

4 times square building – integrated photovoltaic system

The first consciously “green” skyscraper in New York, 4 Times Square at Broadway and 42nd Street was a big first step in raising the standard for commercial real estate in the United States.

Kiss + Cathcart acted as consultants for the building’s most advanced feature: thin-film photovoltaic (PV) panels that replace glass spandrels from the 37th to 43rd floors on the south and east faces of the tower. While the surface area available for PV panels is relatively small, the system still provides enough output to power the equivalent of five to seven houses.

Working in collaboration with the base building architects, Kiss + Cathcart designed the PV system to function as an integral part of the tower’s curtain wall. Custom PV modules fit the building’s rigorous aesthetic, structural and electrical criteria.

As the first major commercial application of building-integrated PVs in the United States, 4 Times Square points the way to large-scale production of clean, silent and cost effective solar electricity where it is needed most, at the point of greatest use.

The Client:

The Durst Organization

The Team:

Kiss + Cathcart, Architects
PV system design
Fox & Fowle, Architects
TerraSolar Energy Photovoltaics,
PV system
The Durst Organization

Project Details:

Completed 1998



