

INSPIRED HOME

NOVEMBER ❄️ DECEMBER 2012

Fargo's 8th Street Homeowners

**OPEN THEIR HEARTS
AND HOME
FOR A CAUSE**

❄️ *Plus*

TECHNOLOGY BRINGS
FAMILY TOGETHER

THE SPARKLE & SHINE OF
CRYSTAL LIGHTING

CAPTIVATING REFLECTIONS
With **GLASS
COUNTERTOPS**

*Holiday
Entertaining
RECIPES!*

A FRESH APPROACH TO HOME & LIFE

Captivating Reflections

Luminous glass-countertop creations combine art, beauty and design



A glass countertop brings sophisticated elegance into this space. The stainless steel range hood and stove, custom backsplash and dark cabinetry complement each other, making this kitchen spectacular! Photography by Dan Cutrona Photography. Design by Roomscapes Luxury Design Center.



↑ Artistic luminescence in the kitchen creates dramatic appeal! Each ThinkGlass countertop is a one-of-a-kind piece of artistic craftsmanship. Photography by Lauren Leies.

BY WANDA PERKINS | IMAGES COURTESY THINKGLASS, INC.

SANTA MAY EXPERIENCE a few minor delays this holiday season. While sampling tasty goodies and treats left behind, he'll undoubtedly stop to admire his dapper reflection in stunning, artistic glass countertop creations across the globe.

With festive holiday entertaining and extended family gatherings, we see reflections of glitter, light and sparkle everywhere, including the kitchen. And there's no better way to incorporate reflective light and beauty all year long than with a luxurious glass kitchen countertop.

"No other material has this relationship with light like glass," states Michel Mailhot, glass master, artist and co-owner at ThinkGlass, Inc. "Glass allows



↑ Uniform textures unite a thin glass backsplash with a substantial glass countertop, maintaining clean lines and simplistic beauty in this magnificent and functional island space. Photography by JoAnn Richards. Design by The Sky is The Limit.

light to flow through itself, creating an airy, luxurious dwelling. It's captivating! It's the best chameleon material, so it melds into any décor or space. As natural light permeates the space, it produces different moods and forms a seamless transition between rooms."

Today's homes display individualized artistic tastes and reflections of light. Glass, as a practical material, is evidenced throughout our homes in windows, doors, mirrors and decorative elements, although beauty is not its only characteristic.

"The extreme durability of glass countertops, along with their textured finish, hides fingerprints and smudges, making them an ideal choice for everything from residential applications like kitchen counters and islands to high-traffic commercial projects," adds Bertrand Charest, president and co-owner of ThinkGlass, Inc. "Glass is a solid surface cast in a single piece and has no cracks or weakness. It endures extreme heat without cracking or scorching and is virtually maintenance free."

For thousands of years, artists and craftsmen have continued to discover new and creative ways to incorporate the beauty of glass into our homes, our lives and our world. Glass surrounds us in practical objects every day. Although glass is a universal material that is expressed within artistic creations such as jewelry, lamp designs and even phones, it's a material not easily mastered or controlled. Even with this difficulty, artists and designers all over the world are using glass in art expression.

"ThinkGlass countertops finally make it possible to integrate art within the kitchen in a functional and beautiful way. Light, colors and organic textures bring an unrivaled shine and brilliance to our countertops."

~ Bertrand Charest, president and co-owner of ThinkGlass, Inc.

Under Mailhot's mastery and deep passion for artistic design, glass is transformed into something ethereal, luminescent and permanent. For more than 35 years, Mailhot has experimented with integrating colors into glass. "Glass is all about possibilities. The play of light reflecting and bouncing within the glass is a sight to behold, something to be proud of and look at with the feeling of having created something unique and beautiful," Mailhot notes.

"Kitchens are evolving into places where we do more than cook and eat. They're social rooms where we gather and entertain," adds Charest. "ThinkGlass countertops finally make it possible to integrate art within the kitchen in a functional and beautiful way. Light, colors and organic textures bring an unrivaled shine and brilliance to our countertops, which are made from 100 percent recyclable glass. Homeowners can select glass thickness, edge treatments and even use LED lighting to add ambiance. The end result is a smooth, glossy finish that's as strong and durable as any natural stone or man-made countertop material."

Whether your style preference is contemporary and bold or subtle as a

misty ocean breeze, the possibilities of glass countertop designs and artistry are endless. Like heat and glass, Mailhot and Bertrand complement each other perfectly. They're a collaborating team of creativity, ingenuity and design.

ThinkGlass, Inc., began in an empty room in 1999 with two individuals passionate about beautiful glasswork. Today, it is one of the most successful glass design and manufacturing studios in the world. Mailhot, the artistic soul of the company, and Charest, a certified engineer, and their talented team produce all their glass masterpieces. From kitchen and bathroom countertops and backsplashes to sculptures, wall murals, floor tiles and large-scale commercial projects, their creations are unparalleled.

They've also collaborated on some truly unparalleled creations: the glass tip of the exterior Olympic flame for the 2010 winter games in Vancouver, British Columbia; a design for Cirque du Soleil in Macau; and the biggest chocolate fountain in the world, located at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas. Now that's a holiday treat Santa will definitely enjoy! Unfortunately, this may cause further delays in Santa's holiday delivery schedule. ❁

→ This pool-house bar features LED lighting. The curve and rippled texture of the glass generate a big splash in bold design. Photography by Nate Weatherly.



← Because this home overlooks the Pacific Ocean, the owners sought to bring the same blue waves into their kitchen. Photography by S. Griffith.