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## Design Spotting - Zahid Sardar

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Zahid Sardar

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## Energetic glass

Mission District glass artist Nikolas Weinstein, whose organic, nature-inspired work is much admired in Asia, has just completed three sculptural glass skylight shades for Bar Agricole, a restaurant designed by Aidlin Darling Design in San Francisco.

When Weinstein installs the rectangular, 400-pound, 5-foot-by-7-foot shades, he hopes they will resemble diaphanous fabric billowing in the wind.

"Josh Aidlin didn't come to us for spec work," Weinstein says. A [New York City](#) native, Weinstein discovered glass art after interning at a [stained-glass](#) factory. "I knew there was more to glass than that," he says.

This latest work is a combination of previous experiments: kiln-warped panels of glass tubes fused together like ridged potato chips for a [Frank Gehry](#) bank design in Berlin; a shade made of wired-together tubes of glass for a Norman Foster-designed hotel in Singapore. The rectangular Bar Agricole sculptures are composed of slender, 6-foot-tall glass tubes woven together with [stainless steel](#) cables. This "fabric" is low-fired and manipulated in Weinstein's kiln into undulating shapes, but it remains somewhat flexible. "The shades are straighter and boxlike at the top and deformed as they descend," Weinstein says. "We've figured out how to imbue monumental but lightweight sculptures with energy and movement."

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