



G4G16

The background of the slide is a collage of four images. The top-left image shows a large, white, geodesic dome structure in an urban setting with city buildings in the background. The top-right image shows a large, white, geodesic dome structure in a desert landscape with mountains in the background. The bottom-left image shows a group of people sitting on the ground, looking at a map or document. The bottom-right image shows a large, white, geodesic dome structure in a desert landscape with mountains in the background.

Roaming for domes: city planning to analog astronaut missions

Sara Kapasi, Georgia Institute of Technology
The 16th G4G Conference, San Francisco, 02/20/26

Personal background



- Senior engineering undergraduate student at Georgia Tech (Go Jackets!)
- Going to G4G since 2018 – interested in polyhedra in middle school, then caught the “Bucky bug” in high school
- “Dome tourism” across the country
 - Woods Hole Dome
 - Carbondale house + more around SIU Carbondale
 - Stanford University archives
- I also help run a student-led Mars analog astronaut mission, Southeast Analog (SEA)!



G4G13 build day at Rinus Roelof's table!

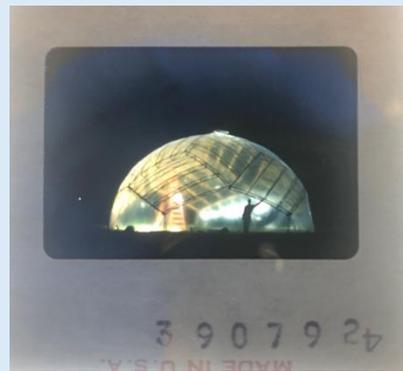


Image from Stanford Archives

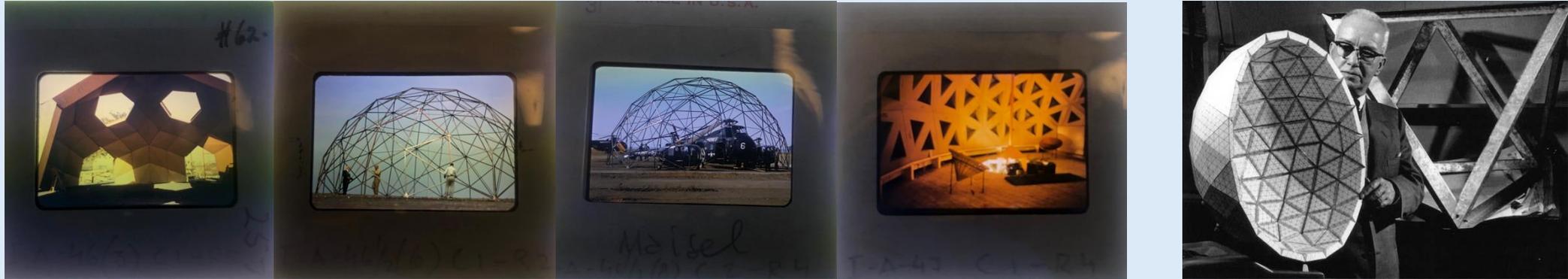


Synergy Dome, Carbondale, IL



Bucky's House, Carbondale, IL

R. Buckminster Fuller and geodesic domes



- Fuller popularize the idea of “doing more with less” with geodesic domes post ‘54 Milan Triennale
 - Strong and fast deployment, energy efficient, maximizing internal space, etc.
- These domes spread throughout the world - a new way of “radical shelter” on small and large scales



Construction of Bucky's house



Montreal Expo '67 dome



Poly Canyon (SLO, CA) dome



Big Sur dome

Geodesic domes in a larger context

Domes, beside geometrical significance, can be used for *community building!*

- Biosphere 2 SAM, HI-SEAS as an analog site
- CHARAS – Harlem community center– back to community ownership
- Synergy Dome – former drug rehab center in Carbondale



Biosphere 2 (ASU) Space Analog for the Moon and Mars (SAM)



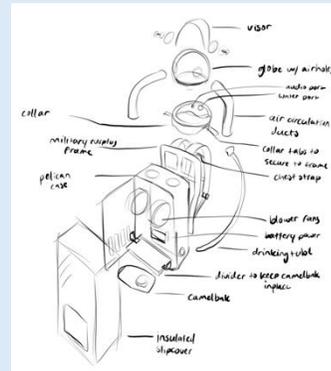
HI-SEAS Habitat on Mauna Loa, HI



CHARAS with Fuller, Harlem, NY

Running a student-run analog: domes for community

- Southeast Analog – a way to build a *student-oriented*, analog Mars mission to *focus on teaching hands-on engineering* principles applied to space and human factors
- Habitat finalists: HI-SEAS, Biosphere 2, or a team-built geodesic habitat

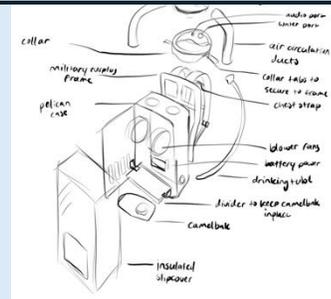


Various SEA I team activities and designs

Running a student-run analog: domes for community

- Southeast Analog – a way to build a *student-oriented*, analog Mars mission to *focus on teaching hands-on engineering* principles applied to *space and human factors*

Goal is to operate in a habitat that fosters **innovation, hands-on involvement, and collaboration**



Credits

Thank you to the following for their invaluable help:

- The Fuller Dome Home Preservation Project
- Stanford University Libraries Special Collections
- Southeast Analog (SEA)
- Syeus Mottel, *CHARAS: The Improbable Dome Builders*
- And of course, Gathering 4 Gardner!



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