

# Sculpture with Water Feature

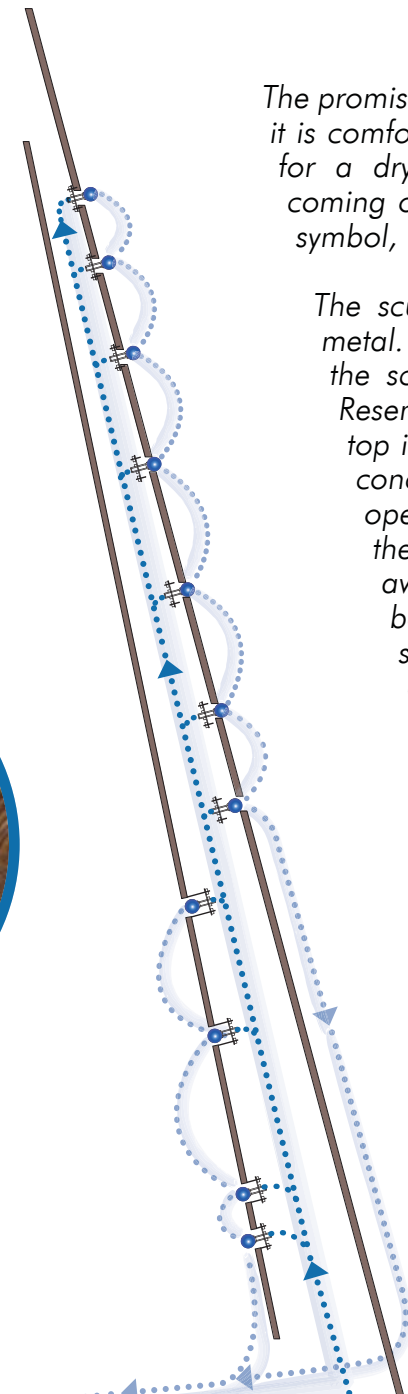
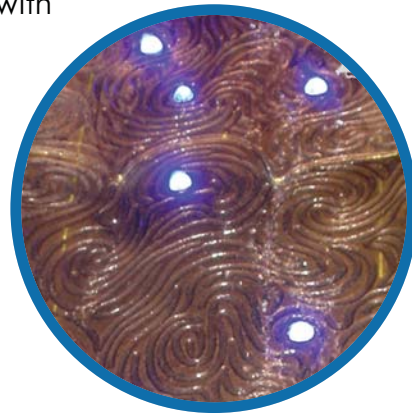
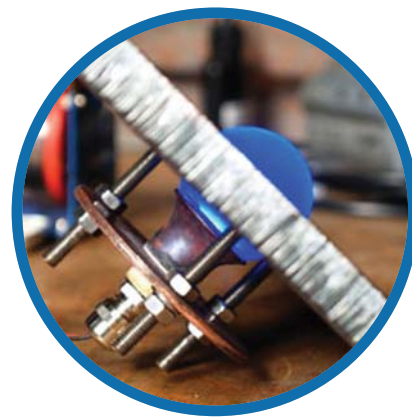
Cast Bronze, Pre-Cast Concrete, Stainless Steel, Glass, Water and Lighting Technology  
Herbert Dreiseitl, 2011

Herbert Dreiseitl has designed water sculptures to enliven cityscapes around the world. Major installations are located in Germany, China, Norway, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, Singapore, and the U.S.

The five meter tall bronze sculpture is supported on a pre-cast concrete flow-way adjacent to the new Municipal Center rain garden. Harvested rainwater flows throughout the day, during the spring, summer and fall seasons. The cascading display of energy-efficient blue light-emitting diode (LED) lights continues year-round. During dry weather, when the reservoirs below the flow-way run low, the water will stop circulating until the next rainfall.

The molds used to form the bronze and pre-cast concrete components of the sculpture were designed and fabricated with the assistance of graduate students during Mr. Dreiseitl's Loeb Fellowship at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The blue glass spheres were produced in cooperation with the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. The water and lighting technology systems were designed and fabricated locally. Michigan artisans cast and installed the standing bronze sculpture and the concrete simulated-riverbed base or flow-way.

The natural water cycle affects our community in profound ways. This artwork raises awareness of this cycle and encourages water conservation through the use and reuse of rain water. The sculpture, rain gardens and plazas of the Municipal Center process all rain water that falls on site - harvesting some for the sculpture and irrigation, while the remainder infiltrates and recharges the groundwater.



The promise of water is all about the future. Like rain, it is comforting, providing renewal and refreshment for a dry and thirsty landscape in a cityscape coming out of drought conditions. It is not only a symbol, water gives hope for the potential for life.

The sculpture consists of two layers of melted metal. Slightly leaning and finding its balance, the sculpture is subtly dynamic in every way. Resembling the surface of a standing wave, the top is concave and the bottom is convex. The concave surface is associated with reception, openness, taking in what is from above, and the convex surface is associated with giving away what it has received to the earth below, thus showing the transition from the sky to the earth —what rainwater always does.

The glass spheres bring floating light into the darkness of a physical form while water flows from above to quench the thirst of the earth. Emulating the motion of water drops, light moves down the sculpture at different speeds intensely illuminating the blue glass spheres in the day and softly illuminating them at night. The glass drops, which stick out at the top, slowly recede into the sculpture then reappear on the lower region of the other side, as if they are raindrops flowing down, penetrating into the sculpture and come out again.

-Herbert Dreiseitl

