

## Optimization of BIPV based on electrical energy generated and return of investment

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><i>Article history:</i> Received April 28, 2021 Received in revised form June 07, 2021 Accepted July 06, 2021 Available online December 01, 2021</p> <p><i>Keywords:</i> BIPV Electrical energy Existing building Renewable ROI</p> <p><b>*Corresponding author:</b> Susan Architectre Study Program, Faculty of Creative Industries, Univesitas Ciputra Surabaya, Indonesia Email: <a href="mailto:susan@ciputra.ac.id">susan@ciputra.ac.id</a> ORCID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0924-8200">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0924-8200</a></p>	<p><i>The non-renewable resources used in generating electrical energy have decreased. The National Energy Council reported that Indonesia has huge potential renewable energy resources with the highest from solar energy but only 5% is utilized. This is indicated by the very small number of building owners willing to install the technology related to renewable energy in the country due to the high initial cost of installation. Moreover, existing buildings have other boundaries such as the limitation caused by the structure and potentially available integrated area. This study, therefore, proposed a BIPV model in an existing building to contribute to the maximum use of renewable energy in a relatively limited potential-available integrated area. This involved the application of the experimental method to several models using the amount of electrical energy generated and ROI as the optimization parameters. The ROI was used to provide a more comprehensive review showing the period as the most critical determinant of investment to a building owner. The results showed the installation of PV on an opaque wall in the west orientation is the optimum configuration based on its ability to generate 777741 kWh/year of electrical energy which exceeds the existing consumption volume. Meanwhile, the ROI was 4.36 years and this is relatively short compared to the 25 years of PV life guaranteed. It is important to note that the optimization of this model was supported by the largest number of integrated areas and the high annual radiation it received. This significant contribution of this study is that the electrical energy and ROI should be fully considered by building owners in applying PV.</i></p>

## Introduction

There is abundant solar energy to be used as a renewable energy resource but its use in Indonesia is still very small. This is indicated by a lesser number of building owners willing to install the technology on existing buildings due to the limitation of structure and potential-available limited area as well as the high initial cost of installation. Several BIPV models have, however,

been designed under different positions, tilts, and orientations and later simulated using Archipak software and mathematical models to evaluate the solar radiation received, electrical energy generated, cost of investment, and the annual cash inflow. This present study was, therefore, conducted to analyze the performance of BIPV and determine the optimum configuration in terms of electrical energy generated and ROI value. It

also aimed to illustrate the results graphically to serve as a reference for building owners.

The Energy X.O concept (Karnama 2019) introduced four pillars covering renewable energy investments, sustainable transportation, local energy system, and new energy solutions. The concept is targeting three groups consisting of utilities, large energy consumers, and new players. This means renewable energy investment is expected to provide benefits such as asset ownership and more control, energy cost reduction, and reduction of dependency on utilities to Ciputra Group which is one of the large energy consumers. Therefore, the Universitas Ciputra building was used in this study to determine the reliability of renewable energy investment based on electrical energy production and return on investment value. The building topography is presented in figure 1 and is observed to be located in Surabaya, East Java province, Indonesia. It is geographically located on 07°29 S Latitude and 112°63' E Longitude and this indicates the presence of abundant solar radiation. Moreover, the data obtained from local Meteorological and Geophysical Agencies showed the average solar radiation in each month for 5 years (2015-2020) in Surabaya ranged from 5632 – 7404 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. The abundant solar radiation in the building is associated with its location in a suburban area with low density, not so many neighbors, and no tall buildings around. Furthermore, the building is owned by the Ciputra Group which is a pioneer in sustainable large-scale development in Indonesia. It was designed based on significant efforts to reduce the need for electrical energy. This is indicated by the shallow layout, facing elongated side to north and south orientation, a vertical greenery system usage, application of a secondary skin on its east and west façade, OTTV calculation, use an inverter AC system, maximizes daylight utilization, and uses 100% electronic ballast for an artificial lighting system. These strategies subsequently reduce the thermal transfer value and cooling load needed by the building. However, this energy consumption reduction has not been complemented with efforts to supply energy from renewable resources.



Figure 1. Building's topography

This study, therefore, proposed a BIPV model in an existing building (Universitas Ciputra) as a contribution to the maximum use of renewable energy in a relatively limited potential-available integrated area. The model was optimized based on annual electricity production as well as the return of investment. The findings showed the building owner there is a need to consider electrical energy production and return of investment in making the decision to apply PV.

Buildings are conventionally associated with huge energy consumption due to HVAC, lighting, and, recently, information and communication technologies (Vinueza et al. 2020, 1–10). This perspective has been supported by much data. For example, building energy performance analysis in Europe showed 40% of their national energy is being consumed (Visa et al. 2014, 72–78). It has also been discovered that buildings consume one-third of the world's energy (Srinivasan et al. 2012, 300–315). They are also responsible for up to 36% of GHG emissions. A similar trend was also found in Indonesia where energy consumption increases mostly from the industrial, residential, and commercial sectors (Handayani and Ariyanti 2012, 33–38). The total energy demand is 60%-70% electrical energy sourced mostly from fossil fuel which is a non-renewable energy resource. Several strategies have been proposed to reduce the huge energy consumption. These include the use of energy-saving equipment as applied by China on its lighting system for rail transportation (Lai, Dai, and Rameezdeen 2020), increment in energy efficiency by converting waste energy into recovered energy (Karnama, Haghighi, and Vinueza 2019, 1–3), and switching to renewable energy resources as applied in Nigeria residential housing through solar energy – solar photovoltaic or PV cells (Elinwa, Ogbaba, and Agboola 2021, 1–8).

Renewable sources such as wind, solar, etc. have been shown considerable attention in power production to overcome the problems of pollution and environmental degradation (El khchine and

Sriti 2021). Indonesian Government has also consistently supported the use of renewable energy sources specifically through the issuance of a regulatory policy, the National Energy Policy, based on PP No. 79/2014 used to set up the target for Mix Energy Program to be 23% in 2025 and 31% in 2030 (Menteri Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral Republik Indonesia 2016). This was necessary due to the fact that only 5% of the approximately 450 GW renewable energy resources available in the country are utilized (Departemen Rating Development Green Building Council Indonesia 2012). These contradictive numbers showed Indonesia actually has huge potential resources but their use is still very minimal due to the high initial cost of the technology needed. This, therefore, subsequently increases the cost of energy when compared to those produced using a non-renewable resource. Meanwhile, the most abundant renewable energy source in Indonesia is solar energy (Dewan Energi Nasional Republik Indonesia 2019). According to the Secretariat General of the National Energy Council, solar energy covers more than 200 GW of the 450 GW renewable energy sources available in the country. Most of Indonesia has approximately 4 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> solar radiation intensity and this was estimated more precisely to be 4.5 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day in the West Region and 5.1 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day in the Eastern Region (Handayani and Ariyanti 2012, 33–38).

Photovoltaic is one of the most potential solar energy technologies used in generating electrical energy from a clean source (Sreenath et al. 2020, 1–5). One of its applications is in the BIPV which is a system used in combining PV with typical building fabrics (Elinwa, Ogbaba, and Agboola 2021). BIPV provides additional value due to its ability to generate electrical energy right in the place it is needed as well as to reduce the cost for the building's conventional façade material (Tabakovic et al. 2017). Its performance, however, depends on some group factors including those related to PV such as PV types (Kaur and Kaur 2019), numbers of cells (Salmi et al. 2012), and PV's efficiency (Bonifacius 2018). It also some building-related factors such as shading condition (Urbanetz, Zomer, and Rüther 2011), availability of integrated surface (Susan and Wardhani 2020b), and tilt and orientation angle (Hussein, Ahmad, and El-Ghetany 2004; Mehleri et al. 2010; Susan 2017; Urbanetz, Zomer, and Rüther 2011). This also an external factor in the form of solar radiation (Hussein,

Ahmad, and El-Ghetany 2004). Furthermore, there are three types of PV commonly found in the market and the most efficient is the mono-crystalline but its use has certain boundaries such as its limitation to wall cladding due to its weight and opaque character. Meanwhile, glass cladding leverages the lightness and transparency of the polycrystalline and amorphous types. It is also important to note that the number of PV cells varies from 36-216 cells and the smaller modules are preferable in the installation process. Nowadays, the efficiency of PV ranges from 18% to 19.6%. Meanwhile, the shading condition which is a building-related factor is divided into two types and these include the soft and hard, thereby, causing a 25%-30% power reduction of electrical energy generated by BIPV. Another factor related to the building is the availability of an integrated surface, especially existing ones. It is also overlapped by the boundary of the building structure not constructed to support the PV load. This study, therefore, focused only on the impact of tilt and orientation angle on the electrical energy generated by the BIPV. As a general rule of thumb for PV installation, tilt is determined as the same angle with geographical latitude, 20° – 30° for areas at low latitude, or facing the equator in the orientation angle between -15° – 15° measured from the horizontal plane (Hussein, Ahmad, and El-Ghetany 2004). A previous study conducted using thin-film BIPV showed the performance of BIPV inclined at 15° and placed at the east orientation was better compared to the other orientations and angles (Kumar, Sudhakar, and Samykan 2018). Another research in tropical weather conditions showed the PV installed on a façade oriented in the north direction performed lower when compared to other facades and roofs (Kumar, Sudhakar, and Samykan 2020). It is, however, generally known that solar radiation is abundant in an area near the equator and lower for those at a higher latitude. Moreover, the literature reviewed led to the formulation of the following mathematical model to calculate annual electricity:

Annual Electricity Production

= efficiency x Annual Radiation Received x shading coefficient

= efficiency x (GxA) x shading coefficient

Where,

G = solar radiation intensity

A = PV area

Shading coefficient = 25-30%

Solar radiation which is an external factor also influences the performance of BIPV in terms of its optimum temperature. The optimum performance of PV is at 25°C. In fact, PV cells receive solar radiation during their operation and this causes the temperature to rise. A specially designed and fabricated building-integrated semi-transparent PV phase change material was applied to regulate the cell temperature and the experiment produced a lower peak temperature up to 12°C reduction (Karthick et al. 2020). Moreover, it has also been discovered that an increase in temperature has the ability to reduce PV's performance with a discrepancy number of approximately 6% (Trinuruk, Sorapipatana, and Chenvidhya 2009). Therefore, the net annual electricity production was calculated using:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Net Annual Electricity Production} \\ &= \text{Annual Electricity Production} \times \text{discrepancy factor} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Where,} \\ &\text{Discrepancy factor} = 6\% \end{aligned}$$

Building owners can choose either to install solar energy technology on/in a building or just purchase the electrical energy produced through a solar energy source (Marszal et al. 2012). The installation of solar technology (PV) on a building is called BAPV while the installation in a building is known as BIPV. A comparison of the two showed BIPV has advantages in terms of durability, resistance to winds, aesthetics (Kumar, Sudhakar, and Samyano 2019), reduced cost of building construction, and increased market acceptance of the buildings (Shukla et al. 2017). However, both options are mostly related to the cost of the PV and despite the reduction in the manufacturing cost, those added to a building's overall budget are quite significant. This means the building owner and other stakeholders need to learn how to determine the advantages of the PV installation from the return of investment (ROI) perspective (Carbajales-Dale et al. 2015; Hsu 2012; Dong, Xu, and Lin 2017). It focuses on understanding the time or period required to recoup the expenses of the investment. This shows the significant importance of time in investment due to the fact that a longer compensation period is not regularly attractive to a building owner. ROI can be measured by dividing the cost of investment with the annual

cash inflow. Meanwhile, this cost of investment depends mostly on the PV price which ranges from USD 50 to USD 100 for a 200Wp monocrystalline and 40Wp amorphous silicon module in the market. Another important cost is the cost of the installation which was found to be quite high a while ago by being approximately the same as the price needed to buy the PV module. It has, however, reduced to 50% of the module prices (Oko et al. 2012). Moreover, the annual cash inflow means savings per year received from conventional electrical cost reduction. In other words, it is the numbers of electrical energy generated by PV. This value is, therefore, usually compared with PV lifetime duration with several manufacturing companies observed to be guaranteeing approximately 25 years.

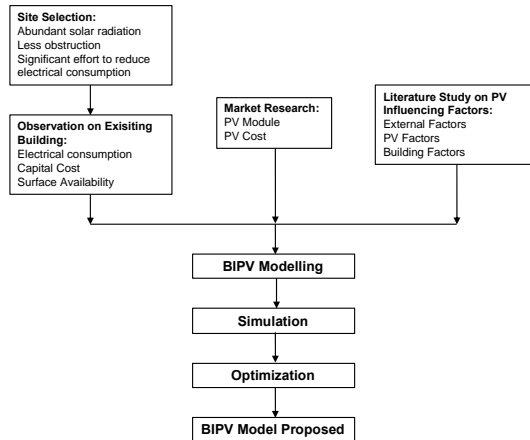
The present study aimed to analyze the performance of BIPV to determine the optimum configuration in terms of electrical energy generated and ROI value. The results are further illustrated graphically to serve as a reference for building owners. The process involved designed several BIPV models under different positions, tilts, and orientations after which they were simulated using Archipak software and mathematical models to evaluate the solar radiation received, electrical energy generated, cost of investment, and annual cash inflow.

## Method

The site selected for this study supports the use of PV solar technology as previously stated and this is associated with its location in a tropical climate, sub-urban area, and also has a very minimum obstruction from its surroundings. Moreover, several significant efforts are integrated into the building design to reduce the need for electrical energy. Therefore, the research was initiated started with the observation of the existing building, the market, and the literature study. The observation of the existing building was used to collect data on electrical consumption, capital cost, and the availability of BIPV in the area. Meanwhile, market research was used for the data collection on PV cells, modules, and prices while the literature study covers the area of the group factors influencing the BIPV performance such as external, PV, and building factors. These were followed by the design of the BIPV models used in simulating the annual solar radiation based on

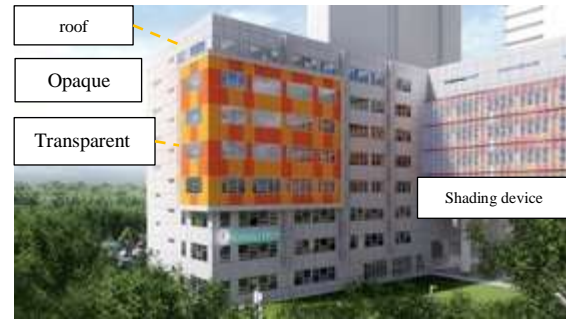


the tilt and orientation angles. Furthermore, the optimization parameters were analyzed to determine the optimum BIPV model to be recommended for a building owner. The site selection and research steps are, however, presented in figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Site selection and research steps

The main source of electrical energy in the UC Building is from the State Electricity Company which comes from non-renewable sources. The mapping of the current energy status showed the average electrical energy consumption is between 137703.33 – 177845 kWh/month while the capital cost is estimated at USD 11.333/month. Moreover, the integrated areas available were mapped to plan the PV integration on the UC Building and these include the roof, transparent wall, opaque wall, and shading device as indicated in figure 3 and table 1.



**Figure 3.** PV placement alternatives in UC building

**Table 1.** Potential area for PV integration

Orient ation	Transpa rent wall (m <sup>2</sup> )	Opaque wall (m <sup>2</sup> )	Shading device (m <sup>2</sup> )	Roof (m <sup>2</sup> )
0°	941	1887	0	51
90°	525	2209	0	
135°	0	0	1095	
180°	544	2910	0	
225°	0	0	879	
270°	1176	2872	0	

Treatments in the form of PV integration to the façade elements were applied in this experimental research using 30° facing north orientation (equator) as the tilt and orientation angle for the proposed BIPV on the roof. Meanwhile, the models proposed for the opaque walls, transparent walls, and shading devices also followed the orientation of the façade elements due to the limitation of the existing conditions. Moreover, the types of PV used were selected based on high-efficiency number, handy dimension, opaqueness, and transparency and the specifications proposed to be used in each area are shown in table 2.

**Table 2.** PV specification

Pro-posed integrated area	PV type	Number of cells	Efficiency (%)	Peak power (W <sub>p</sub> )	Dimension (mm)	Price range (USD)
Transparent wall	Amorphous	15	19.0%	80	1000 x 720 x 35	48 - 85
Opaque wall	Mono-crystalline	72	18.6%	235	1580 x 798 x 35	57 - 100
Shading device	Amorphous	15	19.0%	80	1000 x 720 x 35	48 - 85
Roof	Mono-crystalline	72	18.6%	235	1580 x 798 x 35	57 - 100

The solar energy received in every tilt and orientation was calculated using Archipak 5.1 software while the simulations were run to obtain data on the annual radiation received per m2 for each month in a year as presented in table 3. These numbers were later multiplied with the numbers of the proposed PV area to generate the total amount of annual radiation received.

**Table 3.** Amounts of annual radiation received

Area	Tilt (°)	Orientation (°)	Annual radiation received (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> )
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Transparent wall and	90	0	2003
Opaque Wall	90	90	2217
	90	180	1777
	90	270	2213
	90	135	2109

Area	Tilt (°)	Orientation (°)	Annual radiation received (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> )
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Shading Device	90	225	2098
Roof	30	0	2082

The optimization of BIPV was measured using two parameters which are the electrical energy generated and the ROI value. Meanwhile, the ROI was calculated by dividing the cost of investment with the annual cash inflow. The cost of investment used in this study was calculated from the PV installation and the price paid by the user is typically based on the total power output of the solar panels in the system. Table 2 shows 2 types of PV used in this study and these include 15-cells amorphous and 72-cells mono-crystalline produced by a leading manufacturer with 25 years product guarantee and the prices ranged between USD 48 and USD 100 per module. The

installation cost was, however, calculated as 50% of the PV module price.

The annual cash inflow is the savings received from reducing the conventional electrical cost per year. Meanwhile, the conventional electrical cost in Indonesia is divided based on some categories such as electricity rates for social services, households, business, industry, government office and public street lighting, electric train company, electricity provider business holder, and other particular users not covered by the previous categories. The UC Building is listed as a business category group of B-1/TR with 1300 VA rated at USD 0.064/kWh as indicated in table 4. In the past few years, conventional electricity rates were relatively stable but this study considered the inflation rate in calculating the ROI. The inflation rate was, however, recorded to be fluctuating between 1.32% and 3.49% from March 2019 to October 2020. Therefore, the maximum value was used as the worst estimation in the ROI calculation.

**Table 4.** Categories of electrical use in Indonesia

No	Rate group	Power limitation	Regular		Pre-paid (USD)
			Load cost	Consumption cost	
1.	B-1/TR	450 VA	23.500	Group 1: 0 – 30 kWh: 254 Group 2: >30 kWh: 420	0.036
2.	B-1/TR	900 VA	26.500	Group 1: 0 – 30 kWh: 254 Group 2: >30 kWh: 420	0.042
3.	B-1/TR	1300 VA	*)	966	0.064
4.	B-1/TR	2200 – 5500	*)	1100	0.073
5.	B-2/TR	6600 – 200 kVA	*)	1352	0.090
6.	B-3/TM	>200 kVA	**) )	PLT = $K \times 1020$ BPLT = 1020 kVA <sub>rh</sub> = 1117	-

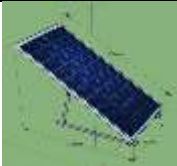
The value obtained was compared with PV lifetime duration which was estimated at 25 years by several manufacturers.


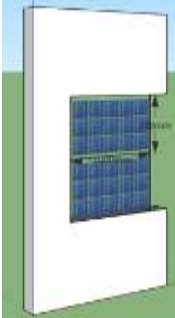


## Result and discussion

### BIPV models

The general rule of thumb from previous research was used to design several PV models on a building facade as indicated in table 5.

**Table 5.** Proposed BIPV models

Area	Numbers of potential integrated area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Code	Modelling	Tilt/orientation (°)	Area per module (m <sup>2</sup> )	Numbers of PV integrated area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Numbers of PV
(a)	(b)		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Roof	509.79	R		30	1.13	509.63	451

Area	Numbers of potential integrated area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Code	Modelling	Tilt/orien tation (°)	Area per module (m <sup>2</sup> )	Numbers of PV integrated area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Numbers of PV
(a)	(b)		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Opaque wall (North)	1886.59	OWn		0	1.26	1886.22	1497
Opaque Wall (East)	2208.96	Owe		90	1.26	2208.78	1753
Opaque wall (West)	2872.30	OWw		270	1.26	2871.54	2279
Transparent wall (North)	941.21	TWn		0	0.79	940.89	1191
Transparent wall (East)	524.88	TWe		90	0.79	524.56	664
Transparent wall (West)	1175.55	TWw		270	0.79	1175.52	1488
Shading device (East)	1094.87	SDe		135	1.13	1093.84	968
Shading Device (West)	897.22	SDw		225	0.81	896.67	1107

#### Annual energy generation

The electrical energy generated was calculated by multiplying the data of annual radiation received in each orientation (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>) from Archipak 5.1 as presented in [table 3](#) with the numbers of PV integrated area. The results were

adjusted based on the concerns associated with shadow condition, PV efficiency, and discrepancy factor, and the electrical energy generated is tabulated in [table 6](#) with the highest observed to be generated by the OWw model as seen in [figure 4](#).

**Table 6.** Electrical energy generated

Area code	Orienta tion/tilt (°)	Numbers of PV integra- ted area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Annual radiation received (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> )	Annual radiation received before shadow (kWh)	Annual radiation received after shadow (kWh)	PV efficiency (%)	Annual electrical energy generated (kWh)	Annual Electrical energy generated with discrepancy factor (kWh)
	a	b	c	d = b x c	e = d – 30%	f	g = e x f	h = g – 6%
R	30	509.63	2082	1061049.66	742734.76	18.6	138148.67	129859.75
OWn	0	1886.22	2003	3778098.66	2644669.06	18.6	491908.45	462393.94

Area code	Orienta- tion/tilt (°)	Numbers of PV integra- ted area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Annual radiation received (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> )	Annual radiation received before shadow (kWh)	Annual radiation received after shadow (kWh)	PV efficiency (%)	Annual electrical energy generated (kWh)	Annual Electrical energy generated with discrepancy factor (kWh)
	a	b	c	d = b x c	e = d - 30%	f	g = e x f	h = g - 6%
OWe	90	2208.78	2217	4896865.26	3427805.68	18.6	637571.86	599317.55
OWw	270	2871.54	2213	6354718.02	4448302.61	18.6	827384.29	777741.23
TWn	0	940.89	2003	1884602.67	1319221.87	19.0	250652.16	235613.03
TWe	90	524.56	2217	1162949.52	814064.66	19.0	154672.29	145391.95
TWw	270	1175.52	2213	2601425.76	1820998.03	19.0	345989.63	325230.25
SDe	135	1093.84	2109	2306908.56	1614835.99	19.0	306818.84	288409.71
SDw	225	896.67	2098	1881213.66	1316849.56	19.0	250201.42	235189.33

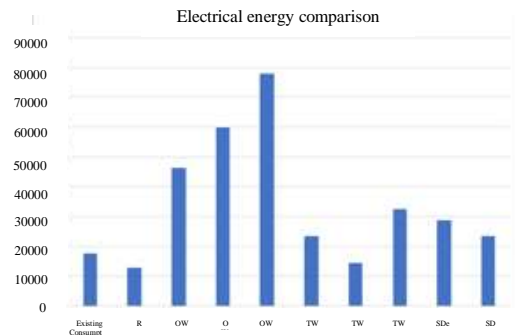


Figure 4. PV electrical energy comparison

#### Return on Investment (ROI)

The optimization was measured by the electrical energy generated and ROI as previously explained. The optimum price of the PV used was USD 85 for amorphous silicon and USD 100 for monocrystalline silicon and the total cost of investment for each is presented in table 7. Meanwhile, the annual cash inflow was calculated by multiplying the electrical energy generated by the PV with the USD 10.08/kWh buying price stated by the government for electrical energy generated from renewable energy sources, and the results are presented in table 8. The results for ROI are, however, presented in table 9 with the shortest time, 4.25 years, found in the SDe model as seen in figure 5.

Table 7. Cost of investment

Co de	Cost of Investment				
	Num bers of PV mod ule	PV price /mod ule	Total PV Price	Install ation Price	Total Cost of Investment
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
R	451	100	45100	22550.0	67650.0
O	1497	100	149700	74850.0	224550.0
W					
n					

Co de	Cost of Investment				
	Num bers of PV mod ule	PV price /mod ule	Total PV Price	Install ation Price	Total Cost of Investment
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
O	1753	100	175300	87650.0	262950.0
W					
e					
O	2279	100	227900	113950.0	341850.0
W					
w					
T	1191	85	101235	50617.5	151852.5
W					
n					
T	664	85	56440	28220.0	84660.0
W					
e					
T	1488	85	126480	63240.0	189720.0
W					
w					
SD	968	85	82280	41140.0	123420.0
e					
SD	1107	85	94095	47047.5	141142.5
w					

Table 8. Annual cash inflows

Code	Electrical energy generated by PV (kWh)	Government buying price (USD/kWh)	Annual cash inflows (USD)
R	129859.75	0.1008	13089.86
OWn	462393.94	0.1008	46609.31
OWe	599317.55	0.1008	60411.21
OWw	777741.23	0.1008	78396.32
TWn	235613.03	0.1008	23749.79
TWe	145391.95	0.1008	14655.51
TWw	325230.25	0.1008	32783.21
SDe	288409.71	0.1008	29071.70
SDw	235189.33	0.1008	23707.08

Table 9. ROI

Code	Cost of investment (USD)	Annual cash inflows (USD)	ROI
R	67650.0	13089.86	5.17
OWn	224550.0	46609.31	4.81
OWe	262950.0	60411.21	4.35



Code	Cost of investment (USD)	Annual cash inflows (USD)	ROI
OWw	341850.0	78396.32	4.36
TWn	151852.5	23749.79	6.39
TWe	84660.0	14655.51	5.78
TWw	189720.0	32783.21	5.79
SDe	123420.0	29071.70	4.25
SDw	141142.5	23707.08	5.95

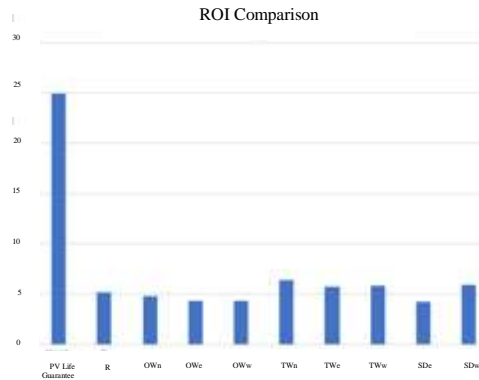


Figure 5. ROI comparison

#### Optimization

The optimization process was used to determine the best BIPV model for the building owner based on the highest electrical energy generated and shortest ROI. The types of configuration observed are presented in table 5 and they include the models where the PV is proposed to be integrated on a building's roof, opaque wall, transparent wall, and shading device. Two variables were used for the optimization as previously mentioned and these include electrical energy and ROI. The baseline for electrical energy is monthly electrical consumption while the baseline for the ROI is PV lifetime guarantee. Therefore, a gradient diagram was used to analyze the BIPV models as indicated in figure 6.

The electrical energy generated by BIPV was compared with the building's electrical consumption and the results showed two models including TWe and R were unable to reach the baseline while seven including TWn, TWw, SDw, SDe, OWn, OWe, and OWw met the requirement by generating electrical energy above UC electrical consumption and having ROI under the guarantee period. Time has been said to be a critical determinant of investment due to the fact that longer compensation periods are regularly not attractive to a building owner. Therefore, the ROI

calculation showed all the models have relatively shorter compensation periods which ranged from 4.25 to 6.39 years when compared to the 25 years PV life guarantee

OWe, OWw, and SDe have relatively the same ROI which is 4.35, 4.36, and 4.25 years respectively. Meanwhile, OWw has the highest number of electrical energies generated followed by OWe due to its larger integrated area of 2871.54 m<sup>2</sup> when compared to 2208.78 m<sup>2</sup> for OWe. Moreover, the east and west orientations received almost the same annual radiation with 2217 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> year and 2213 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> year respectively. Therefore, OWw is proposed as the optimum model to be recommended for building owners.

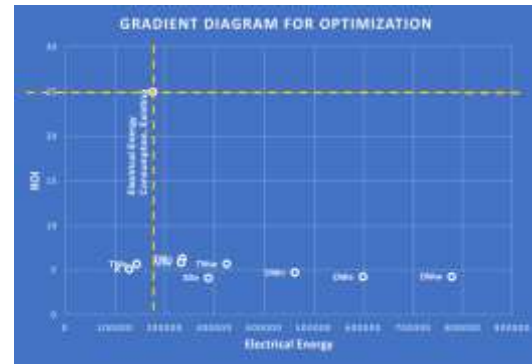


Figure 6. Gradient diagram for optimization

#### Conclusion

There are two main considerations when installing PV in an existing building which are the amount of electrical energy generated and the ROI. Therefore, this study started with the mapping of existing electrical consumption, capital cost, and potential-available areas in order to propose an optimum model. This was followed by the use of the general rule of thumb from a previous study to simulate several models in order to determine the optimum to be recommended for the owner of the building.

OWw was selected as the optimum model and it proposed the integration of the PV on the opaque wall, west façade, and 270° orientation angle. Its selection was, therefore, based on its ability to generate 777741.23 kWh/year and an ROI value of 4.36 years. In this model, the mono-crystalline silicon PV with 18.6% efficiency was simulated to be installed in the west opaque wall. Moreover, its high electrical energy generation

was associated with its large number of integrated areas and relatively higher annual radiation received. This is in line with some previous studies conducted on factors affecting BIPV performance such as those related to the potential-available integrated area (Susan and Wardhani 2020a), and orientation and solar intensity (Hussein, Ahmad, and El-Ghetany 2004; Mehleri et al. 2010; Urbanetz, Zomer, and Rüther 2011).

The findings are also in line with the previous research on how BIPV can be the most potential and feasible renewable technology to be applied. This is indicated the ability of the electrical energy generated to fulfill the building's need as well as the relatively short ROI of the installation. Future studies are, however, recommended to cover other economic performance parameters such as BEP and LCOE. It is, however, important to note that the use of BIPV in an existing building has structure limitations. Therefore, it is suggested that it is planned from the design phase to ensure perfect integration both aesthetically and functionally.

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