

BERKELEY GLASS

The Homeowner's Guide to Designing a Custom Window

How to turn an idea, an unusual opening, or a hard-to-replace window into a solution that fits your home—and your life.

From design consultation to final cleanup, Berkeley Glass delivers craftsmanship you can see and service you can trust.

WE CAN HELP WITH:

- Type of glass, size, and function
- Whether an existing frame be used
- Energy efficiency, safety and privacy

Selbyville, DE 19975

(302) 405-6305 | Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

BERKELEY-GLASS.COM

Step 1: Start with the Why

Before choosing glass, frames, or finishes, think about what you need the window to accomplish.

The right window can change the character of a room, highlight a beautiful view, improve comfort, restore the charm of an older home, or solve a problem that a standard replacement simply can't.



Are you:

- Replacing a damaged or broken window?
- Updating an outdated window?
- Improving energy performance?
- Restoring an older or historic home?
- Bringing more natural light into a room?

Your answer will help determine which materials, configurations, and construction methods make sense.

The best custom window starts with the problem—not the product.

Step 2: Think About the Shape and Size

Not every window opening fits a standard size. Older homes, additions, renovations, and architecturally distinctive spaces can all present unusual dimensions or shapes.



A custom window may allow you to work with:

Non-standard dimensions

Instead of changing your opening to accommodate an off-the-shelf window, the window can be designed around the existing space.

Unique shapes

Arched, oversized, narrow, tall, or otherwise unusual openings may require a more specialized approach.

Existing architectural details

If your home has distinctive trim, frames, or other character you want to preserve, those details should be considered before the project begins.



Measure twice—but don't design from measurements alone.

A professional evaluation can help determine what is actually possible within the existing opening and what adjustments may be necessary.

Step 3: Choose the Right Type of Glass

Glass isn't simply “clear.” Different applications call for different characteristics, and the right choice depends on the location, purpose, and performance goals of your window.



Depending on the project, glass may be selected for considerations such as:

- Energy Efficiency
- Insulation
- Safety
- Durability
- Privacy
- Solar control
- Appearance
- Sound reduction
- UV protection

For example, insulated glass units can help improve insulation and address older or failed double-pane windows, while tempered or laminated glass may be appropriate where safety is an important consideration.

Don't choose glass based on appearance alone.

The right glazing solution balances how the window looks with how you need it to perform.

Step 4: Consider How the Window Will Function

A beautiful window still needs to work for the people who live with it. Think about how you want the window to operate.



Do I want the window to open?

If so, how often?

Is ventilation important?

A window in a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, or living area may have different ventilation needs.

Does the window need to be easy to operate?

Consider reach, accessibility, furniture placement, and how the room is actually used.

Would a fixed window make more sense?

For certain architectural features or hard-to-reach locations, a stationary window may provide the look and natural light you want without requiring operation.

Function should be considered alongside aesthetics—not after them.



Step 5: Think About Energy & Comfort

If you're replacing an older window, don't think only about how the new window will look. Think about how it will perform.

Older or failed insulated glass can contribute to drafts, temperature differences, condensation, and reduced energy performance.

A WINDOW PROJECT MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE:

Insulation

Choose glazing appropriate for your home's needs.

Energy Performance

Replace outdated or failed units with a more efficient solution.

Comfort

Help create a more consistent indoor temperature.

Long-term value

Invest in a window that is designed for the space rather than simply choosing the closest standard size.

A professional can help you understand which performance characteristics are actually relevant to your particular home.



Step 6: Consider Privacy, Light & View

One window may need to accomplish several things at once.

YOU MAY WANT:

More Light

While still maintaining privacy.

Privacy

Without making a room feel dark.

A Beautiful View

Without sacrificing comfort.

Architectural Character

Without compromising function.

Before choosing a solution, consider the window's location:

- Is it facing a street?
- Is it near a neighboring home?
- Does it receive direct sunlight?
- Is it in a bathroom or bedroom?
- Is there a view worth preserving?
- Do you want the window to become a focal point?

The goal isn't simply to fill an opening - it's to create the right relationship between your home, the light, and the outside world.

THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY



CUSTOM DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN COMPLICATED.

The right custom window begins with understanding the space and the homeowner's goals. From there, the details—glass, frame, dimensions, operation, performance, and installation—can be considered together to create a solution that fits.

And sometimes, the right answer isn't a completely new window at all. It may be a precisely fitted replacement pane, a new insulated glass unit, a repair, or a re-glazing project that preserves what already works. The important thing is to evaluate the whole project before deciding on the product.

READY TO EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS?

Whether you're replacing an aging window, restoring an older home, solving an unusual opening, or creating something completely custom, Berkeley Glass can help you understand your options.



LET'S BUILD WITH CLARITY.

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