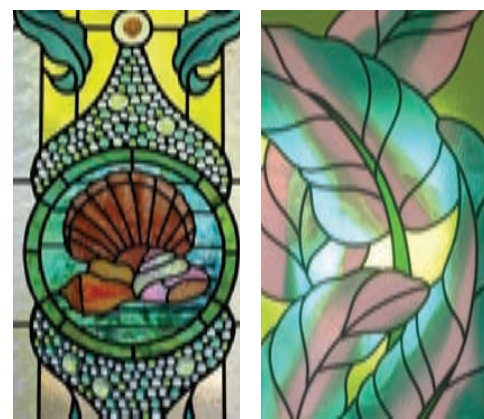


A LEGACY OF PANES

McMow Art Glass marks four decades of glittering creations



After four decades in Palm Beach County, McMow Art Glass has become one of the largest glass studios in the country. The company produces residential and commercial stained glass windows, beveled art glass and elaborate glass designs. McMow also hosts regular art glass classes and show-

cases rotating collections of retail pieces in the store.

Back in 1976, it didn't take millions of dollars and a skyscraper of permits to make a dream happen. Shanon Materio and her husband, Phil, launched McMow Art Glass with \$200. Today, the family continues to work together in Lake Worth to bring beautiful glass to South Florida and beyond. The Materios' daughter Taylor became a partner in the business four years ago. From there she infused a new marketing emphasis and this year was promoted to creative director. She shares her insight into the magic of glass and why her family's business has remained successful throughout the years.



Taylor Materio of McMow Art Glass.

What is the difference between stained glass windows, beveled art glass, glass designs and etching?

Stained glass is the technique. Beveled glass is a material. Glass designs are the sketches of the overall design process. Stained glass can be used to create windows, entryways, domes, ceilings and kitchen cabinets among other items. We create unique glass designs for these types of projects. Beveled glass is a type of glass

that we would incorporate into a stained glass design. For example, a stained glass entryway would be designed to include beveled glass, which is very glamorous and elegant. Glass can be architectural or serve simply as décor, bringing color, light, drama or serenity into a space.

What's the secret to McMow Art-Glass's staying power?

My parents' passion for this art form and McMow's ability to continuously evolve over the years. I think anyone in the art glass industry would agree that McMow has pushed the traditional envelope when it comes to stained glass and this is credited to my parent's dedication as artists and business owners.

How did this prepare you to lead the creative side of the business?

My parents' commitment and passion for this studio is contagious and I have certainly caught the bug. I watched their dedication growing up immersed in the business and saw how as an artist, making a living can be challenging. McMow must also support our employees' families and that motivates our team toward increas-

ingly levels of success. Personally, they've instilled this responsibility in me.

Tell us about your 40th anniversary Bullseye invitation for McMow to design a limited edition, custom glass style?

We were honored to have the opportunity to work alongside Bullseye Glass Co., which has been creating sheet glass for the past 40 years. Sheet glass is the raw material we use to create our custom works of art. We wanted to create a sheet style that would be used in a set of new designs we had been working on to showcase the beauty of Florida and we were granted access to the entire color palette available in sheet glass manufacturing to design our own custom raw materials. We are cutting them and building them into custom panels that will be showcased in our studio.

Your new line called FLORAdia just launched. What's the difference between the South Beach and Palm Beach versions?

I love this new glass. We spent a great deal of time pinpointing two colors we






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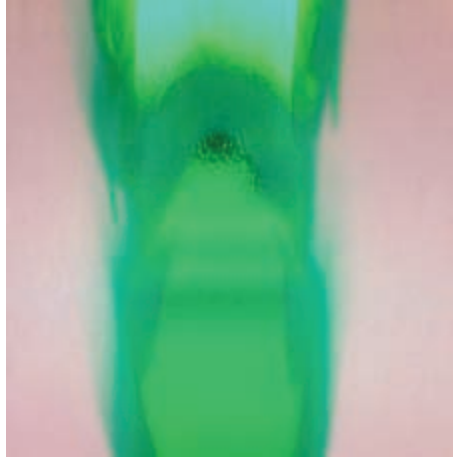





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felt could describe these two famous Florida destinations. The Palm Beach-style glass is predominantly pink with a glimpse of cascading cathedral green. The pink is called petal pink and it is bright and florally, drawing inspiration from the iconic designs of Lilly Pulitzer. The South Beach-style glass is predominately green with just a pop of opalescent pink, inspired by the paint colors of Miami's Art Deco buildings that create a memorable South Beach landscape.



We hear the name FLORAdia has a special meaning. Tell us about that.

This custom glass line was actually named after my grandmother, Flora Materio. She passed away just days after seeing the glass for the first time. It was incredibly meaningful to us that she had the opportunity to see the glass that we had named in her honor. My 'Mommom', as I called her, was a big part of my father's decision to start McMow alongside my mom. My grandmother was supportive when so many others discouraged my parents' dream and her legacy will always be part of McMow.

How are you demonstrating the value of art in commercial spaces?

The historic Brazilian Court hotel is an example of this shift. This newly renovated space utilizes glass art in several ways, the response to which has been overwhelmingly positive. I certainly have big shoes to fill here at McMow, but I am blessed that my family is still part of the picture here, bringing their continued passion to McMow every week and encouraging me to lead McMow into the future.

Restoration is a big part of what you do at McMow. Why?

It is critical that we preserve these one-of-a-kind pieces of art all over the United States. When we work on a restoration, we are essentially bringing the windows back to their original splendor and structural stability and that they are protected from the elements. Our sister company, Creative Etchings, is the leader in etched glass in South Florida, featuring artisans who create etched designs for each client including onsite etching capabilities, allowing them to blast high pressure sand onto the surface of existing glass with no mess or cleanup. It is really impressive to see their work in process.

Tell us about your art glass classes and showcases of rotating collections.

People from all walks of life come to McMow to learning these ancient techniques every week. Our teachers are passionate about glass and attendees can see how we design and craft our projects by hand right here in our studio. ■

McMow Art Glass
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