

Fly's Eye Dome | Research Guide | 2023

Selected by Kate Hodgson, Library and Archives Intern (2023)

The Fly's Eye Dome is a creation of American designer, inventor, and theorist R. Buckminster Fuller, and was originally intended to provide economical, efficient housing. After working for many years designing geodesic domes for industry and the military, in 1966 Fuller began working with John Warren, a surfboard manufacturer specializing in fiberglass, and architect Norman Foster to develop a new dome. This one would be constructed of lightweight fiberglass and feature circular openings, called "oculi," in a pattern similar to the lenses of a fly's eye, which would allow light and air to enter without compromising the integrity of the structure.



R. Buckminster Fuller (1895 - 1983)
Fly's Eye Dome, 1961, fabricated ca. 1980
Fiberglass-reinforced polyester, 38 × 50 × 50ft.
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville,
Arkansas, 2015.15

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Archival Resources

Fly's Eye Dome Collection, M2013.002. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Archives.

Link: <https://crystalbridges.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/3>

Explore the library and archives at CrystalBridges.org/Library