

# 2010 Green Space BC

British Columbia's Sustainability Resource



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# Class actions

British Columbia's campuses stage tomorrow's urban evolution



BY CHARLENE EASTON

As student and president's ambassador Denny Hollick conducts an orientation tour at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, he describes proudly how the expansion of the Coast Capital Library was designed with nature in mind.

"The features of the library use nature to minimize mechanical systems for air exchange, and for energy supply," he explains. "After a year of studying prevailing winds, the design team shaped the roof to use wind to assist in removing air from the building. Trickle vents bring fresh air in all year long. The atrium is a giant chimney [that] assists the natural ventilation of the building. Geo-exchange is used for heating and cooling." The library, he says, "resembles a giant rock," being a "heavy concrete mass" that holds major amounts of energy: cool in summer, warm in winter.

These and other attributes add up to a building 74 per cent more energy-efficient than the Model National Energy Code for Buildings prescribes. With fresh air and no synthetic materials, it's healthier for occupants, too. Karen Hearn, executive director, facilities, and member of the design team, notes that "students

**The Coast Capital Library at Kwantlen Polytechnic University: comfort and beauty in a building 74 per cent more energy-efficient than code requires**

welcome the ... comfort of the building, they have significantly extended the time spent in the library, and gate count is up a whopping 45 per cent."

Efforts to help reduce the world's energy-related carbon footprint by 80 per cent by 2050 are unfolding on university and college campuses across British Columbia. From Penticton to Victoria, post-secondary institutions are laying the groundwork for tomorrow's urban evolution.

With nature in mind, artist Robert Bateman selected Royal Roads University on Vancouver Island as the site for the future Robert Bateman Art and Environmental Education Centre. Chosen for its spectacular views and more significantly for its natural and cultural features, the location is a hill-top forest stand in a place long considered sacred by the Coast Salish people.

The Bateman Centre, designed to the Cascadia Region Green Building Council's Living Building Challenge, will be self-sufficient