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Volume 4, Number 1

BFI News brings you news from around the world related to humanity's option for success and comprehensive anticipatory design solutions. It also features updates from BFI and periodic special offers for members.

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Food For Thought

"I live on Earth at present,
and I don't know what I am.
I know that I am not a category.
I am not a thing—a noun.
I seem to be a verb,
an evolutionary process--
an integral function of the universe."

-R. Buckminster Fuller, "I Seem to Be a Verb"

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Trends and Perspectives

Two Solar Cell Companies Cut Costs by Making More from Less

Two manufacturers of solar cells recently announced advancements that will yield lower-cost solar cells by squeezing more production out of existing equipment and materials.

http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=23317

(Source: greenbiz.com)

Garbage In, Not Garbage Out

Cleaning up polluted water is a massive global problem. A new technology does it with less energy and fewer chemicals than traditional methods

http://go.hotwired.com/news/technology/0,1282,56054,00.html/wn_ascii

(Source: Wired News)

White House Installs Solar-Electric System

The White House has made a step toward embracing solar power: a 9 kilowatt-hour photovoltaic system has been installed on the roof of a grounds building for the National Park Service.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2003/01/01222003/s_49387.asp

(Source: Environmental News Network)

Laos Online: Pedal for Its Mettle

Pedal-powered generators and a Linux OS—along with a well-known computer pioneer—are behind plans to connect remote Laotian villages to the Internet.

http://go.hotwired.com/news/infostructure/0,1377,57061,00.html/wn_ascii

(Source: Wired News)

A Towering Achievement

An Australian power company is planning to build the world's tallest structure, in the name of a global campaign to encourage renewable energy use. Energy company Environmission plans to construct a solar

tower in the middle of the Australian outback that would soar 3,300 feet into the air, or more than twice as high as the world's tallest building, Toronto's Canadian National Tower. The structure, which has the backing of the Australian government, is expected to cost about \$500 million. Once completed, the tower will provide enough electricity for 200,000 homes and save more than 700,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases.

Straight to the source:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/2628361.stm>

(Source: Daily Grist and BBC News)

China Awaits High-Speed 'Maglev'

Shanghai will see the world's first launch of a magnetic levitation train. Proponents of the technology, which has struggled to win converts, hope the Chinese example will prompt other cities to build their own systems.

http://go.hotwired.com/news/technology/0,1282,57163,00.html/wn_ascii

(Source: Wired News)

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Resources

New Publication by the World Watch Institute

State of the World 2003:

In this 20th anniversary edition, the World Watch Institute's highly respected interdisciplinary research team argues that past successes—such as the elimination of smallpox and the encouraging drop in birth rates in many countries—prove that humanity is capable of redirecting itself in positive ways.

The challenges are still immense, of course, as the book also documents, but the building blocks for a historic reinvention of human civilization are now within reach.

For more information, or to order a copy of State of the World 2003, go to:

<http://www.worldwatch.org/pubs/sow/2003/>

Phone orders and support: toll-free in the U.S. at 1-888-544-2303 (or 1-570-320-2076 outside the U.S.). Join State of the World 2003 authors every Friday through March 14 for live web chats covering individual chapters. Go to <http://www.worldwatch.org/live/> for more information.

My Old Friend the Future

No futurist is ever 100% accurate, but often "wrong" predictions prove more enlightening in hindsight than "right" ones. Gene Youngblood's prophetic 1970's work 'Expanded Cinema' is to us now what Lev Manovich's 'The Language of New Media' may be to future readers—a fascinating, heady analysis of digital media phenomena in process. The noosphere, bio-computing, techno-anarchy, and oceanic consciousness—all are examined from a pre-desktop perspective. Featuring an introduction by Bucky Fuller, 'Expanded Cinema' is now available free online.

<http://artscilab.org/expandedcinema.html>

Plant America's Future

Hundreds of community organizations around the country are planting trees to enhance public land in both urban and rural settings. They are taking advantage of the National Tree Trust grant program called Community Tree Planting.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2003/01/01212003/s_49219.asp

<http://www.nationaltreetrust.org>

Report Shows How Capital Investments Affect Climate Change

A new report from the Pew Center on Global Climate Change aims to help policy-makers better understand the patterns of capital investment and the factors that affect these patterns.

http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=23507

Full report in pd format at:

<http://www.getf.org/file/toolmanager/CustomO16F37186.pdf>

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Events

Bucky Up Close

Sunday, February 8th at 4:30 PM and Sunday, February 22nd at 4:30 PM
Project Artaud Theater, San Francisco, CA

Our next two events will feature Ron Campbell who plays Bucky in the "The History (and Mystery) of the Universe". Ron has received the London Fringe One-man Show of the Year Award and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for his performance in The Thousandth Night.

Elsewhere, Ron has received three Backstage West Garland Awards, 15 Drama-Logue Awards, has performed in 25 Shakespeare productions and has appeared in many television shows.

For more details, visit <http://www.bfi.org>; ticket information for the play is at <http://www.foghouse.com>

R. Buckminster Fuller: Conversations on the Life and Work of an Enigmatic Genius

February 12th and 26nd

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Stanford University is continuing its series of public, filmed Conversations on R. Buckminster Fuller, alias "Bucky."

The series consists of interviews with Fuller's key collaborators, interlocutors and contemporaries, and is designed to enhance critical understanding of this enigmatic polymath.

Upcoming Events

February 12

Kenneth Snelson - 3:00-5:00, Cantor Center for Visual Arts Auditorium

February 26

Theodore Roszak - 3:00-5:00, Bender Room, Bing Wing, Green Library

Seating is limited so RSVPs are requested to dfrank@stanford.edu or 650-723 6130.

See http://shl.stanford.edu/about/fuller_conversations.html for speaker details.

Sponsored by Stanford University Libraries, the Stanford Humanities Laboratory and the Cantor Center for the Visual Arts.

Excellence In Design Awards

Environmental Design + Construction (ED+C) seeks project entries for its first annual Excellence In Design Awards, recognizing outstanding projects in Interior and Exterior project categories. Entries must clearly demonstrate a commitment to green building and design through use of sustainable materials. Project must have been completed between January 2001 - December 2002. Judges include William Browning, Green Development Services, Rocky Mountain Institute and Steven Winter, U.S. Green Building Council chair and president of Steven Winter Associates. Deadline: February 15, 2003.

Entry forms: <http://www.EDCmag.com>.

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BFI Update

Emergency Shelter Project Launched

We are happy to announce that BFI has launched an emergency shelter project in collaboration with Steven Elias and Bruce LeBel of Dymax. Since access to adequate shelter is key to survival in emergency situations, we're proud of this team effort to address this need.

The Dymax Emergency Shelter provides a low-cost way to create a versatile, all-weather shelter utilizing the sheeting supplied by government agencies in response to disasters.

Stay tuned for an update via this list very shortly and postings on our web site!

New Products in our BFI Store

We are excited about a range of new products we have in store for you!

In our Christmas postcard, we announced our new Satellite version Fold-Up Globe and the production of the new, higher resolution Dymaxion Satellite Map. Both use a resolution of 1 km per pixel. They combine the latest in natural color satellite photograph technology with the accuracy of the Fuller Projection to create a truly stunning, cloud-free image of our world.

In our books section, we are offering a new paperback edition of Fuller's "Grunch of Giants" available for the first time in several years.

To order visit our online shop at <http://www.bfi.org/search.html>. Or call 707-824-2242 call 800-967-6277.

Remember, BFI members receive a 10% discount! Become a member when you order online or donate at <https://www.websiteseured.com/~bfi.org/member.asp>. Memberships are also a great gift idea.

If you would like to receive an email when the map is ready, please email lauren@bfi.org with the words "map poster" in the subject line.

Thank you for your patience and we apologize for any inconvenience! You can look forward to a beautiful new map!

For other gift ideas, browse our store at <http://www.bfi.org>.

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