

A SPECIFIER'S GUIDE

Commercial Glazed Facade Systems

There are several types of glazed facade systems on the market, each with their own respective strengths and limitations. To the naked eye they may look similar, but each has unique properties that are better suited to different architectural applications.



Architects, designers and specifiers need to understand the different variables in facade design to choose the right glazed facade system for their project.

What are the different types of glazed facade systems?

Shopfront walls

Non-load bearing glazed facade system that spans between the floor slab and the building structure above.

Window walls

Glazing system is installed between floor slabs, often creating a distinct separation between floor levels.

Curtain walls

An external, non-loadbearing wall that separates the exterior and interior environments and is hung off the slab edges by anchors. Curtain walls can comprise the entire outer skin of the building and may be designed as a complete system that integrates frame, wall panel and waterproofing materials.

Stick-built or unitised

Stick-built curtain walls are fabricated for the curtain wall frame and glass or opaque panels to be installed onsite and connected together piece by piece.

Unitised curtain walls are made of larger panels or units that are assembled and glazed in the factory, then shipped to the site and erected on the building.

Which Glazed Facade System Is Right For You?



Application and site factors

- Shopfronts are designed for low-level building applications.
- Window walls are used from the second floor up, but are not limited by building height.
- Curtain walls span multiple floors but are often designed to meet elevated design requirements.



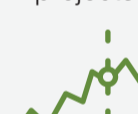
Budget and time factors

- Shopfronts and window wall systems are often more cost effective than curtain wall systems.
- Curtain walls are suited for large-scale projects with more demanding performance requirements.
- Stick-built systems usually take longer to install than unitised systems.
- Unitised systems may be better suited for projects requiring large volumes.



Glazing considerations

- Site-glazed or factory-glazed
- Interior glazing or exterior glazing
- Structural glazing or captive glazing
- Span of glazed sections



Performance considerations

- Wind loads
- Air and water tightness
- Thermal performance (including thermal breaks)



Sourcing locally or overseas

- Internationally-sourced
 - "Cheaper"
 - Risk of delays due to global supply chain disruptions
- Locally-sourced
 - Shorter supply chain, faster delivery
 - Easier access to customer support
 - Knowledge of local regulations and standards
 - Greater sustainability outcomes



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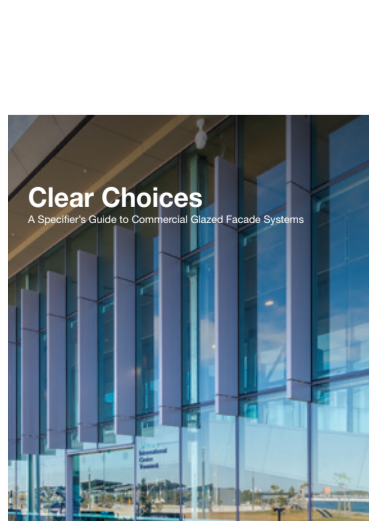
Alspec: Commercial Framing Systems

Established in 1974, Alspec is the market leader in the design and distribution of innovative aluminium systems to the architectural, industrial and home improvement markets.

Alspec offers a selection of high quality and compliant commercial framing systems to suit any project – from standard shopfronts to the most challenging structural and energy requirements.

The company's product range includes:

- ecoFRAMEplus Centre Pocket Double Glazed Framing.
- Hunter Evo Single Flush, Double Flush and Acoustic Glazed Framing.
- Hunter Evo Curtain Wall.
- ecoWALL 225 Flush Glazed Framing.
- ThermAFrame® Flush Glazed or Centre Glazed, featuring European polyamide thermal break technology.



Clear Choices:

A Specifier's Guide to Commercial Glazed Facade Systems

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