

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 7 of BFI_News, the e-bulletin
of the Buckminster Fuller Institute

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

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BFI UPDATE

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DESIGN SCIENCE LAB

The first annual Design Science Summer Lab was a complete
success and planning is already underway for next year's
lab. For more information or if you are interested in
participating in next year's program, please sign up for
the 2006 mailing list using the link below:

<<http://www.bfi.org/summerlab/2006mail.php>>

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DYMAXION ARTIFACTS STORE UPDATE

Zometool products are back in stock! Build geometric and
architectural structures using these unique toys. Great
for both kids and adults! Three different sets are available:

Zometool Pioneer

<http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/Browse_Item_Details.asp/Item_ID/71/categ_id/3/parent_ids/0,3/Name/Zometool_Pioneer>

Zometool Adventurer

<http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/Browse_Item_Details.asp/Item_ID/72/categ_id/3/parent_ids/0,3/Name/Zometool_Adventurer>

Zometool Buckyball

<http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/Browse_Item_Details.asp/Item_ID/74/categ_id/3/parent_ids/0,3/Name/Zometool_Buckyball_Kit>

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Need to renew your BFI membership? If you are a current
member and would like to continue receiving the benefits

of membership, please visit our membership homepage at

<http://www.bfi.org/membership.html>

Not a member? Find out what you're missing!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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By the word 'art' I mean integrity of individual communication independent of the medium of its articulation.

--R. Buckminster Fuller

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TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

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First hydrogen plane tested in US

A US company says it has successfully completed test flights of a potentially environment-friendly aircraft powered by liquid hydrogen. Liquid hydrogen stored on board and oxygen extracted from the air are combined in fuel cells, while the electricity generated drives the propellers. California-based AeroVironment says a full tank of hydrogen would keep the unmanned plane in the air for 24 hours.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4643575.stm>

(Source: BBC News)

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Hubble spies a zoo of galaxies

Gazing deep into the universe, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has spied a menagerie of galaxies. Located within the same tiny region of space, these numerous galaxies display an assortment of unique characteristics. Some are big; some are small. A few are relatively nearby, but most are far away. Hundreds of these faint galaxies have never been seen before until their light was captured by Hubble.

http://www.rednova.com/news/space/196871/hubble_spies_a_zoo_of_galaxies/index.html

(Source: RedNova.com)

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Butterfly's navigation secret revealed

The monarch butterfly is known to use the angle of sunlight as a navigational guide on its annual fall migration from across North America to Mexico. But how it processes the information has been a mystery. Now scientists have used a flight simulator and peeked inside the butterfly brain to learn that their light-detecting sensors are hard-wired to their circadian clocks, allowing the creatures to compensate for the time of day.

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/7736111/>

(Source: MSNBC, Worldchanging)

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Robot catcher grabs high speed projectiles

The robotic catcher, developed by scientists at the University of Tokyo, Japan, can comfortably grab a ball careering through the air at 300 kilometres per hour, or 83 metres per second, its creators say. And, of course, the robot never gets tired of doing so. Akio Namiki and colleagues built the robot to test technologies that could some day make robots useful in situations where they may have to react at high speed.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7790>

(Source: New Scientist)

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For high school students, failure leads to success at ASM materials camp

Thirty invited high school students from across the U.S. and Canada, including four from Ohio, will analyze failures and come up with ways to prevent future failures at the Eisenman Materials Camp, sponsored by ASM. The camp will be held Monday, Aug. 8 through Saturday, Aug. 13, at ASM's Materials Park world headquarters in Russell Township. "Here under the world's largest openwork geodesic dome, we're constantly in awe of one of Buckminster Fuller's greatest achievements," said Stan Theobald, ASM managing director. "But the fact is, Dr. Fuller always said that he learned more from his failures than from his successes. That's an important lesson for any aspiring scientist or engineer."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT>

[=104&STORY=/www/story/08-05-2005/0004083377&EDATE=>](#)

(Source: PR Newswire)

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RESOURCES

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RNAi - Ribonucleic acid Interference

Learn all about the revolutionary discovery of this previously unknown cellular mechanism and its possible applications in the health sciences.

[<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sciencenow/3210/02.html>](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sciencenow/3210/02.html)

(Source: PBS.org)

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Robhatah, Robotic Solutions

One of the leaders in humanoid robotics, browse Robhatah's online store to purchase research tools, fully functioning robots, or just for kicks.

[<http://www.robhatah.com/>](http://www.robhatah.com/)

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Dropping Knowledge

Dropping Knowledge describes itself as "an educational resource and online network that connects people around the globe seeking to exchange ideas and solutions to the most pressing issues of our day." Participants are encouraged to ask questions of the collected wisdom of the assembled crowd about the nature of the world and human society. These questions will be combined with a broader international poll, seeking to build a "social issue framework." A thousand participants will be assembled to form a web-based research group to start to frame answers; this frame will be used by a group of over a hundred global leaders (including Umberto Eco, Bill McDonough, Nelson Mandela, and Bono) to assemble more specific answers. The results will then be put into an interactive online archive, designed to encourage further discussion.

[<http://www.droppingknowledge.org/>](http://www.droppingknowledge.org/)

(Source: Worldchanging)

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EVENTS

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Buckminster Fuller photographs on view

IDEAS + INVENTIONS: Buckminster Fuller and Black Mountain College
Black Mountain College Museum + Arts
July 15 ^ November 26, 2005
Wed-Fri, 12pm-4pm
Sat 11am-5pm

http://www.artdaily.com/section/news/index.asp?int_sec=2&int_new=14424

Black Mountain College Homepage
<http://www.blackmountaincollege.org/>

(Source: Art Daily)
Special thanks to e-bulletin reader John Warren for suggesting this event.

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Solar Decathlon

October 7-16
National Mall
Washington, D.C.

The Solar Decathlon is a competition in which teams of college and university students compete to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective, and energy-efficient solar powered house. The Solar Decathlon is also an event to which the public is invited to observe the powerful combination of solar energy, energy efficiency, and the best in home design.

The event takes place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The teams' houses and the sponsors' educational exhibits form a solar village, which is open to the public, October 7-16, 2005. The teams' houses will be open for touring everyday except October 12, when they will close for competition purposes. An overall winner will be announced midday on October 15. See the schedule for more information.

http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar_decathlon/about.html

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Have you come across interesting Design Science news

articles, resources, or events?

We invite you to forward them so we can consider them for inclusion in future e-bulletins. Send them to:

mbarron@bfi.org

If we use your suggestion for future e-bulletins and you would like to be credited by name, please indicate it in your e-mail.

Thank You!

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