PROJECT REPORT

SWISSPANEL SOLAR – custom-printed front glass for photovoltaic modules

A colour-coordinated power-generating façade

The colour of the vertically mounted photovoltaic modules matches the original brick façade. Photo: 3S Swiss Solar Solutions AG

This apartment building, located in the town of Cham in the Swiss canton of Zug, dates back to 1974. While the eight flats had been gradually modernised, the façade was clearly showing its age. During the renovation, the property owner not only aimed to enhance the building's appearance and improve energy efficiency through insulation and window replacement; on the south- and east-facing façades, photovoltaic modules were also installed to replace the original brick façade. Because the building is situated in a protected local heritage zone, these modules

were colour-matched to the previous façade elements. The newly installed fibre cement panels are also colour-coordinated. The result is a fully refurbished 50-year-old building that maintains its original character while simultaneously generating over 10,500 kWh of electricity per year from its façade.

Only upon closer inspection do the PV modules reveal themselves. The absence of frames enhances the seamless aesthetic. Photo: 3S Swiss Solar Solutions AG

The colour-matched photovoltaic modules use SWISSPANEL SOLAR from Glas Trösch, a front glass treated with special ceramic inks. The printing is optimised to achieve the best possible balance between colour saturation and the performance of the solar modules. The efficiency reaches an impressive 75% compared to standard black modules. The photovoltaic modules were manufactured by 3S Swiss Solar Solutions, a company that specialises in system solutions for building-integrated photovoltaics.

Additional images:

The image on the top right shows the original condition of the apartment building with the brick façade from 1974. Photos: 3S Swiss Solar Solutions AG

Signboard:

Project: MFH Obermühlestrasse 7, Cham

Developer: Buuregnossi Cham

Architect: Hüsler Architektur, Cham

Façade planning/installation of PV modules: Schuler Gebäudehüllen, Cham

Colour-printed front glass for PV modules: SWISSPANEL SOLAR, Glas Trösch

Manufacturer of PV modules: 3S Swiss Solar Solutions

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