

# Fluid Applications

It was a beautiful swimming pool design, with slate-gray materials, a vanishing edge and a beautiful architectural design - and it's also where our work with water officially began.

Our piece consists of a large, freestanding wall with an inset glass-block panel. There's a weir that sends a sheet of water over the glass portion of the wall, but what we did was set things up in such a way that it looks as though water is flowing even when the water is turned off.

The tessellated, differently shaped blocks include aquamarine, greens, and blues, but each of the 77 units in the wall has its own hue and color density. Much of the light that penetrates and reflects back through the glass distorts and reinterprets the views of trees and landscape; especially early in the morning, when there's an interplay of light and glass and surroundings that is truly surprising and exciting. As the day goes on, the wall takes on a different appearance until, in early evening it reflects warm colors and takes on almost-pink colors. And when the fiber optic lights are turned on, the composition takes on an entirely different quality.

We drew inspiration for the tessellation from the mind-bending works of Swiss graphic artist M. C. Escher, who used the technique extensively in his mesmerizing designs, but we're also thinking of quilt makers and Moorish architecture in creating a wall that stays away from conventional repeated squares and reveals truly dynamic visual patterns - even within individual blocks.

The work is durable too. This project is set near Lake Ontario and has been subjected to radical swings in temperature with no signs of cracking or damage of any kind. While many people think of glass as a fragile, breakable material, it is in fact remarkably tough when used on this scale.



