

Many Communities. One Home. One Lakewood.

# Lakewood

Magazine {2012}

## LIVE Local

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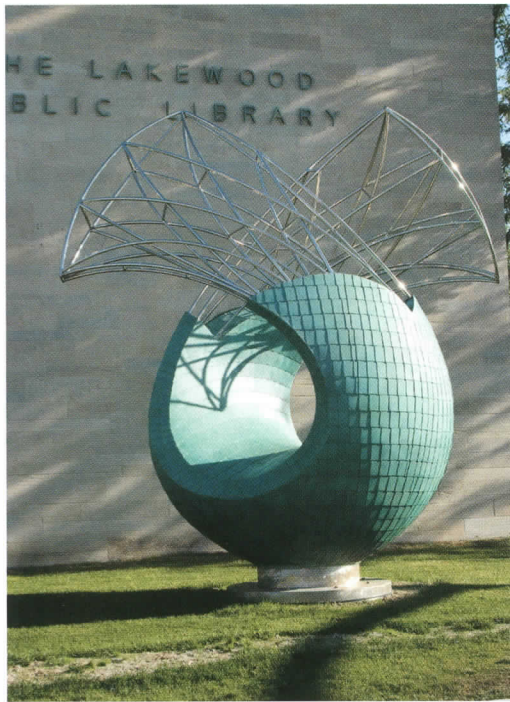
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# Heavy Metal

Lakewood has a new landmark: a 3,000-pound sculpture representing expanding knowledge.



A water droplet. A mermaid's tail. A dragon's egg. These are some of the ways Lakewood residents young and old describe "Transversion," the 3,000-pound sculpture installed on the northwest lawn of Lakewood Public Library last November. Made of textured bronze and stainless steel, "Transversion" was handcrafted by Rhode Island sculptor and industrial designer Peter Diepenbrock.

Standing 16 feet high, the sculpture features more than 2,200 bronze shingles on the bottom, wrapping a steel frame that continues, uncovered, at the top. "It's about knowledge expanding," says Diepenbrock. "It's a positive statement about what libraries provide people — opportunities to learn."

The Lakewood Public Library Foundation commissioned and paid for the piece. The foundation's art selection committee chose Diepenbrock from among 2,000 artists who responded to its call for art. The committee was impressed with his reputation for designing sculptures that unlock the potential of their environments.

"Transversion" has become an instant landmark. "It's great that the piece doesn't represent one thing," says Ben Burdick, library program coordinator and supervisor in the adult and electronic services department. "We want people to ask questions. That makes 'Transversion' a perfect piece for the library." — Susan Keen Flynn

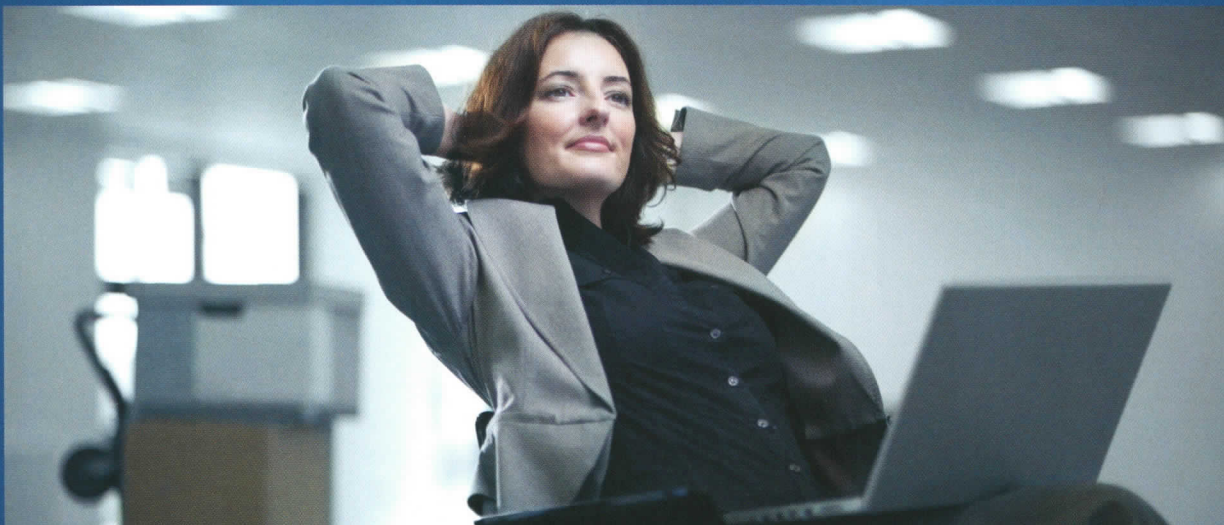
**Art Inspires Math** "Transversion" has inspired cross-disciplinary learning. Lakewood High School math teacher Robert Sedlak asked students in his Advanced Placement calculus class to create word problems related to the sculpture. Can you solve these two? (Answers at the bottom of Page 14).

1. You are challenged to hit a golf ball through the middle of "Transversion" from 60 feet away. Assuming the ball follows a straight path with a constant velocity, what is the minimum angle required to hit the ball through the sculpture if the bottom of the opening is 3 feet from the ground? (Question submitted by Anthony Gilbert, '12)

2. How much work does it take to lift the 3,000-pound sculpture 30 feet to the top of the library roof? Express the final answer in joules (N-m). (Question submitted by Veronica Cole, '12)

HEATHER HILEMAN

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