



## **Architect Specification Checklist**

### *Decorative Architectural Glass: Early Design & Specification Guide*

This checklist is designed to help architects and interior designers evaluate decorative architectural glass during the schematic design and early design development phases. Use this guide to strengthen coordination, reduce risk, and align performance, compliance, and fabrication requirements.

#### **1. Project Intent & Design Goals**

- Define the purpose of decorative glass (feature wall, shading, privacy, branding, glass railing, canopy, etc.).
- Confirm visual goals (transparency level, gradient, pattern density, color integration).
- Evaluate how decorative glass aligns with the overall material palette.
- Identify whether glass serves aesthetic, performance, or dual-purpose objectives.
- Determine if custom architectural glass artwork or patterns are required.

#### **2. Code & Safety Compliance**

- Confirm safety glazing requirements (ANSI Z97.1, CPSC 16 CFR 1201, IBC).
- Identify locations requiring tempered or laminated assemblies.
- Review guardrail impact and height requirements.
- Evaluate fire-rated or impact-rated needs, if applicable.
- Confirm bird-friendly glazing compliance if required by local ordinance.



### **3. Structural & Framing Coordination**

- Confirm glass thickness requirements based on span and loading.
- Coordinate attachment methods with the structural engineer.
- Align decorative panels with mullion and framing layout.
- Evaluate deflection tolerances for large-format panels.
- Confirm compatibility with curtain wall or storefront systems.

### **4. Performance & Sustainability Considerations**

- Review daylighting strategy and visible light transmission goals.
- Assess glare control and occupant comfort objectives.
- Evaluate solar heat gain implications.
- Confirm acoustic performance requirements, if applicable.
- Align decorative glass strategy with sustainability targets.

### **5. Fabrication & Constructability**

- Confirm fabrication method (ceramic frit, lamination, etching, back-painting).
- Determine digital file preparation requirements.
- Establish mock-up and sample review timeline.
- Verify maximum panel sizes and edge conditions.
- Confirm lead times for custom or specialty fabricated glass systems.

### **6. Budget & Documentation**

- Include decorative architectural glass in early cost modeling.



- Confirm allowances for custom fabrication.
- Ensure specifications clearly define performance criteria.
- Include installation sequencing considerations in documentation.
- Minimize risk of shop drawing revisions by clarifying scope early.

### **Next Steps**

Early integration of decorative architectural glass strengthens design intent, compliance, and constructability. For assistance with specification development, performance evaluation, samples, mock-ups, or design-assist collaboration, consult with a qualified architectural glass fabricator early in the project lifecycle.

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