

Cast Iron Facade, Paul Smith Concept Shop@11
Abemarle Street London, 6a architects



Facade is composed of many iron casted slabs, that differ in dimensions, but the most common is the 2000/600 mm; thickness is 50 mm. The covering facade interfaces with other components of the envelope, like the curved glass openings and the door, having rigorous “encounterings”, where the panels curve inward.

Why steel? Temperature wise or just aesthetics?

Is the computer generated facade helping the thermal mass distribution? Or is it thought to help protect the 18th century georgian bricks that is covering ?

The surface is further enlivened by the latent makers’ marks of the casting process and the natural patination of the cast iron

What will the rust create on the pavement?



“Fabricating the weighty wall required a similarly eclectic approach combining tools pioneered by modern makers and casting techniques honed by medieval metalsmiths. Designers started by modeling the complex patterns in CAD software and prototyping the designs by milling high-density polyurethane blocks with a CNC mill. Once the final patterns were worked out, the sections were taken to a foundry and packed in sand to create a mold for the molten metal. Molds were filled with spheroidal graphite iron, and in an unconventional step, allowed to rust. Corrosion would be a non-starter in structural applications, but the orange oxidized coating and the subtle cracking pattern it created on the slabs was critical to the architect’s aesthetic vision. A specialist coating called Hammerite Kurust was applied to the surface of the iron, halting the degradation of the surface and forming a rich black patina which gives the building the appearance of being a longstanding fixture of the neighborhood.”



you should watch the first part of the video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Eaz5WdskAE>

more on :
<http://www.wired.com/design/2013/11/paul-smith-goes-heavy-metal-with-latest-store>
+
<http://www.dezeen.com/2013/09/08/paul-smith-albemarle-street-store-facade-by-6a-architects/>