Exhibition to Explore Bechtel's First Century

An exhibition opening at the Museum this June will highlight large-scale civil engineering projects by the Bechtel Corporation. The San Francisco-based engineering-construction firm has worked on more than $500 million projects in 140 nations, pioneering innovations ranging from the early use of diesel-powered shovels and the development of new construction technologies to the introduction of comprehensive engineering-management techniques and financing strategies.

Entitled The Business of Innovation: Bechtel's First Century, the exhibition will highlight highlight achievements in a-kind or unique projects — beginning with the construction of the Hoover Dam (then named Boulder Dam) in 1931 as part of a joint venture. The dam, which came in two years ahead of schedule and under the projected budget, remains an icon of American civil engineering. Other featured projects, undertaken singly or with other firms, include a World War II shipyard that broke production records, the first nuclear reactor to produce electrical power, a 1950s pipeline project that became an industry model for its management approach, and its innovative funding system.

The exhibition marks the 100th anniversary of the museum's founding, Bechtel has pledged a $20 million grant to support the exhibition. Museum President and Director Susan Henn swept the text continues, "Throughout the 20th century, Bechtel has transformed and modernized our facilities, factories, and transportation systems. The company's generous contributions enable us to share this fascinating story with the American public.

The Hoover Dam, the son of American Civil Engineering, from Courtesy: Bechtel Corporation

Corinthis Dine With Ricardo Legoretta

A dinner with renowned Mexican architect Ricardo Legoretta is scheduled on September 10, 1997, was the latest special event for members of the Museum's Corinthian's program for high-level donors. Following his lecture to 800 people in the Great Hall (see story on page 2), Legoretta spoke with the select group about his attempt to create architecture that combines "mythology, mystery, and emotion." His signature use of brilliant colors and textured walls can be seen throughout the Americas — from San Antonio's new Main Library to Montevideo, Uruguay, which was an AIA Award winner for its innovative design. The exhibition, opening next month, will include an evening with Washington developer Abe Pollin, who will discuss his vision for a revitalized downtown area. For information about joining the Corinthis, please call 202-272-2440, ext. 5103.
Engineers’ Dreams: The Creativity of the Roller Coaster

By Robert Friedel

They were known as “Vipers,” “Waters,” “Vipers,” and “Amazons.” They cause fear and horror as people find themselves caught up by monstrous clouds of screams, white knuckles, and eyes shut tight for what seems like an eternity. Yet each year, they are sought out by those same people in the millions, and they generate not simply awe and terror but also joy, excitement, and for their owners, considerable profit.

They are roller coasters – features of the American landscape of fun and fantasy for more than a century. There exist some strange elements of the built environment among these giant structures. Stated as a hypothesis, roller coaster riders are often spectacular examples of creative engineering.

One of the most innovative roller coaster design firms working today is the Utah-based Arrow Dynamics. Under the leadership of Ronald V. Towner for more than 30 years, the company has created some of the world’s most extraordinary and novel means of transportation. The company began in the mid-1900s, when two California machine-shop owners, Ed Morgan and Karl Bacon, were asked to put together an imaginative ride for the new Disneyland amusement park, then under construction in Anaheim. Their Matterhorn Bobsleds quickly became a hallmark of the famously popular park, and it set a standard for Island pleasures seekers that, at a ticket ride, Thompson made his invention back in only three weeks. Thompson’s success made the roller coaster popular with engineers, and progress was rapid. Only a year later, new essential ingredients were added to Thompson’s design: Charles Alcock devised a coaster with a continuous circuit, and Philip Hinkle designed a powered lift which drew cars mechanically to the top of each hill before gravity took over. Within a decade, Coastland Park owners had constructed the first looping roller coaster in America. In the Flip-Flip, a two-person car was sent around a circular loop with a 25-foot diameter, but the stresses of this tight circle were so great that passengers complained of neck and back injuries, and the ride was dismantled in a few years. Learning from this experience, another Coast Island park constructed the Loop-the-Loop in 1901, this time using an elliptical rather than a circular curve and thus smoothing out the ride considerably.

For several decades, roller coasters spread in popularity until, at some point in the 1920s, there were perhaps 1,500 in North America and a similar number overseas. Designers and their amusement park clients vied for the distinction of the scariest coaster. One of the prime contenders was the Crystal Beach Cyclone, erected in a Canadian suburb of Buffalo, N.Y., in 1927. The first drop was 97 feet, but the real terror was the 85-degree turn the track executed at this point, which caused any loose items passengers might have – including false teeth made vulnerable by loosened braces – to fly off on the wild blue. No wonder a full-time nurse was hired to care for customers – and on one hot summer day in 1943, a passenger was killed as he rose to take off his jacket. By that time, however, roller coasters were on a decline of their own, due to changing population patterns, land-use priorities, and environmental hazards. This fall was faster for decades so that by the 1970s, the number of coasters had plummeted to less than one-tenth of its high in the early 20th century. As the century entered its last quarter, however, there were signs of revival, and a small core of engineers to whom reignited the passion of those who once built the full-parody of skills who to create big roller coasters, and some imaginative roller coasters. When the original Arrow Dynamics engineers, Ed Morgan and Karl Bacon, went to work on the Disneyland assignment that was to become the Matterhorn continued on page 6.
HOW AND WHY WE BUILD

A Dome of Their Own

Invented by R. Buckminster Fuller, the geodesic dome has been called "the strongest, most cost-effective structure ever devised." A group of fifth grade students from Bethesda Elementary School had an opportunity to test this theory on October 8, 1997, when they participated in a new school program at the Museum called Fuller's Fantastic Geodesic Dome. The program will be offered to students in grades five to eight throughout the school year.

Students began the program by talking about the dome's special qualities. They learned that the curved shape of the dome is inherently strong, creating a self-supporting span with no internal columns. The geodesic dome is especially strong because its load is distributed almost equally throughout the structure. Since they contain less surface area than comparable sized firms, domes also conserve energy by reducing the amount of heat or cold air that can escape from their walls.

Next the young people set about building their own 6' by 10' geodesic dome. They laid out a circular pattern of 20 interconnecting triangles which they bound together with heavy duty cord. Another piece of cord was tightened around the perimeter of the structure to create the tension that would allow the dome to stand on its own. As the dome lifted before their very eyes, the students applauded its height and structure.

"I thought it was going to fall, but the tension in the rope kept it standing," said Ryan Rosen. His classmate Erick Villanueva added, "I never knew shoes domes were built today."

—Karen Eisenberg

Remaking Washington's Pennsylvania Quarter

DURING THE BUSINESS DAY, the Farragut North area is a beehive of activity in Washington, D.C. In the evening, the action moves west to Georgetown. But another neighborhood may soon rival these locations as Washington's hot spot - Pennsylvania Quarter in the Downtown Historic District.

Once a thriving center of retail and entertainment, Penn Quarter declined following the recession of the 1960s. But since 1976, private developers encouraged by federal initiatives have invested over $1.5 billion in the area in the form of new shops, restaurants, entertainment, hotels and theaters. The latest addition is the MCI Center, home to the city's professional basketball and hockey teams.

Standing at the center of Penn Quarter is Washington's most notable architectural treasures - the General Post Office (1904-09).

Designed by Robert Mills, the architect of such Washington landmarks as the Washington Monument and the Treasury Building, it is currently being served as the headquarters for the postal service and subsequently

Commission. The deteriorating building has been vacant for more than a year.

Now the building's history, the General Services Administration (GSA), is looking to sign a long term lease with a private developer for its renovation. GSA is reviewing several proposals that range from hotels and housing to museums and an international marketplace.

To facilitate public participation in this process, the Museum is collaborating with GSA and the D.C. Preservation League to present several programs on the General Post Office in February and March. A design workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to explore and respond to the reuse proposals.

The touring, architectural historian Pamela Scott will lecture on the building's history, and tours will be offered on February 15 and 22. See the enclosed Calendar of Events for details.

—Cheryl R. Bowles

The Pennsylvania Quarter, prepared by Joseph Petrucco and Partners, drawn by Vitaly Gevorkian and David B. Masters, photo by Stephen C. White

Legorreta's Architecture of Mystery

LIGHT, GEOMETRY, surface, and color. These are the elements of Ricardo Legorreta's distinctive architecture, which can be seen throughout Mexico, as well as in Texas and California. Legorreta discussed his aesthetic at a September 10, 1997, slide lecture at the Museum attended by 320 people. He was introduced by Mexican Ambassador Jesus Silva Herzog.

In designing the San Antonio Main Library (1995), Legorreta was asked to create a building that would communicate with the culture of the community. The result is a dynamic structure that invites visitors to explore its varied terraces and arcades while providing space for the arts and entertainment.

"I thought it was going to fall, but the tension in the rope kept it standing," said Ryan Rosen. His classmate Erick Villanueva added, "I never knew shoes domes were built today."

—Karen Eisenberg

New Book Explores Architecture of Beverly Willis

This fall the Museum published Invisible Images: The Silent Language of Architecture, by Beverly Willis. The book reflects on Willis's career as an architect, artist, and educator, highlighting the contributions she has made in those fields.

In 1966 Willis opened her own firm in San Francisco. There she worked on a variety of residential, institutional, and commercial projects, most notably the San Francisco Ballet Association Building and School, part of the Civic and Performing Arts Complex. She became one of the California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIAC) in 1970 and was honored with an AIA fellowship in 1989. In 1950 Willis moved her office to New York City, where she founded the Architecture Research Foundation, a think tank examining the Information Age and its effects on architecture and urbanism.

In Invisible Images, Willis draws on these experiences to explore the creative process. The book is organized not by traditional divisions, such as building type, but by narrative that investigates the character of her architecture. A chapter entitled "The Street" looks at her Union Street stores and Nob Hill apartments, while "Nature and Geometry" examines the similarities between the hotel's community art and proposed design for the Sharon Hospital in California. The 112-page book features 170 color plates, architectural photographs and a biographical essay by Nicholas Ounomou.

The Museum will host a lecture and book signing by Beverly Willis at the National Building Museum on Monday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.
The Creativity of the Roller Coaster continued from page 3

In order to improve the experience, Timmerman's team worked on developing a new design that included sharper curves and new dynamic shapes in the cars. This design was successful and led to the creation of the Zipper roller coaster, which became a sensation in the industry.

The Zipper was designed with a unique track layout that included sharp turns and vertical drops, providing a thrilling experience for riders. The coaster was built by Arrow Dynamics and opened to the public in 1991. Its innovative design and high-speed runs made it a popular attraction at theme parks around the world.

In conclusion, the creativity of the roller coaster industry is evident in the constant evolution of coaster design and technology. As the industry continues to push the boundaries of what is possible, riders can expect to experience more thrilling and innovative coasters in the future.

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TheMahoney LI200 at Cedar Point, in Sandusky, Ohio, climbs to a height of 205 feet before plunging the riders through the confines of 19 stories. The coaster's traveling speed of 72 miles per hour is maintained throughout the ride. Designed by Arrow Dynamics, it was erected in 1989. Photo Paul L. Roben

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*February 2019*
MARCH

**EXHIBITIONS**

*Breaking Through: The Creative Engineer*
February 6 - November 8, 1990
What kind of thinking goes into the act of creating by an engineer? Are there different styles of creativity? *Breaking Through: The Creative Engineer* addresses these questions by exploring two studios including the development of the seismically isolated building for protecting buildings from earthquakes damage, the construction of the Hanging Lake Vault near the Colorado River, and the restoration of the Kootenay River in Florida. The exhibition demonstrates how challenging preconceptions, connecting different fields, defying conventions and other creative processes contribute to the engineer's work. Visitors can explore their own creative experiments through a series of hands-on activities.

*The Legacy: The Johnson Collection*

The Legacy: The Johnson Collection offers a unique opportunity to see the work of six of the most influential artists of the last 50 years. The exhibition features works by Louise Nevelson, Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Jasper Johns, and Robert Rauschenberg. These artists have had a profound impact on the development of modern art and their works are some of the most iconic pieces in the Johnson Collection.

March 15, 1990
Throughout the first half of this century, the S. H. Kress Co. chain of variety stores helped define the face of Main Street America, from New York to Hawaii. This exhibition explores the architectural history and significance of this iconic store chain. It features vintage photographs and architectural renderings from the Kress Corporation's permanent collection. The exhibition is supported by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

*Laying Eighty on the Land: Building America's National Park Roads and Parkway Trails through January 10, 1990*

*Tools as Art III: All Saws The Chiseler Collection through April 10, 1990*

*The Legacy of American Art from the Helfand Collection*

*Washington's Symbol and City permanent*

*Building a Landmark: the National Building Museum's Design in Action* permanent

*Planning Washington's Monumental Law: L'Olggio to Liberty through June 30, 1990*

*The Legacy Project moves into our new setting for 1991 squares at the Providence and Locust Avenue, Building Robert Miller Center, courtesy NCP*

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Lectures and Symposia

The National Building Museum is a registered provider for the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System. Learning units can be earned by participating in the Museum's programs.

Beverly Willis, Invisible Images: The Silent Language of Architecture
Thursday, January 15
6 - 7:30 pm
"All art forms need to evolve or express the inevitable, unarticulated and often unperceived forces that affect the human experience at a given time," writes Beverly Willis in Invisible Images (National Building Museum). In this lecture, the noted architect and founding director of the Architecture Research Institute will draw on her own architectural and multimedia projects to illustrate this idea. A reception and book signing will follow.

$8 Museum members; $12 non-members.

Postmodern Space: From Site to Architecture
Tuesday, January 27
6 - 7:30 pm
Once neglected by architects who emphasized the design of the building's site, the urban setting has emerged as the primary point of departure in recent design practices. Join three women architects: Carol Burns, associate professor of architecture at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design; Elizabeth K. Meyer, associate professor and chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Virginia Tech; and Kate Nadelhoffer, assistant professor of architecture at the University of Virginia — as they discuss and illustrate this postmodern shift.

$8 Museum members; $12 non-members.

Civics Lessons: Investing in Public Architecture and Infrastructure
Wednesday, February 4
6:30 - 8 pm
A series of case studies, this symposium will examine the continuing need for public sector capital investment in our cities. By focusing on recent initiatives to improve transportation systems and the condition of public school buildings, the program will highlight the role of architects in the public funded built environment and illustrate creative ways to secure funding among overlapping bureaucracies. The program will be moderated by architect and planner Marilyn Jevic and Urban Design and Planning Group at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP and a contributor to the Civics Lessons exhibition, which will be open to view. Co-sponsored by the Institute of Architects New York Chapter and the New York Foundation for Architecture.

$8 Museum members; $12 non-members.

Spotlight on Design Series

An ongoing series providing a forum for nationally and internationally recognized architects, designers, and curators to discuss their impact on America's built environment. Book signings follow the programs.

Each lecture: $10 Museum members; $15 non-members.

Henry Petroski, Remaking the World: Adventures in Engineering, Monday, March 2
Join Henry Petroski, chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Duke University, and a fellow through the Trilateral Program to bring into the discussion the role of technology in the world economy. His book, Remaking the World: Adventures in Engineering (Alfred A. Knopf Publishers), focuses on a wide range of engineering projects, including the Panama Canal and the Panama Tumac, in Malaysia, and the tallest buildings in the world. Presented in conjunction with Breaking Through: The Creative Engineer, which will be open for viewing. Co-sponsored by Alfred A. Knopf, Publishers.

Lawrence Halprin, The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
Monday, April 6
Halfway between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, on an axis with the Washington Monument, the new FDR Memorial rises behind a screen of trees. The 12 acres of the memorial's presidency have been interpreted in a linear, narrative park, which features stone walls, fountains, and sculpture. Join the memorial's designers, noted landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, as he recounts the story of the project, discussing his recent book, The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial (The Natural History Press). Over 20 years in the making, the memorial is a crowning achievement in a career that has spanned five decades.

Preservation in the Non-Western World
Wednesday, January 21
6 - 7 pm
Join one of the earliest of American preservationists, William J. Murdock, as he shares his knowledge of preservation practices around the globe. Some of his most recent work has been in China, Mexico, Indonesia, and Southeast Asia. Murdock will be available to sign copies of the recently revised edition of his house preservation text, Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.).

Donald Albrecht, The Work of Charles and Ray Eames: A Legacy of Innovation
Monday, February 9
6 - 7:30 pm
While Charles and Ray Eames are perhaps best known for their steel-and-glass houses, Case Study House No. 8, the dynamic team also designed innovative furniture, toys, films, graphics, exhibitions, and books. Join Donald Albrecht, editor of the Work of Charles and Ray Eames (Harry N. Abrams, Inc.), and director of an internationally touring exhibition by the same name, organized by the Library of Congress in partnership with the Vitra Design Museum, as he discusses the couple's family of forms and their design process. A reception and book signing will follow.

$8 Museum members; $12 non-members.

The R.E.L.P. House in Brooklyn

The R.E.L.P. House is an ecological building designed for low-income families in Brooklyn, New York. The building uses solar energy, rainwater harvesting, and passive solar design to reduce energy consumption and increase the comfort of the occupants. The building is constructed using recycled materials, and the design incorporates an innovative system for collecting and storing rainwater. The building is also designed to be energy-efficient, using a combination of passive and active strategies to reduce energy use. The building is a demonstration of how sustainable design can be used to create affordable housing that is both comfortable and environmentally responsible.

$8 Museum members; $12 non-members.

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$8 Museum members; $12 non-members.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPEAKER SERIES

A lecture series focusing on historic preservation, architecture, and the arts in the United States. The series is co-sponsored by the The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Robert Moe, Changing Places: Rebuilding Community in the Age of Sprawl
Wednesday, January 7
6:30 - 7:30 pm
The ruin and rebuilding of America's great cities and towns in the subject of Changing Places (Harry Tull and Company Publishers). Author Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will share the stories of individuals who have helped reverse the downward spiral of historic urban areas through preservation. He will outline steps that all Americans can take to make our cities clean, safe, and vibrant places to live and work. After the lecture, Moe will be available to autograph his book.

$8 Museum members; $12 non-members.

The Fraternal Metropolis: Berlin Between the Bauakademie and the Bauhaus
Wednesday, January 14
6:30 - 8 pm
Jonathan Barnet, professor and director of the graduate program in urban design at the City College of New York, will discuss his recent book, The Fraternal Metropolis, which demonstrates how bypassed areas in cities can become real estate opportunities.

Building the Political Will for Smart Growth
Tuesday, February 3
6:30 - 8 pm
U.S. Congressman Ed Markey (D-Mass.) will discuss how to create the political will for smart growth.

Moving Up and Out
Tuesday, March 2
6:30 - 8 pm
Thomas Bein, director of the Housing Policy Research Group at Cornell University, will present his research on policies that create incentives for urban and urban growth.

Wednesday, February 18
6 - 8 pm
Neil Bandy, director of the National Mall and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, will discuss the process of preserving this iconic building.

Design Process in Colonial America
Tuesday, March 17
6:30 - 8 pm
Architectural historian Carl Lundquist will present case studies, drawing from his new research for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, illustrating the design process in various southern colonies.

Architectural History and History of Art

This ongoing lecture series presents expert scholarship in the history of architecture and the built environment. The series is organized by the Landmark's Council of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and is a collaborative effort of the Museum and the Council. For more information, please call the Museum at 202-282-2446, ext. 3004, or see the Trust's Web site at www.nationaltrust.org. A reception at 6:00 pm precedes each talk.

The Martin Grosser Bautz Berlin Between the Bauakademie and the Bauhaus
Monday, January 12
6:30 - 8 pm
National Building Museum educator Christina Brock discusses the images of Berlin's famous Bauhaus school in its influential art school.


design process in Colonial America

Architectural historian Carl Lundquist presents case studies, drawing from his new research for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, illustrating the design process in various southern colonies.
LECTURES AND SYMPOSIUMS (continued)

Washington's General Post Office, corner 20th. Phone 313-1114.

Robert Mills' Masterwork: Washington's General Post Office

Thursday, February 19

6 - 7:30 pm

Located at what used to be one of downtown Washington's major crossroads, 7th and F Streets N.W., the General Post Office is relatively unknown today. Not only was it the first multi-story public building in America to be constructed in the Italianate style, it was also the first multi-story office built in Washington. Pamela Scott, curator of Buildings of the Districts of Columbia, will discuss the history and significance of this national historic landmark, Coordinated with the D.C. Preservation League and the U.S. General Services Administration, a tour of the building will be offered on February 21 (see listing on page 6). Free. Space is limited; reservations required.

FILMS

MODERN ARCHITECTURE CLASSES SERIES

Metropolis
Sunday, February 22

2:30 - 4 pm

This film, the masterpiece of the German Expressionist director Fritz Lang, portrays the living conditions and social problems of the wealthy in a future society. Free. No reservations required.

Isamu Noguchi: The Sculpture of Space
1 - 3 pm

This film explores the development of Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi's interest in the creation of functional objects and public sculpture. Free. No reservations required.

Maya Lin: A Clear Strong Vision
2:45 - 4 pm

This program includes a presentation of some of the projects in which Maya Lin was involved in the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and a presentation of the installation of the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama, and the Women's Table at Yale. Presented in conjunction with Women's History Month. Free. No reservations required.

TOURS

National Building Museum Tours

Monday through Friday

12:30 - 2:15 pm

Saturday and Sunday

12:30 - 2:15 pm

Free. No reservations required.

Landmark in Transition: Washington's General Post Office

Wednesday, February 18

12:30 - 1:15 pm

Saturday, February 21

1:30 - 2:15 pm

Join Elizabeth Gibson of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) for a rare look at the interior of this national historic landmark, also known as the U.S. Tariff Commission Building. Located at 7th and F Streets N.W., the structure is being transformed into a dynamic new public facility. The tour is limited; reservations required.

FREE EVENTS

Guided Tours of Washington, D.C.

Saturday, February 25, 1989

9 am - 1 pm

Departing from the Museum, professionally trained tour guides will take visitors past many of Washington's most famous points of interest. Offered in conjunction with the Ninth Annual International Tour Guide Day and coordinated with the GSA and the American Bus Association. Free. No reservations necessary. For more information call Peggy Lefts at 261-232-3113.

REGISTRATION

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Yes, I want to become a member of the National Building Museum! Please begin my membership at the following level:

- Senior/Student $25
- Individual $55
- Family/Partner $85
- Supporting Member $100
- Sustaining Member $500
- $25 (tax deductible except for $25)

- Proof of membership required.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

- 12:30 - 2:15 pm
- Free. No reservations required.

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- 12:30 - 2:15 pm
- Free. No reservations required.
CONCERTS IN \nPARTNERSHIP SERIES

Washington Bach Consort

Sunday, January 25
3 – 5 p.m.

Internationally known choral group performing a secular Bach program under the baton of world-renowned guest conductor Mr. Christoph Harwood. For ticket information call the Washington Bach Consort at 202-666-7500.

Levine School of Music

Metropolitan Wind Symphony

Sunday, February 15
2 – 4 p.m.

Light classics.

Washington Women's Chorus

Sunday, February 22
3 – 5 p.m.

Performance of women's poetry and music under the direction of Harold R. Richter.

U.S. Navy Band

Thursday, February 25
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Big band jazz.

U.S. Navy Country Current

Tuesday, March 2
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Bluegrass and country music.

MUSIC IN THE \nGREAT HALL

Unless otherwise noted, concerts are free and no reservations are necessary. Music in the Great Hall is supported by the Miss and Mr. Davis Foundation and The Davis Foundation.

Fuller's Fantastic Geodesic Dome

Sunday, March 9
1 – 3 p.m.

Awaits your attendance, a true geodesic dome for world's fair. Fuller's will be on display this evening.

Free. Reservations required. One adult may accompany every three children.

Fuller's Geodesic Dome

Sunday, March 9
1 – 3 p.m.

Awaits your attendance, a true geodesic dome for world's fair. Fuller's will be on display this evening.

Free. Reservations required. One adult may accompany every three children.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To register for a program, please complete this form and mail to P.O. Box 542, National Capitol Building, 401 T Street SW, Washington, DC 20001. For credit card orders call 202-272-2661. For more information, call 202-272-2348.

No tickets are mailed for Museum programs. You will be contacted if space is not available. Programs are subject to change.

SIGN LANGUAGE interpretors are available upon request for all programs. Please call the Museum two weeks in advance at 202-272-2348.

REFUNDS: Two weeks notice is required. Refunds under $25 cannot be processed.

MEMBERS receive discounts on all educational programs. Other membership benefits include subscriptions to the quarterly publication chronicles and the Calendar of Events, invitations to select exhibition openings, and discounts on Museum Shop purchases.

To become a member, please complete this application or call the membership office at 202-272-2418, ext. 3200.

VISITOR SERVICES

Museum Shop

Monday – Saturday
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday
12 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Washington's largest source of design and building-related books and gifts including jewelry, disk, accessories, garden ornaments, home furnishings, toys, and games.

Courtyard Cafe

Monday – Saturday
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Courtyard Cafe, located in the Museum of History and Technology, offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy a lunch or a snack. This architect Philip Johnson calls "a most astonishing interior space in America." The menu features a variety of sandwiches, salads, baked goods, beverages, and freshly brewed coffee.

Web Site

www.amnh.org

Provides up-to-date information about the Museum.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

Family Night

Wednesday, February 25
7:30 – 10 p.m.

Ages 9–14 (grades 4–8).

Offered in conjunction with National Engineers Week and the exhibition Breaking Through: The Creative Engineer. This event gives families a chance to preview the show, talk with engineers, and engage in a geodesic dome, become a human suspension bridge, and participate in a demonstration illustrating why buildings stand up and fall down. Refreshments will be served. Free. Reservations required. One adult may accompany every three children.

honoring washington's community builders

IT WAS A LANDMARK EVENING for Washington's built environment. More than 1,000 people gathered in the National Museum of History and Technology on September 17, 1997, to join in recognizing four "community builders" of Washington, D.C.: Mrs. Marion Coffman, Charles E. Smith, Charles A. Hersey, and Oliver T. Carr, Jr., with the 1997 Honor Award. Guests included leaders in the real estate, design, and building industries and friends and family of the honorees.

The Museum established the Honor Award in 1986 to recognize exceptional contributions to the nation's built environment. The 1997 award was presented to four real estate entrepreneurs and an attorney who played a vital role in shaping the nation's capital. They were key in helping to transform this town from a sleepy federal city into a thriving metropolitan center.

In accepting the Honor Award on behalf of his late father, Calvin Coolidge spoke of Marion's experiences as an immigrant in this country at an early age. "Dad had a passion for exploring new ventures," he said. "He saw the opportunities and built his business and his reputation on his achievement... This is difficult to do in today's Washington to fully appreciate the humble setting in which Dad gained exposure and experience."

He continued, "Picture Dad at the turn of the century hitching up his father's horse and wagon and driving back to his job in Washington. He got produce for his father's grocery store. He did it in his day... during his career he ran a cool yard, a bus, bowling alleys (where he owned the title of the 'Boilermaker of Washington'), and eventually became a real estate, building, and hotel operator. He was truly a man of the people who always had sufficient love and time for his own family. Is it any wonder that such a man was responsible for some of the most affordable housing in 1922 because of the need?... He had the ability to do buildings and growth where others saw only raw land."

In accepting Charles E. Smith's posthumous award, his son Robert aligned "Papa Charley" philosophy of life: "He believed that when you cease to dream, you cease to live. He subscribed to the theory that there is no medicine like hope, no incentive as great, and no experience as powerful as the expectation of something better tomorrow."

Many times he said that he wished to experience economic gales and said that while to succeed in this world, we must do something... I believe he would say by saying we can fulfill our destiny and our aspirations by never losing sight of the fact that excellence in everything and mediocrity in nothing..."

Charles A. Hersey's speech focused on the City's current:

It's a grand town that we live in... It's a place where you can live... It's a place where you can grow... It's a place where you can make a difference... It's a place where you can make a difference for the better..."
Finding Delight in the Commonplace

The common saw was the theme on October 30, 1987, when more than 200 people gathered at the Museum for the opening reception for Tools as Art, III: All Saws. The exhibition continues in selected galleries through April 27, 1988. "Today, in a nice twist, we celebrate the tools that create the built environment and put them to new and inventive use," said John Hechinger, curatorial advisor.

In addition to saw-related art, the all-saw opening featured works using tools and saws by Janet Turner, Photos by Clifford L. Russell, Jr.

All Saws was made possible by Colle Sowell Corporation, to Caron Bolt, Inc., MASCO Corporation, Osmium Silica Inc., Mark D. Holley, The Sherwin-Williams Company, and Wood Industries. It will be on view through April 19, 1988.

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Museum Elects New Officers and Trustees

Robert M. Russell, Jr. is president of the Construction Information Group at the McGraw-Hill Companies, the leading provider of print and electronic media to the construction industry. He previously held several management positions at Digital Equipment Corporation and was vice president of systems integration. Russell serves on the board of the American Architectural Foundation.

James W. Todd is president of the Peterson Companies, the largest private developer in the Washington region. He was formerly president of Galfenest and Malb Land Development Corporation, the developer of Reston, Va. Todd was president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks and served as a member of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association. He is a Life Council member of the Urban Land Institute.

Jerald W. Wulf is president/CEO and vice chairman of the board of Andersen Corporation and chairman of the board and president of Andersen Windows, Inc. He also was past chairman of the National Wood Window and Door Association, chairman of Dawson Industries, Ltd., president of Bluff Mountain, Inc., member of the board of Fiduciary Corporation and Sun South Bank, and past chairman and president of the Granite Industries Code Council.