



NEWS photo Mike Wakefield

THE use of clear glass reflects a contemporary approach to glass art favoured by Andreas Mladek, who stands in the altar area of The Chapel at Stanley Park.

Modern approach to ancient art

GLASS artist Andreas Mladek brings to his metier a contemporary approach to an age-old craft.

The North Vancouver resident first learned the art of working in stained and leaded glass in East Berlin in '78, a year before he defected from East Germany. Today he splits his living between new commissions and restorations.

One of Mladek's most impressive commissions was for the newly opened Chapel at Stanley Park. For the 40-seat chapel, located in the Lord Stanley building near Lost Lagoon, Mladek created a bank of leaded-glass windows that serves as both a privacy screen and a decorative backdrop. Mladek's commission consists of 33 separate window pieces that together form an abstract landscape that is Asian in

theme. The use of clear, textured glass is a hallmark of Mladek's designs.

Clear glass fits easily into any decor because "you don't have to concern yourself with a colour scheme," says Mladek, who typically charges \$130 a square foot for private commissions. "You also allow maximum light to come through and create a beautiful ambience."

The Chapel's minister Allan Burnett, who

originally had his heart set on stained glass, admits to being a clear-glass convert.

"When you take a photo of the altar area, it pulls the colour in from the park. And the colour changes with every season of the year. Without us having planned it being that way, the windows become a major feature of our chapel."

—Layne Christensen