

EXPO 86 – A Glimpse of the 21st Century

Between May 2 and October 13, 1986, an extraordinary world city – Expo 86 – will rise in the heart of Vancouver, British Columbia. Some 15 million people will visit the 1986 world exposition celebrating the theme of transportation and communications.

A total of 32 nations have already signed to participate, two years before the Expo 86 gates open. The United Nations brings the list of international participants to 33. For the first time in world exposition history, the USA, the USSR, and the People's Republic of China agreed in 1983 to participate at Expo 86. Pakistan, Czechoslovakia, and Italy are the most recent signatories. "Cultural diversity is a keynote of Expo 86", says Expo 86 Commissioner General Patrick Reid. "The participation of these nations reflects the very essence of this idea. I heartily welcome them to our world exposition".

Reid is more than pleased with the reaction of the global community. "The international response to date has been tremendous. And I say that advisedly, having been in the business for over 20 years. We now have countries from every continent to represent the transportation and communications achievements of the world".

Reid sees two major reasons for the enthusiastic early international support. One is Canada's international reputation as host. Montreal's Expo 67 set a benchmark for excellence in world expositions that is still aspired to internationally.

Another reason is the theme. As a continuing preoccupation of mankind, transportation is out-ranked only by food and shelter. Expo 86 will be the first



Aerial view of downtown Vancouver with main EXPO 86 site along the north shore of False Creek.

world exposition on transportation to be held outside Europe, and only the second to embrace this theme since London held the first world exposition in 1851.

The theme could not be more timely. Transportation is undergoing unprecedented change, fostered in part by the recent energy crisis. Changes in related communications technology are revolutionary. It is one thing to come up with the idea for a world exposition. It is another to win the nod of the B.I.E., the international bureau of expositions which sanctions and controls these major events. However, British Columbia did win out – and over some very tough international competition.

A major reason for B.I.E. approval must well be the host city itself which provides a striking site for Expo 86. As Canada's gateway to the Pacific, this

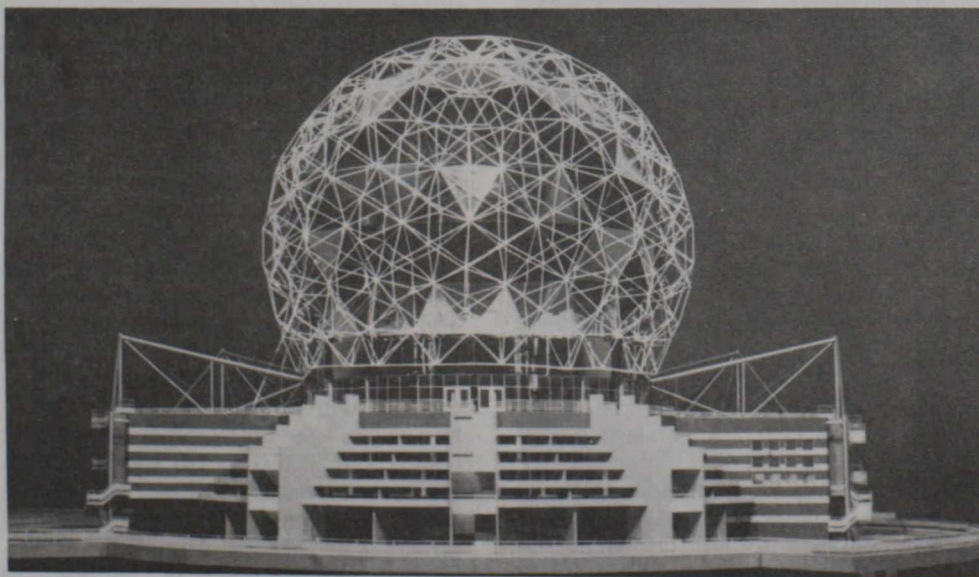
young, sophisticated city of 1.2 million residents is the hub of an international transportation and communications system. In 1986, it will celebrate its first centennial anniversary in conjunction with the Expo 86 festivities. The main site for Expo 86 runs along 70 hectares of waterfront on the north shore of Vancouver's False Creek. Part of this area is destined eventually to become B.C. Place, the largest urban renewal project in North America.

Across the city, the host Canadian pavilion has its own 2-hectare site, again on the waterfront, but this time on a pier extending into Burrard Inlet. The Federal Government of Canada agreed to erect the Canadian pavilion alongside a new cruise ship facility. At the end of Expo 86, the Canadian pavilion will remain as a trade and convention centre.

This second site extends Expo 86 into the downtown core, while the deeper water allows Expo to demonstrate submersibles and host the world's tall ships. An innovative rapid transit system will link the two sites in a four-minute ride.

The tourist-oriented city of Vancouver already has the infrastructure to accommodate the large influx of Expo 86 visitors. Luxury hotels and world class restaurants exist and more are planned. Chinatown (North America's second largest), the Granville Island market/theatre complexes, historic Gastown, and downtown shopping are all within walking distance of Expo 86.

Major airlines fly into Vancouver from every continent. Two transcontinental railways and several major highways have their western terminus here. Just 50 km from the Canada/United States border, the city is within easy reach of Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Vancouver is indeed ready to welcome the world.



This 15-storey geodesic dome will house Canada's first Omnimax Theatre which will feature the largest screen in the world.