

Joyce Kozloff: Home Savings Atrium, LA

"Underwater Landscapes," Home Savings of America, Atrium, Irwindale, CA; Neville Lewis Associates, Los Angeles, Architects; fabricated by Trivisanutto Mosaics, Spilimbergo, IT; art consultant Tamara Thomas, Fine Arts Services, LA; photos Tom Vinetz

This project, which includes a 17 x 25' waterwall, was conceived as a dramatic main entrance to the building. Since the adjacent walls and floor are a dense green and the waterfall and plantings are quite active and highly competitive, the floor piece and side panels are concentrated, rich and intricate. Water images and patterns from 4 different cultures, 2 European (Aegean and Greek) and 2 Asian (Japanese and Chinese) were chosen to reflect the surroundings. These cultural references, all derived from pottery, alternate in the concentric circles of the subtly colored marble mosaic floor. The innermost Aegean circle features frolicking dolphins and octopi.

There are 2 large vertical walls flanking the midnight blue expanse of water, each 17 x 6,' executed in transparent and iridescent glass mosaic. On the top left band, fish swim across stylized Japanese blue and white waves, also derived from vase painting. The viewer then moves down into a large field of Chinese water plants and creatures. Black and orange women sitting astride dolphins (appropriated from a Greek vase at the Getty Museum) plunge through the turquoise water. On the right side, there is another strip of aquatic imagery across the upper band. Below, a giant Aegean octopus and tent buoyantly drift through the deeper blue waters. Pottery was chosen as a source to reverse the scale and materials of art making, so that the intimate and domestic could become large and public.