



Closer Inspection

The **32½-by-22-foot panel** of windows is in the Board of Governors Hall, still used for meetings. The work is thought to be the largest Tiffany window suite remaining in its original location within a secular building.



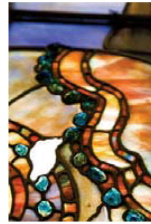
The **left panel** was inspired by the 1857 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem "Saint Filomena": "A lady with a lamp shall stand / In the great history of the land, / A noble type of good, / Heroic womanhood." It was written in honor of Red Cross founder Florence Nightingale.



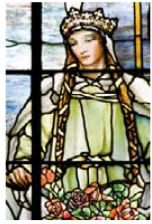
Saint Philomena, the patron saint of children and youth, holds the Red Cross shield. The scene is about mercy and faith, Watson says.

The **center panel** is inspired by Edmund Spenser's epic Elizabethan poem "The Faerie Queene," about knights on a quest to achieve virtue. Here, one offers a drink to a wounded soldier. "Even in battle, there has to be time to help the fallen," Watson says.

Folds in the favrile glass, a type of glass developed by Tiffany in the 19th century, make the robes seem more tangible; **chiseled glass** pieces are made to resemble gemstones on the horse's tack.



The **right panel**, also inspired by Spenser's work, depicts **Una**, a heroine from the poem who is known for truth, Watson says. "The roses in her apron are symbolic of gratitude."



A mission, in glass

At the Red Cross, Tiffany windows highlight its aims

BY KRIS CORONADO

On the second floor of the American Red Cross headquarters (430 17th St. NW), three glass windows offer a rainbow of hues. Depicting men and women in the midst of good deeds, the windows are symbolic of the Red Cross's mission. "The entire building is dedicated to the concept of mercy and healing," says Susan Watson, archivist and manager of historical programs and collections at the Red Cross.

The windows, commissioned from the Tiffany Studios in 1917 and dedicated in 1923, are accessible to the

public two days a week (free 45-minute tours of the building are Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., 202-303-4233 or tours@redcross.org). In addition to reflecting the organization's touchstones, the windows symbolize a coming together of North and South after the Civil War. The left panel was paid for by the Women's Relief Corps of the North, the right by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the center panel was funded by both. The cost of the project at the time was \$10,000. Today? "It's priceless." Watson says.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BENJAMIN C. JAMES/SELEY