

Perforated Metal Facade Guide: Design tips & considerations

What is the one element that instantly changes a building's entire appearance, form, and function?

The answer is the facade. The most recognisable, first-impression feature, a facade can make a building blend, stand out, or even world-famous. It can also make a building green. Increasing numbers of architects are opting for eco-friendly perforated metal facades to help boost project environmental ratings.

In this guide, we look at some of the key design considerations of perforated metal facades – and why perforated metal has the advantage over other types of facades when it comes to creativity, architectural expression, and visual impact.

Choosing the pattern and metal: What to consider

So now you know that a perforated metal facade is ideal for your project, the next questions are which pattern, and what metal? These are some of the key factors to bear in mind:

- Whether the facade is purely decorative or also needs to fulfil a particular function – such as acoustics, strength, or energy efficiency.
- The location of the facade on the building – it is possible to use different patterns across the facade to match solar position, heat loss and gain.
- Any climate factors – is the building near the coast? A windy location? The base metal, pattern, and finish need to be able to withstand local environmental conditions.
- Talk to your perforated metal manufacturer about your facade requirements – they will be able to advise on the best metals and patterns to suit your needs and budget.

Pattern & metal options

From custom, unique CAD-drawn designs to bold geometrics in a range of base metals, with perforated metal you have almost limitless design scope for a facade:

- Words, illustrations, or images – choose a theme, pay tribute to local history, or the building's location.
- Classic round, rectangle, or square patterns – these types of profiles never go out of style.
- Modern geometrics and futuristic shapes – created using the latest punching machinery tooling.
- Mix-and-match designs – different hole styles and sizes on a single panel for an unusual and unique architectural feature.
- The most popular metal for facades is aluminium.

All patterns can be customised so that the pitch and open area percentage – the amount of open area or 'holes' in the panel – meet exact project requirements.

Panel finishes

A finish is the final process, which alters the surface of the facade panels to create varied looks, brightness, colours, and textures. Some finishes can also help improve durability and resistance to corrosion and wear.

Options include:

- A coloured finish: Available in a spectrum of shades, colours are applied through powder coating for precise coverage
- Anodising: Most used for aluminium, often in conjunction with a colour, anodising creates a hard, durable, and weather-resistant coating
- Weathered and metallic effects: Make a visual feature or give a classic pattern a modern makeover
- Folds and curves: Create a striking 3D effect or a functional, folding facade for privacy and light

Key takeaway summary

- Perforated metal offers endless creative design scope and environmental benefits for building facades
- Extensive range of patterns, metals, and finishes – customised to exact project requirements
- Create your own CAD-drawn architectural design – unique to your project
- Easy and seamless installation