

WALKER TEXTURES®

Designing INTERIORS with Acid-Etched Glass

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Preface

to the e-guide of designing interiors with acid-etched glass and mirror

Acid-etched glass was first manufactured on a commercial scale in England in the mid-1800s and became popular as an interior design element in Europe through the 1900s. Gardner Walker began to manufacture and market acid-etched glass in North America in the early 2000s and remains the only North American manufacturer of this most interesting glass substrate.

As the North American leader in acid-etched glass and mirror, Gardner Walker currently offers a spectrum of products that address the many and varied design needs of the Architect and Design (A & D) community. Our firm has developed very specific know-how in this field and continues to bring new and exciting acid-etched products to market. In addition, our North American Architectural Management team is out meeting architects and designers every day across Canada and the United States, assisting them with their design visions and challenges.

This document was created in response to requests from the many architects and designers we serve. The goal of the guide is to help you better understand all that



can be accomplished with acid-etched glass and mirror, and to make informed material selections when designing interior spaces. Spaces, for example, that can be filled with natural light and still provide privacy for users.

This guide contains advice, best practices, and product information to help you expertly incorporate acid-etched glass and mirror into your interior designs. It doesn't stop there, though. Within these pages, you'll find use cases to inspire your vision and access to our team of Architectural Managers to support your unique design goals.

To me, acid-etched glass is natural light's best friend! It diffuses daylight while maintaining the highest level of visible light transmittance, providing a sense of warmth and comfort as well as privacy where needed. It is an incredibly diverse product that can be used in many ways. I hope you enjoy this guide and find it useful. Thanks for taking the time to get to know acid-etched glass and mirror!



Charles Alexander
Vice-President of Sales and Marketing
Gardner Walker

PS - Please note that our team here at Walker has also produced an *eGuide of acid-etched glass for Exterior applications*, which can be found on the Gardner Walker website.

[Download the eGuide of Designing Exteriors with Acid-Etched Glass](#)

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Enriching interiors across North America

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Seven deadly sins of mirror installation, and what you should do instead

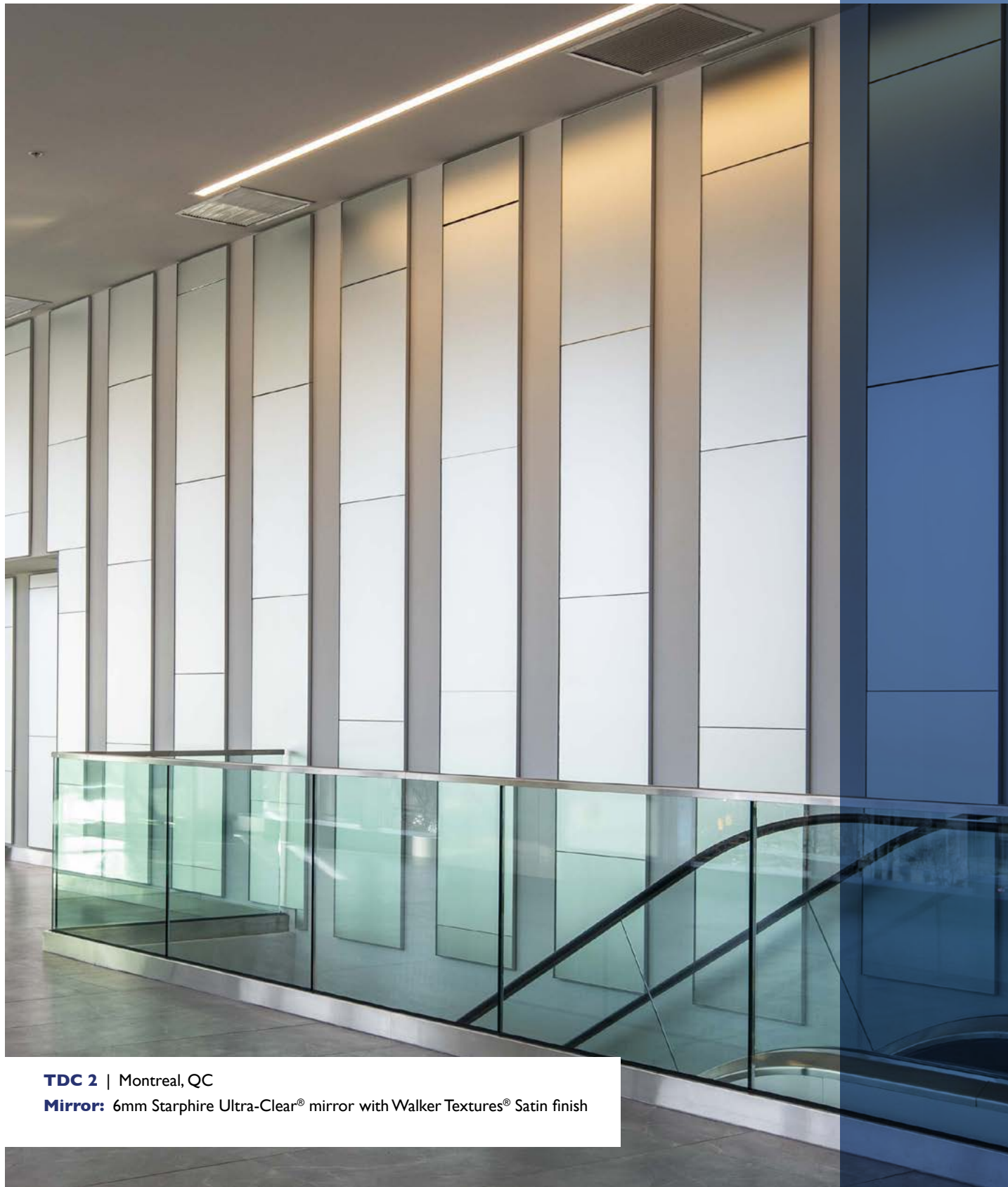


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STARPHIRE
Many projects illustrated in this eGuide show the uniquely pure characteristics of **Starphire Ultra-Clear**® glass from our partner **Vitro Architectural Glass**.

Feature project: Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
The REACH





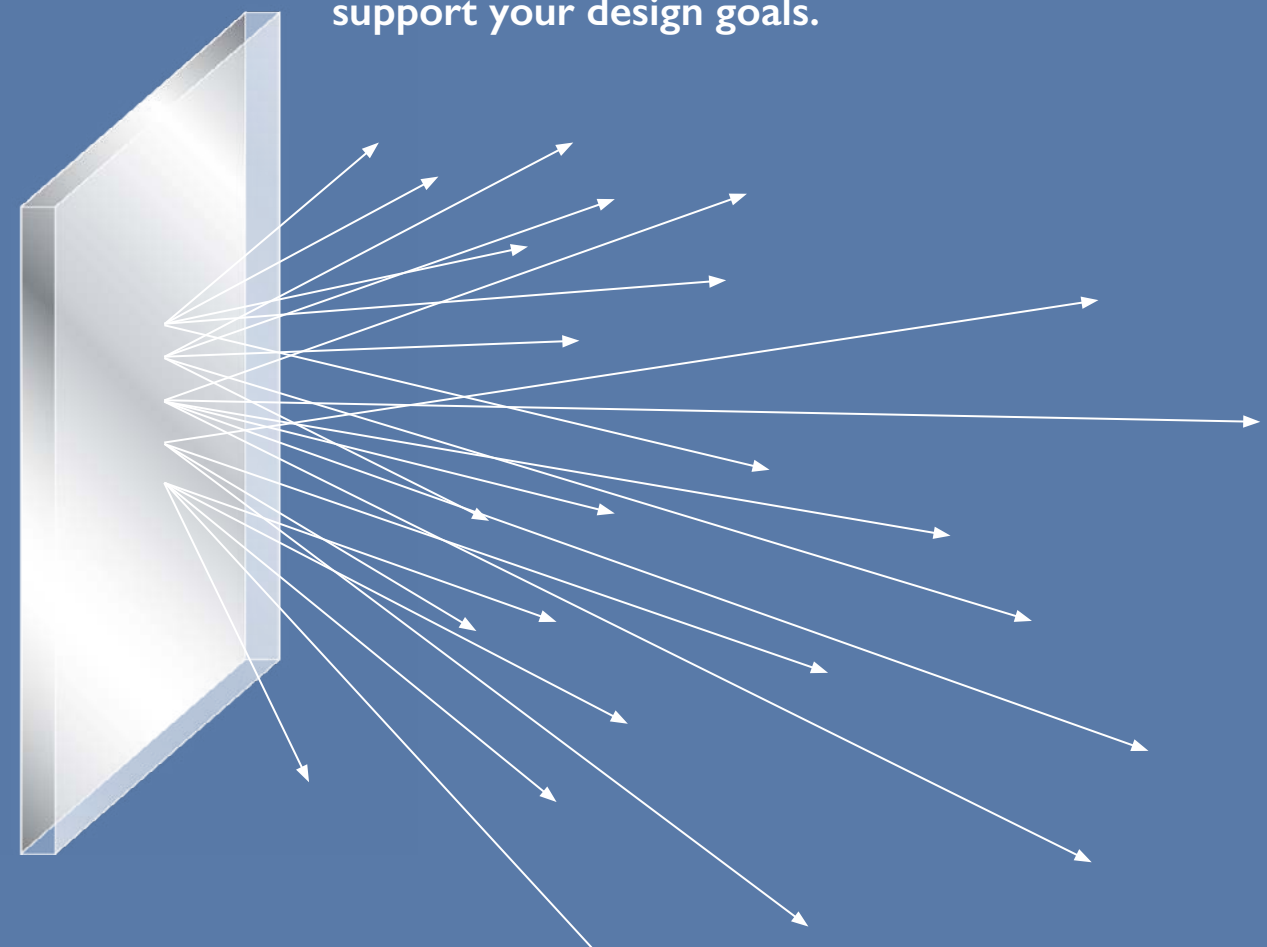
TDC 2 | Montreal, QC

Mirror: 6mm Starphire Ultra-Clear® mirror with Walker Textures® Satin finish

An introduction to acid-etched glass and mirror

Acid-etched glass and mirror offer countless possibilities for interior design. This deceptively simple material can be used in many different applications to solve a myriad of design challenges, especially when combined with other glass treatments.

Read on to see how these adaptable glass products can support your design goals.



What are acid-etched glass and mirror?

Gardner Walker is fully committed to environmentally responsible glass manufacturing, and we are innovators in this space. Please see the section, **Leaders in sustainable manufacturing** to see what we're doing to protect the natural world.

Acid-etched glass and mirror are glazing products whose surfaces have been etched through exposure to an acidic solution. The treatment etches a molecule-thin layer of the glass, changing the surface just enough to scatter light and give it a matte appearance. Mirror is etched on one side only, but acid-etched glass may be single-sided or double-sided. Manufacturers like Gardner Walker produce etched finishes of varying gloss and translucencies through variations in the acidic solution used for etching.

On a full-surface etched product, the resulting glass feels smooth to the touch and has a uniform appearance. On a patterned product, the design is flush with the surrounding unetched glass. It is important to note that the frosted surface of acid-etched glass is not a coating. The product is composed of one single substance: glass.

Where is it used?

In interior applications, acid-etched glass and mirror are popular as wall coverings, especially in reception areas and corridors where they can make a strong first impression and help distribute light evenly. Etched glass is also in demand for interior walls and dividers, since it can provide privacy without blocking light flow. Then there's the artistic aspect. Many designers used acid-etched glass and mirror to make colourful, creative statements in the designed space.

Benefits of acid-etched glass and mirror



Moody's Investors Services | New York, NY

Glass: 6mm clear glass with Walker Textures® custom pattern in Opaque

The benefits

Why you should use acid-etched glass and mirror for interiors

If you're designing a space that needs great daylight and durability, acid-etched glass and mirror could be perfect for you. In addition to their daylight-optimizing properties and sophisticated aesthetic, these long-lasting building materials offer some serious advantages for sustainability and human comfort.

Benefits of acid-etched glass and mirror

Colour accuracy

Etched glass and mirror are highly valued by designers, partly because of the way they show off coloured elements like digital printing, back-painting, and coloured interlayers. This gives designers more control over the hues in a space.

How does it work? Unlike regular float glass, acid-etched glass products don't reflect crisp images of the world around them. Instead, they absorb and scatter light. Even with reflective products, such as etched mirror, the reflection is merely a suggestion of light and shape. There's minimal colouration and contrast, compared to what's reflected by an unetched glass surface.

You can achieve even greater colour accuracy by using a low-iron substrate like Starphire Ultra-Clear® from Vitro Glass, which doesn't have the greenish tint of regular "clear" glass.

Saint Joseph's Oratory | Montreal, QC
Glass: 6mm Starphire Ultra-Clear® glass with Walker Textures® Satin finish on surface 1 and coloured interlayers



Look and feel

Glass is hard, flat, and inanimate, but it doesn't have to look that way. Given the right handling, this simple material can start to look organic, soft and warm, and an acid-etched finish goes a long way toward creating the illusion.

For example, the Museum of the Bible's "History of the Bible" display incorporates acid-etched glass panels printed with excerpts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. A Satinlite finish on surface one mimics the surface quality of the original Scrolls, helping to create an immersive experience for visitors.

Museum of the Bible, History of the Bible exhibit | Washington, DC
Glass: 6mm Starphire Ultra-Clear® glass with Walker Textures® Satinlite finish on surface 1 and digital printing on surface 2, laminated to Starphire® glass



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please download via the form below.**