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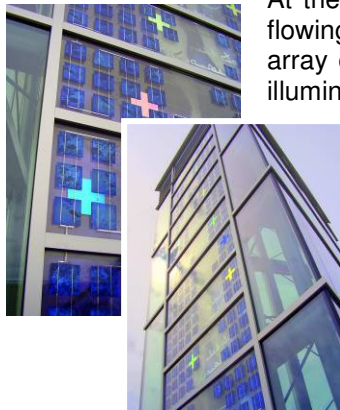
Pioneering UBC Windows Provide Solar Energy

A New Partnership With The Sun Begins September 29, 2007.

Mention solar energy and people often think of individual roof-mounted panels. Mention stained glass and people think of traditional windows in churches. Not too many people would think to combine them, but artist Sarah Hall has done this and more, with the first stained glass installation in North America to utilize solar cells.

The stained glass is the central element of a wind tower that will complete a new \$10 million, 28,000 square foot theology library at Regent College on the University of British Columbia campus in Vancouver. The library officially opened on Saturday, September 29th.

The aerodynamic forty-foot wind tower was designed by Vancouver architect Clive Grout, in collaboration with Walter Francl Architects, as a natural ventilation system for the underground library building and a functional symbol of Regent's commitment to a sustainable environment. The engineering for this tower was both innovative and elegant; Hall's task was to bring further beauty and interest to the tower, while continuing the theme of alternative energy.



At the heart of the glass design, titled "Lux Nova", is a luminous column of light, flowing like a waterfall in silvery blue, violet and white. Included in this column is an array of solar cells that will collect energy during the day and use it for nighttime illumination – acting as a beacon for the surrounding park. Arranged within the design are twelve dichroic glass crosses, creating an ever-changing rainbow of colour. Woven through the flowing waterfall of light is the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic which acknowledges the theology library below.

Solar cells are a nearly perfect energy source, as they generate electricity without emitting harmful greenhouse gases. Being durable, they can transform a glass façade into a clean, long-lasting energy source. Inspired by the vast and attractive energy-collecting facades she saw in Europe, Hall began to incorporate them into her art glass.

Physicist and activist Ursula M. Franklin, C.C.FRSC, writes, "Colour, light and art have brought joy and inspiration to people throughout the ages. There is something both real and unreal about light and colour. They are tangible and distant, familiar and mysterious.

Light and colour are constant companions of body and soul. They constitute a many-faceted door to the mind, and the artist's use of these elements has often reflected their own society best understands of the natural world. While in recent decades electrically generated light sources have stimulated artistic imagination, it is only now that the new scientific insight - that light can generate electricity - has been translated into a new and unique artistic offering.

Sarah Hall's new windows illuminate, but they also create light. Incorporating photovoltaic cells, her installation bestows a double gift: beauty and helpfulness. What more can we wish for? "

Sarah Hall, RCA is an architectural glass artist who is renowned for pioneering imaginative projects. The windows incorporate techniques such as fusing, airbrushing, tempering, lamination and sandblasting. These techniques give the windows a light, lyrical quality - along with breath-taking color. The windows were created in collaboration with Glasmalerei Peters of Paderborn, Germany. "Stained glass has a thousand-year history," she says. "Using solar energy is one way of bringing new technology to an art form that most people consider traditional and unchanging. However, tradition is not for keeping the ashes – but the fire alive. By forging art with a source of energy we create a powerful image of how we can live in this world."

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