

Hilton San Diego Bayfront Public Art

Wind Palms 2008

Artist: Ned Kahn (American b. 1960)

From swaying palm trees to unfurled sails, the coastal breezes are a constant part of San Diego's environment. Located in the hotel's 4.3 acre park, *Wind Palms 2008* makes the wind streams off of San Diego Bay visible through a series of seven, 24 to 38 foot tall, stainless steel sculptures. Utilizing wind currents and sunlight, hundreds of stainless steel ribbons attached to curving stainless steel hoops will move and "breathe" in the wind. A tapered roller bearing in the support columns will allow the suspended hoops to rotate and reveal the complex nature of the wind.

The seven sculptures will be placed at five locations within the park, culminating with three placed at the terminus of the promenade as the centerpiece for a seating area along the water.

Reverie 2008

Artist: Nance O'Banion (American b. 1949)

Also located in the park, *Reverie 2008* features twenty six art benches using graphic designs derived from flora used in the surrounding area. The benches were inspired to create intimate places for contemplating the surrounding beauty of the water and park, as well as the Wind Palm sculptures.

The benches, made of steel with a dark blue finish, are approximately six feet wide and created in mirror imaged pairs with each pair having a different design. The benches, made from 100 percent recycled materials, will be placed throughout the waterfront promenade.

Viento de Mar "Wind of the Sea" 2008

Artist: John Portman (American b. 1925)

The sea winds so prevalent in San Diego were the inspiration for *Viento de Mar 2008*, the suspended sculpture serving as a stunning signature feature in the main lobby. Composed of shimmering woven stainless steel mesh and changing light patterns, the spiraling and undulating sculpture conveys the ethereal and ever-changing nature of invisible winds blowing in from the sea.

The sculpture was fabricated in the United States using 1,800 linear feet of delicate looking, but surprisingly sturdy, light-weight stainless steel shimmer cloth. The cloth itself was fabricated in Germany. The sculpture hangs from a double track system on the ceiling, and consists of two compositions. The first composition, installed in the main lobby, hangs directly off the ceiling across from the main entry. This composition is of varying heights of 11 feet to one foot high by 40 feet wide and 40 feet deep. The complicated design that the fabric follows is based upon a maritime weaving pattern.

The second composition of the sculpture hangs from the ceiling of the north/south lobby promenade at the entrance to the hotel's two elevator lobbies. The composition suggests the logarithmic spiral pattern of a nautilus. This piece also ranges in height from one foot to 11 feet and is 22 feet long and 16 feet deep.

Both fabric sculptures incorporate a system of changing light that varies both in color and intensity depending on the time of day, subtly transforming the mood and drama of the sculpture.

Light Flight – Blue 2008 & Light Flight -- Gold 2008

Artist: Norie Sato (Japanese b. 1949)

Seattle artist Norie Sato designed two signature pieces for the "Lantern Wall" in the main lobby, each 12 feet high by 14 feet wide constructed from a new transparent acrylic material called *sensitile*.

Inspired by the concept of flight, she used abstracted images of the wings of water birds. The images are created as pixelated photographic film which is laminated to the back of sensitile. The illuminated artwork, *Light Flight – Blue 2008*, based upon a great blue heron, and *Light Flight – Gold 2008*, inspired from an image of a sea gull, will each be viewed as a highly fragmented, shimmering surface, much like the surface of the water outside. The sensitile material also subtly interacts with the viewer, responding to shadows and changing light.