THE TECHNE OF ARCHITECTURE GLASS

by

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1. Abstract

Today in the glass manufacturing industry, after decades of domination by the
power of industrial production of performance products, resulting from methods seeking
more economies and technical advancement, there is now a need to inject art into the
industry. Having explored glass for so many years, our attention is focused on the
aesthetic impact of the material. In order to communicate this to the industry with whom
we work, it is necessary to have a deep understanding of the nature of the material, to
learn how to manipulate these materials in the aesthetic and inspiring manner and to
appreciate how the industry can produce the products from them.

The approach recognises both the roles of the industry and the craftsman in the
contribution of a more inspiring built environment with the material. By gaining an
insight of the art and technique of creating glass works, potential new forms enhancing
our environment is discovered. This approach has its place in today’s age of humanising
processed material and mitigating the often-too-controlled built environment resulting
from the machine perfection of its materials.
The paper begins with the *Quintessence* of glass and its effects. These historical precedents and local contemporary examples demonstrate the result of human endeavour in the act of creation. They represent the potent combination of human's ingenuity and his desire for self-expression, under the prevailing technical culture. The thesis studies the scenario of the local architectural and decorative glass industry from the perspectives of its making and the people who contributes to the making. By dissecting the knowledge of the local industry in a *techne* point of view, one understands the craft and the artistry of the means possible within the prevailing technical context. By approaching the subject from the perspective of *commune*, one learns about human desire to create and produce within the cultural and economic context of the society. The thesis concludes by drawing an analogy of this understanding to the present architectural scenario. It is a short commentary on the state of local architecture regarding the fundamental yet important aspect pertaining to us.

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The word refers to something that is most typical yet most important.

Derived from the Greek verb *tikto*, *meaning to produce*, this term means the simultaneous existence of technology and craft. It also implies knowledge, in the sense of revealing what is latent within the work.

3 Procter, Paul, Ibid.