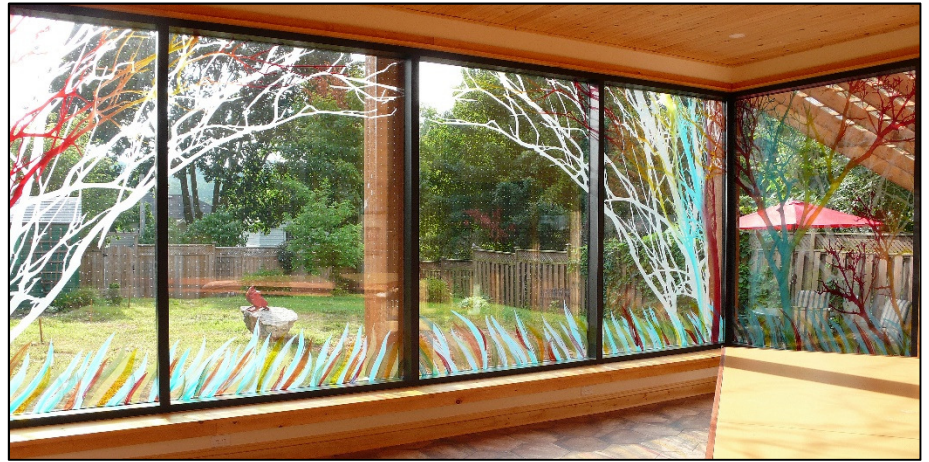


Sarah Hall – Bird-Friendly Glass

29 Ferguson Street, Prince Edward County, ON, Canada



A couple of years ago a Toronto architect suggested that my solar façades would stop “the bird problem” with glass. I soon learned more about “the bird problem.” Birds do not perceive glass and they fly into it. The facades of most new high-rise buildings are made primarily of glass. **In Toronto alone, about 9 million birds die every year by colliding with glass.** This statistic staggered me. Commercial bird-friendly glass is being developed and I thought of another idea - to bring together art glass and bird-friendly “markers” (patterns birds see and do not fly into).

I have just finished my first prototype. The glass window wall is 8 feet high by 32 feet long and looks out onto a garden. The glass is triple glazed. The interior layer is painted and fired with ceramic enamels – both airbrushed and hand painted. The entire exterior surface is laser etched with “markers” every 2 by 2 inches - made of text from *The Language of Light*. The text and imagery are fully integrated, so the bird-friendly markers do not affect one’s sense of a clear vision out the window. Inside, the images of trees shimmering in a grove in transparent colour and light, provides **sanctuary and beauty - and - this glass stops bird collisions.**

