

A FOCUS on MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Penrose Tiles and Why They Matter

Presented by:

Marjorie Senechal

***Professor of Mathematics and
History of Science and Technology
at Smith College***

Date:

June 8, 2005

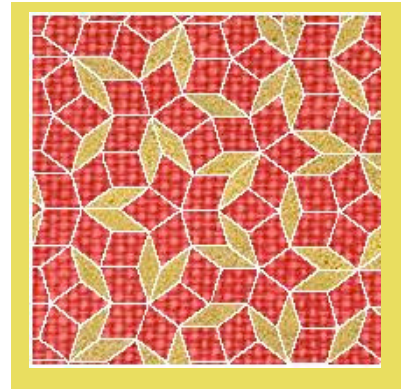
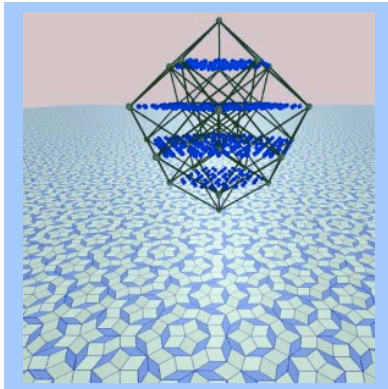
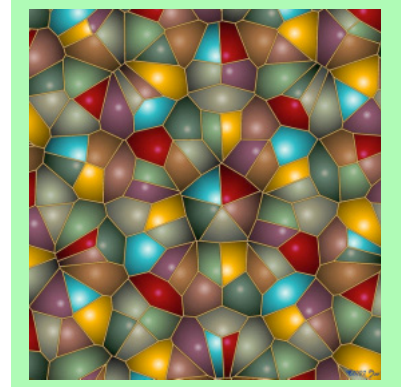
Place:

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

**8 St. Mary's Street
Photonics Building
Room: PHO 210**

Time:

4:30-5:30 PM



When you shop for wallpaper, or for fabric, you look through a swatch book to select a pattern. The swatch tells you everything you need to know, since the pattern is the swatch repeated in all directions, like square tiles on a floor. Now imagine another kind of pattern: one extending in all directions to tile the plane, repeating everywhere but never exactly -- a pattern for which no swatch exists! Penrose tiles -- two simple quadrilaterals -- accomplish this feat. We will play with them (hands on) for a while, to discover their strange properties, and then we will discuss their importance for mathematics, science, art, and philosophy.

The talk will be of interest to teachers at all levels, from middle school to university.

Reception to follow in the Math Department, Room 135

from 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Teacher Registration & RSVP by June 6, 2004

Please let us know if you plan to attend!

Contact Karina Dymina: karina@focusonmath.org

For more info & directions please visit: www.focusonmath.org



Focus on Mathematics is a unique partnership of mathematicians and educators from Boston University, Education Development Center, Inc., Worcester Polytechnic Institute, UMass Lowell, Lesley University, and five Greater Boston school districts: Arlington, Chelsea, Lawrence, Waltham, and Watertown.

