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CAMBERWELL CROSS MADE IN GLASS BY ALEX R

A new architectural installation by glass artist **Alex R** has just been unveiled in a recently built house in Camberwell, South London. She has created twelve glass panels which rise five metres up from the ground to form a huge cross at the front of the house. Alex worked closely with clients Reg and Olive Austin as well as consulting with the architect Laurence Isaacson, and all parties are delighted with the final glass artwork, a cross of colourful glass with surface imagery applied through screenprinting and sandblasting.

In this glass cross, Alex has created a colourful glass totem providing a rich visual focus for the front of the house. From the inside, the glass spreads a spectrum of colour from saturated blues at ground level rising through greens and ambers and culminating in subtle greys at the top. The double height atrium and internal glass balcony means the glass is fully visible from both floors.

Alex R was offered this commission at the end of 2006 when the house was already in the late stages of construction. The façade of the house had a large expanse of glass at first floor level which was subdivided to form a column of slim panels penetrating down to ground level to bring light into the entrance area. The clients had come across Alex's glasswork a year earlier and felt that some bespoke glass could provide an exciting design solution for the façade.

The brief was fairly open, requiring only that the glass panels included some imagery of a pineapple, a symbol of hospitality which is appropriate for an entrance. The pineapple motif was used across all the glass panels, but ranging in subtlety and effect to reflect the difference between the functional nature of the ground floor rooms and the sense of calm and relaxation of the first floor sitting room. In the entrance hall area, the distinctive spiky shape of the pineapple is represented in distinct linework drawings etched out of the glass, allowing light to filter through the rich coloured background. Further up the building the imagery becomes more abstract, picking up on the textural qualities of the pineapple skin. The graduation of surface decoration and texture is echoed by the gradual change of colour as one ascends through the house.

The resulting glass artwork is a truly spectacular sight within the clean modern lines of the atrium. The south-westerly aspect of the house means it receives direct sunlight for most of the day which causes the glass to project a column of coloured light into the house. In fact Alex's glass artwork acts like a giant sundial, the shaft of light moving around the space tracking the movement of the sun and painting the cool interior surfaces a vibrant rainbow of colours.



FULL INTERNAL VIEW



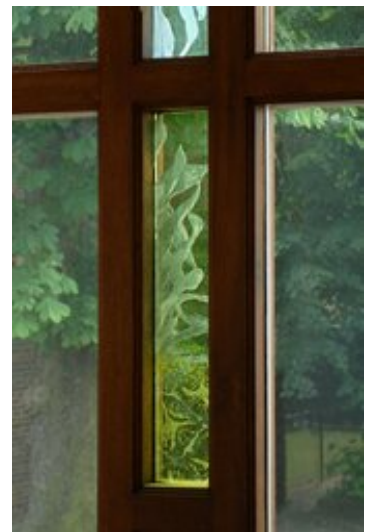
INTERNAL GROUND FLOOR VIEW



PANEL 4 CLOSE UP



CENTRAL CLOSE UP



PANEL 8 CLOSE UP

INFORMATION FOR EDITORS

Title: The Glass Cross
Artist: Alex R
The Glass Studio | 47 Pymers Mead | London SE21 8NH | 020 8761 6464
Year: 2007
Size: 0.2 x 5 m high with cross section 2 m wide x 0.4m.
Materials: Antique glass with up to three screenprinted layers and sandblasted detail

Client: Reg and Olive Austin
Site: Stories Mews, Camberwell, London SE5
Architect: Laurence Isaacson
8 Orlestone Mews | London N7 8LL | 020 7607 5104

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HI-RES IMAGES, CONTACT: alex@alex-r.com

Alex R is an upcoming artist who has completed many previous commissions for private and private clients. She was the winner of the Stevens Glass Competition (2005) and was selected to show at the prestigious British Glass Biennale (2006) as well as winning various other accolades and prizes. She set up her business after graduating from Central Saint Martins in July 2005. Her studio occupies the entire ground floor of her 1970's townhouse in leafy south-east London which she shares with her nine year old son.

www.alex-r.com