

John Spencer – Designer



John Spencer is a space architect who has built a career that is a balance between the design and development professions. He is a pioneer in what he calls "The Design Frontier." He creates, designs, and develops his own space tourism-, Lunar/Mars-, and future-themed immersive simulation and attraction projects, while serving as a conceptual designer for some of the world's largest corporations.

Space Tourism Pioneer:

He has been a proponent of space tourism using the cruise ship industry model since the early 1980s, and is the founder and president of the nonprofit Space Tourism Society (www.SpaceTourismSociety.org). He is the author, with Karen L. Rugg, of the first book on space tourism published in the United States titled, "Space Tourism: Do You Want to Go?"

(www.cgpublishing.com). Since 1997, he has been designing the world's first orbital super yacht called "Destiny," premiered in this book.

John has been quoted in The Wall Street Journal, Scientific American, Space News, Popular Science, Men's Journal, Los Angeles Times, and more 50 other magazines and newspaper articles on Space Tourism. He has appeared on The Today Show, CNN, ABC, CBS News, and on more than a dozen other television programs, including the Discovery Channel, PBS, Japanese NHK, and the Learning Channel.

The Extreme Design Frontier:

Since 1978, he has been recognized as a pioneer in the field of outer space architecture. He completed the first interior designs of the Spacehab module in 1983/4, which have now flown on orbit more than a dozen times. From 1985 through 1987 he directed several interior design studies for the International Space Station (ISS), under sub-contract to Taylor and Associates for the NASA Ames Research Center, Human factors division.

In 1997, under contract to TRW, he visited Christmas Island in the South Pacific and created the a launch complex conceptual master plan for the Japanese Space Program. In 2000, John completed the first interior design for the Universal Space Lines "Space Clipper." In 2003, he designed the interiors of the Zero Gravity Company aircraft now in commercial use. John designed the interiors for the "Aquarius" Underwater Laboratory, built in 1984 by NOAA, which is still in operation. For the National Science Foundation (NSF), he and his team provided all the design work for an Antarctic science base assembled in 1985, as well as originating the concept for an Antarctic Mobile Field Laboratory, built in 1990.

The Immersive Simulation Frontier:

As a real estate developer and site master planner, he coined the term

"Experience Park" in the mid 1990s. He then coined the terms "SimExperience" and "SimNauts" to describe a new generation of totally immersive adventure vacation simulation experiences he is currently designing and developing.

His 1982 Space Resort design and development project (to take a three-day simulated cruise into low Earth orbit) matured into the Space World theme park built in Japan, opening in April 1991. He is the creator of the first Star Trek theme park design called "StarBase One" which inspired the "Star Trek - The Experience" which opened in Las Vegas in 1993 and of the "Science Fiction Hall of Fame" which inspired the "Science Fiction Museum" which opened in 2004 in Seattle funded by Microsoft co-founder, Paul Allen. He is also a leading expert on the design of Space Camps and creator of the "Moon Camp" concept and design.

He is the president, and chief designer of Red Planet Ventures, Inc. (RPV). RPV is a research, design, licensing, and branding company, creating a wide range of Mars-themed simulation and media ventures ranging from a "Mars Resort and Spa" to a "Mars Expedition Base" to be built in the Mojave Desert opening in late 2007, to a "Mars Camp," and the "Mars Hall of Fame."

Awards/Degrees

In 1995 he was awarded the Space Act Award and the Certificate of Recognition from NASA for innovative architectural design on the International Space Station (ISS). In 2000, he was awarded the Space Humanitarian Award by the United Societies in Space and Apollo 11 astronaut Dr. Buzz Aldrin. In 2002, he was awarded the Space Tourism Pioneer Orbit Award from the Space Tourism Society.

He has a professional (1980) and masters degrees (1982) in architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

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