

# Façades in Architecture: History and Development

Arch 173: Building Construction 2

## Façade – definition

Noun:

The face of a building, especially the principal front that looks onto a street or open space

Your choice of skin/ façade will be **CLIMATE DEPENDENT**

The type of building – commercial,  
institutional, residential matters

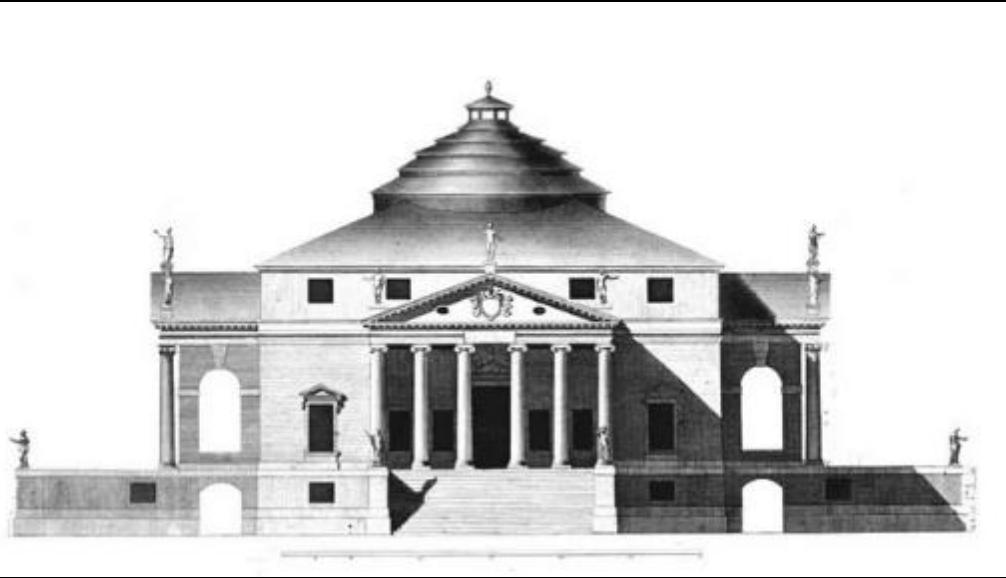
The amount of insulation needed responds to  
both climate and building use

The façade or skin is a huge part of the budget

Every façade we will look at, think about:

1. Composition
2. Performance
3. Light

# *Composition*



*More formal to less formal*

# Performance



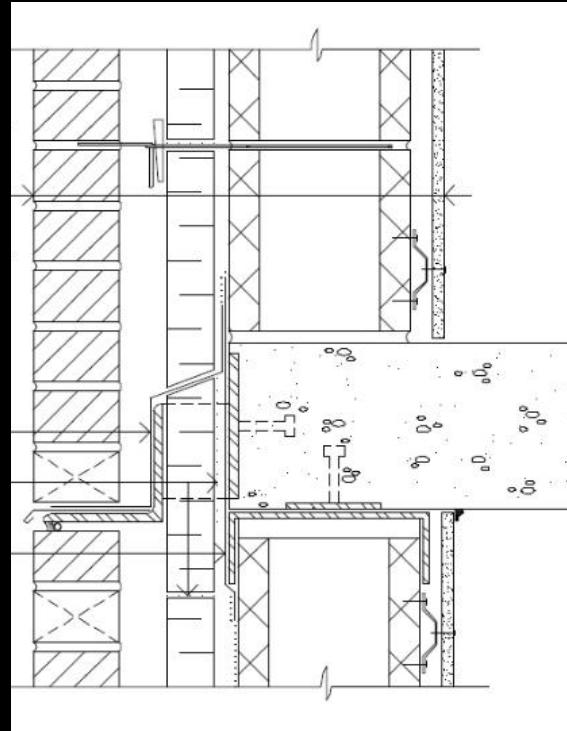
From defence to energy

# Light



More light a function of separation of structure and envelope  
Cost of glass goes down dramatically over time

# Façade vs. Enclosure??



Appearance vs. Performance

## Questions to ask:

1. What does your building want to say (human)?
2. What does your building need to DO (technical)?
3. Where do you want light & views, solid, privacy"
4. What existing technologies will fit these needs"

## In Architecture and Engineering

PERFORMANCE is the goal!

- Climate responsive
- Energy efficient
- Durable
- Low carbon
- And yes, aesthetically pleasing



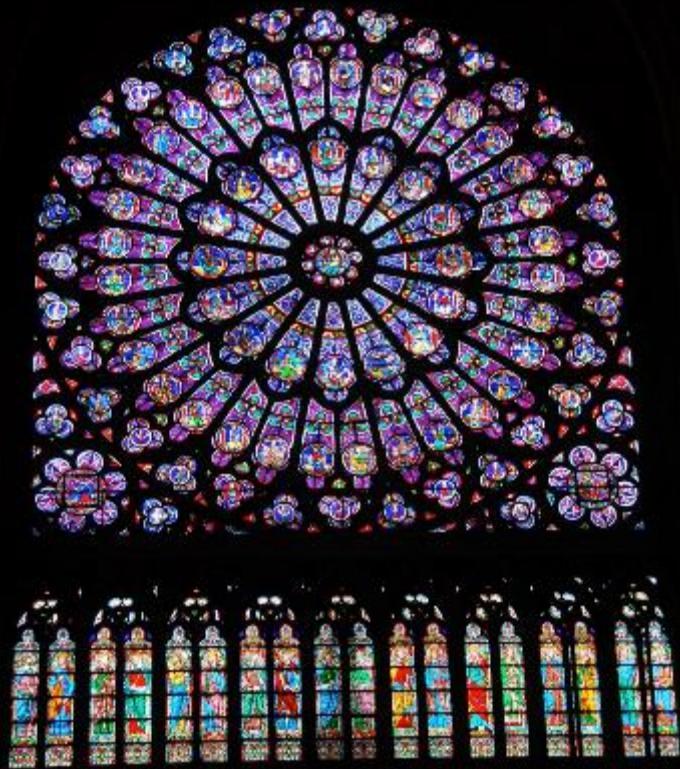
For early stone and masonry buildings the load bearing, solid walls of the building also presented the appearance or façade of the building.

The style and the structural system were joined.



Notre Dame de Paris,  
France  
113 CE







Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève  
Paris, France  
Henri Labrouste  
1835–1851

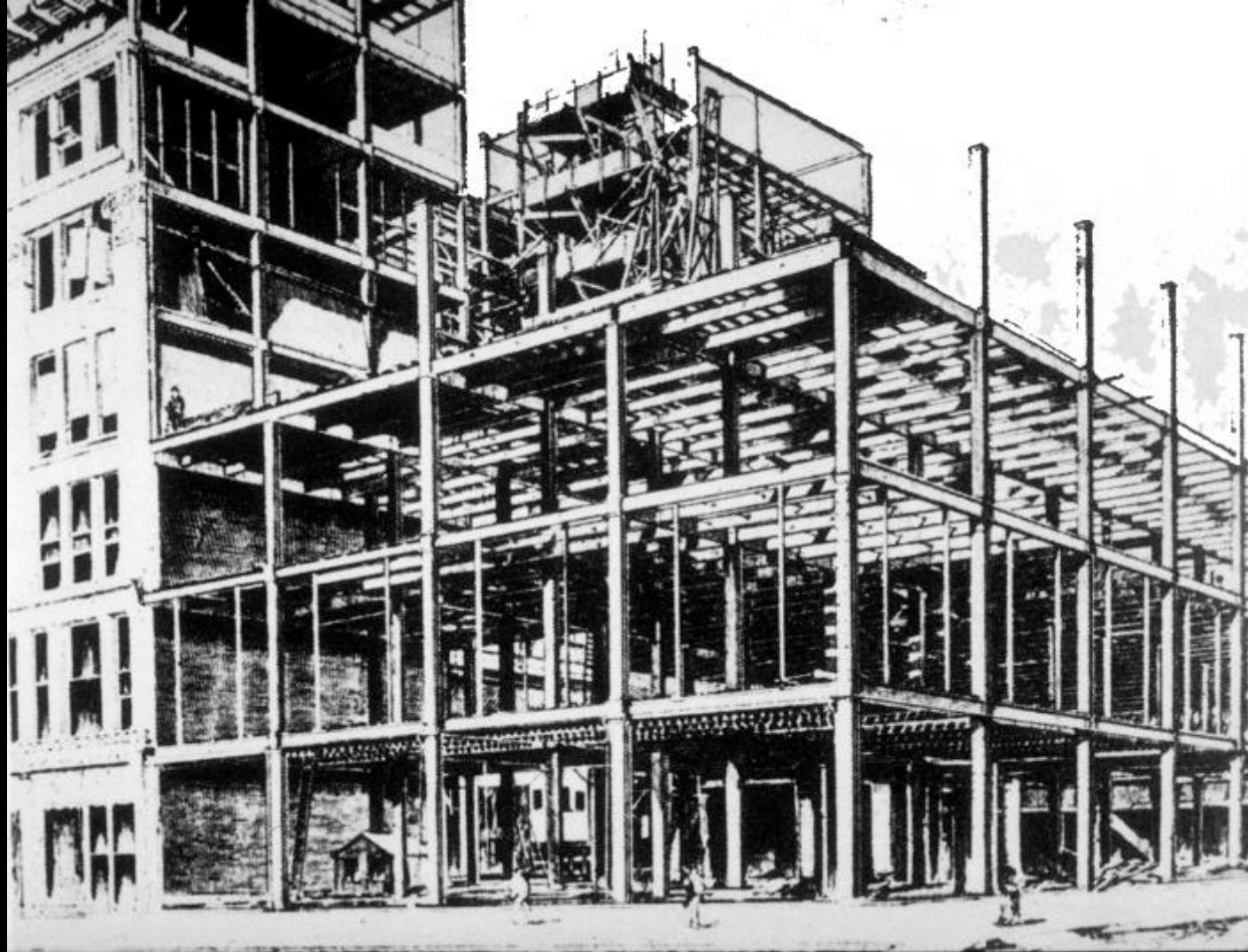




Monadnock Building (north half)  
Chicago, Illinois  
Burnham and Root  
1891

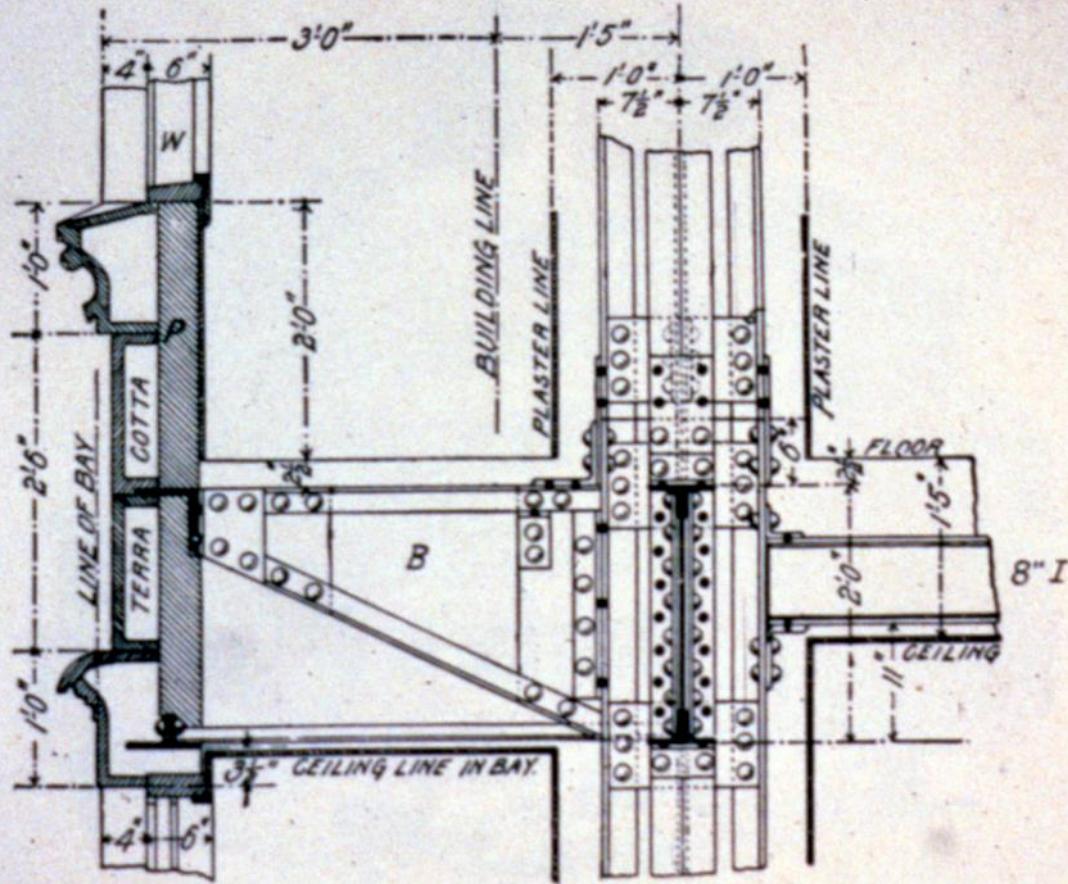
The invention of the skeleton steel frame at the end of the 1800s separated the roles of the structure and enclosure system.

The enclosure system took on the role of façade and had much more freedom of expression as it did not have to also support the loads of the building.





Reliance Building  
Chicago, Illinois  
Burnham, Root and Atwood  
1895  
First real skyscraper



27 Atwood and Burnham, Reliance Building,  
Chicago, 1890 / 94-95. Cross section of window bay.

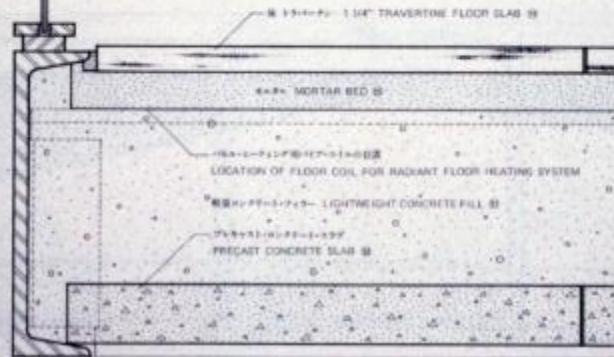
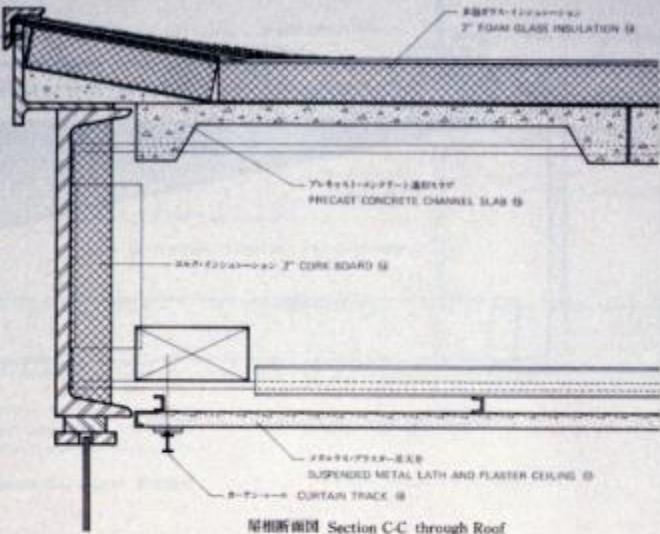
## Enclosure systems for Early Skyscrapers



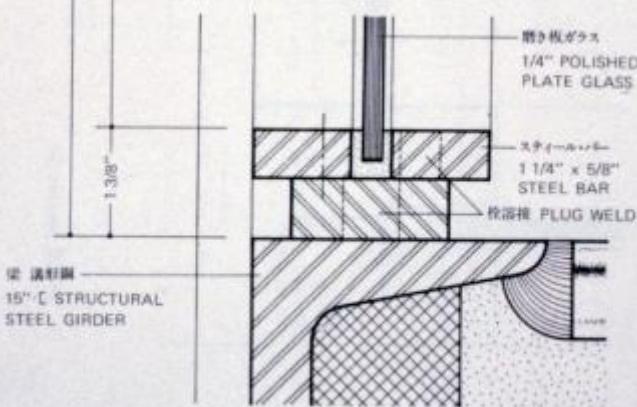
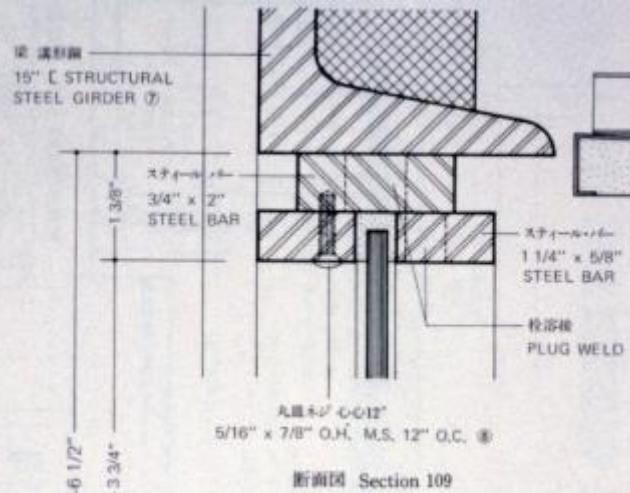


Farnsworth House  
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
Plano, Illinois  
1951





# FLOOR DRAIN #3H ⑤







Mies van der Rohe  
Lakeshore Drive Apartments, Chicago







## Tall Buildings and Curtainwall:

In the 1950s a new curtainwall enclosure system was developed based on a modular system of aluminum components that allowed large expanses of glazing.



Lever House, NYC

Different approaches to the construction of the enclosures for tall vs mid-rise vs low-rise *commercial*/buildings

Tall = curtain wall

Mid-rise = less use of aluminum curtain wall and more composite layered systems with insulation

Low-rise = composite layered systems with more insulation requirements

## Low-rise (mostly residential)

- Load bearing framed walls
- Insulation contained between the studs
- Glazed openings punched in the wall

Exterior cladding is a "veneer" that keeps out the weather but does not support the floors and roof

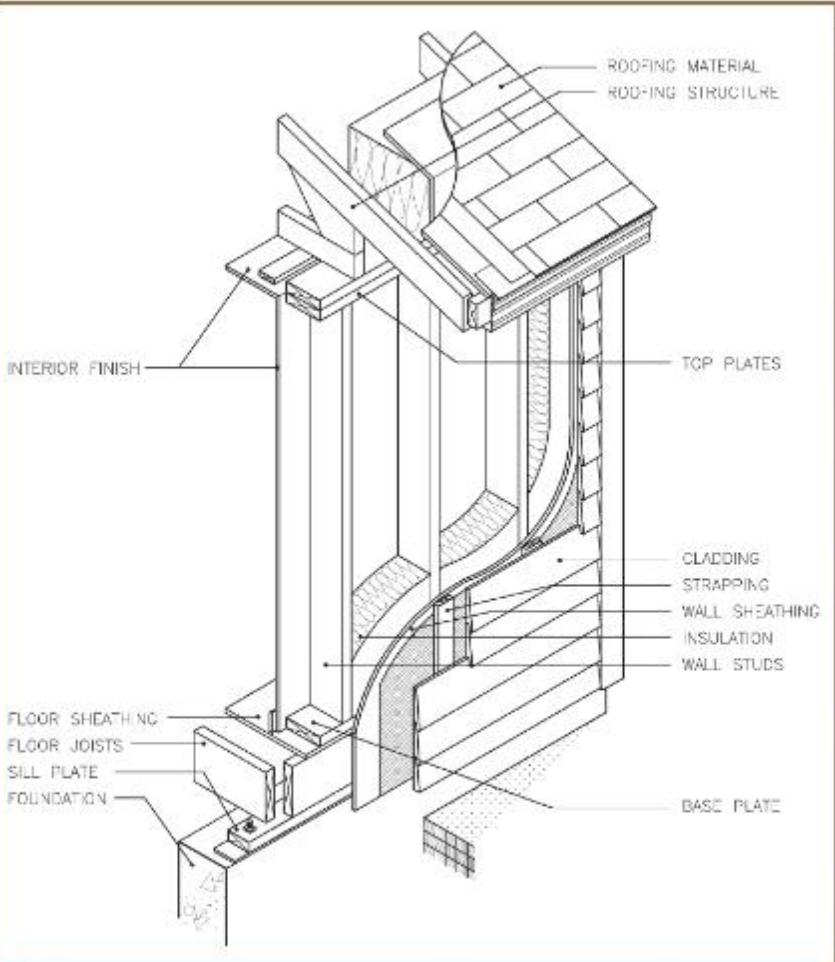
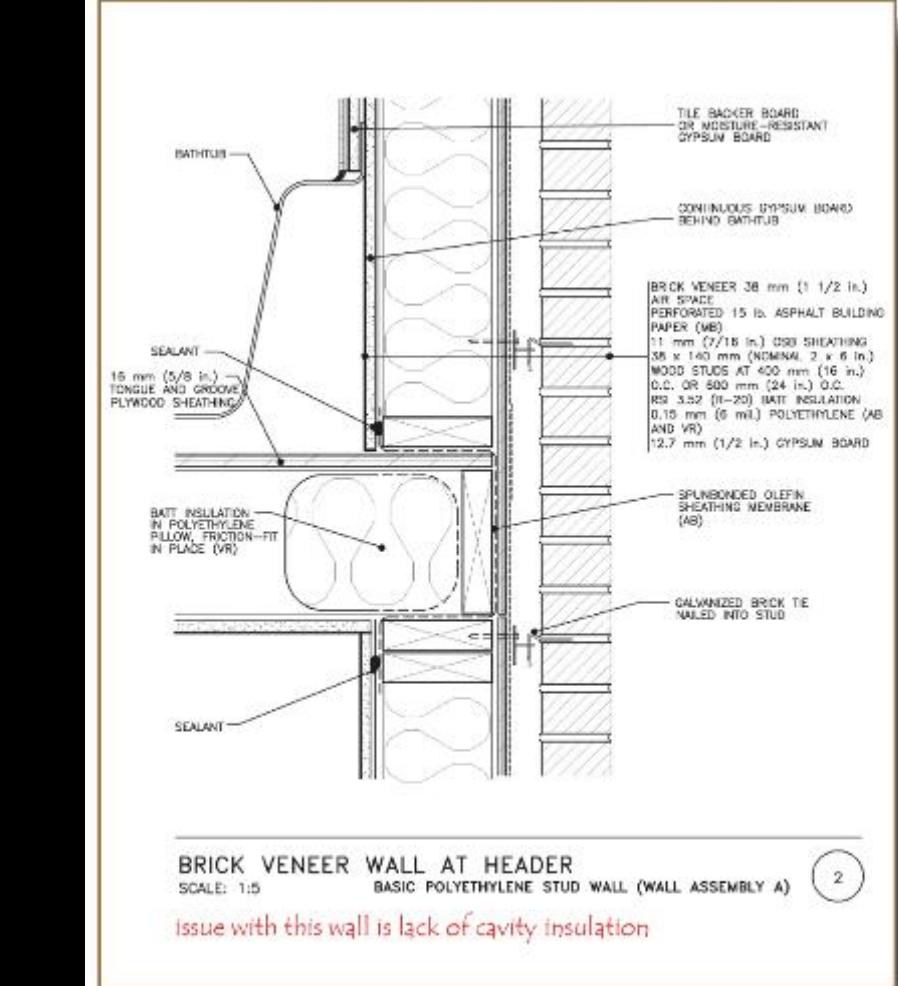


Figure 2.6: Components of a wood frame structure

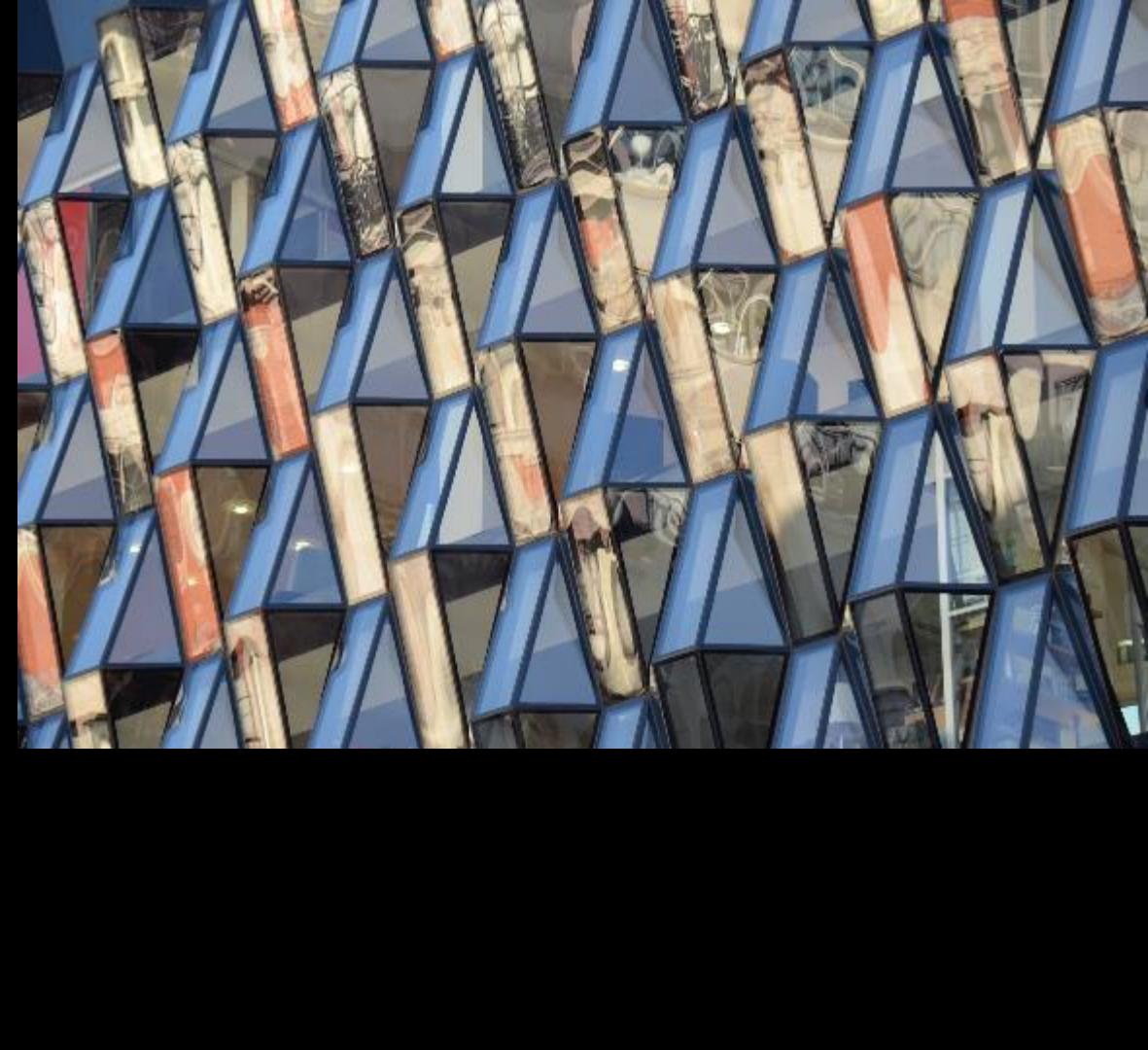


Detail 2: Brick Veneer Wall at Header

## Rain Screen:

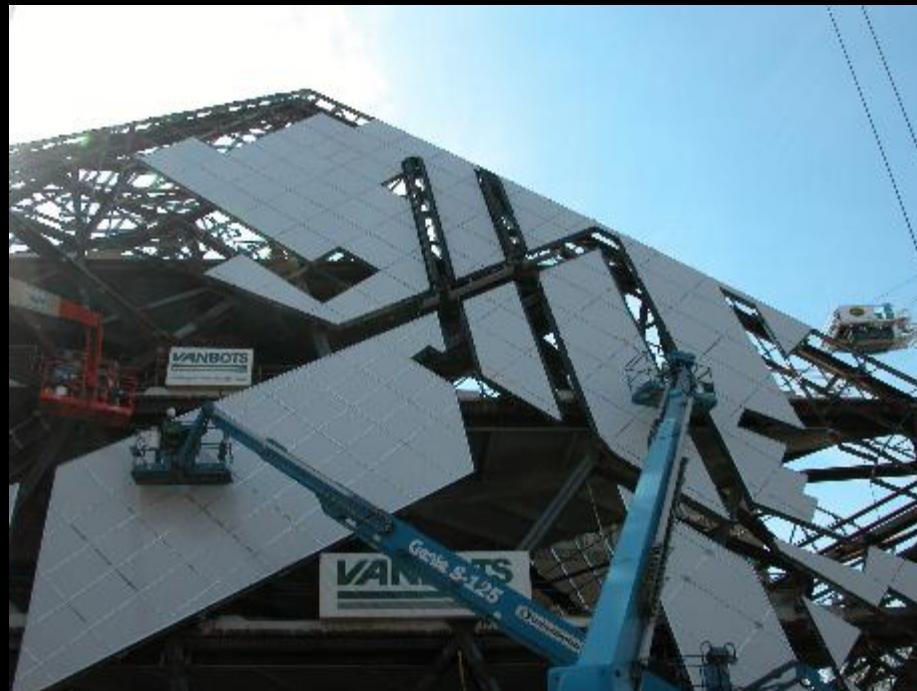
In the 1960s an improved wall system was developed that placed an air space behind the outermost layer of the envelope system.

This equalized the pressure on either side of this "veneer" and prevented rain from penetrating to the interior part of the wall.

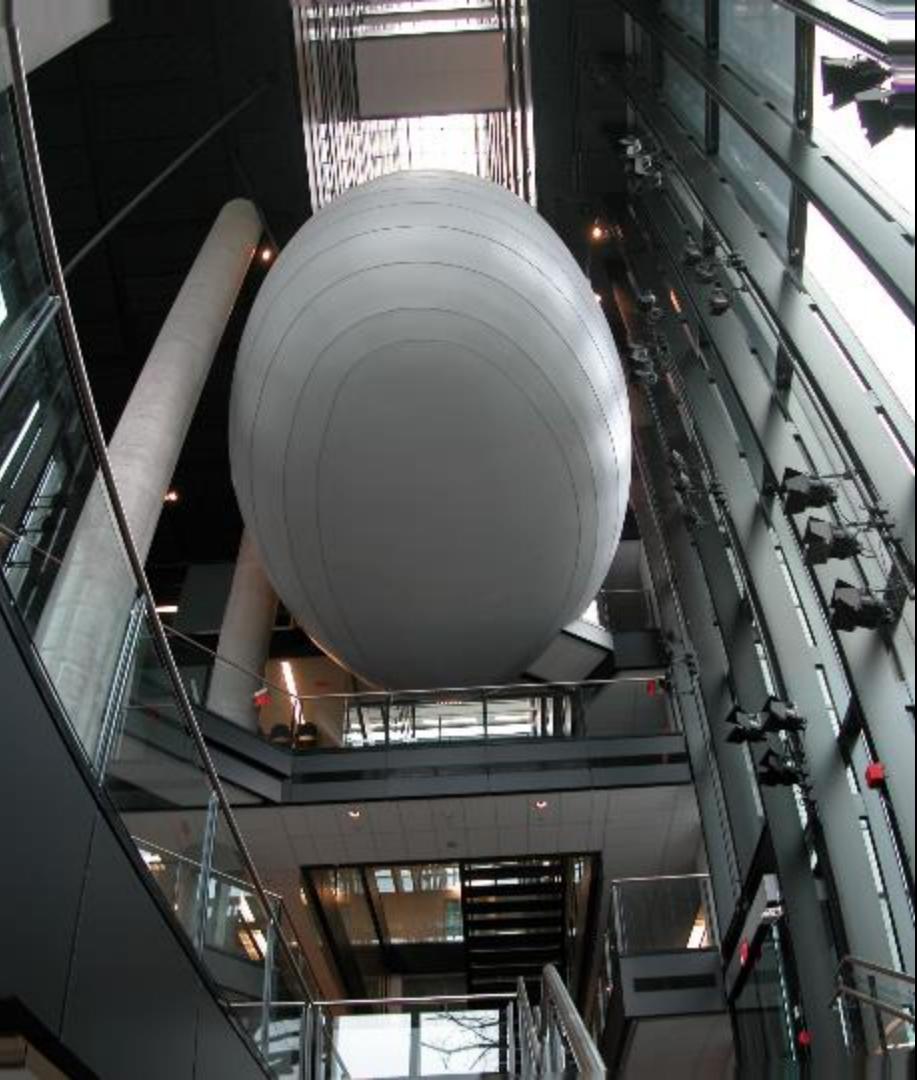


For column and beam type structures (non load bearing walls) it doesn't matter if the material is steel, concrete or heavy timber, the structure gets erected first, then the curtain wall/window wall is installed.













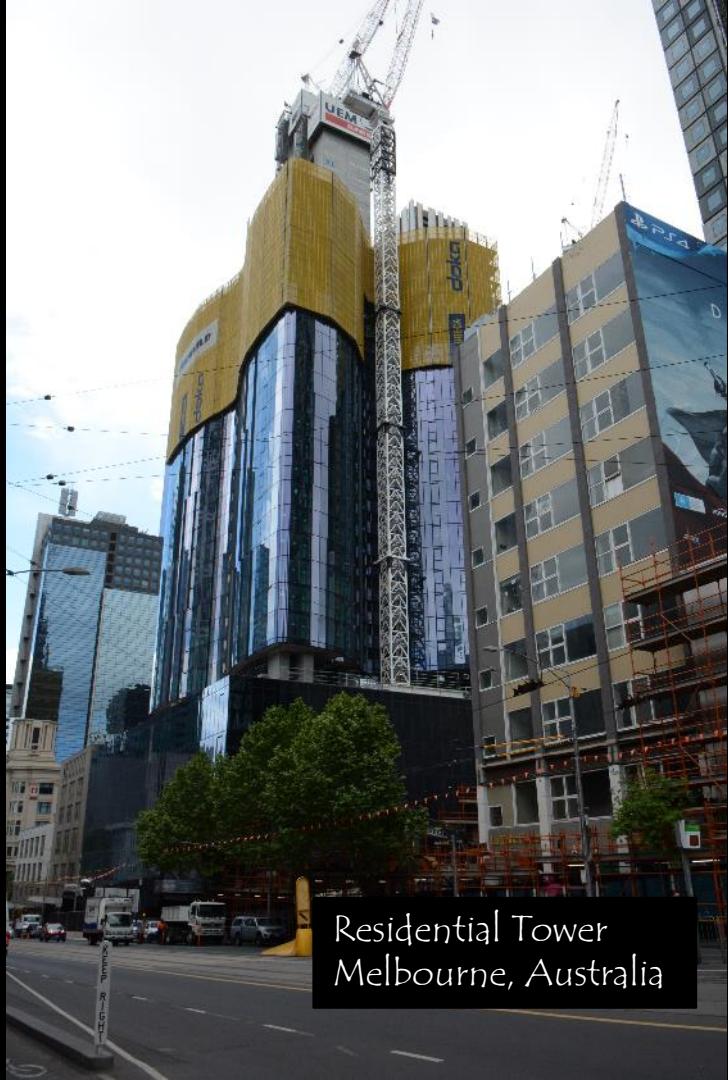








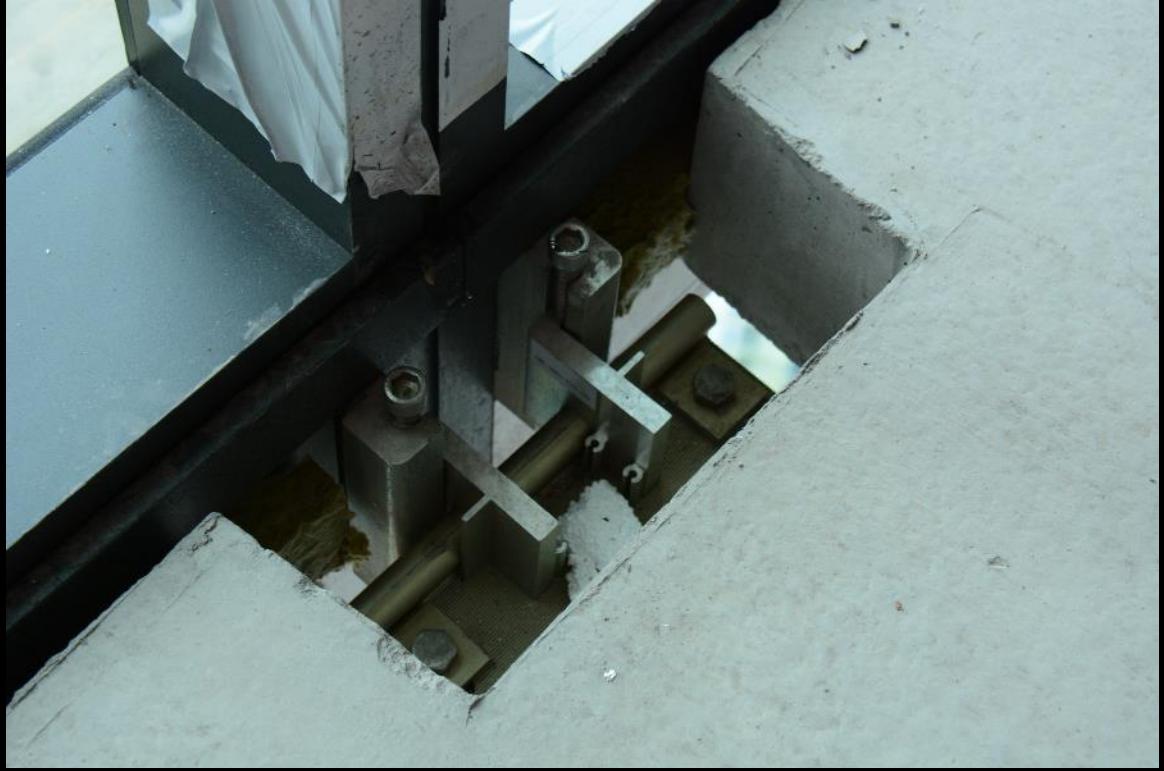
The curtain wall connects to the slab edge NOT the columns



Residential Tower  
Melbourne, Australia









Swiss Re (The Gherkin)  
London, England  
Foster and Partners  
2004







CCTV Tower  
Beijing, China  
OMA/Rem Koolhaas  
2013









Pearl River Tower  
Guangzhou, China  
SOM  
2013















20 Fenchurch Street  
Aka The Walkie Talkie Building  
London, England  
Rafael Viñoly Architects  
2014



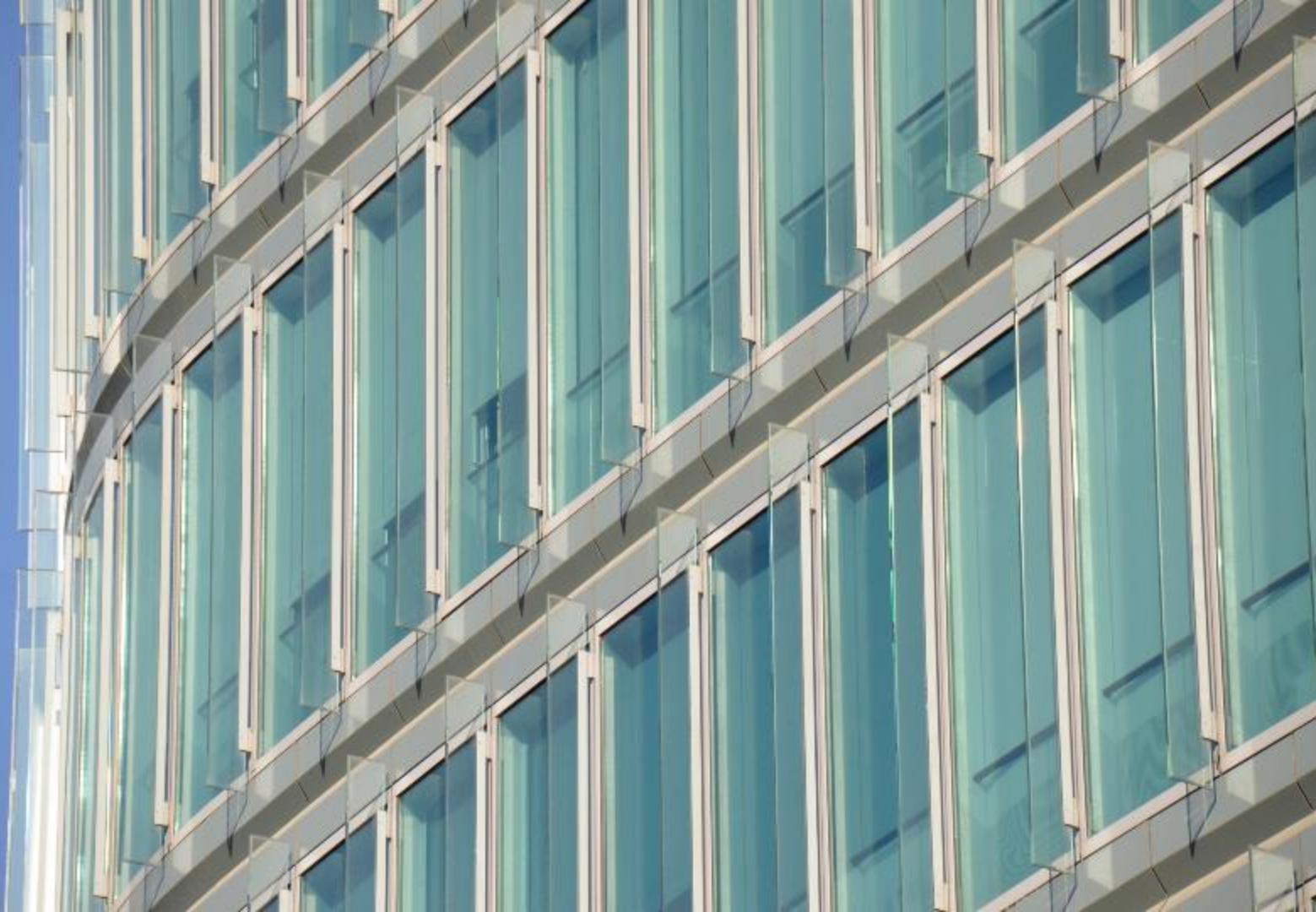






CNOOC Headquarters  
Beijing, China  
Kohn Pederson Fox Architects





Typical curtain wall systems for commercial buildings were always sealed  
– no operable windows

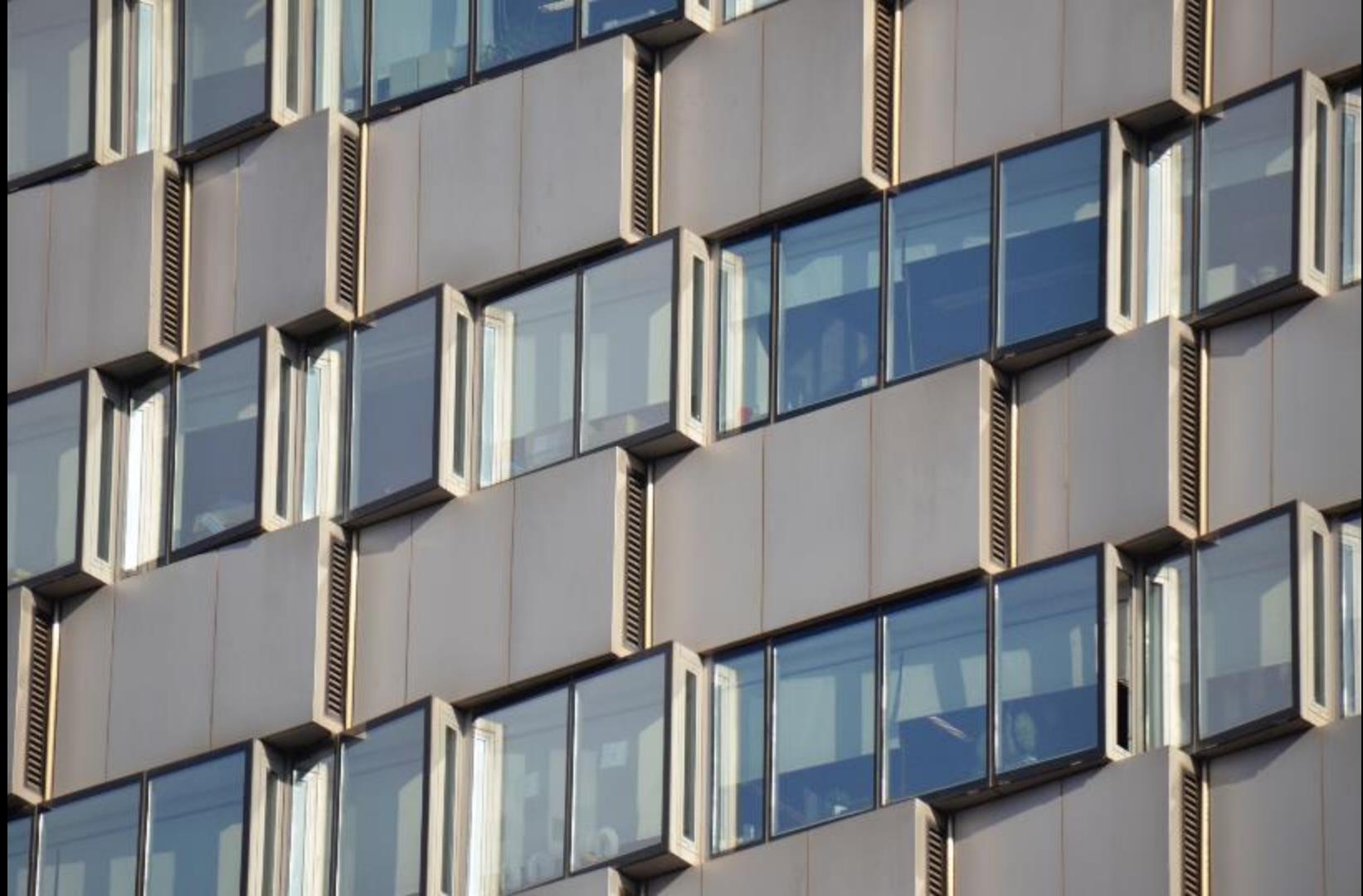
Due to interest in sustainability, now looking for ways to include access to fresh air into the envelope design, while maintaining safety from falling.













Bahn Tower  
Berlin, Germany  
Murphy Jahn  
2000











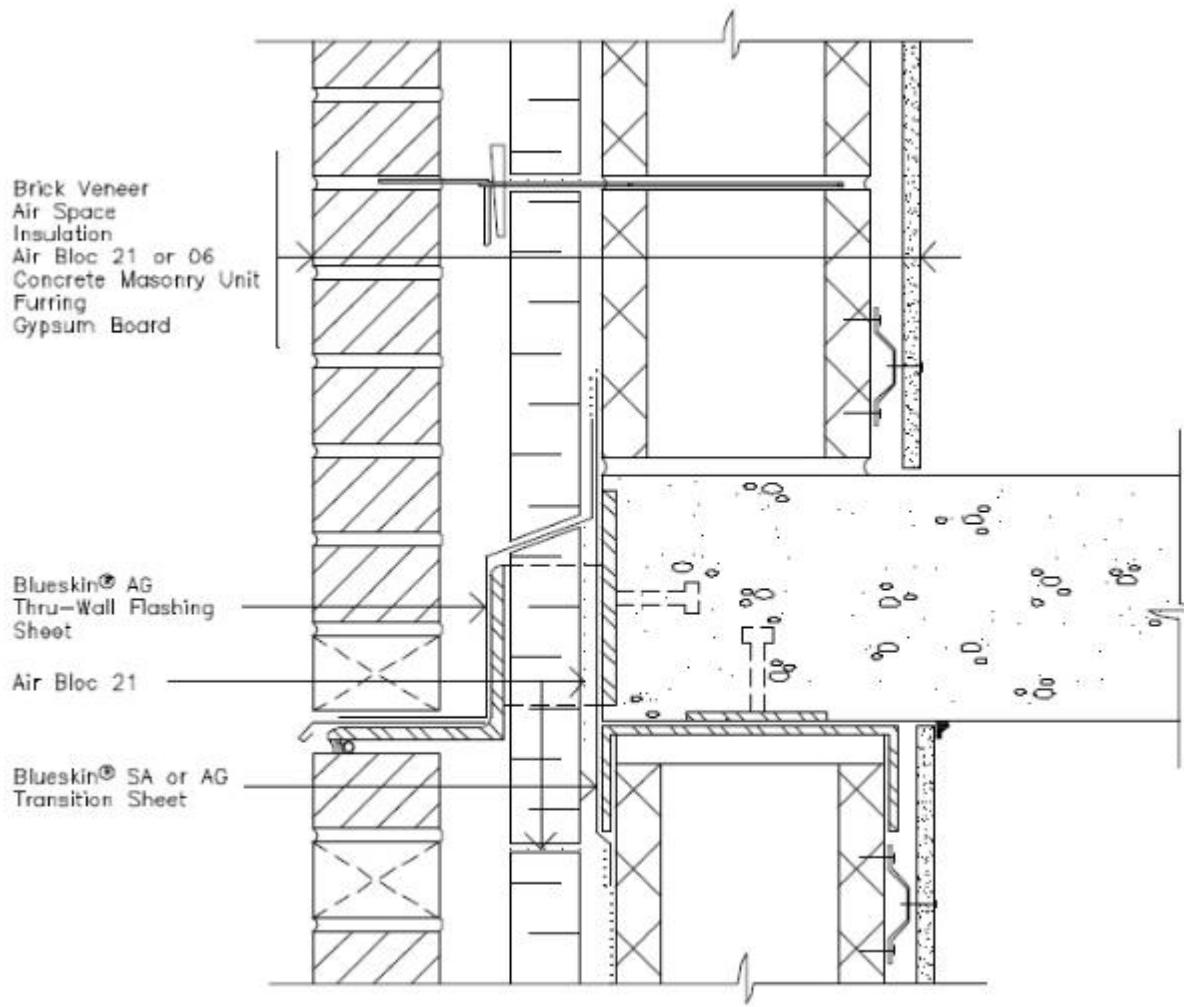
## Window Wall:

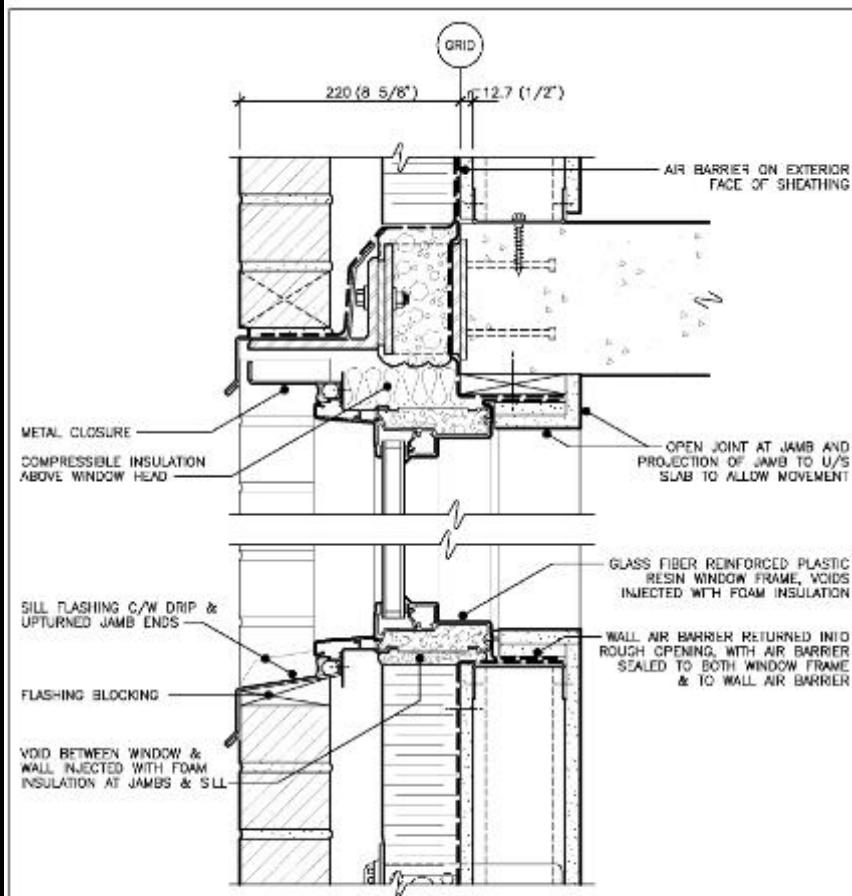
This type of enclosure for high rise buildings does not use an expansive grid of aluminum frames.

Typically has horizontal bands of windows supported by bands of precast concrete, stone, masonry or metal cladding panels.

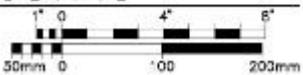
In **window wall** construction the infill opaque wall sits (bears) on the edge of the concrete floor slab

It extends to the underside of the next floor, with a small space to allow for slab edge deflections.





4 WINDOW AT U/S SLAB DETAIL



Which to use?

### CURTAIN WALL

- Regular geometry
- Large expanses of glazing
- Limited use of opaque elements
- Typical aluminum frame systems spanning one to two floors height
- Lower insulation values achieved

### WINDOW WALL

- Any kind of geometry
- Limited glazing
- Glazing often as punched or strip windows
- Large opaque portions
- Better insulation levels required

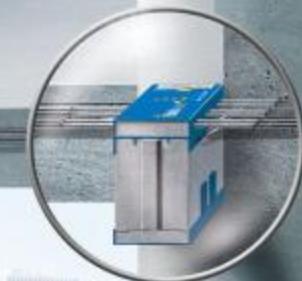
## Thermal Bridge

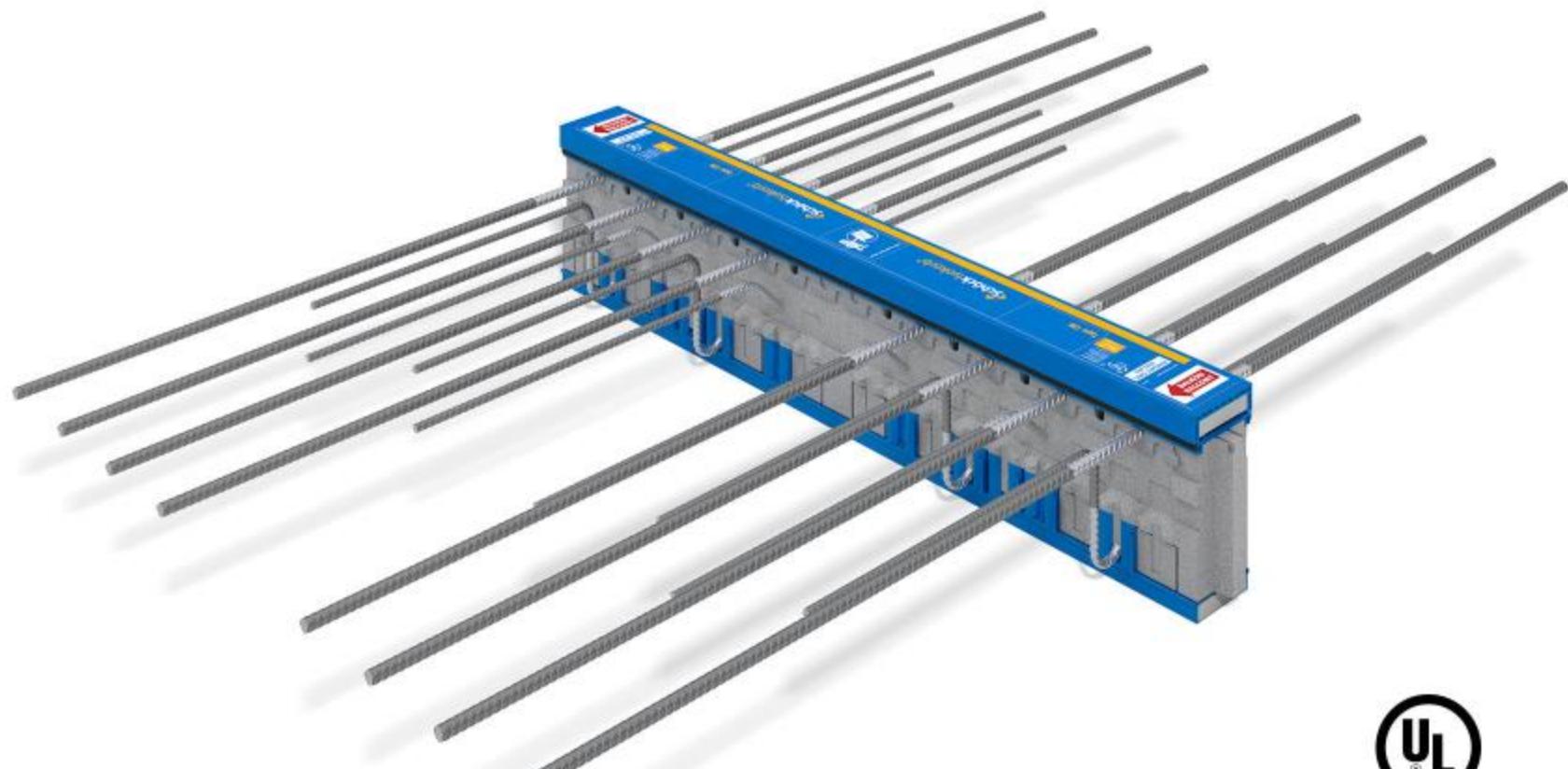
A VERY BAD place in the building envelope  
that allows HEAT to ESCAPE

No insulation layer preventing heat flow

Usually happens at concrete slab edges











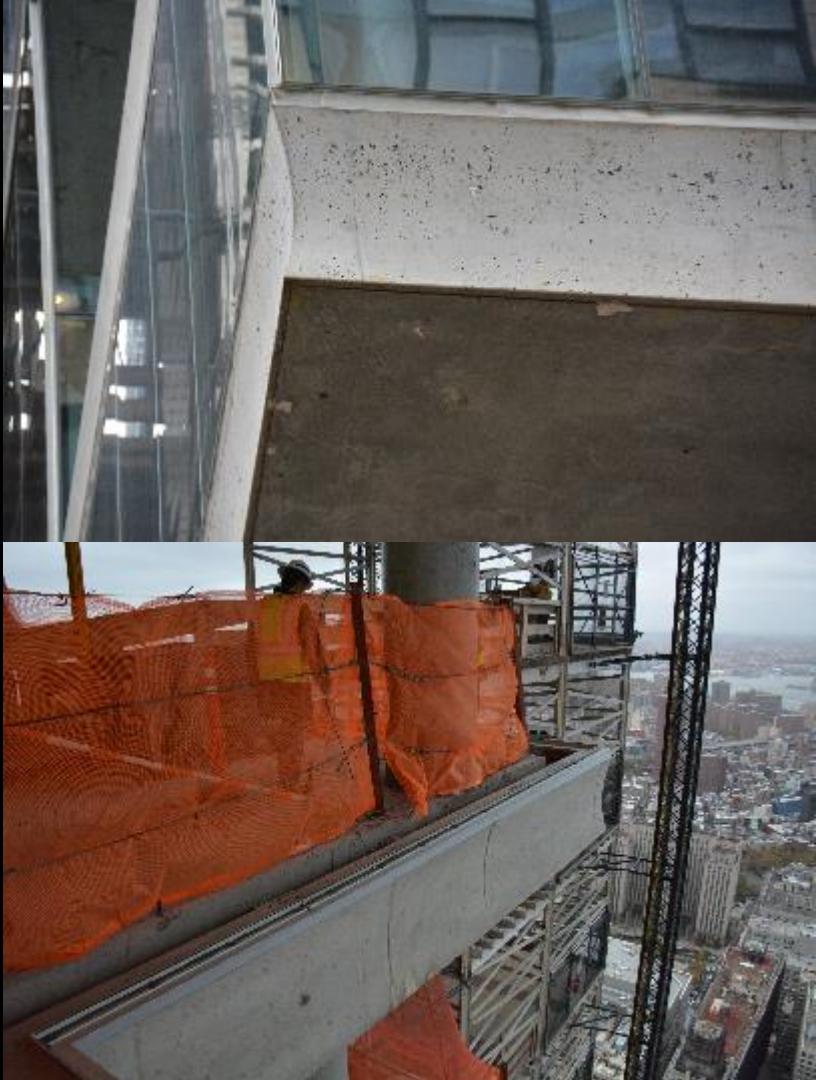








56 Leonard Street  
New York City  
Herzog & deMeuron





Vancouver House  
Vancouver, BC  
Bjarke Ingles Group







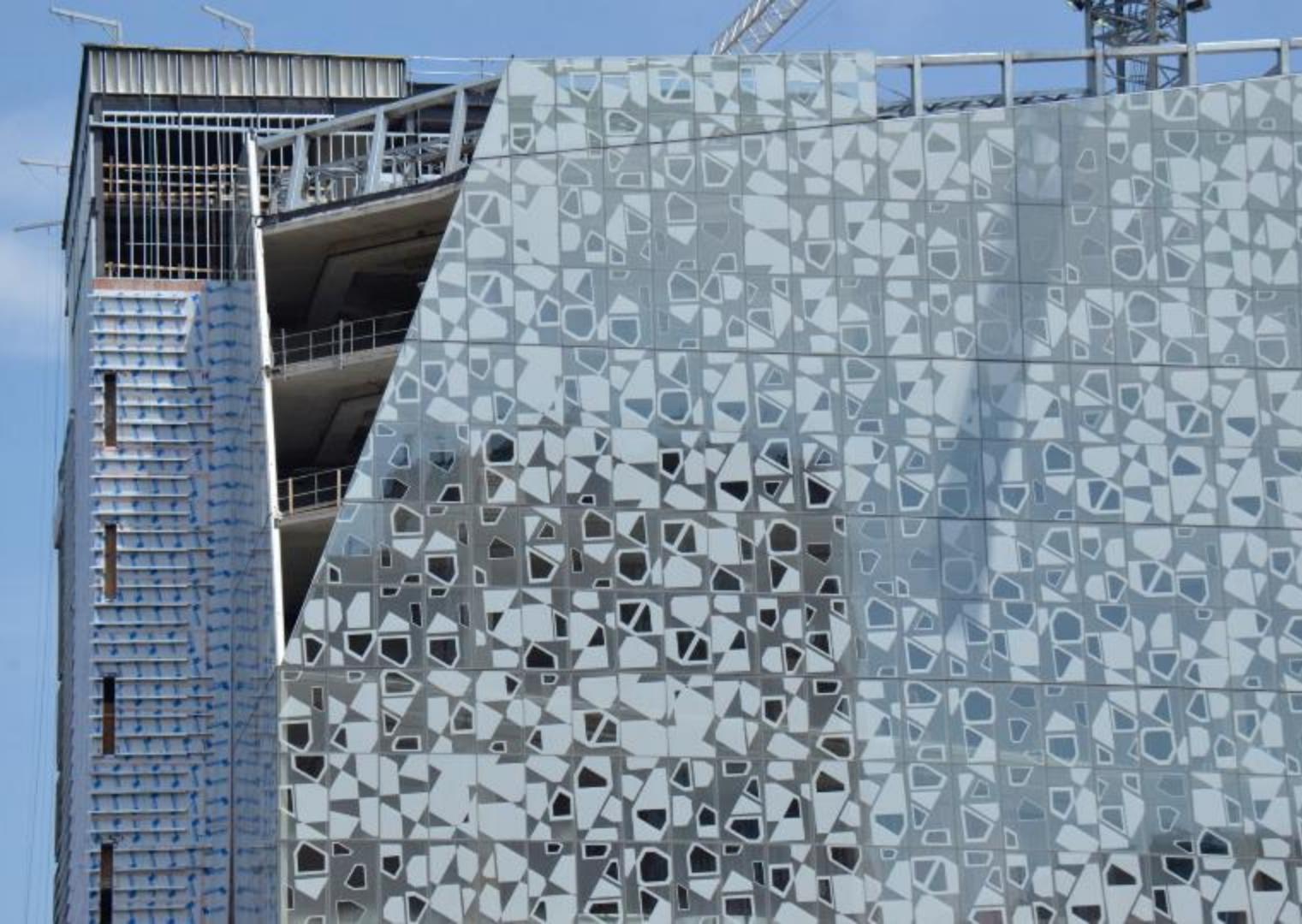




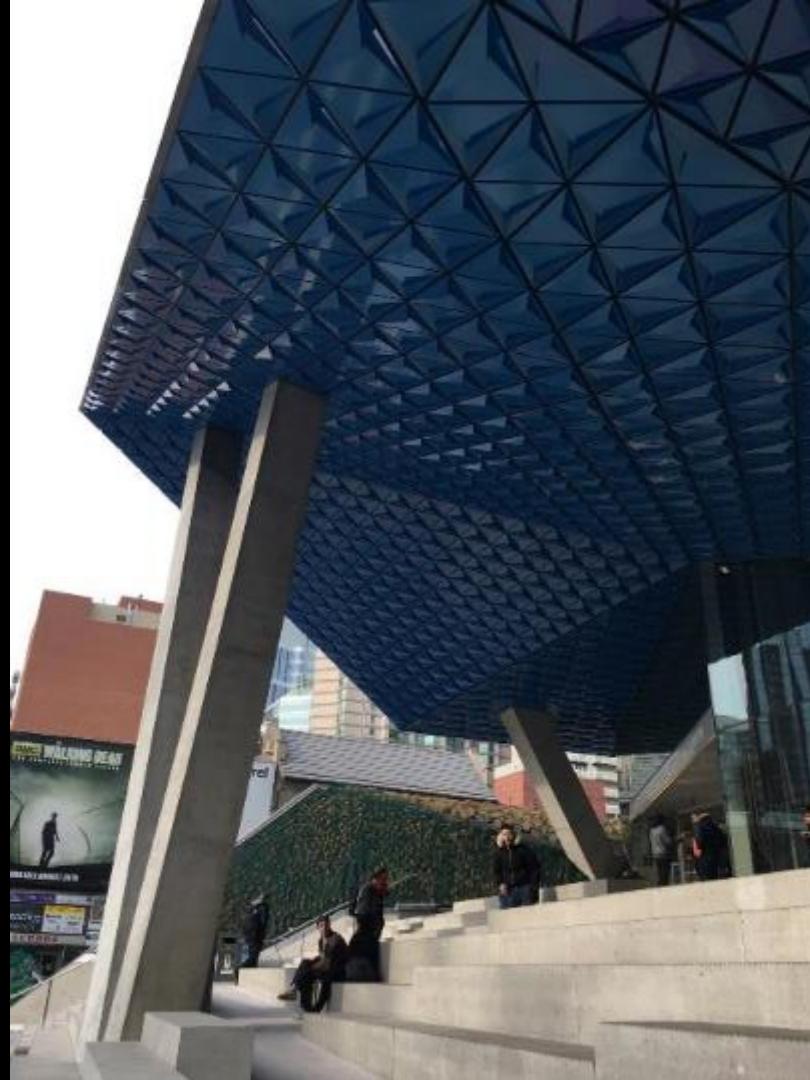
Toronto Metropolitan University  
Student Learning Centre  
Toronto, Ontario  
Snohetta  
2015

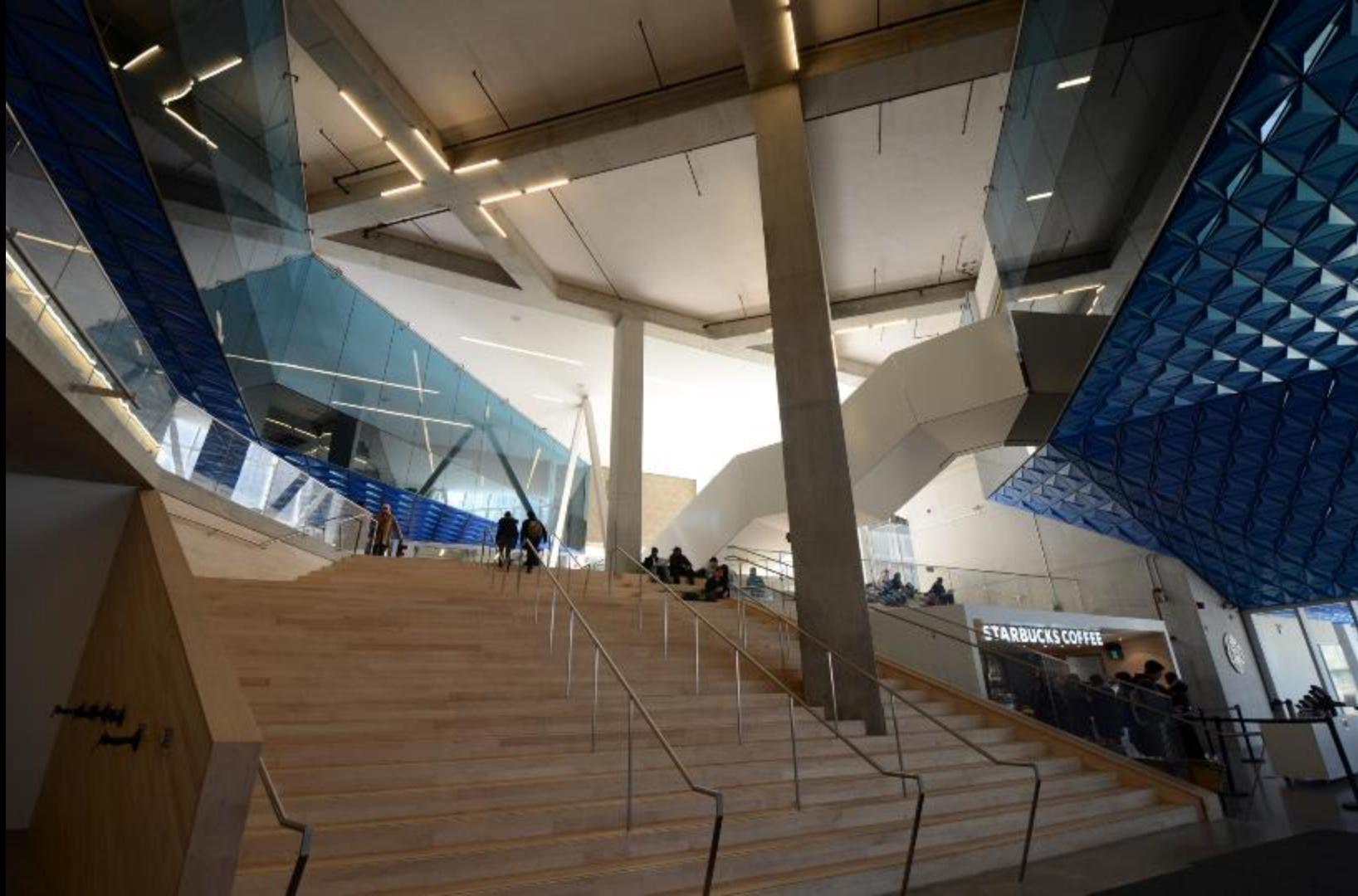














Office Building  
Potsdamer Platz  
Berlin, Germany  
Richard Rogers

























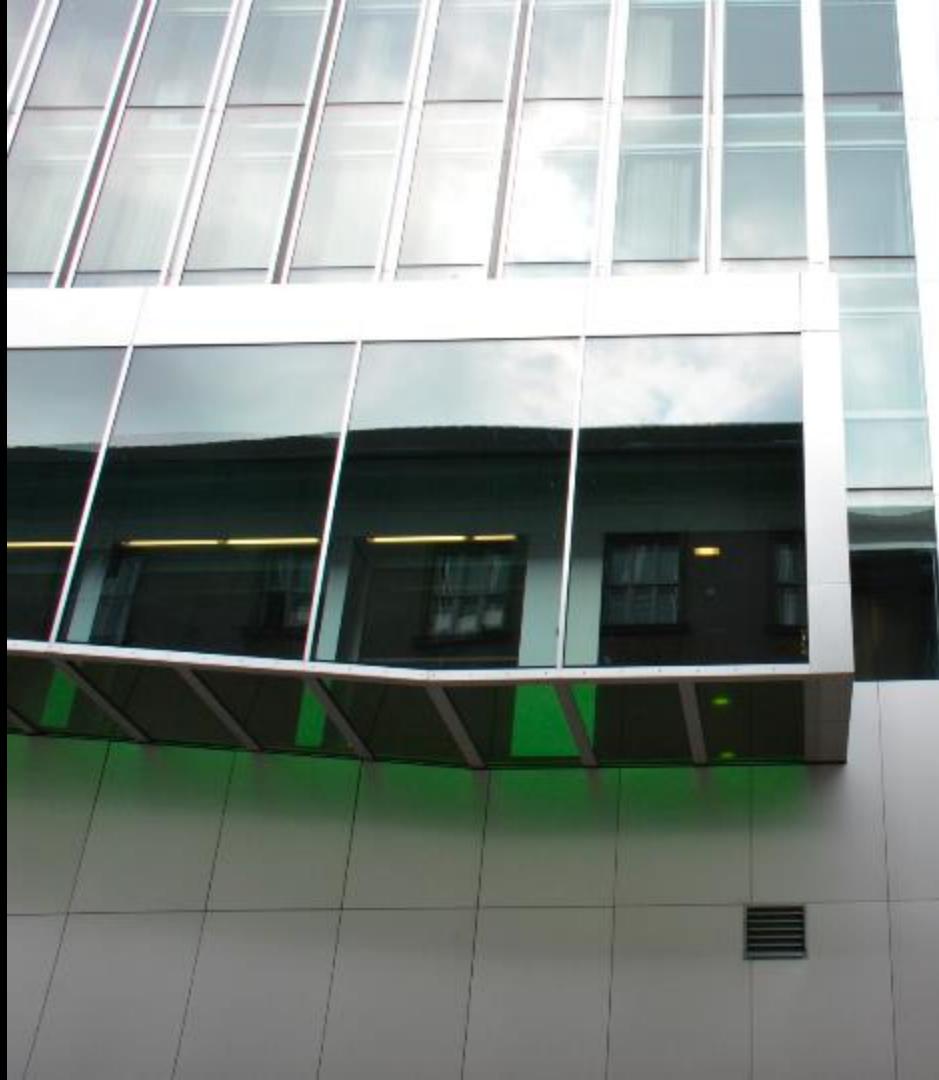
Dutch Embassy  
Berlin, Germany  
OMA



reel

















Thin Metal Cladding / Veneer



Chrysler Building  
NYC 1930



Frank Gehry...





Residential Building  
Berlin, Germany  
Zaha Hadid









Linked Hybrid  
Beijing, China  
Steven Holl Associates  
2009









Galaxy Soho  
Beijing, China  
Zaha Hadid

















Conrad Hotel  
MAD Architects  
Beijing, China











Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto  
Studio Libeskind





Residence  
Roger Williams University  
Bristol, Rhode Island  
Perkins + Will Architects









School of Architecture  
Penn State University  
WTW Architects













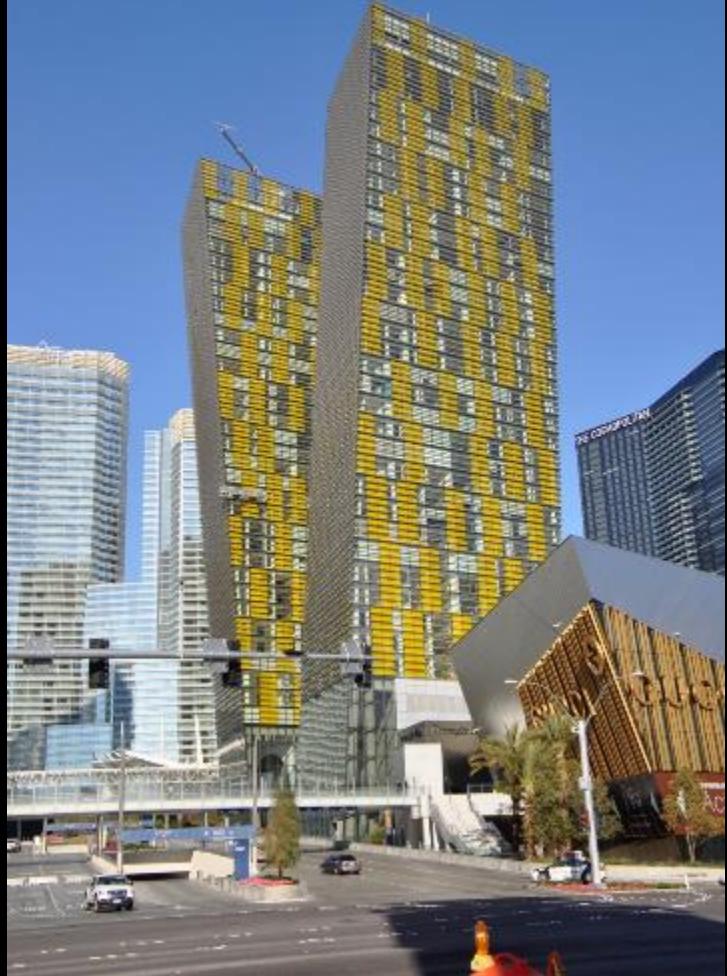




# Shading Motivated Systems



Le Corbusier and the Brise Soleil



Veer Towers  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Murphy Jahn Architects  
2010



































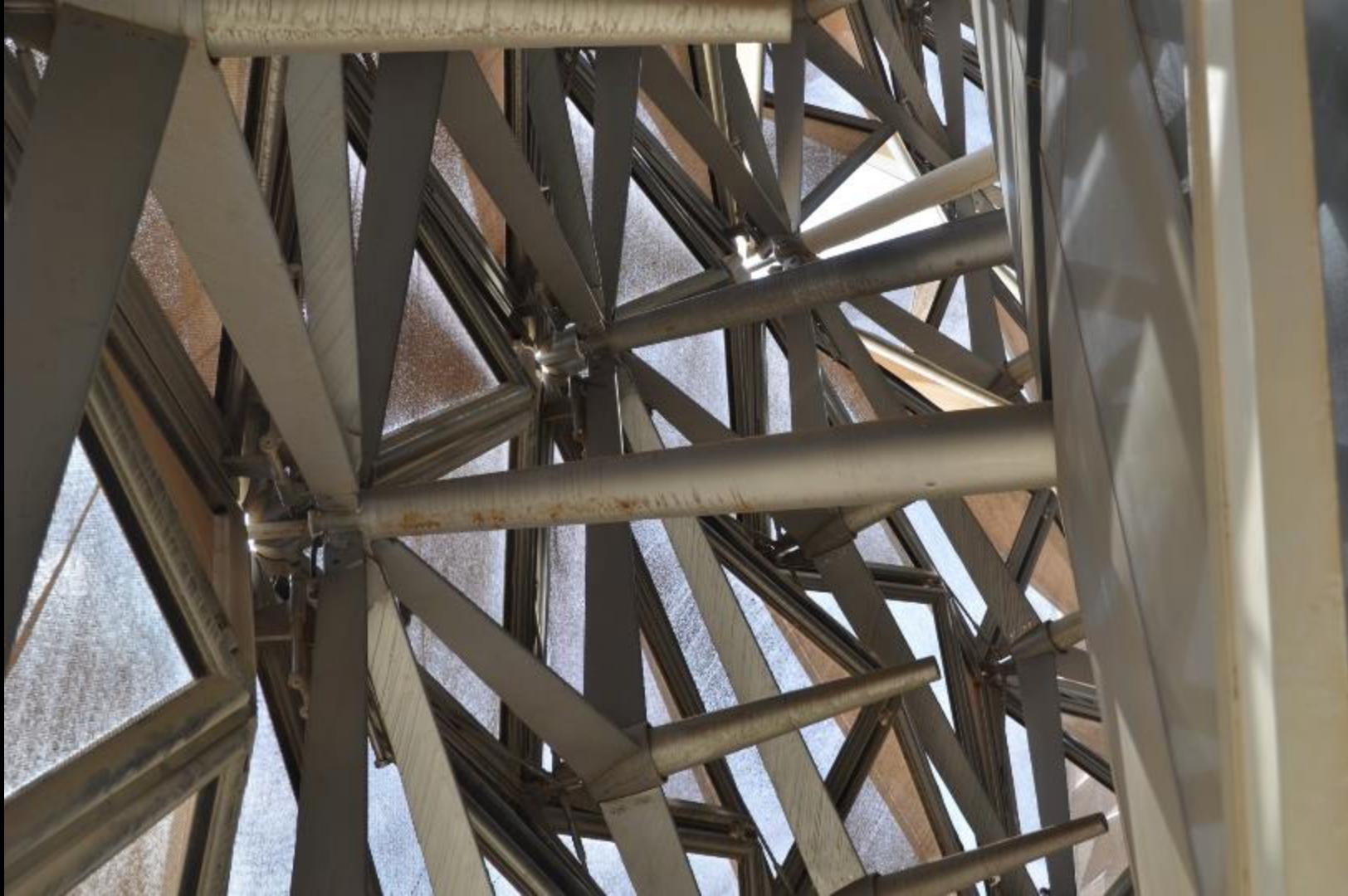


Al Bahar Towers  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Aedas Architects  
2012











Education City  
Doha, Qatar

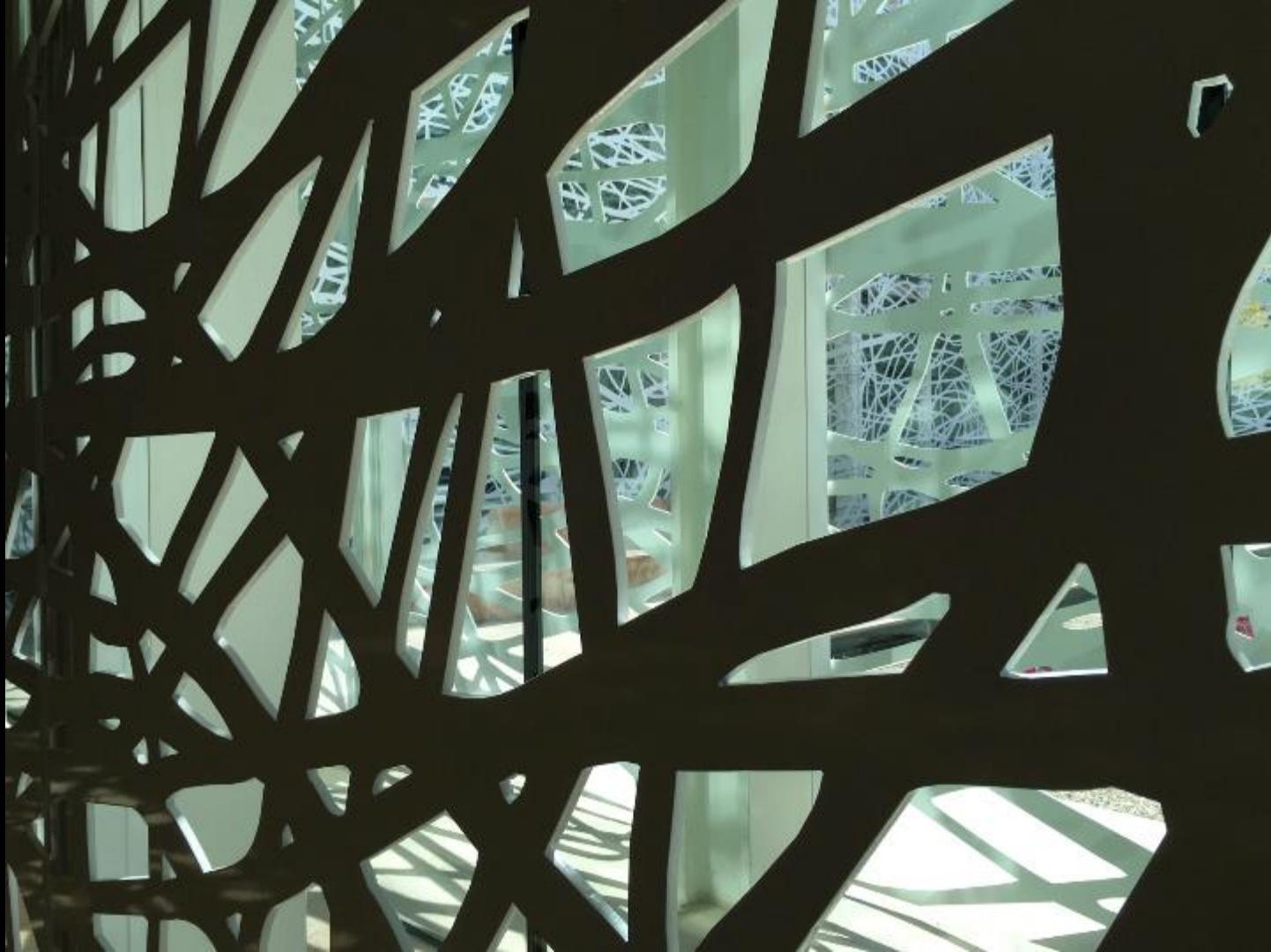
















Al Noor Butterfly Pavilion  
Sharjah, UAE  
3dēluxe Architects  
2015









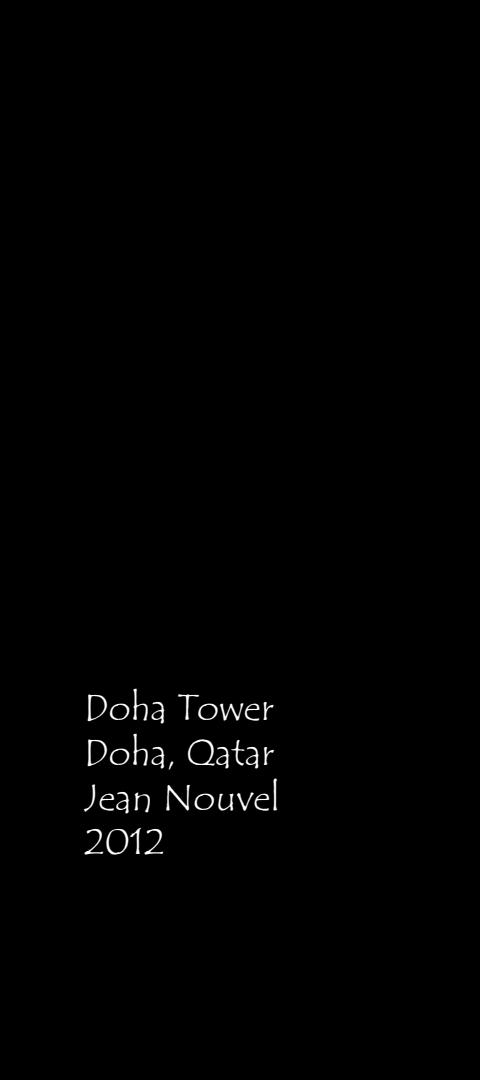




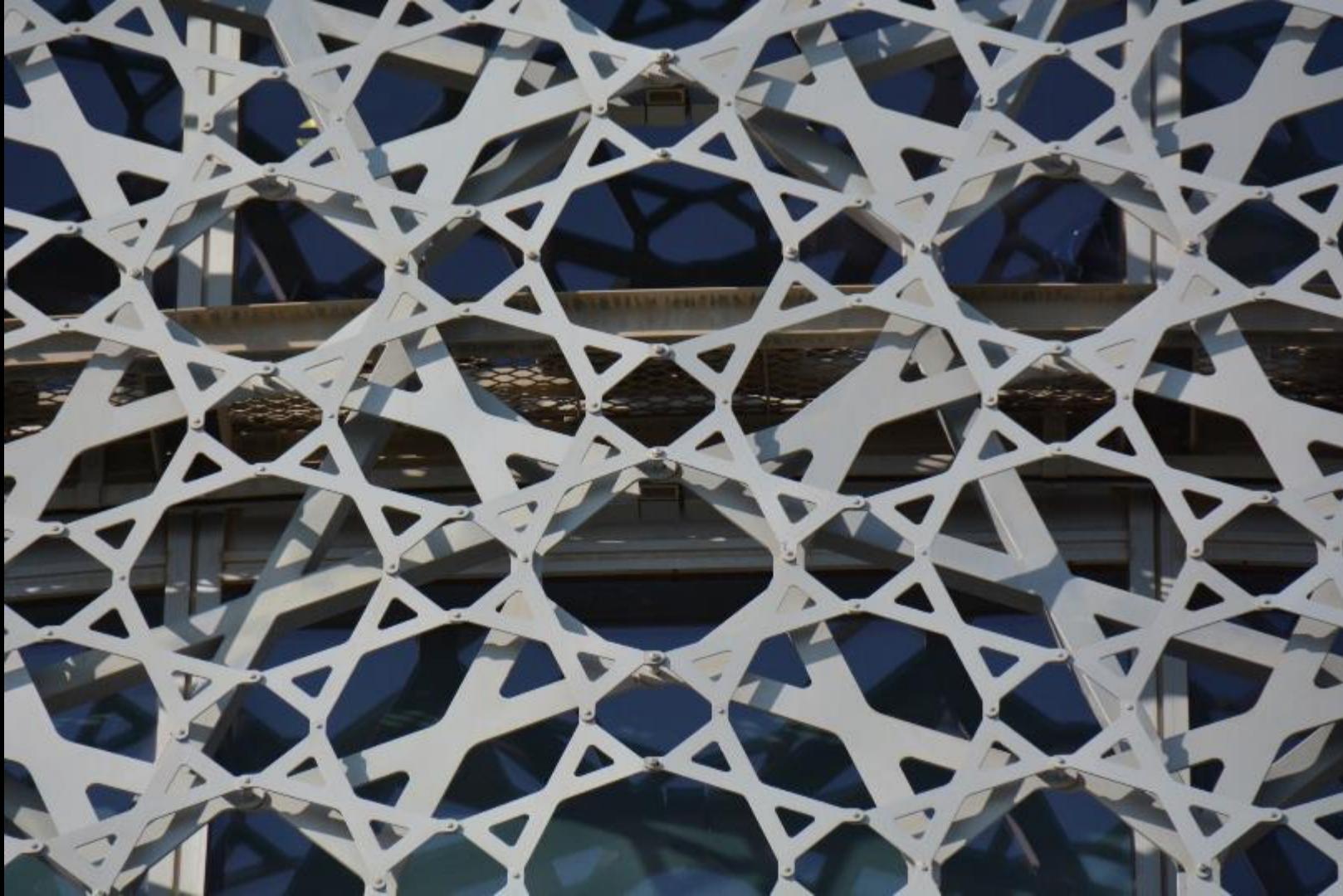




Doha Tower  
Doha, Qatar  
Jean Nouvel  
2012









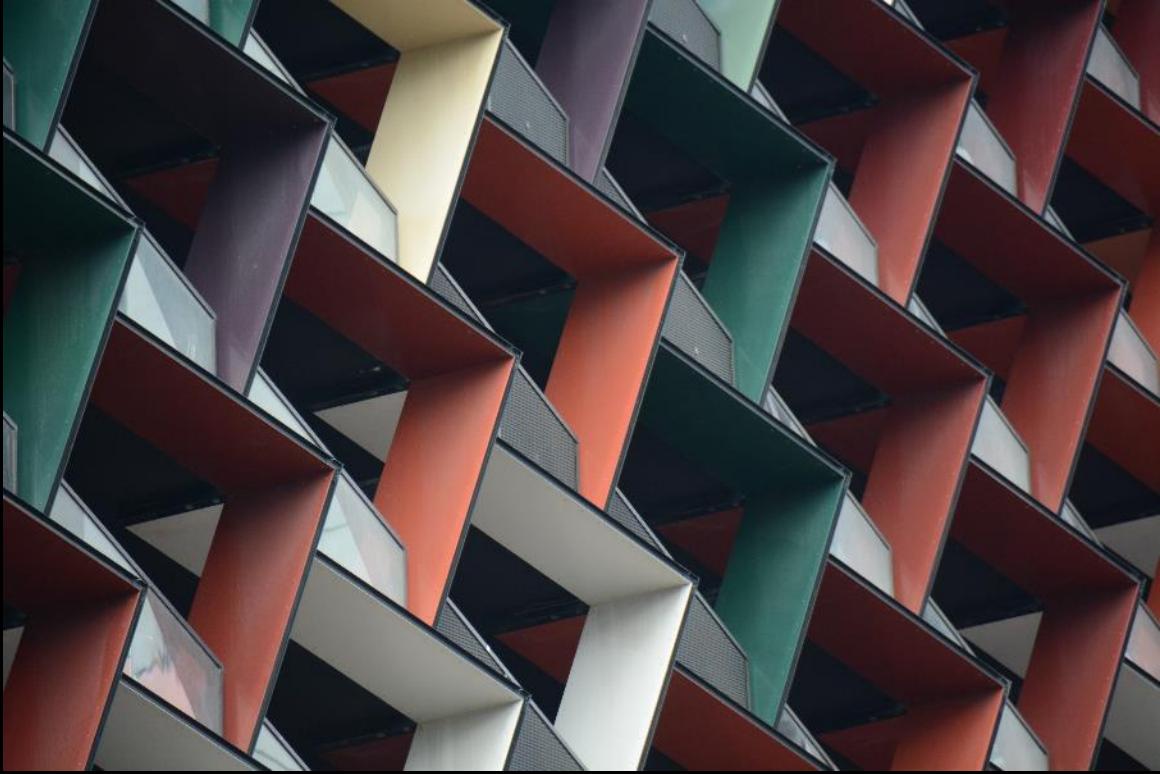














The Index  
Dubai, UAE  
Foster and Partners  
2010



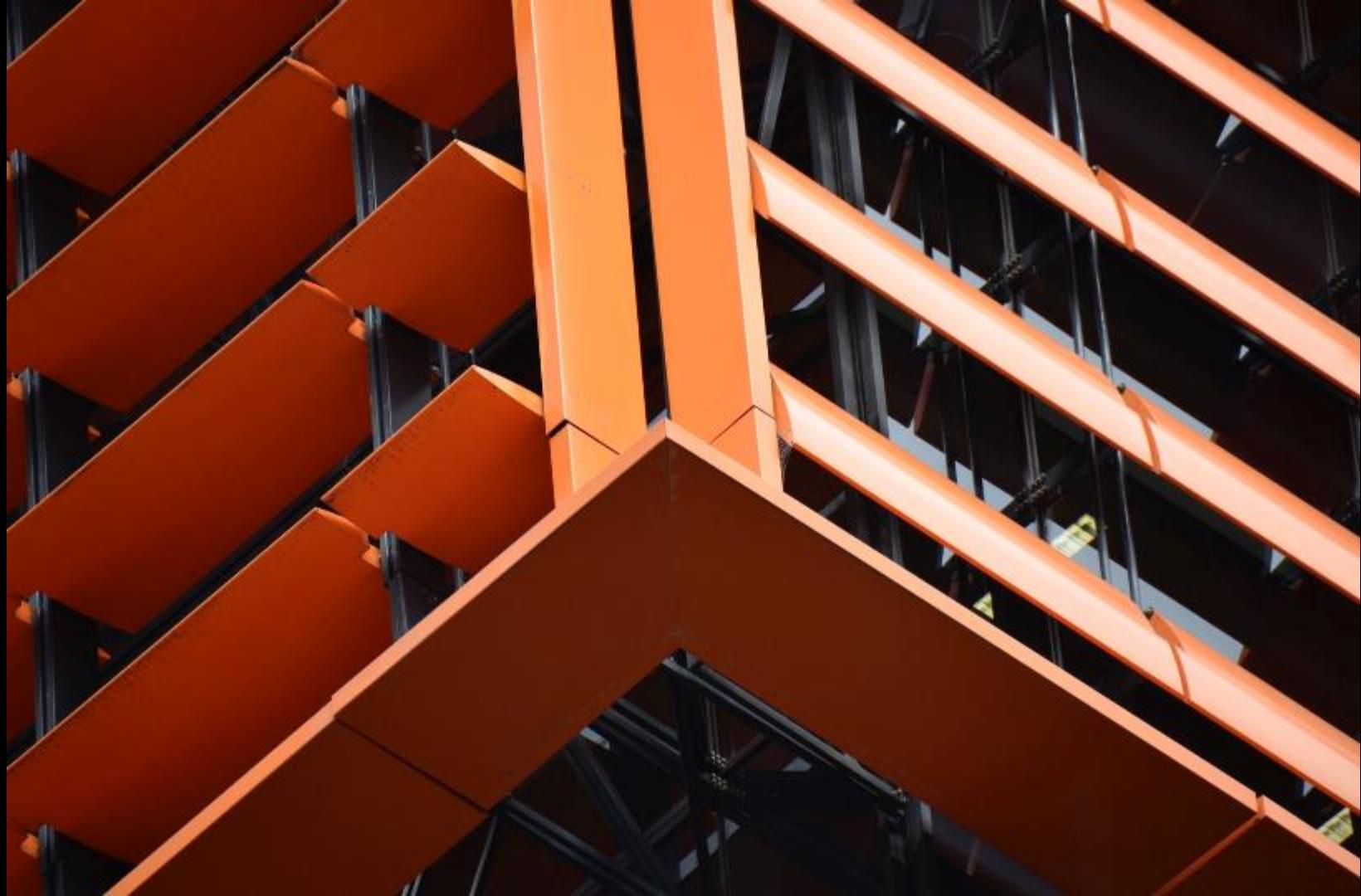


























People's Daily New Headquarters  
Beijing, China  
Southeast University School of Architecture  
2015

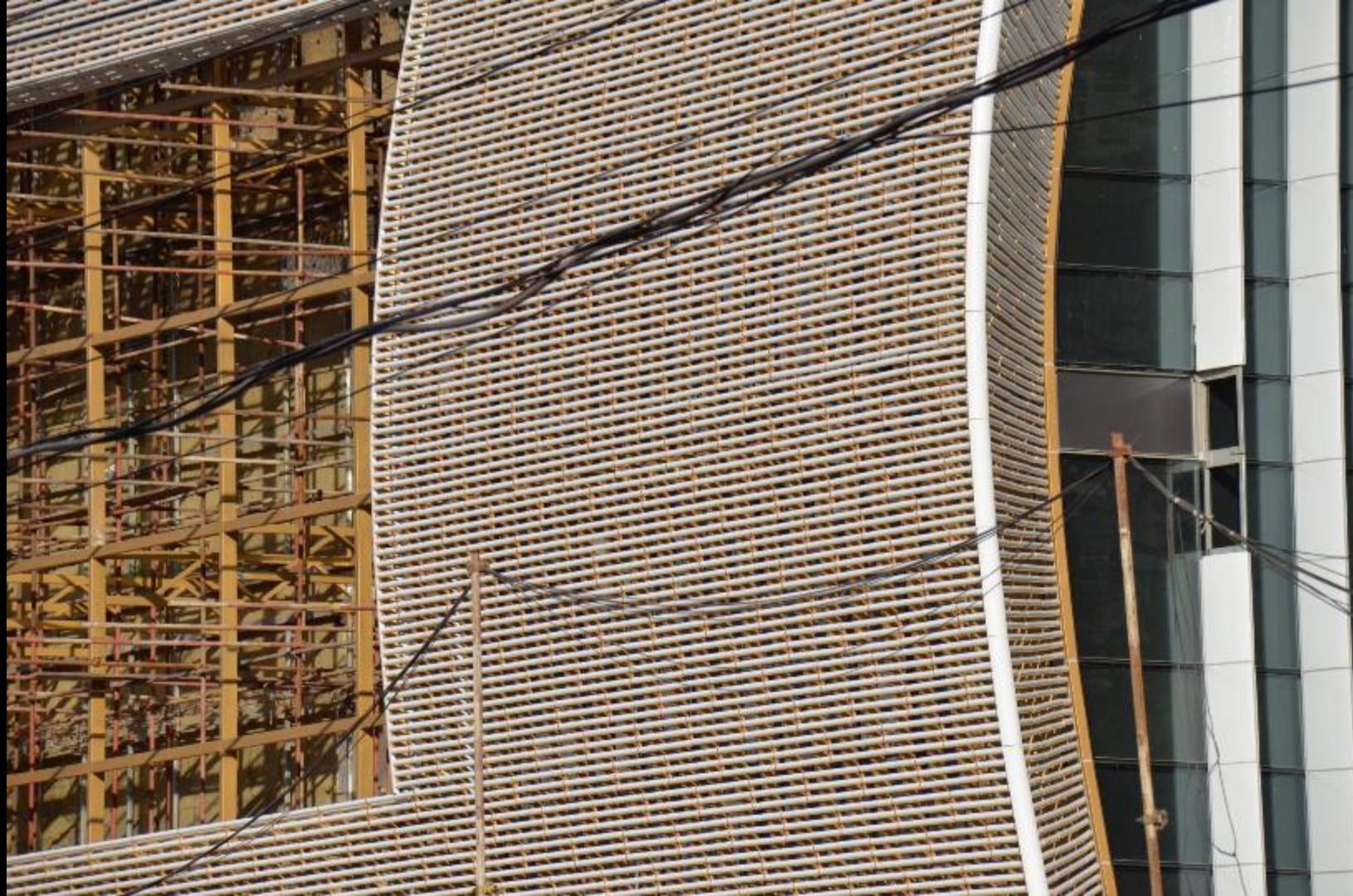














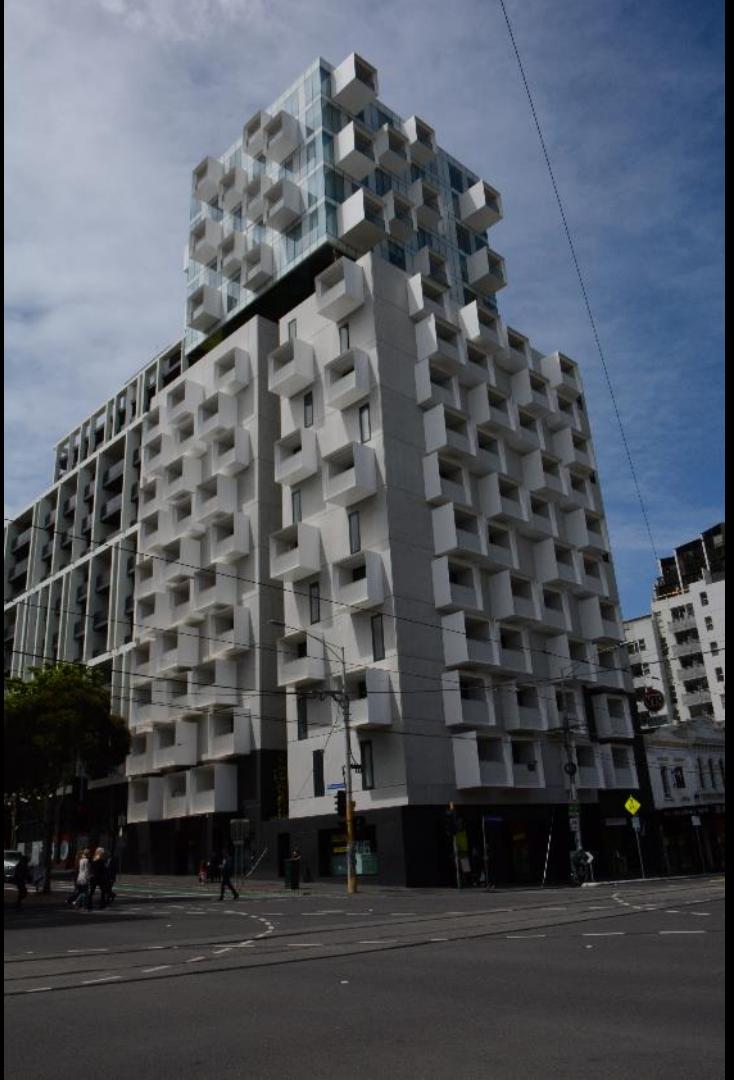


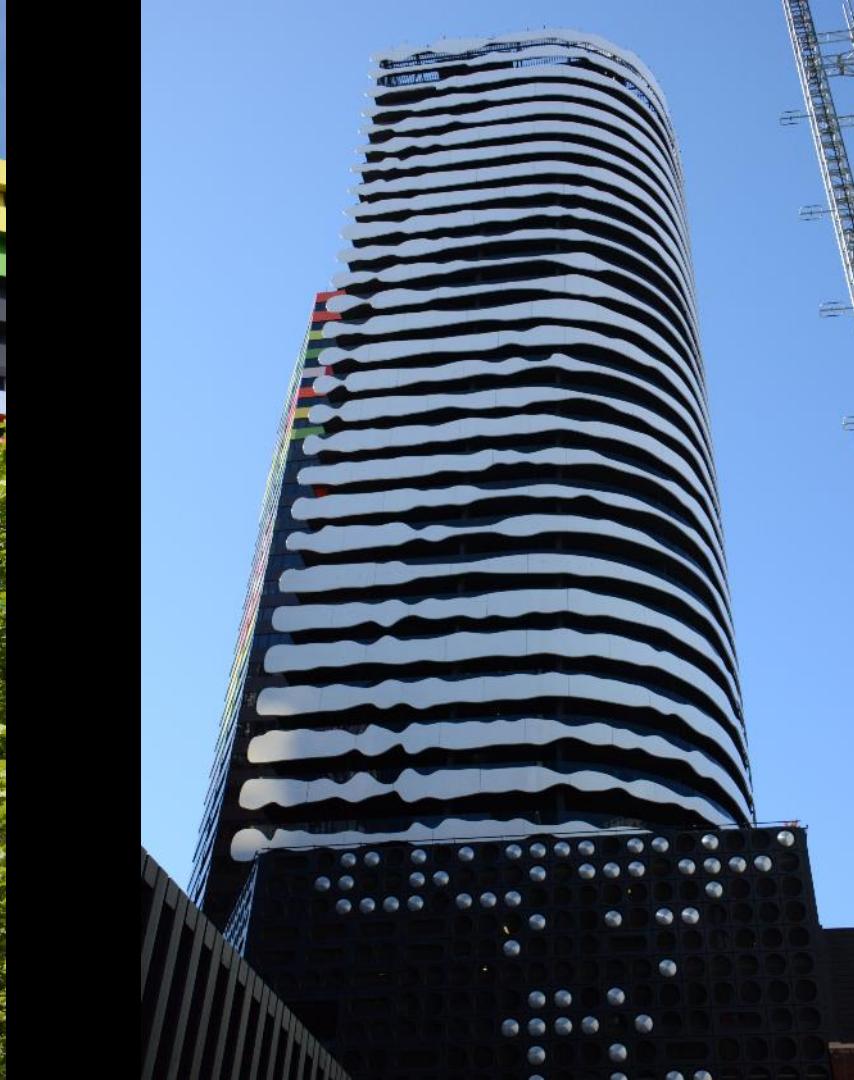


Various  
Melbourne, Australia





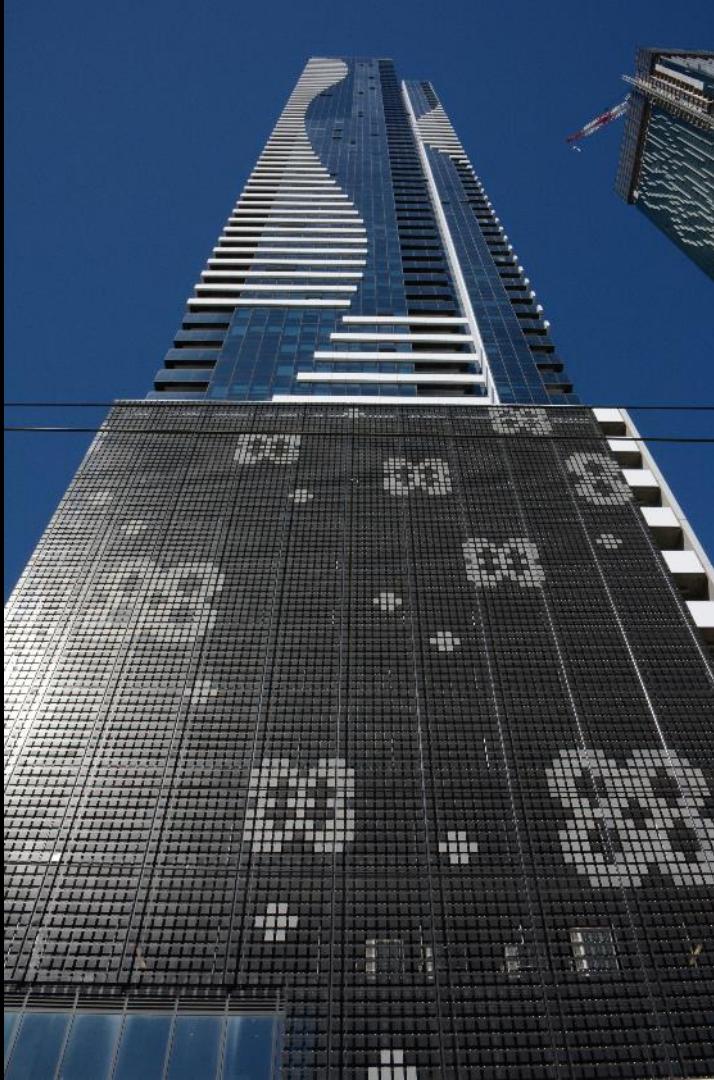
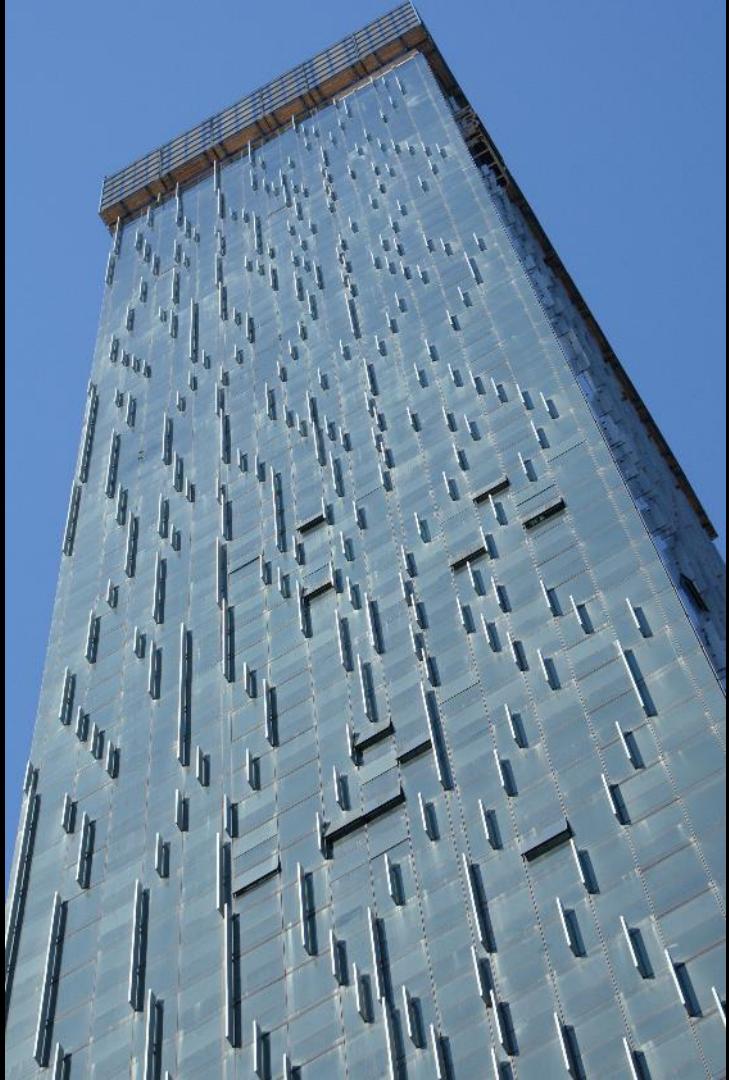


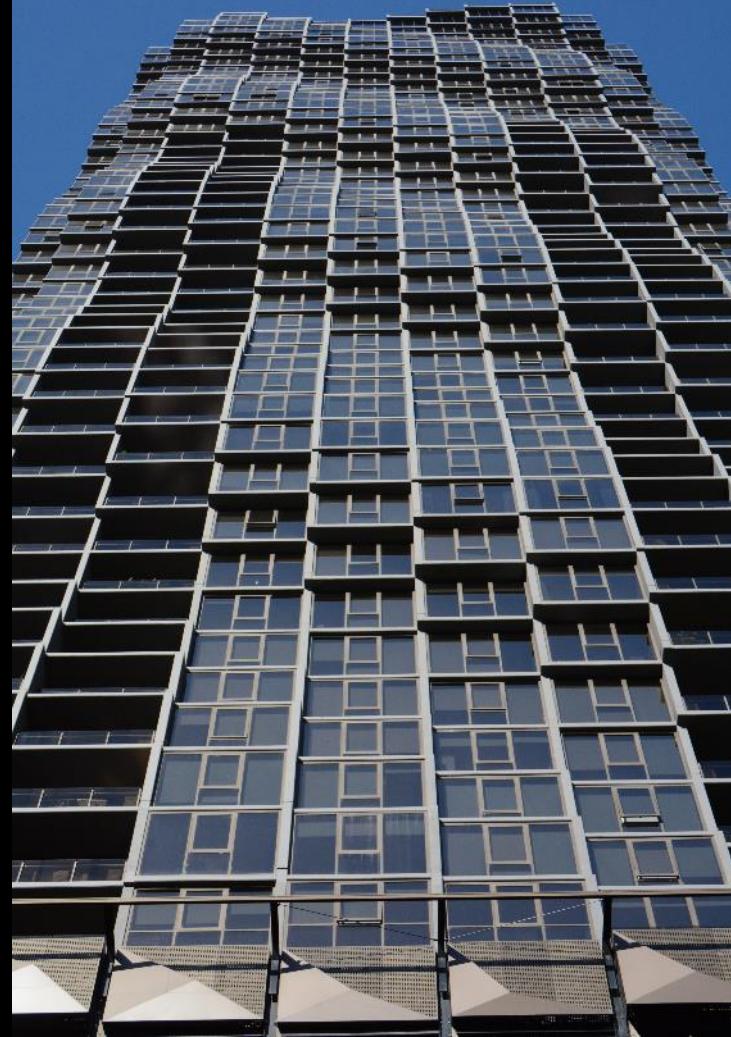










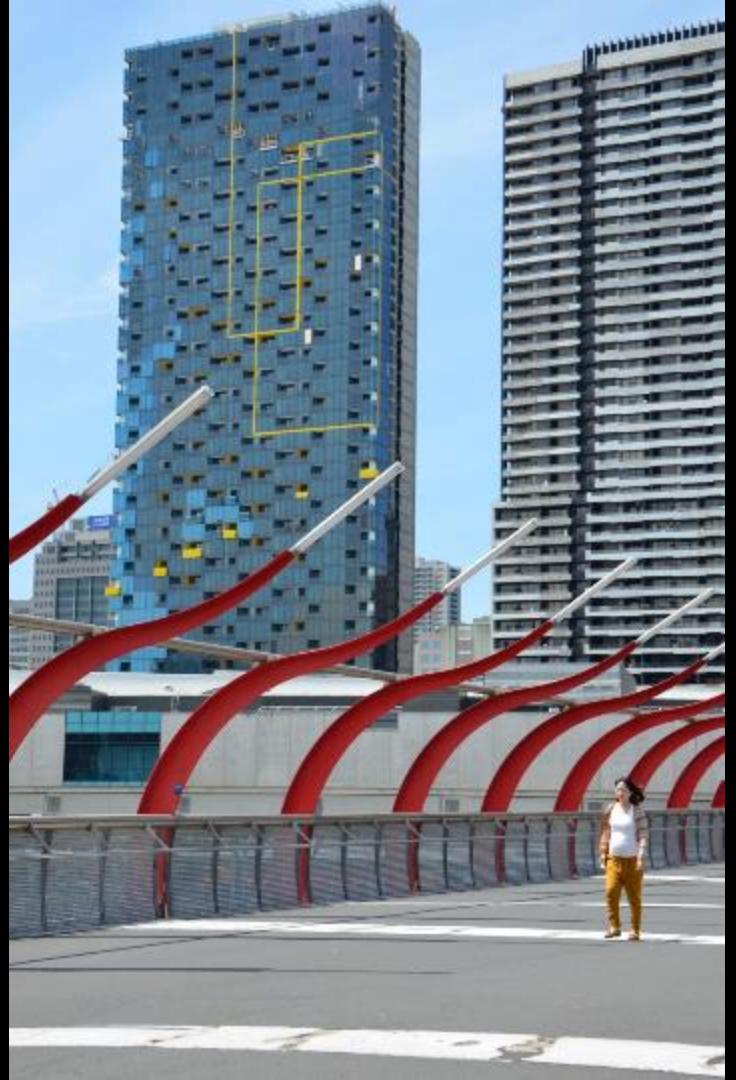
















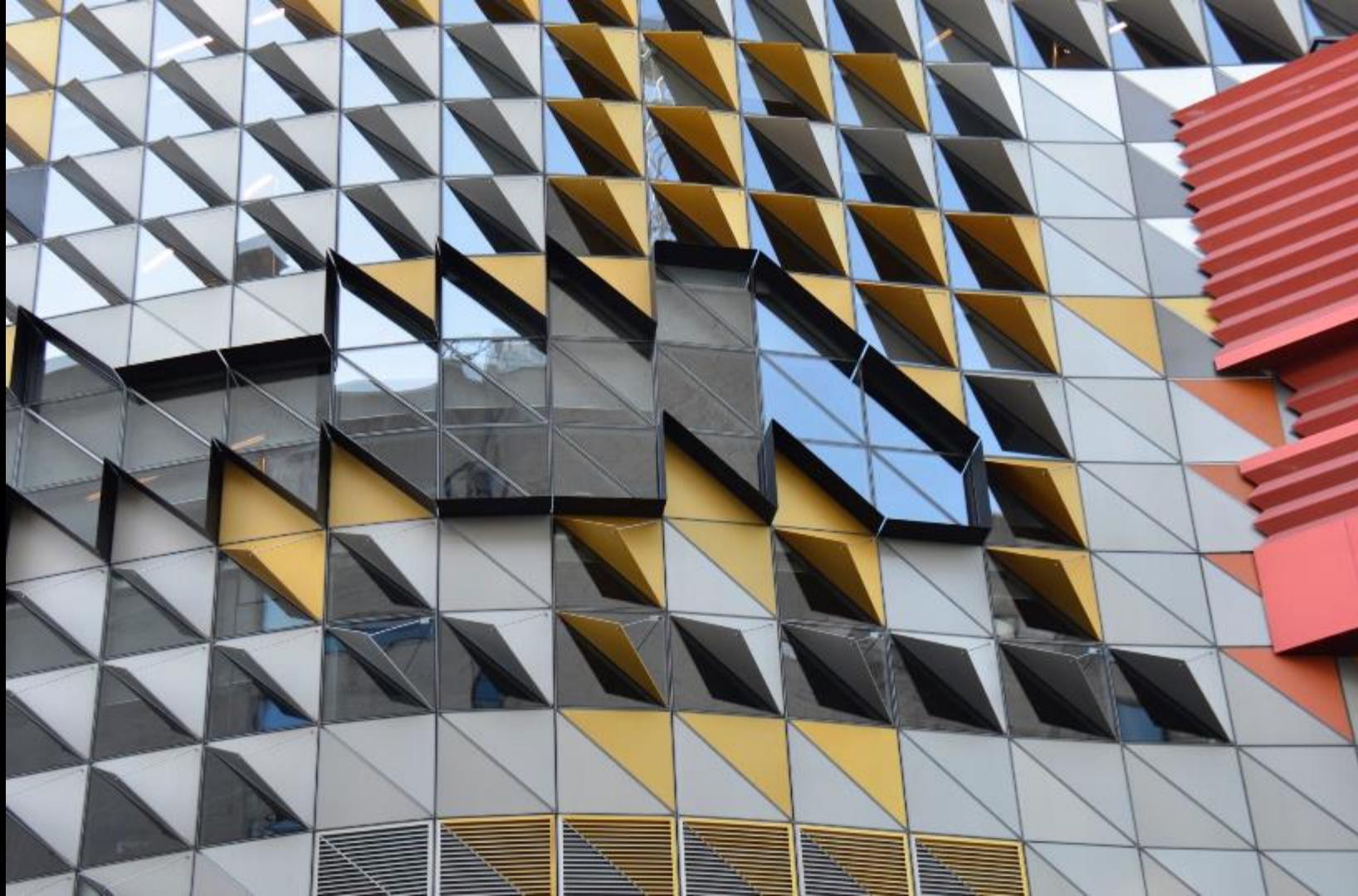


Royal Melbourne Institute of  
Technology  
Accounting Building  
Melbourne, Australia  
Lyons Architects



















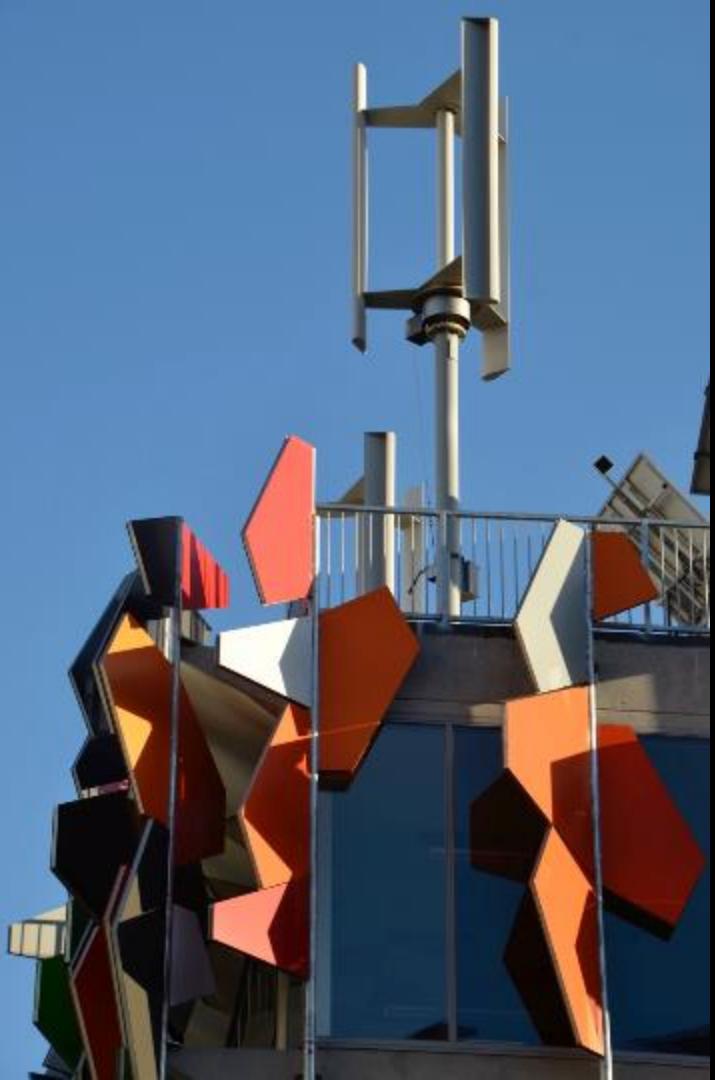






Pixel Building  
Melbourne, Australia  
Studio 505







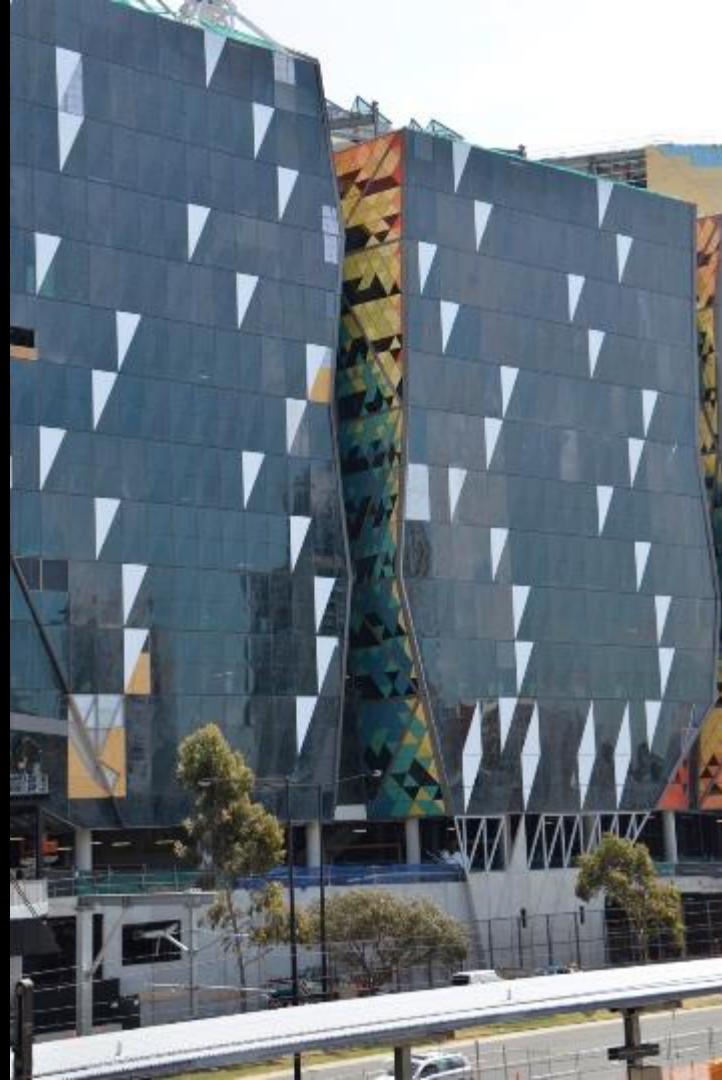


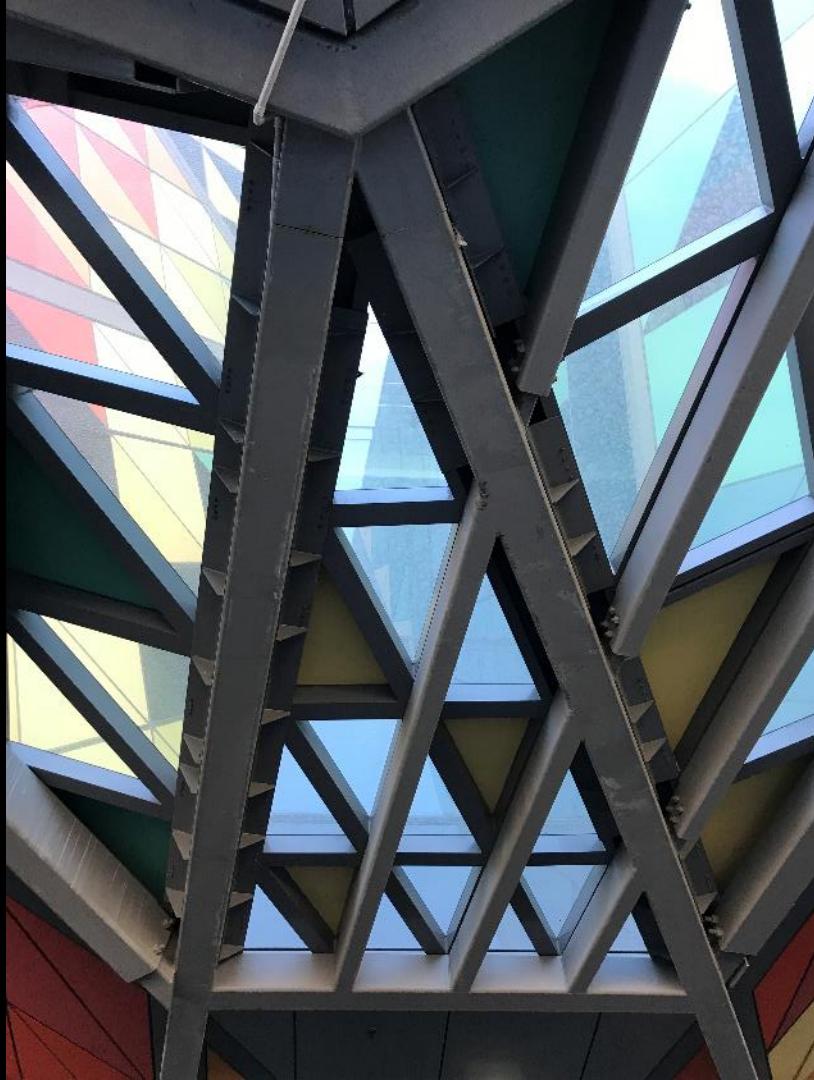






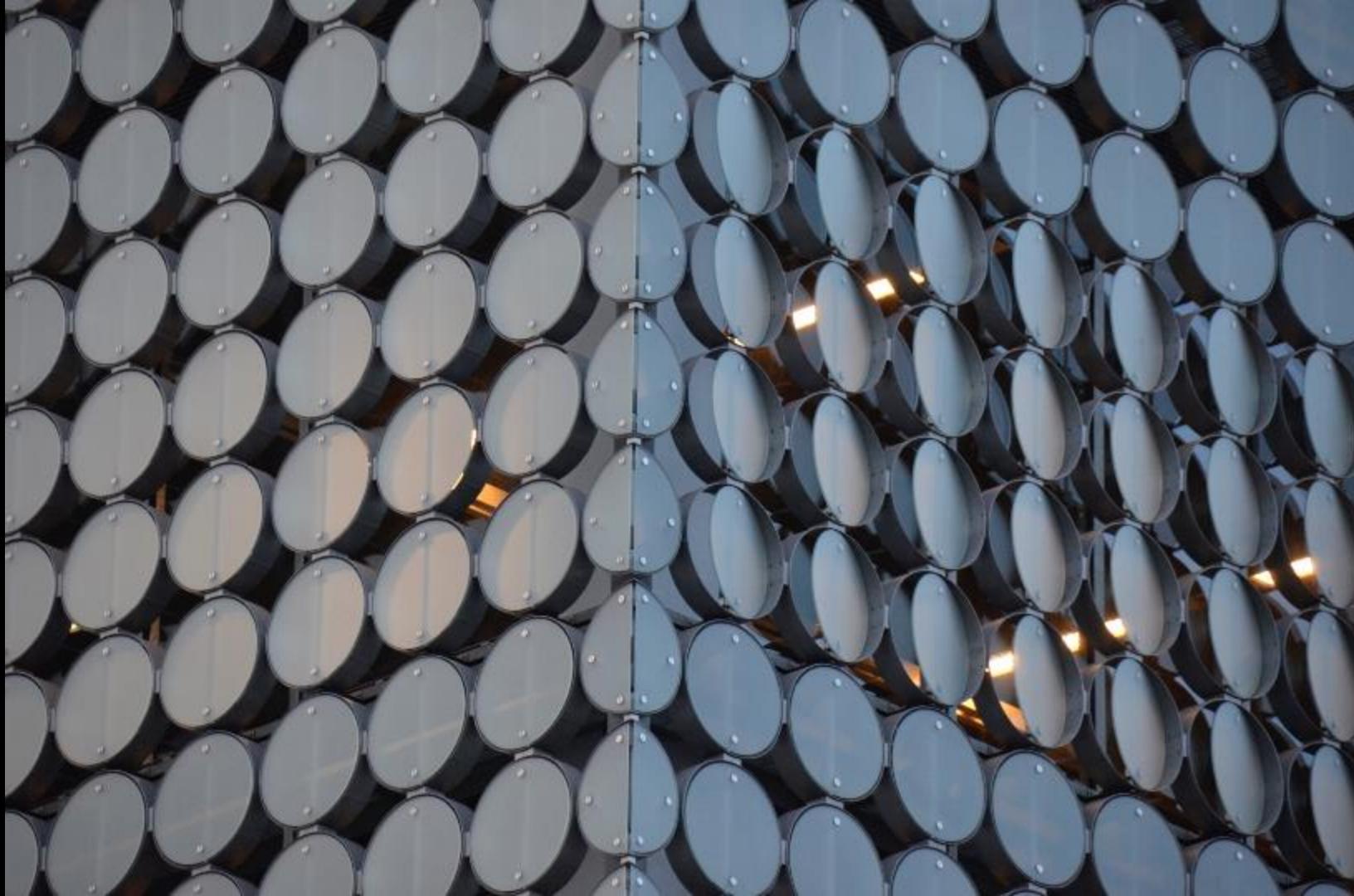




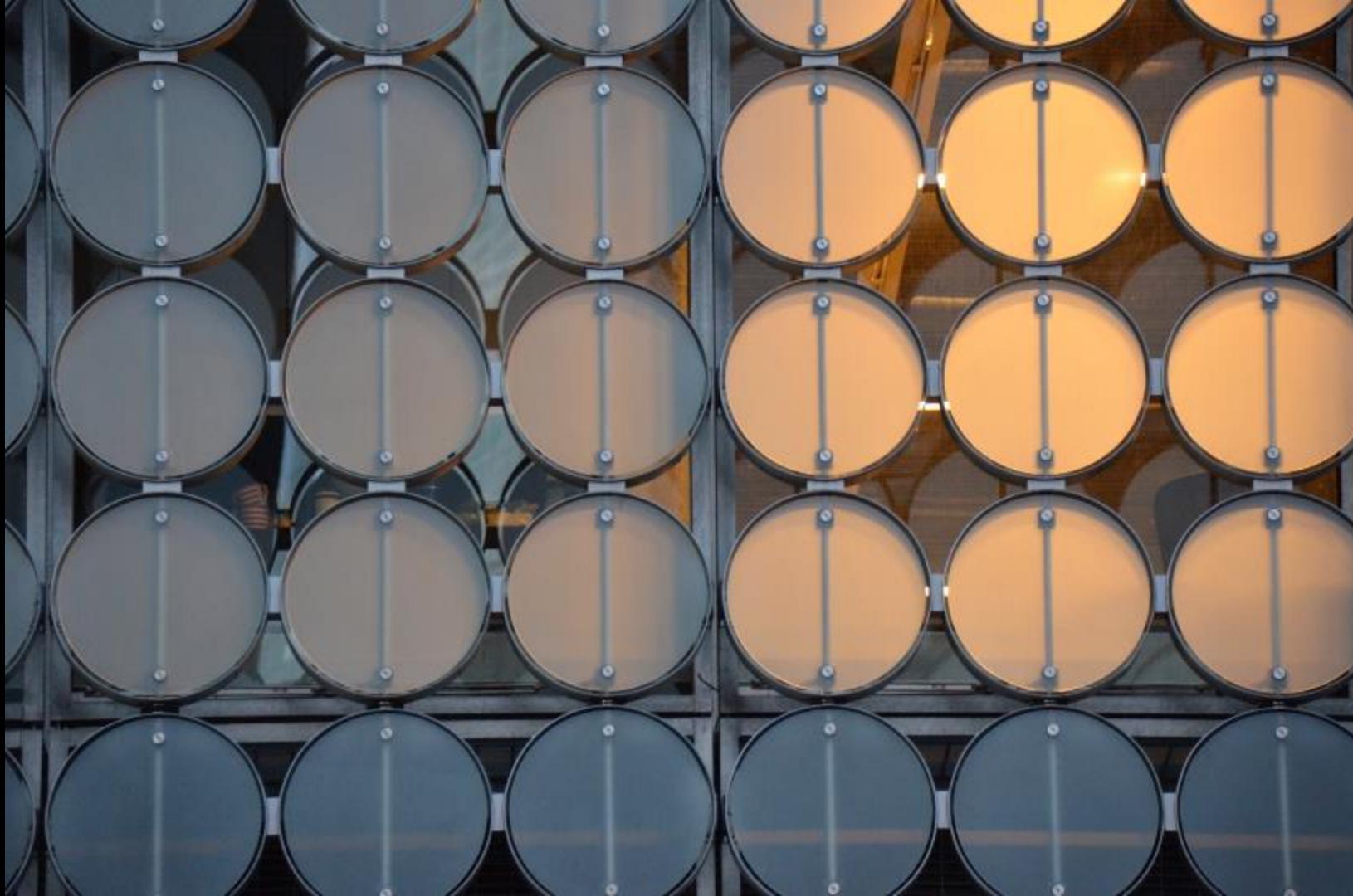




RMIT Design Hub  
Melbourne, Australia  
Peddle Thorp Architects











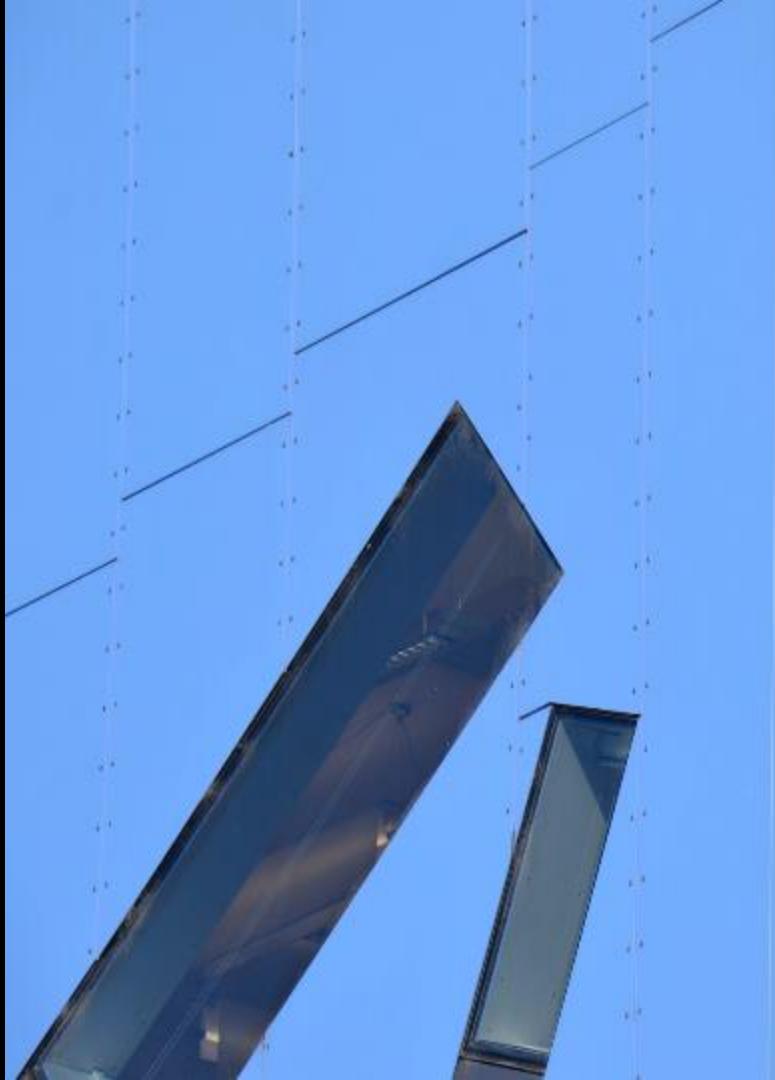
Various Projects  
Brisbane, Australia











# Stone Veneer Systems



Guangzhou Opera House  
Guangzhou, China  
Zaha Hadid Architects  
2010





























St. Giles Complex  
London, England  
Renzo Piano





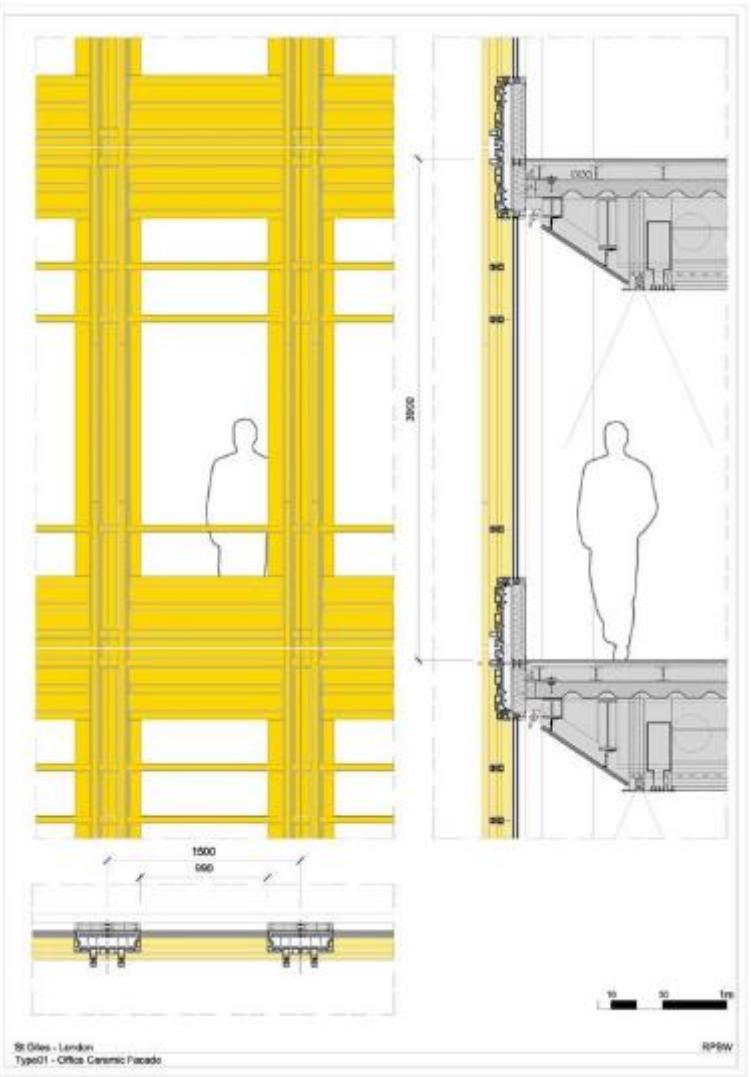












# Fibre Reinforced Concrete

Fibre reinforced concrete is a type of concrete that includes fibrous substances that increase its structural strength and cohesion.

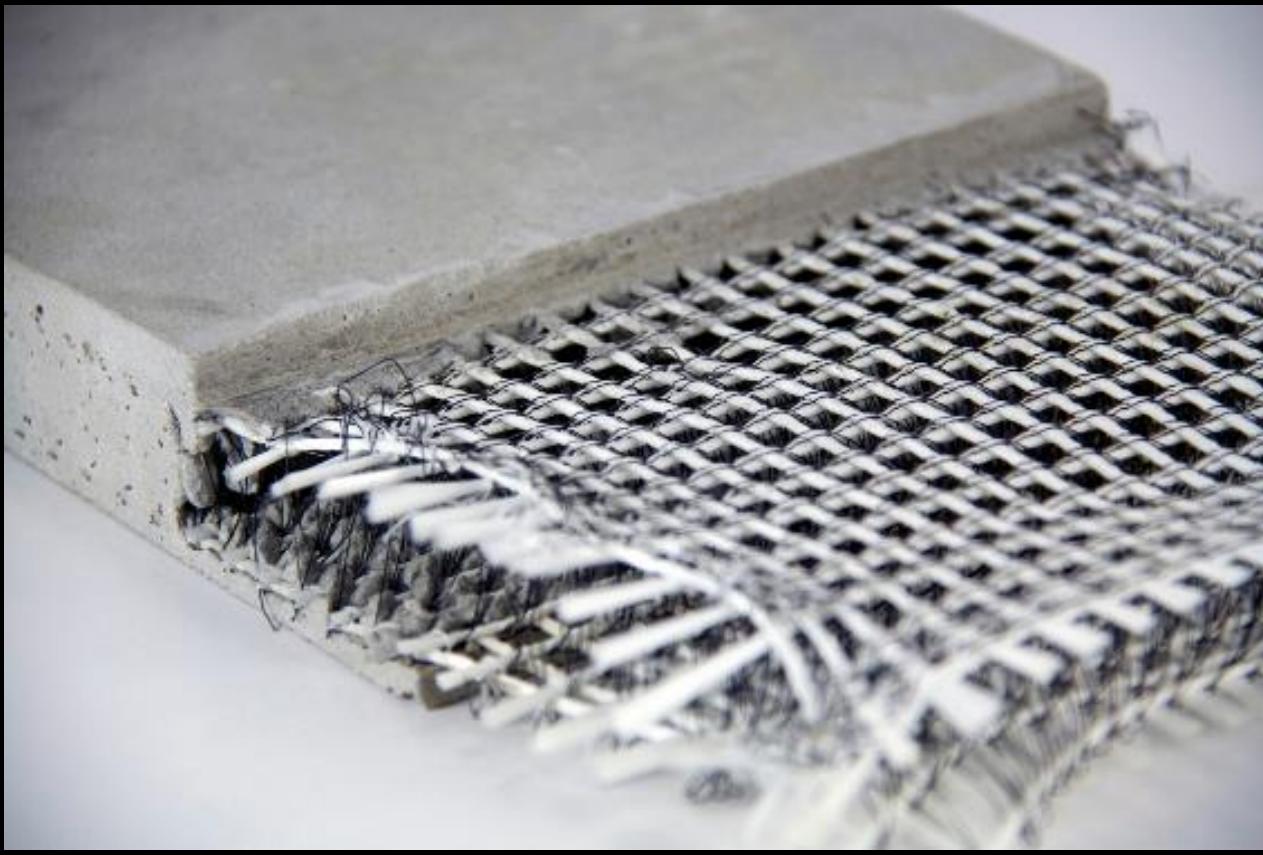
Fibre reinforced concrete has small distinct fibers that are homogeneously dispersed and oriented haphazardly.

Fibres used are steel fibers, synthetic fibres, glass fibres and natural fibres.



1 in. Crack  
Opening











The FRP (fibre reinforced panels) are pretty thin, unlike precast concrete, and are often supported behind by a steel frame which is then attached to the building structure behind.



Academic Bridge Program  
Education City  
Doha, Qatar



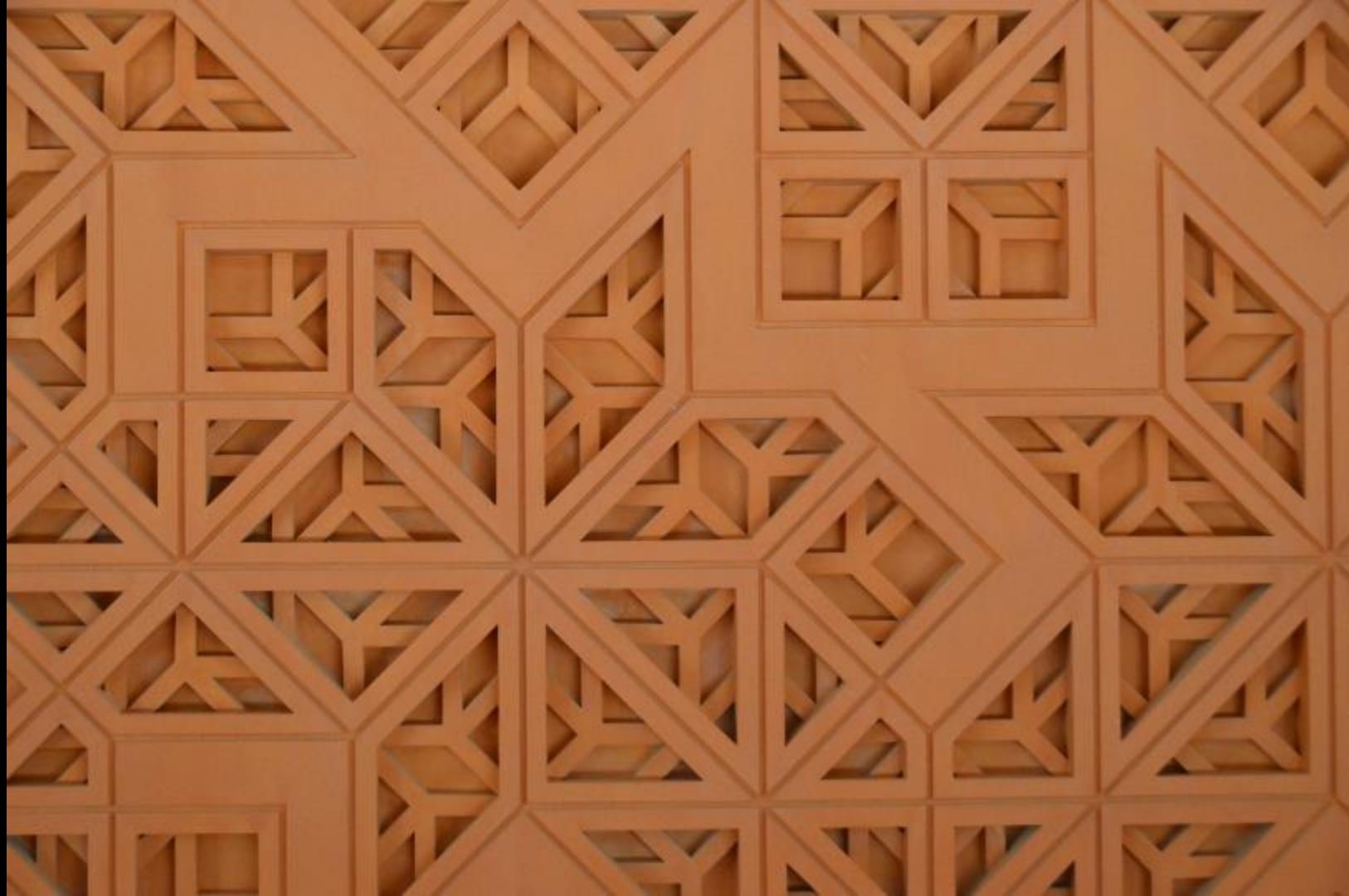


Masdar Institute  
Foster and Partners  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2010







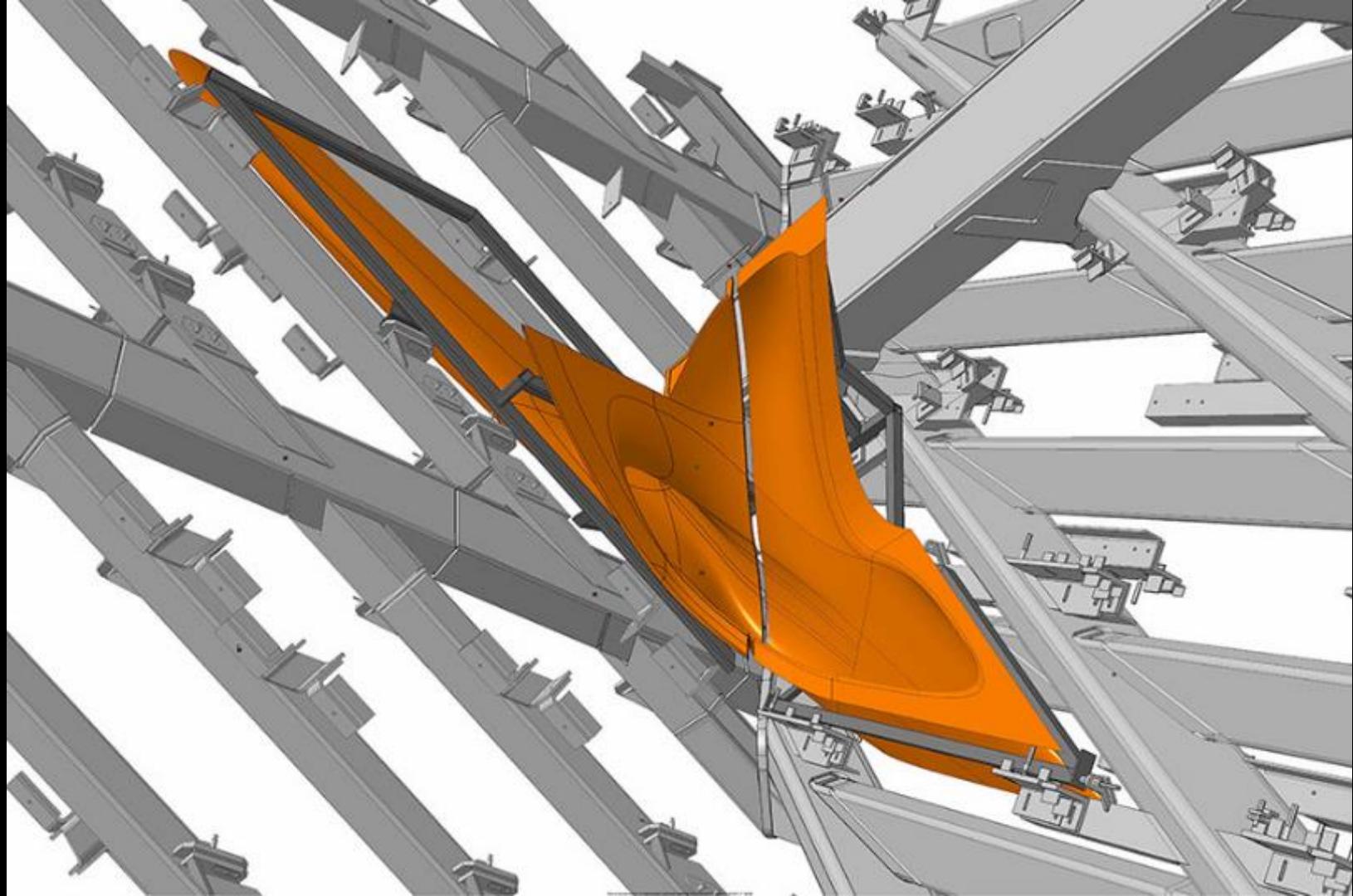




The Broad Museum  
Los Angeles, California  
Diller Scofidio + Renfro  
2015











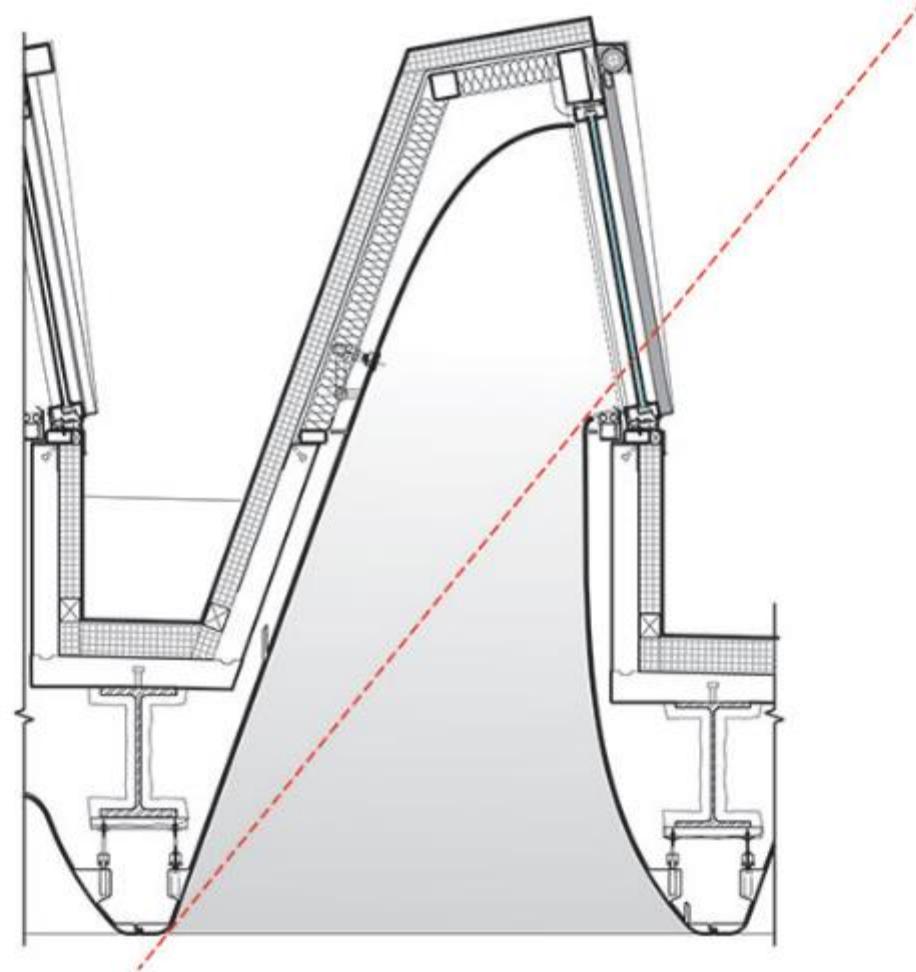














Very thin FRP manufactured under  
the name "Swiss Pearl"













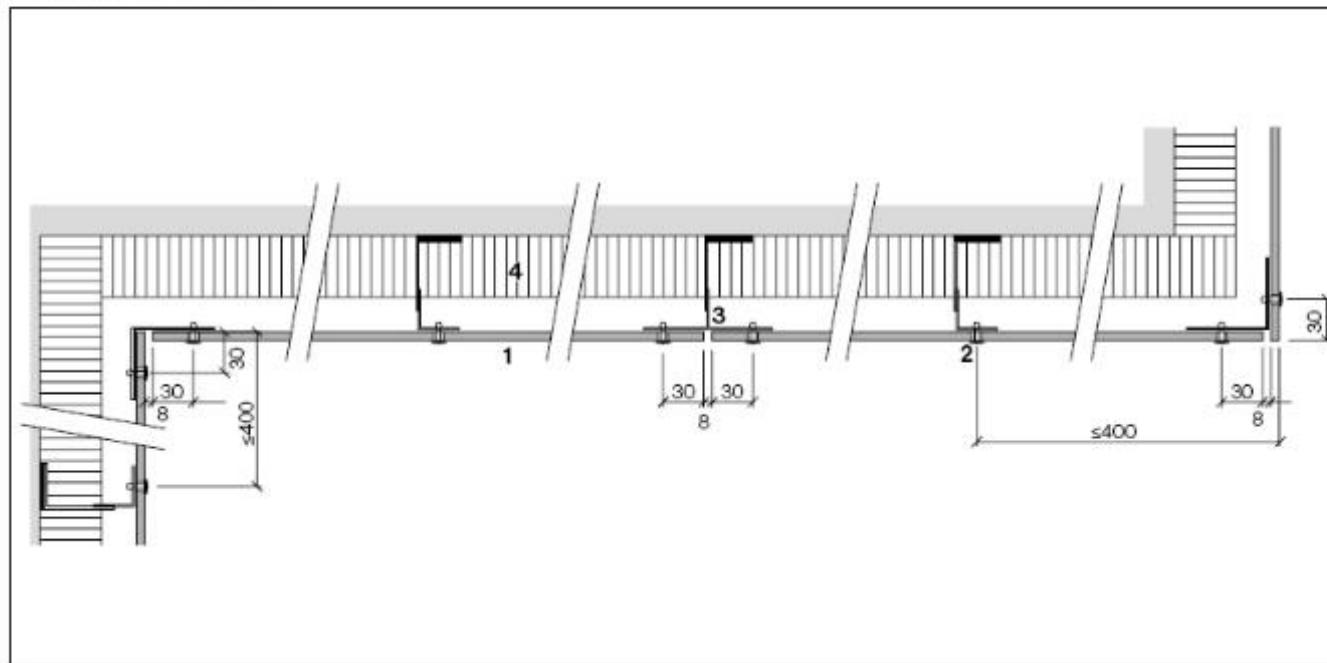








### Horizontal section

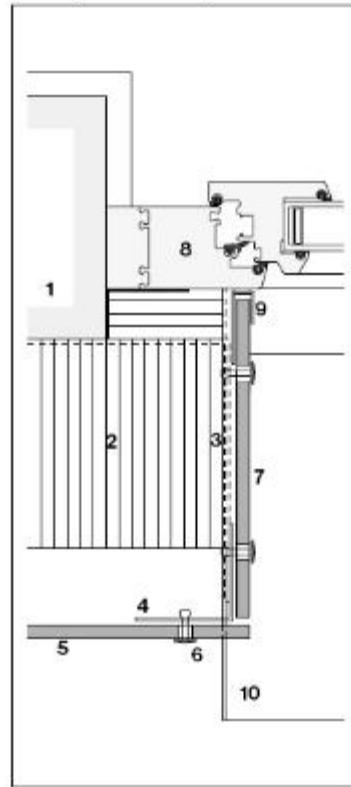


Panel may be cantilevered max.  
400 mm

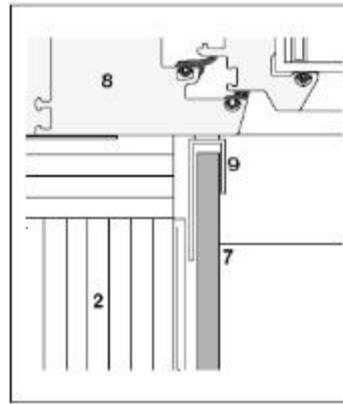
- 1 Swisspearl panel 8 mm
- 2 Rivet
- 3 Aluminum profile
- 4 Thermal insulation

# Design I Metal supports

Example window jamb



Jamb with 8 mm panel



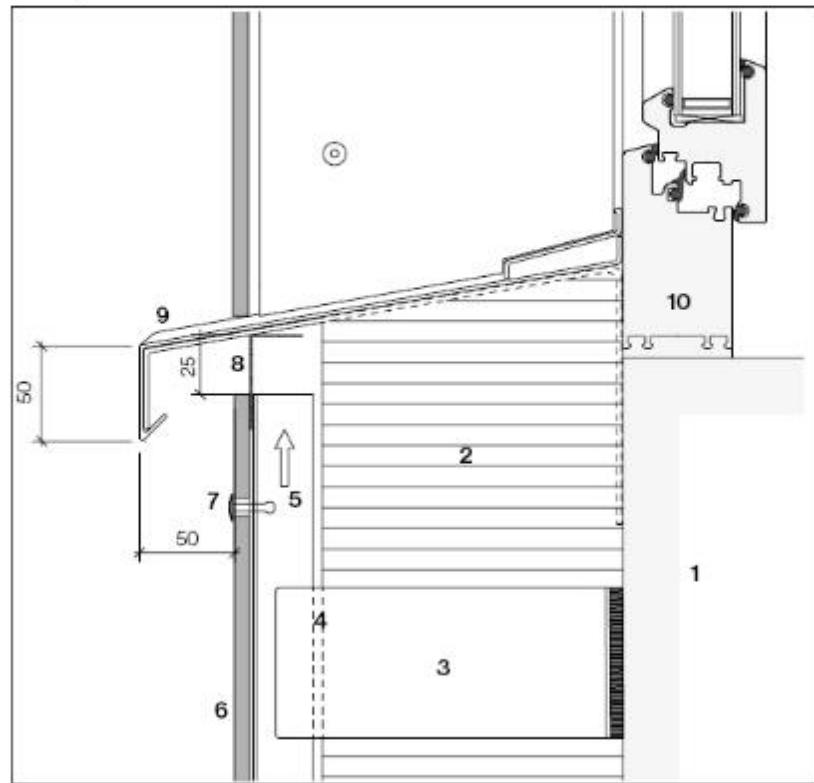
Window jamb with metal frame

- 1 Exterior wall
- 2 Thermal insulation
- 3 Horizontal support
- 4 Vertical support
- 5 Swisspearl panel 8 mm
- 6 Rivet 4.5x18 K15
- 7 Swisspearl jamb board 8 mm
- 8 Window frame
- 9 U or F-profile with sealant
- 10 Window sill

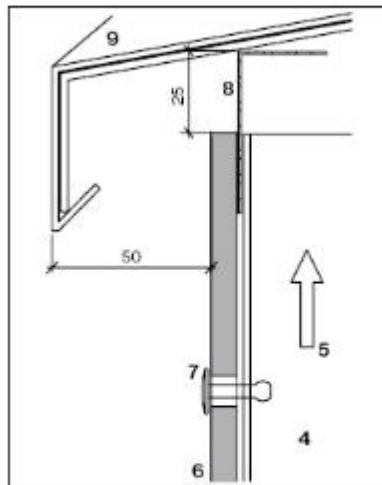
# Design | Metal supports

Swisspearl large panels

## Example window sill



Window sill made of metal



Sill detail

- 1 Exterior wall
- 2 Thermal insulation
- 3 Bracket
- 4 Vertical support
- 5 Ventilation cavity
- 6 Swisspearl panel 8 mm
- 7 Rivet 4.0x18-K15
- 8 Perforated angle
- 9 Window sill
- 10 Window frame

Ceramic Fritted Glass

## Ceramic Fritted Glass:

- Silk screening onto glass improves solar control performance
- Can be combined with clear or tinted substrates
- Reduces glare
- Can be any pattern (cost dependent)



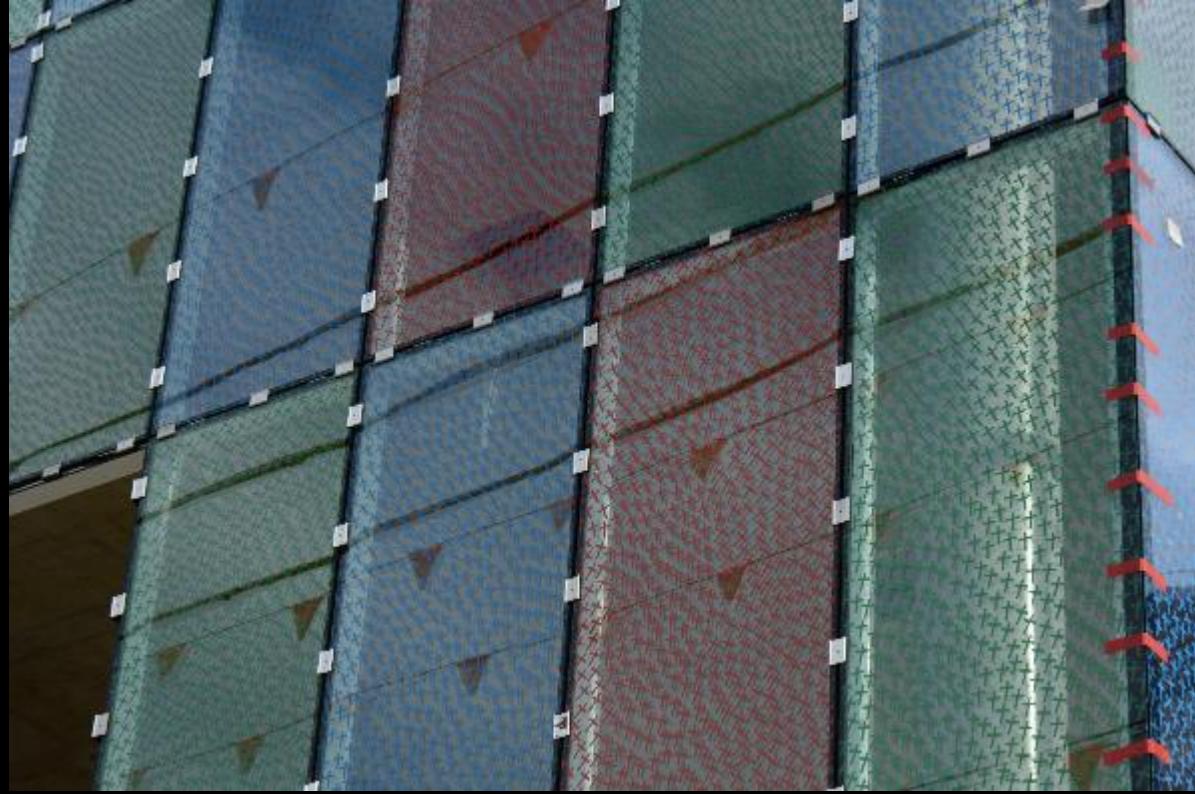
Chicago O'Hare International Airport















One New Change Shopping Centre  
London, England  
Ateliers Jean Nouvel



















Office Building  
Brisbane, Australia







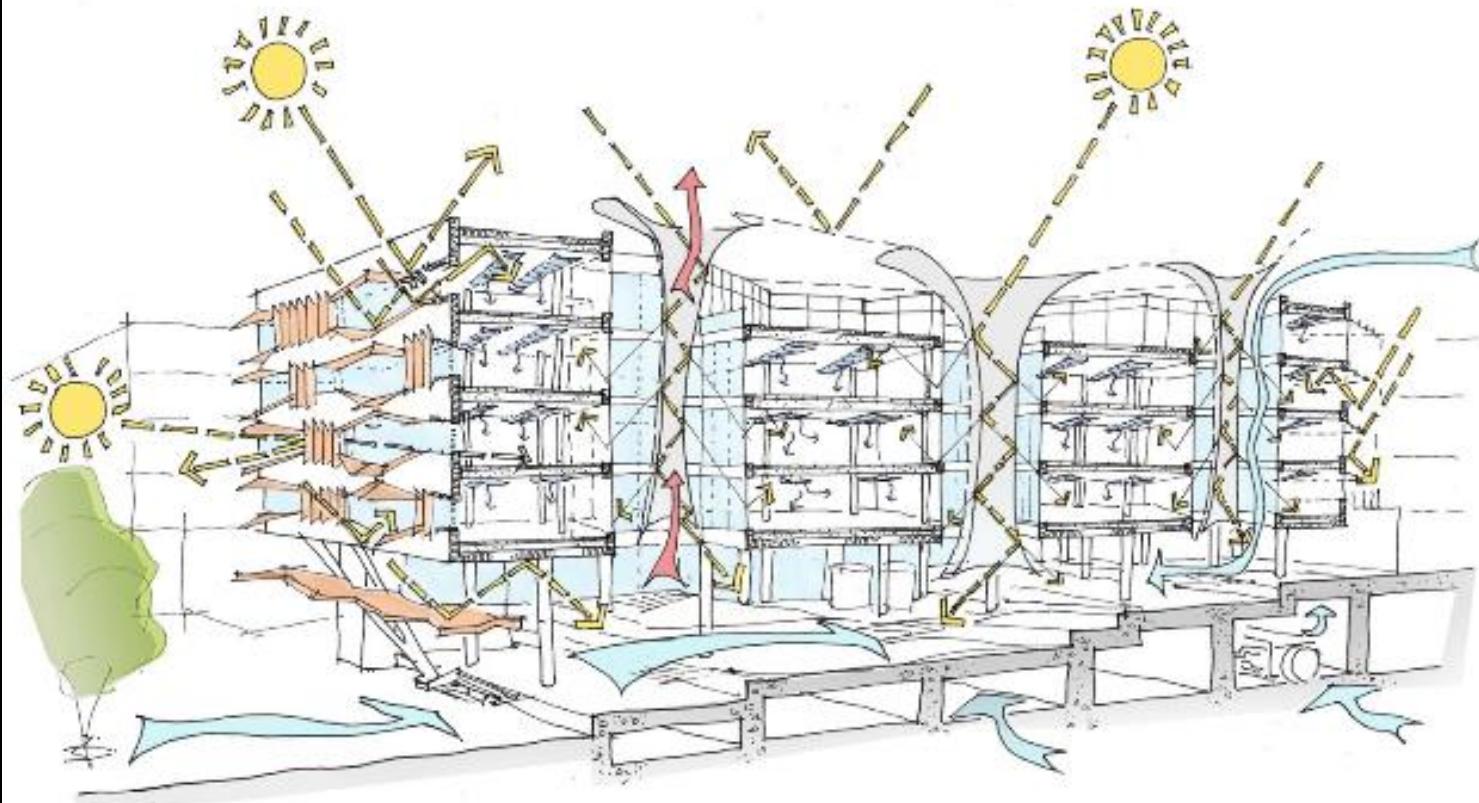


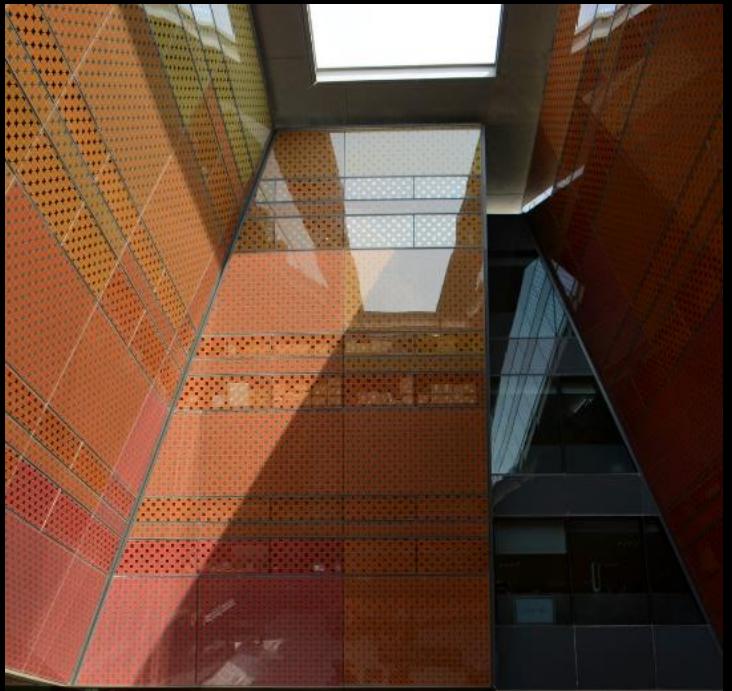


Siemens HQ  
Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Sheppard Robson Architects  
2013













The Branley Museum  
Paris, France  
Ateliers Jean Nouvel









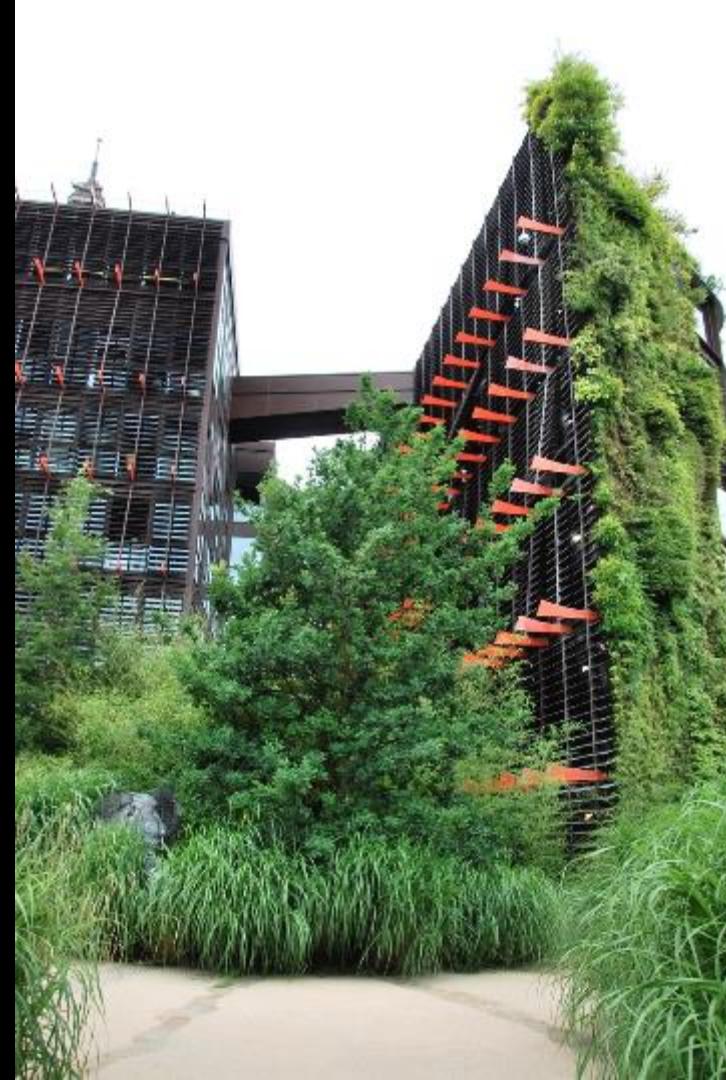




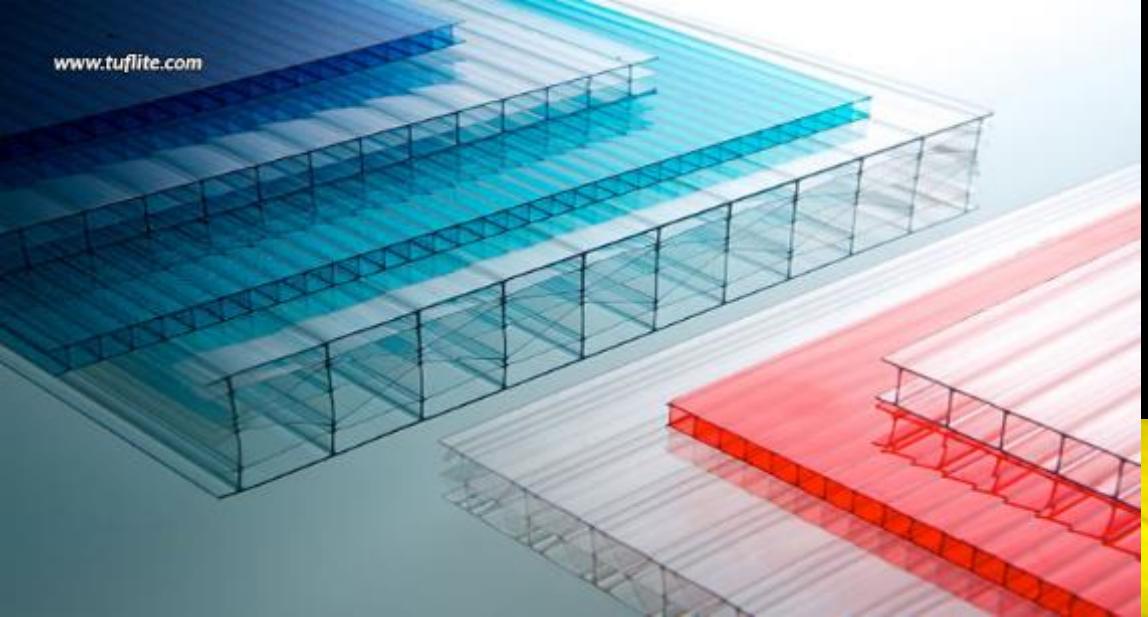






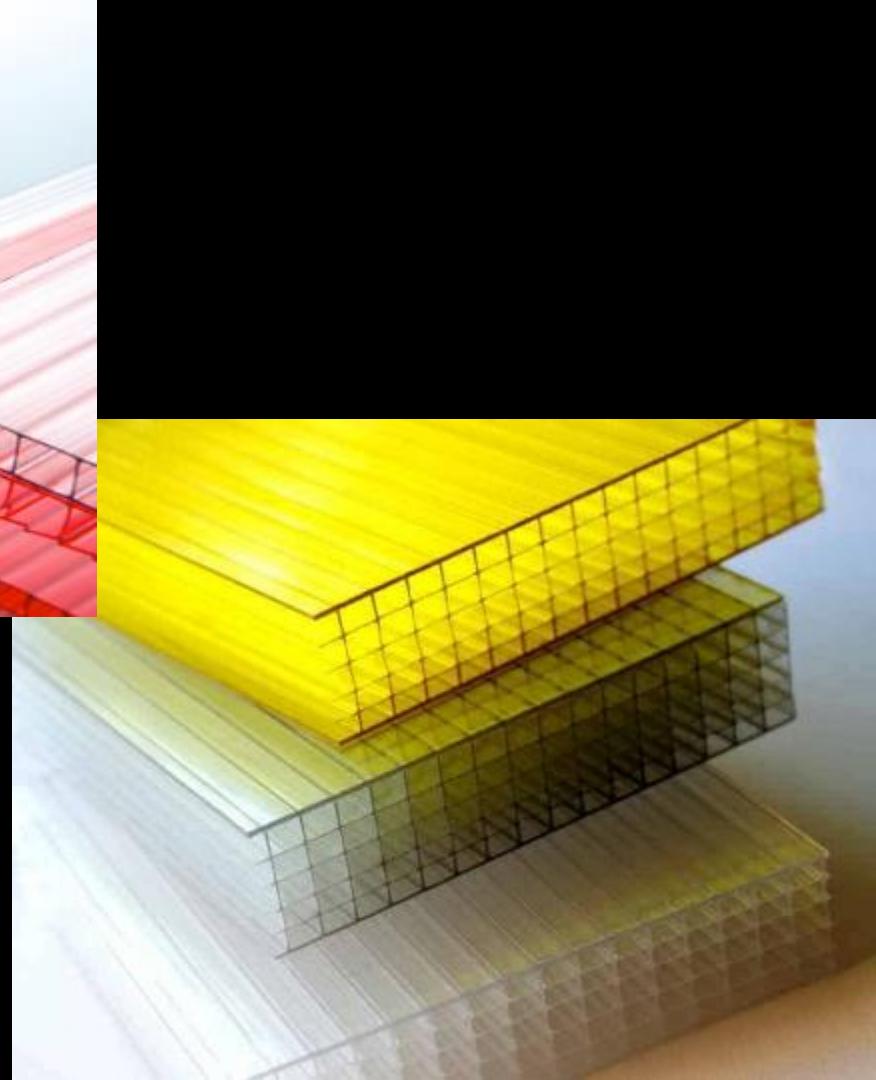






## Polycarbonate Panels

<https://danpal.com/polycarbonate-panels/>





Trinity Laban Dance Centre  
London, England  
Herzog & deMeuron













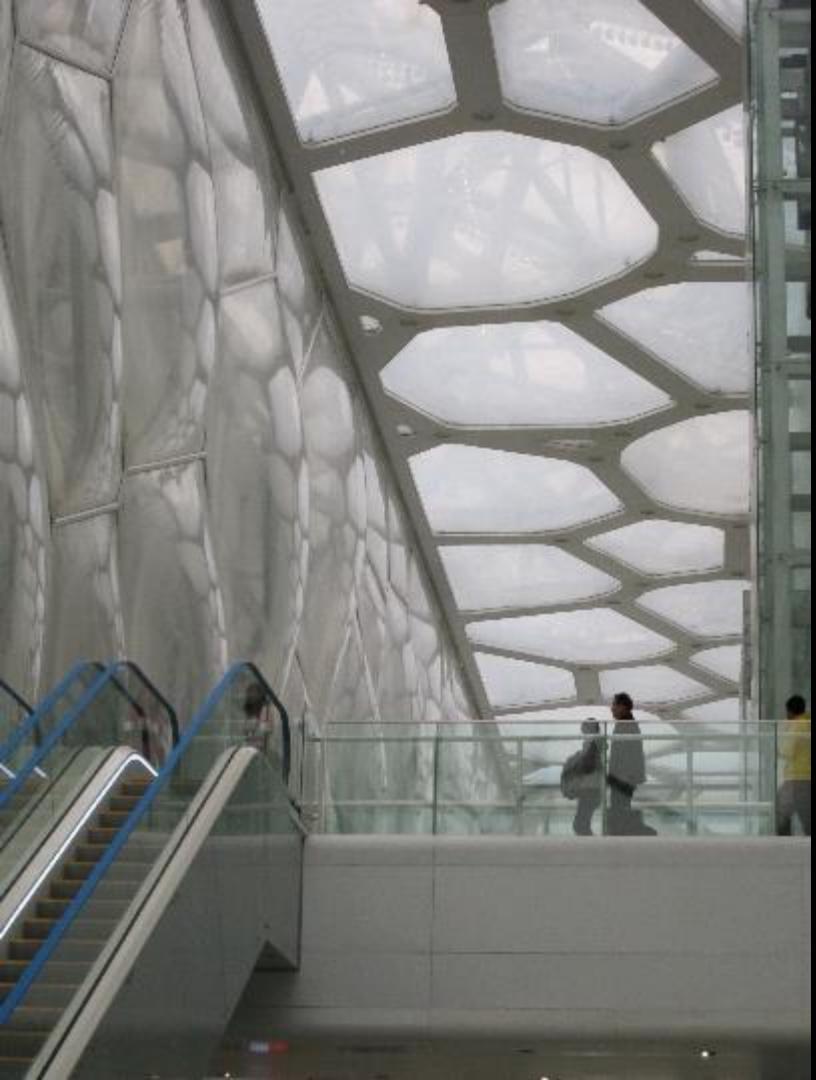






## ETFE

**Ethylene tetrafluoroethylene** (ETFE) is a fluorine-based plastic. It was designed to have high corrosion resistance and strength over a wide temperature range. ... ETFE has a relatively high melting temperature and excellent chemical, electrical and high-energy radiation resistance properties.

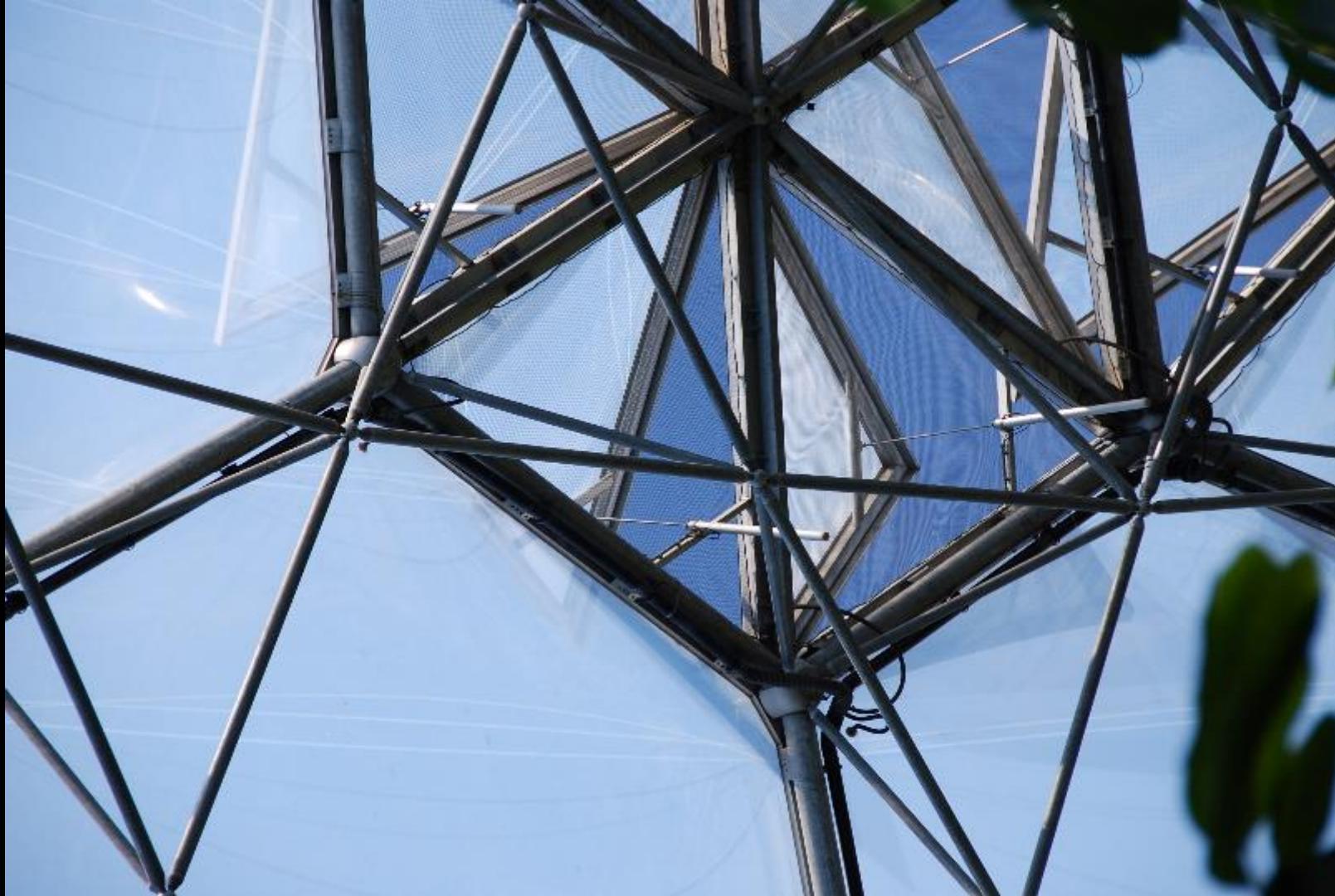


The Water Cube  
2008 Beijing Olympics





Eden Project  
St. Austell, England  
Nicholas Grimshaw





Japan National Pavilion  
Shanghai Expo 2010





Parkview Green  
Beijing, China

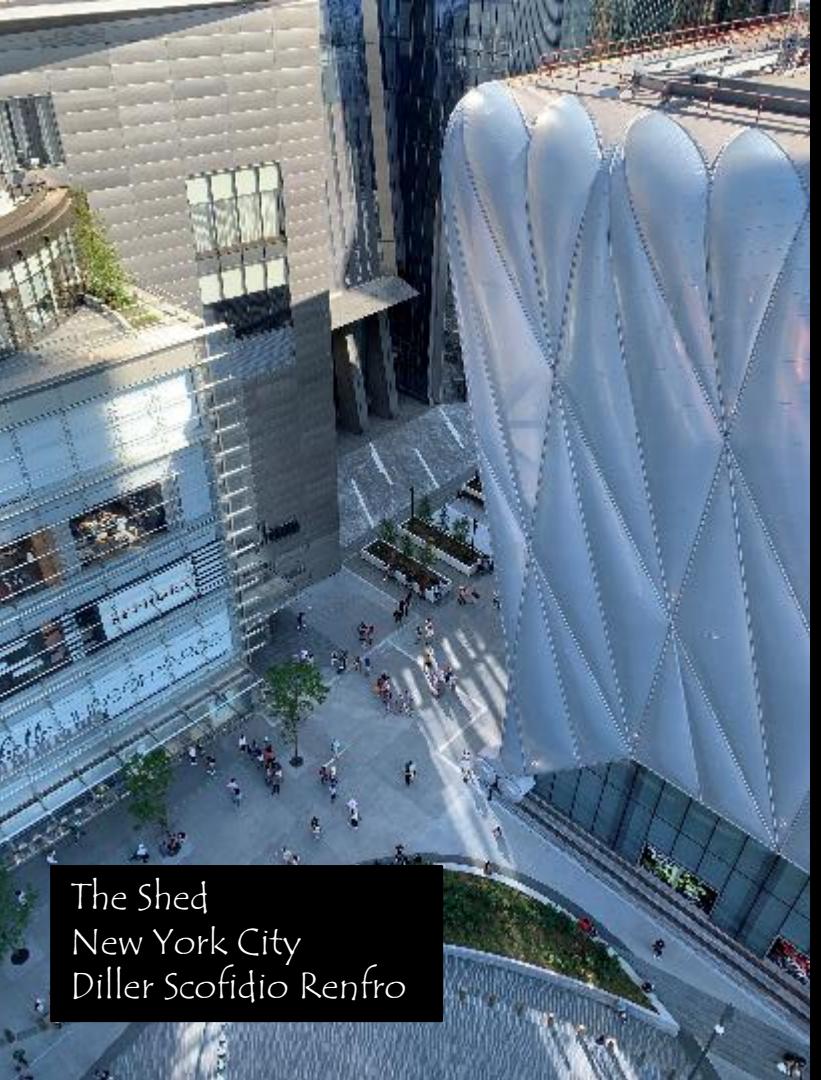




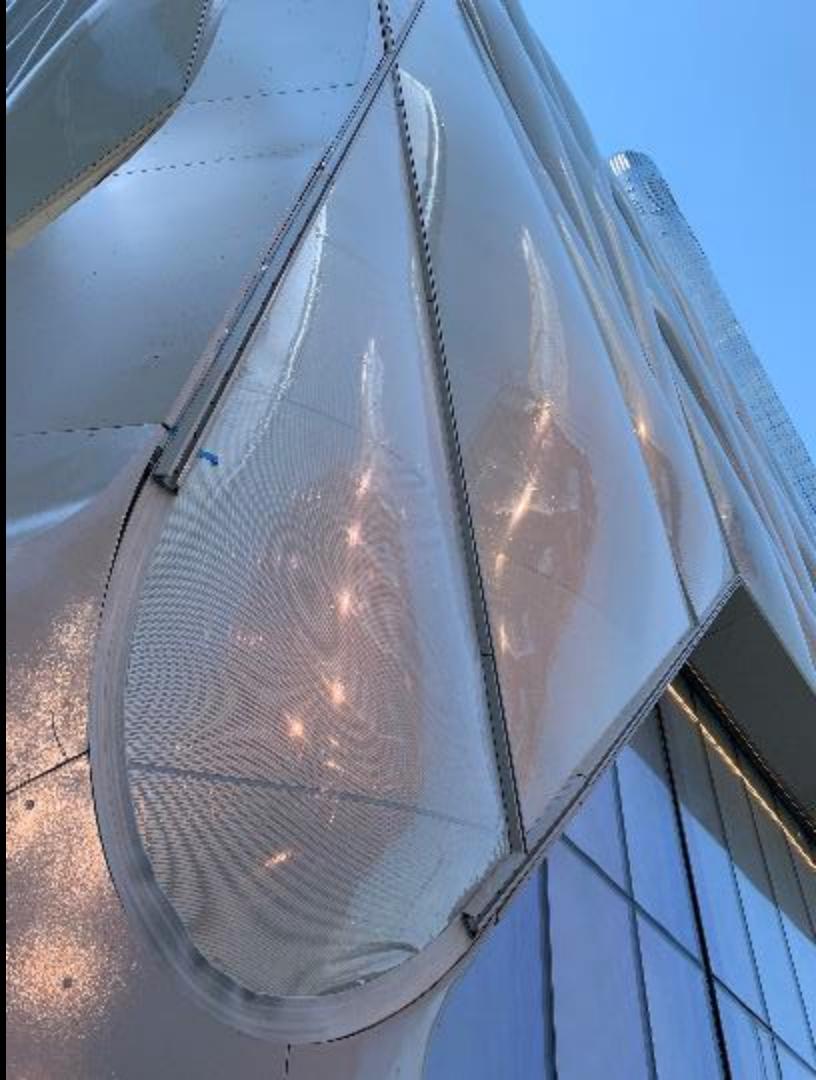


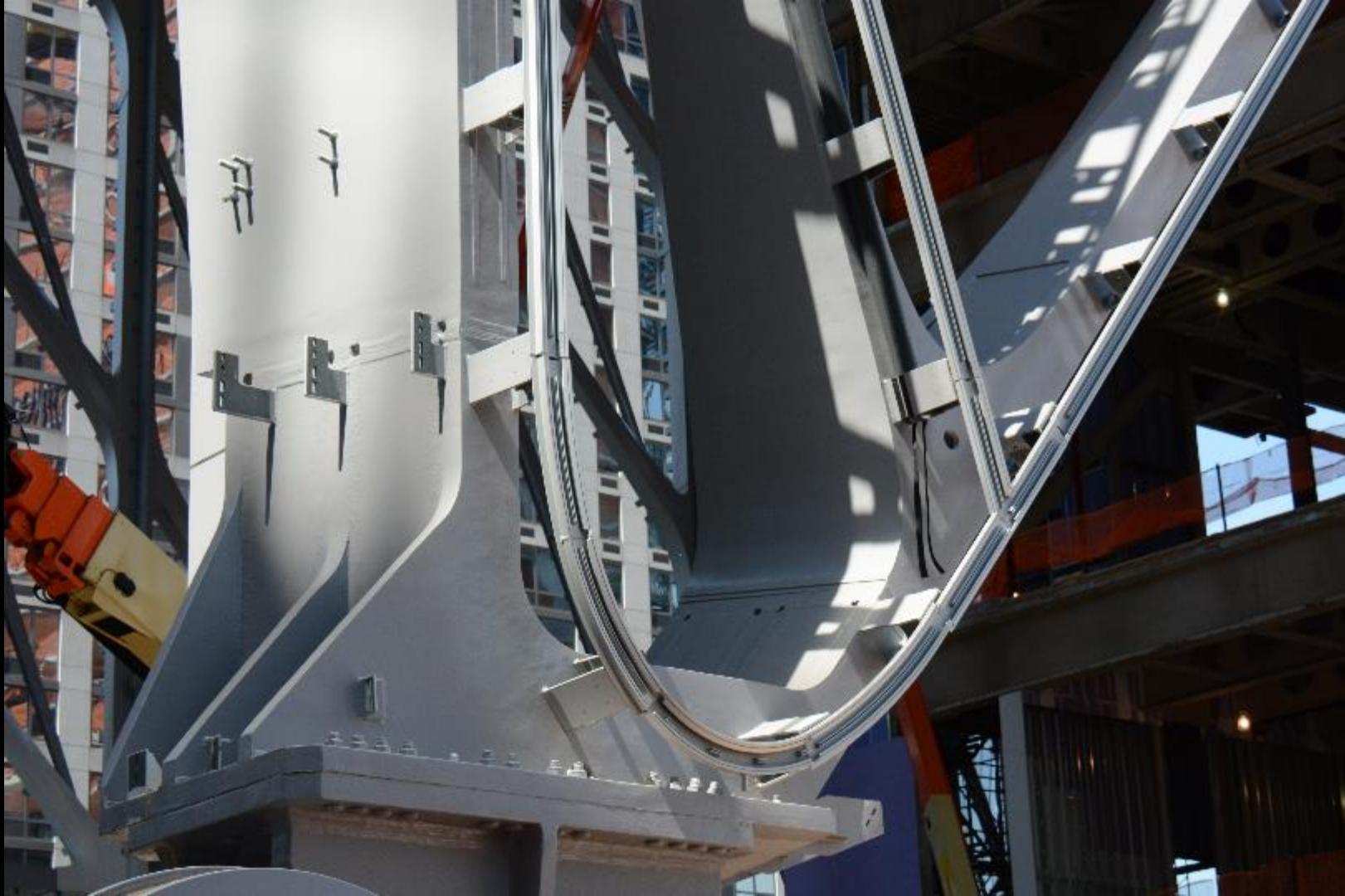
Allianz Arena  
Munich, Germany





The Shed  
New York City  
Diller Scofidio Renfro





Generally the façade has evolved towards systems that are:

- Durable
- Lighter – so less mass, weight on foundations, carbon
- Higher R-values
- Made of multiple layers
- Using a rain screen/drainage plane
- External to the structural system to keep the structure at a constant temperature