CLAIMS

1. A panel for a wall that is adapted to be mounted to a structural framework of the wall, the panel including at least two components that are connected together, with the components comprising:

(a) a façade that comprises steel sheet and 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, the structural element being completely behind the façade and ~~contacting the rear surface of the façade over a substantial area of the façade, the structural element~~ comprising a profiled steel sheet having parallel ribs and parallel troughs positioned with the ribs or the troughs contacting and connected to the rear surface of the façade;

wherein a first pair of parallel sides of the façade are formed to contribute to locating the panel in relation to the structural framework and are configured for overlapping relationship with an adjacent panel in use.

2. The panel defined in claim 1, wherein one side of the first pair of parallel sides of the façade includes an extension of the front surface of the façade to be fastened to the structural framework and then covered by an adjacent panel when, in use, the adjacent panel is positioned in overlapping relationship.

3. The panel defined in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein one side of the first pair of parallel sides of the façade includes a flange extending rearwardly from the front surface of the façade and a lip extending outwardly from the flange parallel to the front face of the façade to be covered by the adjacent panel in overlapping relationship therewith in use.

4. A panel adapted to be mounted to a structural framework of a wall, the panel including at least two components that are connected together, with the components comprising:

(a) a façade comprising a steel sheet material 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, the structural element comprising a profiled steel sheet having parallel ribs and parallel troughs positioned with the ribs or the troughs contacting and connected to the rear surface of the façade, the structural element being completely behind the façade;

wherein one of a first pair of parallel sides of the façade includes a flange extending rearwardly from the front surface of the façade and a lip extending outwardly from the flange parallel to the front face of the façade.

~~4~~5. The panel defined in claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the lip includes a plurality of openings to receive mounting elements, such as fasteners, to mount the panel to the structural framework.

~~5~~6. The panel defined in any one of claims 3 to 5 ~~or claim 4~~, wherein the other of the first pair of parallel sides of the façade includes a flange extending rearwardly from the front surface of the façade and an upturned lip, wherein the front surface of the façade, the flange and the upturned lip define a channel for receiving or locating the structural element behind the façade.

~~6~~7. The panel defined in claim ~~5~~6, wherein the structural element extends between the flanges of the first pair of parallel sides.

~~7~~8. The panel defined in claim ~~5~~6 or claim ~~6~~7, wherein the flanges of the two sides of the first pair of parallel sides define upper and lower side edges of the panel on the wall.

~~8~~9. The panel defined in claim ~~5~~6 or claim ~~6~~7, wherein the flanges of the two sides of the first pair of parallel sides define lateral side edges of the panel on the wall.

~~9~~10. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first pair of parallel sides of the façade include ~~complementary formations, such as~~ complementary male and female formations~~,~~ configured for overlapping relationship with ~~an~~ the adjacent panel.

~~10~~11. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each side of a second pair of parallel sides of the façade includes a rearwardly extending flange, which flanges define opposite side edges of the wall panel.

~~11~~12. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each side of a second pair of parallel sides is open and the panel includes a separate elongate edge element located to close each open side of the second pair of parallel sides.

~~12~~13. The panel defined in claim ~~11~~12, wherein the edge element is an L-shaped element to be located so that one web of the L-shaped edge element contacts a rear surface of the panel and the other web of the L-shaped edge element closes the open side of the second pair of parallel sides.

~~13~~14. The panel defined in claim ~~11~~12, wherein the edge element is adapted to close each side of the second pair of parallel sides of two adjacent panels.

~~14~~15. The panel defined in claim ~~13~~14, wherein the edge element is formed to define an elongate gap between adjacent panels.

~~15~~16. The panel defined in claim ~~13~~14 or claim ~~14~~15, wherein the edge element includes a backing plate and two spaced-apart parallel webs extending from the backing plate, with a section of the backing plate and one of the webs defining an L- shaped element, and with another section of the backing plate and the other of the webs defining an L-shaped element.

~~16~~17. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the façade and the structural element are connected together with an adhesive.

~~17~~18. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the façade and the structural element are mechanically connected together and wherein the mechanical connection is via a mechanically interlock between the façade and the structural element, the mechanical interlock preferably being a friction fit of the structural element

and the façade or the result of folding a section of the structural element over a section of the façade.

~~18~~19. 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.

~~19~~20. The panel defined in claim ~~18~~19, wherein the overlapping relationship is a side-by-side relationship and/or an end-to-end relationship with the front surfaces of the façades of the said adjacent panels forming a continuous front surface on the wall or the roof.

~~20~~21. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims, including an alignment and fastening system for facilitating alignment of the said panel in relation to another said panel and the structural framework and for fastening the said panel to the structural framework.

~~21~~22. The panel defined in claim ~~20~~21, 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.

~~22~~23. The panel defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the front surface of the façade is a flat surface.

~~23~~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.

~~24~~25. A wall constructed from a plurality of the panels defined in any one of the preceding claims connected to a structural framework.