

Stainless steel louvre blinds

Louvre blinds made of stainless steel profiles have many advantages over traditional external blinds. Not only does stainless steel reflect light very effectively, it also preserves a bright, pleasant atmosphere in the interior, with a high degree of visual transparency from inside to out. Due to the shape of the louvre profiles light can only enter from directions that are important for the view out; all other directions are blocked out, in particular light from the high-angled summer sun. The stainless steel profiles also demonstrate good wind stability and have a high self-cleaning effect.

At the Free University of Bolzano in Brixen in northern Italy, completed in spring 2004, extensive use was made of a newly developed solar shading system, consisting of laser-treated horizontal stainless steel louvres. The square building is wrapped in a three-floor prefabricated façade featuring a distinctive interplay of storey-high transparent and translucent glass panels. The ventilation and solar shading systems are an integrated component of the façades.

Client: Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Bolzano, Italy
Architects: Kohlmeier & Oberst Architekten, Stuttgart, Germany
Research: Fraunhofer Institut für solare Energiesysteme ISE, Freiburg, Germany



The solar shading system is fixed alternately inside and outside the glass panels. It offers a high degree of glare protection without impeding the view of the surroundings.



The special profile of the stainless steel louvres supports the balance between energy efficiency and outside contact.



At the Free University of Bolzano in Brixen, the solar shading system features a curtain of stainless steel that plays a role in the changing look of the façade.

Photos: Günter Richard Wett, Innsbruck, Austria (top, bottom); Clauss Markisen Projekt GmbH, Bissingen/Bernd Kammerer, Stuttgart, Germany (middle)