

Re: Bellevue Hospital Center
HO-145/MH-1
Art Work

The sculpture DNA HELIX² is the artists translation of the universal life force of the new medicine.

Description Analysis:

The sculpture is made up of materials of bronze, stainless steel, copper and is intended to rest on a stepped base which would invite viewers to walk around and under it. The work is in a sense a continuation of the environment that the occupants work in and in itself exemplifies the mystery that frequently radiates from the pursuit of a problem. The tantalizing quality of the search is embodied in the surface changes, the imagery, and the depth behind the surface illumination.

This sculpture is a tribute to the discovery of the DNA MOLECULE which opens a new era of medical science to mankind. Under the facade of the mystery is the double helix; in the center of the sculpture is the spiral form; to the left are the spermatozoa; on the right, the cells and their structure; on the opposite side is the pairing of chromosomes; and the stainless steel reflects the magnitude of the possibilities of a changing biological science and its impact on mankind.

Explanation:

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is a double stranded structure, a chemical molecule, located in the chromosomes of each living cell, and through a coded sequence of chemical units in its inner structure it directs the reproduction and development of every living organism on earth. The two major strands of the DNA helix are composed of sugar phosphate units endlessly repeated. These form the outer acidic part of the molecule, and are everywhere the same in all DNA'S.

The stairs of the spiral are formed by four types of 'base' compounds, attached to each strand and joined in the center by hydrogen bonds.

The four base units are complementary, base A (adenine) will fit or join chemically only with T (thymine) and G (guanine) only with C (cytosine).

The order in which the bases occur along the strands varies widely and it is this variable sequence that makes up the GENETIC CODE.

Sculptor: John W. Rhoden