

CLAIMS

1. A panel for a wall or a roof that is adapted to be mounted to a structural framework of the wall or the roof, the panel including at least two components that are
5 connected together, with the components comprising (a) a façade that has (i) an outer surface that defines a front surface of the panel and (ii) a rear surface and (b) a structural element connected to and supporting the façade.
2. The panel defined in claim 1 wherein the structural element includes a profiled sheet having parallel ribs and parallel troughs positioned with the ribs or the troughs
10 contacting and connected to the rear surface of the façade.
3. The panel defined in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the façade and the structural element are connected together with an adhesive.
4. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims wherein the façade and the structural element are mechanically connected together.
- 15 5. The panel defined in claim 4 wherein the mechanical connection is via a mechanically interlock between the façade and the structural element.
6. The panel defined in claim 5 wherein the mechanical interlock may be a friction fit of the structural element and the façade.
7. The panel defined in claim 5 or claim 6 wherein the mechanical interlock is the
20 result of folding a section of the structural element over a section of the façade.
8. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims being formed so that in use adjacent panels are in an overlapping relationship with the front surfaces of the façades of adjacent panels forming a continuous front surface on the wall or the roof.
9. The panel defined in claim 8 wherein the overlapping relationship is side-by-
25 side and/or end-to-end relationship with the front surfaces of the façades of the adjacent panels forming a continuous front surface on the wall or the roof.
10. The panel defined in claim 8 or claim 9 wherein the overlapping relationship involves a section of the structural element of one panel, covering, i.e. overlapping, a section of the structural element of another panel.
- 30 11. The panel defined in claim 8 or claim 9 wherein the overlapping relationship involves a section of one panel covering, i.e. overlapping, a section of another panel.

12. The panel defined in claim 11 being formed so that adjacent panels in use are in the overlapping relationship with one panel of a pair of adjacent panels extending partially over and covering the other panel of the pair of panels and forming a continuous front surface on the wall or the roof, for example with a saw-tooth profile when viewed from a side of the panels.

13. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims includes an alignment and fastening system for facilitating alignment of the panel in relation to other panels and the structural framework and fastening the panel to the structural framework.

14. The panel defined in claim 13 wherein the alignment/fastening system is a concealed system in that the system is not visible when a person views the panel positioned on a wall or a roof.

15. The panel defined in claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the alignment/fastening system includes:

(a) an elongate retainer member such as a plate that is connected to the structural element on a bottom surface of the structural element, with the retainer member and the structural element defining a plurality of spaced-apart slots; and

(b) an elongate retainer element (which may also be described as a “ladder” clip) that is connected to the front surface of the façade on a front surface of the panel and includes an elongate strap and a series of tabs that extend from one side of the strap, with a first series of tabs including openings to facilitate fastening the tabs to the structural framework and a second series of tabs to extend into the spaced-apart slots of the retainer plate of a panel in a successive row that, in use in the construction of a wall or a roof, is formed and thereby locate the two panels together.

16. The panel defined in claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the alignment/fastening system includes openings, such as openings that each have a positioning component and a locking component, such as keyhole openings, in the structural element that in use of the panel locate the panel in a correct alignment on mounting elements such as fasteners that are connected to the structural framework.

17. The panel defined in claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the alignment/fastening system includes openings, such as openings that each have a positioning component and

a locking component, such as keyhole openings, in the structural element that in use of the panel locate the panel on mounting elements such as fasteners that mount another panel to the structural framework.

18. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims wherein the structural
5 element is completely behind the façade.

19. The panel defined in any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the structural element is partially behind the façade and extends partially laterally in relation to the façade.

20. The panel defined in claim 19 wherein, when the structural element is a profiled
10 sheet, the profiled sheet extends partially laterally from at least one side of the façade as an exposed section that is visible when the panel is viewed in a direction looking towards the façade.

21. The panel defined in claim 19 wherein, when the structural element is a profiled
15 sheet, the profiled sheet extends partially from two sides of the façade as two exposed sections that are visible when the panel is viewed in a direction looking towards the façade.

22. The panel defined in claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the exposed section or
sections includes openings, such as openings that each have a positioning component
and a locking component, such as keyhole openings, that in use of the panel locate the
20 panel in a correct alignment on mounting elements such as fasteners that are connected to the structural framework.

23. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims wherein the front surface
of the façade is a flat surface.

24. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims wherein the façade is
quadrilateral with a first pair of parallel sides and a second pair of parallel sides.

25. The panel defined in claim 24 wherein the sides of the first pair of parallel sides
25 include complementary formations, such as complementary male and female formations, that allow the overlapping relationship with an adjacent panel.

25. The panel defined in claim 24 wherein one side of the first pair of parallel sides
includes an extension of the front surface of the façade that can be fastened to the
30 structural framework and then covered by an adjacent panel when, in use, the adjacent panel is positioned in the overlapping relationship.

26. A wall or a roof constructed from a plurality of the panels defined in any one of the preceding claims connected to a structural framework.