



## BACKGROUND

### **FROM ARCHITECTURAL ARTISTRY TO SECURITY: PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF CUSTOM GLASS SOLUTIONS**

The demand for custom glass is growing each year, as architects and designers are specifying curved or bent glass for dramatic design solutions, including such applications as spiral staircases, skylights, elevators, stadiums, zoos, bridges, curtain walls and hundreds of other uses. Custom glass can turn ordinary architecture into the extraordinary.

Not limited to architectural applications, the need for security products such as attack-, bullet- and blast-resistant glass has increased significantly for use in prisons and correctional facilities, federal institutions, embassies, hospitals and military vehicles. Threats of attack and natural disaster have been the driving forces for these applications.

One of the early pioneers in the manufacture of custom glass is *Standard Bent Glass Corp*, headquartered in Butler, Pa. Founded in 1936, the company advanced the custom fabrication of curved annealed monolithic glass for the architectural, display case and furniture markets. One of only a handful of glass benders in the industry from the 1940s up through the 1970s, Standard Bent Glass set the “standard” for quality and innovation in custom glazing, such as its unique soft mold process.

As the company grew, major investments were made in such equipment as an architectural glass autoclave – at the time, the largest in North America – and the product line expanded to include monolithic and safety laminated bent glass.

In 1993, Standard Bent Glass was purchased by Mike and Kent Hartley, father and son entrepreneurs who were committed to developing new product lines and investing in capital equipment and capabilities. During the 1990s, under the Hartleys’ management, Standard Bent Glass:

- Developed bullet-resistant glass for the banking and oil industries
- Invested in oversized and heavy laminated glass for architectural design
- Purchased automated cutting, polishing and washing equipment; an automated line to produce flat laminated glass; and new equipment to produce bent tempered glass
- Expanded its product line to include Celaré decorative laminates, which offer the spectrum of colors and patterns that use light to enliven interiors and exteriors

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In 2000, the Hartleys purchased Globe Amerada Glass Company in Selma, Ala., which gave the company 60 years of manufacturing experience in security glazing products, including all-glass laminates, glass-clad polycarbonates and laminated polycarbonates. Globe Amerada's name was changed to Global Security Glazing, and the organization established itself as one of the world's single-source providers of all custom glazing requirements. The Hartleys and their management team energized Global Security Glazing's position as a leader in the corrections and security markets. The company's products, manufactured in a state-of-the-art 160,000-square-foot facility, are installed in embassies around the world, more than 2,060 correctional and psychiatric facilities and more than 130,000 military vehicles in the Iraqi theatre.

The company's research and development efforts continue to keep it at the forefront of new technologies and products. All of its products are covered by a Single Responsibility Program<sup>®</sup> that ensures one firm has handled and is accountable for all phases of manufacturing.

Capital investments continue to be part of the company's strategic plan, with the addition of equipment to produce laminated, flat laminated, and flat tempered glass. In 2007, the company purchased the assets of the GE Plastics laminating facility in Allentown, Pa., thereby increasing its capacity and share in the corrections and military markets. The acquisition also gave the company the Lexgard<sup>®</sup>, Armor-Gard<sup>®</sup>, and Sure-Gard<sup>®</sup> brands.

In 2008, the company invested in technologically advanced equipment that produces high-quality bent glass in compound shapes and sizes. This new product line, called Breeze<sup>™</sup>, enables Standard Bent Glass to transform three-dimensional computer images into complex curved laminated glass. The company also was named a licensee for SentryGlas<sup>®</sup> Expressions<sup>™</sup>, a computer-based digital imaging system for decorative glass utilizing DuPont<sup>™</sup> technology. The company is one of three in North America that have the capabilities of a new imaging concept that combines proprietary inks with glass laminating to produce eye-appealing decorative products for the architectural and automotive markets.

Since acquiring Standard Bent Glass, sales have increased more than **20-fold** under the Hartleys' guidance. Today, Global Security Glazing and Standard Bent Glass Corp are uniquely suited to partner as the architectural and security markets' single source for a diverse range of glass requirements.

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