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**Volume 4, Number 9**

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 deliberately undertook to see what the little individual could do, if anything, on behalf of all humanity."

- R. Buckminster Fuller

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## Trends and Perspectives

### MIT Everywhere

Every lecture, every handout, every quiz. All online. For free. Meet the global geeks getting an MIT education, open source-style.

[http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.09/mit\\_pr.html](http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.09/mit_pr.html)

(Source: Wired News)

### Black Hole Sound Waves

Astronomers using NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory have detected, for the first time, sound waves rumbling away from a supermassive black hole. The " note," about 57 octaves lower than middle-C, is the deepest ever detected from an object in our Universe.

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/09sep\\_blackholesounds.htm?list796433](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/09sep_blackholesounds.htm?list796433)

(Source: NASA.gov)

### Through the Solar Looking Glass

New York researchers are creating solar 'window shades' for the biggest users of peak-period energy: giant office buildings. They're targeting a 100 percent energy-conversion rate, a huge improvement over today's solar panels.

[http://go.hotwired.com/news/technology/0,1282,60301,00.html/wn\\_ascii](http://go.hotwired.com/news/technology/0,1282,60301,00.html/wn_ascii)

(Source: Wired.com)

### Public Interest Group Unveils Its Own SUV design

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and other critics of the United States' romance with the sport utility vehicle unveiled the blueprint of what they called a safer, more fuel-efficient SUV based largely on features already available in the market.

[http://www.enn.com/news/2003-09-17/s\\_8504.asp](http://www.enn.com/news/2003-09-17/s_8504.asp)

(Source: Environmental News Network)

### Termites Inspire Paper Pusher

Xerox engineers need a sophisticated alternative to the wheels and rollers in copy machines. Their inspiration came from not-so-sophisticated creatures--termites. Nature is inspiring scientists in many other fields, as well.

[http://go.hotwired.com/news/technology/0,1282,60512,00.html/wn\\_ascii](http://go.hotwired.com/news/technology/0,1282,60512,00.html/wn_ascii)

(Source: Wired.com)

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## Resources

### **Leading Change Toward Sustainability**

A Change-Management Guide for Business, Government and Civil Society  
by Bob Doppelt, with a Foreword by William McDonough

Bob Doppelt spent three years researching how the leaders of both private and public organizations that have initiated and sustained significant sustainability programs designed and approached them. His findings are presented in this highly readable book.

Greenleaf Publishing (Sept. 2003), 272 pages.

To place an order for this title at a discount of 10%, or to view Chapter 5

('Sustainability, governance and organisational change') and Bill McDonough's 'Foreword' online, please visit:  
<http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com/catalogue/leadchg.htm>

### **Futures Research Methodology CD-Rom 2.0**

This CD-Rom, published by the Millennium Project, offers a comprehensive and internationally peer-reviewed handbook on tools and methods for forecasting and analysis of global change. Each chapter in this series gives an executive overview of each method's history, description, primary and alternative usages, strengths and weaknesses, use in combination with other methods, and speculation about future usage. Some also contain appendixes with applications and sources for further information. Over half of the 25 methods and series of methods presented were written by the inventor of the method or by a significant contributor to its evolution.

The CD-ROM can be ordered from <http://www.acunu.org/millennium/FRM-v2.html>

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## Events

### **Urban and Regional Information Systems Association's 41st Annual Conference**

October 11-15, 2003  
Atlanta, Georgia

Go beyond basic technology and applications and contemplate issues related to designing, managing and applying information technology -- at its highest and best use -- to improve our urban and regional environments. Join colleagues, peers, thinkers and doers from around the world at URISA's Annual Conference.

Event information at [www.urisa.org](http://www.urisa.org)

### **BFI's October Event**

Monday, October 13, 2003, 7-9 PM  
in Sebastopol, CA

Sacred Matter: Buckminster Fuller and Sacred Geometry  
with Sam Webster, M. Div., a student of the work of Buckminster Fuller and explorer of ancient traditions.

Ancient peoples discovered that certain geometrical forms were the fundamental principals by which the world was constructed and contemplated them to understand the intelligence that created it. Fuller independently found his way to this same understanding and it under pinned his life's work. Using compass and straight edge, struts and connectors, we will play with these forms learning how to find them within ourselves and our world, which is the ancient path to living in harmony, of which Fuller is the greatest modern exemplar.

Venue:

Sebastopol Open Space Project  
400 Morris Avenue, Suite E, Sebastopol, CA  
\$10 (no one turned away for lack of funds)

Visit <http://www.bfi.org> for event and location details or call 707-824 2242.

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## BFI Update

### Latest Challenge Grant News

If you visit our web site regularly, you will know that we have hit the \$12,600 mark! Only \$7,400 to go to meet the \$20,000 challenge set by our board!

The challenge is still on and we have our organic cotton "Crew Member" t-shirts waiting for donors of \$100 or more. All donations benefit our 2003/04 Projects Fund!

Donate at: <https://www.websitesecured.com/%7Ebfi.org/responseDonate.asp>

We regularly update our progress indicator on our home page, so check in at <http://www.bfi.org>. Thank you!

### BFI October Event

Join us for our October 13th Event "Buckminster Fuller and Sacred Geometry" in Sebastopol. See details above under Events listings.

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### Are you BFI member?

If you enjoyed this e-bulletin, you can say so with a tax-deductible donation. Any amount is welcome and a donation of \$30 or more you automatically become a BFI member and receive such membership benefits as our quarterly newsletter, Trimtab, and product discounts.

Donating is easy! You can do so right now by visiting <https://www.websitesecured.com/~bfi.org/member.asp> or call us at 707-824-2242.

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Have you come across interesting design news? Feel free to forward them so we can consider them for inclusion: [info@bfi.org](mailto:info@bfi.org).

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**PRIVACY STATEMENT:** BFI respects your privacy, so we will never share any personal information without your consent.

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