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BUILT-IN TRANSPARENCY

Beautiful light-permeable interior elements that boost privacy and enhance spatial organization

BY DAVID DICK-AGNEW

PROJECT: DENTAL OFFICE TORRES VEDRAS, PORTUGAL

SET AGAINST AN ALL-WHITE background at Lisbon's hippest dental office, glass doors and room dividers feature sparkling stripes of minty green and black. Light is transmitted and refracted in endless patterns, evoking shimmering blocks of ice.

Local firm MMVArquitecto fabricated the walls on site, stacking eight-centimetre-wide offcut glass strips of varying thickness, with a steel and neoprene frame to hold them in place. Two doors made from narrower glass strips were assembled off site with adhesive, and are supported by a steel bar that connects the hinges to the opening system.

"We wanted to construct something with a unique, handcrafted character," says principal Miguel Marques Venâncio, who aimed to create a bright, contemplative space that felt at once modern and timeless.

Although the architects produced the partitions on a limited budget, the results are undeniably striking. They allow light to penetrate deep into the office while giving patients privacy during appointments – an injection of bespoke design that doesn't compromise the functional needs of the space.



AF AFRICA AS ASIA AU AUSTRALIA EU EUROPE ME MIDDLE EAST NA NORTH AMERICA NZ NEW ZEALAND SA SOUTH AMERICA UK UNITED KINGDOM WW WORLDWIDE

GRAPHIC GLASS PANELS

Embellished with images and patterns, graphic glass injects colour while controlling light and breaking up sightlines.



← **Forms & Surfaces'** ViviGraphix Elements laminates continuous-tone patterns between two panes, creating subtly translucent motifs inspired by marble and wood.
WW forms-surfaces.com

Glazing Enhancements films can be applied to glass for permanent or ephemeral bursts of animated colour. Vitroshift and Vitroflip superimpose multiple graphic layers that appear to move with the viewer.

AF AU EU ME NA NZ UK
glazingenhancement.com

Garibaldi Glass FX Silk-Screened Ceramic Frit glass has an enamel image embedded directly into it, for results that won't scratch off or fade. Custom patterns can be rendered in almost limitless colours.
WW garibaldiglass.com

Goldray Industries Technographic Interlayer sandwiches high-res printed polyester between glass surfaces, rendering photorealistic images onto one or both sides of clear, translucent or opaque film.
WW goldrayindustries.com

Pulp Studio's Boing stacks layers of colourful, translucent circles, squares, op art lines or custom designs between multiple sheets of laminated glass, for patterns that float in three dimensions.
NA pulpstudio.com

Imaging Sciences combines metallic inks with laminated safety panes to create such effects as copper pinwheels, chrome fibres, a softly luminous Corten rust haze, or hair-thin strands of gold.
WW imaging-sciences.com

TEXTURED GLASS PANELS



← **Nathan Allan Glass** Available in dozens of textures and tinted with an assortment of brilliant colours, EnviroR95 is composed of minimum 95 per cent post-industrial glass salvaged from old buildings.
AF AS EU ME NA SA nathanallan.com

Fusion Glass Designs sells a standard range of kiln-cast textured glass sheets in dozens of styles, including an optional dichroic finish. The company also produces bespoke patterns and commissioned works.
WW fusionglass.co.uk

These panels introduce unique tactile surfaces without sacrificing natural daylight.

Meltdown Glass produces panels with hand-rendered textures and patterns, from gentle dappling to hieroglyphics. They can be made to any thickness, and most can be tempered for safe installation.
WW meltdownglass.com

Skyline Design manufactures panels with its Eco-etch process, employing recycled, reusable aluminum oxide powder to abrade the glass without harsh chemicals.
NA skydesign.com

Think Glass's art glass is made for wall panels, countertops, shower stalls and floor tiles. The organic textures evoke cracked slate, rippling water and bamboo, in thicknesses from three to 457 millimetres.
WW thinkglass.com

Lamberts Eco-Glass is fired using an eco-friendly, oxygen-fuelled process. It comes in a wide range of ornamental glass panes, with optional embedded wire mesh for increased security.
WW lamberts.info

MESHES AND SCREENS

Interlam's architectural wall panels and partitions, made of non-urea fibreboard sourced from recycled pre-consumer wood fibre, employ a formaldehyde-free adhesive system.
WW interlam-design.com

W. S. Tyler Architectural woven wire meshes, designed for wall cladding, room dividers and balustrades, come in a selection of weaves designed for visual interest, privacy and sound absorption.
WW weavingideas.net

Expanded Metal Company The Modern Metal collection of architectural meshes, in a range of materials and colours, is styled for solar screens, louvres and decorative elements in contemporary settings.
ASEU NA SA expandedmetalcompany.co.uk

Bruag laser-cuts engineered wood panels into perforated screens and partitions with over 70 geometric and botanical motifs. The CAD-based process can even inscribe custom patterns into panels up to 30 millimetres thick.
WW bruag.ch

Made from engineered wood or metal, these features lend visual interest while enclosing space.



← **Cascade Coil's** woven wire drapery for interior partitioning is made using recycled content. The company's new copper-clad steel collection gives a warmer colour and greater corrosion resistance.
WW cascadecoil.com

Cambridge Architectural Mesh's metal fabric is designed for window and door areas, reinforcing security without the appearance of heavy protection.
WW cambridgearchitectural.com

NON-GLASS PANELS



← **Mykon** Sized to spec, this company's screens enclose aluminum or polycarbonate cells between polymer sheets. They are available in translucent, for optimal light diffusion; or with a transparency that varies with the viewer's position.
WW mykon.com

Altuglas Plexiglas Rnew is manufactured from a high-performance resin bio-sourced polymers, and acrylic acid derived from glycerol.
WW altuglas.com

Recyclable acrylic and resin panels provide an array of patterns, colours and translucence.

Bencore Lightben Acoustic's architectural panels are designed for backlit ceilings and partition walls, with a polycarbonate cylindrical cell core that enhances acoustics.
WW bencore.co.uk

Evonik The assembly of Acrylite's high-impact Multi-Skinned Sheets allows for thermal expansion with no loss of seal. Multiple air layers boost the insulating properties of these panels, which come in a range of colours and translucence.
WW acrylitebuildingproducts.com

Coroplast Lightweight, moisture-resistant Stinger panels work well for suspended or open-air structures. The translucent honeycombed boards are made from 100 per cent recyclable polypropylene.
NASA coroplast.com

Duo-Gard Made with recycled-content plastic, Stremeline comes in multiple colours. The translucent soundproof panels are ideal for temporary walls and backlit partitions.
WW duo-gard.com