

MAPLE LEAVES MAKE POWER PLAY

The dream is here, it's electric, and it's made of glass.

The visionary glass artist Sarah Hall does it again. This time with a unique fusion of art and engineering that transports us into the future. Hall's new work is the first public demonstration of solar art glass in North America, showcased at the Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C.

Hall's work, installed in Canada's entry "Northern Light" merges the ancient art of stained glass with cutting edge technology to produce a window that not only looks magnificent, but works for its living as well by gathering and storing electricity for later use. Embedded in the window is an array of photoelectric cells (thin silicon and metal squares that convert light into electricity), and these collect enough energy to illuminate the building's foyer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Although the window components (art glass, photovoltaic cells, low-E and tempered glass) are well known, they are combined here using a patented method that produces a reliable and attractive source of energy. Solar cells come in a wide range of colors, allowing an unlimited range of designs, and the technology that collects and stores the energy is concealed, allowing the beauty of Hall's art and glass to shine through.

Solar cells are a nearly perfect energy source, as they generate electricity without emitting harmful greenhouse gases. And because they are so durable they can transform nearly any surface into a clean, long-lasting energy source. By bringing them into this engaging artwork Sarah Hall has given us a window into the future – one where sustainable living is a natural and integral part of everything we do.



ABOUT SARAH HALL

Sarah Hall is an internationally recognized artist creating large-scale art glass installations. Her exceptional contribution to the built environment has garnered 'Honour Awards' from the American Institute of Architects and the 'Allied Arts Award' from the Ontario Association of Architects. In 2002, Hall's artistic achievements were acknowledged by her induction into the Royal Canadian Academy of Art. In addition to lectures, exhibitions and commissions throughout North America and Europe, Hall has co-authored 35 published articles on glass art. Last year Hall was granted an Arts Fellowship from the Chalmers Foundation to support her innovative work in photovoltaic glass art. She is well known for her artistic innovation and pioneering of new techniques.