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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Revolutionary principles of building are demonstrated in three unusual structures now being erected in the Museum of Modern Art garden for an exhibition which will open to the public next month. Designed by Buckminster Fuller, they are a space frame "Octet Truss" of aluminum anodized gold, a green plastic dome and a black and white aluminum and monel mast.

So that visitors can watch the construction, the fence separating the Museum's outdoor exhibition area from the sculpture court is being removed.

The purpose of the exhibition is to illustrate the extraordinary strength and lightness of Mr. Fuller's method of construction which utilizes the forces of tension and compression in an unconventional way and which may in time change the appearance and character of our buildings. Of the three structures in the show only the dome is an actual building with a specific use. These are the first examples of Mr. Fuller's work to be erected in New York.

The space frame, called an "Octet Truss" by its designer, is assembled by connecting 2380 aluminum tubes into tetrahedons and octahedrons. When finished the demonstration structure will be 100 feet long, 35 feet wide and held 20 feet above the ground on a central support. The top surface cantilevers 60 feet in one direction, 40 feet in the other.

The dome, which is 48 feet high and has a 55 foot diameter, is used to house radar equipment on the arctic Distant Early Warning Line, and is known as a rigid geodesic radome. It is composed entirely of triangular and diamond shaped plastic pans, bolted together on the site; there is no other frame or support.

The mast, which is being built by Shoji Sadao and Edison Price, Inc., is about 45 feet tall. It is made of aluminum tubing, monel rods and wire.

The space frame "Octet Truss" has been contributed by Aluminium Limited, the radome has been lent by Lincoln Laboratories. The exhibition is under the direction of Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design.

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