

# Energy info in world's fair pavilion

First of 3 articles

By Penny Wright  
special writer

**Problem:** How do you fill three million cubic feet of exhibit space with energy-related materials, and make the viewing meaningful?

**Solution:** The Energy Place — the United States Pavilion at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn., through the use of advanced computer wizardry.

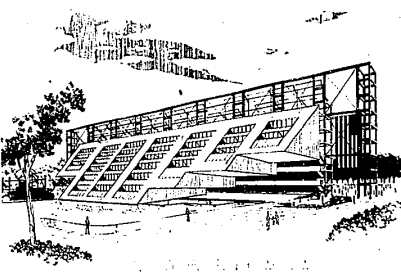
Housed in cantilevered steel and glass structure bordering a three-acre lake, the U.S. exhibit depicts our nation's energy story through a multi-media presentation.

Colorful over-sized graphics, industrial artifacts, giant-screen cinema and space-age devices all help fair-goers explore the crucial link between human activity and the need for energy. The effort comes across with remarkable clarity and impact.

A LARGE PART of the success of The Energy Place is due to the use of an advanced computer video technique. It gives visitors access to bundles of energy information with the wiggle of a finger.

"We want people to leave the exhibition not only with a deeper appreciation of energy, but also with a sense of personal involvement," said Albert Woods, who led the interior design effort for Carlos Ramirez and Albert Woods, Inc., a firm with 18 years of exhibit experience.

To accomplish this goal, Woods conceived the use of touch-sensitive video monitors which allow pavilion visitors to retrieve information by touching



A cantilevered steel and glass structure houses the U.S. exhibit at the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn.

key words and pictures on the screen itself.

It works like this: Suppose you wanted to know more about solar energy, particularly concentrating collectors. Turning to a nearby video screen you see a menu of solar terms. By lightly touching the word "concentrating," you command a text, slide or sometimes a video tape film to appear which defines the topic. A second touch of the screen will often yield related bits of information.

THE ADVANTAGES of such knowledge-sharing systems are easily seen. Besides being just plain

fun, the monitors key answers to your individual interests, and provide only the information a user wants to know.

Touch-sensitive monitors appear throughout the atrium-styled exhibit hall. At one location, users learn the latest techniques for reducing energy loss in homes depending on type and construction.

At another display, visitors select an ordinary product like breakfast cereal, and trace the amounts of energy fuels used in the manufacturing process. The answers are surprising.

"The emphasis on new media in the U.S. Pavilion highlights a technology that will have as much impact on our use of energy in the coming years as the energy technologies show in the exhibition," says Thomas Nicholson of Ramirez and Woods.

"For most visitors this will be their first exposure to techniques that merge the microprocessor with the moving image."

By all indications this first exposure is a "winner."

# State mental hospital facing fall shutdown

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

By October, the fate of Clinton Valley Center in Pontiac should be determined.

If the Michigan Legislature fails to appropriate more money for the state mental hospital, it could be shut down and its 500 patients either transferred or released.

"About 300 patients could be housed at other facilities, but there are no plans for the balance of the patients," said Anthony Drabik, CVC director.

"The Department of Mental Health and a citizens committee are studying the possibility of closing and what would happen to the patients. The department must have a plan ready in case funding falls through.

"PATIENTS CAN'T be absorbed in the community, and many of their families would be unable to take them. People (who are related to patients) don't understand how the facility can be closed. They're quite concerned about it," Drabik added.

Before its summer recess, the state Senate adopted a bill which appropriated \$528 million to the Department of Mental Health for the 1982-83 year. But it still awaits action in the House of Representatives.

DMH leaders said the department

needs \$550 million to carry current levels of service. Because the legislature is committed to a balanced budget, the mental health budget is likely to be cut further.

Drabik said the Senate recommended \$16 million be sent to CVC for the upcoming year. The facility's current operating budget is \$22 million.

FURTHER STAFF cuts could not be justified, Drabik was told, so CVC was chosen for closure. One reason is that it's close to other facilities for the mentally ill. CVC's patients could easily be served by another facility, specifically Northville Regional Psychiatric Hospital.

Drabik said, however, that there isn't enough room for the patient overflow at neighboring facilities.

Approximately 500 staff persons are employed at CVC. About 500 patients housed in the Pontiac facility.

"We're at about 75-80 percent of what the department says we should have for direct care," Drabik said.

"What people don't understand is that Clinton Valley is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week operation, and 500 staff members are not enough," he added.

It costs the state approximately \$130 per patient per day to operate the center.

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