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(54) BUILDING FACADE SYSTEM

(57) A building facade system includes framework having shelf members secured to the floor slabs. Vertical mullions are fastened to the shelf members and thereby hang therefrom. The mullions extend below the floor slab and include a riser portion extending above the floor slab. Horizontal support members fastened to the mullions support infill panels and are coupled to horizontal cap members which are fastened to the top terminal ends of the mullion riser portions. Intermediate support members

fastened to the mullions support slab edge cover panels which can be opaque. Posts are fastened to the shelf members and are secured to the floor slabs within embedded channels. The posts are horizontally and vertically adjustably fastenable to the shelf members. The shelf members are thereby horizontally and vertically adjustable relative to the floor slabs. The weight of the panels, mullions and shelf members is transferred through the posts to the floor slab.

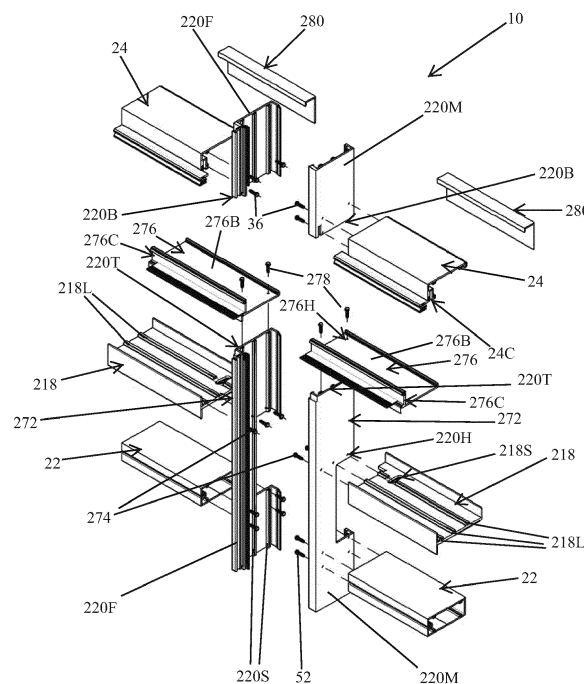


Fig. 14

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Description

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of facade systems which form a curtain wall or shell around buildings. More particularly, the present invention relates to a facade system having framework supported on the building floor slabs and which is easily horizontally and vertically adjustable relative to the floor slabs.

2. Background

[0002] Building facade systems are known and are common. They form a curtain wall around buildings and protect the building from the elements. The curtain wall comprises a plurality of panels supported on a framework which is secured to the building. The panels can be made of various materials such as glass, stone, steel, aluminum, etc., and can be various sizes as needed or desired. The panels can also be insulated. Different types of panels can be used such as, for example, transparent glass between the floor slabs and opaque glass or stone along the building structural components.

[0003] The building facade framework is typically secured to the floor slabs. Prior framework secured to floor slabs are, for example, shown and described in Evensen et al. US 8,959,855; Ting US 8,001,738; Speck US 7,644,549; and, Hogan et al. US 2015/0135615.

[0004] The prior building facade framework is, however, not readily adjustable to compensate for construction tolerances of the building floor slabs, are generally cumbersome and difficult to install and relatively costly.

[0005] Prior building framework is supported to the slab structure via vertical load carrying members secured to the slabs via large unsightly and obtrusive anchors from the ends of the verticals to the top and bottom of slabs. These anchors are either covered with large trim members or placed into recessed pockets that are difficult to coordinate and have to be later filled with concrete. This also leads to a large buildup of sightline to the interior, blocking the occupant's view of the outdoors and reducing available light to the interior.

[0006] The embedded anchor system for prior building framework is located well inwards of the facade due to the structural issues created by anchorage via vertical members as described above. These embedded anchors often conflict with the native placement of the steel reinforcing system for the building structure and concrete slabs, which often has to be modified at substantial cost.

[0007] Prior curtainwall system designs with vertical load carrying members require separate installations of firesafing insulation, reinforcing, and smoke sealant to prevent the transmission of fumes and smoke between floors. These items are very costly.

[0008] Prior curtainwall system designs with vertical

load carrying members require special treatment and "plugging" of the continuous vertical members to eliminate the transmission of sound from one floor to the next.

[0009] Prior curtainwall system designs with vertical load carrying members require special shimming of the anchor brackets to the structure, thereby necessitating expensive and labor intensive shim placements. These shimmed systems are not readily adjustable.

[0010] These concerns have been addressed by "window wall" systems utilizing continuous head and sill receptors that provide horizontal breaks between the floors, but these require multiple layers of gaskets, sealant, shimming, and many additional assemblies, components, and installation operations to properly implement.

[0011] The above prior building framework methodologies considerably increase the material and labor costs associated with the enclosure of a building. Accordingly, a need exists for an improved building facade system.

Summary of the Invention

[0012] The invention of the continuous horizontally supported and post anchored system as described herein eliminates the need for all of the above costly and labor intensive components of prior building facade designs and substantially reduces the cost of building enclosure. The present invention overcomes disadvantages of prior facade systems by providing a framework secured to the building floor slabs and which is easily horizontally and vertically adjustable. Accordingly, the position of the framework and the curtain wall panels supported thereof can be adjusted to compensate for building construction tolerances and, after construction has been completed, to also compensate for dissimilar building movements and floor slab deflections. The present invention advantageously does not require shims and spacers for installation of the framework. The present invention also allows for the curtain wall panels to be located relatively close to the terminal edges of the building floor slabs.

[0013] In one form thereof the present invention is directed to a building facade system including a shelf member and vertical mullions secured to the shelf member. The vertical mullions include a riser portion extending vertically upwardly above the shelf member. A post extends a distance between the shelf member and a building floor slab. The post distance between the shelf member and the building floor slab is adjustable. The post is fastenable to the shelf member. Prior to fastening the post to the shelf member, the post distance is adjusted thereby adjusting the distance between the shelf member and the building floor slab and, after fastening the post to the shelf member, the post distance between the shelf member and the building floor slab is fixed.

[0014] The vertical mullions can be secured to the shelf member with fasteners which extend through the mullions and threadingly engage the shelf member. The vertical mullions are thereby secured to the shelf member with the fasteners being in shear. An opaque curtain pan-

el can be provided extending between the mullion riser portions.

[0015] A horizontal cap member can be secured to the top terminal ends of the vertical mullion riser portions and a horizontal infill panel supporting member can be secured to the bottom terminal ends of the vertical mullions. The horizontal cap member and the horizontal infill panel supporting member are coupled to one another and are vertically moveable relative to one another.

[0016] A horizontal cap member can be secured to the top terminal ends of the vertical mullion riser portions wherein the horizontal cap member includes a longitudinally extending riser. A horizontal infill panel supporting member can be secured to the bottom terminal ends of the vertical mullions wherein the horizontal infill panel supporting member includes a longitudinally extending channel. The longitudinally extending riser is slidably received in the longitudinally extending channel whereby the horizontal cap member and the horizontal infill panel supporting member are vertically moveable relative to one another.

[0017] The post can be fastenable to the shelf member along a horizontal distance and wherein, prior to fastening the post to the shelf member, the horizontal distance is adjusted thereby adjusting the shelf member horizontally along the building floor slab and, after fastening the post to the shelf member, the shelf member is fixed horizontally relative to the building floor slab.

[0018] The terminal end of the post can be received within an opening in the building floor slab.

[0019] In another form thereof, the present invention is directed to a building facade system including a shelf member and vertical mullions secured to the shelf member. The vertical mullions include a riser portion extending vertically upwardly above the shelf member. A threaded post is fastenable to the shelf member and is rotatable about a longitudinal axis thereof. The post extends from the shelf member into an opening of a building floor slab whereby wind loads are transferred from the shelf to the building floor slab. The post is rotatable about its longitudinal axis within the opening and is not threadably engaged to the floor slab.

[0020] The opening can be formed with a channel embedded in the building floor slab. The vertical mullions can be secured to the shelf member with fasteners which extend through the mullions and threadably engage the shelf member and wherein the fasteners are in shear. An opaque curtain panel can be provided extending between the mullion riser portions.

[0021] A horizontal cap member can be secured to the top terminal ends of the vertical mullion riser portions and a horizontal infill panel supporting member can be secured to the bottom terminal ends of the vertical mullions. The horizontal cap member and the horizontal infill panel supporting member are coupled to one another and are vertically moveable relative to one another.

[0022] In yet another form thereof, the present invention is directed to a method of installing a building facade

on a building including the steps of: securing a curtain panel to a shelf member wherein the curtain panel extends vertically below and above the shelf member; fastening a plurality of posts to the shelf member; after the steps of securing the curtain panel to the shelf member and fastening the posts to the shelf member, resting the posts on a building floor slab with the shelf member above the floor slab and with the curtain panel hanging below the floor slab and extending above the floor slab; and, after the step of resting the posts on the floor slab, transferring the weight of the curtain panel and the shelf member through the posts to the floor slab.

[0023] The step of securing can include extending fasteners through holes in the mullions and threadably engaging the fasteners to the shelf member and wherein fasteners are in shear. An opaque curtain panel can be provided extending between the mullion riser portions.

[0024] The method can further include the steps of: securing a horizontal cap member at the top terminal ends of the vertical mullion riser portions; securing a horizontal infill panel member to the bottom terminal ends of the vertical mullions; and, coupling the horizontal cap member and the horizontal infill panel supporting member to one another whereby the horizontal cap member and the horizontal infill member are vertically moveable relative to one another.

[0025] The post can be fastenable to the shelf member along a horizontal distance and wherein, prior to fastening the post to the shelf member, the horizontal distance is adjusted thereby adjusting the shelf member horizontally along the building floor slab and, after fastening the post to the shelf member, the shelf member is fixed horizontally relative to the building floor slab.

[0026] Each post can be adjustably fastenable to the shelf member along the post and further comprising, prior to the step of fastening the posts to the shelf member, the step of adjusting the posts relative to the shelf member thereby placing the shelf member at a desired position above the floor slab. A terminal end of the post can be inserted within an opening in the building floor slab.

[0027] The method can further include the steps of: providing a plurality of openings through the shelf member, wherein each shelf member opening is adapted to receive a post therethrough; providing a threaded nut for each the post; providing a support pad for each the post, wherein each support pad comprises a threaded hole; providing threads on each the post adapted to threadably engage the threaded nut and the support pad threaded hole; locating each support pad between a bottom surface of the shelf member and the building floor slab and locating each threaded nut adjacent a top surface of the shelf member; extending each post through a threaded nut, a shelf member opening and a support pad threaded hole thereby sandwiching the shelf member between the threaded nut and support pad; and, during the step of transferring the weight of the curtain panel and the shelf member, the weight of the curtain panel and the shelf member is transferred to the support pad and through

the posts to the floor slab. During the step of fastening the posts to the shelf member, the threaded nuts can be rotated relative to the posts and the support pads thereby clamping the support member between the threaded nuts and the support pads. Prior to the step of fastening the posts to the shelf member, the posts can be rotated relative to the support pads within the support pads threaded holes, thereby adjusting the distance between the support pads and the building floor slab and placing the shelf member at a desired position above the floor slab.

[0028] The method can also include the steps of: providing a plurality of slots through the shelf member, wherein each slot is adapted to receive a post there-through and has a length larger than a width of the posts; providing a threaded nut for each the post; providing a support pad for each the post, wherein each support pad comprises a threaded hole; providing threads on each the post adapted to threadingly engage the threaded nut and the support pad threaded hole; locating each support pad between a bottom surface of the shelf member and the building floor slab and locating each threaded nut adjacent a top surface of the shelf member; extending each post through a threaded nut, a shelf member slot and a support pad threaded hole thereby sandwiching the shelf member between the threaded nut and support pad; and, prior to the step of fastening the posts to the shelf member, adjusting the posts within slots thereby placing the shelf member at a desired horizontal location relative to the floor slab.

[0029] The method can further include the steps of: providing a plurality of slots through the shelf member, wherein each slot is adapted to receive a post there-through and has a length larger than a width of the posts; providing serrations on a bottom surface of the shelf member adjacent the slots; providing a threaded nut for each the post; providing a support pad for each the post, wherein each support pad comprises a threaded hole and serrations on a top surface thereof; providing threads on each the post adapted to threadingly engage the threaded nut and the support pad threaded hole; locating each support pad between a bottom surface of the shelf member and the building floor slab and locating each threaded nut adjacent a top surface of the shelf member; extending each post through a threaded nut, a shelf member slot and a support pad threaded hole thereby sandwiching the shelf member between the threaded nut and support pad; and, prior to the step of fastening the posts to the shelf member, adjusting the posts within slots thereby placing the shelf member at a desired horizontal location relative to the floor slab and engaging the shelf member serrations with the support pad serrations.

[0030] The step of securing a curtain panel to a shelf member can include the steps of: hanging vertical mullions from the shelf member to below the floor slab and above the floor slab, wherein the vertical mullions include cutouts; supporting the curtain panel on the vertical mullions; and, receiving a terminal part of the building floor slab in the cutouts.

[0031] The step of securing a curtain panel to a shelf member can alternatively include the steps of: hanging vertical mullions from the shelf member to below the floor slab and above the floor slab; and, supporting the curtain panel on the vertical mullions.

[0032] The method can further include the step of embedding a channel in the building floor slab and thereby forming a trough on the building floor slab and wherein, during the step of resting, the posts are inserted and rest in the trough.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0033] The above mentioned and other features and objects of this invention, and the manner of attaining them, will become more apparent and the invention itself will be better understood by reference to the following description of the embodiments of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a facade system constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention on a building;

Fig. 2 is a partial front elevation view of the framework of the facade system shown in Fig. 1 and wherein the infill panels, the edge cover panels and the horizontal infill support members on the above floor slab have been removed for clarity;

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view of the facade system framework shown in Fig. 2 taken along line 3-3;

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view of the facade system framework shown in Fig. 2 taken along line 4-4;

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view of the facade system framework shown in Fig. 2 taken along line 5-5;

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view of the facade system framework shown in Fig. 2 taken along line 6-6;

Fig. 7 is an exploded view of the horizontal shelf members, the vertical mullions and the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is an exploded view of a horizontal shelf member, a male vertical mullion half and an intermediate horizontal edge cover support member, along with a support post and support pad used for horizontal and vertical adjustment, and further wherein the mullion includes a cutout for the slab terminal edge;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of facade system components shown in Fig. 7 after they have been assembled;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of facade system components shown in Fig. 8 after they have been assembled and further showing a female vertical mullion half and a horizontal shelf member and edge cover support member fastened thereto;

Fig. 11 is a cross sectional view similar to Fig. 4 but depicting an alternate embodiment comprising batten retainer strips along the panels edges and where-

in the vertical mullions do not include a cutout for the slab terminal edges;

Fig. 12 is a cross sectional view similar to Fig. 4 but depicting another alternate embodiment wherein the vertical mullions do not include a cutout for the slab terminal edges;

Fig. 13 is across sectional view similar to Fig. 4 but depicting yet another alternate embodiment comprising pan shaped edge cover panels protruding beyond the face of the infill panels;

Fig. 14 is an exploded perspective view of the horizontal shelf members, the vertical mullions, the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members, the horizontal infill panel support members and the horizontal cap members of another embodiment constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

Fig. 15 is a front elevation exploded view of the framework shown in Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 is an exploded perspective view of the embodiment of Fig. 14 and showing the horizontal shelf member, a male vertical mullion half and an intermediate horizontal edge cover support member, along with a support post and support pad used for horizontal and vertical adjustment;

Fig. 17 is a perspective view of the framework shown in Fig. 14 after assembly;

Fig. 18 is a partial front elevation view of the framework of the embodiment system shown in Fig. 14 and wherein the infill panels and the edge cover panels have been removed for clarity;

Fig. 19 is a cross sectional view of the framework shown in Fig. 18 taken along line 19-19;

Fig. 20 is a cross sectional view of the framework shown in Fig. 18 taken along line 20-20;

Fig. 21 is a cross sectional view of the framework shown in Fig. 18 taken along line 21-21; and,

Fig. 22 is a cross sectional view similar to Fig. 21 but wherein the mullions are not notched/cutout so that the mullions are located completely outside of and adjacent the floor slab terminal edge.

[0034] Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout several views. Although the exemplification set out herein illustrates embodiments of the invention, in several forms, the embodiments disclosed below are not intended to be exhaustive or to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention to the precise forms disclosed.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

[0035] Referring initially to Fig. 1, a building facade system constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention is generally designated by the numeral 10 and is shown installed on a building B. Building B includes a roof R and multiple side walls SW. Building B can, of course, include various shaped and any number

of side walls SW and can comprise any number of floors or levels as needed or architecturally desired. Building B is diagrammatically depicted and is shown having three levels L1, L2 and L3. Concrete and/or steel and concrete floor slabs FS are constructed and supported between each of the levels L1, L2, L3 in a known and customary manner. The floor slabs FS each include a top surface TS, an underside surface US and a terminal edge surface ES. The terminal edge surfaces ES of each floor slab FS are generally coplanar with one another.

[0036] The facade system 10 is secured to the floor slabs FS and forms an outer curtain wall or shell which is architecturally aesthetically pleasing, and which protects the building from the elements. The curtain wall/shell is formed with a plurality of curtain panels which form the curtain wall/shell. The curtain panels can include a plurality of slab edge cover panels 12 extending along and generally covering the floor slab edge surfaces ES, and a plurality of infill panels 14 extending between the slab edge cover panels 12 and enclosing the building interior space at each level L1, L2, L3 generally between the successive floor slabs FS. The slab edge cover panels 12 and the infill panels 14 can be made of glass which can be transparent, opaque, tinted, translucent, etc. and/or stone, steel, aluminum and other materials as needed or desired and can, also, be insulated as needed or desired. The slab edge cover panels 12 and the infill panels 14 can also comprise many different dimensions, layers and thicknesses as needed or desired. The slab edge cover panels 12 and the infill panels 14 are supported on a framework 16 which is secured to the floor slabs FS as described herein below. The framework 16 consists of components preferably, in large part, made of extruded aluminum, although other materials can also be used such as painted or galvanized steel, wood, etc.

[0037] The infill panels 14 of the preferred embodiments, as shown in Figs. 1, 3-6 and 10-13, comprise insulated glass panels 14G which are constructed in a known and customary manner and sized to fit within the framework 16. The insulated glass panels 14G shown comprise an exterior 0.25 inch thick glass pane 14E adhered to an interior 0.25 inch thick glass pane 14I along a sandwiched 0.50 inch spacer 14S extending along the perimeter thereof, although many other dimensions, layers and thickness can also be used as needed or desired. An insulating 0.50 thick air space 14A is thereby sealed and provided between the glass panes 14E, 14I.

[0038] The slab edge cover panels 12 shown in Figs. 1-12 also comprise insulated glass panels 12G constructed in a known and customary manner and sized to fit within the framework 16. The insulated glass slab edge cover panels 12G shown are constructed similar to the infill insulated glass panel panels 14G with an exterior 0.25 inch thick glass pane 12E adhered to an interior 0.25 inch thick glass pane 12I along a sandwiched 0.50 inch spacer 12S extending along the perimeter thereof, although many other dimensions, layers and thickness can also be used as needed or desired. An insulating

0.50 thick air space 12A is thereby similarly sealed and provided between the glass panes 12E, 12I.

[0039] The slab edge cover panel 12 shown in Fig. 13 comprises a formed pan shaped cover panel 12P. The pan shaped cover panel 12P can be made by forming aluminum, steel or plastics. Insulation (not shown) can be provided within the pan cavity 12C as needed or desired. The pan shaped cover panels 12P protrude beyond the exterior face of the infill glass panels 14G and thereby provide a different architectural appearance.

[0040] The framework 16 functions to, for each building level L1, L2, L3, hang the infill panels 14 of that building level from the floor slab FS thereabove. For clarity and reference in this regard, as depicted in Fig. 2, for any level L1, L2, L3, the floor slab below and/or which supports that level is herein referred to as the "below" floor slab BFS, and the floor slab directly above that level is referred to as the "above" floor slab AFS. More particularly, the framework 16 includes horizontal shelf members 18 which are secured to the above floor slabs AFS at the top surfaces TS thereof. Vertical mullions 20 are securely fastened to the horizontal shelf members 18 located on the above floor slab AFS and extend vertically downwardly therefrom toward the below floor slab BFS. Horizontal infill support members 24 extend between and are securely fastened to the lower terminal ends of adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 20. The infill support members 24 are coupled to the horizontal shelf members 18 which are secured to the below floor slab BFS. The infill support members 24 and the horizontal shelf members 18 are coupled in a manner whereby they are moveable vertically but not horizontally relative to each other.

[0041] Intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22 are located vertically between the infill support members 24 and the shelf members 18, and extend between and are securely fastened to adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 20. Accordingly, a plurality of rectangular infill frames 16I are formed and defined between the adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 20, the infill support members 24 and the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22. The infill panels 14 are sized to fit within and be adhered to the rectangular infill frames 16I. More particularly, the infill panels 14 are supported on the infill support members 24 and are adhered along their perimeter edges to the adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 20, the infill support members 24 and the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22.

[0042] Similarly, a plurality of rectangular slab cover frames 16B are formed and defined between the adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 20, the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22 and the shelf members 18 on the above floor slab FS. The slab edge cover panels 12 are sized to fit within and be adhered to the rectangular slab cover frames 16B. More particularly, the slab edge cover panels 12 are supported on the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22 and are adhered along their perimeter edges to the adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 20, the intermediate horizontal edge cover

support members 22 and the shelf members 18 on the above floor slab AFS.

[0043] As should now be appreciated, the weight of the infill panels 14 is transferred from the infill support members 24 to the vertical mullions 20. The weight of the slab edge cover panels 12 is transferred from the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22 also to the vertical mullions 20. Hence, the infill panels 14 and the slab edge cover panels 12 are "hung" on the shelf members 18 on the above floor slab AFS with the vertical mullions 20, and the vertical mullions 20 are, therefore, in tension.

[0044] As best seen in Fig. 6, the vertical mullions 20 are rectangular shaped in cross section and comprise a female pan shaped half 20F and a male pan shaped half 20M. The male and female halves 20M, 20F securely snap together to form the rectangular shaped vertical mullions 20 in a known and customary manner. The mullion halves 20M, 20F include top terminal edges 20T and bottom terminal edges 20B. The distance between the top terminal edges 20T and the bottom terminal edges 20B and, hence, the length of the mullions 20 is slightly less than the distance between adjacent slab top surfaces TS. Screw splines 20S are integrally extruded/formed longitudinally along the inside surface of the mullion halves 20M, 20F and terminate at the top and bottom terminal edges 20T, 20B. The screw splines 20S are adapted to threadingly receive and engage fastener screws in a known and customary manner.

[0045] A mullion weather seal gasket 20G is secured longitudinally along the vertical mullion female half 20F and projects perpendicular therefrom. The weather seal gasket 20G is used between the infill panels 14 (Fig. 6) and also between the slab edge cover panels 12 (Fig. 5) to facilitate the thermal expansion and contraction thereof and to seal/prevent water entry therebehind.

[0046] An inside portion of the vertical mullion halves 20F, 20M can be milled or otherwise removed for thereby providing a cutout or notch 20C on the inside portion of the vertical mullions 20. As best seen in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, the terminal part of the floor slab FS and the floor slab terminal edge surface ES project into and are received in the cutouts 20C. The cutouts 20C thereby, advantageously, allow the infill panels 14 and slab edge covers 12 to be located closer to the slab edge terminal surfaces ES. Alternatively, as shown in the embodiments of Figs. 11 and 12, cutouts are not utilized and the vertical mullions 20 are located completely outside of and adjacent the floor slab terminal edge surfaces ES. In these embodiments, the infill panels 14 and the slab edge covers 12 are located a distance from the floor slab terminal edge surfaces ES which is generally equal to the width of the mullions 20 plus the width of the gap between the mullions 20 and the edge surfaces ES.

[0047] The shelf members 18 are preferably elongate extruded aluminum members which are cut to desired lengths. Shelf members 18 comprise a base plate 18B, a downturned exterior stop 18E, an upwardly extending

interior stop 181 and a riser known as a "chicken head" 18C extending upwardly perpendicular from the base plate 18B. Serrations 18R are provided on the bottom face of the base plate 18B along the entire longitudinal length thereof. Slots 18S are milled or otherwise cut through the base plate 18B and extend perpendicular to the chicken head 18C and the exterior and interior stops 18E, 181. Slots 18S are preferably about 9/16 inch wide and 2.0 inches long.

[0048] Holes 18H are provided at the terminal ends of the base plate 18B. The top terminal end of the mullions 20 are fastened to the shelf members 18 by abutting the mullion top edge 20T to the bottom face of the shelf member base plate 18, inserting the fastener screws 26 through the holes 18H, and threadingly securing the screws 26 into the mullion splines 20S.

[0049] As best seen in Figs. 3, 4 and 8, a notch 20N is milled or otherwise cut into the exterior face of the mullions 20. The notch 20N is milled into each mullion half 20F, 20M longitudinally along the exterior faces thereof downwardly from the top terminal edge 20T. As best seen in Figs. 3 and 4, the shelf member exterior stop 18E is received within the mullion notch 20N. Accordingly, the exterior face of the mullions 20 and the exterior face of the shelf exterior stop 18E are aligned and are coplanar.

[0050] The shelf members 18 are secured to the above floor slabs AFS using cap screws or posts 28, locknuts 30, support pads 32 and sill retainer channels 34. In the embodiment shown the posts 28 are preferably 0.50 inch, 4.5 inch long hex head grade 8 cap screws. The locknuts 30 are preferably 0.50 inch serrated flange locknuts and are threadingly received on the posts 28. Of course, these dimensions are nominal and the length and width of the posts 28 can be varied as needed for supporting the dead loads, wind loads and other forces experienced by the framework 16 and the panels 12, 14 supported thereon. The posts 28 and locknuts 30 can also be made of other materials as needed and/or depending on the building construction requirements.

[0051] The support pads 32 are preferably extruded aluminum rectangular shaped plates. The top surface of the support pads 32 are provided with serrations 32R which are adapted to align and mate with the shelf member serrations 18R. Support pads 32 are provided with threaded holes 32H which are adapted to threadingly receive therethrough and engage the threaded posts 28. In the preferred embodiment, the holes 32H are 0.50 inch threaded holes.

[0052] The sill retainer channels 34 are preferably 11 gauge or thicker galvanized steel U-shaped channels having a depth of about 1.5 inches and a length of about 12 inches or as may be needed or desired. The interior clear width of the channels 34, between the channel legs 18L, is preferably about 0.52 inch so as to snugly receive and retain the posts 28 therein as best seen in Figs. 3 and 4. The sill retainer channels 34 are embedded within the concrete floor slab FS with the terminal edges of its

legs 34L located flush/aligned with the slab top surface TS. The sill retainer channels 34 thus open upwardly and create an elongate trough 34T which extends along the slab top surface TS and is parallel with the slab edge surface ES. Studs 34N which can be Nelson studs, headed steel, etc., are preferably welded to the channels 34 and extend at an angle therefrom into the floor slab FS for providing the channels 34 with additional structural strength as may be needed.

[0053] Referring again to Figs. 3 and 4, the posts 28 are inserted through the shelf member slots 18S and extend downwardly into the trough 34T. The bottom terminal ends of the posts 28 extend to and rest on the bottom of the trough 34T. The locknuts 30 are threaded onto the posts 28 and are located above the shelf member base plate 18B. The support pads 32 are also threaded onto the posts 28 and are located below the shelf member base plate 18B. The base plates 18B are, hence, sandwiched between the locknuts 30 and the support pads 32. The weight of the shelf members 28 as well as the mullions 20 fastened to its terminal ends, etc. is, therefore, transferred to the support pads 32, and through the posts 28 to the embedded sill retainer channels 34.

[0054] By loosening the locknuts 30 and rotating the posts 28 clockwise or counterclockwise in the support pad threaded holes 32H, the posts 28 are selectively extended or retracted relative to the support pads 32. Hence, the support pads 32 and the shelf members 18 thereon are selectively vertically moveable/adjustable relative to the floor slab FS by merely engaging the head of the posts 28 and turning them about their longitudinal axis. The engagement of the support pad serrations 32R with the shelf member serrations 18R prevents the unwanted rotation of the support pads 32 as the posts are rotated and the shelf members 18 are adjusted vertically. More importantly, the engagement of the support pad serrations 32R with the shelf member serrations 18R serves to firmly and positively secure the shelf members 18 in the horizontal direction/perpendicular to the floor slab edge surface ES as described herein below.

[0055] For adjusting the shelf members 18 horizontally, the locknuts 30 are loosened, the shelf members 18 are lifted slightly for thereby separating/disengaging the shelf member serrations 18R from the support pad serrations 32R and the shelf members 18 are moved/adjusted horizontally as needed or desired. The maximum horizontal adjustment distance is equal to the length of the shelf member slots 18S less the diameter of the posts 28. In the preferred embodiment as shown, the maximum horizontal adjustment distance is about 1.5 inches or, if the posts 28 are initially centered within the slots 18S, about 0.75 inch horizontally in either direction. After the shelf members 18 are adjusted to the desired vertical height and the desired horizontal position, the locknuts 30 are tightened thereby clamping the shelf member base plates 18B between the lock nuts 30 and the support pads 32 and permanently locking the shelf members 18 thereat.

[0056] As should now be appreciated, the horizontal adjustability of the shelf members 18 allows for construction tolerances in the floor slabs FS for thereby maintaining the framework 16 and, hence, the infill panels 14 and slab edge cover panels 12 coplanar. The vertical adjustability of shelf members 18 allows for vertical adjustment of the vertical mullions 20 hanging therefrom along with the other components supported by the mullions 20 (the horizontal infill support members 24, the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22, the infill panels 14 and the slab edge cover panels 12) and for locating the horizontal infill support members 24 at a desired vertical height above the below floor slab BFS.

[0057] The horizontal infill support members 24, as mentioned herein above, extend between and are securely fastened to the lower terminal ends of adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 20. Infill support members 24 are preferably elongate extruded aluminum members which are cut to desired lengths. Infill support members 24 are L-shaped having a vertical leg 24V and a horizontal leg 24H. A reglet/groove 24R which opens generally downwardly is formed in the vertical leg 24V. A chicken head receiving channel 24C is also formed in the vertical leg 24V and opens generally downwardly for receiving the shelf member chicken head 18C. Screw splines 24S are formed along the inside surfaces of the vertical and horizontal legs 24V, 24H and terminate at the terminal ends of the infill support members 24. As best seen in Figs. 7 and 9, the horizontal infill support members 24 are fastened to the mullion halves 20F, 20M by abutting the terminal ends of the infill support members 24 to the side face of the mullion halves 20F, 20M, inserting fastener screws 36 through the mullion screw holes 20H, and threadingly securing the screws 36 into the support member screw splines 24S.

[0058] It is noted that chicken head receiving slots 20L are provided on the mullion halves 20F, 20M extending upwardly from the mullion bottom edges 20B. Chicken head receiving slots 20L are aligned with the infill support member chicken head receiving channels 24C and also receive the shelf member chicken head 18C therein.

[0059] The infill panels 14 are supported on the support members 24 with L-shaped edge support members 38 which attach/snap into the infill support member reglets 24R in a known and customary manner. Setting blocks 40 are provided between the support members 38 and the infill panels 14. The infill panels 14 are adhered to the support member vertical legs 24V, as well as the mullions 20 and the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22, with a two part structural sealant 42 and foam spacer structural tape 44, also in a known and customary manner.

[0060] A continuous top glass edge protector shelf 46 is fastened to the shelf members 18, in a known and customary manner, at the base of the chicken head 18C and above the downturned exterior stop 18E. Shelf 46 is generally coplanar with the shelf member base plate 18B. A flexible silicone weatherseal gasket 48 is provided be-

tween the edge support members 38 and the shelf 46. Gasket 48 facilitates thermal expansion and contraction and seals/prevents water entry therebehind.

[0061] Continuous L-shaped sill trim covers 50 are secured to the infill support members 24 for closing off easy access to the posts 28 and locknuts 30. In this regard, a sill trim cover attachment channel 24T is formed along the terminal edge of the horizontal legs 24H, and the horizontal leg 50H of the covers 50 attaches/snaps into the attachment channels 24T. The vertical leg 50V of the covers 50 extends adjacent to but is not attached to the shelf member upwardly extending interior stop 181.

[0062] As should now be appreciated, thermal vertical expansion and contraction of the mullions 20, infill panels 14 and slab edge cover panels 12 hanging from an above floor slab AFS causes the horizontal infill support members 24 thereof to move vertically up and down relative to the shelf members 18 on the below floor slab BFS. As best seen in Figs. 3 and 4, this vertical movement is facilitated by the shelf member chicken heads 18C sliding within support member chicken head receiving channels 24C, the sill trim cover vertical legs 50V sliding along the shelf member upwardly extending interior stops 181, and the expansion and contraction of the weatherseal gasket 48. However, horizontal movement of the infill support members 24 is prevented by the horizontally fixed shelf member chicken heads 18C which are snugly received within the infill support member chicken head receiving channels 24C.

[0063] The intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22, as mentioned herein above, extend between and are securely fastened to adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 20, between the shelf members 18 on the above floor slab AFS and the infill support members 24 adjacent the below floor slab BFS. In the preferred embodiments as shown, the edge cover support members 22 are adjacent the slab underside surfaces US. Of course, more than one intermediate horizontal edge support members 22 can be provided between adjacent mullion halves 20F, 20M as may be needed or desired for thereby supporting multiple separate infill panels 14, in addition to the slab edge cover panels 12. Edge cover support members 22 are preferably elongate extruded aluminum members which are cut to desired lengths. Edge cover support members 22 are rectangular shaped in cross section having long side walls 22L, and short interior walls 22I and exterior walls 22E.

[0064] Screw splines 22S are formed along the inside surfaces of the long side walls 22L and terminate at the terminal ends of the edge cover support members 22. As best seen in Figs. 7 and 9, the edge cover support members 22 are fastened to the mullion halves 20F, 20M by abutting the terminal ends of the edge cover support members 22 to the side face of the mullion halves 20F, 20M, inserting fastener screws 52 through the mullion screw holes 20H, and threadingly securing the screws 52 into the edge cover screw splines 22S.

[0065] Attachment grooves 22G are provided along

the edge cover support member exterior walls 22E wherein planar edge support members 54 are received and are snap fastened in a known and customary manner. The slab edge cover panels 12 are supported on the edge support members 54. Setting blocks 40 are provided between the support members 54 and the slab edge cover panels 12. The slab edge cover panels 12 are adhered to the intermediate horizontal edge cover support member exterior side walls 22E, as well as the mullions 20 and the shelf member downturned exterior stops 18E (or other intermediate horizontal edge cover support member exterior side walls 22E if multiple edge cover support members 22 are used), with a two part structural sealant 42 and foam spacer structural tape 44, also in a known and customary manner.

[0066] A foam backer rod 56 and silicone sealant 42 is provided between the upper edges of the slab edge cover panels 12 and the top glass edge protector shelf 46 also in a known and customary manner.

[0067] In the embodiment of Fig. 11 a two part batten retainer strip 58 is used along the perimeter edges of the infill panels 14 and other infill panels 14 and/or slab edge cover panels 12. The batten retainer strips 58 comprise base strips 58B which are adapted to be mechanically fastened. Batten covers 58C are adapted to attach/snap onto the base strips 58B. The horizontal infill support members 24 are provided with continuous integrally formed shelf strips 60 projecting perpendicularly from the infill support member vertical legs 24V. The intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22 are similarly provided with continuous integrally formed shelf strips 60 projecting perpendicularly from their exterior side walls 22L. The shelf strips 60 function similar to the L-shaped edge support members 38 and the planar edge support members 54 to support the infill panels 14 and the slab edge cover panels 12. Shelf strips 60 are, however, thicker and are adapted to threadingly affix fastener screws 62 thereto. Accordingly, the batten base strips 58B are fastened to the shelf strips 60 with screws 62. The batten covers 58C are then attached/snapped onto the base strips 58B covering the fastener screws 62.

[0068] Continuous gaskets 66 can be used at the upper and/or lower interfaces between the batten base strips 58B and the infill panels 14 and/or the slab edge cover panels 12 to provide a seal and prevent water entry therebehind. Alternatively, a drip edge 68 can be used at the lower interface between the batten base strips 58B and the infill panels 14 and/or the slab edge cover panels 12.

[0069] Crown shaped setting blocks 64 having different heights/widths can be provided between the shelf strips 60 and the infill panels 14 and the slab edge cover panels 12 thereabove so as to thereby locate the infill panels 14 and the slab edge cover panels 12 at a desired vertical position.

[0070] Finally, as shown only in Fig. 4 for clarity, but representative of all embodiments, a silicone sealer 70 is applied between the infill panels 14 and/or the slab edge cover panels 12 as needed or desired. Also, so as

to seal off between the building levels L1, L2, L3, a foam backer rod 72 and silicone sealer 74 are provided between the floor slab top surfaces TS and the shelf members 18 as well as between the floor slab underside surfaces US and the intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22.

[0071] Another embodiment of a building facade system 10 constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention is shown in Figs. 14-21. In the embodiment of Figs. 14-22, vertical mullions 220 are also securely fastened to horizontal shelf members 218. The shelf members are located on the above floor slab AFS and the mullions 220 extend vertically downwardly therefrom toward the below floor slab BFS similar to the embodiment of Figs. 1-13 as shown in Fig. 2. Also, the male and female mullion halves 220M, 220F similarly securely snap together to form the rectangular shaped vertical mullions 220.

[0072] In this embodiment, however, the vertical mullions 220 also include a riser portion 272 which extends vertically upwardly above the above floor slab AFS and above the shelf members 218 and is formed with the male and female halves 220M, 220F. Hence, the top terminal end/edge 220T of the mullions 220 is atop the riser portion 272 and the bottom terminal edge 220B is at the opposite bottom end thereof. Screw splines 220S are integrally extruded/formed longitudinally along the inside surface of the mullion halves 220M, 220F and terminate at the top and bottom terminal edges 220T, 220B. The distance between the top terminal edges 220T and the bottom terminal edges 220B and, hence, the length of the mullions 220 is typically slightly less than the distance between adjacent slab top surfaces TS. Similar to the embodiments of Figs. 1-13, an inside portion of the vertical mullion halves 220F, 220M can be milled or otherwise removed for thereby providing a cutout or notch 220C as seen in Figs. 14, 16, 17, 20 and 21 so as to allow the infill panels 14 and slab edge covers 12 to be located closer to the slab edge terminal surfaces ES. Alternatively, as shown in Fig. 22, cutouts are not utilized and the vertical mullions 220 are located completely outside of and adjacent the floor slab terminal edge surfaces ES.

[0073] The horizontal shelf members 218 of this embodiment do not include a riser/chicken head 18C. Rather, shelf member 218 includes longitudinally extending screw splines 218L along the upper surface of the base plate 218B thereof. A stop plate 218P extends longitudinally along the outer edge of the base plate 218B and is generally perpendicular thereto. An upwardly extending interior stop 2181 extends longitudinally along the inner edge of the base plate 218B and is generally perpendicular thereto. Base plate 218B, screw splines 218L, stop plate 218P and interior stop 2181 are preferably integrally formed extruded aluminum. Stop plate 218P and interior stop 2181 provide longitudinal structural rigidity to the shelf member 218 and are adapted to abut other components of the facade system as shown and described.

[0074] Shelf members 218 are not fastened to the top terminal ends/edges 220T of the mullions 220. Rather, shelf members 218 are fastened to the faces of the mullion male and female halves 220M, 220L intermediate the mullion top terminal end 220T and the bottom terminal end 220B. As best seen in Figs. 14-16, the shelf members 218 are fastened to the mullions 220 at approximately the bottom end of the riser portions 272 and, of course, above the above floor slab AFS. Particularly, the shelf members 218 are fastened to the mullions 220 by abutting the terminal ends 218T of the shelf members 218 against the face of the mullion halves 220M, 220F, inserting fastener screws 274 through holes 220H which extend through the mullion halves 220M, 220F, and threadingly securing the screws 274 into the shelf member splines 218L. The shelf member terminal ends 218T can be coped to better fit around the mullions 220 such as by cutting out a corresponding notch/cutout 218N.

[0075] As should now be appreciated to one skilled in the art, the mullions 220 "hang" from and transfer the weight of the infill panels 14, edge cover panels 12, the mullions 220, etc. to the shelf members 218 and, hence, the fastener screws 274 are in shear. However, the mullion riser portions 272 which are above the shelf member 218 and above the mullion holes 220H are longitudinally in compression and the mullion portions below the shelf member 218 and below the mullion holes 220H are in tension.

[0076] The vertical and horizontal positions of the mullions 220 and the infill panels 14 and edge cover panels 12 carried thereon of the embodiment of Figs. 14-22 are adjustable similar to and as described hereinabove with respect to the embodiment of Figs. 1-13. In this regard, the horizontal shelf members 218 are, similar to the embodiments of Figs. 1-13, provided with slots 218S which extend transversely and are adapted to function similar to the shelf member slots 18S described herein above. The posts 28 are inserted through the shelf member slots 218S and extend downwardly into the sill retainer channel/trough 34. The bottom terminal ends of the posts 28 extend into and rest on the bottom of the sill retainer channel 34, however, they are free to rotate therein as the posts 28 are rotated about their longitudinal axis. The locknuts 30 are threaded onto the posts 28 and are located above the shelf member base plate 218B. The support pads 32 are also threaded onto the posts 28 and are located below the shelf member base plate 218B. The base plates 218B are, hence, sandwiched between the locknuts 30 and the support pads 32. The weight of the shelf members 218 as well as the mullions 220 and the weight carried by the mullions is, therefore, transferred to the support pads 32, and through the posts 28 to the embedded sill retainer channels 34.

[0077] By loosening the locknuts 30 and rotating the posts 28 clockwise or counterclockwise in the support pad threaded holes 32H, the posts 28 are selectively extended or retracted relative to the support pads 32. Hence, the support pads 32 and the shelf members 218

thereon are selectively vertically moveable/adjustable relative to the floor slab FS by merely engaging the head of the posts 28 and turning them about their longitudinal axis. The engagement of the support pad serrations 32R with the shelf member serrations 218R (serrations 32R and 218R are not specifically shown in Figs. 14-22 but are similar to and function the same as serrations 32R and 18R described herein above) prevents the unwanted rotation of the support pads 32 as the posts are rotated and the shelf members 218 are adjusted vertically. The engagement of the support pad serrations 32R with the shelf member serrations 218R serves to firmly and positively secure the shelf members 218 in the horizontal direction/perpendicular to the floor slab edge surface ES as described herein above.

[0078] For adjusting the shelf members 218 horizontally, the locknuts 30 are loosened, the shelf members 218 are lifted slightly for thereby separating/disengaging the shelf member serrations 218R from the support pad serrations 32R and the shelf members 218 are moved/adjusted horizontally as needed or desired. The maximum horizontal adjustment distance is equal to the length of the shelf member slots 218S less the diameter of the posts 28. After the shelf members 218 are adjusted to the desired vertical height and the desired horizontal position, the locknuts 30 are tightened thereby clamping the shelf member base plates 218B between the locknuts 30 and the support pads 32 and permanently locking the shelf members 218 thereat.

[0079] Similar to the embodiment of Figs. 1-13, the embodiment of Figs. 14-22 includes intermediate horizontal edge cover support members 22 extending between and securely fastened to adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 220 with fastener screws 52. Members 22 support the slab edge cover panels 12 as described herein above. However, in the embodiment of Figs. 14-22, the slab edge cover panels 12 extend above the floor slab FS a distance which is approximately the same as the longitudinal length of the mullions riser portions 272. All or the portion of the slab edge cover panels 12 extending above the floor slab can be opaque for thereby creating an opaque area therebehind such as is desirable in some office buildings to prevent "read through" or to create a bulkhead area for raised floor systems under which electrical, HVAC and other mechanicals can be located.

[0080] In the embodiment of Figs. 14-22, thermal vertical expansion and contraction of the curtain panels which essentially comprise the mullions 220, infill panels 14 and slab edge cover panels 12, is facilitated between the horizontal infill support members 24 which extend between and are securely fastened to the bottom/lower terminal ends 220B of adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 220 and horizontal cap members 276 which extend between and are securely fastened to the top terminal ends 220T of adjacent pairs of vertical mullions 220. The horizontal infill support members 24 are similarly fastened with fastener screws 36 and are shaped and function substantially as described herein above to support the

infill panels 14. Horizontal infill support members 24 in this embodiment also include a chicken head receiving channel 24C.

[0081] The horizontal cap members 276 are fastened to the top terminal ends 220T of mullions 220 with fastener screws 278 which are received through holes 276H extending through the horizontal cap members 276 and which are threadingly secured in the screw splines 220S of the mullions 220. Horizontal cap members 276 include a chicken head 276C which extends orthogonally upwardly from the cap member base 276B and which is slidably received within the chicken head receiving channel 24C of the horizontal infill support members 24. As should now be appreciated, the chicken head 276C and receiving channel 24C provide a sliding interconnection between the infill support member 24 and the horizontal cap member for facilitating vertical thermal expansion and contraction and for minimizing air infiltration.

[0082] Finally, trim covers 280 can be provided and secured to the horizontal infill support members 24 as shown for aiding in the finish of the interior wall face as may be needed or desired.

[0083] While this invention has been described as having an exemplary design, the present invention may be further modified within the spirit and scope of this disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its general principles.

Claims

1. A building facade system comprising:

a shelf member;
vertical mullions secured to said shelf member;
wherein said vertical mullions include a riser portion extending vertically upwardly above said shelf member;
a post extending a distance between said shelf member and a building floor slab;
wherein said post distance between said shelf member and said building floor slab is adjustable;
wherein said post is fastenable to said shelf member;
wherein, prior to fastening said post to said shelf member, said post distance is adjusted thereby adjusting said distance between said shelf member and said building floor slab; and,
wherein, after fastening said post to said shelf member, said post distance between said shelf member and said building floor slab is fixed.

2. The building facade system of claim 1 wherein said vertical mullions are secured to said shelf member with fasteners which extend through the mullions and threadingly engage the shelf member.

3. The building facade system of claim 1 wherein said vertical mullions are secured to said shelf member with fasteners which are in shear.

4. The building facade system of claim 1 further comprising a curtain panel extending between said mullion riser portions and wherein said curtain panel is opaque.

5. The building facade system of claim 1 further comprising:

a horizontal cap member secured to the top terminal ends of said vertical mullion riser portions;
a horizontal infill panel supporting member secured to the bottom terminal ends of said vertical mullions; and,
wherein said horizontal cap member and said horizontal infill panel supporting member are coupled to one another and are vertically moveable relative to one another.

6. The building facade system of claim 1 further comprising:

a horizontal cap member secured to the top terminal ends of said vertical mullion riser portions;
said horizontal cap member comprising a longitudinally extending riser;
a horizontal infill panel supporting member secured to the bottom terminal ends of said vertical mullions;
said horizontal infill panel supporting member comprising a longitudinally extending channel;
and,
wherein said longitudinally extending riser is slidably received in said longitudinally extending channel whereby said horizontal cap member and said horizontal infill panel supporting member are vertically moveable relative to one another.

7. The building facade system of claim 1 wherein said post is fastenable to said shelf member along a horizontal distance and wherein, prior to fastening said post to said shelf member, said horizontal distance is adjusted thereby adjusting said shelf member horizontally along said building floor slab and, after fastening said post to said shelf member, said shelf member is fixed horizontally relative to said building floor slab.

8. The building facade system of claim 1 wherein a terminal end of said post is received within an opening in said building floor slab.

9. A building facade system comprising:

- a shelf member;
vertical mullions secured to said shelf member;
wherein said vertical mullions include a riser portion extending vertically upwardly above said shelf member;
a threaded post fastenable to said shelf member and rotatable about a longitudinal axis thereof;
a building floor slab comprising an opening;
said post extending from said shelf member into said opening whereby wind loads are transferred from said shelf to said building floor slab;
and,
wherein said post is rotatable about its longitudinal axis within said opening and is not threadingly engaged to said floor slab.
10. The building facade system of claim 9 wherein said opening is formed with a channel embedded in said building floor slab.
11. The building facade system of claim 9 wherein said vertical mullions are secured to said shelf member with fasteners which extend through the mullions and threadingly engage the shelf member.
12. The building facade system of claim 9 wherein said vertical mullions are secured to said shelf member with fasteners which are in shear.
13. The building facade system of claim 9 further comprising a curtain panel extending between said mullion riser portions and wherein said curtain panel is opaque.
14. The building facade system of claim 9 further comprising:
a horizontal cap member secured to the top terminal ends of said vertical mullion riser portions;
a horizontal infill panel supporting member secured to the bottom terminal ends of said vertical mullions; and,
wherein said horizontal cap member and said horizontal infill panel supporting member are coupled to one another and are vertically moveable relative to one another.
15. A method of installing a building facade on a building comprising the steps of:
securing a curtain panel to a shelf member wherein said curtain panel extends vertically below and above said shelf member;
fastening a plurality of posts to said shelf member;
after said steps of securing said curtain panel to said shelf member and fastening said posts to said shelf member, resting said posts on a building floor slab with the shelf member above said floor slab and with said curtain panel hanging below the floor slab and extending above the floor slab; and,
after said step of resting said posts on said floor slab, transferring the weight of said curtain panel and said shelf member through said posts to the floor slab.
16. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 wherein said step of securing comprises extending fasteners through holes in said mullions and threadingly engaging said fasteners to said shelf member.
17. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 wherein said step of securing includes providing fasteners between said vertical mullions and said shelf member which are in shear.
18. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 further comprising the step of providing an opaque curtain panel extending between said mullion riser portions.
19. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 further comprising:
securing a horizontal cap member at the top terminal ends of said vertical mullion riser portions;
securing a horizontal infill panel member to the bottom terminal ends of said vertical mullions; and,
coupling said horizontal cap member and said horizontal infill panel supporting member to one another whereby said horizontal cap member and said horizontal infill member are vertically moveable relative to one another.
20. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 wherein said post is fastenable to said shelf member along a horizontal distance and wherein, prior to fastening said post to said shelf member, said horizontal distance is adjusted thereby adjusting said shelf member horizontally along said building floor slab and, after fastening said post to said shelf member, said shelf member is fixed horizontally relative to said building floor slab.
21. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 wherein each post is adjustably fastenable to said shelf member along said post and further comprising, prior to said step of fastening said posts to said shelf member, the step of adjusting said posts relative to said shelf member thereby placing said shelf member at a desired position above said floor slab.

22. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 wherein a terminal end of said post is inserted within an opening in said building floor slab.

23. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of openings through said shelf member, wherein each shelf member opening is adapted to receive a post there-through; 10
 providing a threaded nut for each said post;
 providing a support pad for each said post, wherein each support pad comprises a threaded hole; 15
 providing threads on each said post adapted to threadingly engage said threaded nut and said support pad threaded hole;
 locating each support pad between a bottom surface of said shelf member and said building floor slab and locating each threaded nut adjacent a top surface of said shelf member; 20
 extending each post through a threaded nut, a shelf member opening and a support pad threaded hole thereby sandwiching said shelf member between the threaded nut and support pad; and, 25
 during said step of transferring the weight of said curtain panel and said shelf member, the weight of said curtain panel and said shelf member is transferred to said support pad and through said posts to said floor slab. 30

24. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 further comprising the steps of: 35

providing a plurality of openings through said shelf member, wherein each shelf member opening is adapted to receive a post there-through; 40
 providing a threaded nut for each said post;
 providing a support pad for each said post, wherein each support pad comprises a threaded hole;
 providing threads on each said post adapted to threadingly engage said threaded nut and said support pad threaded hole; 45
 locating each support pad between a bottom surface of said shelf member and said building floor slab and locating each threaded nut adjacent a top surface of said shelf member; 50
 extending each post through a threaded nut, a shelf member opening and a support pad threaded hole thereby sandwiching said shelf member between the threaded nut and support pad; and, 55
 during said step of fastening said posts to said shelf member, rotating said threaded nuts rela-

tive to said posts and said support pads thereby clamping said support member between said threaded nuts and said support pads.

25. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of openings through said shelf member, wherein each shelf member opening is adapted to receive a post there-through;
 providing a threaded nut for each said post;
 providing a support pad for each said post, wherein each support pad comprises a threaded hole;
 providing threads on each said post adapted to threadingly engage said threaded nut and said support pad threaded hole;
 locating each support pad between a bottom surface of said shelf member and said building floor slab and locating each threaded nut adjacent a top surface of said shelf member;
 extending each post through a threaded nut, a shelf member opening and a support pad threaded hole thereby sandwiching said shelf member between the threaded nut and support pad; and,
 prior to said step of fastening said posts to said shelf member, rotating said posts relative to said support pads within said support pads threaded holes, thereby adjusting the distance between the support pads and the building floor slab and placing said shelf member at a desired position above said floor slab.

26. The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of slots through said shelf member, wherein each slot is adapted to receive a post therethrough and has a length larger than a width of said posts;
 providing a threaded nut for each said post;
 providing a support pad for each said post, wherein each support pad comprises a threaded hole;
 providing threads on each said post adapted to threadingly engage said threaded nut and said support pad threaded hole;
 locating each support pad between a bottom surface of said shelf member and said building floor slab and locating each threaded nut adjacent a top surface of said shelf member;
 extending each post through a threaded nut, a shelf member slot and a support pad threaded hole thereby sandwiching said shelf member between the threaded nut and support pad; and,
 prior to said step of fastening said posts to said

shelf member, adjusting said posts within slots thereby placing said shelf member at a desired horizontal location relative to said floor slab.

- 27.** The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 further comprising the steps of: 5

providing a plurality of slots through said shelf member, wherein each slot is adapted to receive a post therethrough and has a length larger than a width of said posts; 10
 providing serrations on a bottom surface of said shelf member adjacent said slots;
 providing a threaded nut for each said post;
 providing a support pad for each said post, wherein each support pad comprises a threaded hole and serrations on a top surface thereof; 15
 providing threads on each said post adapted to threadingly engage said threaded nut and said support pad threaded hole; 20
 locating each support pad between a bottom surface of said shelf member and said building floor slab and locating each threaded nut adjacent a top surface of said shelf member;
 extending each post through a threaded nut, a shelf member slot and a support pad threaded hole thereby sandwiching said shelf member between the threaded nut and support pad; and, 25
 prior to said step of fastening said posts to said shelf member, adjusting said posts within slots thereby placing said shelf member at a desired horizontal location relative to said floor slab and engaging said shelf member serrations with said support pad serrations. 30

- 28.** The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 wherein said step of securing a curtain panel to a shelf member comprises the steps of: 35

hanging vertical mullions from said shelf member to below said floor slab and above said floor slab, wherein said vertical mullions include cutouts; 40
 supporting said curtain panel on said vertical mullions; and, 45
 receiving a terminal part of said building floor slab in said cutouts.

- 29.** The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 wherein said step of securing a curtain panel to a shelf member comprises the steps of: 50

hanging vertical mullions from said shelf member to below said floor slab and above said floor slab; and, 55
 supporting said curtain panel on said vertical mullions.

- 30.** The method of installing a building facade system of claim 15 further comprising the step of embedding a channel in the building floor slab and thereby forming a trough on the building floor slab and wherein, during said step of resting, said posts are inserted and rest in said trough.

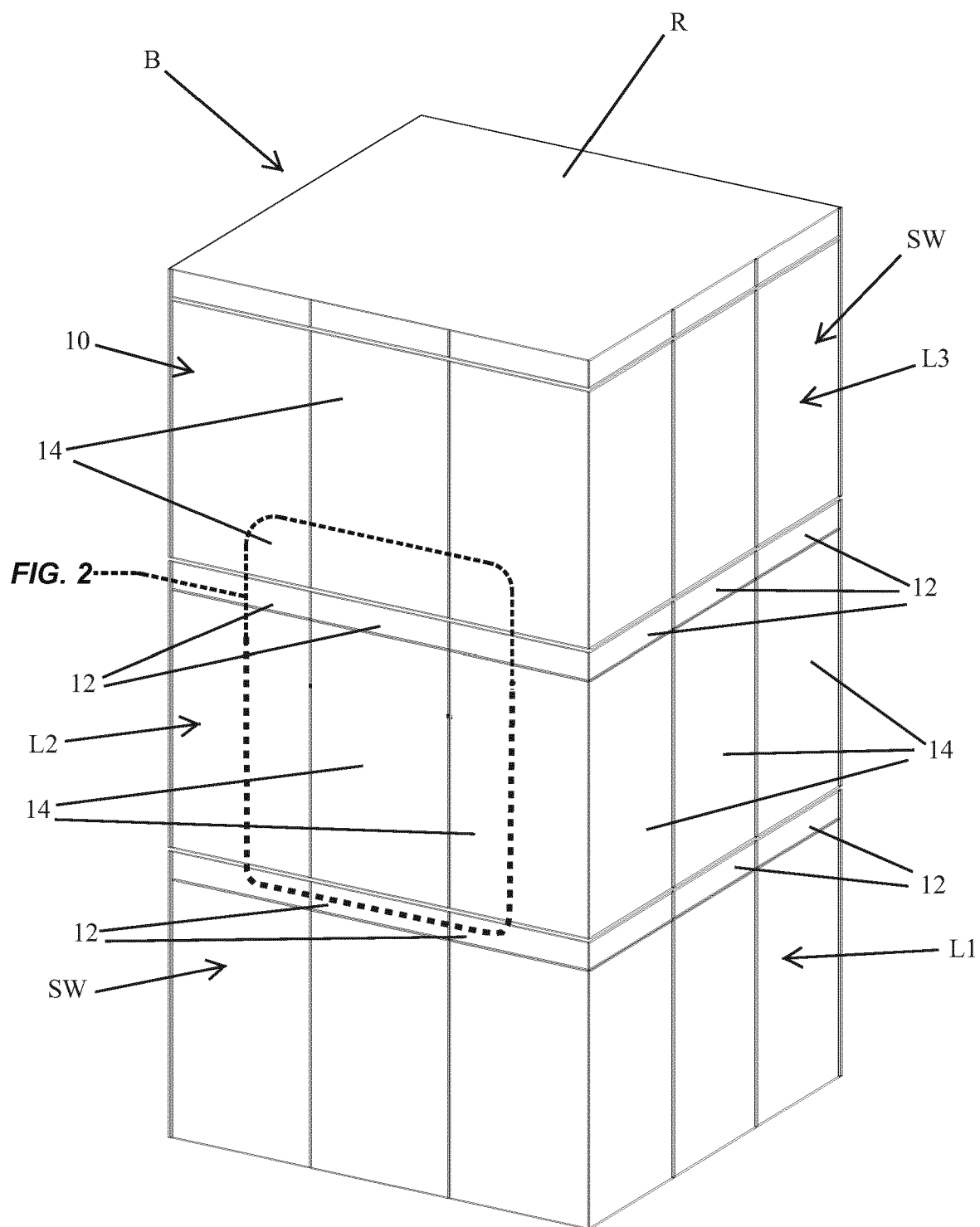


FIG. 1

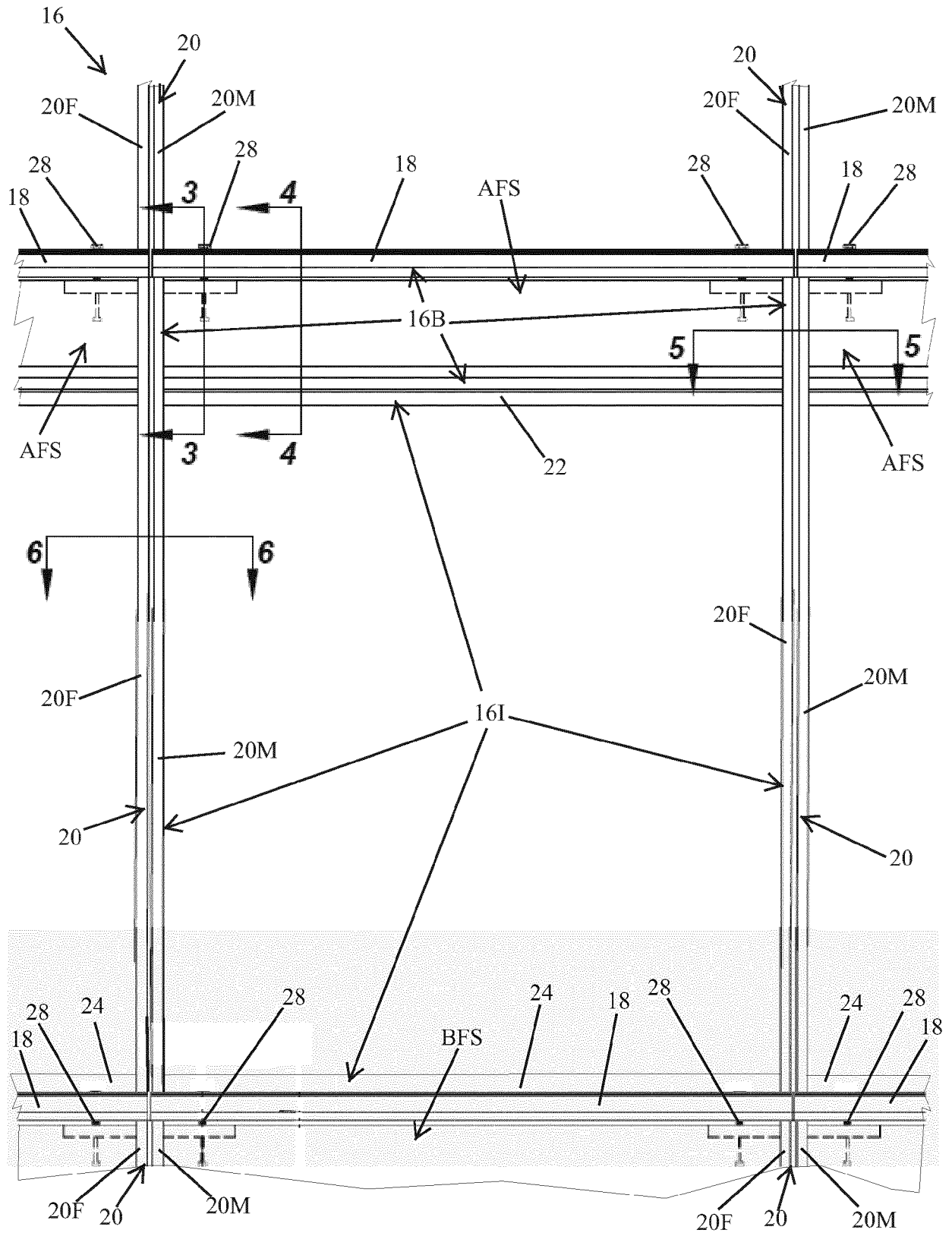
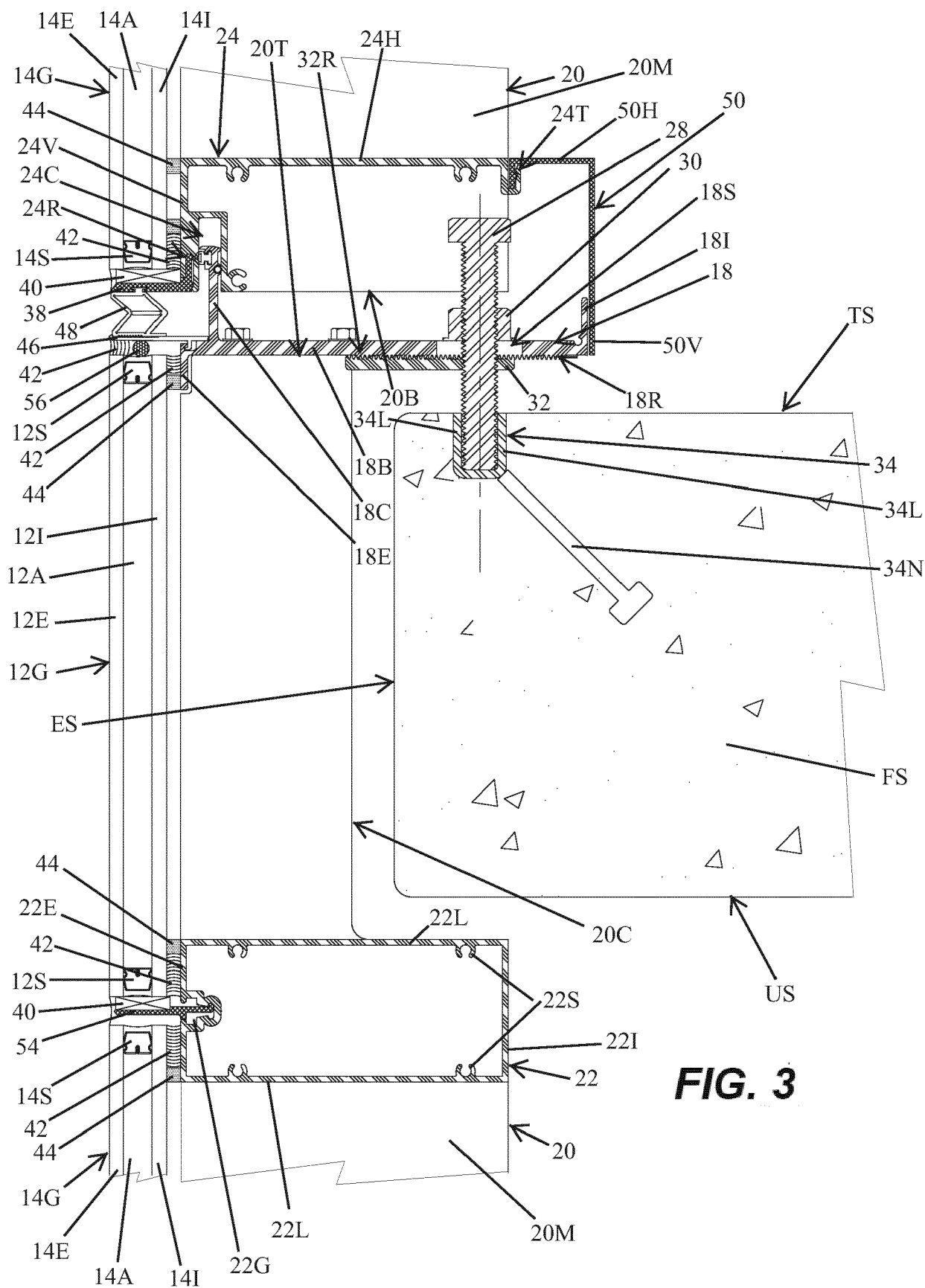
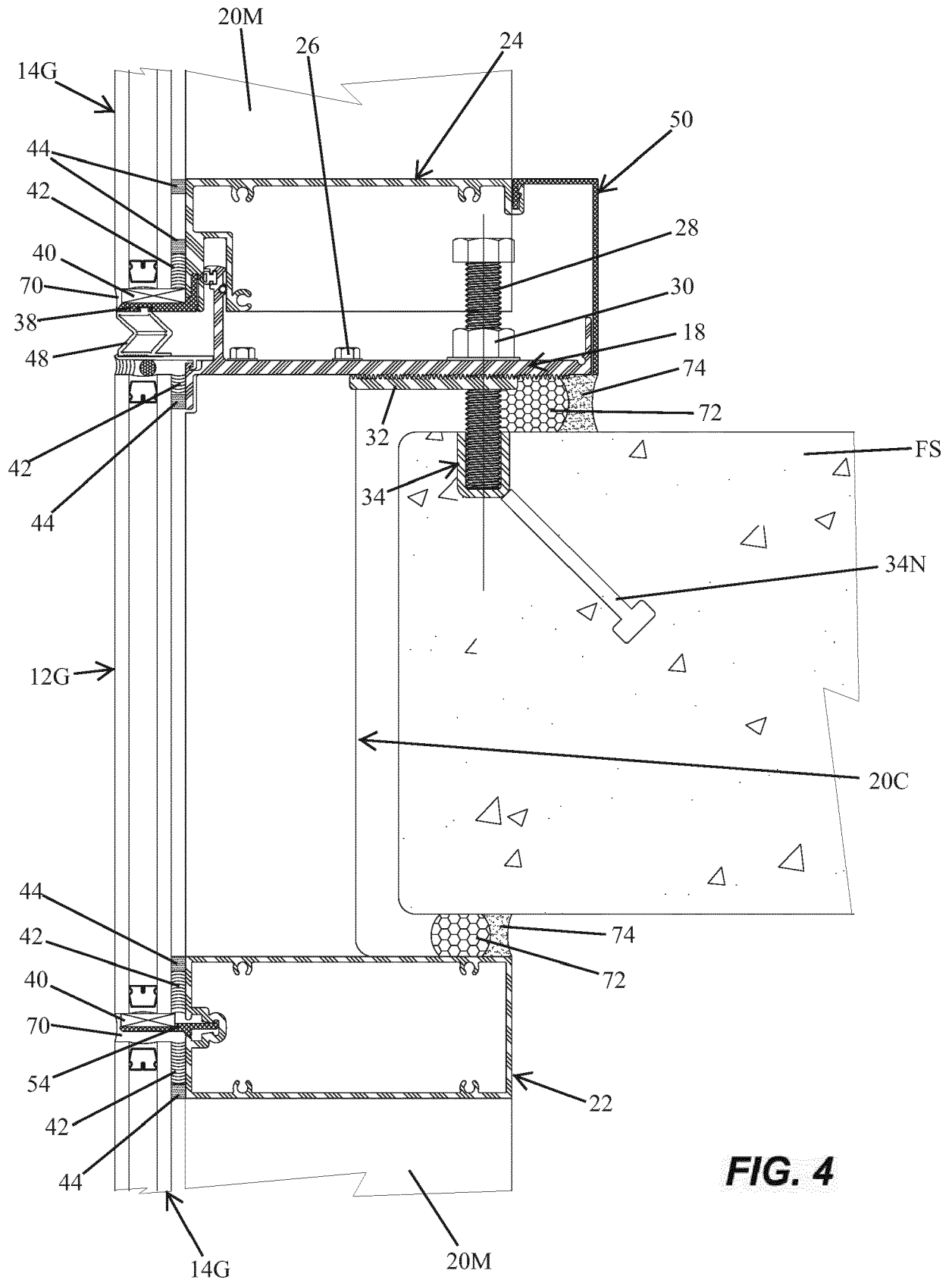


FIG. 2





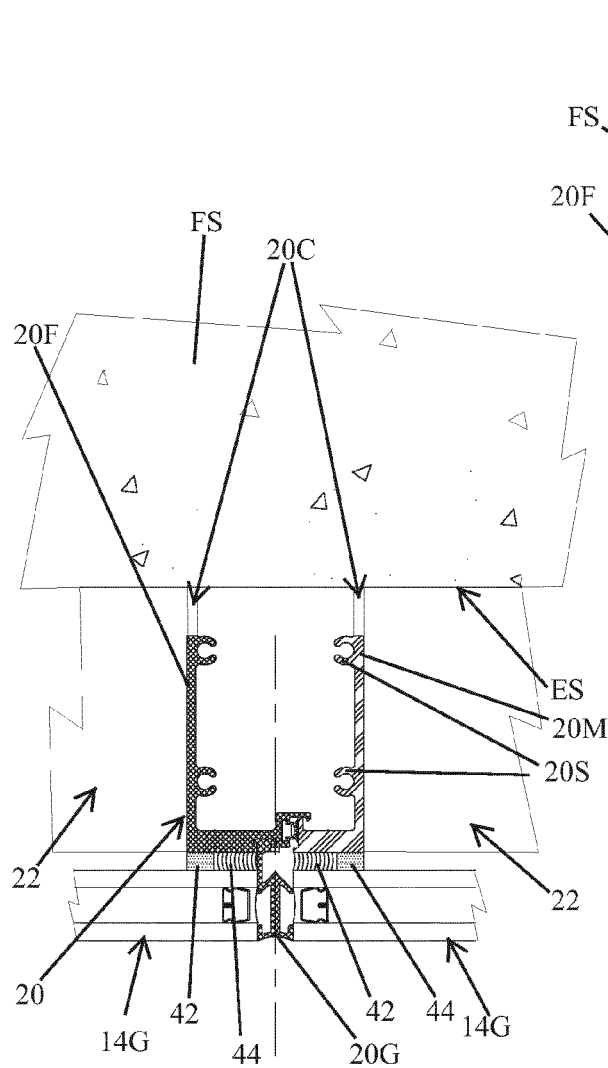


FIG. 5

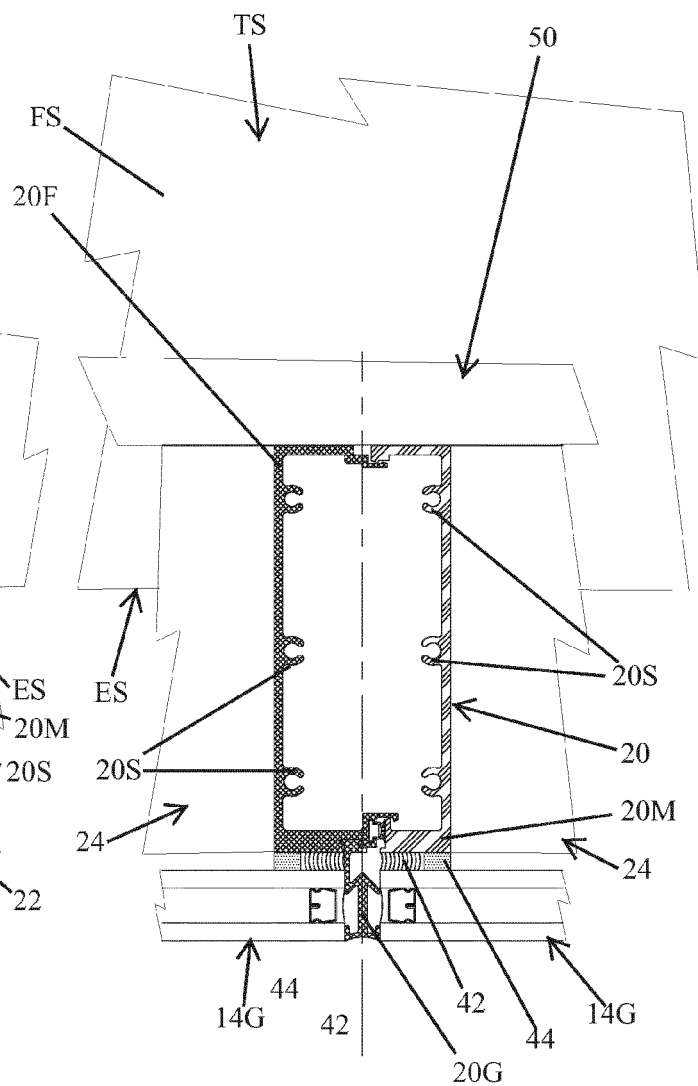


FIG. 6

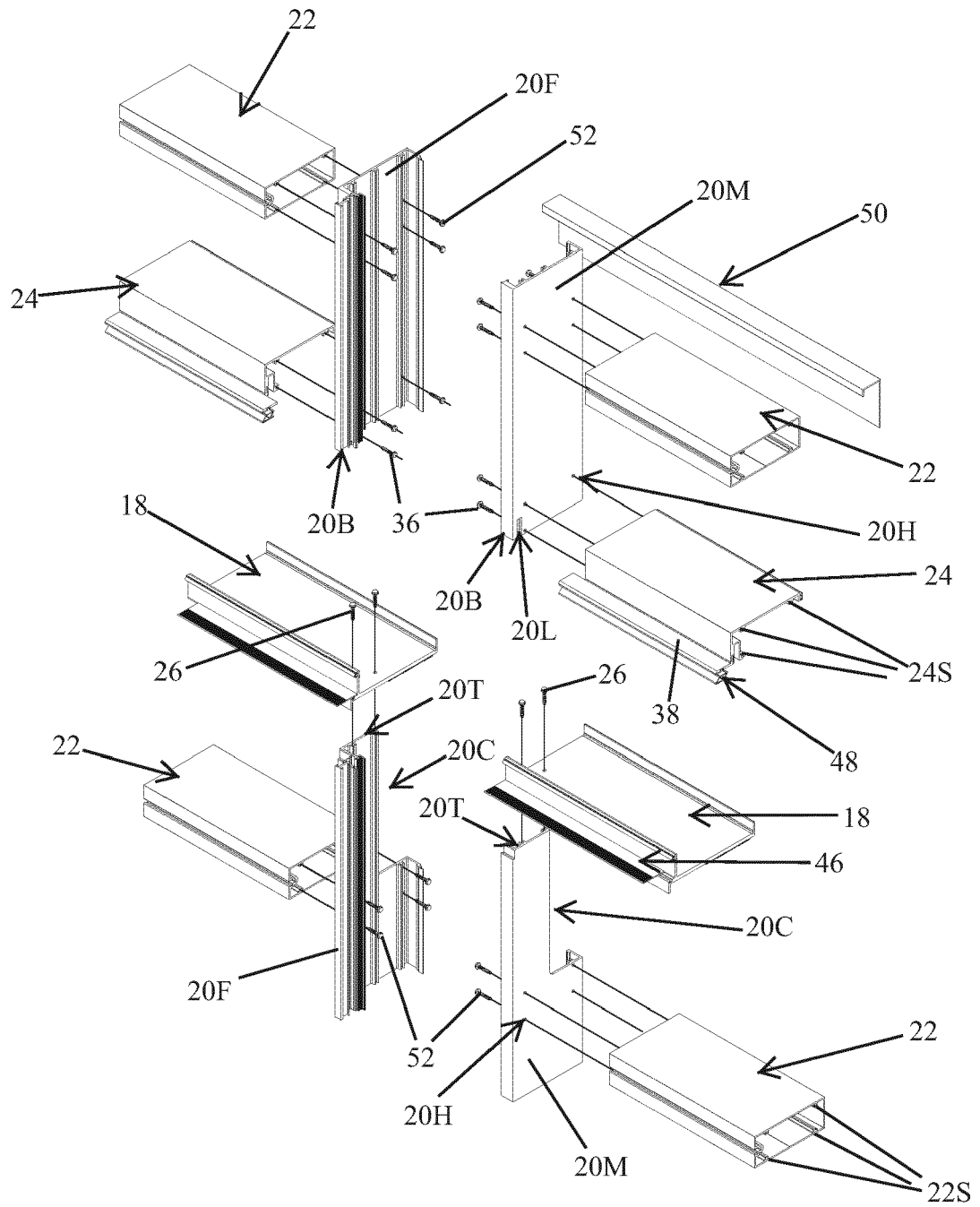


FIG. 7

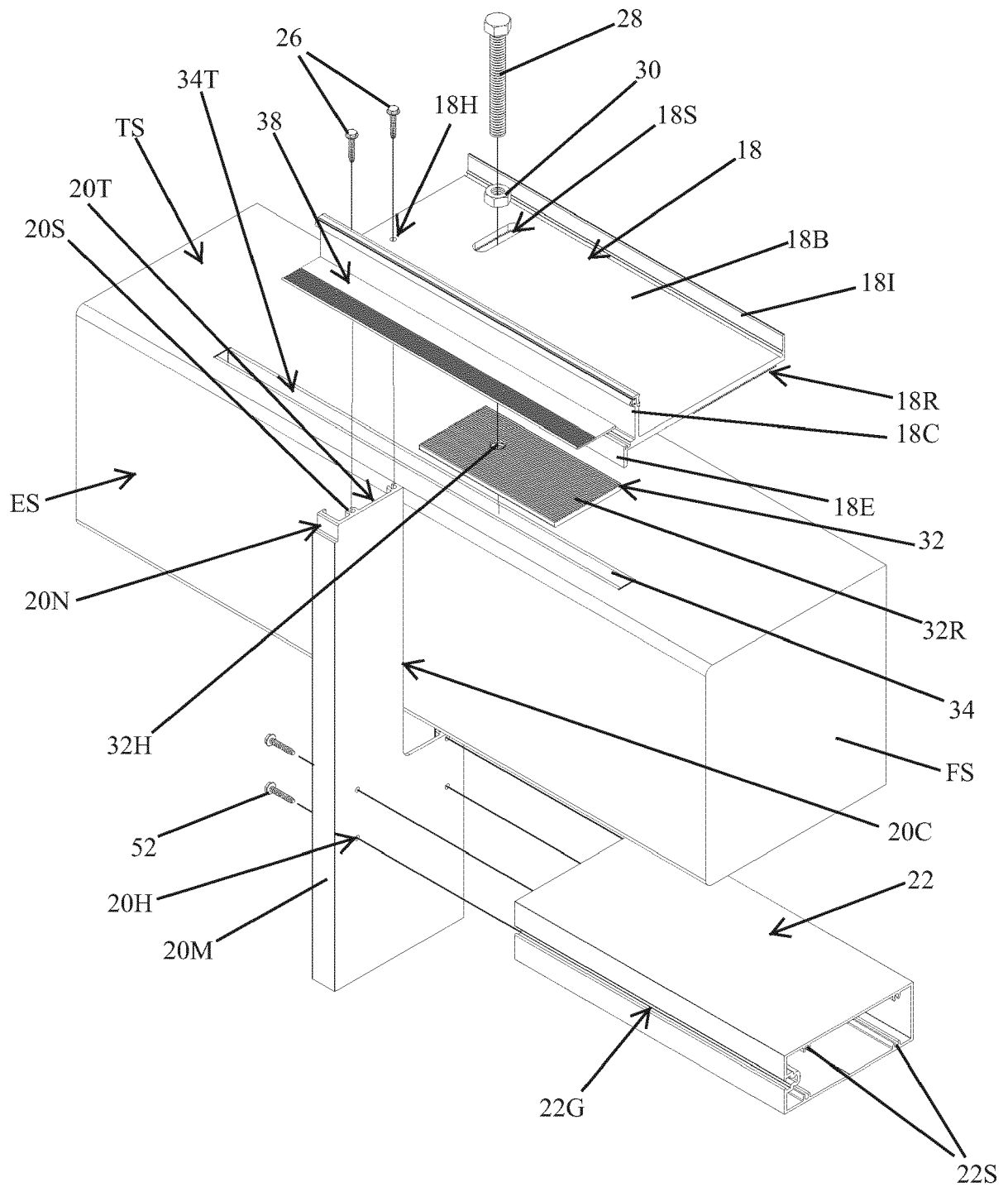


FIG. 8

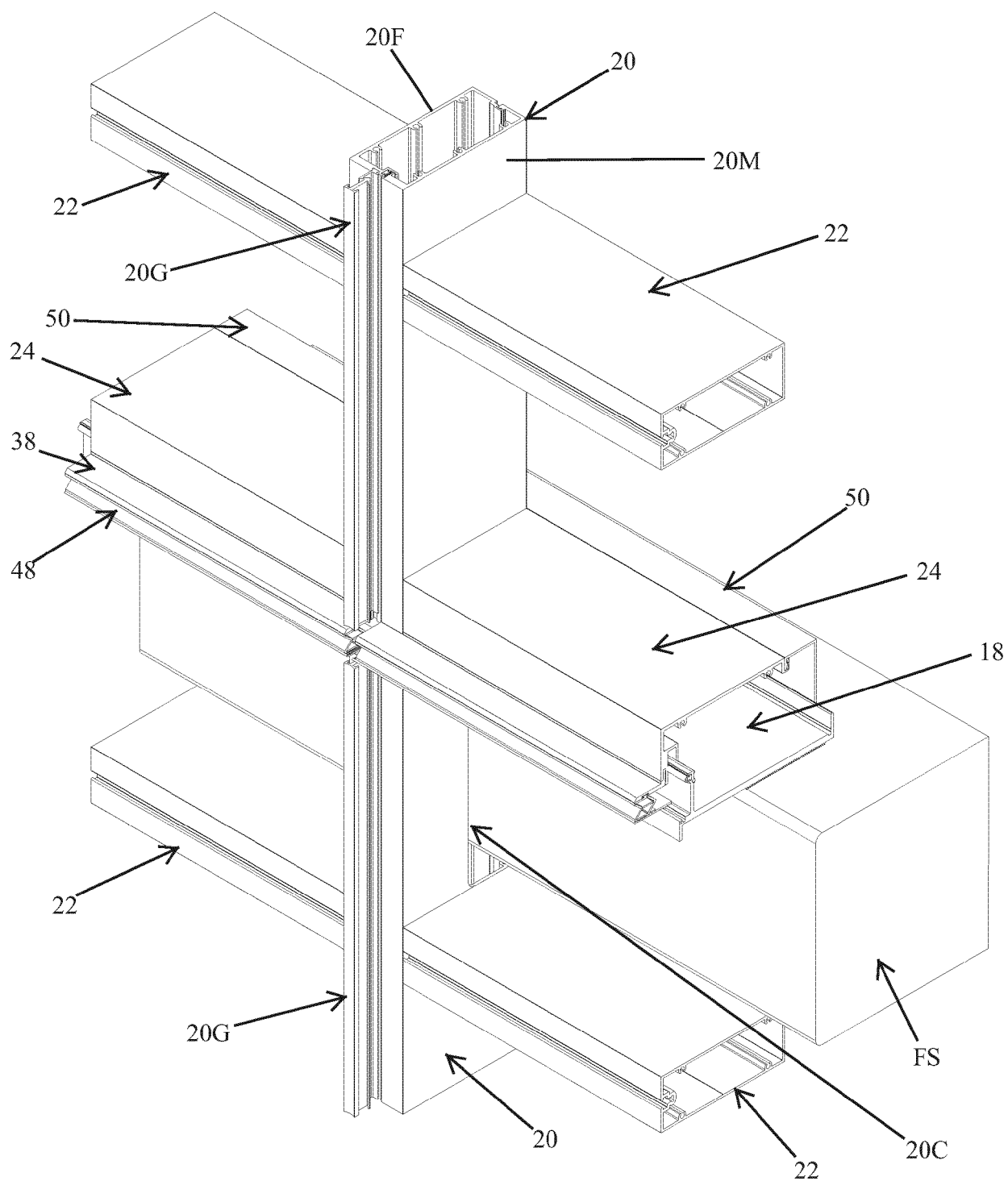


FIG. 9

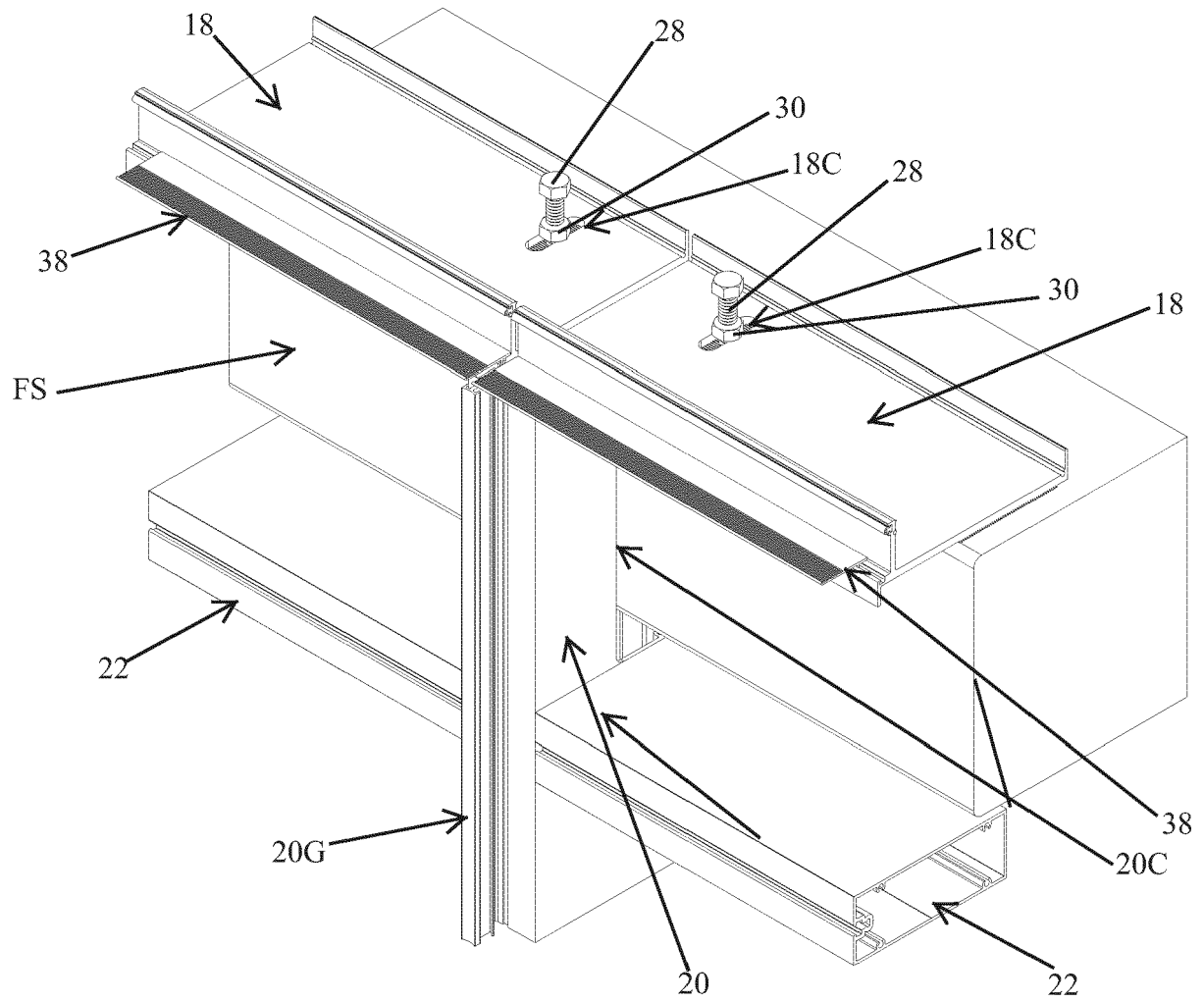


FIG. 10

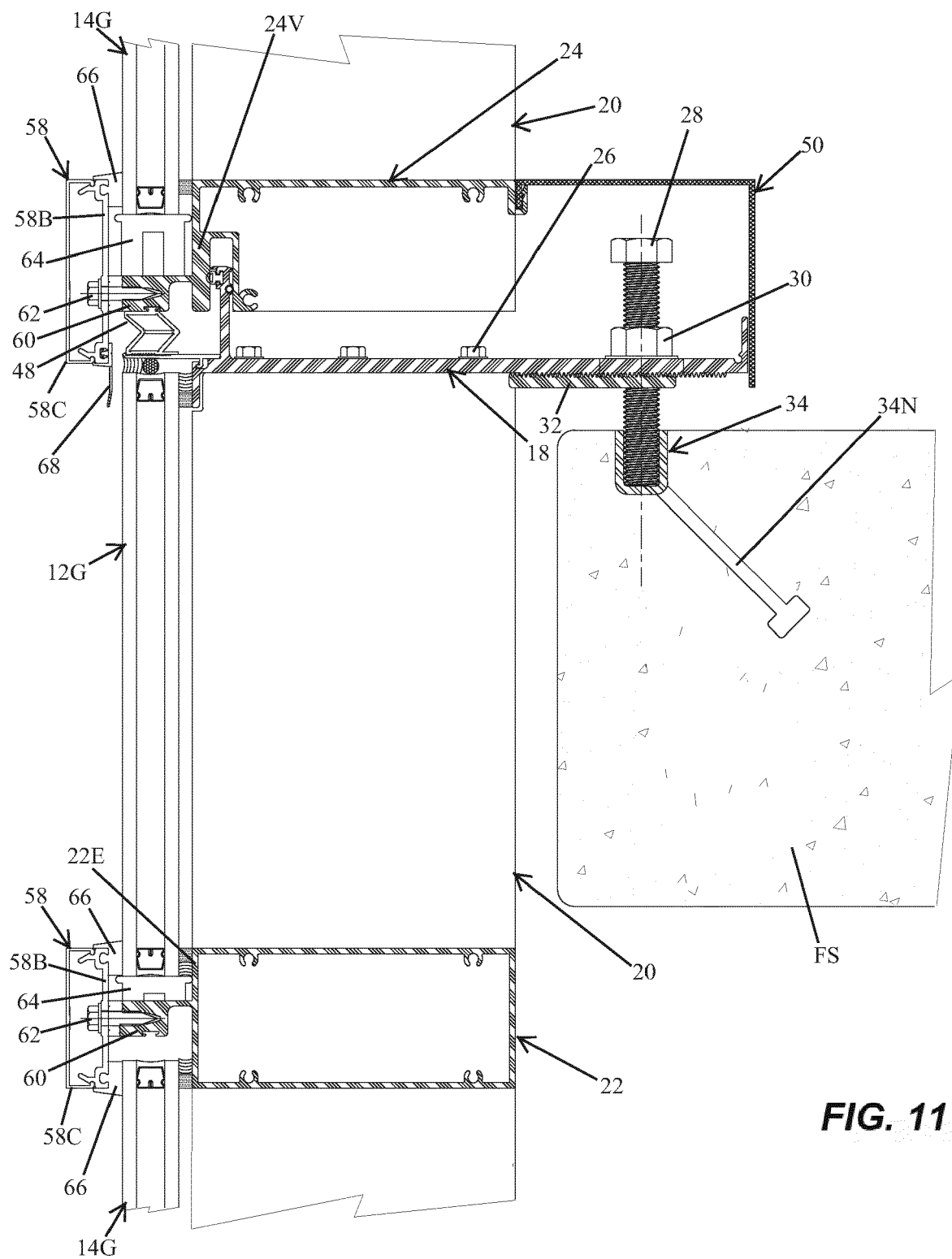
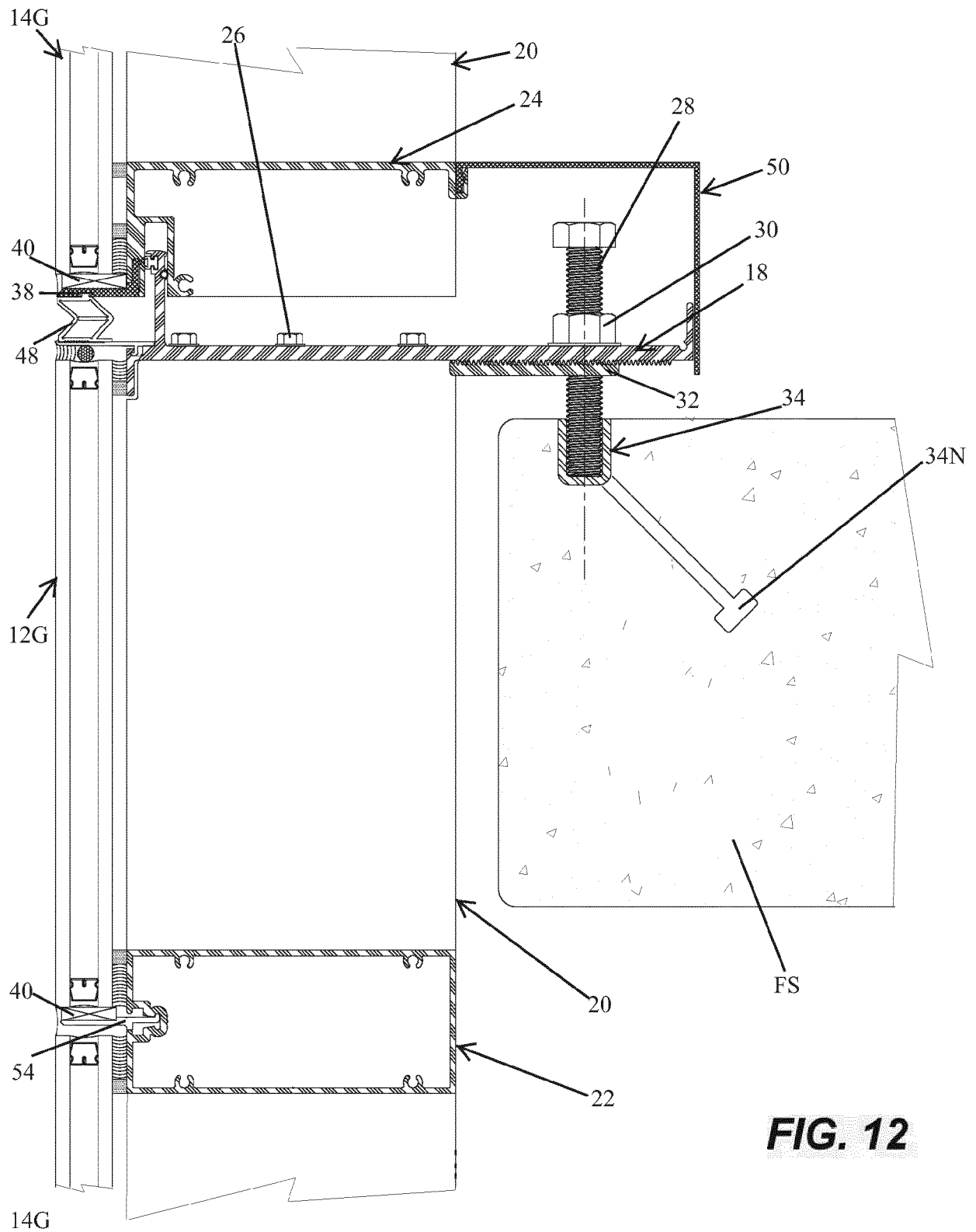
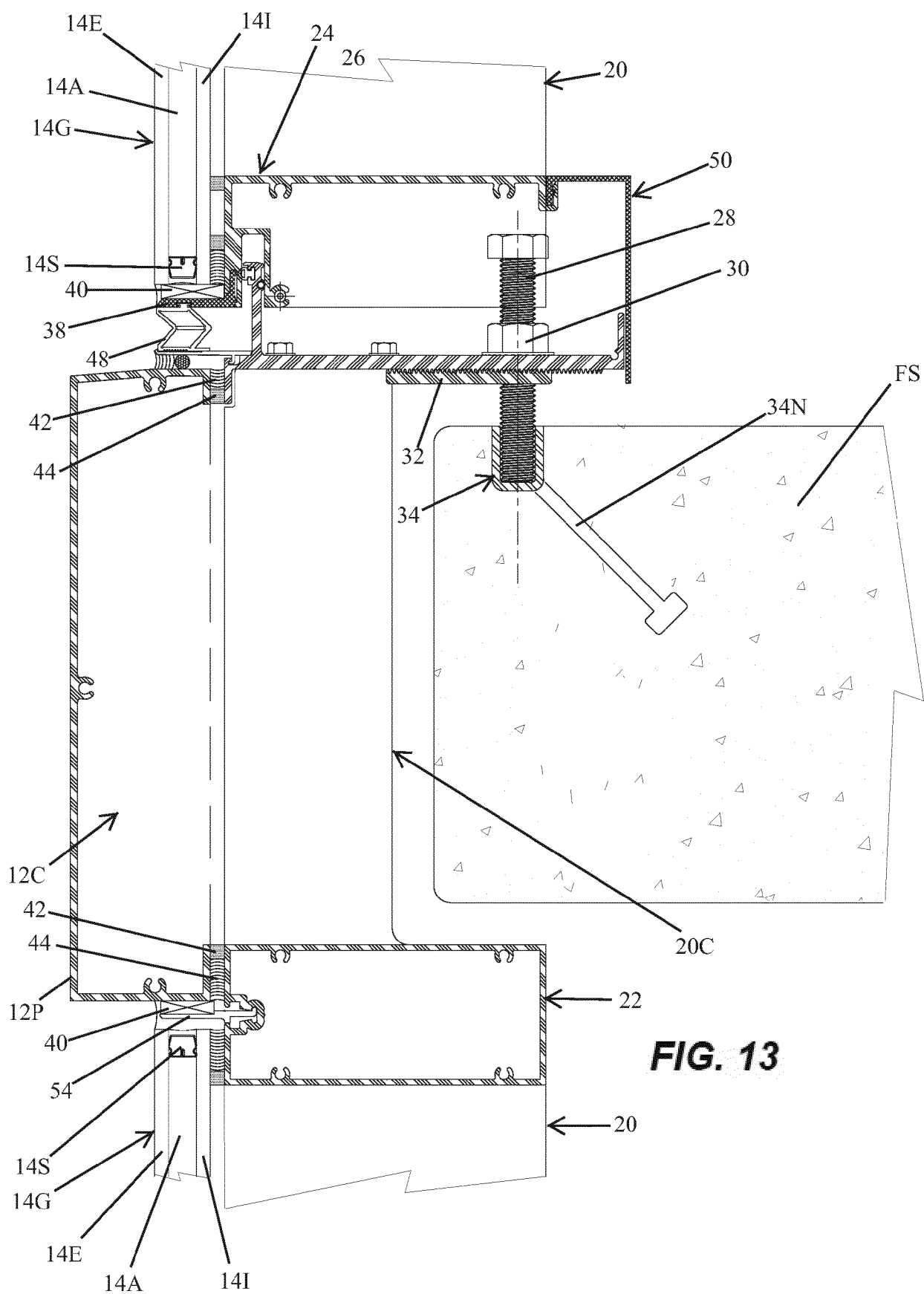


FIG. 11





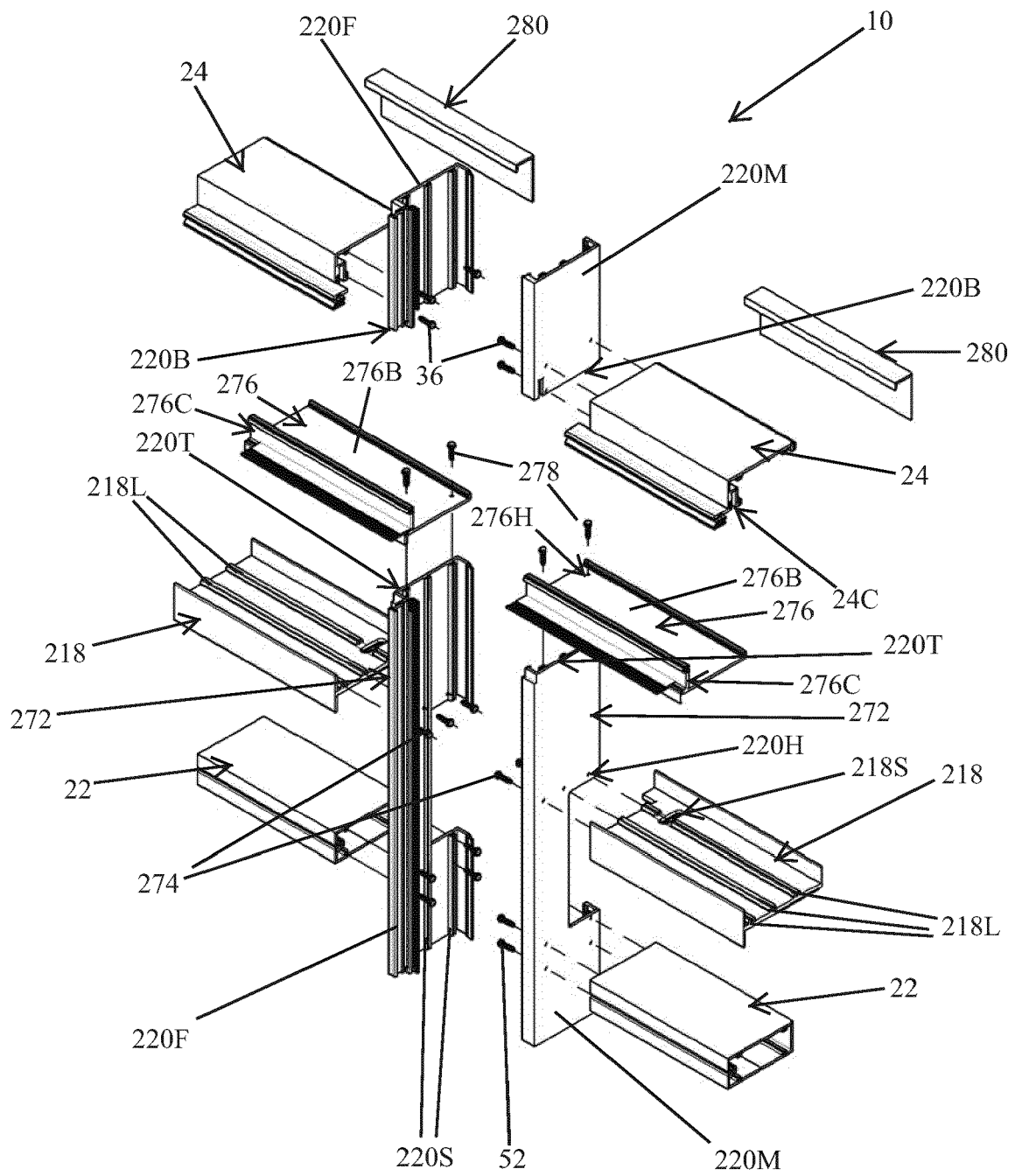


Fig. 14

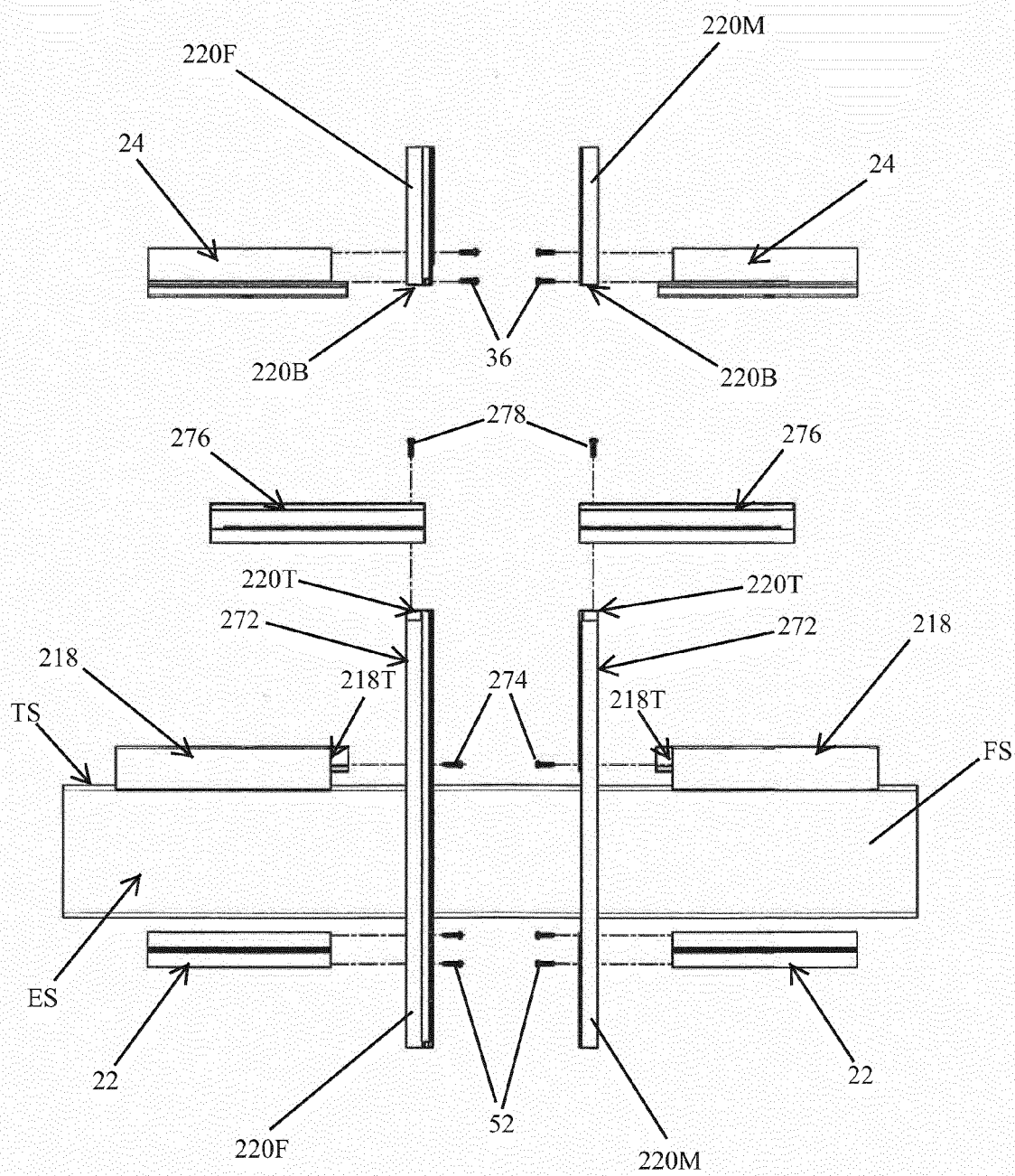


Fig. 15

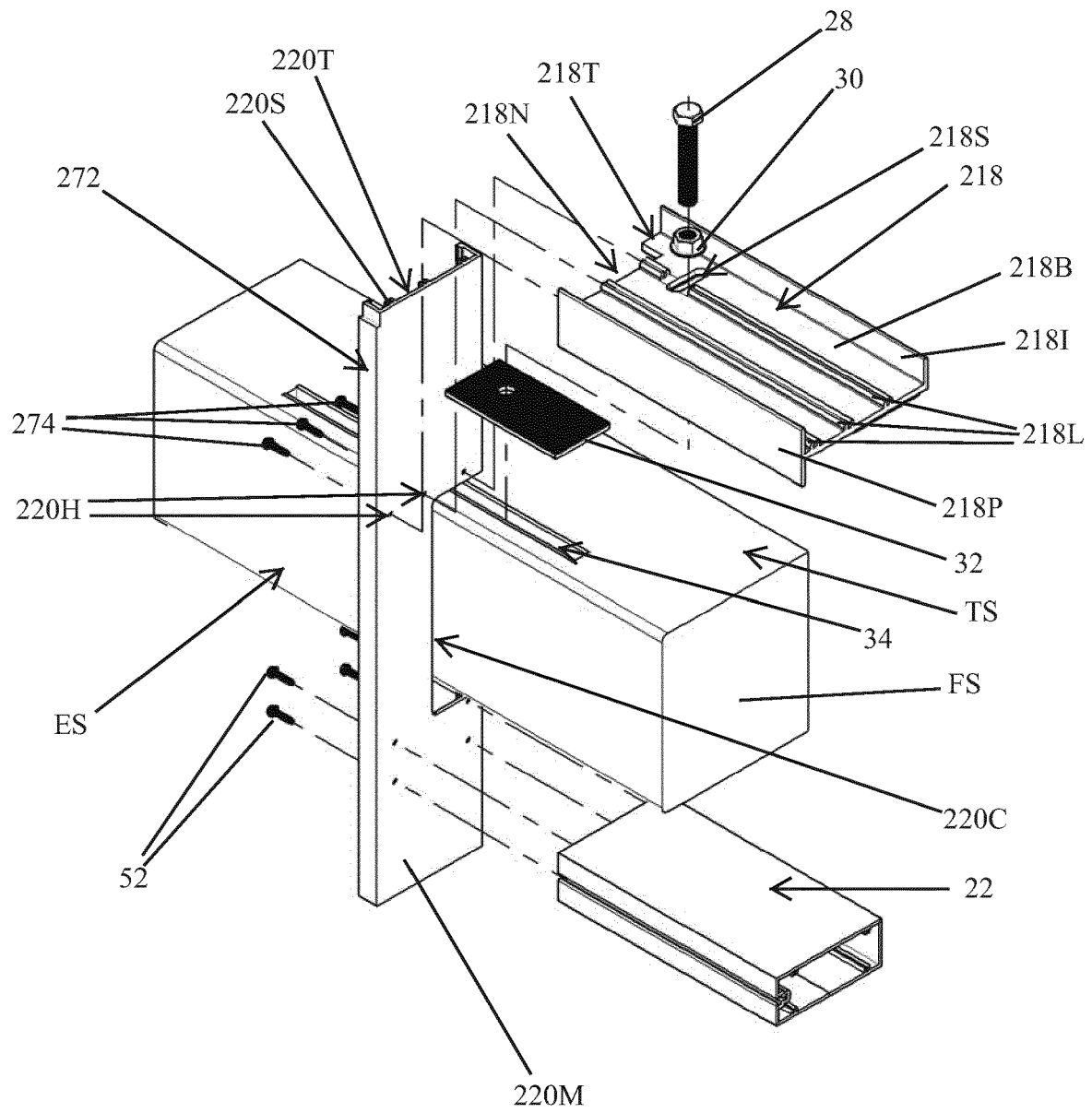


Fig. 16

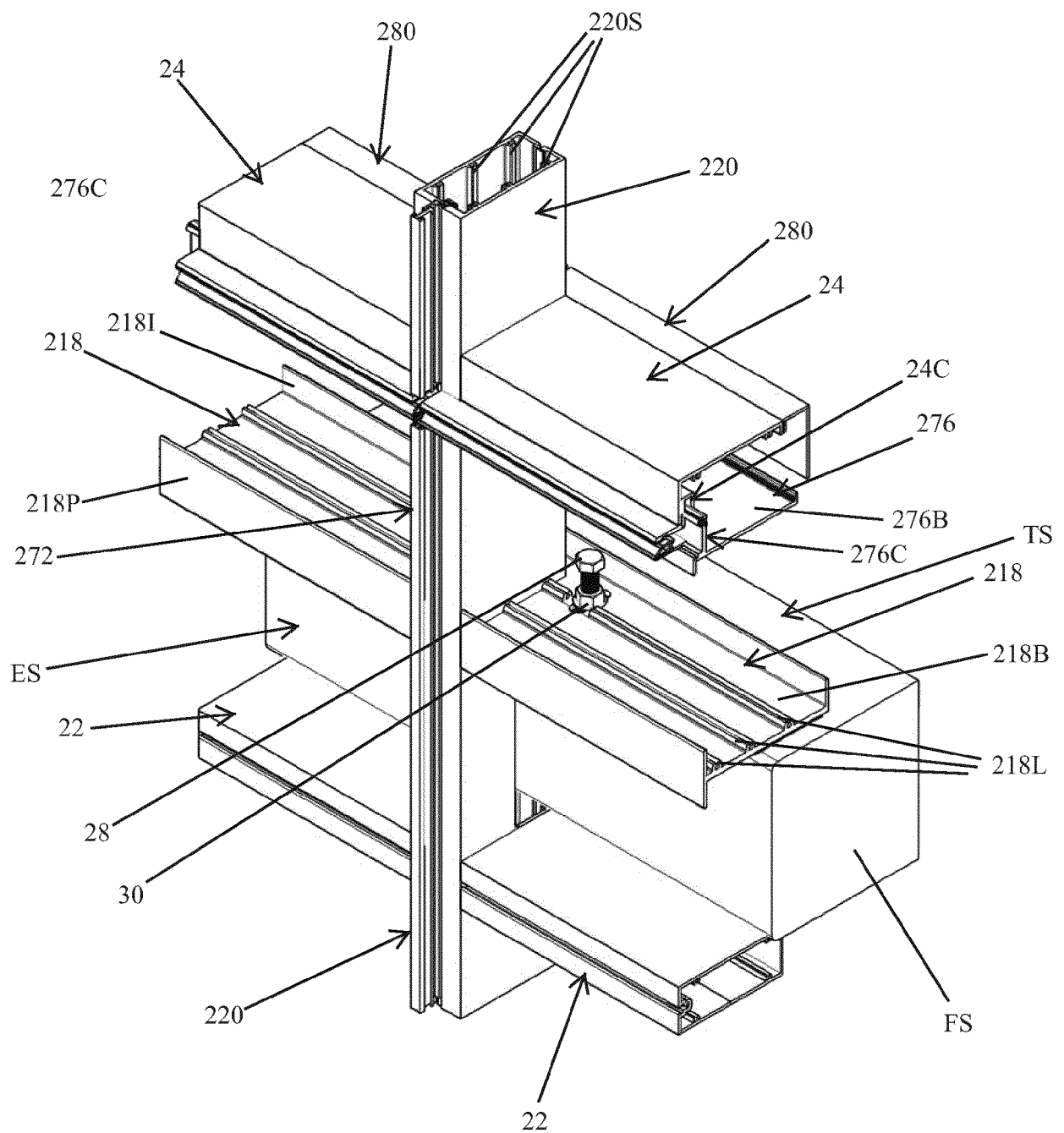


Fig. 17

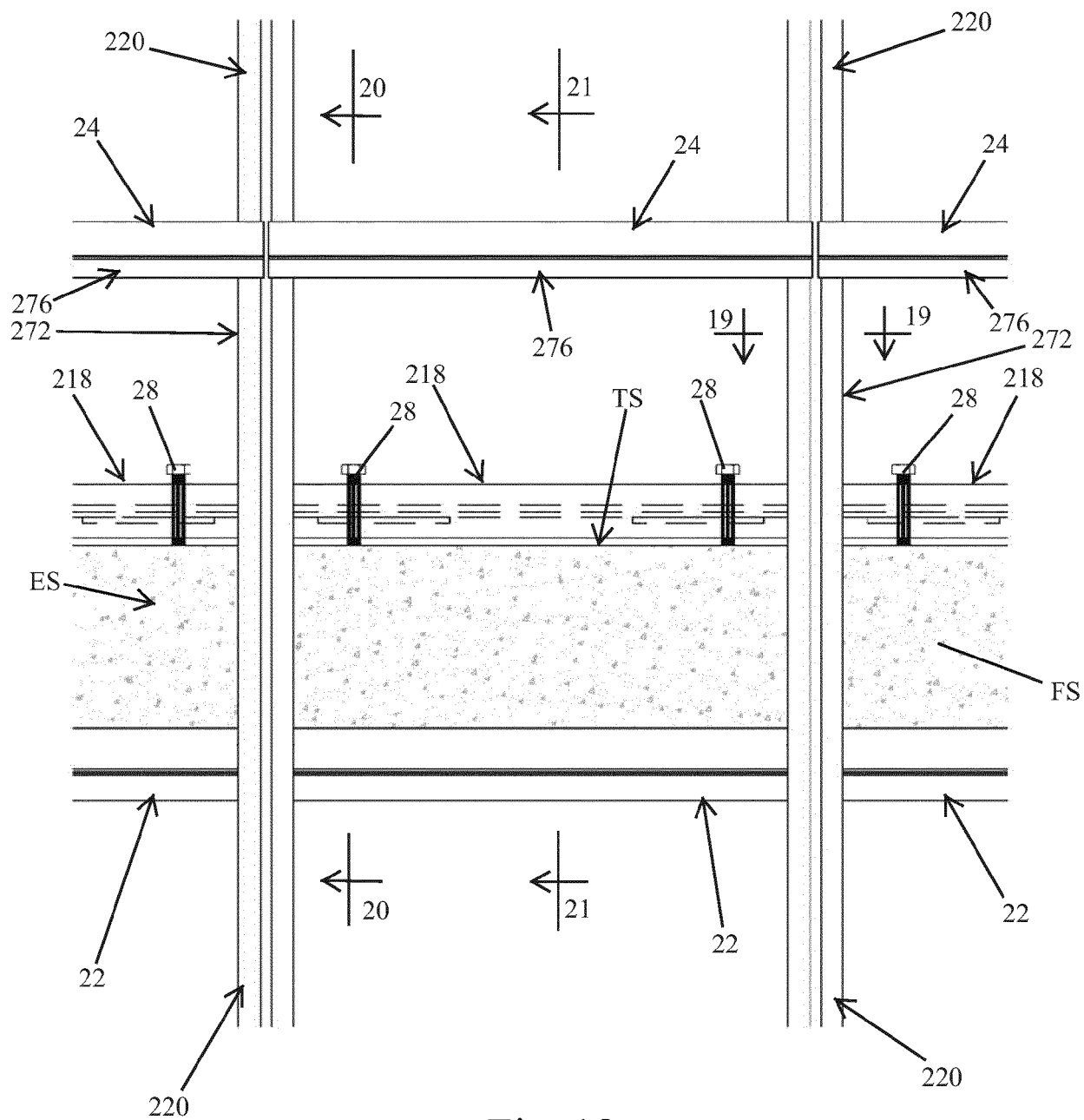


Fig. 18

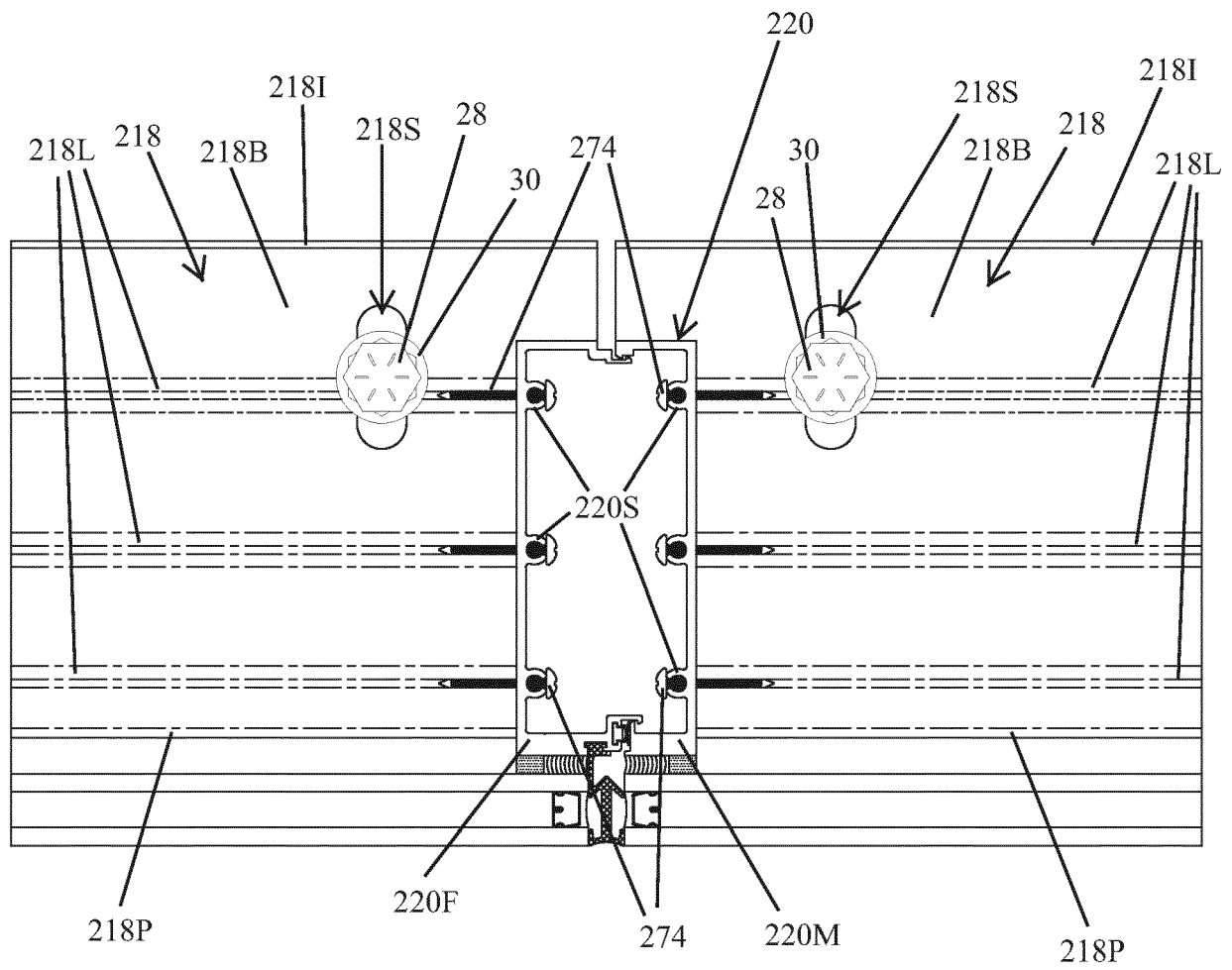


Fig. 19

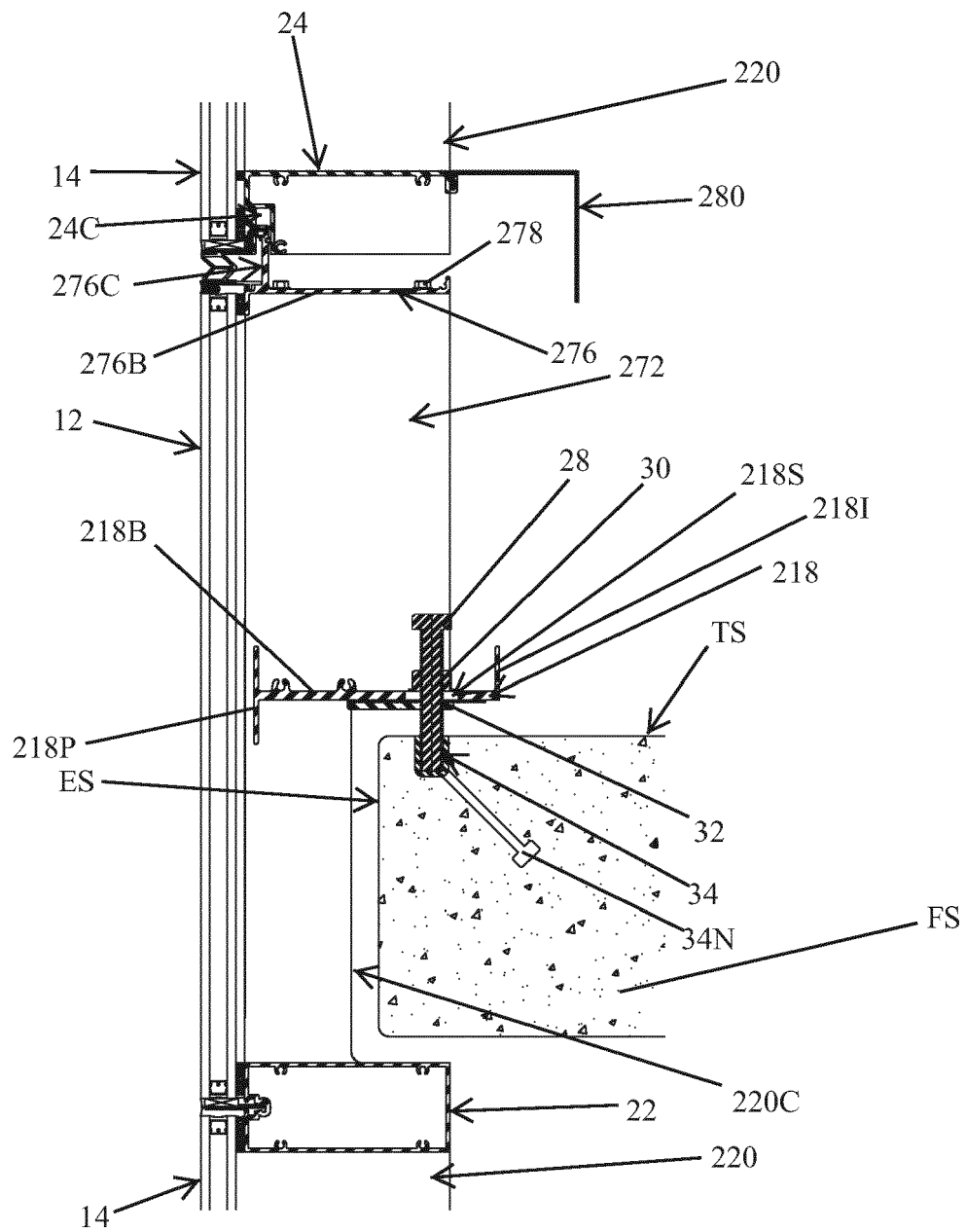


Fig. 20

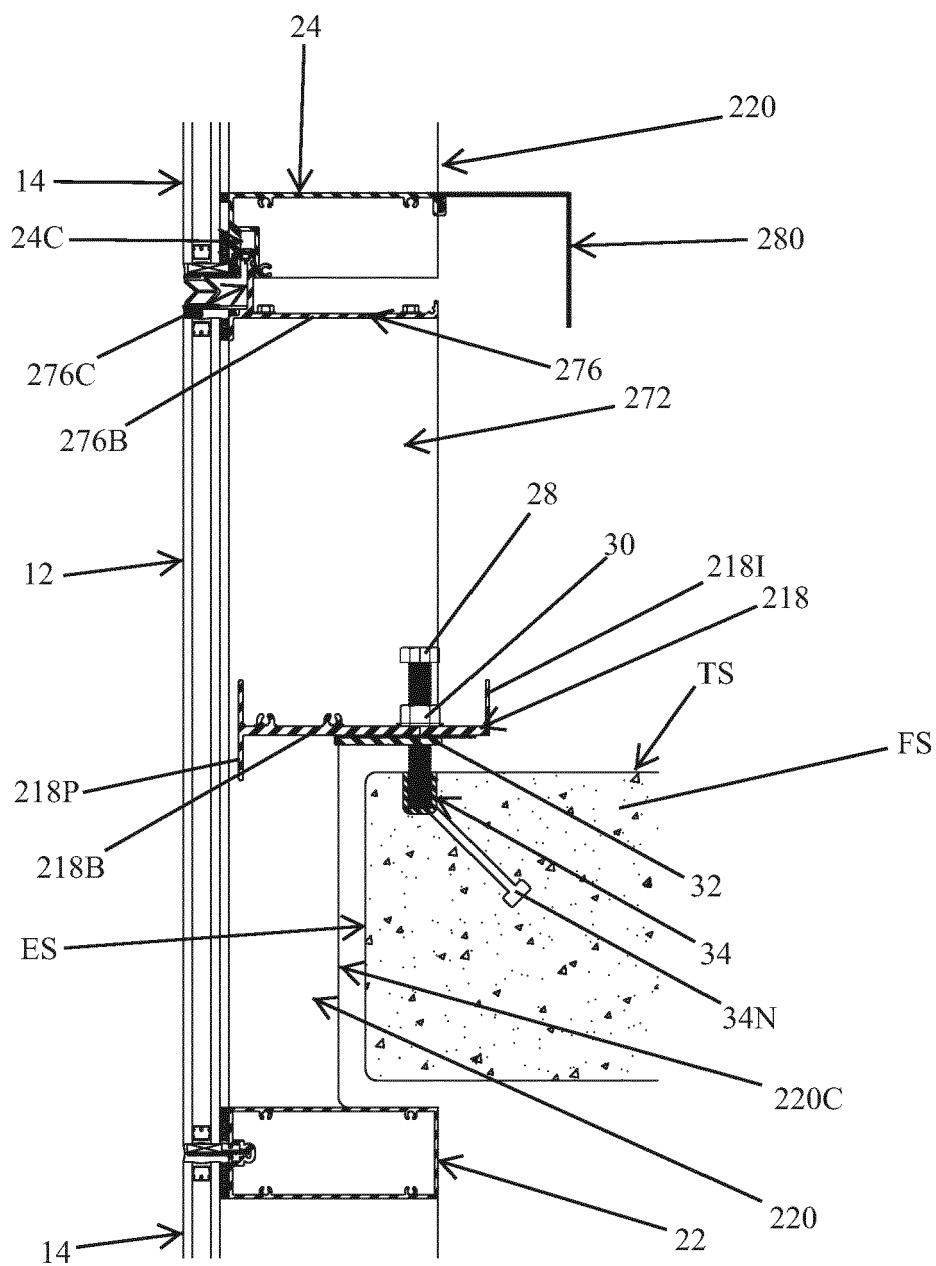


Fig. 21

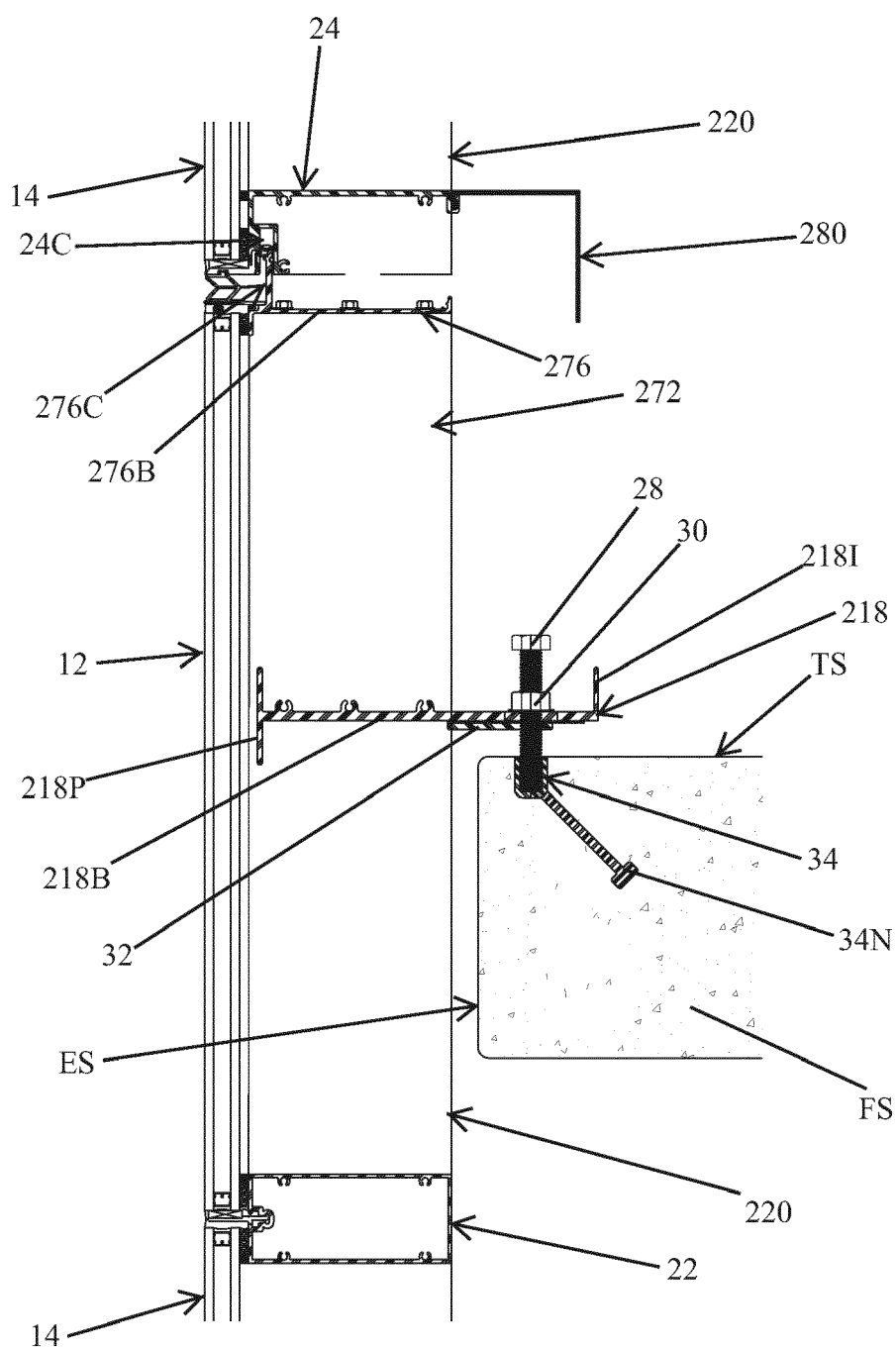


Fig. 22

**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 18 21 5956

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2017/350118 A1 (LEVAN KURTIS E [US]) 7 December 2017 (2017-12-07) * paragraphs [0039] - [0074]; figures 7-10 *	1-8, 15-30	INV. E04B2/96
A,D	US 2006/016133 A1 (SPECK JUAN A [CA]) 26 January 2006 (2006-01-26) * the whole document *	1-8, 15-30	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E04B

INCOMPLETE SEARCH

The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out.

Claims searched completely :

Claims searched incompletely :

Claims not searched :

Reason for the limitation of the search:

see sheet C

1

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	30 August 2019	Couprie, Brice
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04E07)

**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**

Application Number

EP 18 21 5956

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Claim(s) completely searchable:
1-8, 15-30

Claim(s) not searched:
9-14

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Claims 1 and 9 have been drafted as separate independent apparatus claims, having overlapping scopes without reference to each other. Following a Rule 62a EPC objection from the search division, the applicant has requested in his letter dated 12/08/2019 that the search report be drawn with regard to independent claims 1 and 15 and their respective dependent claims (i.e claims 1-8 and 15-30).

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 18 21 5956

5

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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30-08-2019

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EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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- US 7644549 B, Speck **[0003]**
- US 20150135615 A, Hogan **[0003]**