

Shadow Box Design

The shadow box design is another option where uniform appearance of most types of reflective glass can be achieved. There are a number of variations to the shadow box design, but, basically, this design consists of an air space of 1 inch or more and a custom colored metal pan with insulation located behind it. Although the shadow box has been used successfully there may be some potential problems that must be addressed in the early stages of design.

The inside surface of the glass must be clean. Residues, streaks, handprints, overspray of fire-safing, concrete splatter, glazing lubricants, water run-off or water marks can result in read-through.

Fading of the insulation facing, painted framing or other surfaces in the spandrel cavity may become apparent. Water or chemical staining of the inside surface of the spandrel glass is a concern.

Residuals, which may outgas from the building components such as insulation, paints, lubricants or sealants, may deposit an objectionable film on the glass.

For spandrel applications where the greatest design flexibility is desired, the design professional may choose a factory applied ceramic frit to the number four surface of the IGU.

