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## SCIENCE GOES CONCRETE AT UWO

Come September of next year, University of Western Ontario students will have two new science buildings on campus, both constructed in reinforced concrete.

Work began this March on the new 6689 m<sup>2</sup> science building and a 6317 m<sup>2</sup> science library, both three storey, masonry clad buildings. About 800 tonnes of reinforcing steel are being supplied to the London, Ontario project.

The reinforced concrete design provides for flexibility in the future, says project architect Gordon Robinson. He describes the two buildings as being "simple, flat slab construction" with "large, square bays" which can accommodate changes in how the buildings are used as the university's needs change. To achieve the large bay areas, columns are sited only at the perimeters.

Low floor-to-floor heights (3.84 m), achieved easily with reinforced concrete design were necessary to allow a physical linking to existing buildings with similar floor heights. The new science building will be linked by a third-floor bridge to the third floor of an adjacent Biological and Geological Sciences Building.

In what construction manager Stan Lataszak calls a "unique application," reinforcing steel was welded to a huge (18.3 m long) double I-beam

in the new science building. The beam provides for clear space in the lecture hall by transferring structural loads of upper elements to other parts of the building. The

beam had to be encased in concrete for fireproofing.

Epoxy-coated rebar for corrosion-resistance is being used in areas such as exterior stairways and planters.

**Architect:** Moffat Kinoshita Associated Inc.

**Structural Engineers:** Carruthers & Wallace Ltd.

**General Contractor:** Ellis-Don Limited

