (2) Revised design with thin-film modules © White arkitekter
7. Display on the façade © BEAR-iD