

“People want to be connected to the outdoors.”

GLASS CURTAIN WALLS: they're a hallmark of International Style. And they're increasingly a hallmark of contemporary homes as people desire to be more connected with their surroundings. Doors, too, often have more glass or unique details than in the past.

It takes a certain amount of expertise to deal with the expanses of windows and unusual door designs popular today, and Door Studio is there to fill the need, as it has been under one name or another for a quarter-century. “We started with just windows in 1989, expanded our offerings over the years, and became Door Studio in 2004,” says Beate Vüllers, vice president and co-owner of the company. “We're a full-service shop, and everything is made to order. When you choose a window or door, we do everything: pricing, specifications, detailing, installation, and after-market service.”

Vüllers, who is from Germany, started in the window business in an Ontario-based family-owned window-and-door-production company. However, the German connection remains. “Our window frames are manufactured to order in Germany, then imported to Canada where we glaze them and attach the hardware,” she says. “Everything is custom-made.”

Door Studio shares its large production and showroom facility with Stobag, Vüllers' partner's business. Stobag manufactures Swiss-engineered shading systems that complement Door Studio's line of windows and doors, including a line of height-adjustable glass railings that act as wind screens for patios and balconies.

It's all in service of the trend to bringing the outside in, says Vüllers. “People want to be connected to the outdoors. And in contemporary fashion, they want large windows and airy railings versus traditional styles such as French doors or windows with muntins. Everything we do is very contemporary, but it also fits well with transitional decor.”

As you might expect with a heritage of German craftsmanship behind its products, Door Studio can offer high-tech solutions such as entrance doors with fingerprint scanners instead of traditional locks, and windows and doors controlled through home automation systems. The company's products meet and exceed the U values (a measure of how well a product prevents heat from escaping) required by the new building code.

Vüllers is particularly proud of Door Studio's new line of Unilux doors and curtain-wall windows. “Unilux has been in business for 40 years in Germany,” she says. “They custom-fabricate windows and doors that are aluminum on the exterior but wood on the interior. We have a large selection of wood species, including larch, alder, Nordic pine and exotic species. And you can have Unilux swing doors up to 10 feet tall. Architects love the Unilux line. Such a high-end product is a total niche market.”

Unlike many other window and door suppliers, Door Studio's 10,000-square-foot showroom exhibits all the products in full scale. “We have doors 10 feet tall and 20 feet wide, with real-size elements,” Vüllers says. You can discover for yourself how manoeuvrable the huge windows and doors are, or check the website to see a video of Vüllers' partner's little girl, who is less than four years old, easily sliding open a 400-pound patio door. You'll be charmed – and impressed. ☛



A CLEAR ADVANTAGE

Door Studio offers large doors and windows for contemporary tastes



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