For the past 40 years, Somfy has invented, designed and created both controls and motors for openings and closures in homes and buildings. Today, we are committed to enhancing the performance of façades by developing scalable and flexible solutions for dynamic solar shading solutions. Irrespective of the building shape or type of solar shading, each building is unique and must adapt to the end-users’ requirements throughout its lifetime.

We see façades equipped with automated solar shadings and transparent glazing as the best solution to connect occupants to the outside environment while protecting them from glare and contributing to energy-performant buildings. Control is the key to maximising these benefits and it is vital to automate solar shadings.

Somfy and its 52 subsidiaries worldwide have already equipped tens of thousands of buildings around the globe with the animeo product range. Our projects span a wide range of building types from hotels to offices, education, residential and healthcare buildings.

In publishing this reference book, we wish to present a non-exhaustive list of these worldwide projects completed between 2013 and 2016, thereby convincing you that Somfy is the leading partner in building construction/façade design. Because our customers and partners are our best ambassadors...
Buildings dedicated to education have a common goal: encourage access to knowledge. In order to accomplish this vital role for the future, buildings must provide the most comfortable working environment for students and teachers alike. Discover in the following projects how Somfy contributes to the occupants’ comfort while also reducing energy costs.
In keeping with the high level of technology used throughout the project, along with the goal of enhancing the occupant’s thermal and visual comfort, a sophisticated system for a high performance façade was crucial. Somfy’s animeo KNX provided the perfect façade management system for this project and is the first of its kind in Australia. The fully automated system is intuitive and provides simplified programming of all functions, including sun tracking. It also provides the option of manual override at a room level.

Controlling multiple blinds, animeo KNX guarantees natural light management, glare protection and better viewing comfort. This not only saves energy spent on artificial lighting and improves and harmonises the lighting conditions in the room; it also actively enhances the occupants’ well-being and learning capacity.

The automated solar shading system ensures that the centre’s high performance façade quickly adapts to the changing weather during the course of the day and the changing seasons over the course of a year, utilizing multi-point sun sensors. Somfy’s intelligent controls ensure the impressive display contained within The Cube is always protected from the sun’s harsh light. The displays include 14 high-definition projectors, and over 40 multitouch screens and sound technology.

The Somfy animeo KNX system also has the ability to give occupants the flexibility to adapt to their needs by overriding the control of blinds in their local area. The system is remotely linked and is accessible at any time through the use of the internet or smartphones.

The Science and Engineering Centre has achieved a 5-star Design Education V1 Certified rating from the Green Building Council of Australia.

Somfy’s animeo KNX provided the perfect façade management system for this project and is the first of its kind in Australia.
The Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm Zentrum is a building boasting cubist strictness and clarity. The deeply inset window openings have no frames or ledges, while their different sizes ensure architectural diversity. All openings are fitted with automatically-operated sunshades.

The centrepiece and design-related inside the library is the central reading room – a series of terraces rising up through four levels on two sides.

The glass roof in the Grimm-Zentrum offers optimum visibility, as zenith and natural light is three times brighter than side lighting. Furthermore, ceiling openings make it possible to light spatial depths that cannot be reached through window glazing. There are nevertheless some disadvantages with regard to visibility where computers are used. Certain angles of incidence and intensity levels of natural light can result in reflections and glare on the computer screen. To prevent this, the roof openings are fitted with motorised horizontal screens.

To ensure effective networking of all elements related to sun protection in the Grimm-Zentrum, animeo IB+ has been used. Because different influencing factors such as sun, wind and rain affect the screens on the different sides of the building, the façade is divided into a total of 14 zones, controlled individually by the external weather station. This protects the screens from damage while maintaining optimum visibility for the room users.

For each of the 14 zones, a freely-chosen sun protection position can be programmed by PC or via centrally placed area sensors, so that the screens are always in an optimum position. These enable employees to counteract the central commands whenever necessary.

The Grimm-Zentrum is a perfect illustration that high performance façades are playing an increasingly important role, in particular with regard to user comfort. Flexibility, compatibility and reliable technology are key factors in achieving the right balance between the use of daylight, glare protection and material safety.
**The Multidisciplinary Biomedical Research Building is the newest research facility and the largest construction project to date for Wayne State University in Detroit.** The interdisciplinary building promotes interaction among all scientific areas with the goal of promoting human health and societies.

In the research facility, the animeo IP/RS485 system provides a balance of light as the researchers come and go. There is no occupant control except for within the conference rooms. The audiovisual system in these rooms will interface with Somfy’s intelligent motors via the dry contacts at the rear of the Decoflex keypads.

The shades within the MBRB space are fully automated with no manual overrides providing a balance of light and a reduction in glare. The animeo IP software is installed on the network allowing designated personnel to override the system.

The systems automatic control protocol is based on the external sun sensors and control logic configured within the animeo IP Building Controller. Solar entrance depth parameters will be set to limit the light trespass within the space.

Within the automatic control areas, all solar shades shall be controlled by logic in response to environmental data from the external sun sensors. Solar shade positioning depends on sun penetration depth set within the software and the sun position. The automatic position can be overridden by local keypads or by the facility management software.

The audiovisual system in these rooms will interface with Somfy’s intelligent motors via the dry contacts at the rear of the Decoflex keypads.
OFFICE

Offices are now places where most employees spend the majority of their working hours. So it is essential that they are designed and built to provide maximum comfort for their occupants. Productivity depends on it. Discover in the following projects that Somfy solutions are the perfect match for the needs and restrictions of the office sector.
**EY CENTRE, 200 GEORGE STREET**

**SYDNEY**

**AUSTRALIA**

- Offices
- New building
- Closed Cavity Venetian Blinds
- Owner: Mirvac Development, AMP Capital
- Architect: FJMT
- Installer: Permasteelisa / Somfy
- Façade Engineers: Surface Design
- 6 star Green Star - Office Design v3
- 5 star NABERS Energy

**ANIMEO SOLUTION**

- animo KNX
- 756 KNX Motor Controllers
- RTS cards
- Building IP backbone with remote access
- Shadow management
- Web Remote access via the internet
- Installation and commissioning by Somfy Electrical Services

200 George Street occupies a coveted dress circle location overlooking Circular Quay on Sydney Harbour. The project was part of a City of Sydney Design Excellence competition and is home to project developer and builders Mirvac and EY, perhaps better known as Ernst and Young.

This new premium grade landmark building, designed by architects Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp, embraces innovation and high technology to produce a tower form that is organic and responsive. The façade of the building is striking and also one of its most innovative elements as it is the first project in the southern hemisphere to use a closed cavity façade. A closed cavity façade takes the high performance of a traditional double skin façade and brings it into a more space efficient solution. This unique system adjusts to external factors and occupant preference.

Somfy partnered with Permasteelisa to deliver the façade on this project. Permasteelisa have developed a unique moisture-maintenance free integrated façade panel unit that features built-in solar shading. In the case of 200 George Street, it is the timber blinds and clear glazing that will give 200 George Street façade a warm and inviting finish, unlike anything else on the Sydney skyline.

Somfy has been working closely with Permasteelisa to design, supply, install and commission on a façade control solution that benefits such a cutting edge project. Utilizing KNX and a building-wide IP network the Somfy solution offers sun-tracking, shadow management and integrated web based remote controls. This ensures the occupants of the building will always have the right amount of natural light and balancing the needs of glare control and energy efficiency.
In 2014, French construction group Bouygues Construction completed the renovation of all its headquarters buildings which were built in 1988 and have a total surface area of 67,000 sq.m. The aim was to reduce consumption of primary energy and water by 10% and 40% relative to their original values.

Somfy was introduced to the Challenger project as a supplier of motors for Venetian blinds and an intelligent blind system to improve user comfort and the buildings’ energy performance. To manage the blind system Somfy used a complete KNX-network compatible automation system; this enables intelligent management of the blinds according to weather conditions while communicating via the KNX network with other building systems such as air-conditioning, heating and lighting, to optimize the buildings’ overall performance.

System programming can be customized based on the buildings’ thermal and user comfort requirements. For the occupants, web remote control has been implemented on 2,600 workstations. Users can comfortably control their environment directly from their desktop.

In accordance with the most stringent environmental and energy efficiency specifications, the Challenger site in the Parisian suburb of Guyancourt is the first building to achieve a triple certification, awarded three of the highest environmental ratings with LEED “Platinum”, BREEAM “Outstanding” and HQE “Exceptional”. Users can comfortably control their environment directly from their desktop.
BBVA HQ

MADRID

SPAIN

Offices
New building
114,000 sq.m
6,000 employees
Roller blinds & exterior Zip-screens

Owner
BBVA

Architect
Herzog & de Meuron

ANIMEO SOLUTION
925 LON Motor Controllers
IB+ Motor Controllers
KNX Motor Controllers
3 sensor station extended
3,000 LT 50 Meteor motors
3,000 LS40 Mercure motors

SERVICES
Shadow management

Located on the northern outskirts of Madrid, BBVA’s new headquarters are not just a building but more like a small city with bridges, corridors, streets and restaurants. BBVA’s headquarters, which obtained LEED certification, are 114,000 sqm for the 6,000 people who work there. It consists of different areas: seven low buildings, one 20-floor elliptical tower 93m high called “La Vela”, and a business center for customers and visitors. It is the largest construction to be built in Spain after the crisis.

These new headquarters were the opportunity for BBVA to speed up the group’s digital transformation and revolutionize working methods. All employees work in open spaces without dedicated desks but with the possibility to book different kinds of working areas according to their needs at any time. The objective is to improve collaboration, share knowledge and stimulate decision-making at all company levels. In addition, BBVA put the emphasis on working conditions, improving air quality, light levels and temperatures.

A big challenge for Somfy which contributed to occupant comfort and well-being through an automated solar shading solution installed in the building. The animeo solutions (LON, KNX and IB+ technologies) manage 6,500 exterior and interior screens.

Various buildings are also equipped with the shadow management solution. Depending on the time of day, the La Vela tower shades the basement offices, affecting the level of sunlight in each room. Thanks to the shadow management solution, each solar shading device is controlled individually or per zone, thereby guaranteeing optimum levels of user comfort. This combination of solutions enhances the building’s energy efficiency and offers employees a more comfortable working environment.

All employees work in open spaces without dedicated desks but with the possibility to book different kinds of working areas according to their needs at any time.
At a meeting between Rabot Dutilleul and Somfy, the proposal to carry out a pilot project to assess the efficiency of the «Light Balancing» system drew the attention of the group’s Director of Sustainable Development.

For one year, this pilot floor was compared to a reference floor that kept its original equipment. Somfy and Philips assigned all of the energy and comfort studies to their partner IES. The goal was to measure and study the impact of the Light Balancing solution on:

- Visual comfort
- Thermal comfort
- Energy consumption

The energy savings mentioned in the scientific studies are reflected in substantial savings on the electrical bill, in the amount of 29%, which comes to 2€/m²/year.

Besides energy savings, this pilot showed a significant increase in employee productivity (+4.5%). Because the user comfort is the primary factor in the building’s operational performance.

Scan this QR code to download the complete case study!
SKYLABS

HEIDELBERG

GERMANY
Offices
New building
19,500 sq. m
Folding shutters

Owner
Skylabs SARL

Architect
Fischer Architekten GmbH
Stockwerk GmbH

Facade system:
POHL special construction

ANIMEO SOLUTION
animeo IB+
6 IB+ Building Controllers 8-zones
40 IB+ Motor Controllers
563 Output Converters
3 weather stations
6 Inside Sensor Boxes
600 motors

The SkyLabs building represents a landmark within the conceptual design of the «Bahnstadt» – a new quarter in Heidelberg. The «Bahnstadt» is both the biggest urban development project and the biggest quarter in Europe using the passive house standard. Besides this environmental requirement, the flexible creation of approximately 19,500 m² rental space was an important criterion, allowing tenants to use it according to their own requirements.

The sun protection elements form an important feature in the design of the building’s façade. More than 600 folding shutters on the outer skin of the building provide a very special three-dimensionality either opened or closed, creating a unified picture and wholeness of the building. The shutters are translucent and consist of perforated plating. Even when closed, natural light can penetrate the interior without limiting the user’s visibility and it is still possible to see the outside environment. This transparency makes the rooms feel spacious and likewise increases the level of working comfort.

animeo IB+ was the only solution on the market to satisfy the requirements for handling the shutters in terms of specific weather conditions. Three protection functions were implemented – wind protection, snow and ice protection and a security function. High wind loads start the wind protection function; the shutters close. The snow and ice function protects the shutters from damage by closing every 2 hours to avoid high snow loads on the shutters. In case of smoke or fire the shutters open to give the fire and rescue service free entry to the building.

The sun protection technology in the SkyLabs building is a good example how to harmonize demands on visual appearance of a building with the technical requirements. With animeo IB+ a unique façade construction as well as requirements on user comfort and energy consumption have been considered.
Swedbank offers a wide range of financial services and products in its home markets. In 2014, they relocated all the bank’s operations to a new modern and energy efficient 45,000 sq. m office with an estimated 2,500 workstations.

Because of the triple-V structure which breaks up the volume, the challenge were to manage the shadow cast by the building itself. Depending on the time of day and the building’s location, shadows move, affecting the level of sunlight in each room. The solution resided in the installation of the animeo KNX solution with shadow management capabilities.

Shadow management by Somfy is generated using a 3D building model taking various factors into account, like the building architecture, its geographical location, windows position, neighboring buildings...

These details are programmed into a database, applied as calendar of operation, and activated in real-time response to sun from sensors mounted on the roof. Thus, only windows/zones exposed to the sun have their solar shading lowered.

Controlling approximately 1,100 interior roller blinds thanks to the shadow management solution, the balance between natural and artificial light is optimized, contributing to the employee’s comfort and to the building’s energy savings.
The office of R.W. Baird is located within the US Bank Center in downtown Milwaukee. The building is 42 stories high, the tallest building in Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin. The US Bank Center is located along the shores of Lake Michigan with beautiful views of the water and of downtown Milwaukee. R.W. Baird occupies 14 of the floors within the building.

The 14 floors have SWF contract shades powered by Somfy intelligent motors and automated by Somfy’s animeo IP/RS485 system. The shades within the Baird space are fully automated providing a balance of light and a reduction in glare. There is no occupant control within the space except for virtual switches installed in designated offices. These virtual remote controls allow the employees to adjust the natural light level controlling the interior shades. The animeo IP software is installed on the network allowing designated personnel to override the system and the facilities manager has animeo IP software installed on the network with the possibility to override the system if needed.

After a first renovation phase, R.W. Baird decided to extend the installation to others floors.

Discover more about the animeo IP/RS485 benefits in R.W. Baird building!
ABU DHABI NATIONAL OIL COMPANY HQ

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's new headquarters is a landmark building in the United Arab Emirates and a symbol of ADNOC's status as one of the most prominent oil and gas companies in the world. In addition to office space, this magnificent tower includes a Corniche Club, the Supreme Petroleum Council and Crisis Management Centre, the Heritage Museum and other supporting facilities. The total constructed area is about 190,000 square metres.

The Tower is oriented north-south and composed of 64 floors. The architect and client wanted to keep the north façade as clear as possible for the stunning view of the corniche. They were nevertheless concerned about the heat gain they might create, causing a burden on the HVAC system and thermal discomfort for people sitting next to the façade.

The north façade has double glazing with an automated internal roller blind, while the south façade has a double skin system mechanically ventilated with a roller in between.

List of functions:
- Programming for every window/motor
- Control from each office room via the workstation computer in addition to the control via BMS
- Automation by sun intensity (heat and light)

The total constructed area is about 190,000 square meters. The Tower is oriented north-south and composed of 64 floors.
The new head-office building for the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), located in the Yeoido District of Seoul, was completed in December 2013. The 240-metre-high tower with 56 floors comes with an innovative exterior wall, specifically designed by Chang-jo Architects and Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill architects.

The use of photovoltaic panels integrated into the building was seen as an architecturally appealing way to meet the strict zoning requirements, while the optimization of the panels became a driving factor in developing the architectural concept.

Somfy Korea installed guide-rail type roller screens to be used on inclined windows, applied to most parts of the building. To comply with the city's low energy plan, Somfy Korea suggested using animeo LON whose open protocol is capable of controlling motorized roller screens, HVAC and lighting.

The FKI tower was therefore the first commercial building to receive the EPI 1st grade (Energy Performance Index), which is the highest score for sustainable design awarded by the Korean Institute of Civil engineering and Building Technology (KICT).
J. Lauritzen A/S is a shipping company with operations worldwide. They operate more than 150 vessels including short-term charters. One of their many offices is located in Esbjerg, on the west coast of Denmark.

J. Lauritzen’s employees suffered glare from the sun and overheating when working on their computer.

This 2 floors building is equipped with the animeo IP/io solution. The setup consists of exterior screens with io-motors, Smoove origin local controls, a Compact Sensor and, of course, the animeo IP/io Building Controller, 1 sub-controller and the io Transceiver. Installation was quick and easy thanks to the use of the wireless products. The facility manager receives system alerts to ensure increased peace of mind while maintenance will be facilitated in the future allowing easy upgrades to the system.

Thanks to the perfect blind alignment, animeo IP contributes to improving the aesthetics of the façade. Last but not least, the aim of improving both visual and thermal comfort for the occupants has been achieved.

Watch the video here to discover the benefits of the animeo IP/io!
ONE ALBERT QUAY

CORK

IRELAND

Offices
New building
175,000 sq. m
Roller blinds
Owner
Green Reit PLC
Architect
Henry J Lyons Architects
Developer
JCD
Building contractor
BAM
Engineering
MMOS
Blind contractor
ACME blinds

ANIMEO SOLUTION
animeo IB+
8 Building Controllers
200 IB+ Motor Controllers
200 RTS cards
Smoove switches
800 Sonesse 40 WT motors

JCD decided to implement automated blinds in this project as it is a flagship building within Cork that will set the standard for years to come. One animeo IB+ 4 zone building controller per tenant was specified by Somfy. In addition, animeo Inside Sensor Boxes control 800 Sonesse 40 WT motors using animeo IB+ motor controllers with RTS cards for local command. Room control is then realized via RTS Smoove switches. The BMS integration is achieved via DCT into each building controller and the zoning is per façade and per floor.

This system has been copied on two new projects with the same developer and another two projects will follow.
The Savola Group is a leading strategic investment holding company in the food and retail sectors across the MENAT (Middle East, North Africa and Turkey) region. The Panda tower is located at the centre of Jeddah City by the Red Sea and forms the eastern tower of the Headquarters Business Park. The tower will accommodate Savola Group Board members and employees.

The eastern and western façades form the main office area of the whole building and the client’s requirement was to establish a timer/schedule through the BMS control room to open the blinds on different levels on each façade throughout the day and night.

The LON/BACNET BMS system provides 5 different intermediate positions for various times throughout the day with the benefit of an occupant override function using the RTS card receiver.
Healthcare

Buildings dedicated to healthcare share the same primary objective: to take care of patients’ lives. This has a significant impact on their design, construction, use and energy performance. Discover in the following projects how Somfy animeo operates as an intelligent tool for the patients and staff, night and day.

Realised with Somfy®
This luxury residential care building built in 1852, comprises 20 apartments with 64 external screens to control glare and reduce solar heat gains through the glazing. The initial need was to have a central control combined with local controls to give occupants the upper hand over the automation, thereby offering them more comfort and flexibility. Wind protection was also required to avoid damage to the carrier product.

The particularity of the project was that installing any cables in the building was not an option. Consequently, animeo IP/io was the best solution. It is a wireless solution perfectly suited to renovation projects.

The Building Controller and the three Sub Controllers communicate directly with each motor by radio. The timer function is enabled on local controls to have a central control function for three hours and also in winter months.

The customer’s requirements were met: no cables inside, no renovation and no disturbance for the occupants thanks to the choosing of animeo IP/io.
The 429-bed medical center is the cornerstone of Cook Children’s Health Care System. It offers top medical minds, advanced technological equipment, leading surgical techniques, rehabilitation facilities and ancillary services designed to meet the unique needs of children. Linbeck Group, from Fort Worth, orchestrated the construction of the new 6 story, 314,000 square foot healthcare facility using Somfy automated solar shading solutions.

Owners wanted to maximize occupants comfort and energy efficiency by employing sun tracking. They also wanted to limit the need for keypads by using virtual switches on desktop PCs. Somfy systems partnered with SWF Contract and Quiltcraft Industries Inc. to manufacture and install 220 Sonesse ILT2 motorized roller shades throughout the Cooks Children’s medical office building. The motorized shading solutions installed in the Medical Center are controlled by the animeo IP/RS485 technology.

Automated solar management throughout the Medical Center improve patient’s comfort, and will increase productivity and energy savings for many years in the healthcare facility. Automated control of shades ensures that occupants are not affected by solar gain and glare but have access to daylight.

Solar Entrance Depth Management ensures that daylight penetration does not impact occupants at their workstations.

Somfy systems partnered with SWF Contract and Quiltcraft Industries Inc. to manufacture and install 220 Sonesse ILT2 motorized roller shades throughout the Cooks Children’s medical office building.
The Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Oakland, CA is the flagship hospital for Kaiser Permanente which is one of the largest not for profit hospital organizations in the country. The Kaiser Permanente development team is committed to using the latest technologies in order to control and manage the natural light entrance in the building.

The design team at Kaiser Permanente partnered with Somfy and Peninsulators to manufacture and install 390 motorized roller shades powered by Somfy Sonesse 50 ILT motors into the hospital’s patient rooms. Intelligent keypads are installed on the headwall of every patient room and are integrated to the patient bedside control system via dry contact wiring.

The automated shades increase productivity of the nursing staff and empower patients by integrating the shading system into the patient bedside control system and nursing stations.

The keypads are programmed to provide complete up and down control of the shades, as well as intermediate control at intervals of 25, 50 and 75% animeo IP is also programmed into the nurse’s station PCs to provide additional control and real-time feedback of the shading system, thus ensuring the staff knows the status of all the shades at all times.
The Center for Psychopharmacology in Forskningsveien 13 is part of Diakonhjemmet Hospital, located at Vinderen in Oslo. Diakonhjemmet Hospital is a non-profit corporation owned by the Diakonhjemmet Foundation.

Three zones needed to be controlled – east, south and west – which is why two animeo Solo units were used. Sun tracking was not a prerequisite in this case. One of the main concerns was to have one switch per room and to be flexible in reprogramming the switches.

Another major wish was to keep the visible wiring inside the building and the rooms to a minimum which could be perfectly realized with RTS switches. The good cost-benefit ratio and the reliability of this system convinced the investors to choose animeo Solo.
Palo Alto Polytrauma & Blind Rehabilitation Centre

Palo Alto
United States

Healthcare
New building
16,200 sq. m
Roller blinds
Architect
Smith Group JJR

Animeo Solution

Animeo IP/RS485
150 Decoflex digital keypads
228 Sonesse 50 motors

The Palo Alto polytrauma and blind rehabilitation centre construction were completed in spring 2014. The three-story facility is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver equivalency. It is the first and only VA Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centre to be combined with a Blind Rehabilitation Center.

At 174,000 square feet, this new facility is the largest consolidated rehabilitation center in Virginia. The Rehabilitation Center includes 24 beds for the polytrauma program, 32 beds for the blind rehabilitation program, and 12 beds for the polytrauma transitional rehabilitation program.

The center will also have an outpatient physical therapy/occupational therapy clinic, an outpatient physical medicine and rehabilitation clinic, and clinical programs for Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans.

Flexible to install, easy to use and scalable, the Somfy digital solution animeo IP/RS485, installed in Palo Alto, is a perfect match for the needs and restrictions of the healthcare sector.
The hospitality sector is constantly required to meet new demands and new challenges. Its buildings should be able to express the originality of a unique offering that provides increasingly personalized services. In the following project, discover how Somfy contributes to improving thermal and visual comfort while offering more privacy and new aesthetic atmospheres.
The Oceania Hotel group is a family-owned company that has built and managed hotels for over 40 years. They have four brands with different positioning (Oceania, Oceania Escale, Oceania Style & their new concept, Nomad Hotels). The Nomad Hotel concept is a breakthrough in the hospitality industry. The technological design of this concept enables rooms to be customized according to guests’ wishes and habits based on eco-responsibility. In addition, it optimizes the hotel staff’s daily tasks as all devices are centralized and managed through the hotel Property Management System.

In order to achieve this, Nomad partnered with Somfy, Crestron & Daikin to set up a flexible, automated guest-room management system and deliver a unique guest experience. Guests are fully autonomous and can choose to control the different room devices through a single tablet PC. Moreover, they can select only the devices they need during their stay (using heating/ventilation or not, measuring water consumption, managing TV access, calling reception, etc.). At the end of their stay, they only pay for what they have used.

The automated roller shutters and interior screens are integrated with the Crestron intelligent system. This helps regulate both lighting and temperature within the room, ensuring that guests have the right amount of natural light balanced with the need to control glare (to watch TV, etc.) and to achieve energy efficiency. The facility manager receives real-time failure detection alerts and can resolve failures in under 24 hours. Somfy has been working closely with Crestron and Daikin to design, supply, install and commission a multi-application guest room solution and succeed in being the official supplier to the Oceania Hotel group. This will be duplicated in all other Nomad Hotels.

Guests are fully autonomous and can choose to control the different room devices through a single tablet PC.
Smart solutions for larger residential buildings (multi-family units) should not only be for the high-end residential sector, but for all buildings where a low energy consumption and high level of comfort is desired. Discover in the following projects how Somfy solutions, keeping temperature at a constant level and controlling natural light, are key contributors to the building’s tenants daily comfort.

RESIDENTIAL

Realised with Somfy®
On the site of a former gearwheel factory in the Leutschenbach district, they rise toward the sky: The two 62 meter towers of « The Metropolitans ». Each of the two residential towers in the north of Zurich contains 106 condominiums and satisfies the Minergie standard of energy efficiency. Thanks to their compact structures, the buildings need very little energy for heating. «The Metropolitans» draw that energy from a nearby thermal power station as part of an integrated district heating system. A layer of loggias surrounds the entire building volume, giving the rooms a high degree of privacy as every apartment is equipped with such an outdoor area of loggias between the inner and outer façade. But the dual façade sets not only architectural standards. The outdoor area enveloping the building bridges the distance to the “inner façade” – the building’s thermal shell – and at the same time fulfills an important ecological function, particularly during the summer months. During the hot season, the double façade provides natural shade, keeping temperatures in the interior pleasantly cool and creating a comfortable atmosphere without the use of energy-consuming air conditioning. In the fall and winter, when the sun sits lower in the sky, its rays penetrate into the apartments’ interiors and help to warm them naturally. Essentially, the zone between the insulated inner façade and the outer façade wrapping around it works as a thermal buffer. In addition, the floor-to-ceiling windows are equipped with automatic vertical blinds. These allow residents to control heat, cold, and light penetration at any time to achieve their ideal individual comfort level without complex technology or large amounts of energy. A sensor array on the roof controls the approximately 500 blinds by means of an animeo IB+ façade management system in combination with one TouchBuco per apartment.

Each of the two residential towers in the north of Zurich contains 106 condominiums and satisfies the Minergie standard of energy efficiency.
In 2015, following extensive renovation work, the Director of 6B47 Real Estate Investors, Sebastian Nitsch, opened the residential building under its new and illustrious-sounding name, the Alphatower: “With the Alphatower, we have created affordable accommodation of the very highest level. The apartments are accessible to anyone and are particularly attractive thanks to their central location.”

The Alphatower also boasts a state-of-the-art approach to energy concerns – to this end, the existing façade was thermally redeveloped as a rear-ventilated tile façade, essentially retaining the appearance of the previous stone masonry. To ensure as much natural daylight as possible reaches the close to 80 residential units while providing optimum heat and glare protection around the clock, the developers decided to install an Animeo KNX solar protection control from Somfy. This only turns the venetian blinds to a shading position if the indoor temperature rises too high or if there is a risk that visibility will be severely impaired due to glare or reflected sunlight.

With the exception of safety-related (wind) commands, the occupants can override automatic mode at any time via their local control points. The electrical company Elin from Unterpremstätten has installed a total of eight wind sensors spread across the entire façade. However, the screens are only raised according to the wind direction on those façades that are affected by the wind alarm. All other façades remain shaded. Another major advantage for building management is the seamless integration into the bus technology through the use of KNX enabling solar shading, lighting, air conditioning and safety elements to be inter-coupled and fully compatible with one another.

“With the Alphatower, we have created affordable accommodation of the very highest level.”