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Decorative Glass: A Classy Way to Upgrade Windows

Excerpt reprinted from [REALTY Times](#)

When we hear the term "curb appeal" many of us think of how the front yard is landscaped, the way the exterior of the house is painted, or the entryway. Nowadays, though, homeowners are investing in decorative glass or stained glass overlay products that create exceptional and uniquely-designed windows and doors that are eye-catching from the inside and out. The exquisite look creates privacy while at the same time offering aesthetic appeal to a home.

"What we provide them with are things like traditional stained glass which is pieces of glass held together with lead," says Nick Neonakis, VP of SGO Designer Glass.

But stained glass isn't tempered and therefore frequently won't meet code because of its lack of durability. So that leaves homeowners unable to use stained glass in certain areas of the house such as shower doors and some windows. So, the company also offers etched, carved, and different types of cast glass that has an overlay applied to it. The overlay is a process that the company invented to give an alternative to traditional stained glass. SGO Designer Glass takes Mylar films, colors and applies texture to them in its factory in Orange County.

"Then those are cut into various shapes and then peeled and literally adhered onto the face of solid tempered glass and then this is finished off with an adhesive-backed-lead-strip system. So when it's done it looks just like traditional stained glass," says Neonakis. The end result is that it will offer added protection and durability because the glass is tempered.

"Also we can have a new piece of glass cut and tempered, put the work onto it, and then we will install the new piece of glass up against the existing old glass in the window and then we have special clip systems that fasten it to the frame. When the homeowners leave, (or are listing their home) if they desire, they can detach the clips from the frame and take their glass with them," says Neonakis.

While the cost is about the same as stained glass, "it has a lot of technical properties that traditional stained glass does not have such as [the fact] that it's solid, it's UV protectant, it's airtight, waterproof, etc.," says Neonakis.

This type of overlay product will cost about \$100 per square foot depending on the intricacy of the design and other installation considerations. If you opt for the much less expensive alternative -- a sticky, decal type product that adheres to your window, be prepared for vast differences.

"It's a different type of product where that is sort of a cling, stick, decal. The overlay is something that is permanently bonded and fused on to the face of the glass along with bevels and lead and things of that nature. So it's virtually indistinguishable from traditional stained glass," says Neonakis.

Neonakis says the overlay product takes a few weeks to complete, but the money and time spent are well worth the end result. For more information, visit sgodesignerglass.com.

(Locally, "Attention to Detail" in Praise Grove, IL offers a variety of design alternatives.)

A BIG THANK YOU

Well, it's been quite a couple of months as the Association has diligently worked to implement both the new Billing structure AND built out and moved to a new office - talk about a tremendous accomplishment!

The billing structure, while struggling over a many internal obstacles with our software systems limitation, was well received by the vast majority of members. The staff here would like to thank you all for your cooperation.

The new office is fabulous. It's a brand new building built out specifically for the Association, which includes a 1250 sq ft training room in addition to a conference/Board room and separate computer lab. Think of it; the Association can have more than one ongoing meeting at a time! Parking is no longer the issue it has been. With over 200 parking spaces in the shared lot, we anticipate much fewer issues. Also, we are fully ADA compliant (not an easy accomplishment). Forget struggling up and down the tight, narrow stairs. While we still await our furniture delivery (2 weeks out), we're still ready to do business. We hope you all stop by the Grand Opening - Open House on August 21st from 1-5. Flyers will be sent out soon - please RSVP so we can have enough food for everyone.

Finally, I want to first thank my staff for all they have put up with these last few months. Most importantly, I want to thank all of you, our members. Thank you for your support, patience and understanding. Change is never easy.



by Jim Haisler,
RCE, e-PRO
Association
Executive

IAR Annual Convention: September 19-21, 2007

IAR Expo: September 20-21, 2007

Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

For information, go to:

<http://www.illinoisrealtor.org/iar/events/Convention/conv.htm>

You are invited! Your IAR Convention Brochure is included in today's packet. *Correction: The Inaugural Gala is being held on **Thursday, September 20, 2007.**



13 Tips: Taking Care of a Camera

Source: Bill Koelzer, Realty Times

These tips apply to taking care of virtually any camera. Mostly they are just common sense. Nonetheless, see how many of them you routinely apply.



1. Always put the camera strap around your neck **WHENEVER** taking pictures so if the camera slips, it does not drop onto the ground. If it comes only with a short strap, hook a longer one to it. Immediately!
2. Never set the camera on a surface when there is a lower surface below it. (*Example: setting a camera (or anything breakable) on the back seat of a car where it can FALL down onto the floor; set it on the floor to begin with.*)
3. In a restaurant, set the camera in the center of the table. Never hang it on the back of the chair or leave it on the edge of the table.
4. With a big SLR-type camera, always use a padded camera bag with a big shoulder strap. The padding will protect the camera when, inevitably, you drop it.
5. To ensure against theft in a crowd, wear the camera's big shoulder strap across your chest; not merely hanging off one shoulder. Thieves love seeing cameras they can grab.
6. In a bus or plane, never put the camera by itself in the overhead storage compartment or under the seat by itself unless you want to watch it the entire flight. Keep it with you, out of sight, in your carry on, or with its strap wrapped around your leg.
7. Don't put your camera into checked luggage. Checked luggage is often X-rayed, workers can see the camera, and not everyone in baggage handling is honest.
8. Don't ask someone at a resort or beach to take the camera from you and take a picture of you. If you do, just be sure it is someone that you can easily outrun in case they take off with your camera!
9. Put a return address/phone number sticker on your camera (and camera bag) so in case you lose the camera and an **HONEST** person finds it, they know how to contact you. If you are on a trip, be sure to also put the contact info for where you are staying. Those contact info stickers that people put on golf club shafts work great on cameras, PDAs, etc.
10. Better yet, get an etching stylus pen and etch your contact info onto the camera, or, just have your jeweler do it for a few well-spent bucks.
11. Although it is a pain in the neck to do, keep your lens covered when the camera is not in use. One scratch and your camera is no good, or, you'll pay dearly for a repair.
12. When on vacation, always check under your table, or under the bus, van or airline seat you were sitting on as soon as you get up. We are not used to "carrying things" when we are home, so on vacation, in the heat of a discussion, it is very easy to forget that we were carrying a camera in the first place. After 21 trips to China, wherein I led large groups of tourists all over that country, I can tell you how frustrating it is for a passenger to lose a camera simply because s/he forgot about it when leaving a bus or taxi.
13. At your office, never ever leave your digital camera (or other electronic devices, like laptops) sitting out on your desk. Buy a piece of furniture that locks or have a locksmith put a lock on a desk drawer for you. Not everyone you work with is honest. Moreover, the world's greatest thief is the one that you would least expect.

Welcome to the world of digital imagery. Now, get your money's worth by learning how to keep your digital camera safe and ready to use always.

McHCAR Calendar:

McHCAR Annual Business Meeting and Election - August 2, 2007

McHCAR New Member Orientation - August 8, 9, 2007

Free e-PRO Workshop - August 13, 2007

McHCAR Open House - August 21, 2007

McHCAR Closed, in observance of Labor Day - September 3, 2007

McHCAR Installation Luncheon, McHenry Country Club - September 7, 2007

McHCAR Holiday Charity Gala - December 14, 2007