

# The Art of Illumination

**A**ngelique Jackson and JoAnn Jancik are two Southern women who know how to light up a room. Their stained-glass art is spectacular – brilliantly beaming on the high seas, reverently rejoicing in hallowed halls, dramatically transforming spaces and places in and out of the country.

“I think everyone is attracted to stained glass,” Jackson said. “There is an emotional appeal to color mixed with light. That is the major reason why churches and cathedrals used it in the past. They developed an environment where people could feel emotionally uplifted. Colored light was definitely a factor.”

Over the past 30 years, Jackson and Jancik have parlayed a passion for glass into a global gallery. Clients of their Atlanta-based company, Jancik Arts International (JAI), range from Disney’s Epcot Center in Florida to the Grand Casino in Mississippi, temples of the Latter-Day Saints to a post office in Texas. Their award-winning domes grace the atriums of 20 luxury cruise ships, including the Princess Cruise Lines and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line in Portugal. They do private residences as well.

Giving those European masters of the Old World a run for their money, JAI is one of the few remaining artisan studios in the world skilled in the design and fabrication of overhead art-glass domed ceilings – a feat that requires both artistic mastery and technical expertise. A typical atrium dome might be 30 feet in diameter, weighing in at 3,600 pounds.

Their heavenly handiwork is a creative collaboration. Jackson works out of her Clayton studio as the chief designer and president, creating intricate stained-glass designs by hand and managing public relations and client contracts. Jancik gets down

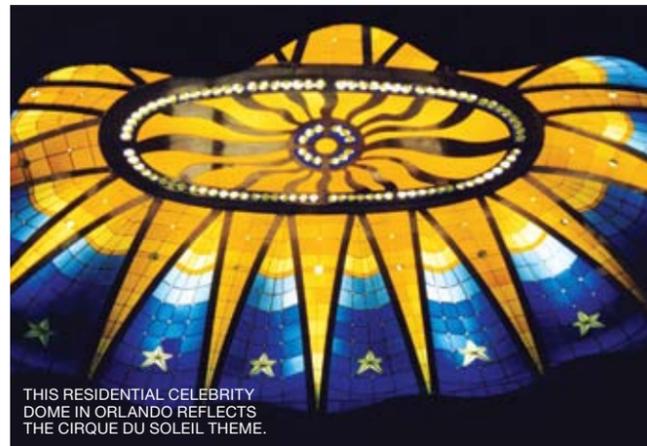
to business in a converted barn in Ocala, Florida, as the master glass fabricator, carefully cutting and assembling thousands upon thousands of pieces of color-coded glass, one at a time. She’s in charge of construction, shipping and installation.

“Working with glass is not just a profession for us. We draw personal satisfaction from exploring what glass can be,” Jancik said. “We love working together and we love what we do.”

Indeed, their enterprise began as a hobby in 1978. In the beginning, most of their work was high-end residential. Today, the majority is commercial in the travel/hospitality and leisure/entertainment industries, with commissions ranging from \$25,000 to more than \$500,000. They specialize in art glass, as well as metal sculptures and custom light fixtures, working alongside architects, interior designers, art consultants and homeowners to design, produce and install one-of-a-kind pieces. Each is an original work copyrighted and registered with the Library of Congress.

Projects take anywhere from five months to a year to complete. The structural dome frame, fabricated with sections small enough to enter a home or building, is assembled on-site. The art glass panels are then installed into the secured frame. “Domes are especially difficult because of the complex curvature,” Jancik said. “They tend to be circular at the base and the dome itself is curved.”

The rotunda of Whit and Diane Palmer’s home was specifically customized to showcase a stained glass dome by JAI. “We designed our home with this unique feature in mind,” the owners said. “The overhead art glass adds a subtle drama to our living environment that we enjoy every day and every evening.”



THIS RESIDENTIAL CELEBRITY DOME IN ORLANDO REFLECTS THE CIRQUE DU SOLEIL THEME.



THIS AWARD-WINNING OCEAN PRINCESS DOME GRACES THE SHIP’S MAIN ATRIUM. OPPOSITE: A DRAMATIC 12’ DIAMETER WITH 3’ DROP ATRIUM CHANDELIER ABOARD THE EMERALD PRINCESS FEATURES ART GLASS AND 50MM FACETED CRYSTALS.