



The background is a collage of three images. On the left, a black and white photograph shows a large, translucent geodesic dome in a field, with city buildings and skyscrapers in the background. In the bottom left, a black and white photo shows a group of people sitting on the ground, possibly in a field. On the right, a color photograph shows a modern architectural complex with several large, white, dome-shaped structures with faceted patterns, set against a backdrop of rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

# Roaming for domes: city planning to analog astronaut missions

**Sara Kapasi**, Georgia Institute of Technology  
The 16<sup>th</sup> 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



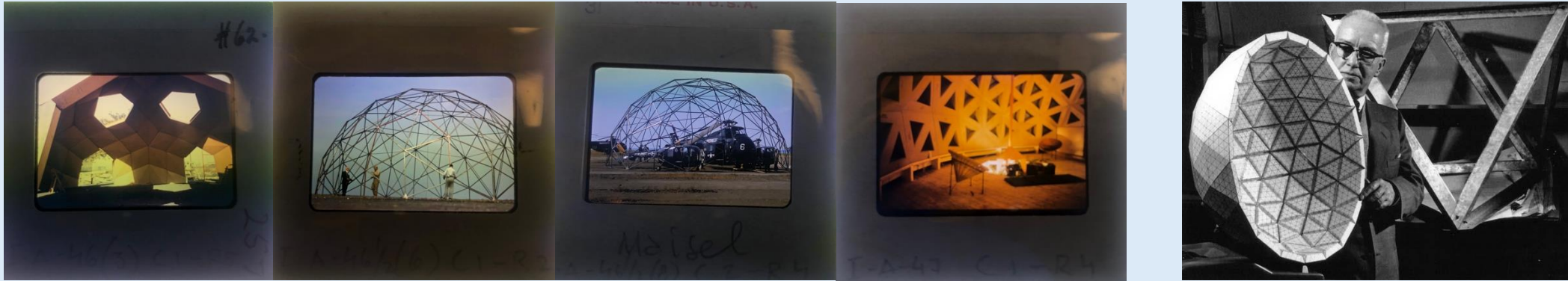
Synergy Dome, Carbondale, IL



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)



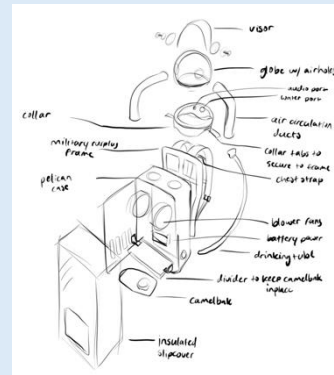
HI-SEAS Habitat on Mauna Loa, HI



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



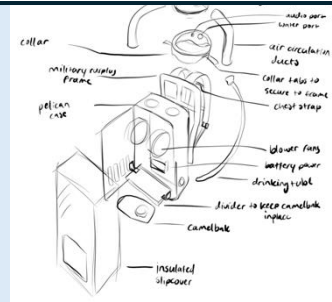
Various SEA I team activities and designs



# 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!

