

Len Lye Museum

Location: New Plymouth, New Zealand

Architects: Patterson Architects

A strikingly different use of stainless steel in architectural applications can be found in the city of New Plymouth, New Zealand, where the award winning Len Lye Center is to be found at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery. This inspirational building has a mirror-like façade manufactured from approximately 32 metric tons of austenitic 316L stainless steel sheets, beautifully polished to a No. 8 finish, which have been hung in vertical inter-locking panels which exhibit an apparently seamless appearance while reflecting the images of the immediate surrounds. The effect is stunningly beautiful and has already made the building an attraction for visitors to the city. The building was designed by Patterson Architects, who used stainless steel because it had been a medium for a number of Len Lye's sculptures over many years. The highly alloyed grade 316L, containing nickel, chrome and molybdenum is particularly well suited for external façades of buildings in coastal environments because of its robust resistance to corrosion.

Details

Environment:	Marine
Grade/surface:	316L/No. 8 Finish
Date of completion:	2013
Manufacturing company and material supplier:	Steel&Tube Stainless
More information:	nzssda.org.nz



Pictures courtesy of Patterson Architects

[To see more stainless steel in architecture, click here](#)