

何もない砂漠の中に突如、都市が現れる。ユニークな形をした13棟の建物が並ぶ、その名も「アルコサンティ」。サステナブルな理想郷を実現するため、41年前から建設が続いている実験都市だ。

灼熱の地、アリゾナ州フェニックスから車で1時間半の場所にあるアルコサンティは、イタリア出身の建築家パオロ・ソレリが提唱した理念「アーコロジー」に基づいて人々が暮らし、教育を行う都市プロジェクトである。アーコロジーとはソレリによる造語で、アーキテクチャー（建築）＋エコロジーの意。今年92歳を迎える彼はかのフランク・ロイド・ライトに師事し、ライトや弟子たちが共同生活を行ったタリアセン・ウェストで暮らした経験を持つ。ライトの建築哲学を継承、発展させたこのアルコサンティでは、スペースやエネルギーを最大限に活用し、自動車を必要としない自己完結型の都市を目指す、エコロジカルな思想を実践している。

現在までに完成しているのは、プラン全体のわずか3%。その息の長さは、ガウディのサグラダ・ファミリアにしばしば^{たと}えられる。また新宿区を一回り小さくしたほどの広大な敷地の中で、都市面積はわずか東京ドームの2倍強というのも驚きだ。大自然に囲まれた、生産・消費が完結した都市という構図はアーコロジー的な狙いにほかならない。ここでは毎日、建設技術など様々なワークショップが行われており、世界中から人々が訪れては住み込みで参加する。居住棟のほか食堂や農場、プールやショップといった施設も完備し、野外シアターでは毎週末、多彩なイベントが開催される。

この都市には、ワークショップ参加者に限らず誰でも宿泊できる。360度、視野を遮るものが何もない壮麗なパノラマ風景、そして人類の未来を見据えたデザインの中で、時を過ごしてみたいかがだろう。いまだ知り得ない内なる創造性が、きっと目を覚ますはずだ。🚗

砂の上の未来都市。

Building on Principle



Its southwestern deserts are flush with stories of “alien” visitations and secret military testing, but in 1970 America was getting wind of something wholly terrestrial and brilliantly promising there. As the idea of “space ship earth” was taking hold along with practical approaches to living within the planet’s means, word was in the air that a visionary architect named Paolo Soleri was building a self-sustaining, earth-friendly, utopian city on a central Arizona high desert plain. Just miles from Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright’s communal experiment in building a generation of architects, this former apprentice of Wright’s founded Arcosanti, a communal experiment in building a civilization. It was said that if you were willing to work, you could knock on his door and build it with him.

Forty years later Arcosanti remains a fragment, but one that holds the seeds for nearly every idea its designer sought to realize. And every stone and wall was put in place by the amateur and aspiring hands of the more than 6,000 people who heard the call and came to live there through the decades.

At 91, Mr. Soleri, who received his Ph.D. in architecture in his birthplace of Turin in 1946, is the world’s pre-eminent theorist of the concept of arcology, the melding of architecture and ecology. In his six major books and dozens of essays and monographs on the subject, Mr. Soleri describes a three-dimensional compacting of the functional segments of the urban environment in a sort of urban implosion, a repudiation of the explosive two-dimensional sprawl that marked the postwar American landscape. The arcological city must be highly integrated and miniaturized to allow shared resource usage. It must house many to be economically feasible, and contain multipurpose spaces all reachable by foot, to limit dependence on fuels and decline of infrastructures. It must be sited near an aquifer and bounded by uninhabited wilderness, so that residents can have periodic access to rural space and arable land to cultivate a food supply, which can then be distributed with maximum logistical efficiency. For the same reason, the arcology must work in concert with its immediate environment, including the derivation of materials for its own construction. Thus, there is Arcosanti, a desert

右／最終的に5,000人収容可能な都市を目指している。左／円形の窓が美しい食堂。下／太陽エネルギーを最大限に取り込むため、建物はすべて南向き。右下の図／完成予想図の一つ。古代神殿のよう。宿泊はシングル1泊30ドルから。 <http://www.arcosanti.org/>

RT: Upon completion, Arcosanti is designed to be home to 5,000 residents. LT: Daily and overnight visitors dine at Arcosanti's café, and enjoy items from the bakery. Bottom: Schematic of a first generation arcology, showing detail of residential section.



arcology; a proposed aquatic city “Novanoah”, and others, each built of different materials but reiterating the ship-like form that is the elemental expression of its arcological concerns.

In 1950, the architect's first major commission after leaving Wright's studio, a large ceramics factory in Italy, would reveal to him the potential of earth casting, which in turn would become his principle method of construction, as well as prove economically propitious. The architect applied his strong visual vocabulary to the earth casting of bells and wind chimes, which became Arcosanti's primary source of working revenue for the past four decades. Its signature architectural gesture is the apse, a quarter-spherical structure that is also relatively easily cast in earth, regardless of scale. The apse has an uplifting presence, but is also directly responsive to the desert environment. Pitched to a southern exposure, the concrete acts as a passive solar collector in winter, and shields dwellers from a sweltering sun in summer.

Arcosanti, which was planned for 5,000 inhabitants, has never exceeded about 75. It remains not a city, but an “Urban Laboratory”.

Some say that to execute its construction outright would require slightly less democracy than society tolerates, and even Dr. Soleri self-deprecatingly refers to himself as a “despot”. But thinking about the tenets on which it's built – integrated, miniaturized, resource efficient, housing many, built from local sources – one becomes convinced that as human life continues on other spheres, it will bring the seeds of Arcosanti to flower.

