

See shade in a new light



Comfort and performance at work
Intelligent solutions for connected and automated shading in offices

somfy®



Intelligently managing daylight

for increased comfort, well-being and sustainability

Controlling light and heat while preserving natural resources is a fundamental human need. However, the way we live is changing and we now spend around 90% of our time indoors – so how can we ensure we still meet this need?

Whether new build or renovation, considering the effective use of daylight is essential when undertaking a commercial office building project. There are primary requirements and challenges to be addressed: and daylight management plays a role in each of them:

- Health, well-being and productivity of occupants
- Energy consumption
- Sustainability
- Connectivity

Through connected and automated dynamic solar shading, you can help satisfy the demanding requirements of a building's energy efficiency and sustainability by optimizing natural light, preserving the full spectrum of daylight and diffusing light, where required.

With dynamic solar shading, Somfy technology is used to automate and control external and/or internal solar shading devices such as screens, blinds and shades via an intelligent building control system.

Combining dynamic shading with the right type of glass also ensures the occupants get the benefits of daylight and a view to improve comfort, well-being and productivity.



The Human Factor

daylight for health, well-being and productivity in offices

With generations X, Y and Z now co-workers, and each with differing work styles and needs, the workplace should keep everyone healthy, motivated and productive.

Research has shown that exposure to large amounts of daylight has a positive influence on the comfort and well-being of building users, and on their productivity, making it an essential consideration in workplace design. Even minor changes to these factors can have a large impact – for example, a 2% – 5% change in environmental factors can increase or decrease productivity by 6% to 19%.

Studies show the connection between natural light levels and productivity in offices can;

- Improve function and memory by up to 25% (source Heschong 2003)
- Increase processing capacity by up to 12% (source Heschong 2003)
- Increase productivity by up to 23% (source Loftness 2003)

Taking simple and effective measures when considering the building design can influence the occupants' productivity in the long term. By offering choice and control of the working environment, this has a link to engagement, productivity and effectiveness.



Creating energy efficient, sustainable office buildings

Managing energy consumption and creating greener buildings is now a priority. As average outside temperatures increase, there is a real risk of our buildings overheating.

Managing daylight effectively can play an important role when it comes to the lighting, heating and cooling of office spaces and can save up to 15-20% of a building's total energy consumption.

The EPBD (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive) recommends dynamic solar shading as an energy efficient solution.

Satisfying the first step of the Trias Energetica, dynamic solar shading can drastically reduce the need for active cooling and, through the optimization of daylight, also impacts on the level of artificial light required.

When it comes to office buildings, creating smarter, greener spaces brings with it many beneficial business effects, such as; a reduction in operating expenses and positive ROI, increased market value and better financing. And a truly green building helps promote a positive company image and impact on the workforce.

In Europe, 40% of the total primary energy used is in buildings

Up to two thirds of the energy consumption in buildings is used by heating and cooling

Up to 35% of electricity costs result from the use of artificial light.

- The value of building green**
- 30-50% reduction in energy use (source UNEP 2012)
 - 16% increase in asset value (source American economic review 2009)
 - 35% decrease in carbon emissions (source UNEP 2012)

Connected, smarter buildings

As green building becomes a priority, connectivity and the secure and effective use of data plays an important role. Smart building technology supports flexible working, optimizing employee comfort and productivity; and offers energy efficiency and control to owners and tenants.

- 30%** of the world's energy is used by buildings; and
- 20%** of global CO₂ emissions are produced by buildings.

The EU Climate and Energy Package, also known as the 20-20-20 targets for 2020 consists of three goals:

- 20%** Reduction in energy consumption
- Reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to 1990
- Of energy to come from renewable sources.

Why choose Somfy as your partner?

Office design is evolving; however, people still spend most of their working hours indoors. Therefore, it's essential that the workplace delivers maximum comfort for the occupants' well-being and productivity

We work in close collaboration with designers, contractors and facility managers, together with our industry partners to deliver a solution that works for your commercial office project.

We provide the complete solution for dynamic solar shading; from the development, design and manufacture of motors and intelligent building controls; through to installation, commissioning and maintenance. Our locally based expert teams will advise and support your project from the outset; from design and specification, to ensuring your solution stays optimized once in use, for your current and future needs.

By working together in this way, the final solution fits both the building and user needs. Occupants have the freedom to easily manage the levels of natural light in their environment; minimizing glare, modulating heat and ensuring comfort and privacy. And by limiting the use of artificial lighting, heating and air conditioning, you're optimizing energy efficiency, and thus sustainability.



THE BUILDING USER
Comfort & well-being of the building users



THE BUILDING
Efficient energy management



THE ENVIRONMENT
Sustainability – reduced CO₂ emissions

About Somfy

Somfy's leading smart management solutions for homes and buildings have been improving people's daily lives for over 50 years.

Developed with comfort, ease of use, security and sustainability in mind, our innovations automate and connect rolling shutters, curtains and blinds, gates and garage doors, lighting and heating, alarms systems and more. We are committed to creating useful solutions that are accessible to all, designed for today and beyond.

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