

ARABIC WORLD INSTITUTE JEAN NOUVEL

The design of this building is widely known for its particular surface treatment with 'smart' materials; and with the kinetic facade for this institute, Jean Nouvel designed a facade that responds to changing environments.

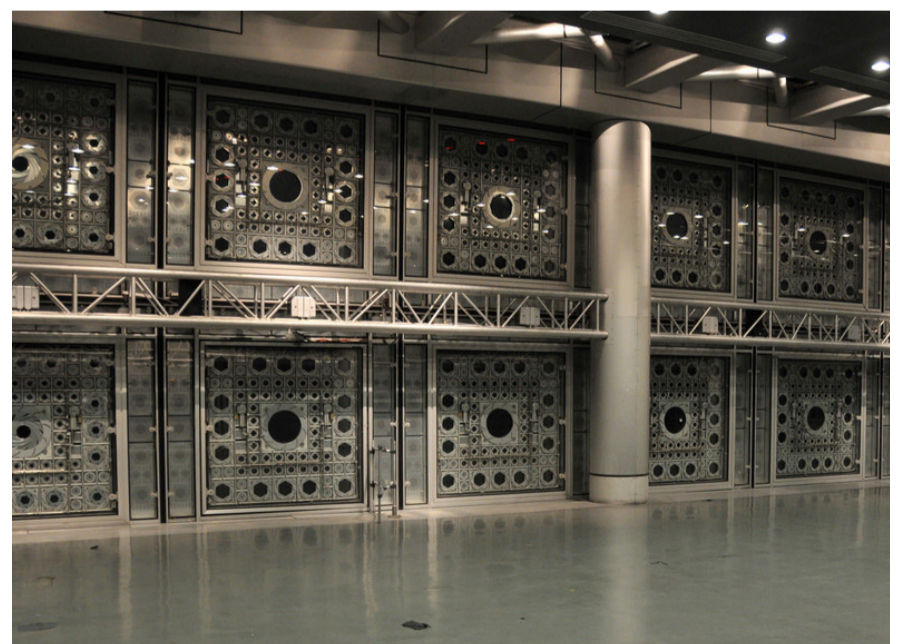
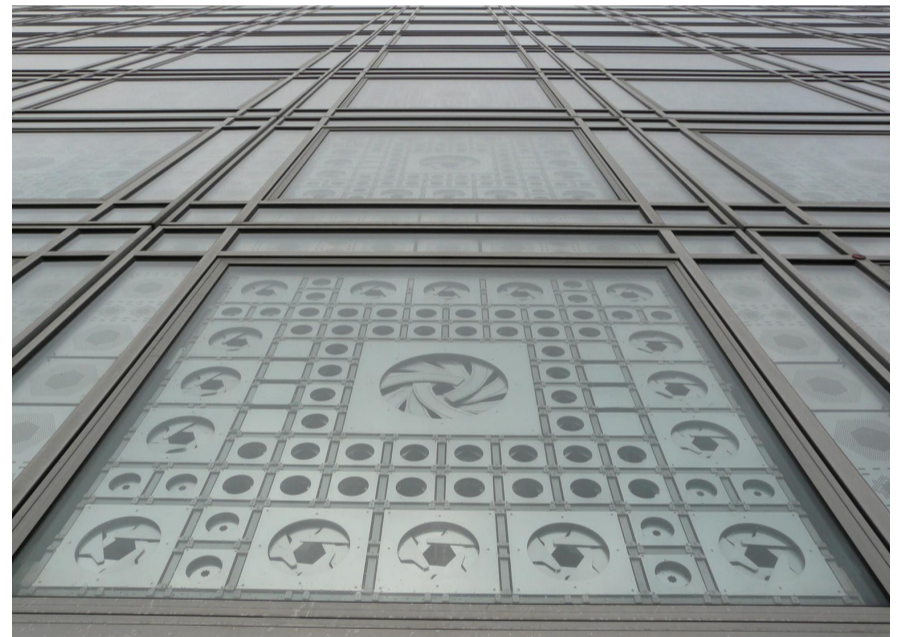
On the left bank of the Seine, with a view of Notre Dame de Paris, just down the river, framed in the slot between the curved and rectangular masses.

The huge south-facing garden courtyard wall has been described as a 60m 'Venetian blind', although its appearance is more patently Islamic in decorative terms.

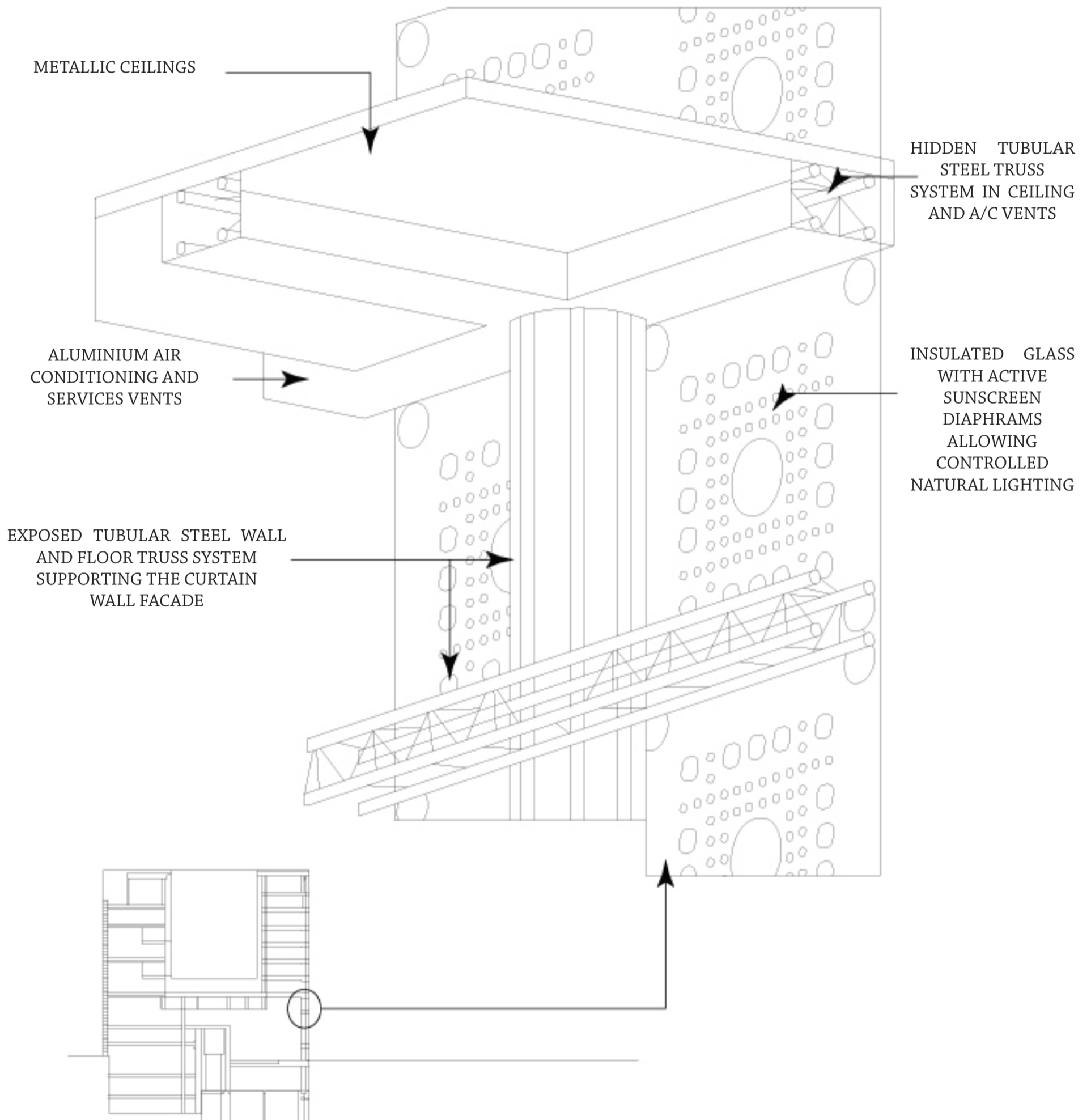
It is, however, an ocular device of striking originality, made up of numerous and variously dimensioned metallic diaphragms set in pierced metal borders.

Thus the whole effect is like a giant Islamic pierced screen, giving significance and an audacious brilliance to this remarkable building.

The size of the building is 70 by 20m and its location is in Paris.



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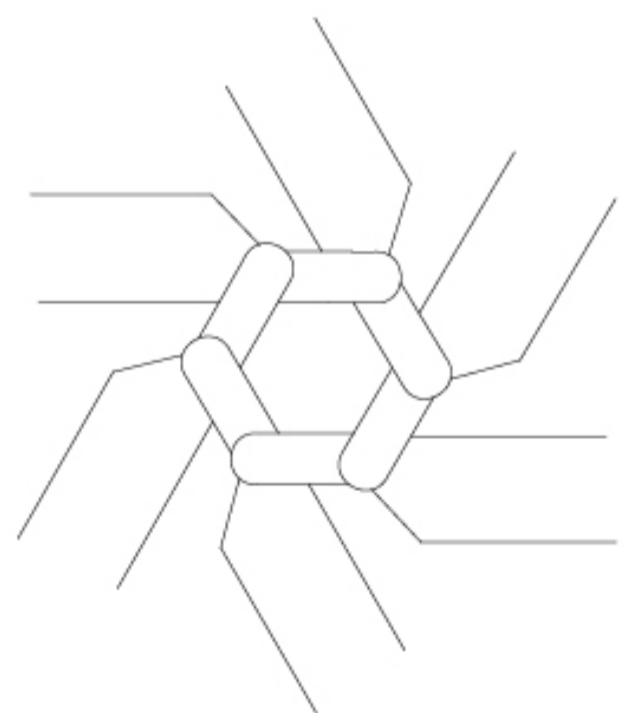
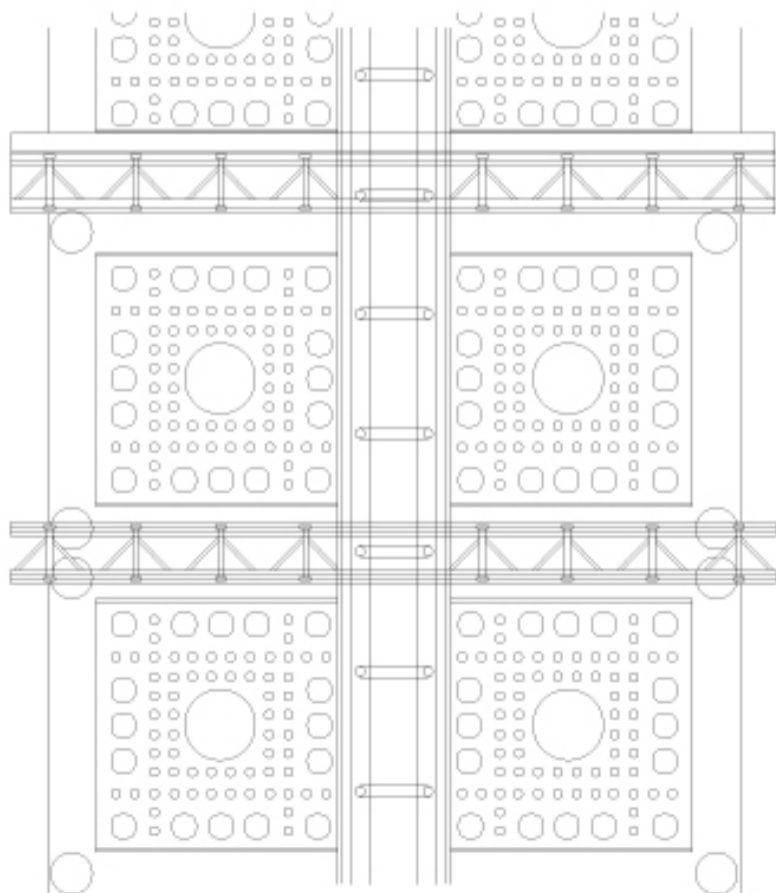
Scale 1:20

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The south facade of the building consists of high-tech photosensitive mechanical devices which control the lightlevels and transparency. It interprets traditional wooden Arab latticework screens into a glass and steel construction with 30,000 light-sensitive diaphragms on 1600 elements, which operate like a lens of a camera.

These diaphragms operate like a camera lens to control the sun's penetration into the interior of the building. The changes to the irises are dramatically revealed internally while externally a subtle density pattern can be observed.



CAMERA LENS TO CONTROL THE AMONT OF LIGHT