CARVART
A touch of glass

If you’ve visited an upscale hotel or restaurant recently and been blown away by the architectural glass, chances are it’s courtesy of CARVART, the go-to specialists in etched, carved, and colored glass windows, walls, doors, and furniture.

We caught up with Edward Cayman, CARVART’s CEO, to talk about the company’s groundbreaking Crystal glass, a new offering that’s causing a serious stir in the design community.

When and how did you discover Swarovski crystals?
About five years ago, CARVART manufactured a coffee table for the Swarovski booth at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair. We kept talking afterwards, and the result is Crystal. It’s a shining star in our product offering and features a variety of pattern and color options that allow for unlimited customization possibilities. For instance, the product comes in three glass colors (Pure, Warm and Cool) with a choice of translucency and reflection levels, and three standard patterns that feature Swarovski Round 2018 crystals in four colors (pure fett, warm fett, cool fett, and warm R16). We also offer three additional patterns that utilize triangular, molecular, and square crystals. Of course, there’s a “custom” process that designers can use to create using crystals in 40 different colors. Add to this the selection of color glass and views to choose from and you have a lot of freedom to develop something that is truly bespoke.

How difficult is it to sandwich crystal into glass?
It’s very difficult. The crystals can’t just be added to the glass; we transfer them onto sheets of laminated fabric, which is then sandwiched between sheets of glass. The challenge is keeping the patterns straight on the fabric while working on massive panels, and avoiding trapping air bubbles during the process.

What’s commercial projects has CARVART worked on?
A long, fun list—and this is only a selection. Luxury hotels like The Venetian in Macau, the Hard Rock in Panama, and The Plaza, W Hotel, Cosmopolitan, and The Conrad in New York. Our corporate designs span companies from Mac Life to Morgan Stanley, NBC to Fox. On the restaurant front, you can find CARVART at Del Posto, Lever House, London Hotel restaurants, and the Rainbow Room, among tens of others. We’re in public spaces too, like Madison Square Garden and the Philadelphia Airport. The retail side of our business includes the Christian Dior flagship store, Soho Fifth Avenue, and Baccarat Verona. We’re also currently working with the new Baccarat Hotel and Residences, as well as on other luxury hotels and projects in development worldwide. Of course, Crystal is a brand new product, but we’re already overwhelmed by the commercial sector response—we’ve received several projects in the design stage, including a major hotel in Hong Kong, China, and casinos in the U.S. And Crystal isn’t even properly launched yet.

Is CARVART still a family-run business?
When the family came over from Odessa in 1938, we had just $500. Now, twenty-two years after my father Anton started the business, we’re a team of designers, engineers, project managers, and artisans with sales offices in the U.S., Europe, and Japan. We may have grown, but the Cayman spirit of swearing-in commitment, expertise, and enthusiasm prevails.

Did you always intend to join the family firm?
I studied Political Science and Law, but my passion was drafting and design. When I was at college, my father made carved glass products for a market in Leningrad. My great-grandfather was a glass blower in the Ukraine, so you could say it’s in my blood. After I graduated, we created CARVART, starting out as a “mom-and-pop” operation. I’m humbled to be the fourth generation to work in this business.