

**OWO Courtyard Pavilion, London:
Dynamism in a historic setting**

DaeWha Kang Design designed a breathtaking internal courtyard for the OWO, the former Old War Office in Whitehall, London. With narrow, delicate profiles, Swiss company Jansen AG contributed to the unique appearance of the sculptural pavilion.

Having lain empty for many years, the former Old War Office in Whitehall has been given a new lease of life. Alongside apartments and a hotel, French restaurant Café Lapérouse is among the various companies to establish branches in the pavilion's inner courtyard. In view of its significant historical context, housing a building designed by William Young and dating back to the early 20th Century, the new structure was designed with the utmost consideration for its surroundings. The rippling and flowing metallic design of the pavilion brings a sense of dynamism to the weighty, formal architecture, creating an oasis of life and vibrancy. At the same time, the reflective roof creates a mirage effect, reducing the visual impact on its surroundings.

For the roof construction, DaeWha Kang Design used stainless steel panels and wrapped the circular façades with exquisitely finished glass, lending an unassuming and permeable aesthetic to the OWO Café-Bar Pavilion, inviting an interactive dynamic between passers-by and diners. A sculptural skylight marks the centre of the roof, allowing natural light to flood the interior - unified under finely crafted plaster. According to the architect, the concept is reminiscent of a painting by Georgia O'Keeffe, with softly ribbed white columns merging into vibrant petals, which stretch across the entire ceiling, providing a charming backdrop for the venue.

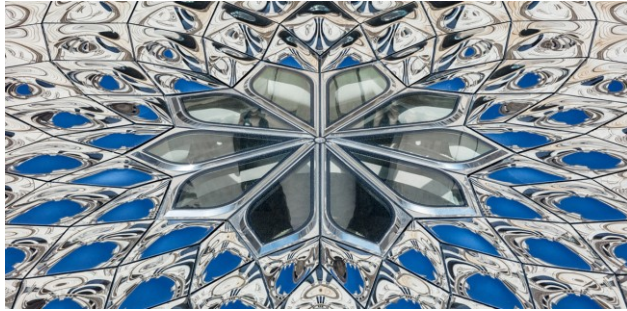
Swiss company Jansen AG contributed to this unique building with delicate profiles, supplying two double-leaf doors and one single leaf door from the Janisol HI system for the pavilion. With Janisol HI, Jansen is setting new benchmarks in terms of contemporary architecture combined with optimal thermal insulation. High-tech insulators made from glass fibre-reinforced plastic ensure the exceptional system-tested statics of the steel structures, guaranteeing sustainable safety even under extreme loads – an important advantage, especially within the field of gastronomy.

Furthermore, a total of 39 Janisol Arte window elements have been installed – 14 elements that can be opened and an additional 25 fixed window elements that flood the pavilion with light. An expanded range of materials, featuring profile designed in stainless steel and Corten steel, add further room for the expression of design creativity. Thanks to the narrow profile face widths with the largest possible percentage of glass, attractive and delicate window solutions can be created. Comprehensive system tests taking into account all static, physical and safety-related technical requirements guaranteed the reliable planning, processing and fitting of the Janisol Arte steel profile system.

Although the materials for this project were selected for their long-term durability, during the design phase consideration was also given to disassembly and potential subsequent re-use. The entire structure is pre-fabricated and can be quickly disassembled for maintenance and replacement work, and could even be completely relocated if necessary. The metal work has been finished with a coat of Aston Martin paint; a nod to the building's links to James Bond.

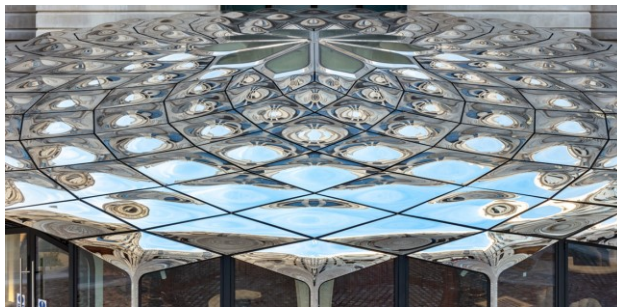
Drunen-based Dutch metalworking company JV van Delft & zn sums it up to perfection: "We are proud to have supplied and fitted all of the steel façades, side-hung windows, and automatic revolving doors for this literally breathtaking pavilion. The unique design featuring both sloped and rounded sides was a challenge that we successfully managed to overcome. Applying our specialist knowledge, we developed a tailored solution that honours the design created by DaeWha Kang Design and fulfils all technical requirements."

Image captions



2558_Kyungsub Shin

The mirrored roof panels were manufactured using an innovative liquid pressing process.



2895_Kyungsub Shin

The reflective metal roof creates a mirage effect, reducing the visual impact on its surroundings.



3091_Kyungsub Shin

The Café-Pavilion is located in the internal courtyard of the OWO Hotel in London

– here the designers have managed to achieve a balance between old and new.



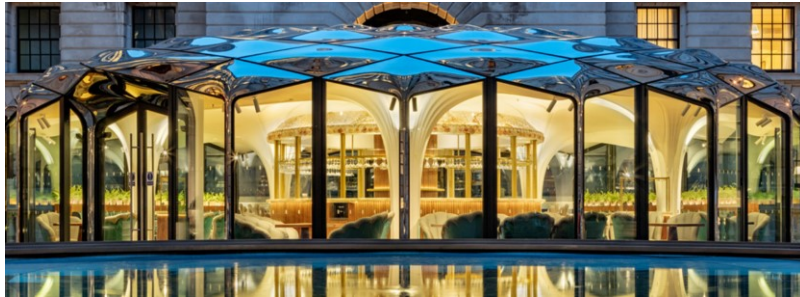
3136_Kyungsub Shin

The entire structure is pre-fabricated and can be quickly disassembled for maintenance and replacement work, and can even be completely relocated if necessary.



3233_Kyungsub Shin

For the Pavilion, Jansen supplied three doors from the Janisol HI system, and a total of 39 Janisol Arte windows.



3346_Kyungsub Shin

In front of the pavilion is a sculptural fountain, the pattern of which is reflected from the metal roof onto the water.

Project details:

Architect: DaeWha Kang Design, London / UK

Metalwork:

Octatube Delft/NL,

JV van Delft & zn, Drunen / NL

Area of application: Windows, doors

Date of completion: 2023

Profile system used: Janisol Arte windows, Janisol HI doors

System supplier: Jansen AG, Oberriet, Switzerland

Photo credits: Kyungsub Shin

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