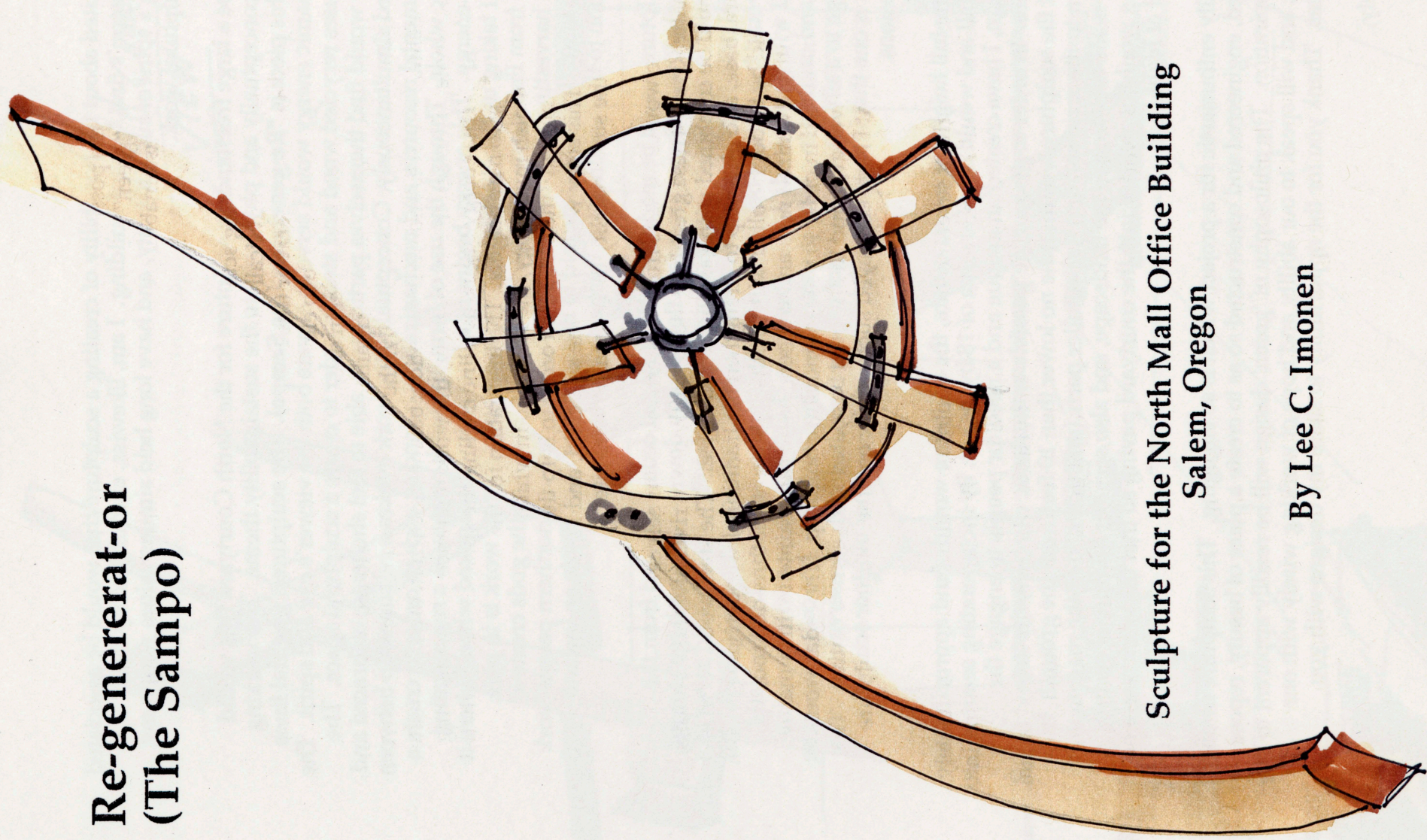


**Re-generat-or
(The Sampo)**



**Sculpture for the North Mall Office Building
Salem, Oregon**

By Lee C. Imonen

I am excited about the possibility of creating a sculpture that would be associated with Oregon's first "green" building. I am, likewise, encouraged by the building's spirit of sustainability, and have long held similar values within my own sculptural work.

I propose a large freestanding sculpture for the North Courtyard that would adhere conceptually and physically to the sustainability theme. The working title of this piece is "Re-generat-or (the Sampo)". The sculpture's gestural lines and dynamic energy would serve to elevate both the viewer's eye and spirit. The design uses recycled wood and steel in order to create a sculptural space. The viewers would find themselves participants, able to feel sheltered, embraced and energized simultaneously. Conceptually, the work evokes a relationship between environmental resources and mechanization; balancing each in order to create a dynamic whole. Through the use of form, the work references a regenerating cycle of energy. This energy begins as a line circling the spoked wheel, where it spins off taking us to new heights. The inspiration for this work is in part derived from Finnish mythology, the Kalevala, in which the gods create a magical harvesting mill 'the Sampo' in order to help the northern people work with the land. This story was told to me as a child, and I made an instant connection to the sustainability theme many years later.

The sculpture would be made from Western red cedar salvaged from the Willamette River. These great trees float swiftly down river after large storms, and would be combined with galvanized plate steel. The steel would serve as a structural base, and also help to strengthen the traditional wooden joinery. All joints would be through-bolted with 7/8ths stainless steel threaded rod, and fastened with galvanized nuts and washers. Joints are painted with a marine primer and caulked in order to prevent moisture build-up. The cedar would be left to age to a silver-gray and then would be coated with a preservative. This process is one that I have employed successfully on other outdoor sculpture commissions.

Using the full height of several cedars, the sculpture would stand approximately 40 feet tall and would cover an area of 18 by 25 feet. By incorporating seating into the design, I have created an avenue and a need for people to engage the sculpture. In order to discourage possible enthusiastic climbers, the lowest aerial parts of the sculpture would come no lower than 10 feet from the ground. In addition to the main section, two smaller parts (not included in the macquette) further relate the work to the landscape, and also serve as additional seating. Lighting would be worked into the courtyard paving so that the work could be enjoyed at night.

I am fully enthusiastic for a project which is so engaging. This sculpture can be designed, engineered and constructed so as to create a place of beauty, repose and inspiration. The philosophy of 'green' design will be readily apparent to the viewer, and will speak to our ability and hope of working wisely with our resources. Thank you for the opportunity to share my designs with you.

Sincerely,

NORTH COURT
VIEW

