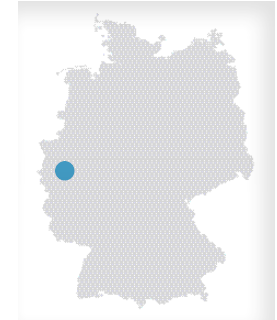






## Architecture, Building and Construction

# Free-Formed, Self-Supporting Architectural Façades\*



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Architects are turning to more and more geometrical diversity. For free-form structures, expensive customized solutions have been inevitable, but a new technology combines tessellation with folding to create self-supporting façade elements which do not need a separate substructure. Stainless steel is particularly suitable for this technique, because austenitic grades are exceptionally malleable. Furthermore, because stainless steel work-hardens during the forming process, this adds to the structural strength of the fabrication. The possibility to reduce wall thickness, weight and material cost, together with the absence of a separate supporting structure, make the most daring architectural shapes affordable for a wider range of applications.

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