Q1 Building, ThyssenKrupp Quarter

Essen, Germany

Architect: JSWD Architekten + Chaix & Morel et Associés
Owner: ThyssenKrupp AG
Year of completion: 2010
Climate: Marine West Coast Climate
Material of interest: Stainless Steel
Application: Exterior

Properties of material: 400,000 metal “feathers” are anchored into 3,150 routered stainless steel moveable stalks, which can be mechanically controlled to transform the façade to allow more or less light into the building. The 1,280 motorized elements can be closed to create a more solid enclosure, follow the position of the sun, or be entirely open to allow maximum solar exposure. The louver system directs natural light into interior spaces, reducing the need for electric lighting. It also keeps the glazed areas cool enough that the building does not require an air conditioning system.

Sources:
http://www.archdaily.com/326747/
http://inhabitat.com/germanys-q1-building-boasts-a-dazzling-facade-of-400000-metal-feathers/q1-ed03?extend=1
http://www.architectmagazine.com/projects/view/q1-building-thyssenkrupp-quarter/178/