Taking advantage of microcontrollers in preparing smart prototypes to design a movable glass architectural facade

Ibraheam Mohamed Taha Elkhateb

Lecturer, Glass Department, Faculty of Applied Arts, Damietta University, Ibmimt82@Gmail.com, ibraheam-elkhateb@du.edu.eg

Mohamed Gamal Garhy Seadawy

Lecturer, Industrial Design Department, Faculty of Applied Arts, Damietta University, mohamedelgarhy@du.edu.eg, melgarhy320@gmail.com

Abstract:

The prototypes of glass architectural facades are early samples designed to test specific concepts before the implementation of the facades definitively, they are one of the final stages of design and in light of modern trends in architecture and with the currents and schools that appear in the current era and reflect social, cultural and technical changes and with modern trends represented in high-tech architecture, environmental architecture, green architecture, sustainable architecture, smart architecture and postmodern architecture. Solid three-dimensional stereoscopic models free of movement or interaction with the environment to smart models simulating modern glass architectural destinations by taking advantage of microcontrollers, programmable electronic chips, small motors, interactive electronics and others to prepare a smart prototype that can be moved and interacted for glass architectural façade designs commensurate with the modern era and its requirements. Therefore, the study is divided into some important axes, where the first axis is concerned with studying microcontrollers and determining their capabilities by addressing their components andStudy Problem: - Despite the great development in the work of prototypes and the use of 3d printers, these rigid models do not really reflect the interactive glass architectural facades, and therefore models must be developed to become mobile interact with the surrounding environment to achieve the greatest possible simulation. - The scarcity of the presence of dynamic glass architectural facades, as the designs depend on the stability of the glass facades and leave the movement to other materials that advance them.

Research Assumptions: By studying the mobile architectural facades with different materials and studying the aspects of movement for each of them, mobile glass facades can be designed to achieve sustainability by ventilating the internal space and protecting it from weather factors by studying the appropriate types of glass for that and the aspects of movement of the façade, and microcontrollers can be used to prepare mobile prototypes simulating those facades in terms of movement and interaction with environmental variables.

Objective: -Design of movable glass architectural facades whose mobile prototypes can be prepared electronically in an intelligent interactive manner

Study Approach: Analytical and descriptive approach

Results: 1- The study resulted in the values of knowledge of microcontrollers and their capabilities and how to benefit from them in the preparation of a mobile interactive model 2- The study reached some aesthetic and functional considerations for architectural facades, which can be achieved by glass material with high efficiency, producing smart interactive mobile architectural facades. 3- The study shows that it is possible to make interactive moving glass architectural facades, as the glass façade has never been moved, as it is always fixed except from some windows or to be covered with a moving structure with other materials. 4-Shedding light on the importance of smart and interactive mobile models in the field of mobile architectural interfaces, which can be achieved with the help of microcontrollers through the Arduino panel and some sensors and auxiliary electronics. 5- Reaching the best type of glass that can be used in mobile architectural facades and how to install it.

Paper History:

Paper received February 22, 2024, Accepted May 02, 2024, Published on line July 1, 2025 Keywords:

Microcontrollers; Arduino; Kinetic architectural facades; Movable glass facades; Smart prototypes. **References:**

- 1- Ahmed Mohamed Hammad, K., et al. (2014). Take advantage of modern technologies in glass design for architectural facades. Journal of Applied Arts and Sciences, Vol. 1, No. 2.
- 2- Ismail Serageldin. (2007) Renewal and Rooting in the Architecture of Urban Communities The

Experience of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

- 3- Rasha Mohamed Ali Hassan Zeinhom (2009). The effectiveness of technological standards in the design of glass facades for architecture in Egypt, PhD thesis, Faculty of Applied Arts, Helwan University.
- 4- Azza Othman. (2017). Benefiting from the tributaries and mechanisms of natural creativity in making contemporary designs suitable for Egyptian architectural facades. Journal of Architecture Arts and Humanities, Vol 2, No 7.
- 5- Mohamed Ali Hassan Zeinhom, A., et al. (2021). Natural factors (lighting) and their impact on glass facades in futuristic architecture. Journal of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, Vol 6, No 26.
- 6- Mohammed Nabil Ghoneim. (1999). Visual impressions of architecture. Master's Thesis, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University.
- 7- Nathila Abdel Samie Mustafa Al-Hamouli. (2003). The impact of glass architecture on the architectural character PhD thesis Faculty of Engineering Cairo University.
- 8- Barozzi. Marta, Lienhard. Julian, Zanelli. Alessandra, Monticelli. Carol, (2016), "The sustainability of adaptive envelopes: developments of kinetic architecture", Procedia Engineering, Vol. 155.
- 9- Sharaidin. Kamil, (2014), "Kinetic Facades: Towards design for Environmental Performance", Ph.D in Philosophy, School of Architecture and Design RMIT University, Australia.
- 10- Bharati. Pragya, (2014), "Kinetic Architecture: on Sustainable Means", E. book, https://issuu.com/.
- 11- Nagy. Zoltan, (2016), "The Adaptive Solar Facade: From concept to prototypes", Frontiers of Architectural Research, Vol. 5, Elsevier B.V.
- 12- Kensek. Karen& Hansanuwat. Ryan, (2011), "Environment Control Systems for Sustainable Design: A MethodologyFor Testing, Simulating and Comparing Kinetic Façade", Journal of Creative Sustainable Achitecture& Built Environment, CSABE, Vol. 1.
- 13- khayat. Youssef Osama, (2014), "Interactive Movement in Kinetic Architecture", Paper Published, Journal of Engineering Sciences, Assiut University, Vol. 42, No. 3.
- 14- Fortmeyer. Russell& Charles Linn, (2014), "Kinetic Architecture: Designs for Active Envelopes", IMAGES Publishing Group, Australia.
- 15- Brakke. Aaron Paul, (2015), "Dynamic Façades and Computation: Towards an Inclusive Categorization of High Performance Kinetic Facade Systems", Computer-Aided Architectural Design Futures, Springer, New York, USA.
- 16- Guenther Gridling, Bettina Weiss Publisher. (2007). Introduction to Microcontrollers. Vienna University of Technology.
- 17- Milan Verle. (2010). Architecture and Programming of 8051 Microcontrollers. Publisher: mikroElektronika.
- 18- Simon Monk. (2016). Programming Fpgas: Getting Started with Verilog. Publisher McGraw Hill Tab
- 19- Ethan Thorpe. (2020). Arduino: Advanced Methods and Strategies of Using Arduino. Kindle Edition.
- 20- https://www.syr-res.com/article/12189.html
- 21- https://calatrava.com/projects/milwaukee-art-museum.html
- 22- Dynamic Facades : The Story Arch2O.com
- 23- www.archdiwanya.com/2022/04/Kinetic-Facade.html?m=1

CITATION Ibraheam Elkhateb, Mohamed Seadawy (2025), Taking advantage of microcontrollers in preparing smart prototypes to design a movable glass architectural facade, International Design Journal, Vol. 15 No. 4, (July 2025) pp 39-54