

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 53

For Immediate Release

June 20, 1959

A geodesic dome of translucent plastic and an aluminum "space frame", both designed by the mathematician-philosopher-engineer R. Buckminster Fuller, will be erected in the Museum of Modern Art's outdoor exhibition area, Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design announced today. The exhibition will remain on view throughout the summer.

Called an octet truss by its designer, the "space frame" is made of two inch diameter aluminum tubes anodized gold. It is 100 feet long and 34 feet wide, held 25 feet above the ground on a single off-center support. This structure will demonstrate principles of space frame engineering which make possible enormous spans and cantilevers with light weight materials and a minimum number of vertical supports. The exhibition structure is co-sponsored by Aluminium Limited, a leading aluminum producer. This will be the first large-scale demonstration of the octet truss for a horizontal span and vertical support.

The geodesic dome has been lent to the exhibition by the Lincoln Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which developed and tested the structure for use by the Air Force as radar stations. It is constructed entirely of triangular plastic pans bolted together, combining in one structural unit the functions of supporting element and enclosing surface.

Opening and closing dates for the exhibition will be announced at the end of June.

For additional information please contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. CI 5-8900

Sent to: Local & National Newspapers
Magazines
Local & National Design
Radio & Television
Jerome Jones - Newsweek
Raymond J. Blair - J. Walter Thompson Agency
A. H. Baker - Times Mag.
Oranston Jones - " " " " " "
Alex. Elliott - " " " " " "

American Metal Mkt.
Modern Metals Pub.
The Daily Metal Reporter
Iron Age
Steel
Wall St. Journal
Journal of Commerce