

# UW design acclaimed again

Second time work from architecture school chosen for prestigious Venice exhibition

By Terry Pender, Record staff

**WATERLOO** — For the second time in a row the University of Waterloo is representing Canada at one of the world's largest and most prestigious showcases for architecture and design.

"It seems like a huge honour and a huge comment on the quality of the work that is going on here," Rick Haldenby, director of the University of Waterloo school of architecture, said.

The Canadian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in Architecture next September will feature an installation by Philip Beesley, who teaches at the UW school of architecture.

"It's very much at the edge," Haldenby said.

Beesley's installation is called *Hylozoic Ground* — a reference to the philosophy that all matter has life.

*Hylozoic Ground* looks like bunches of fish net and tangles of fibre-optic cable, thick spider webs and big snowflakes hanging from the ceiling. But it's really a network of mechanical fronds, filters and whiskers that sense and respond to the human body.

"It's really quite stunning. The thing behaves like a kind of organism. Movement in one part induces movement in other parts," Haldenby said.

When you walk among the material thousands of sensors pick up your movements, changes in air pressure, body heat and sounds. The information is quickly used by computers to create a breathing motion that draws visitors into "the shimmering depths of a forest of light."

In addition to teaching at the school of architecture Beesley also works in digital media art through his Toronto-based practice called Philip Beesley Architect Inc. For *Hylozoic Ground* he worked with Andrew Hunter, an artist, writer and curator; and Rob Gorbet, a technology artist who teaches in the University of Waterloo's department of electrical and computer engineering.

Their installation was selected by the Canada Council for the Arts to represent this country at the famous show in Venice next fall.

*44° to 66°: Regional Responses to Sustainable Architecture in Canada* was at the Biennale two years ago. It was curated by John McMinn of the UW school of architecture and Marco Polo of Ryerson University. Cambridge Galleries managed it.

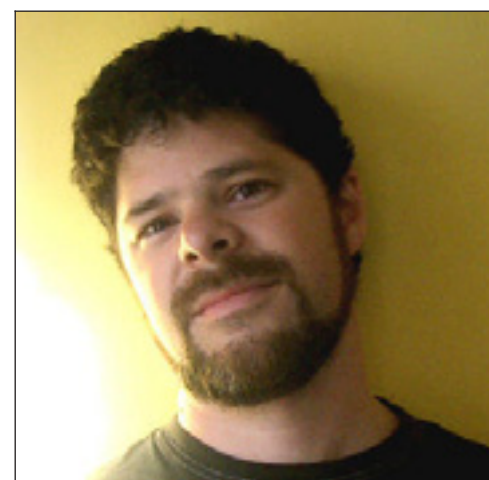
"From being involved in the last Canadian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, now to be directly involved in this one, seems unprecedented to me," Haldenby said.

Beesley's installation ties into the research at the school of architecture where students and faculty study and develop what are called responsive building envelopes. That is, buildings that respond to changes in sunlight, wind and temperature



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Architecture professor Philip Beesley's *Hylozoic Ground* project was selected to represent Canada at the Venice Biennale in Architecture. It looks like a tangle of fishnet and cable, but it is a network of fronds, filters and whiskers that respond to the human body.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Artist, writer and curator Andrew Hunter (top), architecture professor Philip Beesley and technology artist Rob Gorbet worked on the University of Waterloo's *Hylozoic Ground* project.

by automatically opening blinds, turning on heaters or turning off the central air. Sensors are placed around the building and tied into a central computer.

"Philip's project is a completely immersive architectural installation," Haldenby said.

"It really is a kind of cave-like situation but then it's a cave that is constantly moving and changing," Haldenby said. "It is made out of hundreds of thousands of little parts, and then by modifying itself to respond to the presence of an individual it modifies the whole system. It portends an architecture that is both reactive to internal stimuli and also external stimuli."

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## Skaters take to ice in Public Square

By Melinda Dalton, Record staff

**WATERLOO** — After more than a year of funding uncertainty and public debate, blades finally hit the ice at the brand new outdoor skating rink in the Waterloo Public Square Sunday.

"It gives the community a reason to go outside in the winter and be with other people, be together with their family and friends," said Tracy Suerich, program co-ordinator for the square. "The rink really calls people out to do that in the wintertime when we all want to be huddled up in front of the fire."

More than 300 people filtered through the square on the rink's opening day. On Monday, dozens more were out taking advantage of the free skating rink on the first official day of the school break.

When the square was built last year, the city spent about \$300,000 to install coolant pipes under the concrete in anticipation of a rink. But, when the project wasn't chosen for federal and provincial stimulus dollars, the city was left without enough cash to build it.

► **Skaters** continued on page B2



DAVID BEBEE, RECORD STAFF

Santa Claus makes an appearance at the unofficial opening of the outdoor ice pad at Waterloo Public Square. More than 300 people came out to see the new ice rink.

## Mother faces charges of impaired driving with baby in car

Record staff

**CAMBRIDGE** — A Kitchener woman is facing several charges after police allege she was speeding and drunk while driving along Highway 401 with her baby in the back seat.

Cambridge OPP say the woman was clocked doing 164 kilometres per hour in the eastbound lanes, near the Highway 24 exit, around 9 p.m. Saturday. The posted speed limit is 100 kilometres per hour.

Police pulled her over but the woman's car began rolling back, almost hitting the officer's cruiser.

The officer noticed that the woman appeared impaired and called for a female officer to come and search her. When the other officer arrived, police say the woman began swinging her arms and kicking her legs.

Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region were called and the woman's husband came to pick up the child.

The 35-year-old woman has been charged with assault with intent to resist arrest, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, impaired driving and having a blood-alcohol content over .08.



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