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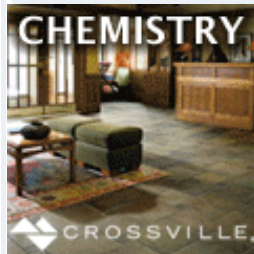
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## Mike Glier Murals at Former Harvard Building

Dave Platter  
Interior Design · November 21, 2003

One of America's most successful contemporary artists -whose canvasses include a 1996 work entitled "Recovered Flight Recorder with Chips"- has just completed four murals in an 1871 Cambridge, Mass., building that was originally the Harvard School.

The artist, Mike Glier, is well known to museum-goers. He has had solo exhibitions in New York's Museum of Modern Art. He has also been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art.

Glier's artwork is just one part of a city-directed \$7.1 million renovation of the 33,216 square-foot building, now the City Hall Annex. The rebuilding is intended to combine historic preservation with environmental sustainability. Solar panels on the roof, a ground source heat pump and other measures will halve energy consumption.

Glier is an original and often playful artist, though with works like "Recovered Flight Recorder with Chips" and "Aryan Youth with Mums" he is sometimes less than soothing. His murals were commissioned by the [Cambridge Arts Council](#), are collectively entitled "Town Green" and cover four large walls in the building's two-story atrium.

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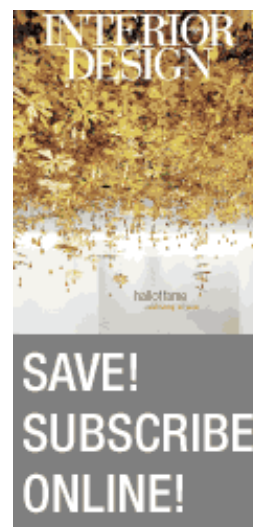
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In a move that seems more like alchemy than art, [Glier](#) found the inspiration for his murals in the mission statements of the city departments that will occupy the building. Lesser artists would likely have been left numb by the challenge of linking their work to the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, one of the tenants.

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The images Glier ended up with depict urban views such as birds and roses, vines climbing the walls, a girl reading in the grass and a view of office workers on a coffee break.

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