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visit about four years ago, Simon toured many parts of northeastern India, which is rich in bamboo, and identified some varieties that could be used successfully to construct buildings on a large scale.

INDIAN PAVILION

Pradeep Sachdeva, an Indian architect and member of the bamboo mission, convinced him to help build the Indian pavilion for the Shanghai Expo 2010 (May 1-October 31). The design of the pavilion, which took about five months to complete, is the result of a successful collaboration between two international architects and an enthusiastic Chinese builder who rediscovered the use of bamboo in China. The bamboo dome held very well and measured up to the high safety standards set by the Chinese. The dome is 34 metres in diameter (the dome of the Gol Gumbaz in Bijapur is 38 metres and was the largest dome in India until the grand dome of the Vipassana centre completed recently in Mumbai eclipsed it). The

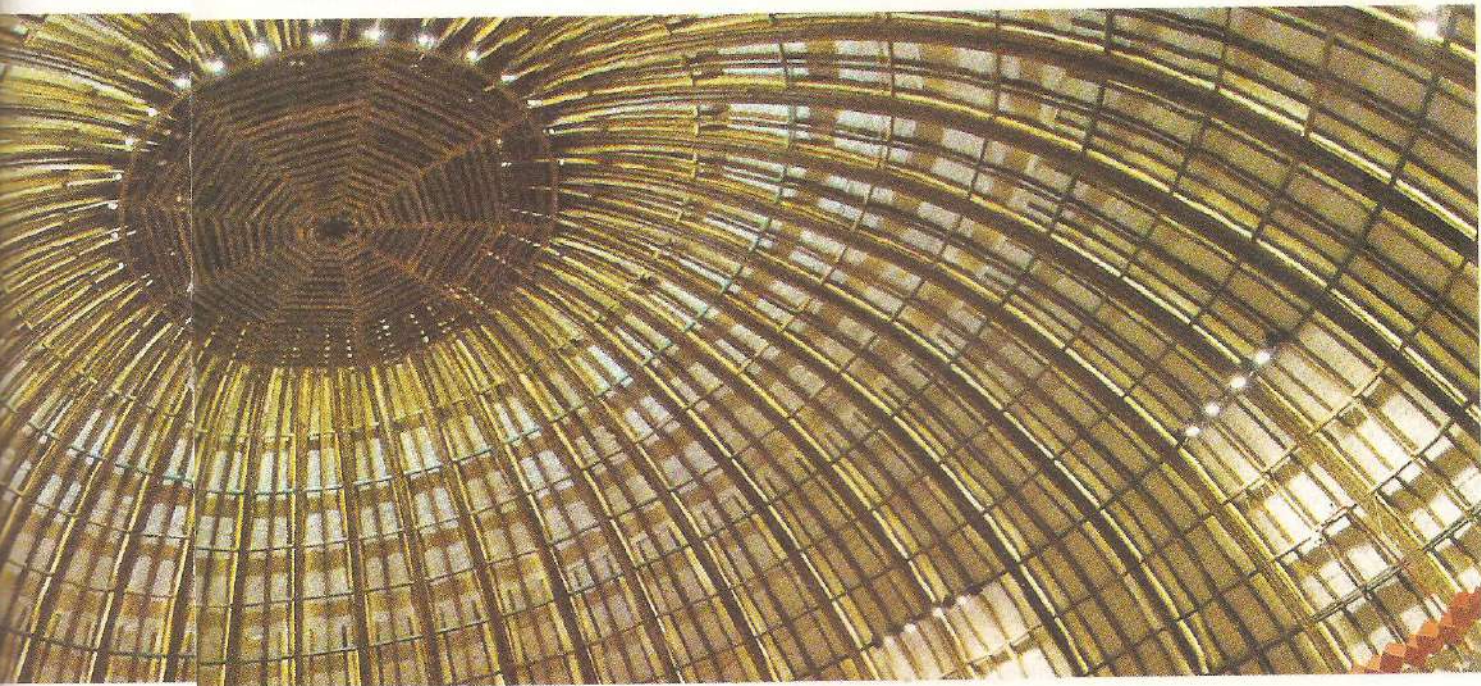
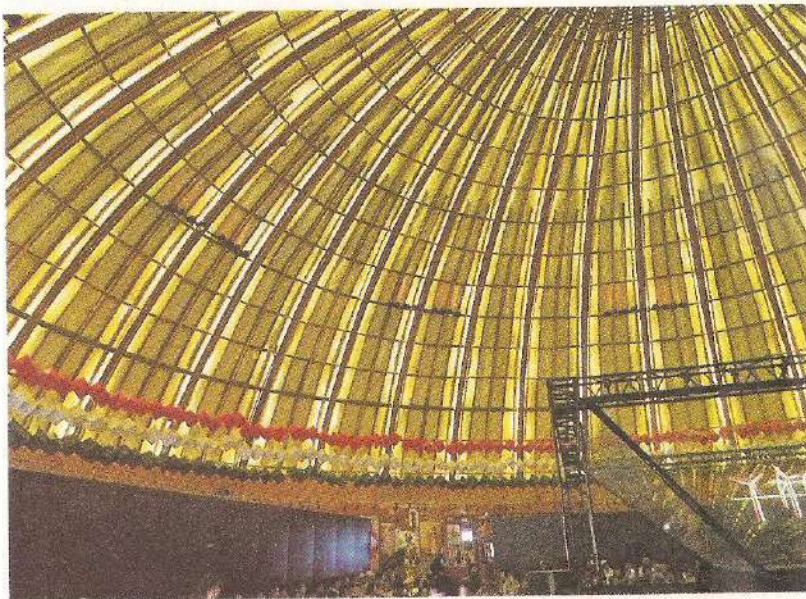
THE GARDEN ON the bamboo dome of the India Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo 2010. (Right and below) Views of the dome from the inside.

Indian pavilion has followed the theme of greening of the planet and even has a garden on the roof of the dome - the theme stresses the need to use natural materials for survival.

One has to just google Simon Velez to find many of the magnificent buildings he has built and understand his love affair with the 'guadua' variety of bamboo. With this type of bamboo and

his experiments with using concrete at the joints, he was able to use the two materials to design and build huge spaces. His bridges are path-breaking and have stood the test of time.

Among his recent buildings is a church that he has not only designed but also owns. He felt the need to build a place of worship that follows no religion and to give the place a sacred feel.





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Design On Display At Shanghai

Cover Story

With an objective to build an ideal city of harmony, combining the past and future, the Shanghai Expo 2010 is in progress from the 1st May to 31st October 2010. The organizers of the 2010 expo have chosen 'Better City, this year. Reflecting the populace's desire for a better life in the cities of the future, the slogan is intended towards strategies for sustainable and integrated urban development.

The 2010 Shanghai Expo will be a great event to explore the full potential of urban life in the 21st century and a significant period in urban evolution. In this new era, the Shanghai 2010 Expo will contribute towards human-centric development, scientific and technological innova-

The Shanghai Expo 2010 will serve as a platform for the exchange and promotion of ideas, forecasting the challenges facing urban development and its possible solutions. BY RELIN HEDLY

7.5 metres or 25 feet long, act like a light into the building. At night, they project light from inside the structure outward; making it glow like a spiky marshmallow (the locals call it 'the dandelion'). Each rod, moreover, contains seeds of different plants collected in the Millennium Seed Bank Project, an international conservation effort of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The USA Pavilion's theme at Shanghai Expo 2010 is named 'Rising to the Challenge'. In line with

the expo. The USA pavilion features a reflecting pool that cools the entrance area while masking sounds, and urban-planning foliage that add to the heat cooling effect, while contributing to a clean air habitat. The water-fall uses only recycled water. The USA Pavilion also features roof terraces with an urban vegetable garden that is modelled after Michelle Obama's garden at the White House.

Switzerland was the first country to present the concept for its pavilion to the public in Shanghai. In its offi-

gent soy fibre curtain it generates elec-

The German Pavilion has been christened 'balancity', a newly coined word signifying a city in balance. Visitors to 'balancity' will embark on a journey through a city of ideas, moving around as they would in a real city on foot, moving walkways and escalators through thematic areas representing different urban spaces. The journey starts at the harbour and leads through a garden and a park, via a town planning office, past the depot, the studio and the city square to the



A view of the German Pavilion.



An exterior view of the British Pavilion.

tion and cultural diversity through the different pavilions displayed at the expo.

By far the most talked about pavilion among both architects and the public is Britain's 'Seed Cathedral', designed by Thomas Heatherwick. The structure is a six-storey cube pierced by about 60,000 thin, transparent rods that extend from it like porcupine quills and sway in the breeze. During the day, the rods, each

the expo theme, this smart urban structure was designed by Clive Grout, an architect with World Expo experience. At this pavilion guests will be given a glimpse of the American city of the future, celebrating the success of 'Rising to the Challenges' by providing clean energy and rooftop gardens. In addition, state of the art technical features are implemented to ensure energy efficiency while highlighting the sustainability message of

cial pavilion, Switzerland will be addressing the expo's sub-theme of 'rural-urban interaction', focusing on the importance of interaction between the town and country, along with the geographical characteristics of the country. This Pavilion offers an exciting, interactive approach to this sub-theme. An embodiment of the flawless merger of nature and technology is the interactive façade surrounding the pavilion; in the form of an intelli-

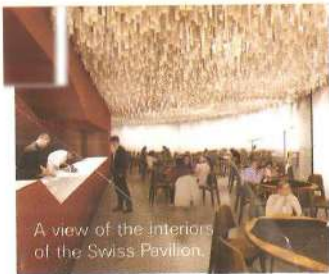
energy source, the city's power plant.

The ultimate surprise comes last at the 'source of power' hall which takes the shape of a pyramid. Above the ground hangs a metallic sphere, measuring three metres in diameter and weighing one tone, it is studded with more than 400,000 LED lights on the surface, which can display various images and colours. An interest-

continued from page 1

ing highlight is that the sphere can sense and respond to a visitor's actions and voices.

The Italian pavilion is an example of Italian contemporary cultural values and pays homage to the host country. Seen from above, the pavilion resembles the start of the Chinese game pick-up-sticks, also known as the Shanghai Game in Italy, where a number of sticks are thrown in a random pile. The different sections of the building make up a geometrical variety symbolizing a complexity of regional cultures that define the Italian identity.



A view of the interiors of the Swiss Pavilion.

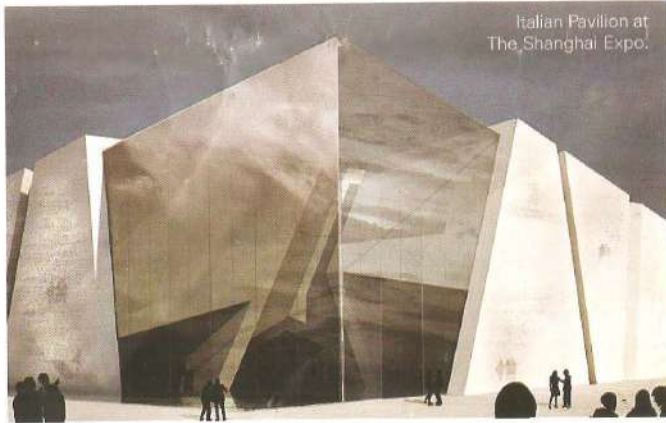
the ages. It will also be energy efficient with the use of solar panels and wind power.

The use of bamboo as a recyclable material and the green technologies of solar and wind power used, shows India's commitment towards environment and sustainable development. The pavilion will also feature a shopping arcade where people from various regions of India will be demonstrating and selling a wide variety of products.

The China Pavilion at Shanghai Expo 2010 has just been completed after two years of construction. The pavilion is designed in the shape of an oriental crown, showcasing the



Indian Pavilion.



Italian Pavilion at The Shanghai Expo.

Exploring the concept of 'Cities of Harmony', the Indian pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 showcases how tradition can exist harmoniously with modernity and how ecological sustainability can be achieved with national development. The entrance of the pavilion has a carving of the 'Tree of Life' inspired by the Sidi Saiyad mosque of Ahmedabad and the exterior walls depict Jataka Tales, representing stories of Buddha's previous life. The central dome which is inspired by the Sanchi Stupa is made of bamboo, with a diameter of 34.4 metres covering its main display area. Focusing on the integration between urban and rural regions through trade and services, visitors to the Shanghai Expo pavilion will be led on a journey of Indian cities from the past to the present. The dome will be used as a 360-degree screen to tell different stories about life in the cities through

spirit of traditional Chinese culture. Its main structure includes a six layer, 30 metre high roof made of 56 traditional wooden brackets. The brackets symbolize the nation's 56 minority ethnic groups. There is a 45,000-square-metre joint pavilion featuring displays from local provinces, cities and regions. The 160,000-square-metre pavilion will be converted into a museum for Chinese history and culture after the expo closes in 2010.

In addition, the 2010 expo will offer a wonderful opportunity for cross-culture dialogues. Before the conclusion of the exposition, a 'Shanghai Declaration' will be issued. This declaration, a milestone in the history of the world expositions, will epitomize the insights offered by the participants and embody people's ideas for future development, thereby leaving a rich spiritual legacy of urban development to people throughout the world.

THE INSIDE TRACK

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