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Monday, April 7, 2008 - 3:05 PM MST

Arcosanti founder Paolo Soleri to speak at Catholic 'sustainability' conference in Rome

The Business Journal of Phoenix

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Artist and philosopher Paolo Soleri, the architect behind Arizona's Arcosanti village, is headed to Rome as a speaker for the April 14-16 Building Well to Live Better, a conference organized by the Roman Catholic Church to address sustainability and the environment.

As a major international real estate owner, the Catholic church can play a key role in sustainable architecture and design, the announcement released Monday said. Most participants will be priests involved with restoration projects and new developments.

The three main topics of discussion will be the connection between human development and environmental protection; examples of sustainable building and eco-architecture; and guidelines for intervention on existing buildings to increase comfort and energy efficiency.

Soleri is recognized for his concept of arcology, involving a compact three-dimensional urban form -- the opposite of suburban sprawl.

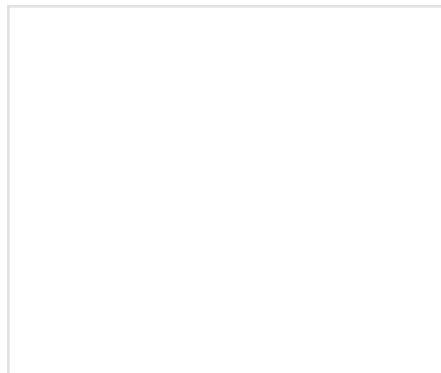
Soleri launched Arcosanti in 1970 as a prototype to serve as an urban laboratory and a model urban environment that is striving to reduce humankind's ecological impact on Earth. More than 6,000 people have participated in Arcosanti's educational workshops and more than 60 residents live and work at the community north of Phoenix, where the ceramic and bronze Soleri Bells are produced and sold. For more: www.arcosanti.org.

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