

Client: Baystate Health / Steffian Bradley Architects / Glaziers: Tower Glass

Project Challenge: Create a calming environment that mirrors Baystate Health's re-engineered work flow in its new state-of-the-art facility in Springfield, Massachusetts. Balancing technology with nature in the 600,000-square-foot campus addition was important to support this hospital's rhythm for healing. Adhering to principles of The Green Guide for Health Care™, the facility incorporates eco-friendly materials and generous use of natural light throughout the hospital—especially in its five-story atrium at the building's core.



Baystate Health by Steffian Bradley Architects / Photographer: ©Robert Benson Photography

Skyline's Solution

Integrating light and artwork is just what patients need for healing. Steffian Bradley Architects partnered with designer Suzanne Tick to create artwork from images of New England landscapes. In the atrium, Skyline applied our Eco-etch® process on one side of glass to present these abstractions in a rhythmic, vertical, panorama—from marshes to wildflowers and upward to trees. In the “living room,” a custom mural utilizes Eco-etch on the front and AST™ digital glass printing with Vitracolor® on the back, creating a shadowing effect for perspective and depth.

Result

When light reaches the interior of the facility, its interplay with artwork brings nature to life as the sun moves through each day and season. These light wells create both a rhythm of nature and community from floor to floor. It all came together seamlessly through effective collaboration among creative visionaries.

Process

Working together, Steffian Bradley, Suzanne, and Skyline cultivated a unique collaboration to meet deadlines and budgets, while providing beauty in abstractions of nature for Baystate Health’s new facility.

It started with landscape images by photographer Peter Kitchell and Suzanne’s vision for applying them to glass. As she manipulated the photography electronically, assigning colors and tones to the various layers, Skyline offered several techniques for etching to address variations in scale throughout the facility.



Photographer: ©Peter Kitchell



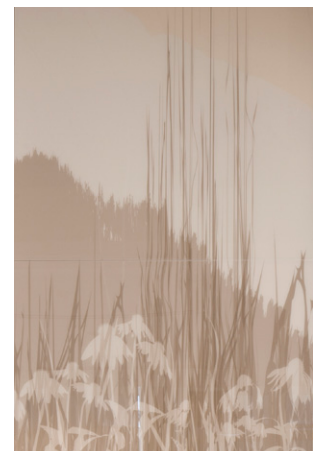
Photographer: ©Robert Benson Photography



With different themes on each of the five floors, the team printed mock-ups of patterns on paper the size of the glass panels, looking at every inch to assess scale up close and from a distance. One work session at Skyline even initiated an exercise in heights when the group realized atrium panels required denser patterns on the bottom half to accommodate privacy on the atrium’s upper floors.

When the 25 x 12-foot mural—made from twelve panels—presented the challenge of maintaining dimension while backpainting on glass, Skyline produced a number of samples to determine what looked best and also helped link the mural designs with the atrium artwork.

Everyone involved was vested in the goal, even though no one anticipated the kind of large-scale project this was. Suzanne Tick said, “It’s like we’re family. We all had a mission of what we wanted to do, how to get it done, and we learned from each other. It was a great collaboration.”



Photographers: ©Adhemar Dellagiustina, Jr. / ©Robert Benson Photography