



# Conveying Their Message

Some say that necessity is the mother of invention, but invention occasionally begets necessity. **Cambridge Architectural** got its start in 1917 manufacturing the interlocking wire beds used for the conveyor belts of newfangled assembly lines. In the 1960's, the company started to produce the indestructible, rigid, tightly woven mesh that protects the walls of elevator cabs—and somehow manages to be downright sexy, too. Other versions are pressed into service as safety barriers for exploding curtain walls or as part of ventilation systems. Peter Marino Architect even installed the material as a decorative cladding at a Louis Vuitton flagship in New York. A close-up on the manufacturing process weaves a tale of humble stainless-steel origins spun into golden applications. 866-806-2385; cambridgearchitectural.com. **circle 413** ➤

- 1. Spools of flexible stainless-steel "yarn" await the start of the weaving process.
- 2. The "yarn" is run through a loom to weave seamless mesh spirals.
- 3. An operator controls the speed of production.
- 4. Woven together, the stainless spirals are ready to be attached to one another with stainless rods.
- 5. The rods, which will function as the warp, are tagged to coordinate with specific types of mesh.
- 6. Recently developed, the Stripe pattern is an open weave that can serve as window treatments or partitions.
- 7. Inserting the rod into the spiral of the mesh at various intervals creates the pattern.
- 8. Exterior-grade Shade, featuring a large open weave, is often used for building facades.

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