The snow falls like ghost-stars and lights the pines
With a pale luminosity that sheds
A radiance over the quiet woods.
It clings to the fringed branches with fingers
Soft as silence. No life nor any sound
Disturbs the scene, only the falling stars
Of snow, weaving a thick, warm, white blanket
To spread over the cold arms of the trees,
Outstretched as if to hold back the crouching
Darkness of the night; the frozen crystals
Glow calmly, without substance or shadow,
Until a white shroud blots out the landscape.

A temporary work of art, with no
two alike, what is that covering our
campus in white?

If you guessed snowflakes then you
are right, but…

According to chair of the Caltech
Physics department Kenneth G. Libbrecht, the proper
term should actually be “snow crystals.”

For more snow facts and to see examples of all the
different categories of snow crystals, go to:

www.snowcrystals.com

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