

By Rick Streitfeld



Enhance Your Home with Beveled or Stained-Glass Windows

So you have a window in your home that's too bright, but you don't want to cover it to block the light? You've already ruled out shutters and drapes, but something needs to be done that won't close up the area.

Have you thought about beveled or stained glass windows to enhance the area and add beauty and value to your home? Over the many years that I've met with clients, this is one of the common scenarios I've heard. Others are "I love it bright, but it's just too intense" or "I love the window in our bathroom, but everyone can see in!"

Beveled or stained glass windows can offer you the privacy needed in areas of your home without taking away the advantages of having the windows there in the first place! Looking at the bright side of the situation (pardon the pun), you have an opportunity to add art glass which can disperse the light and/or add privacy. The creative options are endless with this art form and it's worth a visit from one of a number of local individual artists in the area to see what can be done. Whether you like the sparkles of fancy beveling, color scenes, abstracts or simple elegant designs, you can transform this area into a place of reflective beauty, something you'll enjoy for years to come.

The Internet is the best place to start. Visiting local websites where you can view various finished art windows will surely get you excited and stimulate ideas for you. Make a call or two and ask the artist to visit your home to go over the many possibilities with you. I'm not a fan of show room venues for a number of reasons. You will find you'll get much more out of working directly with an individual artist who can give your project the attention it deserves, rather than a sales person with a fancy showroom. Also, I always recommend getting referrals and making sure you're comfortable with whomever you choose to work with. Authentic stained or beveled glass windows add value to your home, along with the benefit of their beauty.



The installation process

Another popular question people always ask, is how are leaded glass windows installed and whether or not it's a complicated process. Generally, installation is not a major project. There are several ways to install leaded glass windows, and all have their advantages and disadvantages. It's common to leave your current clear insulated window in place, and the leaded panel gets mounted from the inside of the house right up against the current clear glass. This offers you several advantages, and minimal disadvantages.

When built properly, authentic stained glass windows can also be installed in place of your current single or dual pane glass, which would be removed. This method has several advantages, but be sure you understand the disadvantages of replacing your existing glass.

Installation is a very important part of the project and you want to make sure of your options and the pros and cons of each. This can be discussed with your artist on the initial visit and your artist should be able to arrange the installation for you with a professional installer.

Wishing you brighter days ahead!

Glass artist Rick Streitfeld has owned and operated Art Windows in Huntington Beach since 1996. His creations can be found not only in Southern California, but in more than 25 states across the nation. Rick is available to answer any questions about stained and beveled glass. Studio Phone 714.842.8979, or visit www.ArtWindows.com to view more than 1100 photos of past commissions.