Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec
Oblique & Chevron
Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec

Create Architectural Glass Collection for Skyline Design

Skyline Design is pleased to introduce a line of architectural glass designs created by the renowned team of Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. The brothers’ Oblique & Chevron will debut at Skyline Design’s Merchandise Mart showroom (Suite 1040) during NeoCon, the annual design show in Chicago, which takes place from June 10 to 12.

With Oblique and Chevron, the Bouroullec brothers study the interaction of a color spectrum with two distinct angular patterns. The collection is composed of 4 pattern variations that build a “family”: Oblique Regular, Oblique Bold, Chevron Stroke, and Chevron Fill. Each of the patterns is available in four monochromatic colors, which study subtle shifts in tone, and polychromatic palettes, which seek a more dramatic color contrast.

Oblique & Chevron express the luminosity of glass, particularly the immersive quality of stained glass. Traditional stained glass—with its faceted surfaces and dazzling colors set in lead frames,
which both define and offset the richness of the color—was designed to evoke a sense of magic and wonder among medieval churchgoers. The Bouroullecs bring the same otherworldly and nearly mystical sense to more abstract patterns, delighting in the play of scale, light, and fluidity created by the interaction between pattern and palette.

The colors of Oblique & Chevron have been distilled and extracted at a nearly molecular level from eight photographs taken by the Bouroullecs. When overlaid onto the patterns and viewed at a large scale the colors multiply, revealing a fluid and harmonious color landscape.

As stained glass is shaped by its lead frames, the colors are shaped and reshaped by the lines of each individual pattern, their density and distribution changing almost imperceptibly. The result is a sense that the glass is almost alive with a delicate pulse, capable of evoking the same sense of wonder as its medieval counterpart.

In the Skyline Design showroom in the Merchandise Mart, Oblique & Chevron will be displayed in an immersive installation composed of six staggered translucent glass panels up to 8 by 12 feet in size. Visitors will be able to see how the colors shift and shimmer across the expanses.

The patterns and colors are achieved on such a large scale with Skyline Design’s digital print processes, but the company can customize size, scale, color, and process according to client needs or application. Oblique & Chevron are available for both, interior use such as feature walls, space dividers, railings, elevator cabs, and for exterior applications on facades, railings and canopies. Skyline Design fabrication specifications include low iron tempered safety glass and laminated glass in individual panel sizes up to 72” x 144” and in all standard glass thicknesses.
Oblique
Regular

Oblique
Bold

Chevron
Stroke

Chevron
Fill

Chevron Stroke
© Studio Bouroullec
The Bouroullecs on Oblique & Chevron

The project started by wandering, by walking out to capture in photographs sensations of colors and light. We believe that light is a matter of variation, of multiple pieces of information that your eyes build into a unique panorama.

Each photo had infinite color information and different rhythms of contrast. We then built software to work with the photos. What is our software? Something simple that repeats a chain of basic operations. But the magic of computing lies in the myriad of operations you can perform.

The computer script meticulously studies the chosen photograph, samples each color, and creates a foundational color for each panel. That color is then further transformed by a translucent pattern layer, generating thousands of additional color iterations.

We could have created the palette by hand, but, looking at the patterns, you could easily imagine that the work would have been endless and that we would not have been able to repeat it as many times.

So now we have a tool, like a small digital factory, doing the “recipe” we coded for it step by step. To create the patterns, we first had to make decisions about the algorithm, then feed the photographs we captured for their colors and contrasts into the algorithm.

Both Oblique and Chevron are made of simple shapes that overlay and are outlined by a deeper stroke. The darker line plays the role of lead lines in stained glass; they provide contrast and reinforce light and transparency into the panel.

The colors we captured came mostly from natural landscapes, but also from colorful moments such as kids playing on a sports field, where the interlacing of the greens of the lawn and the bright jerseys of the players can be amazing. The construction of the pattern can either diffuse the tones or, alternatively, create contrast between them. Some pictures were chosen because they feature endless tones of the same hue (such as the ocean or a forest), and some because they offer, on the contrary, bright contrast between colors.
Oblique Regular © Studio Bouroullec

Oblique Regular © Studio Bouroullec

Chevron Fill © Studio Bouroullec

Left: Oblique Regular / Right: Chevron Stroke © Studio Bouroullec
Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec

Ronan (born 1971) and Erwan Bouroullec (born 1976) are brothers and designers based in Paris. They were spotted by the Italian design firm Cappellini, which gave them their first industrial design projects and their first solo show at the Cappellini Gallery in 2001. They have since worked with Issey Miyake, Artek, Alessi, Axor Hansgrohe, Hay, Kettal, Kvadrat, Kartell, Glas Italia, Ligne Roset, Magis, Iittala, Mattiazzi, Mutina, Nani Marquina, Samsung, and Vitra. Their work is included in the permanent collections of many museums, including the Pompidou Center and the Museum of Decorative Arts in Paris; the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Design Museum in London, and the Boijmans van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam. They have additionally been the subject of several monographic exhibitions, including Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec at the Design Museum, London (2002); Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2004); Album at the Vitra Design Museum (2012); and Bivouac at the Pompidou Center Metz (2011) and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago (2012–2013).

Publications about the Bouroullecs include: Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec (Phaidon, 2003); Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec - Catalog of Reason (Modern Images / kreo, 2002); Works (Phaidon Press, 2012); and Drawing (JRP Ringier, 2013), a collection of more than 850 of their drawings from 2005 to 2012.

The designers also collaborate with Galerie Kreo, an experimental site in Paris that is essential to the development of their work.
Skyline Design

Skyline Design is one of the leading manufacturers of architectural glass in North America. Headquartered in Chicago and founded in 1983, the company has continually worked to redefine the creative potential of large-scale, decorative architectural glass installations. It is distinguished by its collaborations with leading designers, artists, and photographers, including Suzanne Tick, Patricia Urquiola, the estate of Alexander Girard, Scholten and Baijings, and now Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. Skyline Design produces both exterior and interior glass for corporate, hospitality, transportation, public and healthcare facilities.