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**HSBC BUILDING**

TENANT INFO CENTRE

885 West Georgia  
Vancouver, BC

## Amenities

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### The "Broken Column" Pendulum Sculpture

Building Description

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For anyone familiar with public art in downtown Vancouver, the swinging "pendulum" within the HSBC Building is a landmark piece of urban furniture. The Atrium committee commissioned local sculptor Alan Storey to design and build this kinetic artwork. Borrowing from the architectural emphasis on supporting columns throughout the building itself, Storey developed the idea of a column that could break free of its base. Since dubbed the "pendulum", the broken column is suspended from the center of the barrel vault roof within the Atrium. Pivoting from its top, the pendulum gracefully sweeps through an arc that is in line with the longitudinal axis of the entire building.

In detail, the pendulum is made of brushed aluminum, is 27 meters (90 feet) long, 1 meter (3 feet) square and hollow from top to bottom. It weighs 1600 Kgs. (3500 lbs.) and travels through an arc of about 6 meters (20 feet). The original design included a fan within the pendulum that would draw warm air from above, down the inside of the shaft, and out the slot at the bottom.

The pendulum movement is assisted by a hydraulic mechanical system located at its top. At the end of its swing the broken column comes into alignment with a matching buttress mounted on the Atrium floor. For a moment the two pieces appear as one. The rhythmical movement of the pendulum is both soothing and terrifying: while the smoothness of the swing is reminiscent of a giant metronome or grandfather clock, the end of the swing at the floor buttress evokes thoughts of a guillotine or a wrecking ball.

Alan Storey was born in 1960 in Summerland, British Columbia. He is an Honours graduate in Fine Arts from the University of Victoria. The recipient of many awards and commissions, his work has been widely exhibited in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

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