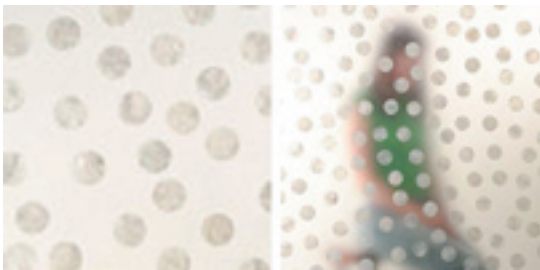


Architonic.com; *Material Research*; 2005

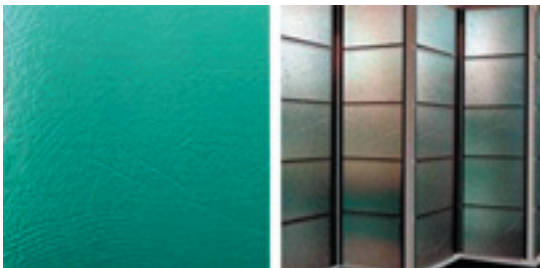
## TRANSLUCENT

The fascination of translucence lies in the mysterious nature of its surface. We can only guess at what lies behind it, while the interplay of light and shade animates the material. Plastics and glass are the protagonists of translucence: within them material and light merge with each other. Nowadays a facade no longer absolutely needs openings in the solid material to let in light – the shell itself can become the source of light in the form of a translucent skin. However, translucence no longer stops at solid building materials such as concrete, as the recently developed light-conducting concrete has shown. In this Material Letter we would like to present to you some interesting new developments within the fields of plastic and glass.



### Shell Panel

Translucent mother of pearl from Capice shells is placed between two discs of synthetic resin and sealed. Layers of colour can also be integrated into the material. The panels are available in thicknesses of 6, 10, 12, 19, and 25 mm, and a width of 1219 mm. The length is 2438 mm. The shells come from a reconstruction project on the Indonesian coast.



### Pressure-Formed Glass

The structure of the material is created by the fusion of various inorganic substances, of which 20% is recycled glass. The glass surface was inspired by the structures which are revealed by granite. The structure, which is independent of direction, is repeated every 675mm. It is supplied in dimensions of 2,040 mm x 3,353 mm and thicknesses of up to 10 mm. The glass can be bent, cut, worked, drilled, carved, sand-blasted or dyed. Various types of edge can be created.



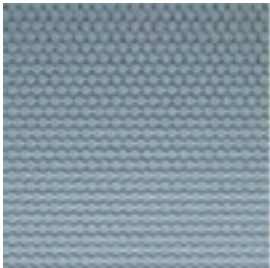
#### Colored Resin Blocks

This material seems to shine from the inside. Layers of colour which are embedded between unpolished acrylic or polyester plates produce a fascinating, visual depth. The acrylic plates are light, clear and durable and are available in thicknesses of up to 12 inches. The material can be used as safety glass with up to bullet-proof strength.



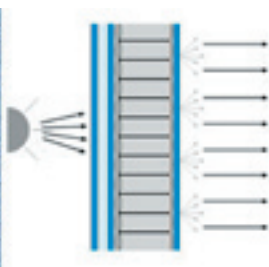
#### Extra-Large Glass Blocks

These glass blocks come in the unusual size of 42,8cm x 42,8 cm . In addition, a new production system reduces the joint between the glass blocks from the usual 10 mm to only 2 mm. As a result the impression of a wall of pure glass without visible supporting features is created. This construction system is also available for glass blocks in the usual size of 19 cm x 19 cm. Different surface finishes such as satin gloss, corrugated, coloured or transparent have the effect of playing with different intensities of translucence.



#### Recycled Plastic with Metal Inlay

You can arrange these panels in any way, just as required. Colour, pattern, texture, surface finish and different sorts of metal inlays can be combined freely. The plastic for these panels consists of recycled material to an amount of 40%, while the panels themselves are also 95% recyclable. The metal inlays range from industrial strength to fine wire mesh. Dimensions of the panels: thickness 5 – 25 mm, width 1143 mm, length 2438 mm.



#### Light-Diffusing Insulating Glass

A translucent capillary disc with additional light-diffusing properties is inserted into the space between panes of insulating glass. The result is an optimal even distribution of light in the room –

independent of external light conditions. In addition the material exhibits excellent heat and sound insulating characteristics and provides both privacy and protection against the sun. The capillary insert is available in thicknesses of 8, 12, and 16 mm, while the thickness of the glass depends on the static requirements.