

NOT JUST ANOTHER PRETTY REEF: THE GAINESVILLE FLORIDA REEF

A SATELLITE OF THE WORLDWIDE HYPERBOLIC CROCHET CORAL REEF PROJECT

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Abstract

In partnership with the Institute for Figuring, we are "crocheting a coral reef: a woolly celebration of the intersection of higher geometry and feminine handicraft, and a testimony to the disappearing wonders of the marine world."

The Gainesville Florida Reef, a satellite of the Worldwide Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef project not only shows the beauty of reefs but serves to:

- Foster scientific communication through the visual arts
- Raise awareness of the fragility of our coral reefs and the entire ecosystem
- Support learning by creating physical models of geometric principles
- Connect several areas on campus, including fine arts, mathematics and ecology and environmental sciences through collaboration and mutual interest
- Encourage local community and alumni involvement through creating, observing and learning

The Marston Science Library will host a satellite reef exhibition from April through October 2011, which will include a reception and speakers.



Sample corals

Work as many rows or starting chains as you like; the bigger, the better!

Use different colors for each row, or just for the last row. Decrease your n (inc more frequently) in the last 2-3 rows to create a slight ruffle.

Add a picot trim (ch 3 between each sc) in the last row or 2 to create more ruffle.



These hyperbolic planes (one increase in every 5 stitches) are each made with equal parts of orange and blue yarn. The first yarn created 22 rows, but the border yarn only lasted for 4 rows. What an amazing illustration of the rate of hyperbolic growth!



We are also experimenting with non-hyperbolic shapes such as the tube sponge (above), and sea fan, sea anemone, and stag-horn coral.



Bleached coral indicate a stressed environment. When the symbiotic algae that normally provide color to the coral are expelled, the coral themselves appear bleached.

As the exhibit evolves we will pull out the brightly colored coral and leave the bleached ones on display to deliver a strong environmental message.

