

Jay Baldwin



Geodesic Pioneer, Author, Design Scientist, Bucky Fuller Student and Friend of GENI

Jay passed away this month at the age of 85. He was a true visionary, an environmental designer engineer who worked closely with Buckminster Fuller and developed artifacts that demonstrated sustainable principles. He built geodesic domes, helped edit the original Whole Earth Catalogue, and taught at universities around San Francisco for years.

Jay and I first met at the 1995 Buckminster Fuller Centennial in San Diego where he shared his experiences about Bucky and how those ideas influenced his life.

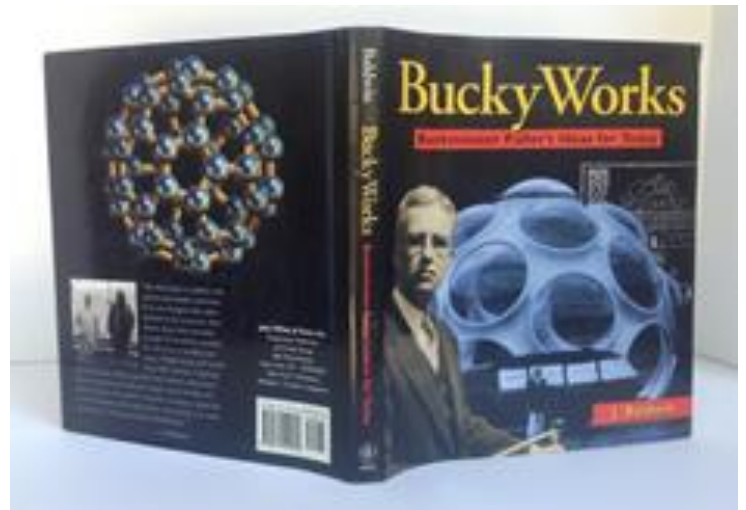
We were honored when he included the GENI initiative in his book:

[“BuckyWorks: Buckminster Fuller’s Ideas for Today”](#)

Here is an excerpt from page 203:

“Bucky considered World Game’s highest priority to be connecting the major electric grids of the world, as he first proposed in 1927. Among the advantages of the interconnections:

- east-west power demand and supply can be matched worldwide to the time of day or night; North-south demand to the seasons(which, as you may recall, are opposite)
- it would be far more efficient---shared power means that generators running full time at their most efficient speed will take care of worldwide needs. Fewer of them would be needed. That means less pollution, too.
- Power companies would not need expensive, little-used extra capacity to level peak demand; if Los Angeles had a hot spell, the additional power needed for air conditioners could be "wheeled" (the official term) from a part of the world where demand was less.
- The cost to consumers should drop as efficiency rises and power companies get more business -- a win-win scenario.
- Political strife would be reduced; trade partners rarely fight.
- Population pressures should ease; statistics show that birthrates drop dramatically as rising electricity use brings a higher standard of living.
- Power from renewable sources -- often from less developed countries that need the income -- can be moved to where it’s needed.
- Cooperative effort to build the connections would bring nations together.”



Jay embodied the ideas and principles of a *comprehensive anticipatory design scientist*.

Jay’s work lives on through his students and writings.

He impacted people around the world and we will miss him.