

Southern Cross II

by Virginia Ferguson, Community Development Coordinator



The stained glass light fixture in the Hawkins Room is both functional and beautiful in this round conference room. Situated under the Chamber's gold dome, the piece is visible from both the first and second floors of the building.

One of the most dramatic and stunning fixtures in the Chamber Collection is suspended from the ceiling of the Hawkins Room. It's a stained-glass light fixture and can be seen from outside the building or from the Robinson Gallery below.

Southern Cross II was created by Bryant Stanton of Stanton Glass Studio. It is a custom-designed stained glass and wrought iron fixture adhered to the ceiling by a wood and iron base specially designed for the space.

Southern Cross II was originally designed as a stained glass window for the altar of a Methodist church. Stanton,

however, saw a three-dimensional image in the window and thus *Southern Cross II* was born. Although the original design was that of a cross, for Stanton it has evolved into the representation of a falling seedpod, one that would spiral from a maple tree to the earth in spring.

"Ideas or concepts can be floating around in someone's mind like seeds on a breeze, but when they find fertile soil they can take root and grow. When I created this piece for the Chamber, I believed that the Chamber is cultivating fertile ground for business ideas to grow here in Waco," said Stanton.

Stanton moved to Waco in 1979 with his wife, Suzanne, and started Stanton Glass Studio. Since that time they have expanded four times and recently opened their new studio near Waco.

For more than 25 years, Stanton Glass has been working with designers and architects from all over the nation to create one-of-a-kind architectural windows and lighting for residential and commercial use.

Stanton craftsmen offer a wide range of services including custom stained glass, stained glass restoration, custom woodworking, hand-blown glass, educational seminars and window evaluations. They are one of only 85 stained glass studios nationwide to be fully accredited by the Stained Glass Association of America.

The Stanton Glass Portfolio reads like a who's who of residential, commercial and historic locations. From the Driskill Hotel in Austin, to the Turner Ranch in Satin, St. Patrick's Cathedral in Fort Worth, the Palazzo Hotel in Las Vegas, the Golden Nugget Hotel Las Vegas, the University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, Parker County Courthouse and Vic and Anthony's Steakhouse in Houston.

The Chamber Collection, made possible through the generosity of past chairs of the Chamber and other investors, includes oils, watercolors, textiles, ceramics, sculpture and other mediums. ■

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