

MIRROR VISION



DOUG AITKEN'S MIRRORED MIRAGE HOUSE INSTALLED CALIFORNIA

360-degree view. Taking the concept a bit further, ÖÖD was designed by two brothers who couldn't find anywhere small, yet beautiful, to stay on their



WOODLAND HOUSE BY ALTUS ARCHITECTURE USA



ANJI CONNELL REFLECTS ON THE BEAUTY OF MIRRORED BUILDINGS AROUND THE GLOBE, AND HOW WE CAN BRING THESE INTO OUR GARDEN DESIGNS

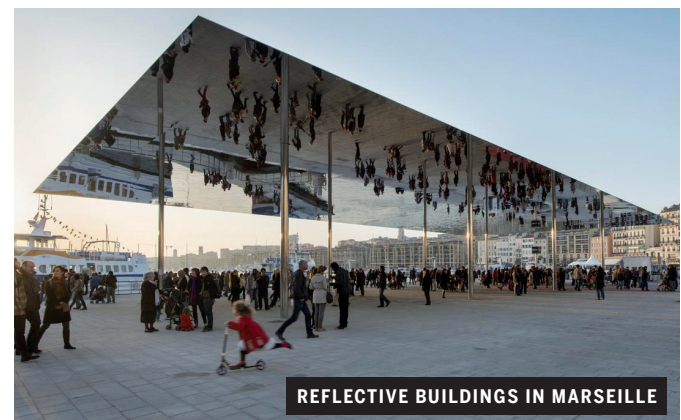
Mirror cabins are very much in vogue throughout the world – and rightly so. Not only do they blend into their surroundings, becoming invisible in plain sight, but they provide a unique view from inside too. Mirror surfaces also reflect sunlight, preventing structures from heating up. Angled mirror also helps address sun glare problems associated with mirrored façades that are problematic in tropical climates.

Inspiration
Paddington based Madeleine Blanchfield Architects' Kangaroo Valley Outhouse is a stunning example of how we can use mirror in our projects. Nestled amongst verdant vegetation, the mirrored structure disappears during the day, reflecting the lush landscape, minimising human interference in the natural landscape. From inside, there is a complete

hiking trips. This experience led them to create ÖÖD as a hotel concept. Their prefabricated mirror cube hotel rooms come complete with a bed, kitchen and bathroom. They've also created mirror cubes which include a reception, spa, restaurant, conference rooms, and gym.

ÖÖD house is installed on foundation poles by the client following drawings provided by ÖÖD. Installation takes one to two days, and each cube comes with a two-year warranty. The cube offers full visibility to the outside without you being seen on the inside. The mirrored exterior reflects the landscape, making the cabin seem invisible.

The Mirrorcube in Sweden was designed by Bolle Tham and Martin Videgård and built by a local company. Each cube provides accommodation for two, with a double bed, toilet and sitting area. They are sustainable cubes that allow a digital detox. All of the Tree hotel rooms have incinerating toilets and a



REFLECTIVE BUILDINGS IN MARSEILLE



FOLLY INVISIBLE BARN, BY STUDIO STMPJ

sustainable Rukkamoinika water system. Rather magically, access to the rooms is via a swaying suspension bridge.

An aluminium frame is built around a tree to form the base of the room of the Mirrorcube, that measures 4x4x4m. All walls are covered in mirror



MIRRORCUBE BY TREEHOTEL

glass, giving the illusion the room is glass from floor to ceiling. Another exciting detail hidden behind the mirror facade is a balcony that allows you to go outside the box without being seen.

In contrast, Invisible Barn is a mirror-clad folly set in a California forest by architecture studio stmpj. Its slender diamond-shaped structure means that from certain angles, it appears to be paper-thin. The doorway and window openings puncture the facade all the way through with no rooms inside. The visual illusion allows the folly to be invisible in nature, reconstructing the landscape of the site and creating a visual trick as the framed openings appear to float in the air.

Shaped like a typical American ranch style house, American artist Doug Aitken has erected an installation in the snow-covered Gstaad mountains. The mirrored exterior reflects and interacts with the mountain landscape

over the changing seasons. The interior is also mirrored to create a kaleidoscopic refracted effect as you enter. Aitken built another similar installation in the Californian desert.

Antonini + Darmon and RMDM created a pair of large mirrored-steel boxes connected by a glazed bridge to complement and extend an archive facility outside Paris. The extension was wrapped in ribbed panels of reflective stainless

“MIRRORED CLADDING IS ONE OF THOSE RARE ARCHITECTURAL MATERIALS THAT DELIVERS MORE THAN EXPECTED”

steel to reflect the sky and the lush landscaped setting and as a contrast to the aluminium of the existing building.

A beach hut has been added to Worthing beach in the south of England. Its small timber-framed structure has a gabled form that matches the local setting and it is clad entirely with mirrors, so it disappears into its seaside setting. Instigated by property developer, Jane Wood, she believes playful architecture can be used to bring new life to sleepy seaside towns.

Specifying mirror materials
The type of surface finish and colour are equally important when it comes to specifying rainscreen cladding. With its ability to shroud buildings and even make them disappear, mirrored cladding is one of those rare materials that delivers more than expected.

When it comes to specifying reflective and mirrored cladding, there are various choices depending on the level of reflectivity required, project design and budget.



Stainless steel is a versatile material due to its corrosion resistance properties. Unlike glass, the stainless steel panels can be perforated, rolled, folded or engraved to create a really striking façade.

ABOUT ANJI CONNELL

Internationally recognised interior architect and landscape designer, Anji Connell, is a detail-obsessed Inchbald Graduate, and has been collaborating with artisans and craftsmen to create bespoke and unique interiors for a discerning clientele since 1986. Anji is a stylist, feature writer and lover of all things art and design. www.anjiconnellinteriordesign.com



MIRROR-BLACK PROTEUS CLADDING AT DALTON CUMBRIAN FACILITY, CUMBRIA



WORTHING BEACH HUT BY ECE ARCHITECTURE



MIRROR OUTHOUSE BY MADELEINE BLANCHFIELD ARCHITECTS



HUTONG BUBBLE 218, BEIJING BY MAD



ART INSTALLATION BY HARUMI YUKUTAKE



MIRRORCUBE BY TREEHOTEL



ÖÖD HOUSE