

Exhibition
28 September–30 December 2012
Wednesday–Sunday
11:00 am–6:00 pm

Guided visits

Reservation advisable

A “Focus R. Buckminster Fuller” visit

› Friday 30 November, 12:30 pm

“Une heure au musée”

› Thursdays at 12:30 pm

“Visite Thé”

› Saturdays at 3:30 pm

Sunday visits

› Sundays at 3 pm

Family visits

› Sundays at 3:30 pm

Random visit

› Date and time to be decided by drawing lots

Groups

Customised group visits to one or more exhibitions

Reservations: Service des Publics

Lectures

Vivons sous cloche: R. Buckminster Fuller et la construction de l'habitat moderne

By Federico Neder, architect and author of *Les Maisons de Fuller*

› Friday 19 October, 6:30 pm

Black Mountain College: la rencontre R. Buckminster Fuller–K. Snelson

By René Motro, emeritus professor, Université Montpellier 2, president of the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures

› Friday 16 November, 6:30 pm

Information and reservations

Service des publics
+ 33 (0)4 72 69 17 17
publics@mac-lyon.com

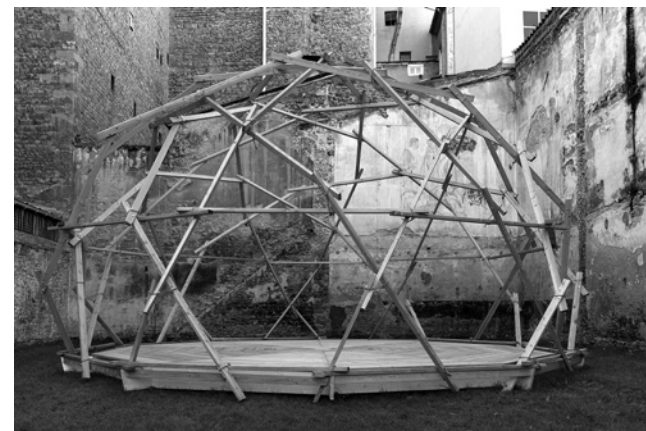
RICHARD BUCKMINSTER FULLER

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Bear Island Dome, 1965
Larch wood, Ø 9m
Biennale de Lyon 2011,
Courtesy The Estate
of R. Buckminster Fuller
Collection macLYON
© photo Blaise Adilon



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RICHARD BUCKMINSTER FULLER

THESE GEODESIC DOMES, CREATED IN 1960 AND 1965, WERE FIRST PRESENTED AT THE FONDATION BULLUKIAN IN LYON DURING THE 2011 BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART, *A TERRIBLE BEAUTY IS BORN*. THEY WERE PRODUCED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF JAIME SNYDER, THE CO-FOUNDER OF THE BUCKMINSTER FULLER INSTITUTE, AND THE ARCHITECT DEACON MARVEL. THEY WERE DONATED TO MAC LYON BY THE BUCKMINSTER FULLER ESTATE.

BUCKMINSTER FULLER: THE PERSON

Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895–1983) was an architect, designer and “experimenter”, but also an engineer, economist, cartographer and philosopher. He was particularly interested in questions of habitation, transport and energy savings. Early on, he saw the dangers associated with the exhaustion of the planet’s resources, and he introduced this theme into his writings and lectures.

For Fuller, the extreme, excessive specialisation of the modern world masked the essential questions, and it needed to be replaced by synergy as a principle of convergence. He felt that “THE HIGHEST PRIORITY NEED OF WORLD SOCIETY AT THE PRESENT MOMENT IS A REALISTIC ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING SYSTEM.”¹

In Fuller’s view, technology and industrialisation are indispensable to the resolution of the crisis facing humanity.

THE GEODESIC DOME

This is probably the most famous form invented by Fuller. The principle is simple: comprised of prefabricated elements, its ingenious character results from the observation and calculation of so-called

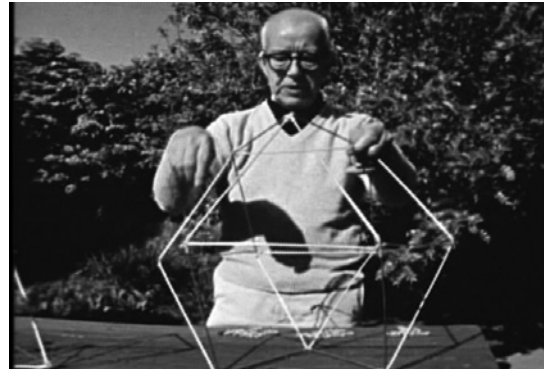
“geodesic” lines, which represent the most economical paths (in terms of energy and/or effort) between any two points on the surface of a sphere.

The domes are made up of polygons, often covered in lightweight or translucent materials. Their equilibrium and strength are provided by the dissipation of the forces in play. The larger the dome, the stronger it is. The basic modular structure can be enlarged or dismantled, and the material inputs are minimised.

The basic question is one of “architecture”, but the principle of equilibrium and the visual efficacy recall the nature of sculpture, and its preoccupations with gravity, scale, the balance and conduction of forces, materials, transparency, etc.

Fuller experimented on his prototype geodesic domes in 1948–1949, while teaching at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. And it was during this time that he met John Cage (1912–1992).

The first geodesic dome, with a diameter of 28.4 m, was constructed in 1953 for the Ford motor company. Hundreds of thousands more



From *The World of Buckminster Fuller*
1971–2008, DVD, 80 min
Courtesy The Estate of R. Buckminster Fuller

Great Circle Dome, 1960
Chestnut and hazel wood, Ø 6m
Biennale de Lyon 2011,
Courtesy The Estate of R. Buckminster Fuller
Collection mac LYON
© photo Blaise Adilon

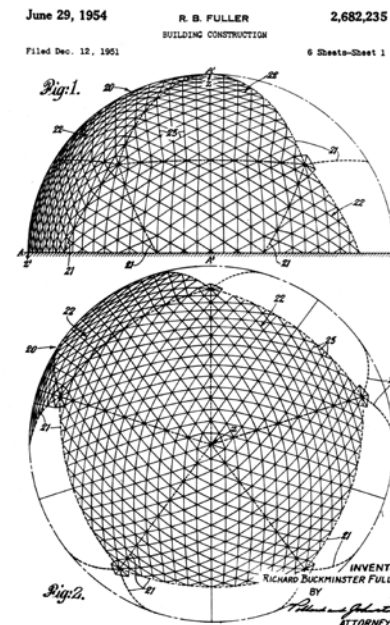


Diagram from the patent
of a geodesic dome, 1954
The works of Buckminster Fuller
Courtesy The Estate
of R. Buckminster Fuller

were subsequently produced: among others, “pine cone” domes, as emergency shelters, “igloo” domes in corrugated aluminium, and “geospace” domes made of cardboard. The adaptability of the geodesic dome means that it can be used to house radar systems in the Far North, as communal housing, in kindergartens or disaster zones.

Among the best-known examples of the geodesic dome was the American pavilion at Expo 1967 in Montreal, with integral air conditioning. At the time, Fuller’s ideas about conservation, equilibrium and resources seemed utopian, if not outlandish. Today, in the context of sustainable development, they are widely accepted.

¹ R. Buckminster Fuller
in *Operating Manual for
Spaceship Earth*, 1968.