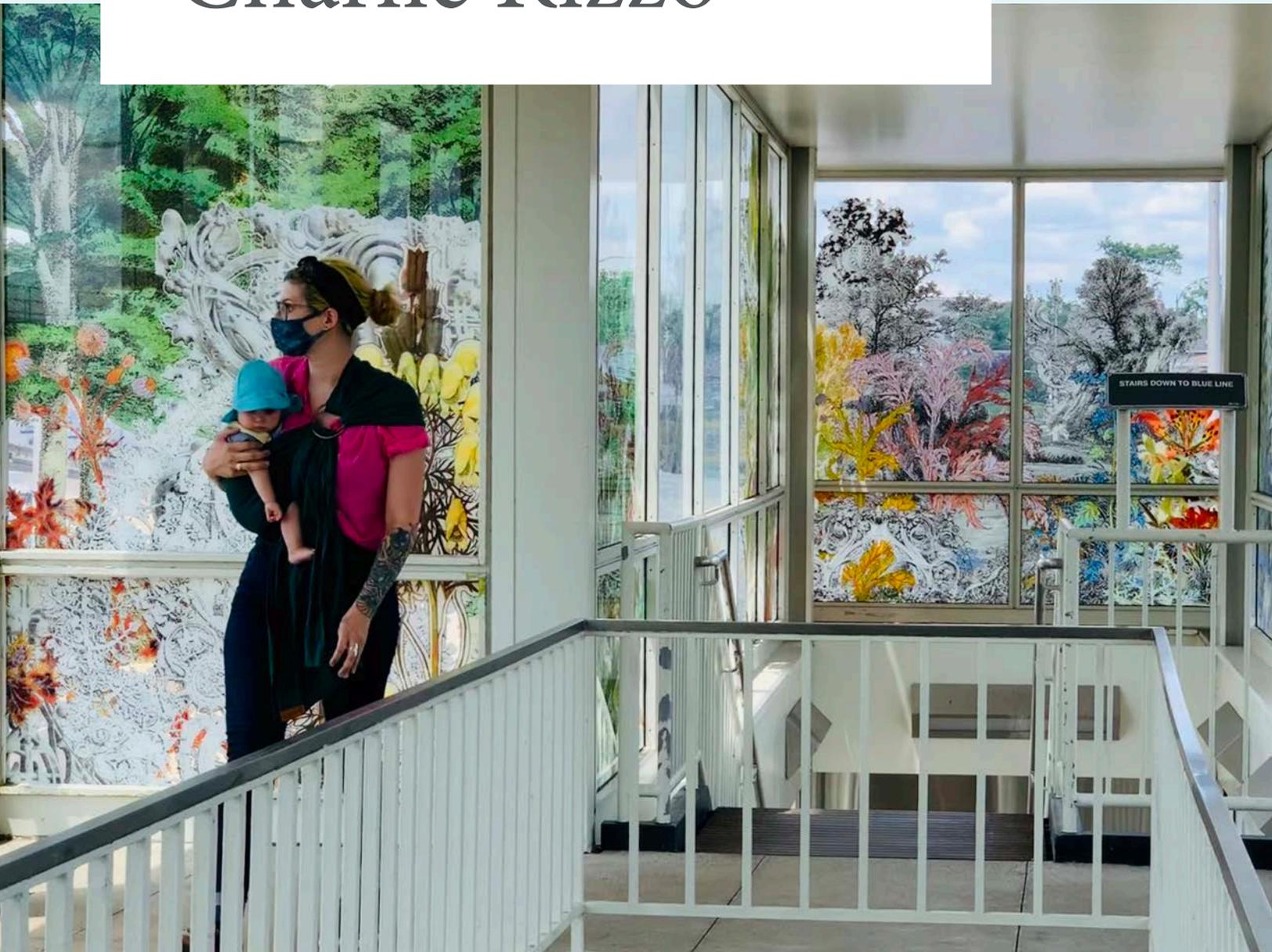


Skyline Design: Who We Are Charlie Rizzo





How it Started

I founded Skyline Design In 1983, with a \$5000 loan from my father, and my partner, Nick Corriero, joined me a few years later.

At first the company specialized in thematic fabrication—sarcophagi for a casino in Las Vegas, an enormous bagel for a Chicago bakery, a giant baseball player for a stadium. But I became concerned about the environmental impact and health hazards of working with fiberglass and wanted to experiment with more environmentally conscious materials, processes, and

products. These experiments resulted in Greenplay, a line of children’s furniture composed of non-formaldehyde plywood, recycled plastic bottles (HDPE), and low-VOC coatings.

We may have been ahead of the curve on this, because Greenplay struggled to find a market, but we nonetheless shuttered our fiberglass-heavy thematic fabrication division and turned our attention to decorative glass, perhaps the most sustainable industrial material—infinately renewable and fully

recyclable. Glass became our singular focus, and we have produced more than 1 billion square feet of decorative glass in the last 40 years.

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Our business has been guided for almost four decades by a few simple principles: respect for creativity; commitment to quality and innovation; local responsibility; and work-life balance.

Creative Collaborations

From the start, Skyline Design has employed and collaborated with artists, designers, photographers, and architects.

In the 1980s, these artists were etching patterns onto sheets of glass; now, in the 2020s, we count among our collaborators the estate of Alexander Girard;

photographers Bonnie Edelman; and Henry Domke; Patricia Urquiola, Erwan and Rowan Bouroullec; Scholten & Baijings; Knoll; Maharam; and Suzanne Tick.

Creative collaboration is the heart of Skyline Design, an ethos that extends from our business to our building, a 150,000 square

feet warehouse we share with creators of all types, including two luthiers, an internationally recognized ceramist, an award-winning author, a letterpress studio, and a photographer. We offer our tenants below-market rents to help them sustain their creative practices.



Commitment to Quality

At Skyline Design, we believe in superior quality and innovation. We do all of our own fabrication and decoration so we can better ensure the quality of our products. I'm proud to say that 99.4% of the products we ship out of our building are error-free; in 2020, we processed only 7 shipping claims, in part because we make our crates out of higher quality material for greater protection. Throughout the years, we have always invested in state-of-the-art equipment and machinery. We were the first company in the United States to digitally print on glass, and today we have the largest roll coat paint line in North America, which allows us to produce 1000 square feet of decorative glass a day, whether in commodity quantities or in bespoke projects.

This commitment to quality is one of the reasons why many customers have been with us since 1983; we have embraced changing times and met every challenge with them. To stay fully abreast of developments in our industry, we belong to numerous professional associations, including the American Institute of Architects, Be Original, the International Design Continuing Education Center, and the Center for Health Design. And we are grateful to have been the recipient of many industry awards, including being named the Best Glass provider for four consecutive years and recognition from *Contract*, *Interior Design*, *Metropolis*, and *Architect* magazines for best new products.



Responsibility

Since 1996, our factory and offices have been located on Chicago's West Side, in the Humboldt Park neighborhood. We are in a primarily residential neighborhood, next door to the Pablo Casals Elementary School and two blocks from the wondrous Humboldt Park itself. Our building was originally constructed in the 1920s, and from 1934 to 1957 it was occupied by Monark-Silver King, a bicycle manufacturer with a signature model called the "Skyliner." While the connection between the names of the Skyliner bike and Skyline Design is a coincidence, the use of the building is not—Skyline Design's home has continuously operated as a factory for nearly a century and is now one of the very few remaining manufacturers in the city of Chicago itself.

We believe in being good neighbors, visible members of our community, and responsible

stewards of the environment. We work with organizations in Chicago to hire recent immigrants and to find jobs for formerly incarcerated nonviolent offenders, believing that everyone deserves a fresh start and a second chance.

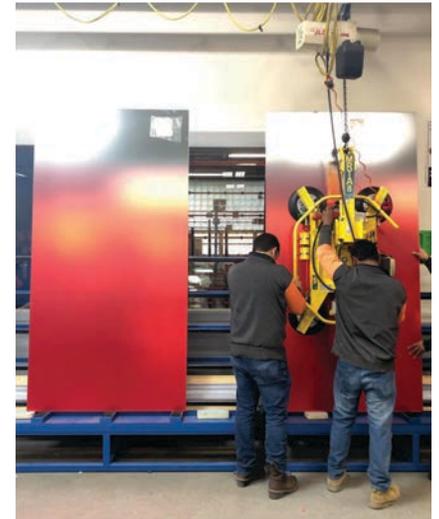
We made the most significant investment in our history several years ago in the machinery necessary to cut, polish, and temper its glass in-house, which eliminated 900 miles of transit for every order. We additionally invested in a centrifuge—rarely found in fabrication facilities—to clean the water used to grind glass, making it possible to easily reuse this critical resource.

We believe in local sourcing: for our line of backpainted Vitracolor glass and Define Glassboards, the low-VOC, water-based paint we use is manufactured within five miles of our factory.

We believe in environmentally-friendly materials: our proprietary Eco-etch® process does not use chemicals as an abrasive but instead recycled aluminum oxide, which is chemical-free, reusable, and results in a surface so resilient that it renders additional sealants unnecessary; our packing peanuts are made of soy rather than styrofoam.

We believe in efficiency and economy: glass is custom-cut for every order, rather than inventoried, to achieve the highest yields possible.

And we believe that every aspect of our practices can be evaluated and improved in light of their environmental impact— from custom-building our shipping crates to reduce packing material to replacing thousands of light bulbs in our factory and offices to reduce energy consumption.



Work-Life Balance

But most of all, we believe in our employees. We have done everything possible to ensure that our employees enjoy a work-life balance. If you come into our offices, you'll find dogs lounging under desks, music playing softly on speakers, and fresh bread from a local bakery on a cutting board in one of our kitchens. We have bike racks and showers for our bike commuters and a baby grand piano in our warehouse showroom for our employees who like to take a break with a few tunes. The greatest measure of our success in building a company that people would actually want to work for is the tenure of our employees: many of us have been with the company since the beginning.

There's a lot more I could say about Skyline Design, a company that I have put my life into. But I hope what I have said so far lets you know who we are and what we believe. When you see a Skyline Design project or product, you're seeing the collective effort and history of people who, with skill, humor, and dedication, have kept our company at the leading edge of our industry for more than three decades.

Charlie Rizzo
Founder and President, Skyline Design

