

Team Greengales

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The use of Biomimicry that most stood out to me was the creation of light reflecting coating that mimicked butterfly wings. Despite the difficulty, the light reflective coating was made without toxic chemicals and dyes. The coating was also able to reflect both infrared and UV waves! Curiously, many butterfly wings and peacock feathers use tiny nanostructures to refract and eventually reflect light instead of direct color. The innovators at Cyprus Materials did the same, they were able to mimic these nano-structures and turn it into an adhesive coating that refracts light!

My perspective on nature has changed because I now see it as something to draw inspiration from rather than to move beyond. Investigating biomimicry has shown me that we need to be looking for solutions within nature not thinking ourselves more advanced than it. Sometimes, nature has everything worked out, we just need to be smart enough to know where to look.

While I am unsure as to how these innovative bio-mimicking technologies can be applied on campus where I attend school, I would definitely like to see more aspects of our school life aligned with nature. More natural or natural-inspired elements inside the building could help it seem to be a more inviting and open space.

<https://asknature.org/innovation/light-reflecting-coating-inspired-by-butterfly-wings/>