



Glass jewel

showcase

Every facet of this 800-square-foot showroom is six-carat selling

By Nicole Harris

Sitting small and elegant in a downtown Sarasota warehouse district transitioning into a boutique enclave is a highly designed and engineered meeting space for architects and builders whose clients love high-tech glass and hardware. It's the brainchild of John Faour and Angelo Rivera, partners of Faour Glass Technologies, Tampa. "We wanted to create a special place where our customers could bring their customers," said John Faour, president.

Faour's customers design and build multimillion dollar homes across Florida that feature one-of-a-kind glass curtain walls, stairways, railings, floors and shower enclosures. Now they have a place to bring clients who like to see and feel the many and varied choices available in architectural glass design. The appointment-only showroom opened in April.

Walk under the front door's glass canopy and your eye is drawn first to the all-glass staircase point-fixed with spider fittings against a glowing red wall of backlit 34-by-42-inch laminated glass panels. On the opposite wall are milky white laminated panels divided by five backlit photos of Faour Glass projects. Sleek black furniture sits on slightly raised and underlit 1½-inch white laminated all-glass floor. Underfoot throughout the rest of the showroom is a poured, acid-stained concrete floor.

To the left is a bathroom with a 6-inch thick backlit vanity made of 8¾-inch pieces of Starphire Glass. On top is a glass bowl and a suspended mirror. The walls here are sandblasted, two-toned back-

painted glass, said Art Fishbein, branch manager, Faour Glass.

To the right is a conference room enclosed behind a double-curved floor-to-ceiling partition fabricated by Dlubak Corp. of Blairsville, Pa. Above the glass table is a flat-screen monitor and wireless access keyboard for downloading plans or to find more patterned glass samples like the circular ones hanging on the 129-by-81-inch mirrored wall above the laminated glass sideboard. The six ¾-inch glass shelves here and throughout the showroom were attached with ultraviolet sealant.

Past a hallway of glass shelves and hardware is an office and a 7-foot wide by 4-foot deep stainless steel pull-out rack for shower-enclosure hardware.

"Everywhere you look is an application of what we do," said Angelo Rivera, vice president. Faour's architect and builder clients agree.

"We will most definitely bring our customers here," said Guy Peterson, principle architect and owner of Guy Peterson/Office for Architecture Inc. in Sarasota. "It helps to have tangible examples of what's possible."

Glass is a very important element, Peterson said, because of the modernist nature of his work and the subtropical climate. "We like to celebrate glass throughout our work whether it be interior, exterior or both."

Faour Glass Technologies' new showroom is the place to start that celebration. **G**



Photos by Bob Brown, Brown's Glass & Granite, York, Pa.

Resources

- Tempered Starphire glass: **Arch Aluminum & Glass Co.**, 10200 N.W. 67th St., Tamarac, Fla. 33321, 800/432-8132, www.arch.amarlite.com
- Tempered and acid etched door and wall panels shower enclosures: **Cora Glass**, Highway 17 S., Reform, Ala. 35481, 205/345-1013, 800/772-7737, www.coraglass.com
- Spider fittings, shelf units, sliding door system: **Custom Hardware Manufacturing Inc.**, 2600 Industry Road, Keokuk, Iowa 52632, 800/262-2464, www.chmi.com
- White and red backlit laminated wall, bent glass: **Dlubak Corp.**, 520 Chestnut St., Box 510, Blairsville, Pa. 15717, 724/459-9540, www.dlubakglass.com
- Laminated canopy: **Oldcastle Glass**, 2425 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif., 866/653-2278, www.oldcastleglass.com
- Shelving, sink pedestal: **PPG Industries Inc.**, 1 PPG Place, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15272, 412/434-3131, www.ppg.com
- Glass stairs, laminated floor glass, tempered wall glass, mirror products: **Westshore Glass**, 5300 W. Knox St., Box 15216, Tampa, Fla. 33634-5216, 813/884-2561, 800/284-5277, www.westshoreglass.com

Sources

- **John Faour and Angelo Rivera**, Faour Glass Technologies, 5119 Knox St., Tampa, Fla. 33634, 813/884-3297, johnf@faourglass.com, and angelor@faourglass.com, www.faourglass.com
- **Art Fishbein**, branch manager, Faour Glass Technologies, Sarasota Branch, 1061 Central Ave., Sarasota, Fla. 34236, 941/330-2245, afishbein@faourglass.com
- **Guy Peterson**, Guy Peterson/Office for Architecture Inc., 1234 First St., Sarasota, Fla. 34236, 941/952-1111, www.guypeterson.com

