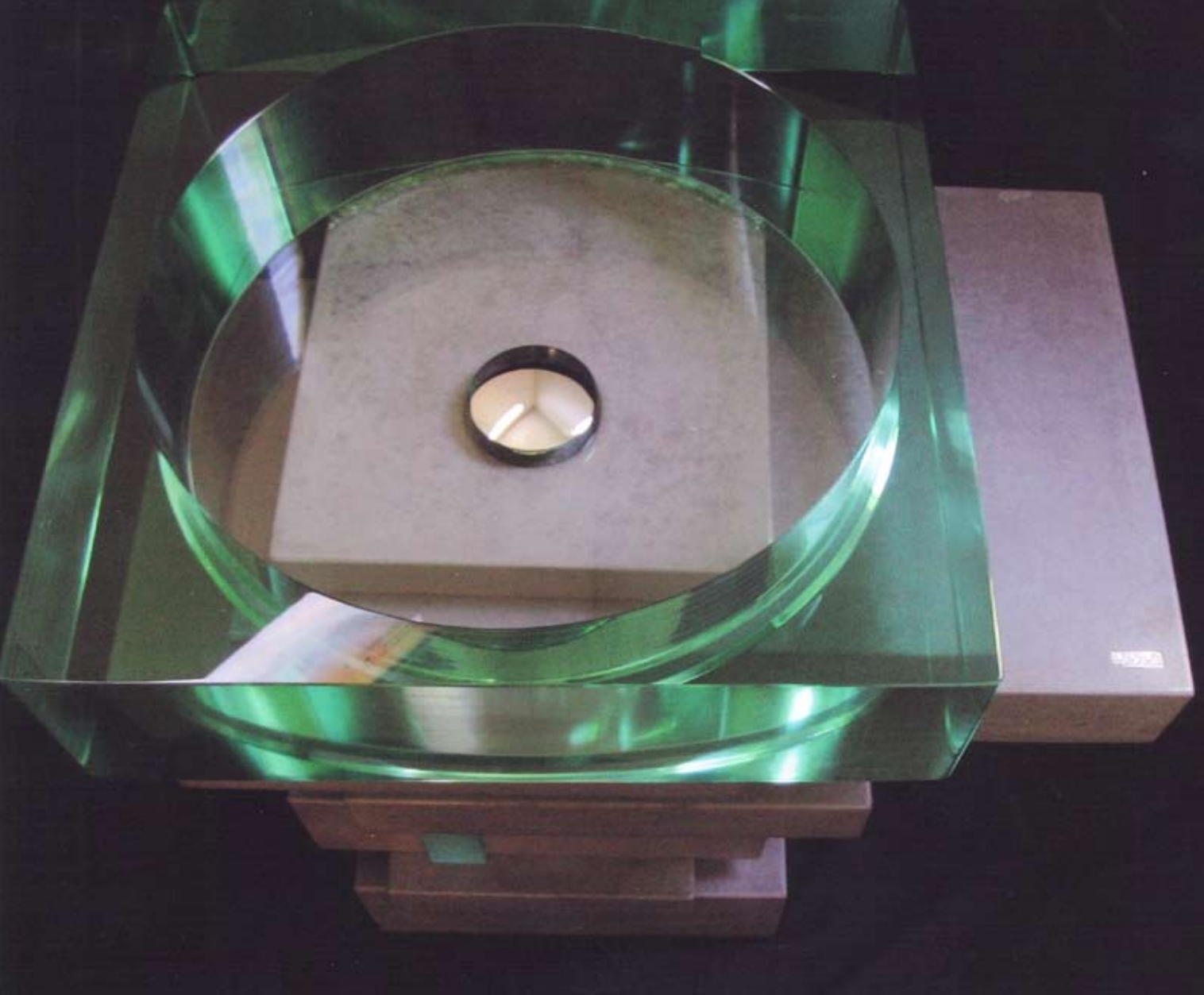


Water Tower

The tower of
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while the whole idea
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in such a way
that they looked precarious.

- Ian Wyndlow, Liquid Stone Studios



While concrete is ideal for forming large shapes otherwise unachievable in other mediums, creator Ian Wyndlow and his team at Liquid Stone Studios went back to basics by using concrete blocks. There is nothing simple, however, about the configuration and craftsmanship of their modern take on the basic pedestal sink.

Wyndlow's "Water Tower" is comprised of staggered, polished, concrete blocks of various shapes and sizes with embedded backlit glass features and hidden plumbing snaking down the stack.

The sculpture manages to be perfectly symmetrical within its intended asymmetry. The sink, while visually interesting on its own, has been elevated to work of art by a stack of humble concrete blocks.



Above: The translucent green glass sink was the inspiration for the backlit glass features staggered in the tower of concrete blocks.

Left: The concrete blocks vary in length, width, and height, but are made with the same mixture and pigmentation. They were purposefully cast with voids to hide the drain assembly and internal lighting.

Designer Notes

Ian Wyndslow
Liquid Stone Studios

Specifications Concrete Pedestal Sink

Total Retail Price: \$5,000

Volume: 3 cubic feet of concrete

Weight: 400 lbs

Concrete Mix: A basic 2:2:1 mix. was used. 1/4" aggregate, concrete sand, Type 3 Portland cement and a few goodies totalling a 32% cement replacement. W/C ratio .40. CHENG integral color, CHENG Sealer

Sink: Rassland

Faucet: Selection by Riobel Exquisite TQ

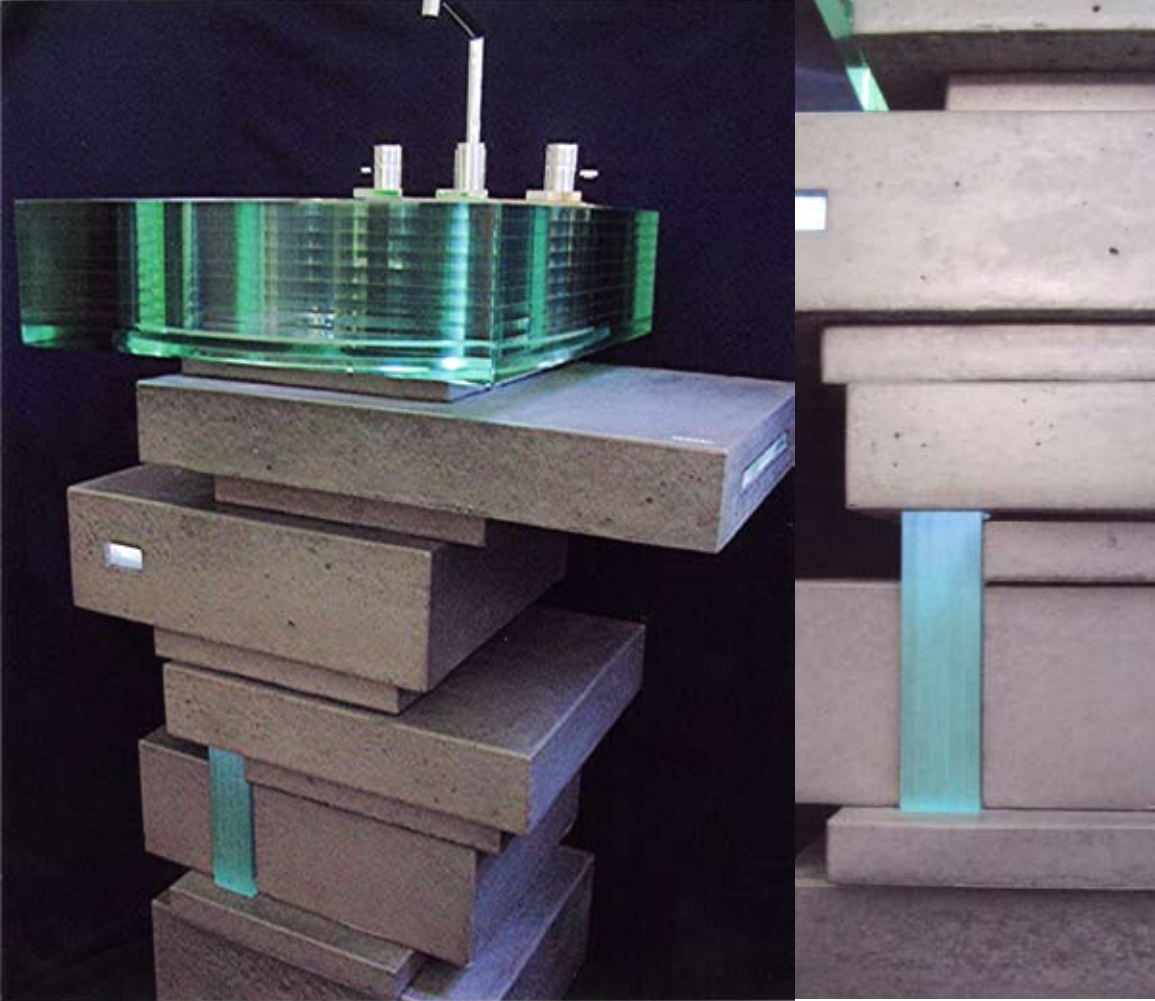
Other:

Acrylic Rods,

Outdoor LED Lighting Kit,

3/8" Glass

Clear Silicone



Why concrete?

Concrete was the best material that could have worked for this project due to the embedded glass sections. We chose construction techniques suited to wet casting.

Client Desire

Project was designed as a pedestal sink base to showcase the glass sink and our concrete in an innovative way for a plumbing supply (kitchen and bath) showroom. My main objectives technically were to have a series of stacked blocks off set in several directions, of varying thicknesses and dimensions. These blocks were to incorporate back-lit glass sections that complemented the massive glass sink.

Client Reaction

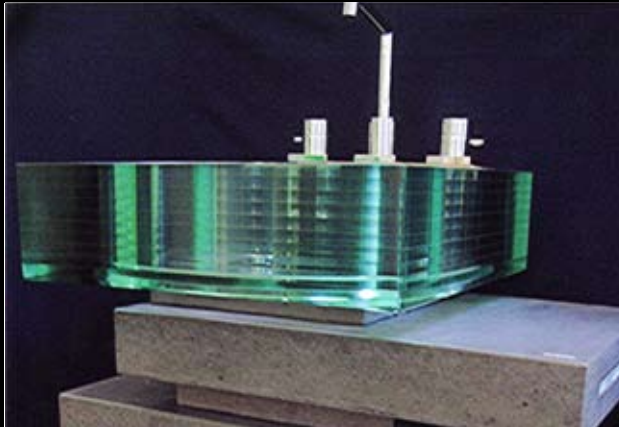
They were very pleased, as the showroom is set up more in the style of an art gallery than a plumbing fixture show room. They have asked us to complete other bases and several fireplace surrounds.

Timing + Expertise

From concept to finished project, this "prototype" took about 40 hours, plus some extra brainstorming on the side. The tower of blocks had to be stable and balanced, while the whole idea was to stack them in such a way that they looked precarious. Voids were cast into the blocks for internal lighting and also to allow for the placement of the drain assembly, which changed the centre of gravity of several blocks. Two steel rods were screwed along the back of the blocks to secure them into position and assure they did not shift. It was difficult to find glass thick enough, so several pieces had to be cut and laminated together. Hiding the light source and diffusing the light provided a challenge. In some cases 1" diameter acrylic rods were cast into the pieces and LED lights were glued directly to the end of the rod.

Ten pieces were cast, six of them had voids or glass cast into them and four were not symmetrical, so a life-sized profile was cut out of scrap melamine beforehand to assure proportions remained pleasing to the eye and the final pieces would be stacked exactly as the model we had designed. Cutting and laminating the 3/8" thick glass required a lot of diamond grinding, as the edges of the cuts chipped. The glass was laminated using clear silicone. Spring clamps were not suitable for clamping the glass, as they tended to make the pieces slide sideways. It became a very messy process.

Once we looked at the completed project, many possible variations that would let light pass through sections of the base come to mind, as well as different configurations for the blocks. We plan on doing a second version with the light escaping between the blocks to cast shadows on textured sections.



Best Sculpture

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At Liquid Stone Studios we specialize in the design and fabrication of custom, high quality concrete countertops, vanities, fireplace surrounds and furnishings for residential and commercial settings.

Based in central Vancouver Island, British Columbia, we serve Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and beyond.

Our products are tailor-made to your specifications, often combining polished concrete, metal, wood or glass to produce functional work surfaces of unique beauty that personalize your home or business.

Liquid Stone Studios

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