

Photo Studio in Schilde, Belgium





The façade of the photo studio before and after remodelling.

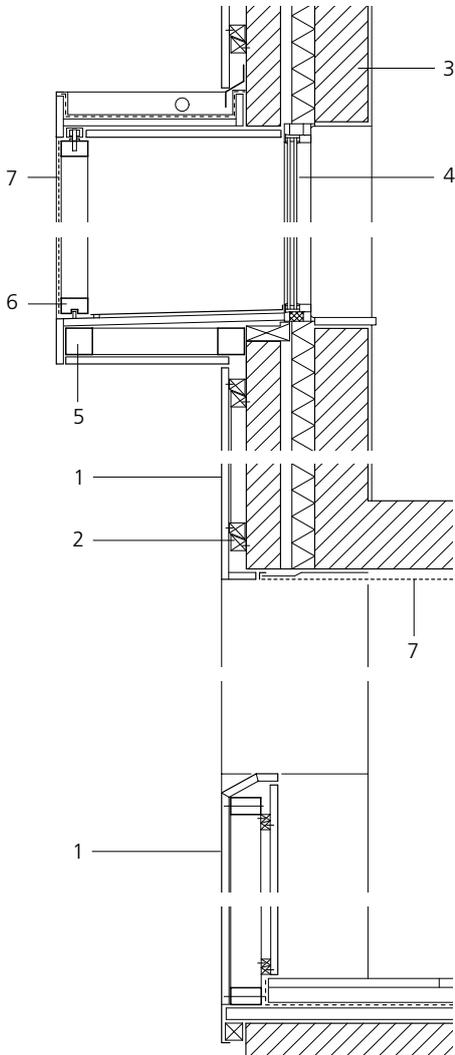
The small town of Schilde (20,000 inhabitants) lies on the main road between Turnhout and Antwerp. Along its high street a collection of variously sized retail outlets all vie for the attention of shoppers.

Housed in what was originally a 1970s residential building, this photography studio has recently undergone a facelift. All the non-structural parts of its façade were removed, and the entire front remodelled in a single material: stainless steel. The new skin over the external cavity wall is made up of large-scale panels (grade EN 1.4404) with a brushed finish fixed to an 18-mm plywood frame.

The first floor features a projecting window assembly encompassing both existing windows in one unit. It consists of a frame of square hollow-section steel affixed to the masonry and clad with stainless-steel panels.

With its glass 'lenses' and shutter-like sliding panels of perforated stainless-steel sheet held in steel profiles, the assembly alludes distinctly in its design to the principal tool of the photographer's trade. The 45° angle of the windows at ground-floor level was retained, and an 80-cm high stainless-steel-clad parapet added to the shop front to more clearly define inside and outside space. Four small 'showcases' on the left-hand side of the façade whet the appetite for the studio's services.

Instead of a traditional shop sign, the studio advertises itself in the form of its own web address bead-blasted and countersunk in the stainless-steel panel. At night the lettering is illuminated from behind.



The projecting window assembly adds relief and depth to the façade.

Horizontal and vertical sections through the façade scale 1:20

- 1 3 mm stainless-steel sheet, grade EN 1.4404 on 18 mm plywood
- 2 40/80 mm battens
- 3 existing façade
- 4 stainless-steel window frame with solar glazing
- 5 80/80/5 mm steel frame
- 6 sliding panel, 100/40/3 mm steel frame
- 7 3 mm perforated stainless-steel sheet grade EN 1.4404
- 8 60 mm thermal insulation
- 9 laminated plasterboard

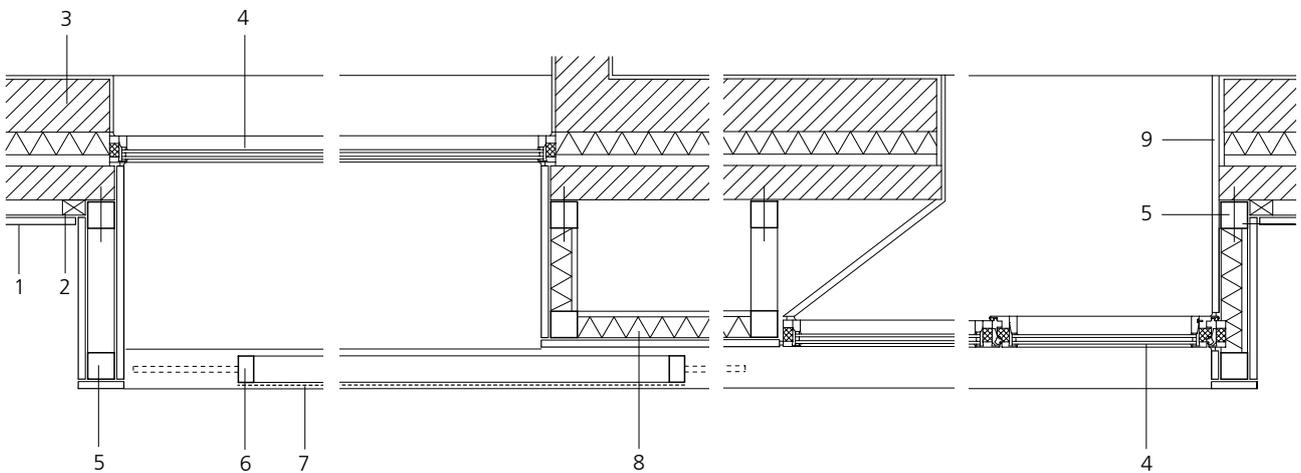


PHOTO STUDIO IN SCHILDE, BELGIUM



The stainless steel seems to change colour according to time of day and lighting conditions.



The perforated stainless steel of the sliding panel retains a visual connection with the outside while also protecting against direct sun.



The services of the photo studio are presented in the inset showcase windows.

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