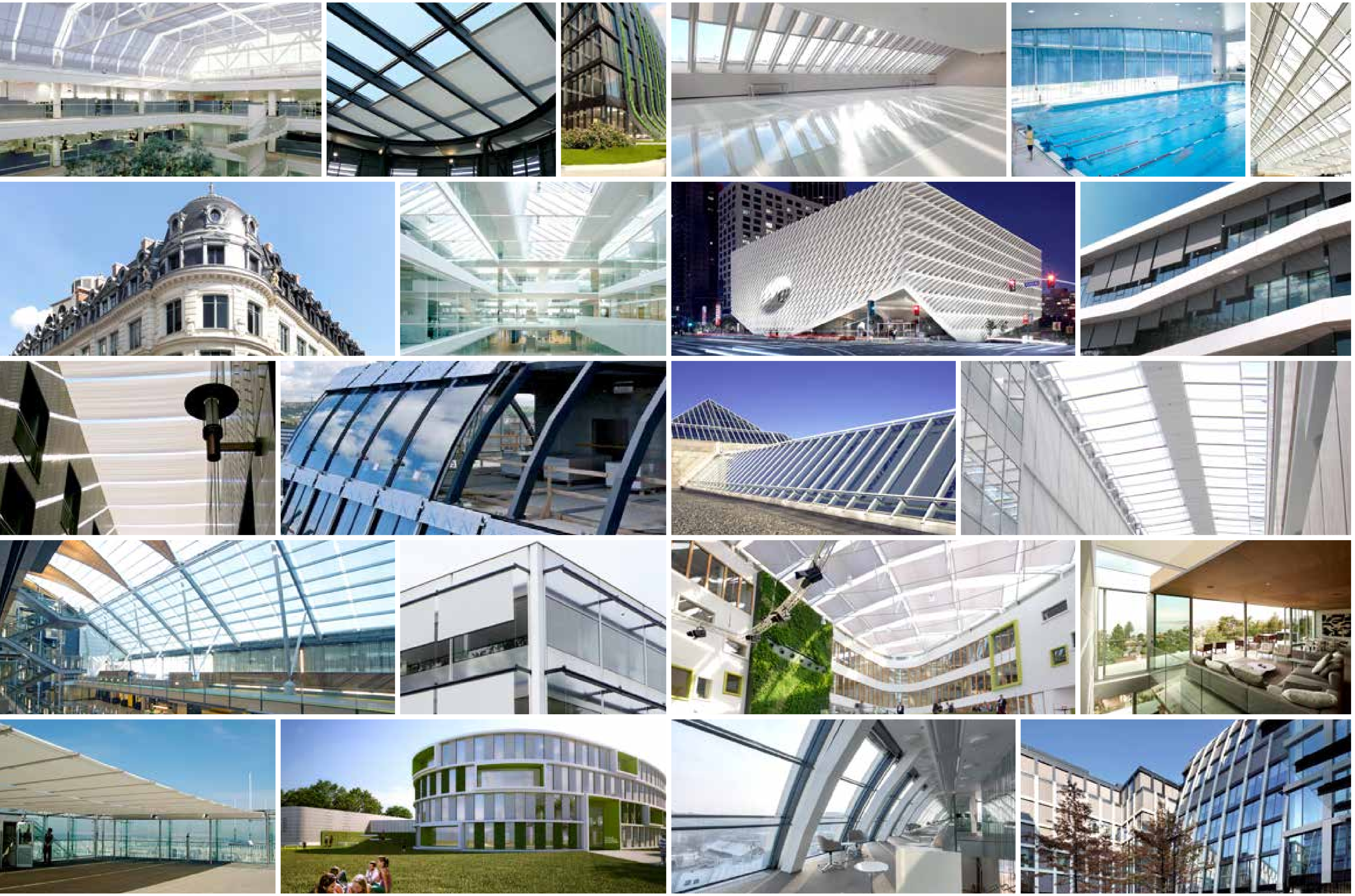
DESIGN
SOMETHING
EXTRAORDINARY

Guthrie Douglas



When did you last feel the sun on your face? In today's world of information overload, it's all too easy to neglect our basic human need to pause and connect with nature. The wonder of glass in architecture is that it enhances that connection, creating beautiful, memorable spaces that make us feel alive.

The most successful glass structures carefully balance beauty, energy efficiency, and comfort. Well designed, dynamic fabric shading systems are essential to this balance, precisely controlling the internal atmosphere and elevating light and shade to their rightful place as intrinsic architectural features.

Durable, flexible and versatile, our blinds are engineered to overcome challenges, not create them, and as a result, we've been instrumental in some of the world's most innovative structures. We're proud to showcase a small selection of them here, and we hope they'll act as inspiration for turning your ideas into reality.

Andrew Kitching · Managing Director, Guthrie Douglas Group Ltd


“WE ARE ENGINEERS.
WHAT WE DO IS OUR
OBSESSION”

DARLING WALK

INTERNAL FAÇADES

LOCATION: Australia

ARCHITECT: FJMT

MAIN CONTRACTOR: LendLease

PROJECT TEAM: Horiso

PRODUCT: TESS 200

BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Office Complex

Large scale fabric shading system for a sloping glass façade. Double roller tension system deploying 18 metre lengths of taut fabric.

OLYMPIC POOL

INTERNAL FAÇADES

LOCATION: Belgium

ARCHITECT: Essa Architecten Antwerpen

PROJECT TEAM: Helioscreen Projects

PRODUCT: TESS 312

BUILDING TYPE: Sport/Public

Wide vertical roller systems for the glass wall of a swimming pool. Marine grade coating and antibacterial fabric to withstand a humid and corrosive environment.

WELLCOME TRUST

INTERNAL FAÇADES

LOCATION: UK
ARCHITECT: Hopkins
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Mace
PROJECT TEAM: Levolux
PRODUCT: TESS 100
BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Office Complex

Heat and glare protection for a sloping and curved glass façade. Multiple tension systems integrated into an intricate glazing structure.

“THERE IS AN UNSEEN BEAUTY TO IT, A BALANCE OF FORM AND FUNCTION”

LANXESS HEADQUARTERS

EXTERNAL FAÇADES

LOCATION: Netherlands

ARCHITECT: Van den Broek en Bakema

PROJECT TEAM: Hunter Douglas Netherlands

PRODUCT: TESS 140

BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Office Complex

External shading to eliminate solar heat gain and glare. Wind resistant screens with concealed barrel integrated into the façade for invisibility when retracted.

BROADCASTING HEADQUARTERS

EXTERNAL FAÇADES

LOCATION: Belgium
ARCHITECT: Valentiny (Liège - BE)
MAIN CONTRACTOR: AM Galère-Moury
PROJECT TEAM: BIPP BIPP SA
PRODUCT: TESS 440
BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Office Complex

External shading to deliver energy savings and create a comfortable office environment. Wind resistant screens with tensioned steel wire guides integrated into the façade.

THE FLORENTINUM

EXTERNAL FAÇADES

LOCATION: Czech Republic
ARCHITECT: Cigler Marani Architects
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Penta Investments
PROJECT TEAM: Hunter Douglas Czechia
PRODUCT: TESS 100
BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Office Complex

Heat protection for a curved glass facade. Slimline relieving rollers allow the fabric to follow the curve of the glass.

“ BRITISH ENGINEERING RESULTS
IN PRODUCTS THAT WORK”

LE BON MARCHE

GLASS ROOFS AND ATRIA

LOCATION: France
ARCHITECT: Originally, Louis-Charles Boileau
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Laubeuf
PROJECT TEAM: Rezig SA
PRODUCT: TESS 400
BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Retail

External atrium shading for heat control of a retail environment. Bottom up, curved tension systems with bespoke bracketry to fix to a slender glazing structure.

HSE BOOTL

GLASS ROOFS AND ATRIA

LOCATION: UK
ARCHITECT: Cartwright Pickard Architects
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Kajima Developments
PROJECT TEAM: Dearnleys Pentel
PRODUCT: TESS 140
BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Office Complex

Integrated horizontal fabric shading for a commercial atrium. Concealed tension system for taut fabric and precise alignment of lead bars.

KBC BANK

GLASS ROOFS AND ATRIA

LOCATION: Belgium

ARCHITECT: Jaspers Eyers

PROJECT TEAM: Helioscreen Projects

PRODUCT: TESS 200

BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Office

Large scale retractable fabric system for a gigantic glass structure. Bottom up, double roller tension system to deploy 60m² of fabric following the shape of the glass roof.

©Jaspers-Eyers Architects – photographer Tom d'Haenens

We believe that light is the ultimate architectural feature, and so for us it's vital that, from the beginning, we understand all aspects of a space, so that nothing stands in the way of an exceptional result.

The best design happens collaboratively, and experience has taught us that the earlier we're involved in the process, the better placed we are to design an effective shading system that's invisible when not in use.

MADE TO THE MOST EXACTING EXPECTATIONS

Our ultimate aim as designers and engineers is to simplify – and we do that by combining a deep understanding of the brief with uncompromising technical rigour. We consider every detail, from glazing specification to fabric selection, controls integration to fixing methods, and ensure an end result that works totally in tune with a building's look and feel.

TRIED AND TESTED, THEN TESTED AGAIN

Once we've understood our brief, the mechanical engineering can begin. For us, there's one way to be sure that a shading system will perform well: build it. We meticulously test, refine and re-test prototypes under extreme conditions and ensure that any specific maintenance requirements are considered early. We're always aware that what works on paper has to work in real life.

AMBITION, NOT LIMITATION

Our projects have proven to us that a dynamic fabric shading system, intelligently integrated within a space, can be pivotal in a building's success. That's why we strive to make sure that in any project, nothing will limit design ambition.

“WE WOULD NEVER LET SOMETHING LEAVE OUR HANDS THAT WE WEREN’T COMPLETELY CONFIDENT IN”

NEW YORK PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SKYLIGHTS AND ROOFLIGHTS

LOCATION: USA

PROJECT TEAM: Specialized Shading Systems

PRODUCT: TESS 660

BUILDING TYPE: Residential

Adaptable glare protection during the day, privacy control at night. Ultra-quiet motor and integrated controls for a high end residential setting.

LONDON TOWNHOUSE

SKYLIGHTS AND ROOFLIGHTS

LOCATION: UK
ARCHITECT: Design Squared
PROJECT TEAM: Grants Blinds / Blindspace®
PRODUCT: TESS 660
BUILDING TYPE: Residential

Controlling natural light in a residential extension. Bespoke recess boxing to ensure complete invisibility when retracted.

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

SKYLIGHTS AND ROOFLIGHTS

LOCATION: UK
ARCHITECT: Jestico & Whiles
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Willmott Dixon
PROJECT TEAM: Grosvenor Contracts
PRODUCT: TESS 660
BUILDING TYPE: Education

Room darkening and glare reduction for lecture theatre projection screens in a grade II listed building. Blackout zip systems with two fabric panels meeting in the centre.


"WE ARE
CONSTANTLY
EVOLVING,
CONSTANTLY
INVENTING"

MONTPARNASSE TOWER

OUTDOOR SPACES

LOCATION: France
ARCHITECT: C2A Architectes
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Elior Restauration
PROJECT TEAM: Dubos Verger
PRODUCT: TESS 512
BUILDING TYPE: Commercial

Column free pergola shading for an exposed roof terrace. 20m long support cables and weighted fabric panels for high performance in extreme conditions.

SOUK AYASS

OUTDOOR SPACES

LOCATION: Lebanon
ARCHITECT: Rafael Moneo & Samir Khairallah
PROJECT TEAM: Libel
PRODUCT: TESS 140
BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Retail

Protection from the sun's heat for open pedestrian areas in a popular shopping district. Steel cable guides span long distances without side supports.

MARINA TOWERS

OUTDOOR SPACES

LOCATION: Israel

PROJECT TEAM: Promet

PRODUCT: TESS 440

BUILDING TYPE: High-rise residential

Terrace and balcony shading for a high rise residential tower. Cable guided tension system designed to withstand strong winds.

“CREATIVE ENGINEERING
WITH METICULOUS
ATTENTION TO DETAIL”

LOC FOCUS ACADEMY

BESPOKE

LOCATION: Netherlands
ARCHITECT: Royal Haskoning DHV Amsterdam
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Heerkens Van Bavel
PROJECT TEAM: Polyned, Solar Control Design
PRODUCT: Bespoke tension system
BUILDING TYPE: Education

Enhancing an ETFE roof with adaptable heat and glare protection. Bespoke fixing brackets designed to clamp onto multiple, irregular structural tubes.

THE BROAD MUSEUM

BESPOKE

LOCATION: USA
ARCHITECT: Diller, Scofidio + Renfro
MAIN CONTRACTOR: MATT Construction
PROJECT TEAM: Architectural Window Shades
PRODUCT: Bespoke tension system
BUILDING TYPE: Public Building

Precise light control for a high profile exhibition space. External zip systems with multiple zone control, integrated into the complex skylight structure.

THE KONG BAR RESTAURANT

BESPOKE

LOCATION: France
ARCHITECT: Jean-Jacques Ory Studio d'Architecture
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Belle Jardinière (LVMH Group)
PROJECT TEAM: CYB Stores & Serge Ferrari
PRODUCT: Bespoke tension system
BUILDING TYPE: Commercial Retail

Heat and glare protection for a spectacular restaurant space. Curved tension screens with translucence optimised to preserve the stunning views.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

BESPOKE

LOCATION: Oxford, England
ARCHITECT: Rafael Viñoly Architects
MAIN CONTRACTOR: Laing O'Rourke
PROJECT TEAM: Guthrie Douglas
PRODUCT: TESS 200
BUILDING TYPE: Education

Glass trapezoids inclined on two planes create a workspace with good quality daylight and views. The building received a BREEAM Excellent rating for attributes including the solar gain reduction achieved by the shading system design.

OUR STORY

Engineers aren't often known for their risk taking, but our founder, Richard Guthrie, was no ordinary engineer.

When asked at a trade show if it were possible to create a 60ft long fabric shade for Kuala Lumpur Airport, he thought 'why not?' – never having done it before.

Back at the factory, a single-minded determination to find a solution prompted a hole in the factory wall (space with which to test his ideas), meticulous experimentation and eventually, a vision made into a reality. The shade was engineered and with his purposeful, hands-on approach, Richard built up a successful shading business renowned for pushing the boundaries. With the further development of the TESS™ system, he created a world first – one that is at the core of all we do today.

He was a man who never stopped pursuing excellence and ingenuity, a true innovator. It's his spirit that runs through every product we design, and every project we complete.

www.guthriedouglas.com
projects@guthriedouglas.com
0044 (0)1926 310 850