

Photo Credit: Mark Becker

The

Sobrato Development Headquarters

Excellence in Craftsmanship
COMMERCIAL CATEGORY

Project	Sobrato Development Headquarters Cupertino, CA
Glazing	O'Keeffe's Inc. San Francisco, CA De Anza Glass, Inc. Santa Clara, CA
Architect	Jorge De Quesada Inc. San Francisco, CA

Called "the Pink Palace" because of the roseate light diffusion passing through tinted skylight panels, the Sobrato Development Headquarters project in Cupertino, CA, required months of meticulous coordination and planning by the architects and glaziers.

The three story, 16,000 square foot granite building, ribboned with copper-tinted curtainwall, opens up to a 4,000 square foot glass atrium. The granite structure, curtainwall system and atrium were constructed separately and later fit together to work.

"The difficulty was in the coordination and not the materials," says Kevin Norcross, sales manager for O'Keeffe's Inc. of San Francisco, the atrium's metal framer and glazier. "Everything

had to come together at the right place at the right time."

Procuring the atrium's 400 copper-tinted, laminated lites required a long leadtime. The architect, Jorge De Quesada Inc. of San Francisco, felt the copper-tinted glass flanking the granite looked so attractive that it was an essential design feature.

The lites were premeasured, ordered and later fit into an already assembled aluminum frame. Three-quarter-inch laminated glass was used on the sloped surfaces of the atrium and one-inch high-performance reflective glass was used on the vertical pieces.

The granite and the atrium structure had to interface accurately to maintain the silicone joints. "We had very little leeway,

"The installation was so specialized it was almost impossible to set by hand"

*—Nick Lauria
O'Keeffe's*

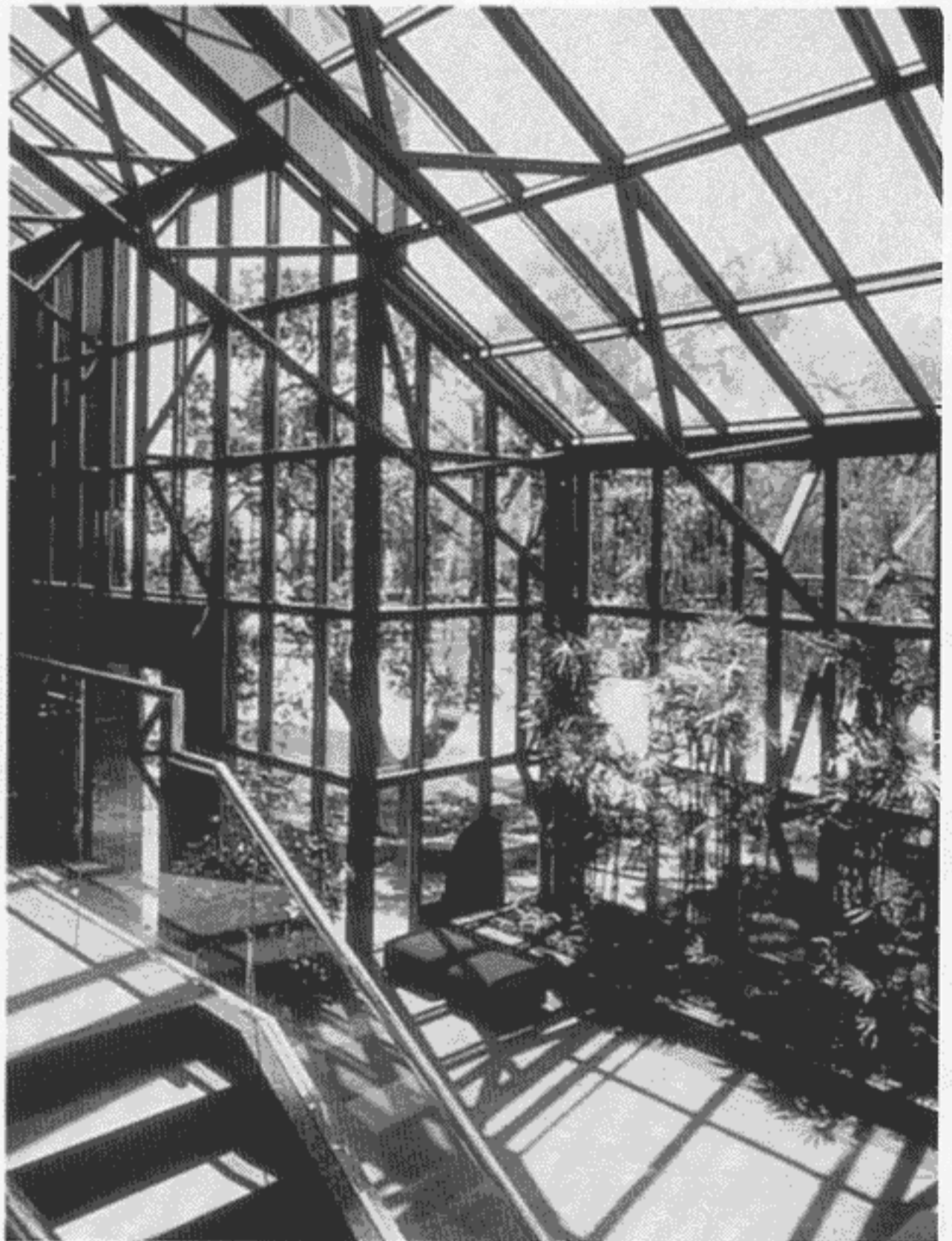


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perhaps 1/8-inch," says Richard Miletich, president of De Anza Glass Inc. of Santa Clara, CA, the company that installed the glass and curtainwall. "It was unusual because we had to figure our glass sizes (in the atrium) prior to the erection of the aluminum structure."

The odd-shaped stepped roof on the atrium made matters even more difficult. "A lot of lites were pie-shaped, irregular sizes," Miletich says. "There were some inside corner cuts that really made things complicated."

The aluminum framing rests on top of a steel truss structure. "The steel underneath was the support for the glass," Miletich says. "We were skinning over a structure that was already in existence," Norcross explains.

The installation demanded careful precision. It took a five-man crew three weeks to install the glass in the atrium. "The installation was so specialized, it was also impossible to set by hand," says Nick Lauria, the general field superintendent for O'Keeffe's Inc.

To help with the installation, a lift was modified with suction cups to make a hydraulic system. The machine "enabled us to reduce manpower and lift larger lites of glass at the same time," Norcross says. "It tripled our ability to set the glass."

The installers also had to work around some existing trees. "We were working in a very tight site area," Norcross says. "You really had to work together because there was hardly any space."