

VISUAL BARRIERS AND WINDBREAK PANELS, PERGOLAS

DEFINITION AND ROLE

Visual barriers and windbreak panels are vertical construction elements designed to protect certain places from view and from the wind. Pergolas are mainly intended to offer protection from the sun.

STRESSES

The panel design must take into account the various situations of use:

- panel close to or in contact with the ground and water,
- vertical panel or filling element subject to bad weather, which encourages the formation of cracks. These panels can be likened to cladding exposed on both sides.

REQUIRED PROPERTIES

The timber must demonstrate good stability, have straight and low-split thread and offer a high degree of resistance to rot and dry wood insects.

PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Windbreak panels and visual barriers do not require the use of heavy duty sections. They must be lightweight, flexible and able to resist climatic constraints. A louvred assembly in the form of braiding or duckboard is recommended, in order to mitigate the effects of the wind without blocking its passage. The wood of pergolas must be correctly sized in order to limit the risk of creep deformation.

USAGE CLASS

Elements that are close to or in contact with the ground fall under usage class 4.

Perfectly drained vertical filling elements fall under usage class 3.



Photo: Kastrup wind barrier © Wijma



Photo: Pergola © Santiago Cornejo