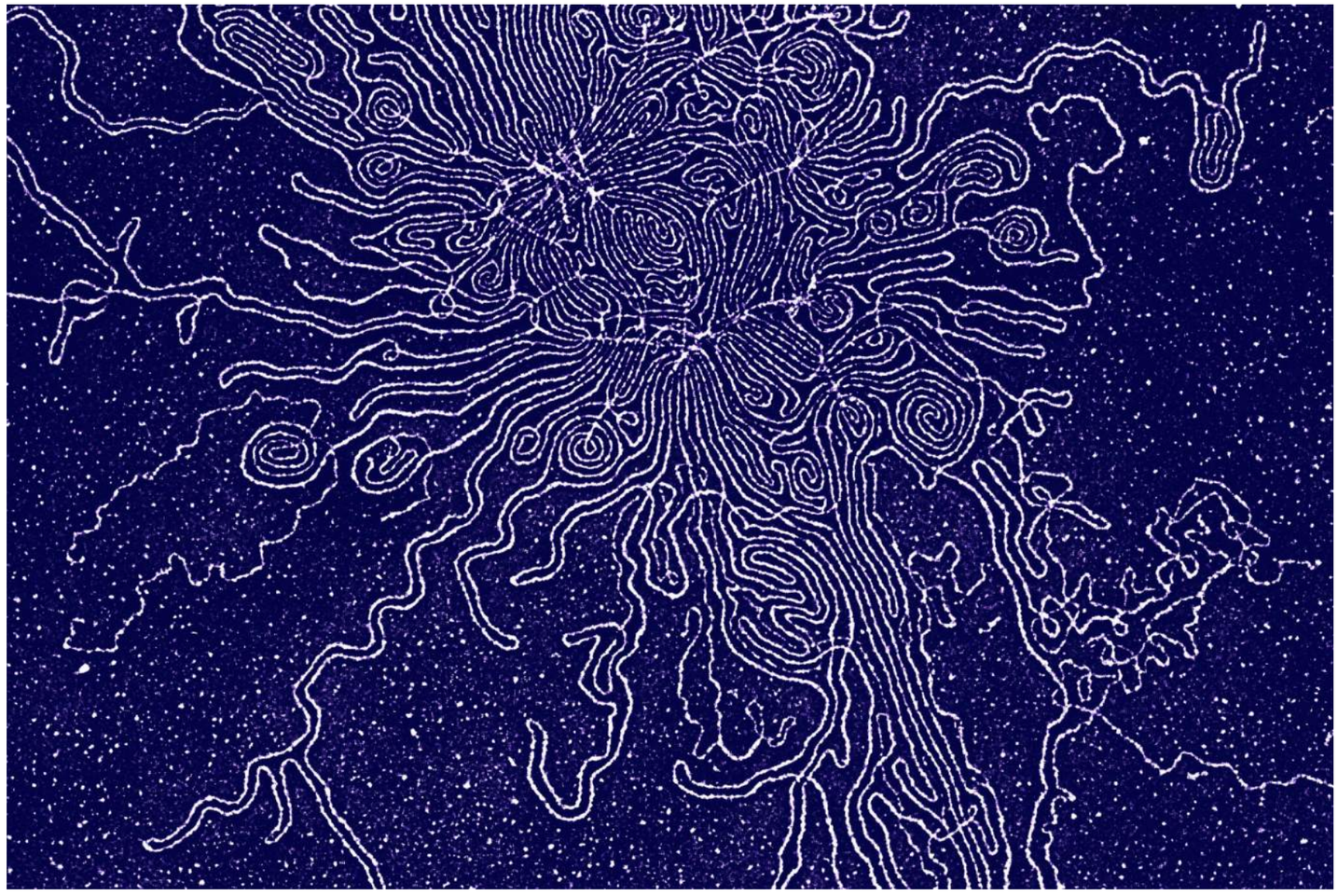
Sept 2023

COURT BUILDING, PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

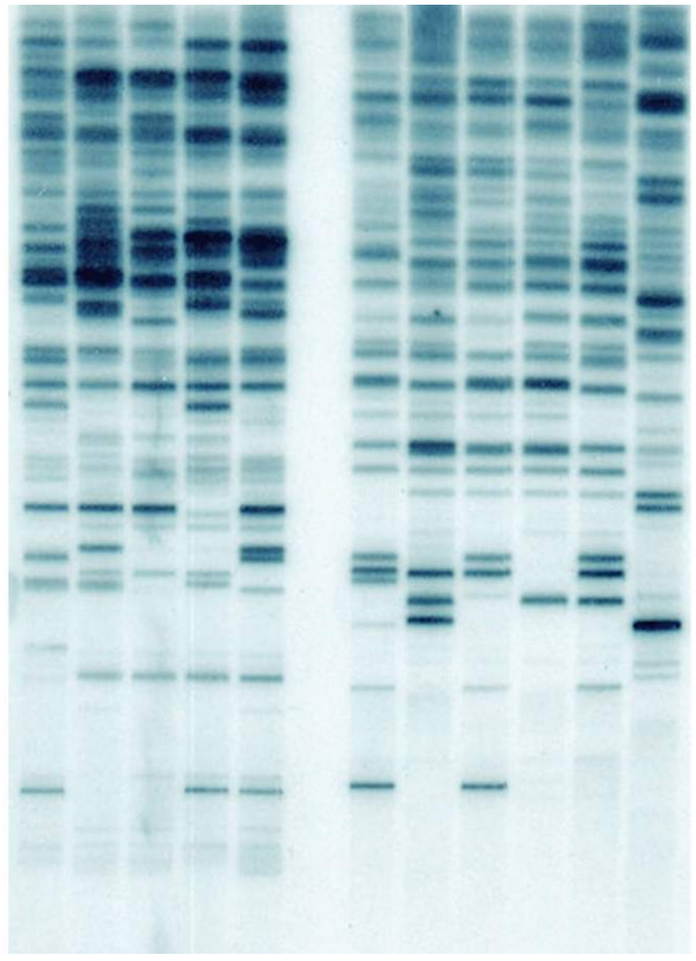
Proposal by **SHIRAZEH HOUSHIARY**

Strand

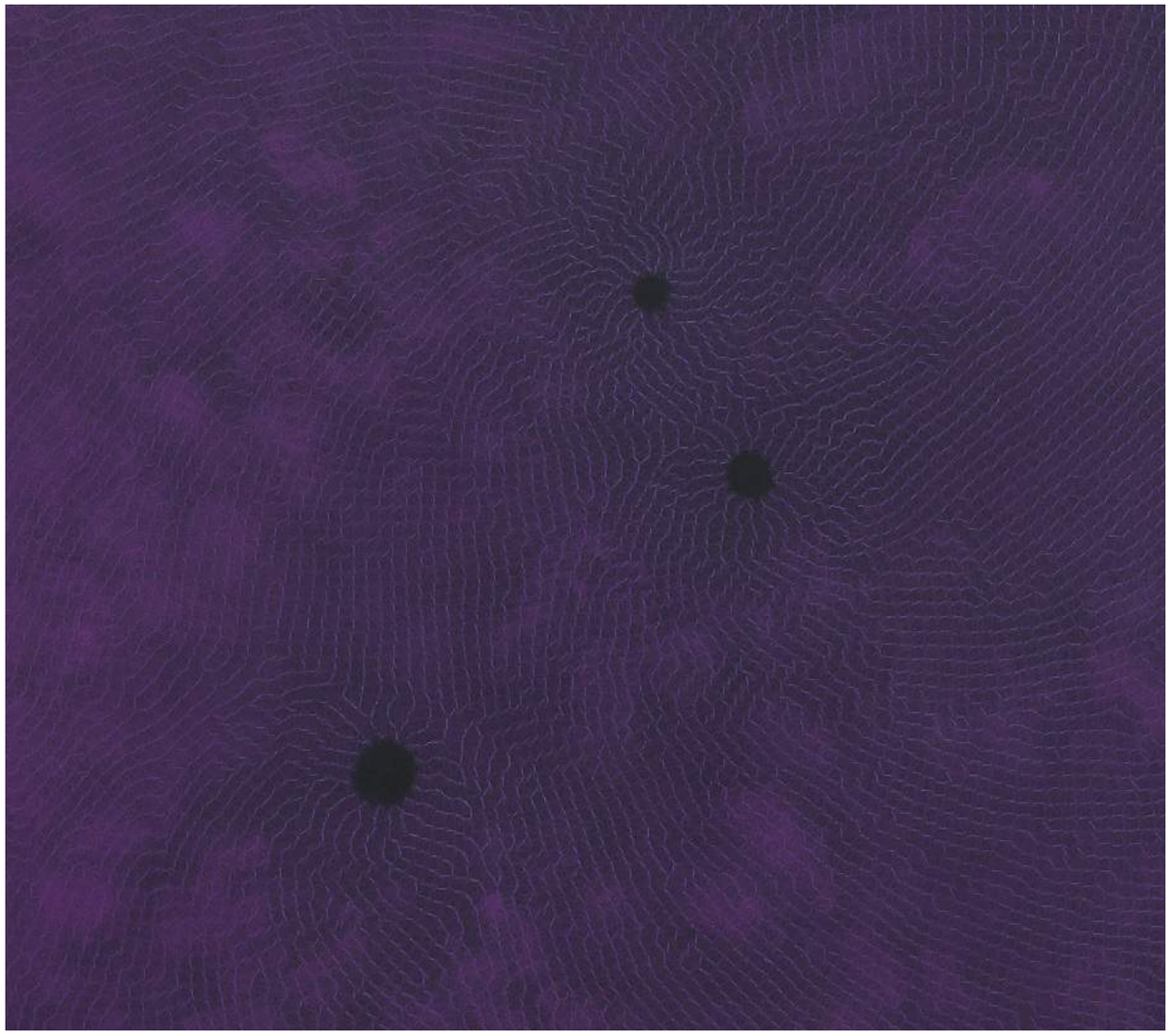


Panel
Electron micrograph of DNA strands

Sequence

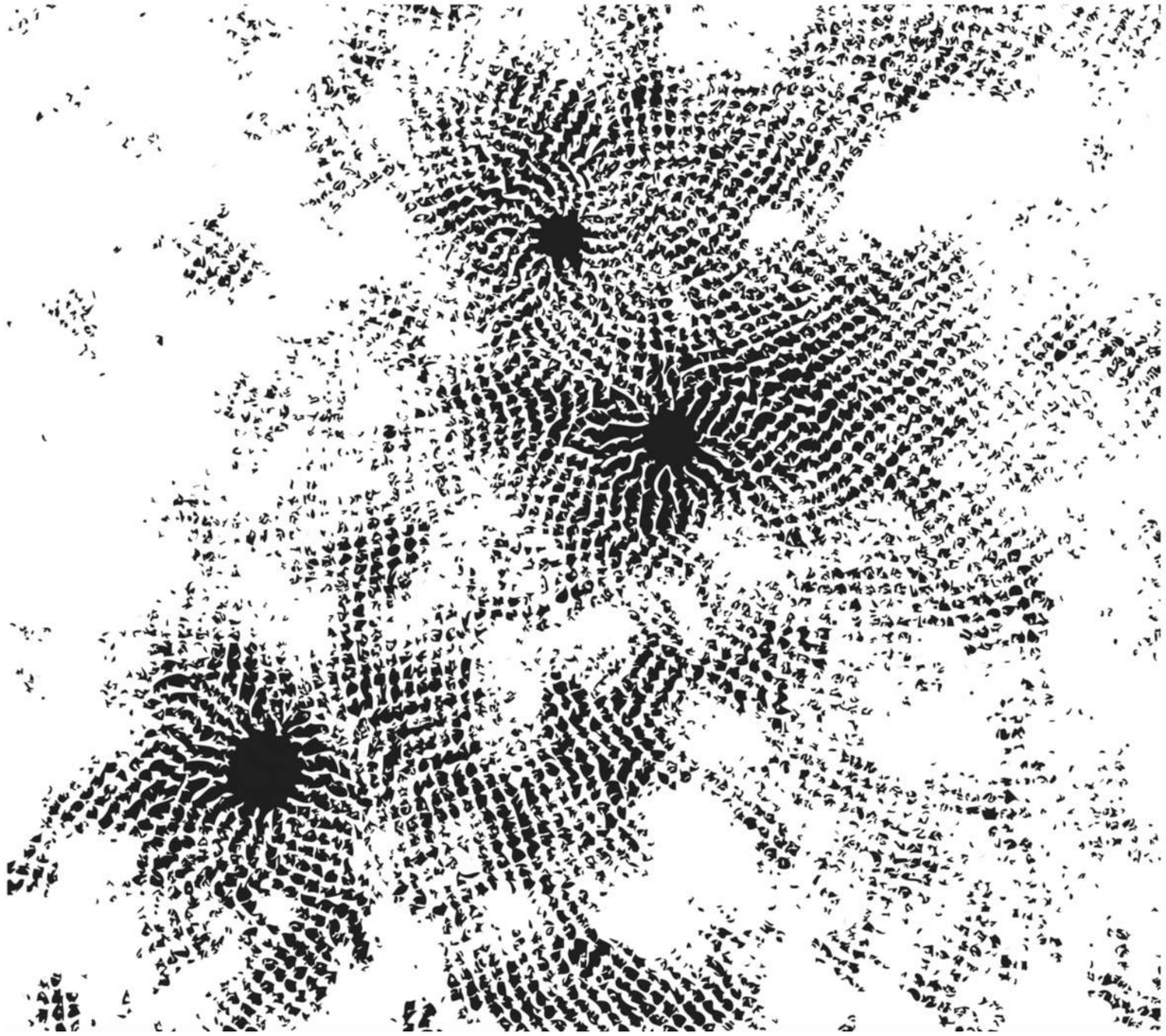


Screen
DNA sequencing



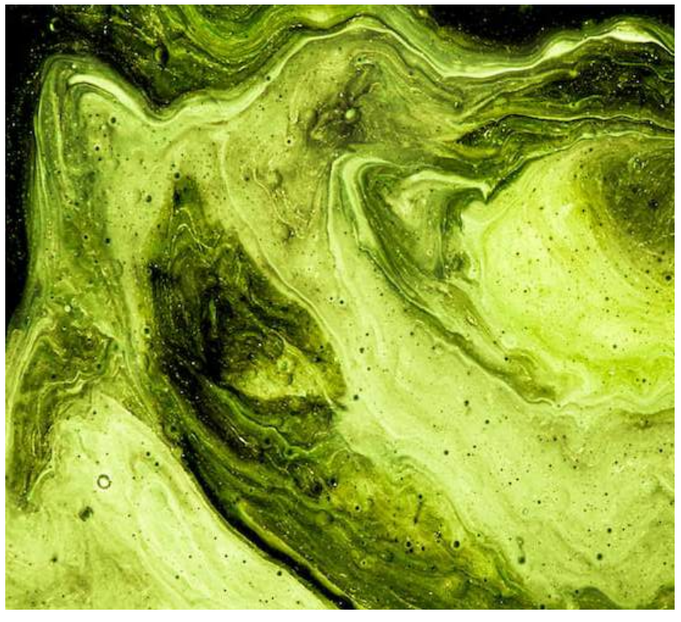
Detail of painting ‘Deep’ by Shirazeh Houshiary

Fingerprint



Abstraction of painting 'Deep'

Lichen



Algae

Artist Statement

Solomon, King David's son, was required to decide which of two women was the mother of a baby, when each of them claimed parenthood. Both had recently given birth, but one child had died.
Solomon ordered that the child should be cut in two, so that each mother should have half. The real mother, unable to bear her son being killed, immediately offered it to the other woman, to save the child's life, whereas the other agreed to the proposal. The false mother was thus exposed, and Solomon returned the living child to its real mother.

This judgement is based on profound wisdom and the morality of mankind and is a biblical story that has been recounted for millennia. Today, the DNA of the child could be examined and discover the true mother and not to depend on such a crude story.

The proposal is to celebrate the continuing evolution of DNA and its critical role in the story of justice and the exponential rise of cybercrime, and through biological evidence celebrating the preciseness of the natural world.

Screens

DNA sequencing and fragment analysis is the inspiration for the sliding screens to the four windows above the main entrance to the Court.

Material and fabrication
Each sliding screen is constructed of a shot peened stainless steel rebated 'T' section framework in which textured and coloured glass panes are bonded with high performance structural silicone. The panes are made up of 2no. 6mm thick heat strength glass with a coloured 1.5mm interlayer (overall thickness approx. 14mm). The setting out of the panes are determined by the profile of floor edge and frames of the fixed glazed panel behind when seen from the street. Consequently the more intense colour is concentrated at the centre to minimise the horizontal intersection of sashes.

The fragmented framework extends from the top and bottom of each panel with the centres open to allow un-restricted views from the internal spaces at first and second floors. Some sections are un-glazed and the profile of the frame reduced. The DNA sequence design extends to all four screens with slightly less intense colour on the two end panels.

It is also proposed that the fixed glazed panel behind the screens are screen printed with faint residues of the DNA sequence to create a more 3D effect.

Lighting
Most exterior lighting to buildings use high power flood or spotlights lighting upward. This would not be ideal as this would not have the optics to reach the upper panels effectively and also cast light on the internal ceiling surfaces.

It is proposed to use a more controlled and subtle method and if successful hide the light sources from view and light only the glass elements that are part of the screen ensemble. Small lensed narrow beam LED light fixtures are to be fitted within the zone between screens and fixed glazed panel to allow for a more controlled method. The texture and depth of glass would be highlighted whilst concealing the light sources. The lighting would project both upward and downward at four locations.

Control and visibility of the light sources at the highest level when viewed from the street is critical. Light cowls and cross blade louvres could be solutions for this. An architectural baffle detail can block the impact of the light sources internally.

Maintenance/Replacement
All coloured panes are digitally recorded and numbered and can be replaced within a matter of days to the same specification.
NB If panes are damaged or hit the build up of the pane including heat strength glass is designed for overhead glazing and the integrity of the pane is preserved in the frame.

Panels

The design for the ten panels are inspired by the structure of human DNA strands and the idea of the human fingerprint as a unique identifier. In addition images are taken from my own paintings, as I have dealt with these ideas for many years. The composition of each panel are a synthesis and abstraction and can be interpreted as the fingers of the human hand.

Material and fabrication
It is proposed to use the granite panels as provided in the brief.

The panels are rusticated on both sides and the design and composition of strands are shallow cut with water jet. Where strands are coloured the granite is water cut to form a rebate and then infilled with 20 -24 mm thick coloured cast glass inlays. More importantly some of the strands are water cut through the depth of the granite. Here the cast glass is bonded and backlit with fibre optic LED lighting. The earthy variegated colours of the glass are similar to algae and lichen. These single cell organisms are the origins of life and our DNA and are shared with images of our fingerprints that have evolved from our DNA strands

Lighting
Lighting from pavement level can produce an effective wash of light visible in the evening. Utilising a linear in ground light cove with low glare will project light to most of the panel and enhance the relief of the panels. Furthermore it is proposed to use selected backlighting. Defined areas would be backlit using fibre optics with a remote light source in an accessible location. The light emitters would be within diffused areas within a pre-assembled panel mounted in the void to the rear of the granite but not connected to it.

Maintenance/Replacement
All cast glass panels and glass infills are digitally recorded and numbered and can be replaced within a matter of days to the same specification.

Panels + Screens Proposed Elevation - Pull Out
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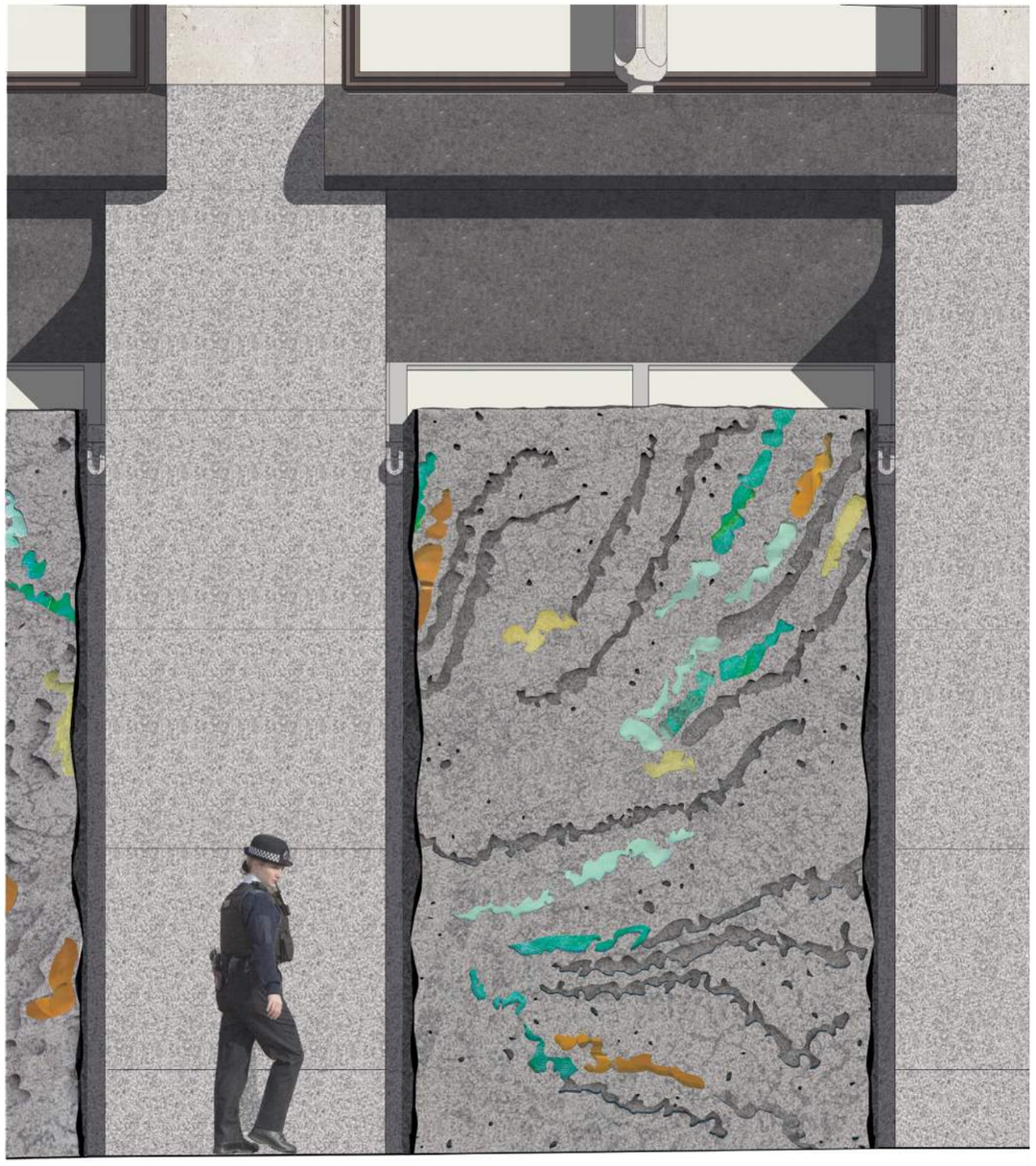
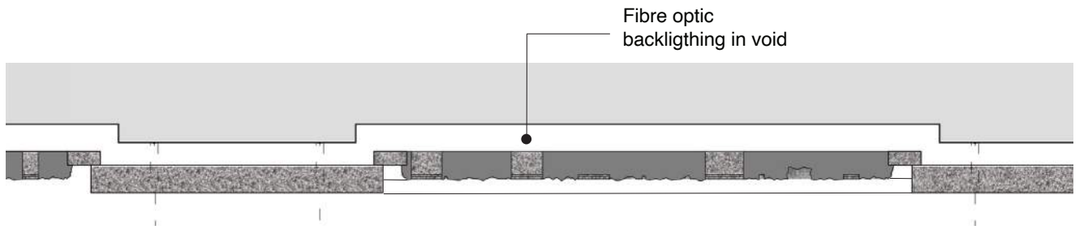
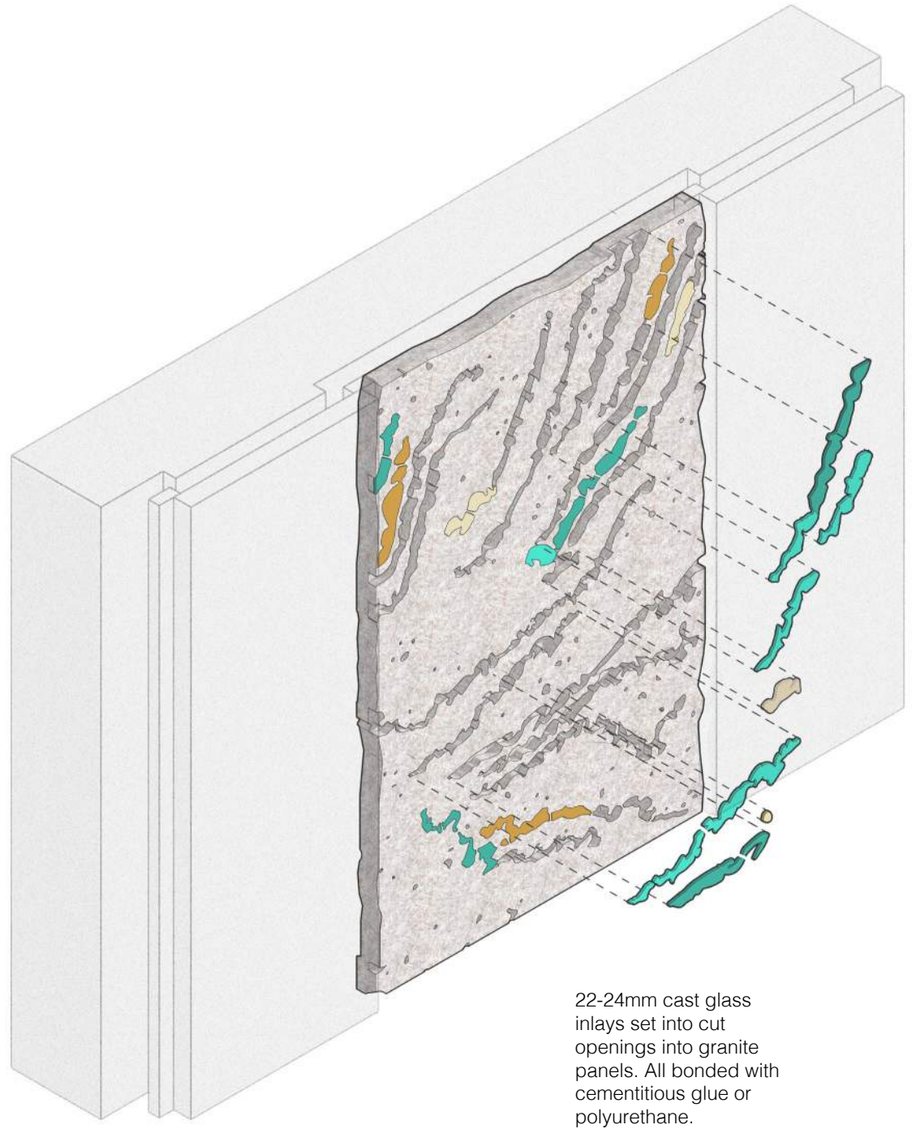


Elevation

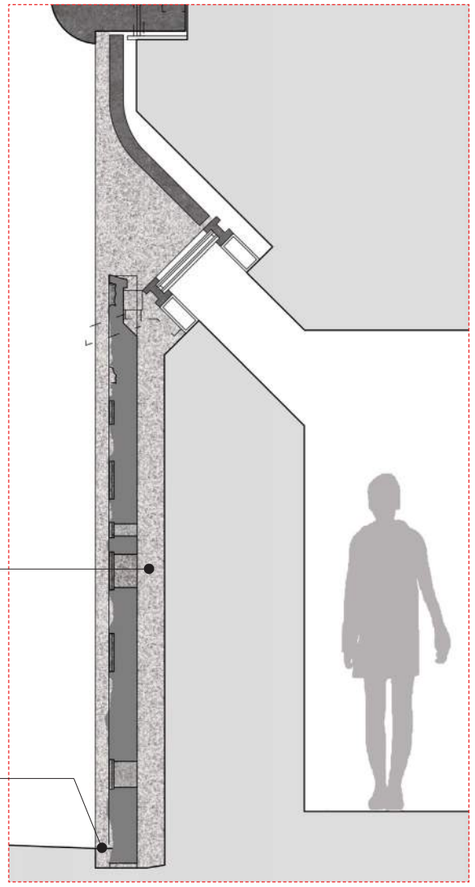


Plan

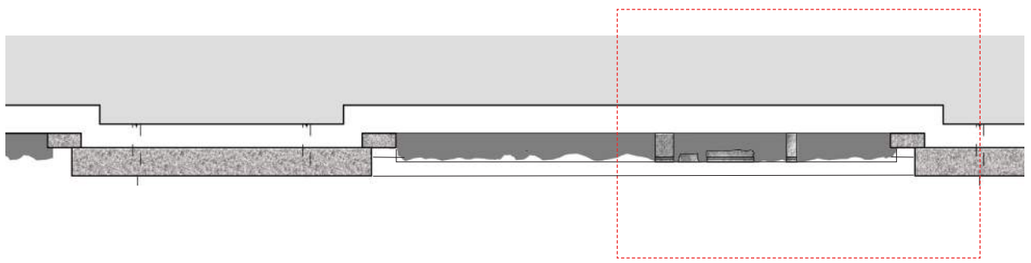


Exploded axonometric

Elevation

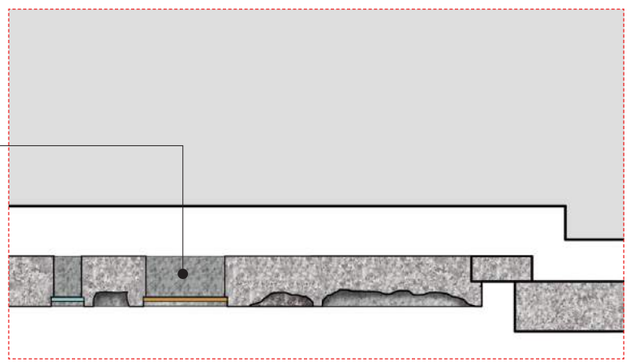


Section



Plan

A



A

Screens Typical Setting Out
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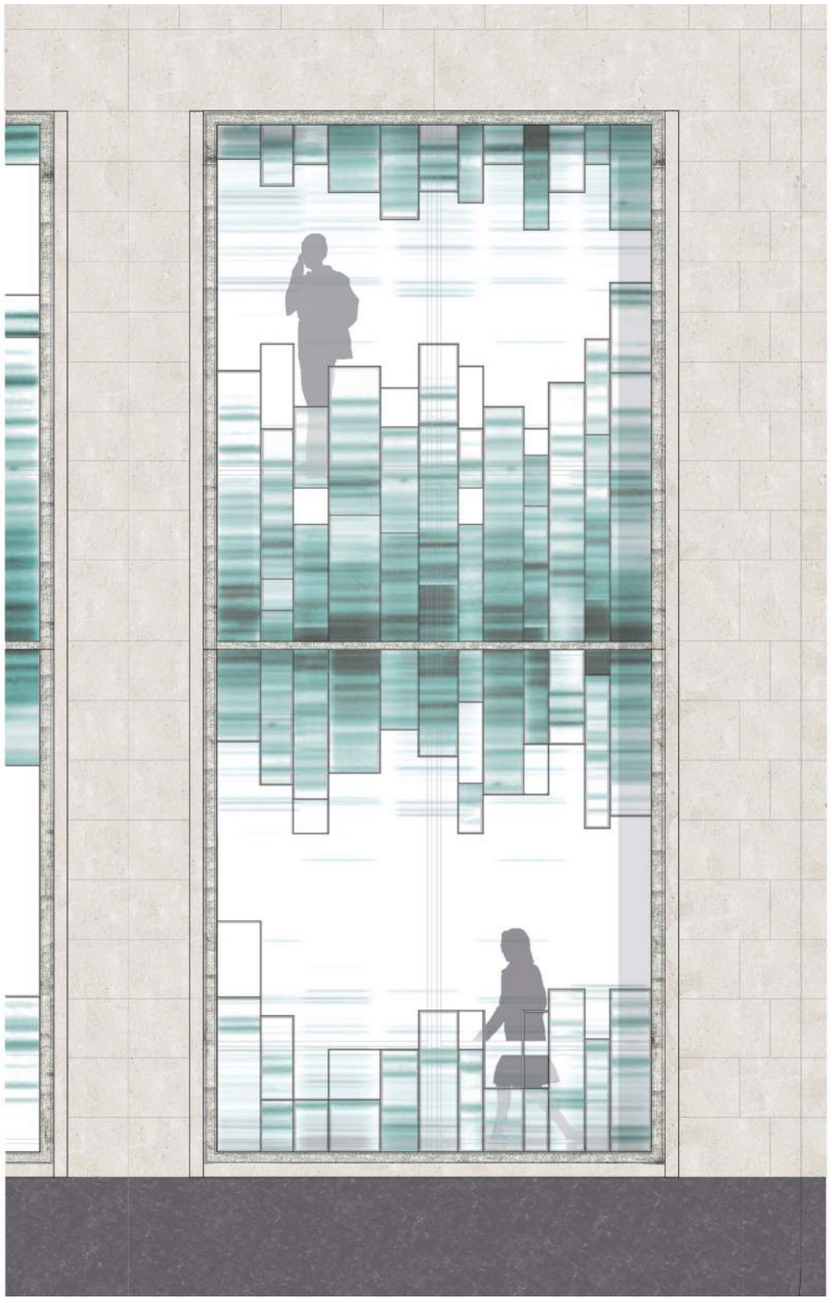
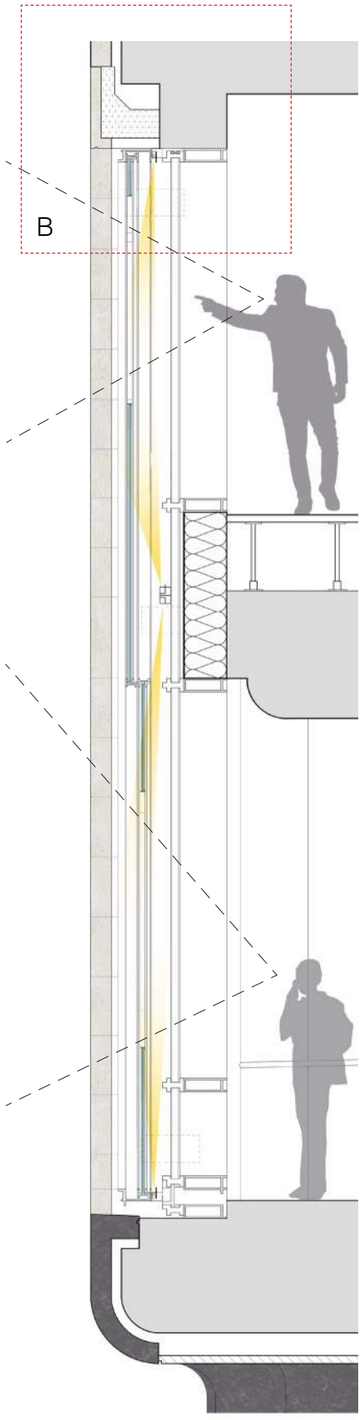
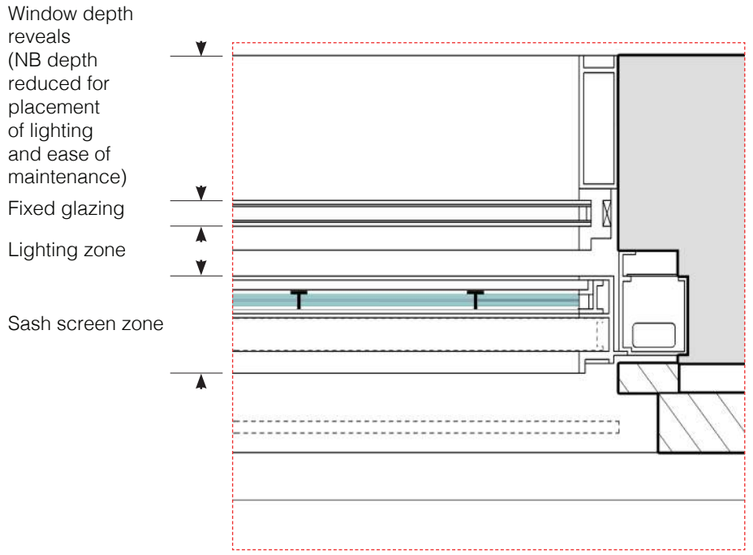


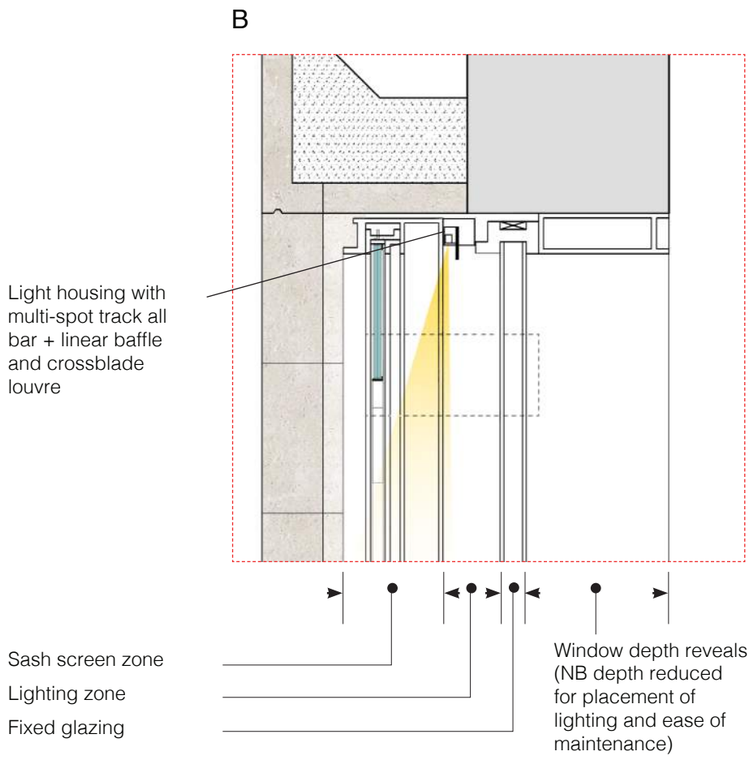
Elevation

Plan



Section





Screen Typical Details
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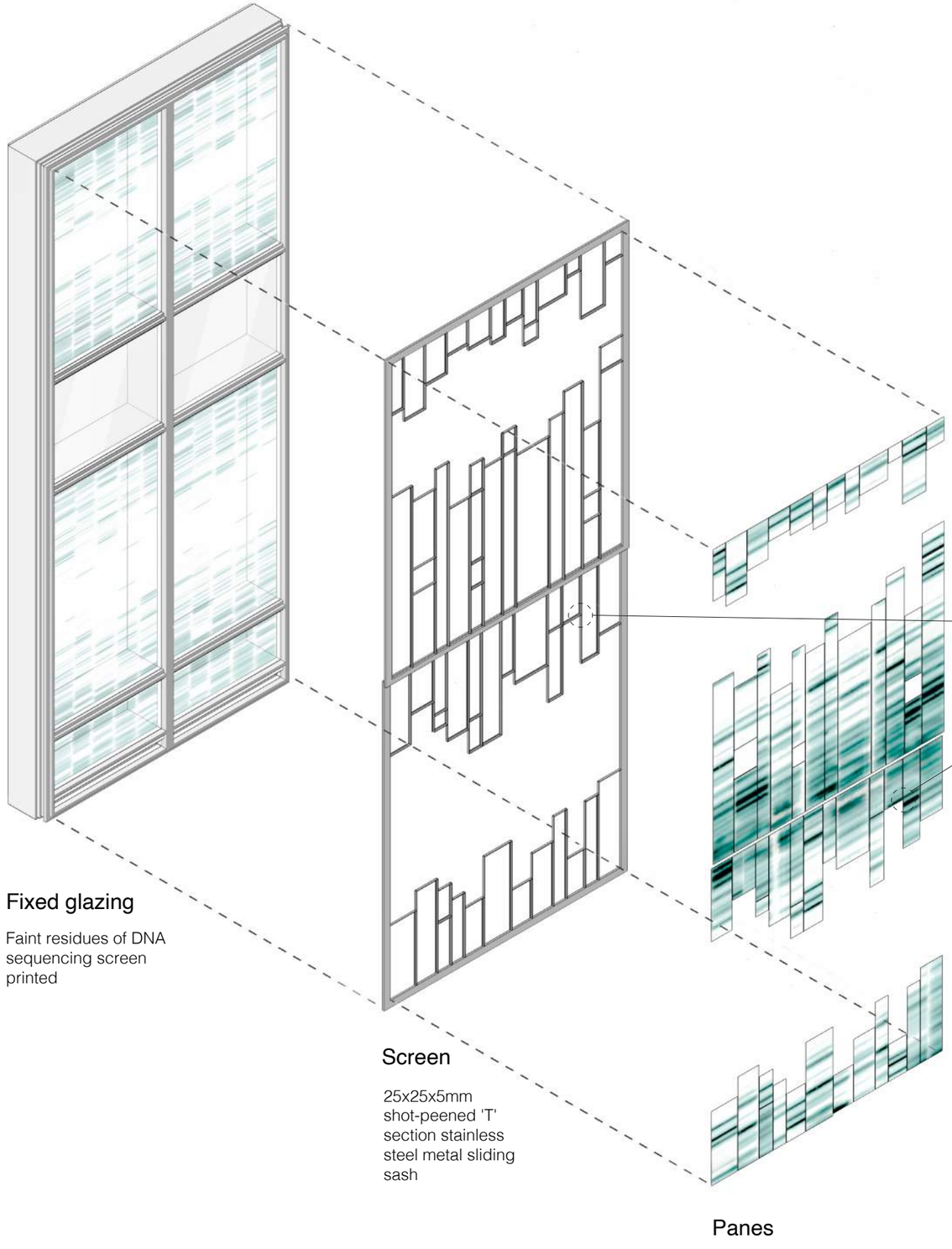
Glass Pane Build-up

6mm 'Goethe' laminated glass to 6mm Opti White Glass.
Outer layer to be engraved and nano-coated.
Inner layer partly digitally printed in combination with airbrushing.
All colours to be ceramic metling colours heat fired to surface.
All colours UV resistant.
Both layers heat strengthened prior to lamination process with an EVA Foil.



Fixed glazing

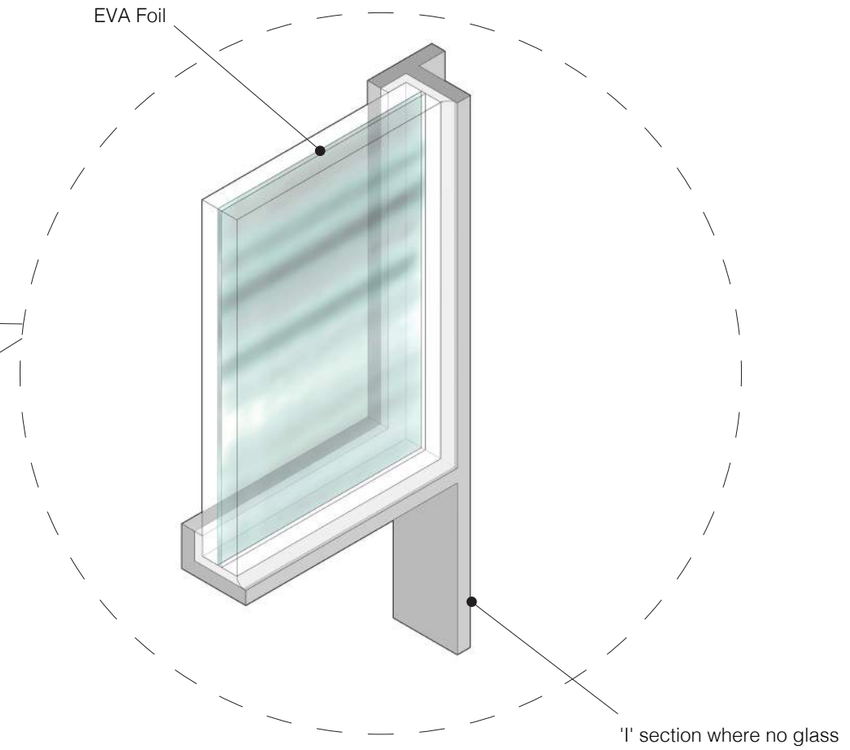
Faint residues of DNA sequencing screen printed

Screen

25x25x5mm shot-peened 'T' section stainless steel metal sliding sash

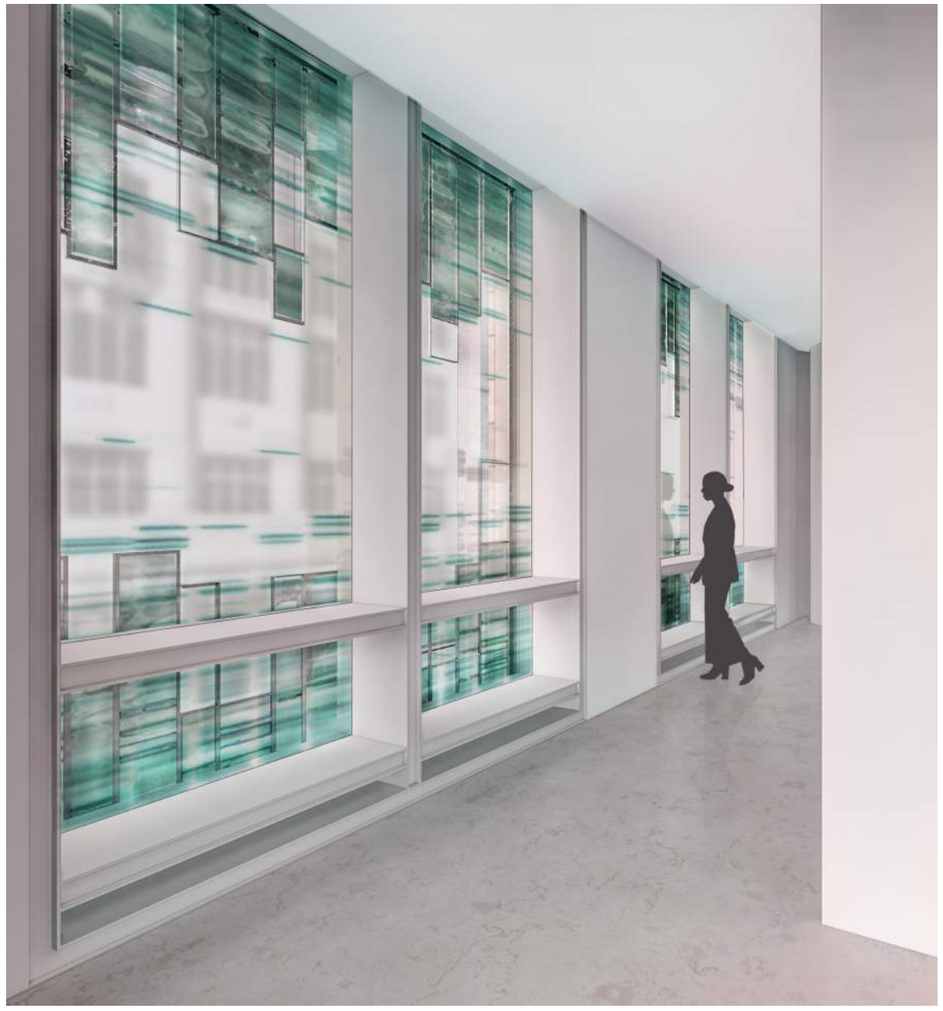
Panes

Exploded Axonometric



T section detail

Single glass panes installed into metal sub-frames with structural silicone or polyurethane



Screens Inside Views - First Floor
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Screens Typical detail
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Screens View From Street
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Panels + Screens Proposed Elevation
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AFFIDAVIT
BONA
FIDE
CAVEAT
EMPTOR
ANTE

Panels + Screens Day View
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Panels + Screens Night View
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