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Author: Ms. Adela Moss
Poland

Mrs. Anna Polomska
United Kingdom
Mr. Nick Hamann
United States
Ms. Hannah Macmurray
United States

HOME ON THE MOON: INTEGRATING COMFORT AND INNOVATION IN LUNAR HABITATDESIGN

Abstract

As humanity embarks on a new era of lunar exploration, fueled by a burgeoning space economy and initiatives like the Artemis Program, the development of sustainable lunar habitats emerges as a paramount challenge. This proposal introduces a visionary solution for lunar habitation that leverages current technological capabilities while paving the way for future advancements.

Within this evolving landscape, we introduce a concept for an underground lunar research station, strategically located within a lunar cavern to naturally shield inhabitants from the harsh lunar environment. This approach aims to mitigate the risks posed by micrometeorite impacts and radiation but also to leverage the stable temperatures found in lunar pits, caves, and lava tubes, possibly marking a significant innovation in extraterrestrial architecture. The station's design features easy-to-transport, deployable, inflatable pods, designed to host up to eight inhabitants. The proposed modules prioritize practicality, efficiency as well as comfort, a human-centric design aiming to bring a semblance of Earth to the Moon. Key to this vision is the incorporation of vertical gardens within each pod, contributing to the crew's psychological health through easily available, daily contact with nature. The habitat's lighting and visual systems simulate Earth's diurnal and seasonal cycles, enhancing well-being and productivity. The gradation of privacy across each pod and communal hub further promotes a sense of community and personal well-being, with spaces designed for both privacy and interaction in an earthy and calming ambience. Varying openness of plan in each pod contributes to creating a sense of being outside without leaving the pod.

This proposal emphasizes the importance of creating spaces that prioritize the well-being of inhabitants through natural connections and psychological comforts. The innovative use of underground caverns for protection, coupled with the deployment of adaptable, natural living spaces, intends to set a new standard for future lunar habitats. We aim to show that through thoughtful design and an emphasis on human needs, we can make life beyond Earth feel more like home, thereby supporting not just the survival, but the flourishing of humans in space establishing a blueprint for future interplanetary human-centric architecture. This approach is crucial for the long-term success of lunar colonization efforts and has implications for how we design habitats in other extraterrestrial environments.