

Capiz

Artist: Peter Mollica

Completed December 2003

JTC Northside Community Center / San Jose, CA 95112 / Council District 3

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Capiz, a series of stained-glass artisan windows welcome all visitors entering the main foyer of the JTC Northside Community Center in San Jose. Kaleidoscopic and delicate, the artwork is created by Oakland-based artist Peter Mollica and references to the rich history of the intricate art of stained glass making. The tradition of colored glass can be traced back to ancient times: both the Egyptians and the Romans were skillful masters at the manufacture of small colored glass objects. Early Christians inherited the ancient art form which consequently reached its height during the Romanesque and Gothic periods in Medieval Europe.

Having received his formal training in traditional Gothic Style, Mollica, in creating designs for his stained glass windows, also takes on the tradition of the 20th-century modern and post-modern art movements. Influenced by such pioneers of abstract art as Theo van Doesburg and Piet Mondrian, Mollica's works



Capiz (2003) fragment

explore the aesthetics of grid patterns "interrupted by lyrical passages." In this instance, Mollica's artwork for the JTC

Northside Community Center is intended to fuse the muted grid of traditional Filipino sliding windowpanes with the bold abstract forms in charismatic cobalt blue, warm dark red and amber yellow. The title of the artwork attributes to capiz, a translucent Placune placenta oyster shell which flourishes abundantly across the Philippines. Capiz shells are widely used in the manufacture of window panes and decorative items such as chandeliers and lampshades. The shell is dyed, cut, and set like stained



Peter Mollica, *Capiz* (2003) is located at the entryway of the JTC Northside Community Center

glass into framed designs.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Artist Peter Mollica originally from Newton, MA has been working in glass in California for almost 50 years. He first received his formal training to learn the art and craft of stained glass during his apprenticeship to Chris Rufo in Boston in 1964. His further studies in England, travels through Germany, France and Denmark influenced his signature style blending traditional techniques and modern designs. Mollica's work has been exhibited and collected by museums and galleries and commissioned for private residences, religious and public buildings. Among the most notable commissions and collaborations in California are 64 laminated glass panels for the Oakland Federal Building (1993), the Christian Science Reading Room (1978) and St. Mary's College High School Chapel (1978) in Berkeley and 2 windows at St. Theresa Church (1995) in Oakland. His written work has been published in many stained glass books and periodicals. In addition, Mollica has taught design and craft all over the USA, as well as in Canada and Japan. Peter Mollica lives and works in Oakland, CA. Visit <http://www.petermollica.com> to learn more about the artist and his work.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1992 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.