



ROYAL DOOR Ltd.

A Canadian Company Established Since 1975

87 PLANCHET ROAD, CONCORD, ONTARIO L4K 2C6 CANADA
Tel: 905.669.2954 Fax: 905.669.2972 sales@royaldoor.ca www.royaldoor.ca

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Ordering doors “without glass” – that threw some door manufacturers for a loop, with a couple even replying that “we can’t do that, doors have to come with glass”. Royal Door, however, had no issues with this request, and promptly forwarded a very detailed quote for four French door sections, custom sized, no glass, to fit existing framed interior openings.

Why no glass? The reason is that we already had four large [58” x 28”] stained glass panels in-hand.



These were made by my Dad and installed for many years in solarium windows in our Port Credit house. We have long been fans of Frank Lloyd Wright – architecture including

stained glass windows – so we had ‘commissioned’, from my Dad, an adaptation of one of FLW’s stained glass designs. This fit very well into the current interest in mid-century modern design. The glass was selected and purchased from Fantasy in Glass, a specialty stained glass shop/fabricator on Lakeshore in Etobicoke, and my Dad set to work cutting the individual glass pieces. The construction of the panels is copper foil covered in lead/tin solder, with each panel bordered by a ‘U’ shaped zinc [alternatively brass] channel that provides the rigidity needed for large panes. These panels were only one of many stained-glass windows, sun catcher and lamp projects undertaken over the years by three generations of our family, our kids included.

We enjoyed the result very much at our Port Credit house, but recently purchased a retirement bungalow in Oro-Medonte, in the countryside north of Barrie. Renovations there included closing off one wall of a very open dining room [one side was exposed to

the entrance foyer] and adding a small home theatre room. The latter, being in the somewhat cooler basement, was outfitted with an in-wall electric fireplace, requiring doors to retain the warmth. For both applications, it made sense to keep things as bright and airy as possible, and that meshed nicely with the mostly transparent stained-glass panels, which we moved [carefully but without difficulty] up to our Oro-Medonte house.

The French door sections, in finger-jointed pine [not MDF!] were ready for pick-up within Royal Door’s promised two-week delivery



period, and turned out to be expertly crafted, exactly to our specifications. One side of the door openings had quarter round trim installed, and we also received a bundle of trim for the other side that we fit in after the stained-glass panels were in place in the now painted doors. After a little work fitting perfectly square doors into slightly less than square door openings and adding some ‘satin nickel’ hardware that complemented the soldered glass seams, we were really pleased with the end result!

Thanks again to Royal Door for a job well done!

Tom & Liz

Oro-Medonte, Ontario