

## Most innovative decorative glass application, large company

### Borealis sculpture at General Motors headquarters >> Eckelt Glas

About 1,000 glass panels from Eckelt Glas of Austria make up the undulating Borealis glass sculpture by London artist Danny Lane that lines the walls of the General Motors corporate headquarters in Detroit.

Each of the 43-pound pieces of annealed float glass measures 4 inches wide, 1½ inches thick and 22½ feet long. The glass pieces lean at varying angles, creating waves along two walls of the lobby. One wall measures 47 feet long, the other 50 feet.



The glass pieces were hand cut using a track-sliding cutter, and the edges were polished mechanically at Eckelt's Steyr, Austria, facility. The company specially manufactured frames to transport the glass.

"The sheer size and number of pieces that had to be made to exacting tolerances was enough of a challenge," says Roger Watson, vice president of sales and marketing, and project and technical services manager for Saint-Gobain Glass Exprover N.A. "The construction itself was just as much of a challenge, if not more."

The project team faced tough engineering problems during installation that eventually required a thin ribbon of shot-blasted, acid-pickled aluminum to attach to the front of the sculpture. TriPyramid Structures Inc. of Westford, Mass., fabricated the front metalwork.

Christy Glass Co. of Ferndale, Mich., did the installation. Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of Chicago was the architect.

See the January 2007 issue of Glass Magazine to read a full-length feature on Borealis.