

CURRICULA VITAE  
KENNETH FREDERICK von ROENN, JR

Kenneth Frederick von Roenn, Jr. was born in 1948 in Louisville, Kentucky. He attended Florida State University, on a full athletic scholarship in springboard and platform diving, earning a B.A. degree.

Von Roenn began his career in glass in 1970 at **Louisville Art Glass**. Within a few years he had become the General Manager and in 1975, he was promoted to President. In the early 70's he was an active member of the Stained Glass Association of America serving on the executive committee and was chairman of the publications committee. During this period, he compiled a body of innovative work and expanded the reputation of the studio as one of the most progressive in the country. During this period von Roenn wrote extensively for several magazines on the topic of glass in architecture. He taught courses in architectural art at the U of KY School of Architecture from 1974-76. Recognizing a need to expand his background, he left the studio in 1977 to pursue a Masters Degree in Architecture at Yale University. At Yale, von Roenn further developed his interest in architectural art through work with the architect/sculptor Kent Bloomer which was culminated in his thesis entitled, 'The Primary Modalities of Art's Relationship to Architecture: Integration, Juxtaposition and Synthesis'. He graduated in 1981 and established von Roenn Studio Group in Branford, CT, which designed glass, architecture, graphics and furniture, executing commissions nationally and internationally. In 1983, he returned to Louisville and worked for two local architectural firms before establishing an architectural practice with two partners, Bailey, Preston, von Roenn.

Also in the 1980's he returned to training in diving, winning ten Masters National Championships and two World Championships, setting two world records, after which he retired from the sport to focus exclusively on his work in architectural glass art.

In 1991, von Roenn bought the Louisville Art Glass Studio and renamed it **Architectural Glass Art, Inc.** He expanded and reorganized the company redirecting its focus on new roles for glass in architecture. The studio became recognized for its innovative application of new technologies. He served as the director of design and CEO/President, managing a staff of thirty.

In the late 90's, von Roenn's desire to expand the studio led to his search for a new space. During this period, he joined with a group of developers and investors interested in the revitalization of downtown Louisville as well as the region's firm commitment to the arts. The group, guided by von Roenn's vision of a multipurpose glass facility, formulated a concept for what is now known as **Glass Works**. From the original idea of a new home for

Architectural Glass Art, von Roenn created a space for more than 50 glass artists to work and sell their art. Von Roenn owned and oversaw the two galleries, a public workshop, a tour program, a special events program and the glass blowing studio, which comprised Glassworks. More than 125,000 people visited Glassworks annually, which made it one of Louisville's most popular attractions. In 2012 von Roenn sold his interest in Glassworks to focus his attention exclusively on Architectural Glass Art.

Under von Roenn's leadership, Architectural Glass Art executed more than 1,000 projects throughout the United States as well as in Japan, Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and China. In addition to designing his own projects, von Roenn has also collaborated with several significant artists on major projects including Al Held, Jose Bedia, Laura Battle, Thomas Sayre and Jennifer Bartlett as well as consulting on other projects with Judy Pfaff, Kiki Smith and Jaume Plensa. He has also worked with many of the leading American architects. Von Roenn designed, and his studio produced, the world's largest glass sculpture, which crowns the top of Wachovia Bank's Corporate Headquarters in Charlotte, NC. This work weighs more than 500,000 pounds, rising more than 50' above the rooftop so it can be seen from several miles away. It is also designed and engineered to withstand hurricane force winds.

Von Roenn's work has been published in many books and in every major architecture magazine including a feature article in "Architecture" magazine. He has lectured extensively throughout North America and Canada and has written dozens of articles on art and architecture. Von Roenn has received numerous awards, including the Faith and Form Visual Arts Grand Award, American Crafts Award for Architectural Art, the AIA Allied Professional Award, the DuPont Benedictus Award, the Corning Museum Award, the Al Smith Fellowship, Tau Sigma Delta Architecture Fraternity Award, and multiple Ministry & Liturgy's Bene Awards. In addition, von Roenn received the Crystal Award for his design of an all glass bridge to the Louisville arena, which is the highest award in the architectural glass industry. This project has been recognized as a technological tour de force in the glass industry for the way in which an artistic glass was used for the first time as a primary structural element for a bridge. He has been inducted into the American Glass Hall of Fame as well as the Atherton High School Hall of Fame and was named one of the twenty-five most influential people in the arts in the Midwest by *Dialogue* magazine. He was presented with the Governor's Award in the Arts in 2011 by the governor of Kentucky, which is the highest honor bestowed on a Kentucky artist.

In the spring of 2013 von Roenn was named the Director of the Master Craftsman Studio and also the Associate Director of the new Public/Architectural Art Program at Florida State University. He worked closely with FSU to develop the P/AAP, which is the first of its kind in the US. The objective of the program is to prepare students to work on architectural and public art projects. As a professor von Roenn taught courses in Public and

Architectural Art as well as sculpture. In his courses, he focused on the process of emphasizing methodologies of design and execution. He is especially concerned with the relationship between art and architecture and the working relationship between architects and artists. As both an architect and an artist, von Roenn brings a unique perspective to this relationship.

With this move to Florida he has begun a new studio with his partner, Ursula Kaiser Vourvoulis, which is named Kaiser/von Roenn. K/vR Studio continues to focus on large-scale architectural glass projects nationally and internationally. In their first three years they have completed major projects in Manilla, Philippines, Dublin, Ireland, Austin, TX, Nashville, TN, Denver, CO, Nashville, TN, Los Angeles, CA and San Diego, CA. He is active in the Florida Association of Public Art Professionals and the Public Art Network, a national organization of public artists. He lectures frequently on the topics of public art and its role in communities, the relationship between art and architecture, and the history of architectural glass art and its lessons for the future. Since 2013 his works have been published more than twenty-five times in art publications and he has won numerous competitions over this period. In 2016, von Roenn established von Roenn Design, Consultation & Collaboration, LLC, which provides services to artists, architects, institutions, companies, developers, studios, consultants, and public art agencies. At present he is advising several companies in the US, Europe and Asia as well collaborating with artists on several projects. Also in 2016 von Roenn presented the keynote address to the American Glass Guild's annual conference in Chicago. He is currently working on large projects in England, Ireland and the US.



