

Conrad Schmitt Jr. is born.

Studio headquarters is at 223 2nd Avenue in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Conrad's sons Rupert, Edward, and Alphonse join the family business.

New York Branch office operates at 11 W. 42nd St, New York City

Alphonse leaves the Studio to start his own decorating business. Under the economic stress of the Great Depression, the New York Branch office is closed.

WWII – many studio employees participate in the war effort, from painting ships to active service overseas. Edward Schmitt passes away in 1945.

Bernard O. Gruenke begins work for Conrad Schmitt Studios

Bernard O. Gruenke branches out on his own, opening the independent church decorating company, Bernard O. Gruenke Studios

At the request of Rupert Schmitt, Bernard O. Gruenke returns to Conrad Schmitt Studios

Bernard E. Gruenke begins a formal apprenticeship at CSS. Having grown up in the studio, he is familiar with many aspects of the company and joins his father in experimenting with slab glass and metal sculpture.

Restoration of the Pabst Theatre in Milwaukee is later recognized as one of the first major milestones in the movement to preserve America's historic theatres.

Studio celebrates 100th anniversary.

Bernard O. passes away.

1867 1889 1909 1914 1926 1930 1933 1936 1940 1941-45 1946 1948 1950 1953 1957 1973 1975 1981 1989 2010 2012 2014

Conrad Schmitt Studios is founded

Studio moves to 1707 Grand Avenue in Milwaukee. WWI causes significant changes to the economy, affecting import tariffs and the availability of labor. In response, the Studio expands its offerings to include furniture, fitments, lighting, and sculpture in addition to decorative painting and stained glass.

Studio moves to 1729 N. Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee

Studio moves to 1325 S. 43rd Street, Milwaukee. Post-war prosperity and the proliferation of new, suburban churches contribute to the Studio's growth.

Conrad Schmitt passes away. During his lifetime, Conrad Schmitt Studios completed work at 33 Catholic cathedrals nationwide. Leadership of CSS is assumed by Rupert and Edward Schmitt. Studio moves to 1717 W. Wisconsin Avenue.

Studio moves to 2405 S. 162nd Street, New Berlin, WI. Bernard O. and Bernard E. patent the Leptat technique for etching glass.

Rupert Schmitt passes away. Bernard O. Gruenke assumes ownership of the studio. After being inspired by European glass artists, Bernard O. creates the first dalle de verre or "slab glass" window in the United States.

Bernard E. Gruenke assumes leadership of the studio. Bernard O. remains involved as President Emeritus. Bernard E.'s children, B. Gunar Gruenke and Heidi Gruenke Emery join the studio, learning the various facets of the business. For the next thirty years, three generations of the Gruenke Family are actively involved Studio operations.

Gunar and Heidi assume leadership of the studio.

Studio celebrates 125th anniversary.