

Decorative Glass for Healthcare Environments

An illustrated guide to glass applications from Skyline's real-world project portfolio

Download the Brochure

Digital Print + Back-Paint / Rush University Medical Center by HDR / Art by Bonnie Edelman



Digital Print + Lamination / New Valley Hospital by HDR / Art by Stephen Meyers

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About Skyline

SKYLINE

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Why Glass?

Art, privacy, acoustics, and wayfinding integrated into a material ideal for demanding healthcare environments.

◊ Fully customizable in size, fabrication, and artwork

◊ Provides visual and acoustic privacy

◊ Supports infection control with a non-porous surface cleanable by all standard hospital disinfection protocols

◊ Meets ANSI Z97.1 safety glazing requirements for impact resistance in high-traffic areas

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Designed as a practical reference, this guide presents real healthcare environments that use decorative glass as a tool to support hygiene, privacy, wayfinding, and aesthetics.

Questions?

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Decorative Techniques



Digital Print

Accurate color matching with adjustable opacity and privacy, from clear to fully opaque.



Eco-etch

Our chemical-free etching creates a durable, fingerprint resistant surface for interior and exterior installations. Backed by a lifetime warranty.



Laminate

Layers of glass bonded with interlayers for strength, sound control, and design flexibility.

Graphics and artwork are sealed inside for long-term protection from wear and cleaning protocol.

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Back-Paint

Solid, uniform color fields are created in-house with precise color control.

Combine with etching or print for layered visual depth.



Smart Glass

Switch your glass between clear and private instantly.

Manufactured in the US and priced lower than competitive, imported products. Lowest haze-factor in the industry.

Available for retrofit or new build.



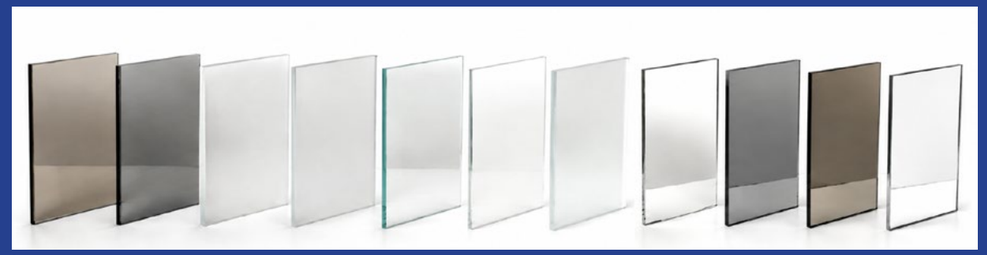
Exterior Bird-Friendly

SkySafe® Eco-etch glass is proven to reduce bird collisions on building facades.

Select from Skyline's tested bird-safe patterns or collaborate on custom designs.

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Glass Details



Glass type approximations

Glass Types

- Low-Iron Glass
- Matte Glass
- Clear Glass
- Polished Mirror
- Etched Mirror
- Low-iron, Clear, Bronze, Grey Mirror
- Bronze + Grey Tinted Glass
- Acoustic Control Glass

Techniques

- Eco-Etch
- Digital Printing
- Back-Painting
- Lamination
- Smart Glass

Glass Sizes

Up to 72” x 144”
in standard glass thicknesses*

*Maximum size is dependent on technique, glass type, thickness, and weight.

Fabrication

Cutting, tempering, CNC, polishing, lamination, and roll coating

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Mounting Options



Metal Backer

Formed metal backer with z-clip for fast, secure installation.

Made to size for glassboard, artwork, and wall-clad products in Skyline’s Chicago facility.



Vector Glass Cladding System

Developed in partnership with Wall Panel Systems, this single-source interior wall and ceiling system pairs a high-performance mounting framework with Skyline decorative glass.

Both components are fabricated to project specifications and delivered together for streamlined coordination and installation.

vectorglasssystem.com

See Vector project installed on, page 26.

Compatible with a Wide Range of Systems

Beyond the mounting solutions above, Skyline decorative glass can be integrated into demountable systems, glazed-in-place assemblies, millwork, automatic door systems, breakaway healthcare doors, and other custom architectural applications.

Glass is fabricated to the requirements of the specified system and project conditions.

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Beyond Aesthetics

	Glass	Resin
Material Efficiency	Made to order to the exact size specified, reducing waste and costs	Limited to 4x8 and 5x10 sheets, end users pay for the entire sheet, including waste
Structural Integrity	Self-supporting structural material	Lacks structural rigidity, requiring additional hardware and installation time
Durability	Extremely durable & scratch-resistant	Prone to scratching and scuffs
Cleaning & Maintenance	Clean with standard hospital protocols	Requires special cleaning products
Degradation	Does not degrade over time, maintaining its original strength	Degrades over time, creating micro-cracks and pits that can harbor pathogens

Our Plastic Problem

As concerns about plastic waste and microplastics continue to grow, healthcare design is increasingly evaluating alternatives to plastic-based materials.

The inherent durability of glass supports hygiene and safety while maintaining its appearance for decades after install.

By reducing replacement cycles, glass delivers long-term value while supporting spaces designed around the well-being of patients, visitors, and staff.

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In healthcare environments, material selection impacts more than just appearance.

Decorative glass supports the health of our community.

How Long Does Bacteria Survive?

Glass	Resin
15-25 days	**3+ months**

Kramer, A., Schwebke, I., & Kampf, G. (2006)

The Impact of Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)

1 in 31
Hospital patients with at least one HAI on any given day.

CDC (2019)

$45B
Annual cost of treating HAIs in the US.

National Institute of Health (2023)

1M HAIs
Occur each year in the US.

CDC (2019)

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Digital Print on SatinLite glass / Healthcare Facility (San Francisco, CA) by Polytech / Custom art supplied by client

Where is Decorative Glass **in Healthcare?**

Public Spaces

- Lobby
- Retail, Reception & Dining
- Lounges
- Public Art & Signage
- Decorative Facades & Bird-safe Glass

Clinical Spaces

- Nurses' Stations
- Operating Rooms
- CT Scan Rooms
- Dialysis, Infusion Therapy, Pre- & Post-Operative Recovery
- Patient & Exam Room
- Radiation Therapy

Wall-bound

- Wayfinding
- Feature Walls
- Patient Communication Boards
- Artwork
- Headwalls

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Outdoor Spaces



The healthcare experience begins before patients enter the building.

Decorative glass supports intuitive navigation, branded identity, and bird-friendly design in exterior environments.

Typical Installations

- Branded entrances
- Custom bird-friendly Eco-etch on surface one
- Entry canopies and vestibules
- Wayfinding

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Eco-etch (including Bird Safe), Laminate

Glass Type
Low-Iron; Tempered or Laminated
IGUs supplied through glazing partners can be custom etched by Skyline for decorative, privacy, and bird-safe applications

Glass Size
Typically 1/4” to 1/2” thick in panel sizes up to 72” × 144”; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

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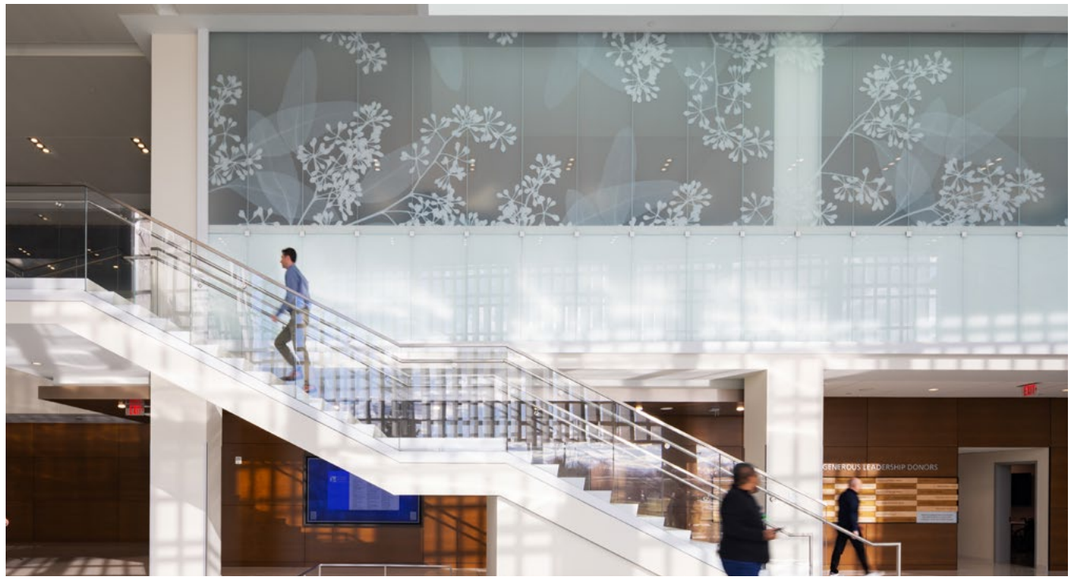




OPPOSITE Lehigh University, STEPS Building (Bethlehem, PA) by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson Architects
TOP Eskenazi Health (Indianapolis, IN) by Kiku Obata
BOTTOM Tampa Bay General Hospital (Tampa Bay, FL) by Henry Architects

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Lobby



The lobby is the gateway to the healthcare facility, setting the tone for a patient's visit.

Glass can be opaque for wall-bound applications, or translucent to enhance light-flow into neighboring spaces.

Typical Installations

- Feature walls and focal points
- Branding, donor recognition, and wayfinding
- Decorative privacy partitions
- Elevator lobbies and corridors
- Reception backdrops

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Eco-etch, Back-paint, Laminate

Glass Type
Low-Iron; Tempered or Laminated for durability

Glass Size
Typically 1/4" to 1/2" thick in panel sizes up to 72" × 144"; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

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OPPOSITE The 'New' Valley Hospital (Paramus, NJ) by HDR
TOP Denver Children's Hospital (Denver, CO) by ZGF, photo by Jackie Shumaker
BOTTOM Yale New Haven Health System (New Haven, CT) by Shepley Bulfinch

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Retail, Reception, & Dining



Patterned glass dividers create smaller zones, enhancing aesthetics and offering privacy without obstructing light.

Privacy encourages comfortable communication and interaction with others and hospital staff.

Typical Installations

- Decorative privacy partitions
- Queue and seating dividers
- Demountable glass systems
- Cafe and dining screens
- Reception privacy panels

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Eco-etch, Laminate

Glass Types
Low-Iron, Gray, Bronze
Tempered or Laminated for safety

Glass Size
Typically 1/4” to 1/2” thick in panel sizes up to 72” × 144”; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

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OPPOSITE Saint Elizabeth Cancer Center
TOP LEFT Confidential (Chicago, IL) by IA Interior Architects
TOP RIGHT TriHealth Thomas Comprehensive Center (Cincinnati, OH) by GBBN
BOTTOM Sarasota Memorial Hospital (Venice, CA) by Flad Architects

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100%
of glass decoration takes place in our Chicago facility



Digital Print + Back-Paint / UCSF Medical Center by Taylor Design / Art by Stephen Meyers

Lounges & Waiting Rooms



Mid-transparency glass partitions with calming patterns and imagery create relaxing zones for waiting while maintaining an open, inviting atmosphere.

Typical Installations

- Art glass privacy features
- Decorative privacy partitions
- Queue and seating dividers
- Demountable glass systems

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Eco-etch

Glass Type
Low-Iron or Satinlite; Tempered or Laminated for durability in public areas

Glass Size
Typically 1/4” to 1/2” thick in panel sizes up to 72” × 144”; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

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OPPOSITE The ‘New’ Valley Hospital (Paramus, NJ) by HDR
TOP Jupiter Medical Center Foundation (Jupiter, FL) by Stephen Boruff, AIA Architects + Planners
BOTTOM Morton Plant Hospital (Clearwater, FL) by HKS (LEED Silver)

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Feature Walls & Artwork



From elevator bays to feature walls, high-resolution digital printing creates durable, easy-to-clean glass artwork. Choose from a curated library by award-winning designers or supply your own design.

Typical Installations

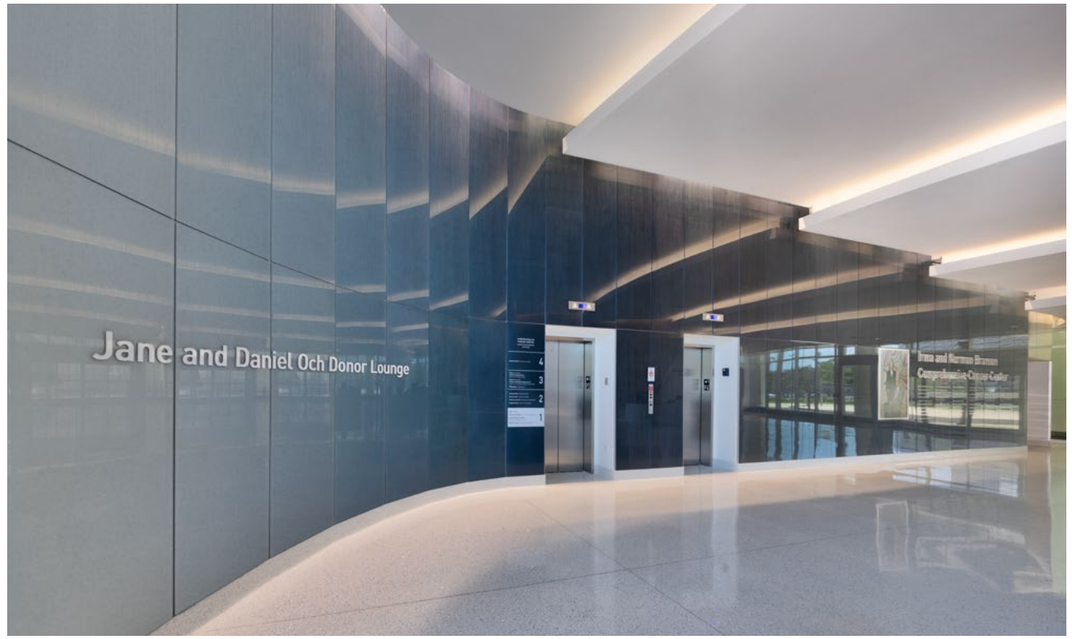
- Lobbies
- Elevator bays
- Donor recognition installations
- Back-lit feature walls

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Eco-etch, Back-paint, Laminate

Glass Type
Low-Iron; Tempered or Laminated

Glass Size
Typically 1/4” to 1/2” thick in panel sizes up to 72” × 144”; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

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OPPOSITE Rush University Medical Center (Chicago, IL) by HDR
TOP Mount Sinai Medical Center (Miami Beach, FL) by CannonDesign, installed with Vector Glass System
BOTTOM LEFT Brocco Diagnostics (Princeton, NJ) by KSS
BOTTOM RIGHT Confidential (Boston, MA) by ISgenuity

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Wayfinding



Skyline's glass capabilities approach wayfinding not as an afterthought, but as a thoughtfully integrated part of the project.

Typical Installations

- Elevator bays
- Department identification
- Room identification panels
- Environmental branding

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Back-paint

Glass Type
Low-Iron or Satinlite; Tempered
Folded steel backer and z-clip can be provided for ease of installation

Glass Size
Typically 1/4" to 1/2" thick in panel sizes up to 72" × 144"; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

Performance
Meets ANSI Z97.1 and CPSC 16 CFR 1201 safety glazing standards

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OPPOSITE VCU Children's Hospital (Richmond, VA) by HKS
TOP Hershey Children's Hospital (Hershey, PA) by Payette, Art by Henry Domke
BOTTOM Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, MA) by NBBJ

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Patient & Exam Rooms



Patient and exam rooms require a high level of privacy for procedures and conversations. Decorative and smart glass offer this privacy in addition to being more cleanable and durable than traditional healthcare curtains and integral blinds.

Typical Installations

- Decorative glass walls and doors
- Smart Glass observation windows and doors
- Headwalls
- Decorative privacy partitions

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Back-paint, Smart Glass

Glass Type
Low-Iron or Satinlite; Tempered
Folded steel backer and z-clip can be provided for ease of installation

Glass Size
Typically 1/4” to 1/2” thick in panel sizes up to 72” × 144”; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

Performance
Meets ANSI Z97.1 and CPSC 16 CFR 1201 safety glazing standards

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OPPOSITE Mercy Meriter Hospital (Madison, WI) by Plunkett Raysich Architects
TOP Steven Meyers artwork on Skyline Glass as headwall application
BOTTOM Rutgers Cancer Institute (New Brunswick, NJ) by HOK Philadelphia

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Nurses’ Station



As a critical hub for coordinating care, nurses’ stations must balance visibility and privacy. Decorative glass provides this as does switchable Smart Glass, an increasingly popular option for its flexibility and hands-free options.

Typical Installations

- Decorative privacy partitions
- Smart or decorative viewing windows
- Writable communication boards
- Desk cladding and backsplashes

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Back-paint, Smart Glass

Glass Type
Low-Iron or Satinlite; Tempered
Folded steel backer and z-clip can be provided for ease of installation

Glass Size
Typically 1/4” to 1/2” thick in panel sizes up to 72” × 144”; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

Performance
Meets ANSI Z97.1 and CPSC 16 CFR 1201 safety glazing standards

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OPPOSITE MedStar Health at Lafayette Centre (Washington, DC) by Trinity
TOP Montefiore Medical Center (Bronx, NY) by Array
BOTTOM Nebraska Medicine IDU (Omaha, NE) by HDR

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Dialysis, Infusion Therapy, Pre- & Post-Operative Recovery



These shared spaces benefit from a balance of light and visibility while maintaining a sense of openness. As opposed to traditional curtains, the non-porous nature of glass can be cleaned daily, protecting the health of the immunocompromised.

Typical Installations

Semi-transparent glass partitions

Partial or full-height dividers

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Back-paint, Smart Glass

Glass Type
Low-Iron or Satinlite; Tempered
Folded steel backer and z-clip can be provided for ease of installation

Glass Size
Typically 1/4” to 1/2” thick in panel sizes up to 72” × 144”; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

Performance
Meets ANSI Z97.1 and CPSC 16 CFR 1201 safety glazing standards

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OPPOSITE University of Arizona Cancer Center (Phoenix, AZ) by ZGF Architects
TOP Memorial Sloan Kettering (Middletown, NJ) by Perkins & Will
BOTTOM St. Vincent’s Medical Center (Bridgeport, CT) by Perkins Eastman

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Patient Communication Boards



Communication boards offer a durable, writable surface with customizable designs, including clear windows for clocks and monitors. Glass supports a clean, pathogen-resistant environment.

Typical Installations

Patient rooms

Exam and consult rooms

Nurse's Stations

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Back-paint

Glass Type
Low-Iron or Satinlite; Tempered
Folded steel backer and z-clip provided for ease of installation

Glass Size
1/4" monolithic in panel sizes up to 72" × 144"; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

Performance
Meets ANSI Z97.1 and CPSC 16 CFR 1201 safety glazing standards

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Product Spotlight: Glassboards



Skyline **Glassboards** are crafted from 1/4" low-iron tempered safety glass. They're magnetic, ship fully assembled, install easily with a custom z-clip, and feature hidden hardware for a clean, modern look.



Careboards™ are glassboards that feature printed graphics permanently sealed behind the nonporous glass surface.

Sizes
18" x 24", 24" x 36", Custom sizes up to 72" x 144"

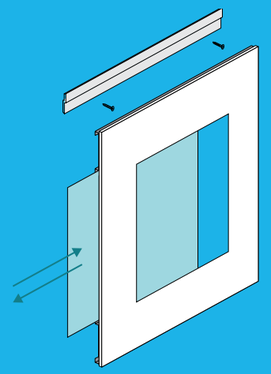
Glass Type
1/4" tempered safety glass

Frame
Available with powder-coated steel frame in silver, white, or black

Corners
Square or radius

Artwork
Any paint color, gradient, graphics, logos, or imagery. Choose from our library or supply your own.

Magnetic or non-magnetic



Changeable Careboard™ is a full glass surface with an interchangeable insert to adapt to evolving needs.

Sizes
18" x 24", 24" x 36"

Glass Type
1/4" tempered safety glass

Mounting
Included z-clip with adhered backer

Artwork
Any paint color, gradient, graphics, logos, or imagery. Choose from our library or supply your own.

Magnetic

OPPOSITE Mercy Health (Cincinnati, OH) by Champlin Architecture

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Pediatrics



Colorful printed glass walls with playful imagery create welcoming distraction, while mid-transparency partitions provide gentle privacy without closing off the space.

Typical Installations

Semi-transparent glass partitions

Partial or full-height dividers

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Back-paint

Glass Type
Low-Iron or Satinlite; Tempered
Folded steel backer and z-clip can be provided for ease of installation

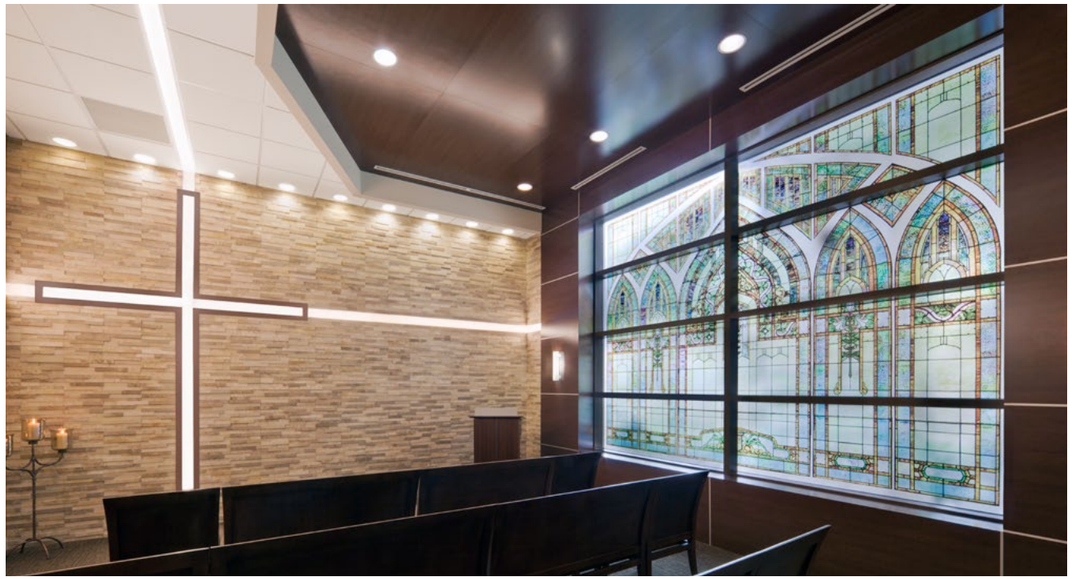
Glass Size
Typically 1/4” to 1/2” thick in panel sizes up to 72” × 144”; maximum dimensions vary by decorative technique

Performance
Meets ANSI Z97.1 and CPSC 16 CFR 1201 safety glazing standards

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Digital Print on back-painted glass / University of Virginia Physicians Group (Culpeper, VA) by E4H, photo by Jeffrey Sauers

Chapel & Meditation



Tranquil spaces are designed to provide respite for comfort and reflection. Imagery can be biophilic, stained glass, ink gesture—adaptive to the characteristics of the space and audience.

Typical Installations

Corridor/room divider walls

Partitions

Back-lit glass artwork

Recommended Decorative Techniques
Digital Print, Back-paint

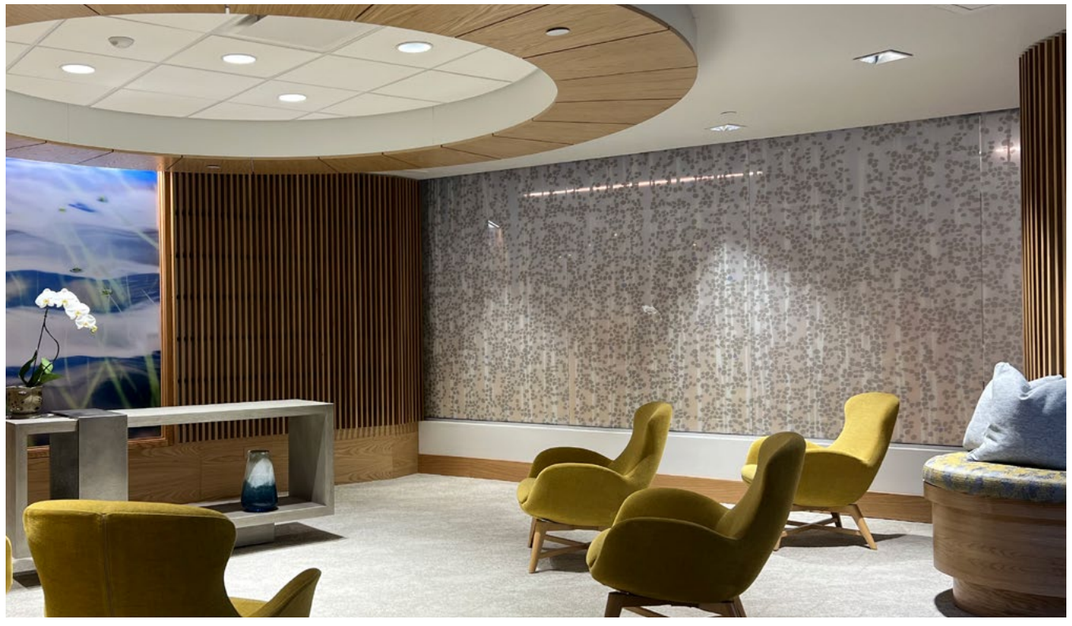
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Meets ANSI Z97.1 and CPSC 16 CFR 1201 safety glazing standards

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OPPOSITE Baylor Scott & White Medical Center (Waxahachie, TX) by CallisonRTKL
TOP The ‘New’ Valley Hospital (Paramus, NJ) by HDR
BOTTOM Gaylord Specialty Healthcare (North Haven, CT) by Rosalyn Cama

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Skyline is a trusted brand in healthcare design.

Born in 1983 as a Custom House
Skyline walks you through the process so you can tailor everything from glass thickness to patterns, graphics, and reflectivity.

One Stop Shop
In-house production allows for tight quality control and efficiencies that support competitive pricing.

Proprietary Pattern Library
Skyline's extensive pattern library includes collections by Kelly Harris Smith, Suzanne Tick, Michael Graves, Steven Meyers, Jill Malek and Bonnie Edelman.

Working on a project? Reach out.

sales@skyline.glass | 773.278.4660

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Made in Chicago