



Colin Blackford, Director of Strategy

Anyone who's ever passed a building with shades at every height knows how off-kilter it looks. A haphazard shade solution can bring down the overall appearance-not to mention thermal performance-of even the most thoughtfully designed structures. And yet all too often, that's the case. Colin **Blackford** knows this well. Today the former architect helps guide customers who are seeking shade-control fabrics from Mermet. He's a vehement proponent of the whole team-architects, interior designers, and others-working together from the outset, as he knows communication is vital. Blackford recently walked us through why and how aesthetics matter.

Ask the **Expert**

How can shade fabrics aesthetically transform a project?

Architects put a lot of thought into every detail of a project, including the windows. Yet that attention to detail sometimes falls off when it comes to the shades covering those windows. And that's an issue, because the color, design, and mechanics of the shades all have a major impact on

the final aesthetic.

First, consider color. The architect may have selected the perfect hue of reflective blue glazing, but if you select a white or light fabric for your shades, the glazing may end up looking greenish due to the iron content found in clear glass. That's fine if that's your desired effect, but if not, well, it's

less than ideal. It's

consider how the shade will appear in relation to the spandrel glass, which is the glass between floors on a large building with a full-glass facade. That portion of glass is typically back-painted with silicone or ceramic frit so vou can't see through it. Will your shades complement or clash?

also important to

These considerations all relate to how the building looks from the outside. I call them out here since they too often get short shrift. The impact on the room's aesthetic from the inside? The interior designer has

lecting shades. Clearly, the shades you choose have a huge effect on the final appearance of a building. Putting in careful thought at the outset will help you select the shade that best

complements the

space-both inside

and outside.

typically thought

length. So be sure

to contemplate

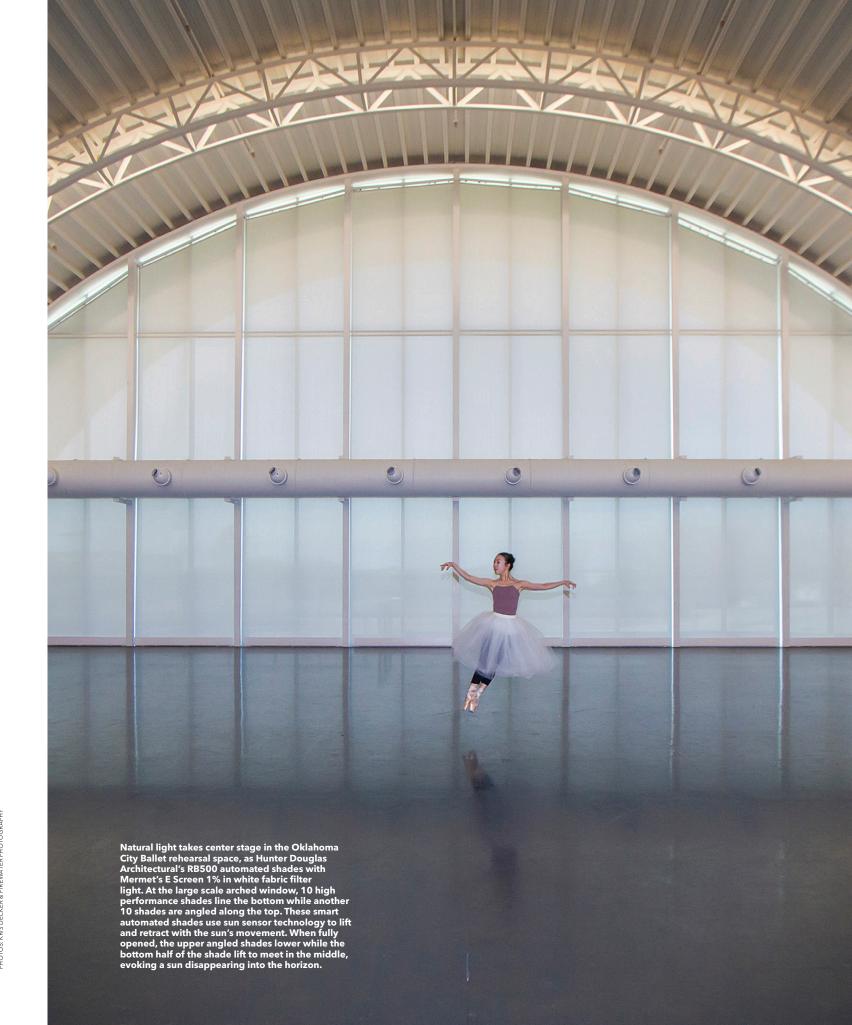
both elements

of the completed

design when se-

about that at

Check out the September+October issue of gb&d, when thermal performance



98 JULY-AUGUST 2019

gbdmagazine.com