MIT creates walls of water for 2008 World Expo

July 22, 2007

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- When the World Expo opens in Zaragoza, Spain, next year, fairgoers will encounter a building with walls made from water.

The water will come from thousands of little jets that can be switched on and off, rapid-fire, by computer-controlled sensors. The resulting effect will enable images and text to scroll in the water walls.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology architects who developed the idea say it's a boundary-pushing artistic statement.

The theme of the fair is water and sustainable development, and MIT researcher Carlo Ratti points out that by using all recycled water, which in turn provides evaporative cooling and no need for air conditioning, the building has a low environmental footprint.

The World Expo takes place in Zaragoza June 14-Sept. 14, 2008. The Expo is the descendant of the World’s Fairs of yesteryear, including the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair.

Details at digitalwaterpavilion.com or expomuseum.com/2008/.

AP

Copyright 2007 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.