What is claimed is:

1. A retroreflective article, comprising:

a first transparent layer having a back surface that includes a plurality of retroreflective prisms, and a planar front surface that receives incident light, and an index of refraction *n1* that is at least about 1.40, a second transparent layer overlying the back surface of the first transparent layer having an index of refraction *n2* that is no larger than about 1.20 and which includes a regular pattern of uniformly sized nanostructures of transparent material that define pores having a width that is less than one half of the wavelength of visible light,

wherein the nanostructures include mutually parallel nanorods that are substantially parallel to one another and have one end connected to the back surface of the first transparent layer and an opposite end projecting away from the back surface of the first transparent layer, the nanorods having substantially the same length.

2. The retroreflective article defined in claim 1 wherein the porosity of the second transparent layer is at least about 60% or at least about 80%.

3. The retroreflective article defined in claim 1, wherein the axes of rotation of the nanorods are non-orthogonal to the surfaces of the retroreflective prisms which they overlie.

4. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1 or 3, wherein the nanorods are formed from silicon dioxide and are deposited over the surfaces of the retroreflective prisms by e-beam evaporation.

5. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1-4, wherein the nanostructures are integrally formed from the same material as the first transparent layer.

6. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1 or 3 or 4, further comprising a reflective layer overlying the second transparent layer and bridging the projecting ends of the nanorods of the second layer such that the pores defined between the nanorods are substantially devoid of material forming the reflective layer.

7. The retroreflective article defined in claim 6, wherein the reflective layer is a specular reflective metallic layer.

8. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 6 or 7, wherein the reflective layer is a diffuse reflective layer formed from a white material.

9. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1-8, wherein the retroreflective prisms are cube corners having truncated tips that have been textured that increases the daytime brightness of the sheeting.

10. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1-9, wherein portions of the article include a light diffusive pattern that increases the daytime brightness of the sheeting.

11. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1-10, wherein the front surface of the first transparent layer is printed on selected areas that increase the daytime brightness of the printed areas of the front surface.

12. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1-11, further comprising a printed layer overlying the front surface of the first transparent layer on selected areas that increases the daytime brightness of the printed areas of the printed layer.

13. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1 or 3 or 4, further comprising an adhesive layer overlying the second transparent layer and bridging the projecting ends of the nanorods of the second layer such that the pores defined between the nanorods are substantially devoid of material forming the adhesive layer.

14. The retroreflective article defined in claim 13, wherein the adhesive layer is white.

15. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1-13, wherein at least some of the retroreflective prisms are cube corners having one or both of canted optical axes and laterally displaced apices that retroreflect near normal incident light to an angle of about 45° with respect to the planar front surface in order to increase the daytime brightness of the sheeting.

16. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1-13 and 15, wherein at least some of the retroreflective prisms are cube corners having one or both of canted optical axes and laterally displaced apices that result in some of the light being transmitted through walls of the prisms rather than being retroreflected in order to increase the daytime brightness of the sheeting.

17. The retroreflective article defined in any one of claims 1-13 and 15-16, wherein the retroreflective prisms are rectangular prisms including corners having one or both of canted optical axes and laterally displaced apices such that, for some of the corners, some of the light is not retroreflected

but rather is transmitted through walls of the rectangular corners in order to increase the daytime brightness of the sheeting.

18. A method for forming a retroreflective article, comprising:

providing a first transparent layer having a back surface that includes a plurality of retroreflective prisms, and a planar front surface that receives incident light, and an index of refraction *n1* that is at least about 1.40, and providing a second transparent layer over the back surface of the first transparent layer having an index of refraction *n2* that is no larger than about 1.20 and which includes a regular array of uniformly-sized nanostructures of transparent material that define pores having a width that is less than one half of the wavelength of visible light, wherein the nanostructures of the second transparent layer are nanorods deposited over the surfaces of the retroreflective prisms by e-beam evaporation and wherein one end of each of the nanorods is connected to the back surface of the first transparent layer and an opposite end of each of the nanorods projects away from the back surface of the first transparent layer, and the nanorods are substantially the same length.

19. The method of any one of claim 18 wherein the pore width is between about 2 and 8 nanometers.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the thickness of the e-beam deposited second transparent layer is between about 150-2000 nanometers.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein the second transparent layer is formed from silicon dioxide.

22. The method of any one of claims 18-21, further comprising applying a reflective layer over the second transparent layer that bridges the projecting ends of the nanorods of the second layer such that the pores defined between the nanorods are substantially devoid of material forming the reflective layer.