

Corten - Design Considerations



Examples of Corten 'patina' formation.

Design features that would collect or retain water must be avoided such as pockets, crevices etc.

Since any interruption in the surface can cause the oxide coating to develop unevenly, designers should consider the effect of the system of construction, e.g. welding.

Moisture dripping from the steel, especially during the early years of exposure, will contain soluble iron salts which can stain or streak adjacent materials. This run off is particularly concentrated during the early years of 'patina' formation. This natural process in no way affects the performance of the steel.

Designers have used gutters, pipes and dripping rims for the systematic drainage of this natural solution.

Any rainwater system should have a sump/trap to collect the iron oxide prior to entry into the main public drainage system.

Materials subject to minimal staining include glass, ceramic tile, glazed brick, porcelain coatings, washable air drying and thermosetting organic coatings, extruded neoprene and stainless steels. Materials subject to severe staining are concrete and stucco, galvanised steel, unglazed brick, matte porcelain enamels, stone and wood.



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