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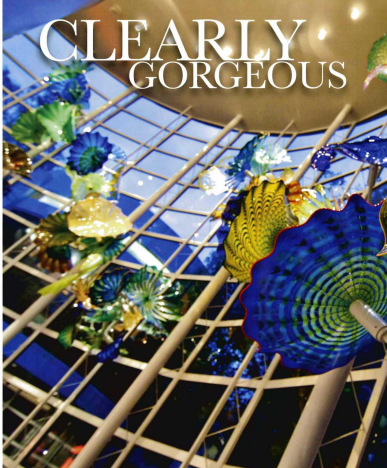
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'Aspen Light' by Marcia Lois Herring, who is known for her brilliant and colorful paintings.

CLEARLY GORGEOUS





Glass artist Dale Chihuly's "Parsons" dominates the children's wing in Steve Goldman's spectacular home. The foyer features his favorite piece of art, a teardrop orb by Lisa Tagliapietra (above right).



BY CHRISTY SMITH

STEVE GOLDMAN'S HOME,
LIKE THE CREATIONS IT HOLDS,
IS A WORK OF ART

When you ask philanthropist Steve Goldman his home's color palette, his description is quite distinctive: black, white – and clear. From the curving walls of the home's exterior to the transparent art that fills every room, glass is the dominant theme in the home of Goldman and his partner, Melanie Love.

"There's a lot of glass," Goldman confirms. "We wanted to maximize the use of glass, and I think we did. I don't think we could have put any more glass in because of energy regulations. We had to do some mitigating things – for energy efficiency – to allow more glass to go up."



The chandelier's bright hues provide an electric punch of color to the home's neutral palette.

Completed in 1999, the 7,103-square-foot home is a modern work of art. So specific were Goldman's desires that the home took three years to design and another three years to build. Among the distinctive features is the staircase leading upstairs from the foyer. A single spiral metal beam supports it. Unable to find a company to craft the frame, Goldman contacted a high school friend who became a welder to take on the task. Once it was complete, Goldman took it to an auto body painter and had it painted with Ferrari automotive paint.

The foyer features a cozy seating spot, providing guests an area to relax in front of the fireplace while awaiting their hosts. On the opposite

side of the room, walls of glass curve out and around, encircling a grand piano and tall art-glass pieces. Between the seating area and the piano is the two-story foyer's glass ceiling. Suspended from the ceiling is a massive Dale Chihuly chandelier, constructed from 500 pieces of saffron- and chartreuse-tinted glass. The chandelier's bright hues provide an electric punch of color to the home's neutral palette, by gross down wood-paneled walls from the second floor, mirroring the chandelier's form.

Also on display in the foyer is a glass sculpture by Christopher Reis titled "Eutheco." Engraved from optical crystal, the design visible in the glass are reflections generated by the artist's precise carvings. Goldman's favorite art





A single spiral metal beam supports the foyer's glass staircase (opposite page). A massive Chihuly chandelier, built with more than 500 pieces of glass, is also in the foyer. The kitchen, with 4 cook stations, overlooks a heavily forested landscape (above). A casual eating area (left) is adjacent to the kitchen. Bright glass pieces (below) fill the home with color.

piece sits near the foyer's fireplace. Designed by Lino Tagliapietra, the tear-shaped orb from the artist's "Borosa" series is encircled by ribbons of colored glass.

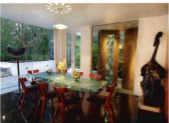
A KITCHEN THAT WORKS

In the kitchen, a wall of windows is the striking feature. With no upper cabinetry to hide the view, the beauty of Goldman's heavily forested landscape is on constant display. It is a kitchen designed for entertaining: There are four cook stations, each with its own sink, garbage disposal and dishwasher; and an industrial-style pantry. "My favorite area here is the pantry," Goldman says with a chuckle. "We take cooking seriously."

A stainless steel arch along the ceiling defines the kitchen island area. Black granite countertops are a backdrop for the brightly colored art glass that sits upon it. "The kitchen is a lot of fun," Goldman adds. "It just really works. Melanie and I are both very interested in [cooking]. It's a very functional kitchen."

Adjacent to the kitchen is a casual eating area. The space is circular with glass window panes enclosing it. Glass pieces representing a picture-perfect plum and a highly detailed apple are especially appropriate. A large, darkly colored piece of laminated glass adds weight to the otherwise airy space.





On the glass-topped (of course!) dining table sits a cube that glitters as though it generates its own illumination.

In the formal dining room, the ambience is decidedly alfresco, with windows overlooking the home's water feature and surrounding the eating area. Goldman's love of music is represented in the largest art piece in this room — a life-size cello sculpture. The focal point, however, is another art piece by Lino Tagliapietra. It is displayed prominently, centered in the wall of windows.

In the hall is another piece by Christopher Reis. Called "Desert Flower," the sculpture seems to mimic the plants outside the long hall's floor-to-ceiling windows.

GOLDMAN'S THEORY OF DESIGN

One quickly notices the geometry of Goldman's carefully crafted home. In fact, geometry may be the best way to describe his home-design theory.

"Everything had to be a straight line or part of a circle," Goldman explains, "from light fixtures to doorknobs to fixtures. And there is no trim throughout the house. That was very difficult because trim is what you use to cover up mistakes. We didn't have the luxury of that with this [design]."

One thing Goldman did have room for was a bit of whimsy. In the children's wing, he added a fire pole, enabling quick access to the first floor. However, since Goldman's children have grown and moved out, this area — with its two-story-high windows and curved walls — has embraced its destiny as a museum space. It is home to another Chihuly installation, 96 of what the artist calls "Persians." The blue, gold and green glass creations seem to swim in the air. "This is one of those pieces you can just stare at for days," Goldman says. "They look like something you'd see floating in the water."

Goldman's office is a technically complex music room. To refine the acoustics, Goldman explains that the room is perfectly circular. Thirty speakers line the top of the rounded space. A piano sits next to his glass desk, which looks out over the open room of windows and his audience of trees. This is where Goldman creates music and coordinates his philanthropic work, particularly his pride and joy, the Young Composers Challenge. The competition is open to young musicians ages 15 to 18 who take part in a free full-day workshop with world-renowned composers and then write their own musical score.

A LIGHT-FILLED SANCTUARY

The upstairs of Goldman's modern home centers on the second-story foyer, with Chihuly's chandelier visible from virtually every angle. The sunlight streams through the glass ceiling, offering no room for shadows. The upstairs bedrooms — there are six bedrooms and eight bathrooms in all — have been converted from children's rooms to guest rooms and offices. Goldman has staff on site to assist with his philanthropic responsibilities.

The master bedroom is stark yet sleek. A dark wood-paneled wall serves as a backdrop to the bed topped with ivory linens. Mirrored walls line opposite sides of the room, adding obvious dimension. A massive flat-panel TV is anchored to one of the glass walls, with a pivoting arm





The sunlight streams through the glass ceiling, offering no room for shadows.



A life-size cello sculpture in the formal dining room (top left) reflects another of Goldman's passions - music. The patio (left) features a glistering water installation. Exacting geometry, evident in the home's exterior (top) dominates the house's design. A massive fire pit punctuates the heavily landscaped site (above left). Goldman's perfectly circular office (above right) is an acoustic dream come true.



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Steve Goldman and Melanie Lowe in front of a canal behind their house.

that allows it to be moved out of the way when not in use. A fireplace adds a touch of warmth. The art is here is minimal because the view outside the wall of windows is all the art this room needs.

LIVING WORKS OF ART

Goldman spent as much time planning his home's outdoors as he did indoors. The front of the home floats above the ground on pillars, so no trees were lost when the house was built. "We didn't disturb any roots," Goldman says. "We didn't lose a single tree. I didn't want to take any trees out. So we were able to build the house right up to the cypress trees."

A canal runs along the back of the five-acre property, leading to Lake Maitland. Trees and foliage fill every space. Goldman has planted more than 70 cypress trees throughout his property and some of the adjacent common areas. Brick paths meander, leading to hidden spots such as the massive fire pit area. The fire pit overlooks Goldman's expansive lawn, which is more park than yard.

"I like the outside as much as the inside, maybe even more," Goldman says. Could it be that his love of nature's beauty has driven Goldman to make so much of the outside visible from within his home? Perhaps his is not simply a love of glam but of the vicious glass allows him to see. 📷

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