



# World's largest chandelier to adorn Doha building

By Sarmad Qazi  
Staff Reporter

An innovative office building on the Doha Corniche is set to blaze a trail by installing the world's largest chandelier using about 55,000 LEDs.

Designed by one of the world's most respected lighting and product designers Beau McClellan, the "work of art and science" will adorn black and grey-stone building, which is expected to open in April 2010.

Named by McClellan as 'Reflective Flow', the 20,000kg chandelier is in fact an interactive LED sculpture that will "talk to the people" the moment they walk in.

"The chandelier will react to a person's mood as they enter the building and display a subliminal moon effect ... or lava, or a lightning bolt. If there are more people, there is more content," the Portugal-based Scottish designer told *Gulf Times*. Content would also be generated by placing cameras at key locations around the building enabling the chandelier to interact with the passers-by, and, depending on their movement, trigger new content.

The videos will be low-resolution since McClellan did not want the sculpture to be used as

## Glowing giant

Some facts about the Reflective Flow (all figures in approximation):  
Linear length - 38.5m  
Linear width - 12.5m  
Top frame (length if stretched) - 93m  
Bottom frame (length if stretched) - 46m

Hand-ground optical crystals - 2,300 units  
Individual glass - 4,600 units  
LED - 55,000 units  
Weight - 20,000kg  
Height of RF (at tallest point of chandelier body) - 5.8m  
Height when suspended (at top frame height) - 16m

a media screen.

The signature art-piece is made up of 2,300 individually hand-ground optical crystals - each shrouded on either side by pieces of concave glass, and

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covered with a unique reflective coating.

"The glass coating on the sculpture has been in development for four years. It has all the qualities of a pure mirror, reflecting exactly all that surrounds it, including light, movement, shape and colour," McClellan said.

This means during the day, the Reflective Flow will be an organic art sculpture, constantly changing with its surroundings. How it reacts during the night is a different wonder.

"When light is introduced behind the glass frames, the unique coating becomes either fully- or semi-transparent, allowing the sculpture to transform into an incredible ever-changing light piece," explained McClellan.

The anti-static coating will also help repel dust, thus reducing the problem of cleaning a light installation of this size.

Also, the energy consumption and maintenance are expected to cost a fraction of what a normal chandelier of this size would entail, thanks to the efficient use of about 55,000 LEDs.

"Even when fully fired up, the chandelier will use the power equivalent to that of 70 light-bulbs," the designer said.



A global team installing the world's largest chandelier.

## A project steeped in positive aspect of life

With so much negativity around us, it is a rewarding experience to conceive and implement a project steeped in the positive aspects of life, says the designer of the world's largest chandelier.

Speaking to *Gulf Times*, Beau McClellan, the designer and sculptor of Reflective Flow, an inspiring work of art, said light as a medium was closer to music and carried the same power of interaction. McClellan is a musician at heart.

Taking nearly three years and now near completion, the sheer magnitude of the project meant that McClellan had to pull together the best teams worldwide to make the RF.

While it was conceived by Beau McClellan Design in Portugal, as a "gorge running between two rock formations" based on the building's own design, the LEDs came from Japan.

"LED is super-efficient and is the ecological way to go. Every artist needs to be aware of the ecological impact of their work,



Beau McClellan: the designer and sculptor of Reflective Flow

rather than running after the biggest or the tallest," McClellan said.

The Montreal-based LSI

Technologies teamed up with McClellan for hardware and technology, while another Canadian firm Ambiances is behind the programming and content needed for the Reflective Flow.

"The content can make or break this piece. It is important for a piece such as Reflective Flow to continue to display images that are not repetitive," the artist said.

Each of the 2,300 solid crystals of the RF can be controlled individually, allowing the maximum amount of colour (1bn and more colours to be precise) and display variation so the sculpture can constantly transform and evolve into colour, shape and light.

The individually hand-ground glass and pure crystals came from locations in Hong Kong and Italy, while the intricate rigging for the complex sculpture was done by Unusual Rigging from London.

"The specially-banded aluminium bar which holds everything in the RF was produced in China. All the teams then went to

China where the chandelier was tested before being dismantled for shipment to Qatar," McClellan said.

"The project is expected to be finalised in about a week's time when it will be covered and revealed, publicly, as the building opens in 2010," McClellan said.

"The challenge was immense especially since the building is right across the iconic Museum of Islamic Art. Looking at a lot of computer-generated pictures of RF over the years and now looking at it as it nears completion, the impression has yet to sink in," McClellan added.

"I hope the people of Qatar, a rising country, can remember me."

Beau McClellan Design has developed exclusive one-off pieces for many celebrities and international sports personalities, using the art of forged steel sculpture and high-end light in-

stallations of all proportions.

While McClellan also has an award-winning branded range for German lighting giant Brumberg, he has filled in the shoes of a singer-songwriter-composer, a film art director-set designer, and an advertisement art director-producer.

## All the fun of Eid festivities

By Ourouba Hussein  
Staff Reporter

Funny characters in colourful costumes roamed the City Center as a puppet show and other activities entertained the visitors as part of the leading mall's Eid al-Adha programme.

The City Center has been observing a family day from 8am to 8pm during the Eid holidays with shops running special promotions.

The Eid programme started on November 27 and will continue until December 6. It includes theatre, a puppet show and People "Chudaki", an international group of professional performers, who play music and create pop numbers.

The actors use the age-old tradition of mime and communicate in English with children, as they play out their stories and mingle with the audience.

One of their pieces is the "Four Seasons" play, a musical programme including a variety of shows where the audience can understand the Changing of Sea-



An appreciative crowd cheers as Salem sings.

sons performed by the actors wearing costumes representing the colours of the year.

The "Transformation"; "Scotchwoman"; "Queen of the Disk" shows, highlighting the autumn, are played by characters such as Pupa, Butterfly, Fire, Dragonfly, Spider and Cockroach.

The winter shows include "Penguins", "Snowmen", "Girl

and Crocodile", as spring shows comprise "Moths", "Pearl", "Swan Lake" and "Kangaroo Boxing".

Their characters include sea creatures and animals like kangaroos and hippopotamus.

The summer includes the "Paradise Garden" show with characters like flowers, butterflies and ants.

The finale Parade Alle is a show

that will feature breathtaking performances, a spokesman said.

The programme comprises competitions for children and parents, who are invited as participants on stage, creating a cheerful and exciting ambience.

A Mini-Theatrical Act is also combined in the show.

The puppet shows start everyday at 6.40pm and goes until

8.40pm. Children and parents were yesterday spotted waiting at the Carpet Void for the stage for the funny characters to show up.

One parent, Zeinab, was attending the Eid shows at the City Center for the second time. She told *Gulf Times* that her children, who loved the Chudaki characters, were waiting impatiently for the show to start.

Another parent, Mariam said that the Eid programme was "such an entertainment for children" and also a great occasion to take advantage of the promotions offered by the mall's shops and boutiques.

Meanwhile, the Souq Waqif continued to attract a large number of visitors who have found this year's entertainment



Abu Bakr Salem performing at the Souq Waqif.

programme to be highly enjoyable. Families have been thronging the traditional souq since the beginning of the festival.

A musical programme where leading Yemeni singer Abu Bakr Salem performed on Monday night, was a big hit with the audience, comprising mostly Qatari.