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BALLISTIC RESISTANT WALL STRUCTURES

Abstract

Building components and building systems and methods of using are disclosed. An example building component may include a ballistic resistant panel system. The ballistic resistant panel system may include a panel and a mount connected to the panel. The mount may be configured to secure the panel with respect to a wall system or structure and may facilitate selective movement of the panel relative to the wall system. The panel may include a ballistic resistant layer and an outer layer secured to a least one side of the ballistic resistant layer. The ballistic resistant layer may include one or more panels of ballistic resistant material. The outer layer may be decorative or functional layer.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a Divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/899,438, filed Aug. 30, 2022, which is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/US2021/024976, filed Mar. 30, 2021, which claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 63/002,188, filed Mar. 30, 2020, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure pertains to wall structures, and methods for manufacturing and using wall structures. M ore particularly, the present disclosure pertains to movable ballistic resistant wall structures including ballistic resistant wall panels, shutter panels, slider panels, door panels, etc.

BACKGROUND

[0003] A wide variety of wall structures have been developed for various uses in various types of building structures. Some of these wall structures may include ballistic resistant doors and wall panels used to restrict penetration of bullets and/or shrapnel through the wall structure. These structures are manufactured by any one of a variety of different manufacturing methods and may be used according to any one of a variety of methods. Of the known wall structures and methods, each has certain advantages and disadvantages.

SUMMARY

[0004] This disclosure provides design, material, manufacturing method, and use alternatives for building components.

[0005] A first example is a ballistic resistant panel system. The ballistic resistant panel system includes a panel and a mount. The panel includes a ballistic resistant layer and an outer layer secured to at least one side of the ballistic resistant layer. The mount is connected to the panel and configured to secure the panel with respect to a wall system and facilitate selective movement of the panel relative to the wall system.

[0006] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, a lock is secured to the panel and configured to lock the panel at a location relative to the wall system.

[0007] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, one or more wheels are secured to the panel to facilitate the movement of the panel relative to the wall system.

[0008] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, the mount includes one or more hinge secured to the panel and securable to the wall system.

[0009] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, one or more slide systems are secured to the panel and configured to facilitate the movement of the panel relative to the wall system.

[0010] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, the panel includes a first sub-panel and a second sub-panel. The ballistic resistant layer is a first ballistic resistant layer of the first sub-panel and the outer layer is a first outer layer of the first sub-panel. The second sub-panel includes a second ballistic resistant layer of a second sub-panel and a second outer layer of the second sub-panel, the second outer layer is secured to the second ballistic resistant layer.

[0011] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, the second sub-panel is movable with respect to the first sub-panel, and the first sub-panel and the second sub-panel are movable with respect to the wall system.

[0012] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, a slide system is connected to

the first sub-panel and the second sub-panel, the slide system is configured to facilitate movement between the first sub-panel and the second sub-panel.
[0013] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, a housing configured to at least partially house the panel when the panel is in a closed position.
[0014] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, the movement is one or both of rotational movement and linear movement.
[0015] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, the ballistic resistant layer comprises two or more ballistic resistant panels secured relative to one another.
[0016] A further example is a ballistic resistant panel system. The ballistic resistant panel system includes a panel and a housing. The panel includes a ballistic resistant layer and an outer layer secured to at least one side of the ballistic resistant layer. The panel is movable relative to the housing from a closed position to an opened position.
[0017] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, a handle secured relative to the panel. The panel is movable from the closed position to the opened position in response to a force applied to the handle, the force is at least partially in a direction of the movement.
[0018] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, an end panel is secured relative to the panel and having a width that is perpendicular to a width of the panel.
[0019] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, a handle secured to the end panel.
[0020] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, the panel is a pocket door and the housing includes an end panel secured to the panel.
[0021] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, the housing includes a backer layer between the panel and a wall of a wall system, and the outer layer includes one or both of a functional portion and a decorative portion.
[0022] A further example is a method of securing an opening in a wall system. The method includes identifying an attacker risk at one or more locations along a wall system, and adjusting a position of a ballistic resistant panel from a non-securing position spaced from the one or more locations along the wall system to a securing position covering the one or more locations along the wall system.
[0023] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, locking the ballistic resistant panel in the securing position.
[0024] Alternatively or additionally to any of the examples above, interacting with an outer surface of the ballistic resistant panel when the ballistic resistant panel is in the non-securing position.
[0025] The above summary of some embodiments, aspects, and/or examples is not intended to describe each embodiment or every implementation of the present disclosure. The figures and the detailed description which follows more particularly exemplify these embodiments.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
[0026] The invention may be more completely understood in consideration of the following detailed description of various embodiments of the invention in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:
[0027] FIG. **1** is a schematic plan view of an illustrative ballistic resistant panel system in use with a wall system;
[0028] FIG. **2** is a schematic elevation view of an illustrative ballistic resistant panel system;
[0029] FIG. **3** is a schematic elevation view of an illustrative ballistic resistant panel system;
[0030] FIG. **4** is sectional view of a portion of a ballistic resistant panel system;
[0031] FIG. **5** is a schematic plan view of an illustrative ballistic resistant panel system;

[0032] FIG. **6** is a schematic plan view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **5** in a wall system;
[0033] FIG. **7** is a schematic front elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **6**;
[0034] FIG. **8** is a schematic front elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **6**, with an end panel removed;
[0035] FIG. **9** is a schematic detail sectional view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **6**, taken from circle A in FIG. **6**;
[0036] FIG. **10** is a schematic detail sectional view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **6**, depicting an alternative panel configuration;
[0037] FIG. **11** is a schematic detail sectional view of the illustrative ballistic panel system depicted in FIG. **6**, depicting an alternative panel configuration;
[0038] FIG. **12** is a schematic plan view of an illustrative ballistic resistant panel system with a wall system;
[0039] FIG. **13** is a schematic side elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **12**;
[0040] FIG. **14** is a schematic front elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **12**;
[0041] FIG. **15** is a schematic front elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant slide panel depicted in FIG. **12**, with an end panel removed;
[0042] FIG. **16** is a schematic detail sectional view of the illustrative ballistic resistant slide panel depicted in FIG. **12**, taken from circle B in FIG. **12**;
[0043] FIG. **17** is a schematic plan view of an illustrative ballistic resistant panel system with a wall system;
[0044] FIG. **18** is a schematic plan view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **17**, the illustrative ballistic slide panel is in an opened position;
[0045] FIG. **19** is a schematic side elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **17**, the illustrative ballistic panel system is in the opened position;
[0046] FIG. **20** is a schematic front elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant slide panel depicted in FIG. **17**;
[0047] FIG. **21** is a schematic front elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **17**, with an end panel removed;
[0048] FIG. **22** is a schematic detail sectional view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **17**, taken from circle C in FIG. **17**.
[0049] FIG. **23** is a schematic plan view of an illustrative ballistic resistant panel system with a wall system, the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system is in a fully closed position;
[0050] FIG. **24** is a schematic plan view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **23**, the illustrative ballistic panel system is in a partially opened position;
[0051] FIG. **25** is a schematic plan view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **23**, the illustrative ballistic panel system is in a fully opened position;
[0052] FIG. **26** is a schematic side elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **25**, the illustrative ballistic panel system is in the fully opened position;
[0053] FIG. **27** is a schematic front elevation view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **23**, with a door opened;
[0054] FIG. **28** is a schematic detail sectional view of the illustrative ballistic resistant panel system depicted in FIG. **23**, taken from circle D in FIG. **23**.
[0055] While the disclosure is amenable to various modifications and alternative forms, specifics thereof have been shown by way of example in the drawings and will be described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the intention is not to limit the invention to the particular embodiments described. On the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents,

and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0056] For the following defined terms, these definitions shall be applied, unless a different definition is given in the claims or elsewhere in this specification.

[0057] All numeric values are herein assumed to be modified by the term “about”, whether or not explicitly indicated. The term “about” generally refers to a range of numbers that one of skill in the art would consider equivalent to the recited value (e.g., having the same function or result). In many instances, the term “about” may include numbers that are rounded to the nearest significant figure.

[0058] The recitation of numerical ranges by endpoints includes all numbers within that range (e.g. 1 to 5 includes 1, 1.5, 2, 2.75, 3, 3.80, 4, and 5).

[0059] As used in this specification and the appended claims, the singular forms “a”, “an”, and “the” include plural referents unless the content clearly dictates otherwise. As used in this specification and the appended claims, the term “or” is generally employed in its sense including “and/or” unless the content clearly dictates otherwise.

[0060] It is noted that references in the specification to “an embodiment”, “some embodiments”, “other embodiments”, etc., indicate that the embodiment described may include one or more particular features, structures, and/or characteristics. However, such recitations do not necessarily mean that all embodiments include the particular features, structures, and/or characteristics. Additionally, when particular features, structures, and/or characteristics are described in connection with one embodiment, it should be understood that such features, structures, and/or characteristics may also be used in connection with other embodiments whether or not explicitly described unless clearly stated to the contrary.

[0061] The following detailed description should be read with reference to the drawings in which similar elements in different drawings are numbered the same. The drawings, which are not necessarily to scale, depict illustrative embodiments and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

[0062] Walls and wall structures may have various designs, may have various dimensions, and may be made from various materials. In some cases, the designs, dimensions, and materials of a wall or wall structure may depend, at least in part, on the purpose of the wall.

[0063] Typical walls and wall structures may be provided for various decorative and/or functional purposes. For example, walls and wall structures may be provided for decorative purposes and may include painted artwork, sculpted artwork, wood designs, and/or other decorative features. Further, walls and wall structures may be provided to allow people to see through (e.g., a wall or wall structure including one or more windows), to keep people, animals, weather, and/or objects in or out of a building, to protect occupants of a building, and/or to provide one or more other functional and/or decorative purposes

[0064] In some cases, walls or wall structures may be configured to be ballistic resistant. In one example, a wall or wall structure may be provided with a decorative or functional purpose to protect people and things on one side of the wall or wall structure from people, animals, bullets, ballistic material, and/or other uninvited things on another side of the wall or wall structure.

[0065] Further, walls or wall structures may be generally configured in a grid-like pattern or other pattern, where a wall panel may be supported by panel supports. Examples of such walls or wall structures may be storefront wall systems, curtainwall wall systems, and/or other wall systems. Curtainwall wall systems and/or other wall systems may typically comprise a grid-like framework usually made of aluminum or steel transoms (e.g., structures that typically run horizontally) and mullions (e.g., structures that typically run vertically), where the framework typically may be attached to a building structure and may typically receive glazing or window panels and/or non-transparent panels.

[0066] In some cases, walls or wall structures may be movable to cover and/or provide access to

other walls or wall structures, windows, doors, doorways, etc. An example of such a wall structure may be and/or may include a shutter panel, a slider panel, and/or other suitable panels that may be movable to cover and/or protect a window.

[0067] Ballistic resistant walls or wall structures may typically include a ballistic resistant wall panel (e.g., a panel of ballistic resistant glass or other panel including ballistic resistant material) surrounded by wall supports or brackets to join adjacent ballistic resistant wall panels. A "ballistic resistant" thing or material may be defined as a thing or material that provides protection to a person or object positioned behind the thing or material against complete penetration of a projectile (e.g., a bullet or other projectile), passage of fragments or projectiles therethrough, or fragmentation of the thing or material in response to a projectile engaging the thing or material. Example ballistic resistant materials, walls, and wall structures are discussed in U.S. Pat. No. 9,976,306, filed on Mar. 31, 2017, and titled WALL SUPPORT STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

[0068] The standards set by the current UL 752 may be utilized to determine a level of ballistic resistance for a thing or material (e.g., wall panel, wall support, material thereof, and/or other thing or material). Under the current UL 752 standard, a ballistic resistant thing or material having a protection level of Level 1 will protect against handguns of medium power (e.g., hand guns firing 9 mm full metal copper jacket with lead core ammunition or handguns having a muzzle energy of 380-460 foot pounds or 515-624 Joules), a ballistic resistant thing or material having a protection level of Level 2 will protect against handguns of higher power (e.g., handguns firing 0.357 magnum jacket lead soft point ammunition or handguns having a muzzle energy of 548-663 foot pounds or 743-899 Joules) Joules, a ballistic resistant thing or material having a protection level of level 3 will protect against handguns of super power (e.g., handguns firing 0.4 magnum lead semi-wadcutter gas checked ammunition or having a muzzle energy of 971-1,175 foot pounds or 1,317-1,593 Joules), a ballistic resistant thing or material having a ballistic resistance level of Level 4 will protect against low caliber rifles (e.g.,.30 caliber rifle lead core soft point (.30-06 caliber), a ballistic resistant thing or material having a ballistic resistance level of Level 5 will protect against one shot of rifle ammunition (e.g., 7.62 mm rifle lead core full metal copper jacket, military ball (.308 caliber)-1 shot), and a ballistic resistant thing or material having a ballistic resistance level of Level 8 will protect against five shots of rifle ammunition (e.g., 7.62 mm rifle lead core full metal copper jacket, military ball (.308 caliber)-5 shots). These are just some example levels of ballistic resistance as set by the current UL 752 standard, but the current UL 752 standard has additional levels. Additionally, other standards (e.g., National Institute of Justice Body Armor Classification standards and/or other standards) may be utilized for determining a level of ballistic resistance for a thing or material.

[0069] Turning to the Figures, FIG. **1** depicts a schematic plan view of an illustrative panel system **2** including a panel **10**. In the configuration of FIG. **1**, the panel **10** may be a movable ballistic resistant shutter panel configured to provide movable ballistic resistant protection along a window **12** in a wall system **14**. The panel **10** may be mounted (e.g., secured) to and/or with respect to the wall system **14** and/or an adjacent ceiling or flooring such that the panel **10** may be moved behind the window **12** (e.g., on a safe side of the window **12**) to secure the window **12** from an outside attacker. Although the panel **10** is depicted in FIG. **1** as being movable to secure the window **12** from an outside attacker, the panel **10** may be mounted adjacent a door/doorway **13** of the wall system **14** to secure the door/doorway **13** from an outside attacker.

[0070] The panel **10** may be mounted so as to be movable in any suitable manner. For example, the panel **10** may be mounted with one or more mounts that facilitate the panel(s) **10** being slidably movable, pivotally movable, rotatably movable, linearly movable, and/or movable in any other suitable manner.

[0071] As shown in FIG. **1**, the panel **10** is pivotally mounted via a hinge mount, such that the movable panel **10** may be rotated about a pivot axis of the hinge. Although the panel **10** is shown as

being pivotable about ninety degrees in FIG. **1**, the panel **10** may be configured to pivot less than ninety degrees or more than ninety degrees. Further, the panel **10** may be mounted such that the panel **10** may be stored against a wall of the wall system **14** when not in use securing a window or door/doorway from an outside attacker and moved (e.g., swung) to a desired position to secure the window or door/doorway from the outside attacker when the attacker is or is anticipated to be present.

[0072] In some cases, the panel(s) **10** may be configured, as discussed herein, so as to be quickly and/or easily movable from a closed or non-securing position to an opened or securing position. Further, the panel system **2** and the panel(s) **10** thereof may be concealed or designed to fit in with a space, such that an attacker that may be unfamiliar with the space may believe the panel system **2** and/or the panel(s) **10** may be regular wall structures and/or functional/decoration features within a space.

[0073] The movable panel **10** may be mounted with any suitable mount **15** to meet a weight load and/or movement range of the specified panel **10**. Example mount types include, but are not limited to a hinge, a continuous geared hinge, load bearing ball bearing hinges, slide systems, drawer slide systems, and/or other suitable mount types. In some cases, the panel **10** may be mounted to the wall via a header type panel that may be attached to the wall before and/or after finishes, such that the header type panel may become the pivot point for the panel **10**.

[0074] The panel **10** may include a lock, such as a floor bolt **16** and/or a ceiling bolt configured to engage the floor and/or the ceiling, respectively, adjacent the wall system **14**. The floor bolt **16** and/or the ceiling bolt may be configured to facilitate the panel **10** maintaining a set or desired position. In some cases, the floor bolt **16**, the ceiling bolt, and/or other locking mechanisms may be reinforced and configured to withstand an attack on the panel **10**. In addition to or as an alternative to the floor bolt **16** and/or the ceiling bolt, a wall catch or other retention device may be utilized to limit undesired movement of the panel **10** (e.g., by an attacker). Alternatively or additionally, the panel **10** may include one or more other suitable locking mechanisms configured to secure panel(s) **10** at a fully closed position, at a fully opened position, and/or at a position between the fully closed position and the fully opened position.

[0075] The foot or base of the panel **10** may be configured to remain as close to the floor as possible. To facilitate such a configuration and/or for other purposes, the panel may include a wheel **18** (e.g., on a safe side of, attacker side of, and/or in the panel **10**) to allow for easier movement when moving (e.g., swinging, sliding, rotating, etc.) the panel **10**.

[0076] Further, in some cases, a wall stiffener **20** (e.g., a vertical wall stiffener) may be applied to and/or adhered to (e.g., via an adhesive and/or other connector) a wall of the wall system **14** and the panel **10** may be secured to the wall system **14** through the vertical wall stiffener **20**. In some cases, the wall stiffener **20** may include a decorative finish and decorative screws and/or other suitable fasteners may be utilized to attach the wall stiffener **20** to the wall system **14**.

[0077] FIGS. **2** and **3** depict schematic elevation views of illustrative configurations of the panel **10**. FIG. **2** depicts an illustrative wall or door-height configuration of the panel **10**. FIG. **3** depicts an illustrative partial wall or door-height configuration of the panel **10**.

[0078] As shown in FIG. **2**, the wall or door-height **10** is depicted as having a mount **15** that is a hinge (e.g., a hinge **22**, as depicted in FIG. **4**, which may be a continuous hinge, and/or other suitable hinge or mount structure) that runs along a height of the wall or door-height panel **10**. The continuous hinge may facilitate rotation of the wall or door-height panel **10** about the hinge **22** as needed to secure a space behind a window and/or door/doorway.

[0079] The movable wall or door-height panel **10** may have any suitable dimensions. In some cases, the wall or door-height panel **10** may be configured to extend entirely or approximately entirely between a ceiling and a floor adjacent a wall of a wall system. In one example, as depicted in FIG. **2**, the wall or door-height panel **10** may have a height of ninety-six (96) inches and a width of forty eight (48) inches. In some cases, about 0.5 inches may be left between the panel **10** and the

floor and/or the ceiling, but this is not required. Other suitable dimensions are contemplated.
[0080] As shown in FIG. **3**, the partial wall or door-height configuration of the panel **10** is depicted as having mount **15** (e.g., a continuous hinge and/or other suitable mount) that runs along a height of the partial wall or door-height panel **10**. Although the mount **15** runs along the height of the partial wall or door-height panel **10**, the mount **15** may include one or more mounts and may extend less than the full height of the panel **10**. The mount **15** may facilitate rotation of the partial wall or door-height panel **10** about an axis thereof as needed to secure a space behind a window and/or door/doorway.
[0081] The partial wall or door-height panel **10** may have any suitable dimensions. In some cases, the partial wall or door-height panel **10** may be configured to extend partially between a ceiling and a floor adjacent a wall of a wall system (e.g., to cover an opening in a wall systems, such as a window and/or other suitable opening). In one example, as depicted in FIG. **3**, the wall or door-length panel **10** may have a height of forty-eight (48) inches and a width of forty-eight (48) inches. In some cases, about 0.5 inches may be left between the panel **10** and the floor and/or the ceiling, but this is not required. Other suitable dimensions are contemplated.
[0082] FIG. **4** is a schematic cross-sectional view of a portion of the panel **10** secured to the wall system **14** using the hinge **22**. The panel **10** may be formed from any suitable material configured to facilitate stopping and/or slowing down an attacker. In some cases, the panel **10** may be multi-layered. As shown in FIG. **4**, the panel **10** may be configured with an exterior finished surface layer **26** on both sides of the panel **10**, interior of the exterior finished surface **26** on both sides of the panel **10** there may be a core backer layer **28** (e.g., any suitable construction backer material), and interior of the core backer layer **28** there may be one or more layers of ballistic resistant material **30**.
[0083] In some cases, an edge wrap **24** may be utilized for decorative and/or functional purposes and may wrap around an end of the panel **10** to cover one or more layers forming the panel **10**. In addition to or as an alternative to utilizing the edge wrap **24**, the layers of the panel **10** may be secured to one another in any suitable manner including, but not limited to, laminating the layers, using adhesive, using one or more fasteners, etc.
[0084] The finished surface layer **26** may utilize one or more decorative or functional materials. For example, the finished surface layer **26** may be configured from one or more of plastic laminate, wood, metal, polymer, white board material, pin board materials, cork boards, glass, fabric, veneer, fabric, wall paper, paint, magnetic materials, chalkboard, material, and/or other suitable materials. The finished surface layer **26** may have a functional configuration with which a user may be able to interact including, for example, a white board surface, a chalkboard surface, a magnetic surface, a cork board surface, a glass surface, etc.
[0085] The layer(s) of ballistic resistant material **30** (e.g., a ballistic resistant core and/or other suitable layer) may be formed from any suitable type of material configured to stop the penetration of bullets. In some cases, the ballistic resistant material **30** may be configured to UL1-8 standards using one or more sub-layers of suitable types of material. Example bullet and/or ballistic resistant materials are discussed in U.S. Pat. No. 9,976,306, which is incorporated by reference herein.
[0086] The edge wrap **24** may be any suitable material configured to form a moulding to make the corners of the panel **10** safe to the touch. Example materials for the edge wrap **24** may include, but are not limited to, metals, polymers, fiberglass pultrusion, aluminum, stainless steel, wood, and/or other suitable materials.
[0087] FIGS. **5-11** depict the panel system **2** with the panel **10** in a pocket door configuration. As depicted in FIGS. **5-11**, the panel **10** may be configured as a movable ballistic resistant slider panel. Further, although the panel system **2** is depicted in FIG. **5** as having a single panel **10**, the panel system **2** may include two or more panels **10**, as desired.
[0088] FIG. **5** depicts the panel **10** in a closed position. The broken lines in FIG. **5** are phantom lines that indicate a position of the panel **10** when the panel **10** is in an opened and/or protection

position. Although the opened position is described as being the protecting position of the panel **10**, it is contemplated that the closed position of the panel **10** may also or alternatively be a protecting position.

[0089] The panel **10** may have any suitable dimensions. For example, the panel **10** may be configured to at least partially block an opening in a wall structure when in the opened position and fit at least partially within or along a wall system when in the closed position.

[0090] As depicted in FIG. **5**, the panel **10** may be connected to an end panel **32**. The end panel **32** may be formed from any suitable type of material. Example materials for the end panel **32** may include, but are not limited, polymers, metals, ballistic resistant materials, wood, and/or other suitable material. The material of end panel **32** may include a decorative and/or functional outer layer, as discussed herein, so as to have one or more decorative and/or functional surface portions. The end panel **32** may be configured to at least partially house the panels **10**, but this is not required.

[0091] A handle **34** may be connected to one or both of the end panel **32** and the panel **10**. The handle **34** may be utilized to facilitate moving the panel **10** between the closed position and the opened position. In one example, a force may be applied to the handle **34** in a direction that is at least partially in a desired direction of movement of the panel(s) **10** to cause movement of the panel(s) **10** in the desired direction.

[0092] The handle **34** may take on any suitable handle configuration. Example handle configurations include, but are not limited to, knobs, pulls, bars, u-shaped handles, and/or other suitable handle confirmations.

[0093] The handle **34** and/or the end panel **32** may be connected to the panel **10** using a connector **38**. The connector **38** may be and/or may include any suitable connector component(s). Example components of the connector **38** may include, but not are limited to, screws, bolts, nuts, adhesives, brackets, etc.

[0094] The panel system **2** depicted in FIG. **5** may include one or more supports **36** configured to facilitate securing the panel system **2** to a wall system. The support **36** may take on any suitable configuration for securing the panel system **2** to a wall system. In some cases, the particular configuration of the support **36** may be dictated by a structure of the wall system to which the panel system **2** will be attached, but this is not required.

[0095] The support **36** may be formed from one or more suitable materials for connecting to the panel **10** and/or to the wall system **14**. Example suitable materials include, but are not limited to, metal, polymer, wood, plywood, natural fibers, ballistic resistant materials, decorative materials, functional materials, etc. In one example, the support **36** may be at least partially or entirely formed from plywood.

[0096] Although FIG. **5** depicts a space **40** between the panel **10** and the support **36** one or more features may be located therebetween. In some cases, a connection feature connecting the panel **10** to the support **36** may be in the space **40**, but this is not required. In one example, one or more slider systems may be at least partially located in the space **40** and configured to connect the panel **10** to the support **36** and/or facilitate movement of the panel **10** relative to the support **36**.

[0097] FIG. **6** depicts the panel system **2** depicted in FIG. **5** within a wall system, such as the wall system **14**. In the example depicted in FIG. **6**, the panel system **2** has been inserted within a gap **42** between a first wall panel **23***a* and a second wall panel **23***b* similar to how a pocket door may be positioned between wall panels of a wall system. In such a configuration, the support **36** may be secured to a wall panel of the wall system **14** in any suitable manner including, but not limited to, by using one or more of adhesives, fasteners, connectors, etc.

[0098] Although not required, when installing the panel system **2** along or within a wall system, one or more ballistic resistant wall panels **44** may be secured to a wall panel of the wall system **14**. In one example, the ballistic resistant wall panel **44** may be secured to the first wall panel **23***a* and the support **36** may be secured to second wall panel **23***b*. In such an instance, the first wall panel

23*a* may be a wall panel facing a space **50** exterior to a space **52** intended to be protected by the panel system **2** and the second wall panel **23***b* may be a wall panel facing the space **52** intended to be protected by the panel system **2**, but this is not required.

[0099] FIG. **7** depicts an illustrative end view of the panel system **2** within the wall system **14** extending between a floor **46** and a ceiling **48**. As depicted in FIG. **7**, the end panel **32** of the panel system **2** may extend beyond a profile **54** (e.g., as represented by broken lines in FIG. **7**) of an opening in the wall system **14** that receives at least portion of the panel system **2**. Alternatively or additionally, at least a portion of the end panel **32** may be configured to fit within the profile **54** so as to have a surface flush with an outer surface of the wall system **14** when the panel system **2** is in the closed position.

[0100] FIG. **8** depicts an illustrative end view of the panel system **2** within the wall system **14** extending between the floor **46** and the ceiling **48**, where the end panel **32** (shown in broken lines) of the panel system **2** and an end surface of the wall structure are removed to depict the gap **42** between wall panels **23***a* and **23***b*. As depicted in FIG. **8**, the panel **10** may be connected to or mounted to the support **36** with one or more mounts (e.g., mounts **15**, such as connector systems **56**, and/or other suitable mounts).

[0101] The connector systems **56** may be any suitable mounting connector systems and may be configured to facilitate movement of the panel **10** relative to the wall system **14** and/or the support **36**. In one example, the connector systems **56** may be or may include slide systems (e.g., a drawer slider system using bearings and/or other suitable slider systems) configured to facilitate sliding movement of the panel relative to the support **36** and the wall system **14**, but this is not required. As depicted in FIG. **8**, the panel system **2** may include three (3) connector systems **56**, but other suitable numbers of connector systems **56** may be utilized as needed to support the panel **10** in the closed position, the opened position, and during movement therebetween.

[0102] Although the connector system **56** is depicted as being secured to the support **36** and the panel **10** using screws, nuts, and bolts, other connector components may be utilized as desired. Further, although the screws, nuts, and bolts are viewable in FIG. **8** for descriptive purposes, these components may not be viewable from the view depicted in FIG. **8**.

[0103] FIGS. **9-11** depict details of the illustrative connections between the panel **10**, the end panel **32**, and the handle **34**, along with an illustrative configuration of the panel **10**, taken from circle-A in FIG. **5**. Although portions of screws and/or bolts are depicted in FIGS. **9-11**, certain portions of the depicted screws and/or bolts may not be viewable from the views depicted in FIGS. **9-11**.

[0104] As depicted in FIGS. **9-11**, the connector **38** may include a bracket **60**, a bolt **62**, and a nut **64** connecting the bracket **60** to the panel **10**, and a screw **66** connecting the bracket **60** to the end panel **32**. The bracket **60** may be an L-shaped bracket and may extend along a surface of the panel **10** and the end panel **32** to create a tight connector therebetween. Further, although the bracket **60** is depicted in FIGS. **9-11** as a spacer between the end panel **32** and the support **36** or the wall system **14**, this is not required, and the bracket **60** may be configured such that the end panel **32** contacts the wall system **14**. Other suitable configurations for the connector **38** and the components thereof are contemplated.

[0105] Further, a screw **65** may be utilized to connect the handle **34** to the end panel **32**, but other connector configurations and/or components are contemplated. In some cases, the screw **65** may be configured to have a head portion that is flush with an exterior surface of the end panel **32** when the screw **65** is connecting the handle **34** to the end panel **32**, as depicted in FIG. **9**, which may facilitate creating a tight connection between the panel **10** and the end panel **32** using the connector **38**.

[0106] As depicted FIG. **9**, the panel **10** may be configured from a ballistic resistant layer **68** (e.g., formed from the ballistic resistant material **30** and/or other suitable ballistic resistant core material), an outer layer **70** (e.g., similar to or different than the finished exterior surface layer **26**) along one surface of the ballistic resistant layer **68**, and another outer layer **70** along another surface of the

ballistic resistant layer **68**. When connected to the bracket **60**, the bolt **62** may extend through one or more of the outer layer(s) **70** and the ballistic resistant layer **68** and connected to the nut **64** to create a tight connection between the panel **10** and the bracket **60**.

[0107] FIG. **10** depicts similar features to those depicted in FIG. **9**, but with a configuration of the panel **10** that differs from the configuration of the panel **10** depicted in FIG. **9**. The panel **10** depicted in FIG. **10** may be configured from a first ballistic resistant layer **68***a* and a second ballistic resistant layer **68***b* (e.g., where the first and/or second ballistic resistant layers **68***a*, **68***b* may be formed from the ballistic resistant material **30** and/or other suitable ballistic resistant core material), an outer layer **70** along one surface of the first ballistic resistant layer **68***a*, and another outer layer **70** along a surface of the second ballistic resistant layer **68***b*. When the panel **10** is connected to the bracket **60**, the bolt **62** may extend through one or more of the outer layer(s) **70**, the first ballistic resistant layer **68***a*, and the second ballistic resistant layer **68***b*, and connected to the nut **64** to create a tight connection between the panel **10** and the bracket **60**.

[0108] FIG. **11** depicts similar features to those depicted in FIG. **9**, but with a configuration of the panel **10** that differs from the configuration of the panel **10** depicted in FIG. **9** and a second connector **38**. The panel **10** depicted in FIG. **11** may be configured from the first ballistic resistant layer **68***a*, the second ballistic resistant layer **68***b*, and a third ballistic resistant material **68***c* (e.g., where the first, second, and/or third ballistic resistant layers **68***a*, **68***b* may be formed from the ballistic resistant material **30** and/or other suitable ballistic resistant core material), an outer layer **70** along one surface of the first ballistic resistant layer **68***a*, and another outer layer **70** along a surface of the third ballistic resistant layer **68***c*. When the panel **10** is connected to the bracket **60**, the bolt **62** may extend through one or more of the outer layer(s) **70**, the first ballistic resistant layer **68***a*, the second ballistic resistant layer **68***b*, and the third ballistic resistant layer **68***c*, and connect to the nut **64** to create a tight connection between the panel **10** and the brackets **60**.

[0109] As depicted in FIG. **11**, two or more connectors **38** may be utilized to facilitate connecting the end panel **32** (e.g., which may be elongated relative to other configurations so as to cover the gap **42** when) to the panel **10**. In such instances, the bolt **62** may extend through both of a first bracket **60** and a second bracket **60** to secure the brackets to the panel **10**. However, other configurations are contemplated including the use of lag bolts and/or other connectors.

[0110] When the panel(s) **10** include two or more layers (e.g., ballistic resistant layers **68** outer layers **70**, etc.), the layers may be connected in any suitable manner. In one example, the layers of the panel(s) **10** may be laminated together, connected via an adhesive, connected via one or more connectors, and/or otherwise secured with respect to one another in one or more other suitable manners.

[0111] FIGS. **12-16** depict the panel system **2** with the panel **10** similar to that depicted in FIG. **9-11**, where the panel system **2** is secured relative to a surface of a wall panel **23** of the wall system **14** in the interior space **52** defined by the wall system **14**. Although the panel system **2** is depicted as being located in a corner of the wall system **14**, this is not required and the panel system **2** may be located along additional and/or alternative portions of the wall system **14**. As depicted in FIGS. **12-16**, the panel **10** may be configured as a movable ballistic resistant slider panel.

[0112] FIG. **12** depicts the panel **10** in a closed position. The broken lines in FIG. **12** are phantom lines that indicate a position of the panel **10** when the panel **10** is in an opened and/or protection position. Although the opened position is described as being the protecting position of the panel **10**, it is contemplated that the closed position of the panel **10** may also or alternatively be a protecting position.

[0113] The panel **10** may have any suitable dimensions. For example, the panel **10** may be configured to at least partially block an opening in a wall structure when in the opened position and fit at least partially within or along a wall system when in the closed position.

[0114] As depicted in FIG. **12**, the panel **10** may be connected to the end panel **32** and the handle **34** may be connected to one or both of the end panel **32** and the panel **10**. The handle **34** may be

utilized to facilitate moving the panel **10** between the closed position and the opened position. The handle **34** and/or the end panel **32** may be connected to the panel **10** using a connector **38**. The connector **38** may be and/or may include any suitable connector component(s), as discussed herein.
[0115] The panel system **2** depicted in FIG. **12** may include one or more housing panels **74** forming a housing **76**, where the housing **76** may house the panel **10** when the panel **10** is in a closed position, may connect to the panel **10**, and/or have an exterior surface facing a space to be the interior space **52**. The housing panels **74** may take on any suitable configuration for covering the panel **10** (e.g., covering the panel(s) **10** entirely or at least partially), for facilitating a connection between the wall system **14** and the panel system **2**, and/or for providing decorative and/or functions features to the interior space **52**. In some cases, the particular configuration of the housing panels **74** may be at least partially dictated by decorative and/or functional requirements for the interior space **52**, but this is not required. Alternatively or additionally, the housing panels **74** may be configured to create a ballistic resistant housing **76**.
[0116] The housing panels **74** may be configured to form a box around the panel(s) **10** to create a housing (e.g., the housing **76** and/or other suitable housing) that surrounds the panel(s) **10** while the panel(s) **10** are in the closed position. In such a configuration, the housing panels **74** may interact with the end panel **32** to fully enclose and/or conceal the panel(s) **10**. In some cases, the housing panels **74** may abut or otherwise interact with one or more walls of a wall system (e.g., the wall system **14** and/or other suitable wall system) to form a housing that surrounds the panel(s) **10** while the panel(s) **10** are in the closed position.
[0117] In instances when the housing panels **74** form at least part of the housing **76**, the housing **76** may be configured to be stationary relative to a wall system. Alternatively or additionally, the housing **76** may be configured to be movable (e.g., on wheels, slides, etc.) relative to a wall system.
[0118] The housing panels **74** may be formed from one or more suitable materials for covering the panel **10**, for connecting to the panel **10**, for connecting to the wall system, and/or for one or more other suitable purposes. Example suitable materials include, but are not limited to, metal, polymer, wood, plywood, natural fibers, ballistic resistant materials, decorative materials, functional materials, etc. In one example, the housing panels **74** may be at least partially or entirely formed from decorative materials (e.g., a finished wood material, etc.) and/or functional features (e.g., a white board material, chalkboard material, pin board material, etc.).
[0119] Although FIG. **12** depicts the space **40** between the panel **10** and the housing panel **74**, one or more features may be located therebetween. In some cases, a connection feature connecting the panel **10** to the support **36** may be in the space **40**, but this is not required.
[0120] Although not required, when installing the panel system **2** along the wall system **14**, one or more ballistic resistant wall panels **44** may be secured to a wall panel of the wall system **14**. In one example, the ballistic resistant wall panel **44** may be secured to a wall panel facing the space **50** exterior to the space **52** intended to be protected by the panel system **2**, but this is not required.
[0121] FIG. **13** depicts a side plan view of the illustrative panel system **2** secured with respect to the wall system **14** extending between the floor **46** and the ceiling **48**. The panel system **2** may be secured to the wall system **14** in any suitable manner. As depicted in FIG. **13**, the panel system **2** may be secured to the wall system **14** using an attachment angle **72** and one or more fasteners and/or connectors configured to secure the attachment angle **72** to the housing panel **74** and/or the wall system **14**. Other suitable configurations are contemplated for securing the panel system **2** to the wall system **14**.
[0122] FIG. **14** depicts an illustrative end view of the panel system **2** secured to a surface of the wall system **14** extending between the floor **46** and the ceiling **48**. As depicted in FIG. **14**, the end panel **32** of the panel system **2** may extend beyond an opening between the support **36** and the wall system **14** that receives at least a portion of the panel system **2** (e.g., a portion of the panel **10**). Alternatively or additionally, at least a portion of the end panel **32** may be configured to fit within the opening between the housing panel **74** and the wall system **14** so as to have a surface flush with

an outer surface of the wall system **14** and/or the support **36** when the panel system **2** is in the closed position.

[0123] FIG. **15** depicts an illustrative end view of the panel system **2** secured along the wall system **14** extending between the floor **46** and the ceiling **48**, where the end panel **32** (shown in broken phantom lines) of the panel system **2** is removed to depict the gap **42** between wall system **14** and the housing panel **74**. As depicted in FIG. **15**, the panel **10** may be connected to or mounted to the wall system **14** with one or more of the mounts (e.g., mounts **15**, such as the connector systems **56**, and/or other suitable mounts), as discussed herein. As depicted in FIG. **15**, the panel system **2** may include three (3) connector systems **56**, but other suitable numbers of connector systems **56** may be utilized as needed to support the panel **10** in the closed position, the opened position, and during movement therebetween.

[0124] Although the connector system **56** is depicted as being secured to the wall system **14** and the panel **10** using screws, nuts, and bolts, other connector components may be utilized as desired. Further, although the screws, nuts, and bolts are viewable in FIG. **15** for descriptive purposes, these components may not be viewable from the view depicted in FIG. **15**.

[0125] FIG. **15** depicts an attachment angle **72** extending between the housing panels **74**. In some cases the attachment angle **72** may be secured to adjacent housing panels **74** to support and stabilize the housing **76**, but this is not required. The attachment angle **72** may be secured to the housing panels **74** in any suitable manner, including those discussed herein.

[0126] FIG. **16** depicts details of the illustrative connections between the panel **10**, the end panel **32**, and the handle **34**, along with an illustrative configuration of the panel **10**. Although portions of screws, nuts, and/or bolts are depicted in FIG. **16** for descriptive purposes, certain portions of the depicted screws, nuts, and/or bolts depicted may not be viewable from the view of FIG. **16**.

[0127] As depicted in FIG. **16**, the connector **38** may include the bracket **60**, the bolt **62**, and the nut **64** connecting the bracket **60** to the panel **10**, and the screw **66** connecting the bracket **60** to the end panel **32**. Further, a screw **65** may be utilized to connect the handle **34** to the end panel **32**, but other connector configurations and/or components are contemplated.

[0128] Further, although the bracket **60** is depicted in FIG. **16** as a spacer between the end panel **32** and the housing panel **74**, this is not required, and the bracket **60** may be configured such that the end panel **32** contacts housing panel **74**. Other suitable configurations of the connector **38** and the components thereof are contemplated.

[0129] As depicted in FIG. **16**, the panel **10** may be configured from the ballistic resistant layer **68** (e.g., formed from the ballistic resistant material **30** and/or other suitable ballistic resistant core material), an outer layer **70** along one surface of the ballistic resistant layer **68**, and another outer layer **70** along another surface of the ballistic resistant layer **68**. When connected to the bracket **60**, the bolt **62** may extend through one or more of the outer layer(s) **70** and the ballistic resistant layer **68** and connected to the nut **64** to create a tight connection between the panel **10** and the bracket **60**. Similar to as discussed with respect to FIGS. **9-11**, the panel **10** may include two ballistic resistant layers **68**, three ballistic resistant layers **68**, and/or other suitable numbers of ballistic resistant layers, as desired.

[0130] FIGS. **17-22** depict the panel system **2** with panels **10** similar to that depicted in FIGS. **12-16**, where the panel system **2** is secured relative to a surface of a wall panel **23** of the wall system **14** in the interior space **52** defined by the wall system **14** and includes a first panel **10***a* (e.g., a first sub-panel) and a second panel **10***b* (e.g., a second sub-panel). Although the panel system **2** is depicted as being located in a corner of the wall system **14**, this is not required and the panel system **2** may be located along additional and/or alternative portions of the wall system **14**. As depicted in FIGS. **17-21**, the panels **10** may be configured as movable ballistic resistant slider panels.

[0131] FIG. **17** depicts the panels **10** in a closed position. FIG. **18** depicts the panels **10** in an opened and/or protection position. Although the opened position is described as being the

protecting position of the panel **10**, it is contemplated that the closed position of the panel **10** may also or alternatively be a protecting position.

[0132] The panels **10** may have any suitable dimensions. For example, the panels **10** may be configured to at least partially block an opening in a wall structure when in the opened position and fit at least partially within or along a wall system and/or housing when in the closed position, but this is not required.

[0133] As depicted in FIGS. **17** and **18**, the second panel **10***b* may be connected to the end panel **32**, and the handle **34** may be connected to one or both of the end panel **32** and the second panel **10***b*. The handle **34** may be utilized to facilitate moving one or both of the first panel **10***a* and the second panel **10***b* between the closed position and the fully opened position, as discussed herein.

[0134] The panel system **2** depicted in FIGS. **17** and **18** may include one or more housing panels **74** forming a housing **76**, where the housing **76** may house the first and second panels **10***a*, **10***b* when the first and second panels **10***a*, **10***b* are in the closed position, may connect to the panel **10**, and/or may have an exterior surface facing the interior space **52**. The housing panels **74** may take on any suitable configuration for covering the first and second panel **10***a*, **10***b*, for facilitating a connection between the wall system **14** and the panel system **2**, and/or for providing decorative and/or functional features in the interior space **52**. In some cases, the particular configuration of the housing panels **74** may be at least partially dictated by decorative and/or functional requirements for the interior space **52**, but this is not required. The housing panels **74** may be formed from one or more suitable materials for covering the first and second panels **10***a*, **10***b*, for connecting to the first and second panels **10***a*, **10***b*, for connecting to the wall system **14**, and/or for one or more other suitable purposes, as discussed herein.

[0135] Although not required, when installing the panel system **2** along the wall system **14**, one or more ballistic resistant wall panels **44** may be secured to a wall panel of the wall system **14**. In one example, the ballistic resistant wall panel **44** may be secured to a wall panel facing the space **50** exterior to the space **52** intended to be protected by the panel system **2**, but this is not required.

[0136] FIGS. **17** and **18** depict connecting features **56** between the first panel **10***a* and the ballistic resistant wall panel **44**, when included as in FIGS. **17** and **18**, and/or the wall system **14**. Further, connecting features **56** may connect the first panel **10***a* to the second panel **10***b*. As depicted in FIG. **18**, the connecting features **56** may facilitate linear movement of the first panel **10***a* and the second panel **10***b* with respect to one another and with respect to the wall system **14**. The connecting features **56** and/or other suitable mounts may facilitate other movement of the first and second panels **10***a*, **10***b*, but this is not required.

[0137] One or more wheel systems **78** may be connected to the first panel **10***a* and/or the second panel **10***b*. As depicted in FIGS. **17** and **18**, the wheel systems **78** may be connected to second panel **10***b* to support the second panel **10***b* when in the opened position and/or to facilitate movement of the first and second panels **10***a*, **10***b*. Although not depicted in the Figures, the first panel **10***a* may include one or more wheel systems **78** and/or other suitable configurations of the panel system **2** may include wheel systems **78** and/or other suitable wheel configurations.

[0138] The wheel system **78** may include a wheel **80** and a wheel bracket **82**, among other suitable components. The wheel **80** may be configured to facilitate at least linear movement of the second panel **10***b* and support the second panel **10***b* when the second panel **10***b* is in the opened position.

[0139] FIG. **19** depicts a side plan view of the illustrative panel system **2** secured with respect to the wall system **14** extending between the floor **46** and the ceiling **48**, where the panels **10** (e.g., the first panel **10***a* and the second panel **10***b*) are in the fully opened position. The connector systems **56** connecting the first panel **10***a* and the second panel **10***b* are depicted in FIG. **19** (e.g., where the connector systems **56** on the second panel **10***b* are shown in broken, phantom lines, but are not viewable in the view depicted in FIG. **19**).

[0140] The panel system **2** may be secured to the wall system **14** in any suitable manner. As depicted in FIG. **19**, the panel system **2** may be secured to the wall system **14** using an attachment

angle **72** and one or more fasteners and/or connectors configured to secure the attachment angle **72** to the housing panel **74** and/or the wall system **14**. Other suitable configurations are contemplated for securing the panel system **2** to the wall system **14**.

[0141] FIG. **20** depicts an illustrative end view of the panel system **2** secured to a surface of the wall system **14** extending between the floor **46** and the ceiling **48**. As depicted in FIG. **20**, the end panel **32** of the panel system **2** may extend beyond an opening between the housing panel **74** and the wall system **14** that receives at least portion of the panel system **2** (e.g., a portion of the panels **10**). Alternatively or additionally, at least a portion of the end panel **32** may be configured to fit within the opening between the housing panel **74** and the wall system **14** so as to have a surface flush with an outer surface of the wall system **14** and/or the housing panel **74** when the panel system **2** is in the closed position.

[0142] FIG. **21** depicts an illustrative end view of the panel system **2** secured along the wall system **14** extending between the floor **46** and the ceiling **48**, where the end panel **32** (shown in broken lines) of the panel system **2** is removed to depict the gap **42** between wall system **14** and the housing panel **74**. As depicted in FIG. **21**, the first panel **10***a* may be connected to the wall system **14** (e.g., via the ballistic resistant wall panel **44**) with one or more of the connector systems **56**, as discussed herein. As depicted in FIG. **21**, the panel system **2** may include three (3) connector systems **56** per panel **10**, but other suitable numbers of connector systems **56** may be utilized as needed to support the panels **10** in the closed position, the opened position, and during movement therebetween.

[0143] Although the connector system **56** is depicted as being secured to the wall system **14** and the panels **10** using screws, nuts, and bolts, other connector components may be utilized as desired. Further, although the screws, nuts, and bolts are viewable in FIG. **21** for descriptive purposes, these components may not be viewable from the view depicted in FIG. **21**.

[0144] Similar to as depicted in FIG. **15**, FIG. **21** depicts an attachment angle **72** extending between housing panels **74**. In some cases, the attachment angle **72** may be secured to adjacent housing panels **74** to support and stabilize the housing **76**, but this is not required. The attachment angle **72** may be secured to the housing panels **74** in any suitable manner, including those discussed herein.

[0145] FIG. **22** depicts details of the illustrative connections between the panel **10** (e.g., the second panel **10***b*), the end panel **32**, and the handle **34**, along with an illustrative configuration of the panels **10** (e.g., the first panel **10***a* and the second panel **10***b*). Although portions of screws, nuts, and/or bolts are depicted in FIG. **22** for descriptive purposes, certain portions of the depicted screws, nuts, and/or bolts depicted may not be viewable from the view of FIG. **22**.

[0146] As depicted in FIG. **22**, the connector **38** may include the bracket **60**, the bolt **62** and the nut **64** connecting the bracket **60** to the panel **10**, and the screw **66** connecting the bracket **60** to the end panel **32**. Further, a screw **65** may be utilized to connect the handle **34** to the end panel **32**, but other connector configurations and/or components are contemplated.

[0147] As depicted FIG. **22**, the first panel **10***a* and/or the second panel **10***b* may be configured from the ballistic resistant layer **68** (e.g., formed from the ballistic resistant material **30** and/or other suitable ballistic resistant core material), an outer layer **70** along one surface of the ballistic resistant layer **68**, and another outer layer **70** along another surface of the ballistic resistant layer **68**. When connected to the bracket **60**, the bolt **62** may extend through one or more of the outer layer(s) **70** and the ballistic resistant layer **68** and connected to the nut **64** to create a tight connection between the panel **10** and the bracket **60**. Similar to as discussed with respect to FIGS. **9-11**, the first panel **10***a* and/or the second panel **10***b* may include two ballistic resistant layers **68**, three ballistic resistant layers **68**, and/or other suitable numbers of ballistic resistant layers, as desired.

[0148] FIGS. **23-28** schematically depict the panel system **2** with a plurality of panels **10** connected to one another. The plurality of panels **10** may be stored in a closed position within the housing **76**

at least partially defined by the housing panels **74** and used in an opened position to divide a space or a room **88** into at least two spaces and/or protect the room **88** or portion of the room **88** from an attacker, a security risk, a weather risk, etc.

[0149] The housing **76** may be at least partially (e.g., as depicted in FIGS. **23-25**) or entirely defined by the housing panels **74** discussed herein. In some cases, the housing **76** may be at least partially defined by the wall system **10**, but this is not required. Further, the housing **76** may include one or more doors **92**.

[0150] The door(s) **92** may include, and/or have attached thereto, one or more handles **34**. Applying a force to the handle **34** may facilitate opening or closing the door(s) **92**. The handle **34** may be utilized to facilitate moving the door(s) **92** between a closed position and an opened position. In one example, a force may be applied to the handle **34** in a direction that is at least partially in a desired direction of movement of the door(s) **92** to cause movement of the door(s) **92** in the desired direction.

[0151] The panels **10** may be connected to one another via mounts **15** and/or other suitable connectors. In some cases, the mounts **15** may be hinges and/or other suitable mounts configured to allow the panels to pivot with respect to an adjacent panel **10**. When in an opened position and to facilitate moving the panels between closed and opened positions, the panels **10** may slide along a ceiling track **90** (shown in broken, phantom lines for descriptive purposes), a floor track, and/or other guide. Alternatively or additionally to the mounts **15** being hinges, the panels **10** may be connected using slide system connectors (e.g., the connectors **56** and/or other suitable slide systems), flexible tape or fabric, etc.

[0152] The panels **10** may have any suitable dimensions. For example, the panels **10** may be configured to, when used together, at least divide the room **88** into two or more spaces. In one example, the panels **10** may have dimension suitable for extending across the room **88** from the housing **76** or a first wall panel **23** of the wall system **14** to a second wall panel **23** of the wall system **14** spaced from the housing **76** and/or the first wall panel **23**, but this is not required.

[0153] The panel(s) **10** may include, and/or may have attached thereto, one or more handles **34**. Applying a force to the handle **34** may facilitate opening and/or closing the panels **10**. The handle **34** may be utilized to facilitate moving the panels **10** between a closed position and an opened position. In one example, a force may be applied to the handle **34** in a direction that is at least partially in a desired direction of movement of the panels **10** to cause movement of the panels **10** in the desired direction.

[0154] In one example of a handle **34** configuration in the panels **10** of the panel system **2** depicted in FIGS. **23-28**, the handle **34** may extend from an outer surface of a lead panel **10** and applying a force on the panels **10** at least partially in the general direction of arrow A (e.g., a direction substantially parallel to a length of the ceiling track **90**) may cause movement of the panels **10** in the direction of arrow A. Other configurations and/or locations of the handle **34** with respect to the panels **10** are contemplated.

[0155] As depicted in FIG. **23**, the panels **10** are located in an interior space **66** within the housing **76** with the door **92** closed and engaging a door catch **94** (e.g., any suitable door catching structure, such as a latch, magnet, etc., located on the wall system **14**, the door panels **74**, the door **92**, and/or located elsewhere and configured to engage a door in a closed position, which may or may not include or be used with a suitable lock) such that the panels **10** are in a fully closed position. The panels **10** may be stored in the position depicted in FIG. **23** when they are not needed for dividing the room **88** and/or securing a portion of the room **88** from an attacker or attack, security risk, weather risk, etc.

[0156] FIG. **24** depicts the panels **10** of the panel system **2** in an opened position between a fully closed position and a fully opened position. When moving the panels **10** to the opened position, the door **92** may be opened and pivoted about one or more door hinges **98** such that the panels **10** may be removed from the interior space **96** within the housing **76**. To adjust the panel system **2** to an

opened position, a force at least partially in the direction of arrow A may be applied to the handle **34** attached to or on a lead or front panel **10**, such that the panels **10** pivot about the mounts **115** and are pulled out of the housing **76** along the ceiling track **90** or other suitable track. Other techniques for removing the panels **10** from the housing **76** and/or guiding the panels **10** to the opened position are contemplated.

[0157] FIG. **25** depicts the panels **10** of the panel system **2** in the fully opened position extending across the room **88**. Although not depicted, when in the fully opened position, the panels **10** may be locked in place using one or more lock components. Example lock components include, but are not limited to, floor bolts (e.g., the floor bolt **16** and/or other suitable floor bolts), ceiling bolts, pad locks, cam locks, knob locks, deadbolts, mortise locks, etc.

[0158] To adjust the panels **10** of the panel system **2** from the fully opened position to the closed position, the actions depicted in and/or described with respect to FIGS. **23-25** may be substantially reversed. For example, applying a force to the handle **34** on or extending from the panel **10** at least partially in a direction substantially opposite of the direction of arrow A may cause the panels to pivot about the mounts **15** and move toward the housing **76**.

[0159] FIG. **26** schematically depicts a side plan view of the illustrative panel system **2** in the fully opened position extending out of the housing **76** with the door **92** pivoted open about the door hinges **98**. The handle **34** on the panel **10** and every other mount **15** (e.g., a continuous hinge, as depicted, and/or other suitable mount) are depicted in broken, phantom lines for descriptive purposes.

[0160] In some cases, one or more of the panels **10** of the panel system **2** may include an engagement system **100** configured to engage the ceiling track **90** (shown in broken, phantom lines for descriptive purposes as the ceiling track may be hidden from view within the space **88**) and/or other suitable tracks. Example engagement systems **100** include, but are not limited to, roller systems, slider systems, etc. As depicted in FIG. **26**, the engagement system **100** may be a roller system having one or more rollers or wheels **102** connected to an attachment bar **104** connected to a bracket **106** secured to an associated panel **10**. The bracket **106** may be secured to the associated panel **10** in any suitable manner including, but not limited to, a screw connection, an adhesive connection, and/or other suitable connection. Such a configuration of the engagement system **100** and the ceiling track **90** may facilitate using ballistic resistant materials in the panel system **2** due to the weight of such materials.

[0161] In operation, the rollers or wheels **102** are configured to travel linearly along the ceiling track **90** and the panels **10** are configured to pivot with respect to the rollers or wheels **102**. To facilitate the linear movement of the rollers or wheels **102** and the pivoting of the panels **10**, the attachment bar **104** may be configured to pivot with respect to one of the roller or wheel **102** and the panel **10** and secured with respect to the other of the wheel **102** and the panel. In one example, the attachment bar **104** may be secured with respect to the panel **10** and configured to pivot with respect to the wheel **102**, but this configuration is not required. Alternatively, the roller or wheel **102** may be secured relative to the panel **10** and the roller or wheel **102** may be configured to pivot within the ceiling track **90** and/or other suitable track.

[0162] FIG. **27** schematically depicts an illustrative end view of the panel system **2** in a closed position within the interior space **96** of the housing **76**, where the door **92** is in the opened position. When the panel system **2** is in a closed configuration, the wheels **102** of the engagement systems **100** may be positioned adjacent one another in the ceiling track **90** (e.g., a U or C shaped channel and/or other suitable track) with the panels **10** rotated to fit within the housing opening **96** in the housing **76**. As shown in FIG. **27**, a ballistic resistant panel **44** has been positioned and/or secured within the housing **96**.

[0163] The panels **10** may be connected to the track **90** in a manner that leaves a space between a bottom edge **11** of the panels **10** and the floor **46**. In other suitable configurations, the panels **10** may extend to the floor **46**, the panels **10** may include an engagement system configured to engage

a floor track, and/or the panels **10** may include one or more other features to facilitate movement of the panels **10** between opened and closed positions and protect a space in the room **88** from one or more risks.

[0164] FIG. **28** schematically depicts sectional details of the illustrative connections between the panels **10**, along with an illustrative configuration of the panels **10**. Although portions of screws and/or nuts are depicted in FIG. **28** for descriptive purposes, certain portions of the depicted screws and/or nuts depicted may not be viewable from the view of FIG. **28**.

[0165] As depicted in FIG. **28**, the mounts **15** may have a first portion **15***a* secured or otherwise connected to the panels **10** with a screw **108** extending through the panel **10** and a nut **110** engaging the screw **108** and a second portion **15***b* similarly secured to an adjacent panel **10**. The mounts **15** may have a hinge configuration and may be continuous hinges extending at least a majority of a height of the panels **10**, but this is not required. When the mount **15** is or includes a continuous hinge, the mount **15** may be connected to the panels **10** at two or more locations in the manner discussed herein. Other suitable mounts **15** are contemplated and other suitable mount features for mounting the mounts **15** are contemplated.

[0166] As depicted FIG. **28**, the panels **10** may be configured from the ballistic resistant layer **68** (e.g., formed from the ballistic resistant material **30** and/or other suitable ballistic resistant core material), an outer layer **70** along one surface of the ballistic resistant layer **68**, and another outer layer **70** along another surface of the ballistic resistant layer **68**. When connected to the mount **15**, the screw **108** may extend through one or more of the outer layer(s) **70** and the ballistic resistant layer **68** and connected to the nut **110** to create a tight connection between the panel **10** and the mount **15**. Similar to as discussed with respect to FIGS. **9-11**, the panels **10** may include two ballistic resistant layers **68**, three ballistic resistant layers **68**, and/or other suitable numbers of ballistic resistant layers, as desired.

[0167] In one example use of the panel system **2**, the panel(s) **10** may be in the closed position (e.g., within a housing and/or in a functional or decorative position within a space). An attacker risk may be identified (e.g., a known attacker identified and/or an expected attacker identified) at one or more locations along a wall system (e.g., the wall system **14** and/or other suitable wall system). The attacker risk may be identified in any suitable manner including, but not limited to, an alarm, an alert, a mobile device update/alert/alarm, a news story, an eye witness, etc. In response to identifying the attacker risk, a position of the panel(s) **10** may be adjusted from a non-securing position (e.g., a closed position) spaced from one or more locations along the wall system or between wall systems through which an attacker may be expected to attack to a securing position (e.g., an opened position) covering the one or more locations along the wall system or between the wall systems through which the attacker may be expected to attack a space. In some cases, the panel(s) **10** may be locked in the securing position, but this is not required.

[0168] Further, when the panel system **2** is not in-use securing a room and/or at other suitable times, one or more outer surfaces thereof may be functional surfaces with which users may interact. In one example, an outer surface of the panel system **2** (e.g., an outer surface of the panel **10** and/or other suitable surfaces) may be a white board with which a user may be able to interact by drawing and/or writing thereon.

[0169] Those skilled in the art will recognize that the present disclosure may be manifested in a variety of forms other than the specific embodiments described and contemplated herein. For instance, as described herein, various embodiments include one or more modules described as performing various functions. However, other embodiments may include additional modules that split the described functions up over more modules than that described herein. Additionally, other embodiments may consolidate the described functions into fewer modules.

[0170] Although various features may have been described with respect to less than all embodiments, this disclosure contemplates that those features may be included on any embodiment. Further, although the embodiments described herein may have omitted some

combinations of the various described features, this disclosure contemplates embodiments that include any combination of each described feature. Accordingly, departure in form and detail may be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the present disclosure as described in the appended claims.

Claims

1. A ballistic resistant panel system comprising: a panel, the panel comprising: a ballistic resistant layer; and an outer layer secured to at least one side of the ballistic resistant layer; and a pivot mount connected to the panel and configured to secure the panel with respect to a wall system and facilitate selective movement of the panel about the pivot mount and relative to the wall system.
2. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, further comprising: a lock secured to the panel and configured to lock the panel at a location relative to the wall system.
3. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, further comprising: one or more wheels secured to the panel to facilitate the movement of the panel relative to the wall system.
4. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, wherein the pivot mount includes one or more hinge secured to the panel and securable to the wall system.
5. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 4, wherein the one or more hinge comprises one or both of a continuous geared hinge and a load bearing ball bearing hinge.
6. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, wherein the pivot mount extends continuously along a height of the panel.
7. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, further comprising: a header panel configured to couple with the pivot mount and the wall system.
8. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, further comprising: a wall stiffener configured to couple with the pivot mount and the wall system.
9. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, wherein the panel has a height and width configured to cover a doorway along the wall system.
10. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, wherein the panel has a height and width configured to cover a window along the wall system.
11. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, wherein the outer layer secured to at least one side of the ballistic resistant layer comprises a first outer layer secured to a first side of the ballistic resistant layer and a second outer layer secured to a second side of the ballistic resistant layer.
12. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 11, wherein the first outer layer has a surface forming one or more of a white board surface, a chalkboard surface, a magnetic surface, a cork board surface, and a glass surface.
13. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, further comprising: an edge wrap extending around a surface of the ballistic resistant layer and a surface of the outer layer.
14. The ballistic resistant panel system of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is a finished surface layer configured from white board material.
15. A method of securing an opening in a wall system, the method comprising: identifying an attacker risk at one or more locations along the wall system; and adjusting a position of a ballistic resistant panel from a non-securing position spaced from the one or more locations along the wall system to a securing position covering the one or more locations along the wall system.
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising: locking the ballistic resistant panel in the securing position.
17. The method of claim 15, further comprising: interacting with an outer surface of the ballistic resistant panel when the ballistic resistant panel is in the non-securing position.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein the one or more locations along the wall system comprise a window.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein the ballistic resistant panel is mounted to a ceiling adjacent

the wall system.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the ballistic resistant panel is mounted to the wall system.