

INSIDE ...

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Decorative Glass Magazine™

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ON THE COVER



The champagne bar at Pickwick & Frolic Restaurant in Cleveland features glass artist John Blazy's Crystal Sea Red Dichrolam on ¼-inch tempered glass, lit from underneath, flanked by drink rails in Black Sea Dichrolam.

Photo by John Blazy.

Turn to page 10 to read more.



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10 Stained Glass on Steroids

Whether the world's ready or not, John Blazy is continuing to push the limits of what's possible with glass, art and architecture.



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Glass floors and stairways can add visual interest and aesthetics, but there are several considerations to take into account when designing such a project.

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Take a look at some of the decorative glass products that will be featured at the upcoming GlassBuild America.



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From the Editor

Making an Impact



Ellen Rogers
Editor of Decorative Glass magazine.

Everyone has a story to tell—you just have to ask the right questions to find that story. It's what being a journalist is all about and it's one of the best parts about my job: I have the opportunity to meet with and talk with so many interesting people, from glass artists to designers and architects. They are all unique and there's a story behind them all.

Recently, I had the opportunity to hear artist John Blazy's story when I

traveled to his studio in Parma, Ohio. I had discovered his website while doing a general search on art, glass, architecture. I clicked on it and was intrigued by all of the colors, styles, designs and textures he was creating with glass. What I later learned during our visit is that the textured glass he creates is actually smooth to the touch. The texture is laminated between the lites of glass. Which might make you wonder, how's he do it? That's a closely guarded secret, but definitely one that results in a "wow" effect. Check out the feature starting on page 10 to read more about him.

The "wow" effect is what art glass and decorative glass is really all about; it's what everyone seems to be after these days. Luckily, glass can deliver the "wow." Consider glass floors and stairs (*read more starting on page 14*). I know for some people it's still hard to imagine that. You mean I can actually walk on glass and it will not break? I have heard that question more than once. The answer is yes, you can, thanks to the advancements in technology and engineering. Take a look at many of the Apple stores as an example of how glass is being used in stairs and floors. If you've not yet ventured into one of the stores, definitely find one. Having visited the one on Chicago's Michigan Avenue, I can tell you it's always crowded with both tourists and shoppers; and they all leave wowed by the glass.

As you read through the pages of this issue pay close attention to the characteristics and details portrayed in the images of all the different decorative glass products. Like John Blazy who finds inspiration from light and water, all of the artists creating these decorative glass products are inspired by what they find special. And each work of art has a story behind it. As always, I would love to hear your decorative glass stories. E-mail them to me at erogers@glass.com.



John Blazy's decorative glass can be seen in a range of applications, including the TriPoint Medical Center in Concord, Ohio, which features Dichrolam red insulating glass units.



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Decorative Discussions

Thinking Holistically

How to Be Green With Decorative Glass Products



By Kris Vockler

Kris Vockler is vice president of ICD High Performance Coatings in Vancouver, Wash., and chair of the GANA decorative division. Ms. Vockler's opinions are solely her own and not necessarily those of this magazine.

The Decorative Division of the Glass Association of North America (GANA) will soon release a free document that illustrates the many ways that decorative glazing promotes a green environment in buildings. Titled "White Paper on the Relevance of Decorative Glass Products to the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Rating System," this document shows how relevant decorative glass is in today's green movement and how it can help a project earn LEED™ Version 3 certification points.

Credit Possibilities

First, here is a list of the possible credits you can earn under LEED with decorative glazing:

- Energy and Atmosphere, EA Credit 1: Optimize Energy Performance;
- Materials and Resources, MR Credit 4.1: Recycled Content – 10 percent;
- Materials and Resources, MR Credit 4.2: Recycled Content – 20 percent;
- Indoor Environmental Quality, IEQ Credit 6.1: Controllability of Systems: Lighting;
- Indoor Environmental Quality, IEQ Credit 8.1: Daylight and Views: Daylight 75 percent of Spaces;
- Indoor Environmental Quality, IEQ Credit 8.2: Daylight and Views: Views for 90 percent of Spaces;
- Indoor Environmental Quality, IEQ Credit 9: Enhanced Acoustical Performance;

- Innovation in Design, ID Credit 1: Innovation in Design;
- Indoor Environmental Quality, IEQ Credit 4.2: Low Emitting Materials: Paints and Coatings; and
- Regional Priority, RP Credit 1: Regional Priority.

ministers LEED certification) doesn't take into account how green the processes are at the plants where the glass was manufactured/fabricated. So, while that same coating used on the glass may be a "no-VOC" emitting product once the fabrication process is complete, how green was

“ Architects and designers have the power and responsibility to specify products that will offer a holistic look at the process. Choose products that do not emit VOCs or heavy metals during the manufacturing stage regardless of whether they earn LEED credits. ”

Beginning to End

Most project managers will first look at what decorative glass (in its finished form) can do for their projects aesthetically. The green aspect, though, adds a greater benefit to the project, from both appearances as well the production process.

There are many different ways to manufacture decorative glass, and one consideration is whether a project can earn LEED points as a result of those processes. By choosing decorative glass products that offer such points, certification can become easier (which is great!). The ability to determine which products offer such benefits, though, can be a process itself.

Here's an example: let's say that the finished product utilizes a coating on the glass that, after being cured, offers no volatiles once installed. This should allow you to claim the credit for Low Emitting Materials. But here's the real question: the United States Green Building Council (USGBC, the organization that ad-

the product during the coating's application stage? Can the finished product truly be considered green if its entire manufacturing process isn't environmentally friendly?

Many coatings and products used on glass and other products today are not green during the fabrication stage, but when cured they offer no hazard to humans. But let's not forget about our manufacturing/fabrication plants. Architects and designers have the power and responsibility to specify products that will offer a holistic look at the process. Choose products that do not emit VOCs or heavy metals during the manufacturing stage regardless of whether they earn LEED credits.

Here are some possible issues to consider when looking for green or sustainable products:

- Are the coatings, paints or other products used on the glass environmentally friendly themselves?
- How low is the VOC rating for a coating or paint, and what impact


will it have on the people working in those plants? Remember, this is a 50/50 partnership and fabricators should be looking for greener alternatives that perform the same as the less environmentally friendly products; architects and designers must be pushing for greener products that perform the same, too.

- Are the products free of heavy metals, isocyanate, formaldehyde, etc?
- If a chemical in the process of creating the decorative glazing product is hazardous, choose fabricators with a history of ensuring safety and proper disposal of wastes. Reputa-

tion is important to many and tells much about a company.

Sustainable Thinking

As we evolve into a more environmentally friendly world, how we manufacture products should change and become greener, too. We have already seen manufacturers in the glass industry moving in this direction, which bodes well for all of us. While not every product can be made purely green or sustainable today, being more conscious of how we do things will at least get us closer to the goal of being environmentally friendly throughout the process.

Many of today's glass plants, most of which are members of GANA, have changed their manufacturing processes to be healthier for their employees and communities. We need to recognize this and reward it by continually scrutinizing the current chain of products for today's modern buildings. Why pick a product that was hazardous and full of VOCs while it was being manufactured just because it is no longer hazardous once installed? Thinking green and sustainable means to think holistically. Always remember the saying: "Think globally, act locally." 

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Decorative News

Decorative Glass Makes a Mark on NeoCon World's Trade Fair

Taking place this past summer at Chicago's Merchandise Mart, the NeoCon World's Trade Fair offered products, including decorative glass, for the design and management of the built environment.

Digital printing technologies were the big push from several of the glass companies.



Companies, including Skyline Design, exhibited new decorative glass products during NeoCon.

Howard Houseapple, the national accounts manager for Arch Deco Glass, says he got a lot of questions, feedback and interest in their Visual™ printed glass. He explained Arch was promoting how decorative glass is not just for commercial applications, but residential, too.

"In homes you can use it in bars, countertops back-splashes ... we're showing that there are many different options," says Houseapple.

J.E. Berkowitz, a licensed fabricator of DuPont's SentryGlas® Expressions™ decorative interlayer technology, promoted the combination of SentryGlas Expressions with Starphire glass because of "the crisp color combination in which it results," explained Mike Nicklas, architectural sales and marketing manager.

"Designers are looking for ways to create unique applications and to create a different feeling [for the look of] the office environment. This is a product that can help them do that," Nicklas added.

Some companies also featured their digital, direct-to-glass printing technologies. General Glass International recently introduced Alice™, which prints custom, multi-colored designs right onto the glass. The company's Steven Brenner says the response to the new product had been tremendous and everyone was excited to see the possibilities that could be created with the new technology.

Likewise, DSG Custom Glass also displayed its digital, direct-to-glass printing technology. While the company is some-

Salem Stained Glass and Jon Kuhn Collaborate to Create New Stained Glass Windows



Jon Kuhn and Salem Stained Glass are collaborating to offer new stained glass window options.

Salem Stained Glass in East Bend, N.C., and world-renowned cold glass artist Jon Kuhn, based in Winston-Salem, N.C., have formed an alliance for the integration of Kuhn's work into stained glass windows.

"We are so ready for this," says Al Priest co-owner and president of Salem. "We had been thinking about ways to break out of the price-driven, competitive bid mindset that limits so many stained glass studios when Jon Kuhn first approached us. Jon's reputation is international, and he gets a price for his art in keeping with that reputation, so that's nothing but good for the stained glass business."

"I am stunned with this possibility," says Kuhn. "There's no doubt that the potential market is huge.

But the challenge of marrying my work to stained glass is even more important to me, because it creates a fresh artistic direction. That's what my art is all about," he says. "I constantly drive myself toward new ways of expressing my vision in glass. It's a very spiritual vision, I might add, which I am happy that Al and Brad [Brown, Salem's co-owner] have embraced."

Another collaboration Kuhn has done recently led directly to the invention of the tiny bits of crystal that he is introducing to stained glass windows: the \$1.2 million Kuhn-Bösendorfer art case piano. Last year Kuhn formed a partnership with the Bösendorfer Piano Company to create the Kuhn-Bösendorfer piano. In the making for 18 months, the limited edition piano, along with its matching bench, is inset with as many as 100,000 hand-cut, polished jewels created by Kuhn.

"The sky's the limit on projects that marry Salem's stained glass art with Kuhn's amazing cold glass," says Brown. "It could be as simple as individual stained glass window panes arranged in the shape of a religious symbol or a complex stand-alone Kuhn work. We can shadowbox them in walls, inlay them into church pews — or even Bösendorfer pianos. There really is no end to the possibilities."

what new to architectural glass, it is a long-time provider of glass used in the marine industry. Colin Thom explained that his company purchased the digital printing equipment to print the border on marine windows. However, they realized that there was so much more they could do with the equipment and decided to move into the architectural market.



Arch Deco Glass displayed many different glass types to illustrate a variety of decorative options.

Skyline Design showcased its new Botanica™ line, which was designed specifically for the healthcare industry. Inspired by nature, the collection was created in collaboration with three photographers and includes exclusive images from each, as well as glass options for scale, color and transparency.

Next year's NeoCon is scheduled to take place June 14-16 at Chicago's Merchandise Mart. NeoCon East will take place October 28-29 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

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GFE offers a variety of film-to-glass applications designed to enhance the appearance of glass. LUMISTY, pictured above, makes glass change from transparent to translucent depending on the angle of view. Also available is DECOLITE, a series of translucent films with or without patterns, that simulate etched glass. Recent product introductions include DICHRO-MIST, a dichroic film that changes the color of glass depending on the angle of view, GFE COLORS, a series of transparent colored films, and CUSTOM DESIGNS.



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Visual Effects

backpainted glass Color Connection

Eye-popping kitchens are one feature that tops the list of many homebuyers and GlassKote™ custom products can be used to create them. The products are designed for use in both commercial and residential applications, such as kitchens and bath-



rooms, as well as anywhere color and texture are key elements to the design.

The backpainted glass product is available in any solid color, as well as with sparkles, metallic or pearlescent finishes that change color with light and movement.

GlassKote can be used in complex designs that encompass lettering in glass, full-color images in glass and even glow-in-the-dark features. The products can also be customized for small or large jobs.

◆ www.glasskoteusa.com

patterned glass Shine On

SGG Master-Shine is the sixth and newest pattern in the SGG MasterGlass line from Saint-Gobain Glass Exprover North America. Featuring uniformly spaced spheres on a matte background, the sparkly new

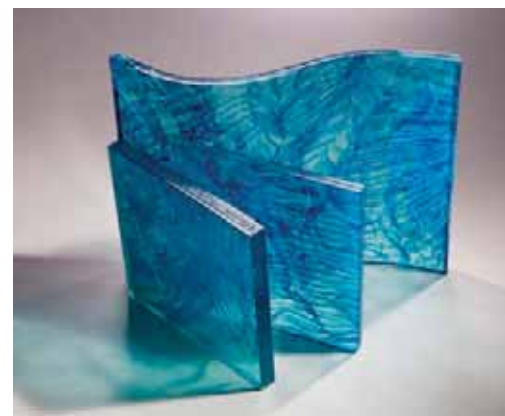


addition was created to enhance the line's geometric, contemporary textures. SGG MasterShine can be used in a wide range of applications, including tables, countertops, shelves, cabinets, furniture fronts and full-glass doors.

◆ www.saint-gobain.com/us

curved glass A New Bend

Bringing a new dimension to interior design, Livingglass of San Clemente, Calif., has created Curves, a decorative



laminated glass made in curved profiles. Curves can be specified with recycled glass and 100-percent recycled resin to help projects earn LEED credits. A variety of patterns and designs are available as well as radii from 40 inches to 330 inches. Curves is Class A Class I fire-rated and is also UV-, water- and chemical-resistant.

◆ www.livingglass.com

glass tiles Tiles of Style

With an increasing desire to reduce, reuse and recycle, Echo recycled glass tiles from Crossville® Inc. contain a recycled content of up to 100 percent, depending on color. Ideal for use in walls, countertops and floors, the tiles are crafted by artisans using centuries-old techniques. The line features a clear, luminescent quality, and is available in 15 colors, including white, black and red, as well as soft blues, greens and ambers. Tiles comes in three finishes: clear, iridescent and a frosted matte, and in five sizes: 1- x 1-inch; 1- x 3-inches; 2- x 2-inches; 2- x 4-inches; and listellos.

◆ www.crossvilleinc.com



printed glass
Decorative Displays



NGI Designer Glass Inc. of Concord, Ontario, has got style ... Sublistyle. The company's latest launch is a process that can reproduce digital, high-definition photography and artwork on architectural glass. The process has unlimited color capability, including a wide range of metallics, backlit options, transparent colors and full scalability. Sublistyle can be laminated or tempered to meet safety requirements. When UV protection is added, the company guarantees it against fading, both indoors and outdoors.

◆ www.ngiglass.com

Hello, Yellow



With the addition of yellow to its current color offering, DecoTherm now offers 12 colors that designers and architects can use to express their creativity. Color can be incorporated into designs and images to create eye-catching effects, even in small areas. Up to three colors can be used in any decorative glass design without significant cost increase.

◆ www.decotherm.net

decorative interlayers
Earthy Inspirations

Interlayers of lush palms, sun-soaked grasses and field flowers are all embodied in Large Scale Organics, 3form's line of Varia Ecoresin architectural panels. The collection, most of which can be combined with the company's pressed glass products, provides both privacy and light transmission properties.

The four designs are: Sahara, Highland, Amazon and Harvest. All are made standard from a minimum of 40 percent pre-consumer recycled content. Varia Ecoresin is also GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality certified and can be reclaimed at end-of-life, so it can help projects earn LEED certification.

◆ www.3form.com



etched glass
Big Patterns, Big Designs

A new concept in acid-etched glass, CriSamar® DESIGN, is available from Sevasa. The line includes four patterns—Petra, Palmira, Larsa and Nipur—which the company says create a unique collection of subtlety and beauty. The line can be used in interior applications such as wall coverings, furniture, doors and closets. The glass also can be cut, beveled, curved, drilled, tempered and laminated.

◆ www.sevasa.com

Right off the Runway

Think Madras is just a fabric? Then think again. Vitreal-specchi, an Italian etched glass producer, offers its



own Madras® col-

lection—a line of glass products that covers everything from walls and windows to floors and doors.

Madras® Pixel glass, for example, offers aesthetics as well as energy savings. The company employs a patented procedure of chemical etching that creates a uniform matte surface interspersed by small transparent dots. The Madras line also includes glass with an anti-slip surface for use in floors and stairs.

◆ www.vitrealspecchi.it dg



Stained Glass on Steroids

Glass Artist John Blazy Dares to Push Forward with Innovative Creations

Inventor, designer, furniture maker, artist, all of the above—however you describe him, John Blazy is a guy willing to take chances and push the limits of architectural design in a way few have been bold enough to try.

“It takes a good designer to do something bold and John’s work is bold,” says friend and fellow glass artist Marc Konys. “He’s way out in front of the others; he’s just waiting for the world to catch up.”

From his one-man shop in Parma, Ohio, Blazy stays busy developing and evolving his line of Dichrolam™ glass.

“It’s pure color because it’s working with white light and filtering it into the colors of the rainbow,” says Blazy. “But what’s most intriguing is probably the fact that it changes colors across the full spectrum.”

Or, as Konys describes it, “It’s stained glass on steroids.”

Without a doubt, Blazy says he can give a project that sought-after “wow” factor. But whether adding to his product line, building his own equipment or just coming up with new ways to use Dichrolam (i.e., fabricating his own cocktail glasses), John Blazy is anything but ordinary.

Discovery

Architectural art glass may be his prime focus today, but that wasn’t always the case. Blazy studied furniture design at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York and spent a number of years building and designing it. That’s when he began experimenting with dichroic glass.

“I inlaid it into my furniture and I found that clients were happy to pay huge up charges for it, so I knew the market value,” says Blazy. “That was fine, but I still needed to pay the bills. So, I took on a part time position as a chemist with a company that had been a supplier of UV-cured coatings that [I used] on my exotic woods. I had no background in chemistry, but

lots of experience in commercial furniture coatings.”

While developing and formulating resins Blazy found films that changed colors.

“I embedded the films into the ultraviolet resin and it looked exactly like dichroic glass. That’s when I saw my whole future career flash before my eyes and Dichrolam was born.”

But in 2000, the company where Blazy had developed and marketed the technique folded.

“At the time they were excited about the product because I created it on ‘their time,’ and it had been patented. But when the company went out of business I re-made it using a different method, which completely voided the patent. That’s when I re-established my business and began sending out sample kits to architects.”

Blazy’s line today includes seven products: red, green, crystal sea red, crystal sea green, black sea, Caribbean and red burl. Red and green are non-textured while the crystal sea colors, black sea, Caribbean and red burl are



by Ellen Rogers

Ellen Rogers is the editor of DG magazine.



Blazy's installations include: a light tower at the Newport Library in Youngstown, Ohio, featuring Dichrolam crystal sea red; a conference room table (top right) created in black sea Dichrolam for MTV; and a handrail in Dichrolam red for the Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, N.C.

random, wavy patterns with actual 3-D topography and color-changing properties. While similar to dichroic glass, Blazy says a distinguishing feature of his glass is that it's available in large sheets, while dichroic glass is not. He also says his glass typically is about half the cost.

Breaking Ground

While Dichrolam is an attention-getting product, getting that first glance from architects was tough.

"It was a classic catch-22 where architects wouldn't specify the material because they didn't see it actually used in buildings. But how do I get installa-

tion pictures if it isn't specified, ordered and installed?" says Blazy. "I began doing a lot of sculpture, tables and other furniture pieces made with Dichrolam to show architects exactly how it would look." Those efforts proved to work, as one of his first installations was a conference room table for MTV.

While sculpture and furniture were a good start, Blazy knew his product had a much greater potential—despite the fact that he was having a difficult time getting specified, especially in conservative Midwest regions.

"And then I found Igor Beaufils, who is today my national sales man-

ager, but then was focused on the Midwest. I told him, 'you're not going to sell it here;' his territory was Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. I just did not see how it would work—but he said it would and he even told me

continued on page 12

Stained Glass on Steroids

continued from page 11

my prices were too low,” recalls Blazy. “The tendency to state that a Great Lakes or Midwest owner would think his product was too radical was an obstacle we had to overcome,” agrees Beaufile, who has worked with Blazy for seven years.

One of the first Midwest projects for the two was the new Federal Building in Oklahoma City, designed by Chicago-based Ross Barney Architects.

“[Dichrolam] is one of our favorite parts of the project,” says Carol Ross Barney, principal with the firm. “In a

building that has a lot of history and security to stand up to, it is the perfect touch of lightness reminding you that time moves on.”

Having the product installed in the Oklahoma City Federal Building was a big success for Blazy. And while it might seem as though Las Vegas and South Florida would be big buyers, they have not been. Installations for children’s hospitals, though, specify the product quite frequently.

“Architects know that children love color and children love my product

way more than adults,” says Blazy. “I love that children’s hospitals are using it. I was bummed when I thought my product would only be in Vegas installations, but Vegas actually hasn’t been that much of a segment for me.”

One of a Kind

Aside from the custom-nature of his glass, those who know Blazy say he and his work are not easily forgotten.

“He pushes the edge and everything he does his totally his,” says Konys. “It’s easy to copy someone else’s work



For the Levine Children’s Hospital Blazy’s Dichrolam glass can be seen in the fin wall and skylight of the project.

but it's tough to be creative and come up with your own."

"There's nothing 'me-too' about his glass," adds Beaufile.

Dan Legree is the owner of Savoy Studios in Portland, Ore. His company fabricates different types of decorative glass and has worked with Blazy on a number of projects, sending him their cast glass to have Dichrolam applied to it.

"We've typically worked with John on large pieces, or something where the budget might be tight as his

"It was a classic catch-22 where architects wouldn't specify the material because they didn't see it actually used in buildings. But how do I get installation pictures if it isn't specified, ordered and installed?"

—John Blazy

product is more affordable than other types of dichroic glass," says Legree, who adds, "It's a different product and it really has no competition and we can really count on him to come through on tight deadlines. The product looks like a million bucks and architects like the flash. It's unique and it's like nothing else you'll ever see."

For inspiration, Blazy looks to two particular sources.

"I've always been fascinated with light and water, hence some of the lines are named after bodies of water. Also, I love high-end furniture and exotic wood patterns, and that was where the name Red Burl came from," says Blazy, also an avid diver. "I have a fascination with natural creatures, particularly coral reefs, which are so visually dynamic. The effects of the sea textures are very intriguing to me."

Struggles

But jobs don't always come easy and business can be challenging. On an annual basis Blazy says he turns out about 5,000-10,000 square feet of material and this year, he admits, has been a tough one.

"I've been value-engineered out of a lot of projects this year, more than any other year," Blazy says. "And that's after spending thousands of dollars on samples and putting in the phone calls and e-mails for projects."

But when he's able to collaborate with the architects he usually can keep the project within budget.

"I've been designing with this material for years and I've learned how to push the envelope and keep it clean without being too powerful," he says. "Most of the time they specify it without talking to me. But when we're able to collaborate I can help them get a better product or a better spec. Sometimes they don't realize there might be lower cost ways to do the same thing."

Forward Thinking

Currently, Blazy says his main competition is simply other decorative glass products. But what if the day comes when he's not the only one out there with this type of product?

"I anticipated that a long time ago, which is why I have diversified my product line so much to include plastics, opaque surfacing, sculpture, louvered insulating glass units and especially the textured Dichrolam," says Blazy. "My patterning method is very proprietary, and took me years to figure it out efficiently, so that should slow any knock-off attempts. I have new pattern and texture ideas that make even my own head swim. I am prototyping new lenticular patterns now, and ideas like this will be future trump cards for me, as well as architects who want the cutting edge of dichroic laminates."

And as far as lessons learned? Blazy says his experiences have allowed him to tap into his creativity far more than if he'd stayed in the furniture business.

"Everything I do is an invention. The equipment I create to make my product requires out-of-the-box thinking, and then marketing, sampling and doing it efficiently has required more creativity than the invention of the material itself," he says.

Inventor versus artist—does Blazy see himself as one more than the other?

"I almost said both equally, because creativity is the common language fluently spoken by both, pushed by the adrenaline-fueled question, 'what if?'" he says. "But I lean toward being more of an artist because my insatiable desire for an aesthetic end has always been the driver for my scientific innovation. That's why I used real dichroic glass in my art deco furniture designs, and ended up wondering, 'what if they had full size sheets of this stuff that didn't cost so much ...'"

And rest assured, whatever the answer, it will be bold. dg



From the Bottom Up

As Glass Floors and Stairs Increase in Popularity, So Does Design and Safety Awareness

by Ellen Rogers



Glass—it's not just for windows. Vertical installations may be the more common glass applications, but new developments are bringing glass flooring and stair treads into the design mainstream.

"Glass floors are like the jewels of a building. As a way to bring the wow factor into their designs, architects and designers are increasingly specifying such flooring and staircase systems," says Ian Patlin with Paragon Architectural Products in Scottsdale, Ariz. "The idea is to define light and space through the use of a somewhat non-conventional building material and a glass floor or staircase allows for a greater level of light transmittance compared to tradi-

tional staircase or flooring options."

As a walking surface, glass is often found in high-end residential, hospitality and commercial settings. Glass floors can also be used to show something below the floor. In a corporate setting, for example, placing different products or materials manufactured by the company below the glass can help create a branding or corporate identity.

Patlin says technology advancements and developments are the driving factors behind the increased use of these systems.

"Glass designers and engineers now have various software options to analyze the structural and mechanical properties of a glazing system," he says. "On the material side, new products have also enabled glass engineers to create more transparent systems due to the added structural values these materials can handle."

Safety First

When designing and specifying glass floors or stair treads, the safety of the finished installation is critical. While some manufacturers provide engineered and tested flooring systems, many projects require the input of a structural engineer to provide load calculations and an experienced installer to provide glazing details.

The load path is an important consideration. The loads on the glass-flooring module must transfer evenly through the supports to the main structure to which the glass flooring system is tied back.

"It's important to know the limits of the material and to design redundant flooring," says Patlin. "Glass flooring suppliers should be very clear about the structural properties of the glass and interlayers used."

He adds, "In a triple laminated



by **Ellen Rogers**

Ellen Rogers is the editor of DG magazine.



Applications for glass stairs and floors can range from night clubs, such as the 40/40 Club in the Palazzo in Las Vegas (far left), stores and boutiques such as the Mahsa Boutique in Scottsdale, Ariz. (center), as well as libraries and corporate settings such as the Richmond District Public Library in San Francisco (right).



Stay Educated

As a means to provide information about designing, specifying and installing glass floors and stair treads, the Glass Association of North America (GANA) has published a glass informational bulletin on the subject. The document can be downloaded for free at <http://www.glasswebsite.com/techcenter>.

glass sandwich, the top lite is designed to provide slip-resistance and should be able to handle a reasonable impact. The consecutive layers of glass are then designed to handle service loads," he explains. "It is our method to design a very redundant floor and calculate that if all upper layers are compromised, the bottom layer will not fail. However, this does not mean the glass is still OK to walk on. It should be blocked off and removed as soon as possible."

Slip Resistance

Because pedestrian safety is a critical objective, the glazing in-fill needs to provide a certain level of slip-resistance. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires a minimum slip-resistance of 0.50, expressed as a static coefficient of friction. However, special activities, such as dancing, may require a

different level of slip resistance. Glass floors used near entrances that may get wet also require special consideration.

Processes designed to roughen the top surface of the glass to provide slip resistance include sandblasting, acid-etching, ceramic frit and embossing.

Modesty can become an issue when glass floors are found on upper levels. If this is an issue, it may be necessary to incorporate a ceramic enamel finish or a decorated or translucent interlayer in the glass to create opacity from below.

Structural Support


The overall design behind the glass flooring/staircase is also important.

"The idea is to design a light and

airy flooring system," explains Patlin.

"We have seen some very streamlined applications and we have also seen some very bulky and heavy metal designs."

As a fabricator, Patlin says his company generally works in two capacities: supply-only or turn key.

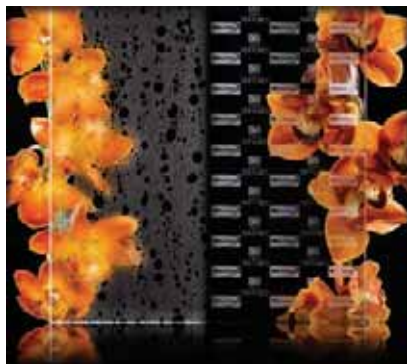
"With supply-only, we check the related structure and check on loads to make sure all is OK. With a turn key system we provide the design engineering and all associated glass, steel and aluminum parts," says Patlin. "This solution is typically a lot less challenging for glaziers as it gives them a single source for all parts. This also limits the possibility of fabrication errors and non-compliant materials." 

Showstoppers

Companies Prepare to Show Their Newest Decorative Glass Creations

Looking for the latest in decorative glass? Several companies have recently introduced new products that they plan to showcase at the upcoming GlassBuild America show, taking place September 30 – October 2 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. Check out these two pages for a glimpse at some of what you'll find during the show. Also, please stop by Booth #2902 to visit the DG magazine staff.

Booth 803: In the Details



To help create a diverse selection of design possibilities, the Walker Textures™ Nuance custom and stock patterns are now available on etched or unetched glass.

All Walker Glass products are made using only North

American glass substrates and acid-etched products are available in a wide range of thicknesses varying from 3mm to 19mm on glass and 3mm to 6mm on mirror, in sizes up to 100- x 144-inches. Products are also available in various colors, including clear, bronze, grey, black, green, blue and PPG's Starphire® ultra-clear glass.

◆ www.walkerglass.com/patterned-acid-etched-glass.html

Booth 35: Endless Options

SentryGlas® Expressions™ decorative laminated safety glass provides a way for designers, artists and architects to harness digital technologies and produce a wide range of decorative



glass results. JE Berkowitz LP (JEB) of Pedricktown, N.J., will feature this line during the show.

The process prints directly onto a PVB interlayer, enabling photos, textures, patterns, company logos and other images to be incorporated into a wide range of architectural laminated glass applications. SentryGlas® Expressions™ meets all ANSI Z97 specifications for safety glass and is manufactured exclusively with PPG Starphire® low iron glass for the highest clarity.

◆ www.jeberkowitz.com

Booth 603: Plenty to See

Several different techniques, styles and decorative glass options will be featured by Goldray Industries, which plans to showcase decorative glass used in signage, countertops, railing and flooring.

The company plans to highlight decorative laminated glass, which can fea-



ture various colors, textures and patterns; technographic interlayers that can include images ranging from standard text or logos to photo realistic images; as well as its glass marker boards, which it introduced last year.

Glass flooring, silkscreened glass and etched glass, among others, also will be featured.

◆ www.goldrayindustries.com

Booth 501: Designer Décor

Elegant, eclectic, practical and strong—that's how the Italian company OmniDecor describes its new glass line called DecorFlou® satin-finished glass. The design collection includes several patterns created by British designer Marc Krusin, as well as several others by designer Defne Koz.



According to company information, the glass surface is

Booth 1601: A Satin Finish

The newest addition to Memphis, Tenn.-based Vitro America's Classic Line™ of architectural products is Pavia satin-finished glass. Pavia is produced using a special acid treatment process, which may be applied to either one or both sides of the glass. The versatile and aesthetic architectural glass allows light, color and texture to blend for privacy and functional design.



Pavia is available in a variety of thicknesses from 2 to 12 millimeters in clear, tinted and designs. It may be used for interior or exterior applications, and may be tempered or laminated to meet safety requirements.

◆ www.vitroamerica.com

treated to let light through and still produce unusual light effects while making the glass soft to the touch.

◆ www.omnidecor.net



Booth 1909: Dream a Little Dream

Red backsplashes, blue tabletops, green countertops, even purple shower walls—a new painted glass from Gardner Glass Products allows designers and architects to bring colors galore to any design project. Called Dreamwalls Color Glass, the

line incorporates a computerized intermix color system that has a database of colors, all of which can be specified from standard color swatches; 12 stock colors are also available.

◆ www.dreamwallscolorglass.com

Booth 3206: It's a Breeze™

When it comes to custom architectural glazing, Standard Bent Glass Corp. offers a number of decorative options including its SentryGlas® Expressions and Breeze™ product lines.

The SentryGlas® Expressions product line utilizes DuPont™ technology to reproduce digital images in laminated safety glass. With this proprietary technology, the company recently created the Breeze™ product line, which features curved glass panels with compound bends. Custom molds transform a three-dimensional digital image into curved glass with complex compound geometrics. Breeze can be used in interior and exterior applications, as well as in freestanding works of glass art.

◆ www.standardbent.com

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- of having only a limited variety of specialty glass available?

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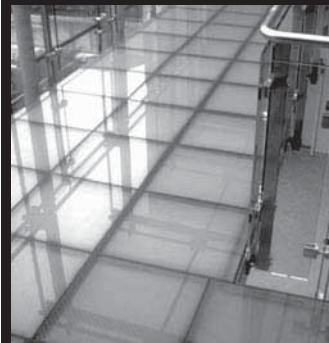
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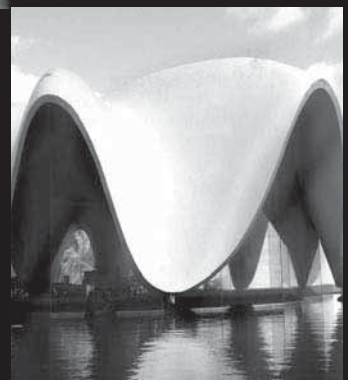
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Marketplace

To place a listing, please contact Janeen Mulligan at 540/720-5584 X 112 or e-mail jmulligan@glass.com.



Classic Glass Inc.

3911 Wheeler Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22304
www.classicglassinc.com

Classic Glass, Inc. has been serving the architectural and design community for over 28 years, producing custom decorative glass for offices and homes as well as signage, exhibits and public art. Products include: laminated, back-painted, stained/leaded, cast, and etched/carved glass, metal and stone.



David Ruth

1122 57th Ave.
Oakland, CA 94621
www.davidruth.com

David Ruth produces custom cast glass for individual collectors, architects and designers and has developed a wide range of aesthetic techniques and applications to the language of sculpture and architecture.



Sans Soucie Art Glass Studios Inc.

73-700 Dinah Shore Dr., Suite 203
Palm Desert, CA 92211-0815
www.sanssoucie.com

Sans Soucie Art Glass Studios creates etched, carved and leaded glass products for homeowners, designers, builders, developers and many others.



Gong Glass Works

42 Parkview Dr.
Rochester, NY 14625-1034
www.nancygong.com

Gong Glass Works specializes in the design and fabrication of glass artwork including leaded, etched, carved, chipped and painted glass.

Classifieds

Employment/Help Wanted

Independent Sales Reps.

One of the leading Independent coaters of glass products is recruiting expert, highly motivated, committed, independent sales reps. The company is also expanding into glass doors, dividers and partitions. We are only interested in sales reps who are able to understand our vision and can provide expertise for these specialty markets. It would be a plus to have contacts in the A & D community. We pay high commissions on sales of high value coated glass products and glass doors, dividers and partitions used in commercial and residential applications. Territories are available for North America and Europe. Interested persons should reply to: Decorative Glass, Drawer 4400, PO Box 569, Garrisonville, VA 22463 or e-mail jmulligan@glass.com. Be sure to reference Drawer 4400.

Events


October 28-29, 2009

NeoCon East 2009
Organized by: Merchandise Mart Properties Inc.
Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore
Contact: Show organizers at 800/677-6278

October 28-31, 2009

Vitrum 2009
Sponsored by GIMAV.
Fiero Milano Convention Center.
Milan, Italy.
Contact: Show organizers at +39 02 33006099.

April 16-18, 2010

K/BIS
Owned by the National Kitchen and Bath Association
McCormick Place
Chicago
Contact: Show organizers at 800/933-8735 

dg Gallery Listings

Adding an art glass element is a great way to make an interior design statement. Not sure where to turn for just the right decorative glass display? The below listing provides information for just some of the galleries and studios throughout the United States catering to the art glass community.

Arizona

One With Glass Studio & Gallery
Scottsdale, AZ
www.onewithglass.com

Philabaum Glass Gallery
Tucson, AZ
www.philabaumglass.com

Raku Gallery
Jerome, AZ
www.rakugallery.com

California

David Ruth Glass Studios
Oakland, CA
www.davidruth.com

Lindsay Art Glass
Benicia, CA
www.lindsayartglass.com

RASgalleries
Yountville, CA
www.rasgalleries.com

San Soucie Art Glass Studios
Inc.
Palm Desert, CA
www.sansoucie.com

Seekers Glass Gallery
Cambria, CA
www.seekersglass.com

Colorado

Fox Ridge Fine Art Glass Gallery
Breckenridge, CO
www.foxridgegallery.com

PISMO
Denver, CO
www.pismoglass.com

Delaware

The Studio on 24
Lewes, DE
www.thestudioon24.com

Florida

Forre & Co. Fine Art Gallery
Palatka, FL
www.forrefineart.com

Fusion Art Glass Gallery
Santa Rosa Beach, FL
www.fusionartglass.com

Habatat Galleries
Boca Raton, FL
www.habatatgalleries.com

Georgia

Fräbel Gallery
Atlanta, GA
www.frabel.com

Janke Studios Inc.
Atlanta, GA
www.jankestudios.com

Illinois

Habatat Galleries
Chicago, IL
www.habatatchicago.com

Marx-Saunders Gallery
Chicago, IL
www.marxsaunders.com

Prism Contemporary Glass
www.primcontemporary.com

Indiana

Inspired Fire Glass Studio
& Gallery
Lafayette, IN
www.inspiredfire.com

Louisiana

Royal Cameo Glass
New Orleans, LA
www.royalcameo.com

Massachusetts

Holsten Galleries
Stockbridge, MA
www.holstengalleries.com

Maine

Turtle Gallery
Deer Isle, ME
www.turtlegallery.com

Michigan

Habatat Galleries
Royal Oak, MI
www.habatat.com

North Carolina

The Bender Gallery
Asheville, NC
www.thebendergallery.com

Nebraska

Adam Whitney Gallery
Omaha, NE
www.adamwhitney.com

New Jersey

Fusion Gallery
Sicklerville, NJ
www.fusionnj.com

New Mexico

Palette Contemporary Art
& Craft
Albuquerque, NM
www.palettecontemporary.com

Tesuque Glassworks Inc.
Tesuque, NM
www.tesuqueglass.com

New York

Chappell Gallery
New York, NY
www.chappellgallery.com

Gong Glass Works
Rochester, NY
www.nancygong.com

Ohio

Firenation Glass Studio
and Gallery
Holland, OH
www.firenation.com

Thomas R. Riley Galleries
Cleveland, OH
www.rileygalleries.com

Oregon

Bullseye Gallery
Portland, OR
www.bullseyeconnectiongallery.com

Elements Glass LLC
Portland, OR
www.elementsglass.com

Margo Jacobsen Gallery
West Linn, OR
www.margojacobsenartdealer.com

Pennsylvania

Bernard Katz Glass
Philadelphia, PA
www.katzglassdesign.com

Snyderman/Works Gallery
Philadelphia, PA
www.snyderman-works.com

Rhode Island

Luniverre Gallery/Glenmagus
Portsmouth, RI
www.luniverre.com

Tennessee

iGNiS Glass Studio
Chattanooga, TN
www.ignisglass.com

Texas

Hooks-Epstein Galleries
Houston, TX
www.hooksepsteingalleries.com

Kittrell/Riffkind Art Glass
Dallas, TX
www.kittrellriffkind.com

Utah

Dancing Hands Gallery
Park City, UT
www.thedancinghandsgallery.com

Virginia

Ethel A. Furman & Associates
Alexandria, VA
www.glassart.net

Washington

Art by Fire Ltd.
Seattle, WA
www.artbyfire.com

galleries listings

DG's Marketplace and Gallery

Will Soon Be Expanding!

If you'd like to see your studio or gallery listed here please contact Janeen Mulligan at jmulligan@glass.com or call 540/720-5584 X 112. Listings start at \$325/year.

Creative Voice

Chauncey W. Gannett

President, Principal Artist
Sans Soucie Art Glass Studios Inc.

Art glass wasn't always the career path Chauncey W. Gannett saw himself taking. Though his family owned Sans Soucie Art Glass in Palm Desert, Calif., and he grew up learning the trade, his plans were to become an architect or engineer. But in 1985 he changed course, and combined his skills and abilities in art, design and engineering and applied them to glass.

"In the early 1980s, we refurbished a huge antique light fixture inside the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles to compliment the architecture. At about the same time, we were doing the Rain-cross Inn in Riverside, which featured architectural art glass in the main lobby, elevator areas and restaurants," says Gannett. "We've been doing large-scale, architectural glass ever since for various hotels, hospitals, restaurant chains and skyscrapers."

DG caught up with Gannett at his office in Palm Desert, Calif.

Q. What have been the biggest changes you've seen happen in the decorative glass market?

A. I think mainly the increased size and scope of the art glass specified in the plans. Modern glazing systems, such as cable nets, eliminate any perceived structural support. Structural glass wall systems, glass fin walls and tension structures allow for a huge canvas to work on.

Q. What makes glass products exciting and fun to work with?

A. For us, we are always doing something different with our glass. Carving, etching, shading, glue-chipping, casting, coloring, etc., and the designs always vary to suit the tastes and specifications of our clients' projects. I love glass as a medium because of its transparency and the way it interacts with light and color.

Q. Do you have a niche or an area in which you specialize?

A. We specialize in creating custom, sand-carved art glass within a budget that other companies can't always com-



Photo by: Avant Studios.

pete with. For example, with The Bank of America Tower in Manhattan the architects wanted a specific custom texture for the lobby ceilings and elevator surrounds (nearly 400 panels of it). The glass was 1/2-inch laminated Starphire™ clear glass with one surface acid etched, then on top of the acid etching was a custom sandblast carved design in a tree bark effect pattern. We were able to do this from California, beating out companies in Europe and the East and West Coast in the bidding process.

Q. How do you see your business and artwork evolving?

A. From a mom-and-pop studio, to a corporation with ten team members, I see us doing more and more large-scale architectural art glass projects and creating a production line of single-stage sandblast designs.

Sans Soucie Art Glass has created designs for a range of projects including the Geisha Song (left) and the cherry blossom countertop (below).



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Warrenville, IL, T. 630.836.1353*
Hollander Central
Wood Dale, IL, T. 630.350.2063
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General Glass International
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Paulsboro, NJ, T. 800.220.3749*
Rainbow Art Glass
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