

INSPIRE GLASS ACT



Who doesn't like making an entrance? And when it comes to the home, there is no better dramatic entrance (literally) than a hand-made artisanal-glass front door.

For 44 years, **McMow Art Glass** has been dressing homes with its expertise and talent of designing, creating and installing works of glass art from front doors, kitchen cabinets, unusually sized windows, patio doors, ceiling domes and unique custom-designed projects including architectural decorative glass and public art projects.

Under the direction of Shanon Materio and her husband Phil, McMow is giving one of the world's oldest art forms a modern take.

"Glass is the perfect design element," said Materio. "It is simple yet sophisticated."

Materio loves that glass is naturally made, sustainable and environmentally friendly. She also loves how the colors and textures of glass changes with the reflection of natural light. "I think glass is so powerful and can go from subdued to fiery all by adding texture and depth when working with it," she said.

McMow is one of the few remaining glass studios in Florida and one of the largest in the U.S. It is also one of the only art glass studios that has an in-house glass painter, as well as a team of well-trained and educated European artisans, etchers and journeymen. These craftsmen not only understand the artistry of making custom-glass pieces but also know the properties of glass and how different manufacturers use the raw materials in their glass-making recipes.

And despite glass making being one of the oldest crafts, technology has allowed manufacturers to create glass that is more energy efficient and impact resistant.

"Every glass manufacturer's glass looks very different. The look of the glass is driven by the proprietary recipe and unique techniques used to make the glass," said Materio.


Materio and her team take the sheets of glass and through their expert craftsmanship and artistic abilities in stained glass, etching, carved glass, laminate glass, mosaic and fusing to design works of art.

Materio is currently seeing an increased demand for front entryway designs that are more contemporary.

Stained glass design is also being updated and incorporated in master bathrooms to add to homeowners' desire to create spaces that are elegant and sensual.

Glass panels, half walls and different shaped dividers hung from the ceiling are being used as room dividers in open spaces.

"There is a desire to create an area for a home office or other ways to segregate parts of these open floorplans," said Materio.

"I love seeing all that is happening with glass and how we are finding new ways to use it for both utility and art." 



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