skin-deep: high performance dynamic facades
special topics in high performance buildings design and evaluation

Much attention is given to the aesthetic and materiality of high performance facades but less on the process of their conception or their performance potential. Innovations in facade techtonics are of growing interest, however, less debates are centered on the theoretical grounds that guide their application or rigorous evaluation investigating their actual environmental dynamics. The objective of this seminar is to critically investigate high performance facades and develop ideas and prototypes for active and dynamic building skins that has the capability to change according to thermal and optical needs. Consequently, they could be statically optimized allowing environmental conditions to activate the indoor space. Regardless of either intention, this seminar will develop ideas and prototypes for re-skinning an existing all-glass building through a series of exercises leading to a construction of full-scale mock-ups that will be tested on the Facade Integrated Technologies (FIT) testing facility.