


GLASS DIGEST

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& ARCHITECTURAL METAL INDUSTRY

Making It Unique with Slumped Glass

By **Tim Czechowski**

Co-founder, Artwork in Architectural Glass, Good Hope, Ga



Slumped glass is giving traditional glass some competition. Also known as 'cast' or 'sag' glass, slumped glass is kiln fired glass that conforms to custom designed, handmade molds. It produces unique and elegant molded glass creations.

Slumped glass has gained a strong popularity in recent years among architects and interior designers across North America. It is used in applications in lieu of standard glass such as flat, sand-blasted or stained glass. The textures in slumped glass, when combined with natural light, create dazzling effects. Light is gathered and dispersed by the peaks and valleys within the glass. Slumped glass is at its best when privacy and light are required in an application. Its transparent yet 'frosted' appearance allows images and shapes to be seen, but not details. It also allows for an abundance of light to brighten any area.

Artwork in Architectural Glass (AAG), located just outside of Atlanta, Ga, in the town of Good Hope, is one of only a few slumped glass manufacturers in North America and the largest east of California. It specializes in custom, commissioned pieces. All of its molds are individually handmade for each project, allowing for a truly customized piece. Recent installation pieces have included entrance doors,


skylights, room dividers, shower doors and store-fronts.

Artwork in Architectural Glass was founded by Wayne Czechowski with his wife Carol and son Tim. AAG's more than 12,000-square-foot studio includes



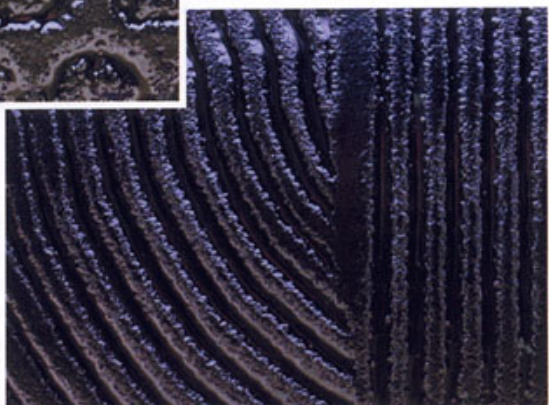
state-of-the-art glass slumping and graphic design capabilities. Together, the owners of the company have 75 years of expertise in architectural, cast, slumped, stained and fused glass along with 45 more of professional creative design experience.

Wayne worked in the architectural glass business for more than 35 years



AAG's slumped glass pieces require individually handmade molds. Each project is a commissioned custom creation.

and held numerous positions in the industry. One of the first salesman at Viracon Glass, he also owned a custom mirror retail store. Later he was general manager/vice president of Vega Glass Atlanta, which was Vega's most profitable location. He



was the CEO of Downey Glass in Los Angeles, Harding Glass in Kansas City,



The logo doors at Susquehanna Radio in Atlanta reflect the stations' contemporary images.

corporate gifts or logos. It can be used for windows, doors, skylights and exterior glazing. Slumped glass adds interior beauty when used in room dividers and partitions, bath/shower enclosures, mirrors, or handrails. It makes uniquely beautiful cabinet doors and tabletops and bases. It also works well for

Imaging project. This texture was used with the wave top design of a 3/8-inch slumped and tempered clear glass. Panels of sandblasted glass were placed behind the slumped glass panels. The combination of the textures on the glass created a wall of soft light providing complete privacy.

Susquehanna Radio, Atlanta, Ga

Susquehanna Radio was in the process of building its new studios in Atlanta, Ga, and wanted a pair of entry doors featuring the stations' logos.

The station management had seen sandblasted and etched glass but was looking for something 'different'. The radio stations have very contemporary images which is reflected in the new studios — from the plasma TV screens on the walls, to the elevator entries, to the sleek lighting hung by

wires from the ceiling. They wanted an upscale, high-end look to match the balance of the studios and the brand identity of the stations. When they found AAG and its 'transparent-textured' slumped glass, they were sold.

The 1/2-inch slumped and tempered clear glass entrance doors have both the 99X and the Q100 logos slumped into them. AAG's 'Classic' background texture in the slumped glass allows light to pass through while providing a degree of privacy.

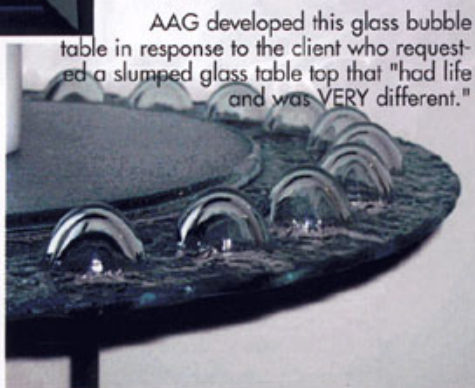
Mo, and Sun Distributor Glass in Phoenix, Ariz, in the late 80s and 90s. His artistic skills come from his schooling at the Chicago Art Institute where his work was exhibited in galleries throughout the Midwest. He still likes to paint and draw — and does both daily at AAG.

Carol worked in all aspects of the architectural glass business for more than 30 years. She gained corporate experience at Vega Glass in Atlanta, Ga, Hardtemp in Kansas City, Mo, and Downey Glass in Los Angeles. In the 1980s, Carol owned a successful stained glass business, Wonder Lake Glass, in Atlanta where she created stunning customized pieces for her clients.

Artistic even as a child, Tim received a degree in graphic design and sculpture (casting) from Georgia Southern College. He has been a hands-on designer and a manager of creative departments, as well as a web designer. For more than 15 years the companies for which he worked were typically the largest in their respective industries, including Nestle, Colgate-Palmolive and Schering-Plough Healthcare Products. An accomplished painter and sculptor, his work has been shown in numerous galleries across North America.

The Czechowski family had always discussed working together in some way that would utilize all of their skills. When Wayne stumbled across a piece of slumped glass while visiting Europe, he knew he had found the product. Since there are no books to teach the technique for slumping glass, the Czechowskis used their combined knowledge of glass to teach themselves.

Slumped glass has a wide range of applications, including distinct signs and



AAG developed this glass bubble table in response to the client who requested a slumped glass table top that "had life and was VERY different."

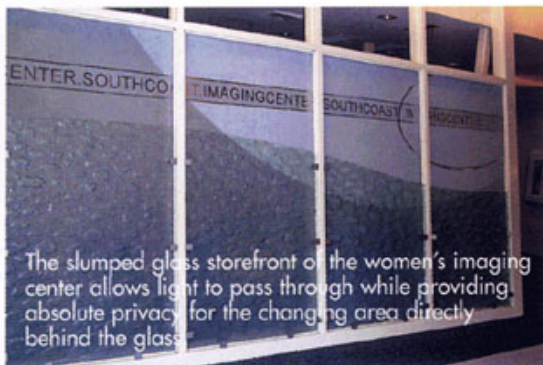
bar tops, counter tops and vanity tops.

Not only can the design of slumped glass be 100 percent customized, but holes and notches can be provided. The majority of AAG's patterns can be tempered to meet safety glazing codes. Insulating units can be fabricated to meet exterior glazing requirements. AAG's maximum size is 80 inches X 140 inches and standard thicknesses are available from 1/8 inches to 3/4 inches. The glass can even be tinted to match a specific color.

Southcoast Imaging Center, Savannah, Ga.

When the new space was designed for the Southcoast Imaging Center, a women's clinic located in Savannah, Ga, it had to address some particular special needs. Because the area directly behind the storefront was going to be the women's changing area, providing ultimate privacy was a key concern. Yet the architect and designer also wanted light passing through to give the area a softer, less closed-in feeling.

AAG designed their 'waterwall' texture exclusively for the Southcoast



The slumped glass storefront of the women's imaging center allows light to pass through while providing absolute privacy for the changing area directly behind the glass.

Jimmy Baron, popular DJ of the 99x morning show, expressed his delight with the finished product. "The glass doors are phenomenal and are among the coolest things at the station. Thanks to AAG for the good job!"