



## Waves of Grace

JANET ECHELMAN'S ROOTS are in New England, but her experience and influence can be found in the graceful volumes of shadow and light she has created for public spaces in more than 11 countries.

From her studio in Brookline, Massachusetts, she has produced art installations using woven fiber or atomized mist to create pieces that respond to wind, water, and light. Her work includes the *Water Sky Garden* at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games and the recently completed *Every Beating Second*, an indoor installation (rare for her) at San Francisco Airport. In the works is *Pulse*, a piece at Philadelphia's Dilworth Plaza that will trace three subway lines running beneath it with colorful 5-foot walls of mist activated by train arrivals and departures. "The site had been the city's first waterworks and then the hub of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the era of the steam engine," says Echelman, who compared the piece to "an X-ray of the city's circulatory system."

Although she studied textile weaving in Bali, net building in India, and lace making in Lithuania, the use of modern technology to articulate unseen connections and elemental structures is Echelman's forte, and she is constantly influenced by the engineers, architects, designers, and fabricators with whom she works. These days, they are the researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Bits and Atoms, where she is helping create an armature for a sculpture that changes shape with fluctuating temperature. Soon she will begin a residency at The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University, where the human genome was sequenced. Her fans can't wait to see what new work that might inspire. — KATIE GLEYSSTEEN

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PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER HARTING



PHOTOGRAPH BY DOUG MINDELL

## Heavy Metal

"EVERYTHING IS MADE as it was in the 1800s," says Eric DeLong, president of Tremont Nail Company, the oldest steel cut nail manufacturer in the country.

Founded in 1819 by Isaac and Jared Pratt in Wareham, Massachusetts, Tremont was a fixture in that coastal town until it was sold six years ago to Acorn Manufacturing, makers of restoration hardware, which moved it to its headquarters in Mansfield, Massachusetts.

There, the steel cut nails that restoration specialists seek are still made as they were 190 years ago. "We have 24 machines producing 19 different types of nails," says production controller Larry Bickett. "Two of the machines were built in 1990 from patterns used in the 1800s. Parts from old machines are still used." The four edges of the cut nail tear through the wood fibers, rather than splitting them as wire nails do, providing superior holding power. The nails are hard to pull out because the wood fibers are pushed down and wedge against the nails, reducing the chance of loosening. "The form is what makes them special," says Bickett.

Tremont Nails can be found in expected places (the 1991 restoration of the Charles River Esplanade Hatch Shell) and unexpected places (on the sets of *The Patriot* and the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series). And this is one American-made product sold around the world. "New Zealand, in particular, is a big customer," says DeLong. — JAN SHEPHERD

📍 Tremont Nail Company, Mansfield, MA; 800-835-0121, [tremontnail.com](http://tremontnail.com).