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NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 6, 1997

Contact: Philip West, Mansfield Center director, (406) 243-2988.

MANSFIELD CONFERENCE TREATS HOME BUILDING, ENVIRONMENT MISSOULA--

Architects, builders, environmentalists and cultural geographers will be among the experts on hand to discuss a universal theme, home building, at the 1997 Mansfield Conference Sunday through Tuesday, Oct. 19-21, at The University of Montana-Missoula.

The conference, "Creating Homes in American and Asian Environments," will feature three keynote presentations, a workshop, large and small group discussions, a tour of homes and a performance by the China Folk Dance Company. All conference events are free and open to the public.

"The theme this year addresses an issue with broad public appeal," said Philip West, director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center. "All people design and build homes in seeking comfort and security. At the same time, how people design and build homes often reveals fundamental differences in the way cultures define human relationships and the relationships between people and the environment."

Jim Bowyer, director of the Forest Products Management Development Institute at the University of Minnesota, will open the conference Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in the Montana Theatre with "Housing a Growing Population in the 21st Century: Where Will the Raw Materials Come From?" A demonstration tour Sunday afternoon of three Missoula homes built from alternative materials anticipates Bowyer's lecture. The tour will leave the Mansfield Library lobby at 1 p.m.

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Call (406) 243-2906 for reservations.

Two additional keynote presentations are scheduled for Monday in the Montana Theatre. At 3 p.m. Itsuko Hasegawa, considered Japan's foremost woman architect, will address the topic "Yuragi and Japanese Living Space: An Approach to Creating Homes." At 7:30 p.m. Yi-Fu Tuan, a cultural geography professor at the University of Wisconsin, will discuss "Creating Homes: But What Is a Home?"

Other conference events:

Monday, Oct. 20 -- Workshop, "The Practice of Building In and Teaching the Bioregion," 10 a.m.-noon, Mount Sentinel Room, University Center. Leading the workshop will be two colleagues from the University of California-Davis: David Robertson, director of the Nature and Culture Program, and Bruce Boyd, director of the Yuba Watershed Institute.

Tuesday, Oct. 21 -- Plenary and small group sessions for students, faculty and community members to apply ideas from the conference, 3-5 p.m., University Center Ballroom. Session leader will be Missoula builder Steve Loken, founder and president of the Center for Resourceful Building Technology.

The China Folk Dance Company will put the final touches on the conference with a performance at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the newly refurbished University Theatre. Tickets will be available at the door at 5:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

Funding for the conference comes from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation and The University of Montana Foundation with contributions and in-kind support from 18 other organizations on and off campus.

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