



# Berman

JOEL BERMAN GLASS STUDIOS LTD

## JOEL BERMAN BIOGRAPHY

For over twenty-five years, Joel Berman has been a pioneering glass artist. Today, his company, Joel Berman Glass Studios Ltd., is one of North America's premiere manufacturers of architectural glass products. His work is present in some of the most striking interiors throughout the world. Notable commissions include New York City's Chrysler Building, The Gap World Headquarters in San Francisco, and Disney's Wilderness Lodge in Orlando.

An innovator of kiln-cast architectural glass, Berman also invented a ground-breaking technique to recycle tempered glass, and pioneered a glass-painting process that fuses paint to silica molecules. Joel Berman's glass can be incorporated into almost any interior or exterior architectural context – glass stairs, walls, floors, doors, sinks, countertops, and more.

Born in Winnipeg, Canada, Berman grew up surrounded by the craftsmanship of his family's jewelry business. Berman has fond memories of his grandfather, a watchmaker who immigrated to Canada from Romania. "I always looked up to my grandfather," said Berman. "He supported two families with his craft." Berman began working with glass in the late 1970s at the Pilchuk Glass School near Seattle, Washington where he studied with Ludwig Schaffrath. He also studied at the Banff School of Fine Arts with Johannes Schreier. Berman believes the best way to learn one's craft is to just do it. Berman also studied with noted professional architect Paul Merrick. "I've learned a lot from Merrick," said Berman who considers Merrick "an artistic architect". After honing his talent Berman moved to Vancouver to open his own studio in 1980. Today, Joel Berman Glass Studios employs a staff of over 30 talented designers, artisans, technologists and support staff.

In 2004 Berman launched Berman Glass editions, a design driven, readily available, economical line of textured glass. This new line of textured glass is manufactured using a modern processing technique that maintains Berman's handcrafted quality and signature textures. Berman and his company have won numerous awards, including 2003 and 2005 "Best of NeoCon" Gold awards for best architectural product. The company has been widely published and has garnered numerous high profile clients around the world.

In addition to the main studio on Vancouver's Granville Island, JBGS operates a manufacturing facility in Vancouver's Gastown area, a showroom at Chicago's Merchandise Mart and a showroom under development in Seattle.

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