

R. G. Croudace Glass

Beautiful Colour & Style, Enhancing Your Home's Heart & Soul.

Home Security and Your Stained Glass

'Homes with no security measures in place are five times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures' (Police.UK, 2014).

It's natural to be concerned about your home and property's security. Having stained glass in windows or doors need not be a cause for concern as there are simple measures that retain the elegance and beauty of the glass. This guide will help you to be prudent, review your particular needs and gain peace of mind. We have discussed this subject with clients in both traditional and modern properties who desperately want to keep their stained glass and character of their homes. We can easily help you!

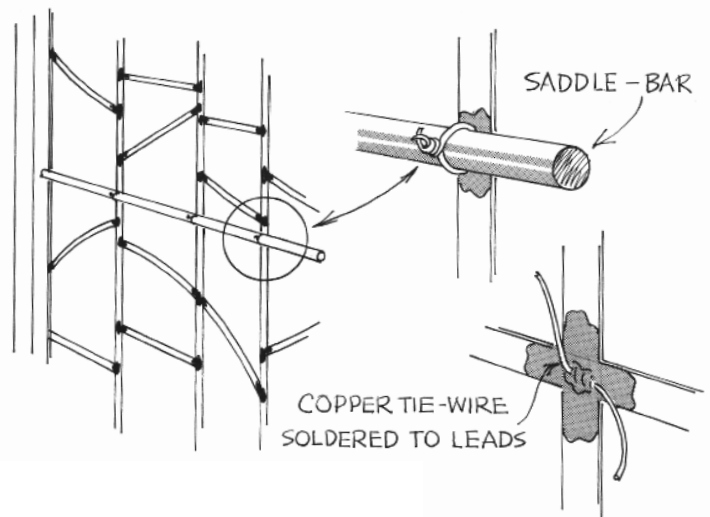
All glass is vulnerable from accidental or intentional damage but a few additions to your stained glass window can help limit the latter. Whilst strong and suitable locks are vital so are visual and physical deterrents to help impede an attempted unwanted entrance.

By working with you, our considerate design work can sympathetically incorporate any of these options alongside your existing or new stained glass.

Strong Iron Saddle Bars

A saddle bar is a fitting attached to the outside of a stained glass panel providing additional support. These horizontal iron bars sit on the indoors side of a stained glass window and are inserted a small way into each side of the window frame. The stained glass is fixed to the saddle bar with copper ties soldered to the panel.

But we can incorporate these into a security feature too. By adapting their purpose, with stronger bars and installing them further into the timber window and door frames than typically required, we introduce a basic security measure intended to deter and impede access.



O' Brien. (1973) p. 91.

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Additionally with a security purpose in mind we can install multiple saddle bars. One client requested this which immediately reduced the physical space between bars from 500mm to 150mm.

An advantage of this approach is that, where ever possible, saddle bars do not interfere with the design of the stained glass panel and so are not too noticeable. You would not see these from the outside of your property.

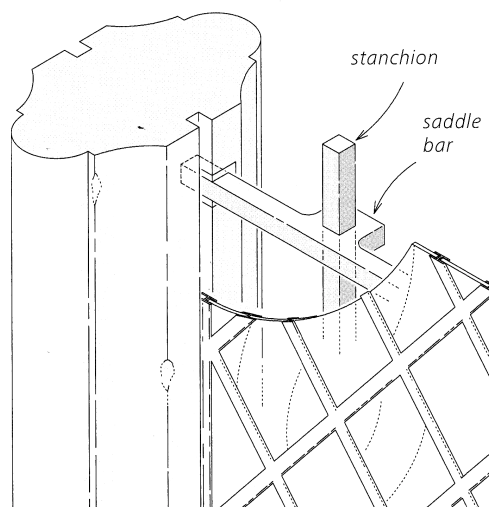
External Ferramenta Frames

Just like the saddle bars these frames primarily provide support to a stained glass panel. But it's undeniable that these also instantly introduce strong aspects of home security. Ferramentas are wrought-iron frames mounted on the external side of a window facing the outside of a property. The frame is made of horizontal saddle bars supported by vertical 'stanchions'; together they form a ferramenta. These are common with stone buildings but the frame ends can also be flattened to accommodate anti-theft security bolts to fix into brickwork or timber frames.

Each ferramenta is a bespoke commissioned hand-crafted item made by a blacksmith that we discuss in relation to your needs, stained glass and property.

Taking advantage of using saddles bars and ferramenta has a distinct advantage of using traditional materials and designs that are in keeping in with any stained glass panel's aesthetic appeal. Indeed they will look as if they've always been there!

EXTERNAL FERRAMENTA



Pender & Godfraind (2011) p.102.

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Laminated Glass

A modern approach to enhancing security is to install a sheet laminated glass in front or behind stained glass. It comprises two layers of common float glass with a central film of adhesive and is available in different thicknesses. If the glass is broken the layers of glass remain together because of the adhesive. Whilst not impenetrable, the thicker laminated sheets are tough work to break through and serve as a method of slowing down an intruder.

From our point of view the disadvantage of introducing a layer of glass in front of stained glass is purely an aesthetic one. Viewed from some angles there can be a flat reflection to the glazing. It seems to take away the distinct appearance and charm of stained glass with its different textures, angles, colours and thicknesses that catch the eye from near and far. Laminated glass can also be fitted behind a stained glass panel so it sits inside your home. This eliminates the reflective glare when views from outside, provides an element of security but would not protect your stained glass from external damage.

R. G. Croudace Glass is delighted and proud to deliver personalised security features to meet your needs for quality and piece of mind. Call us today to discuss your stained glass and property.

References:

O' Brien, V. (1978) *Techniques of Stained Glass: Leaded, Faceted and Laminated Glass*. Studio Vista: London.

Pender, R. and Godfraind, S. (eds.) (2011) *English Heritage Practical Building Conservation: Glass and Glazing*. Ashgate: United Kingdom.

Police.UK (2014) *Burglary*. Available at: <http://www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/burglary/> Accessed: September 24th 2014.