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We identify the class of C^* -algebras for which openness of projections is stable under Murray-von Neumann equivalence. The C^* -algebras for which all projections in their second duals are open are examples of such C^* -algebras, and they are precisely those C^* -algebras which are ideals in their second duals. We also show that any C^* -algebra for which the closure of every open projection in its second dual is again open has the largest essential ideal which is a c_0 -direct sum of AW^* -algebras. (Received September 24, 2018)