

May 22. 2008

page 2

Upon his return to Scottsdale, AZ, he founded a non-profit group called Cosanti. Cosa means "things" in Italian and anti meaning "against." It was his way of protest against the status quo and he visualized simpler and more efficient construction techniques. Today the Cosanti Institute is open for visits where one can see the famed Soleri bells for sale and see the original buildings built using the casting concrete technique and embedded into the ground for efficient temperature control. Try to incorporate a visit here in conjunction with one to Arcosanti if possible.

A very informative tour of Arcosanti is available for a suggested \$8 donation. There are apartments, cafeteria, a performance area, and foundry. Models and drawings of what the finished project will look like are displayed in a special information room.

Overnight accommodations are available from \$30 to \$50 per night and includes a continental breakfast. The cafeteria serves lunch and dinner buffet for \$8.95 each. Coffee and snacks are available at other times. A Sky Suite at the top of Arcosanti is only \$100 and has two bedrooms and sleeping space for up to six people. Magnificent views of the sun rising and setting as well as seeing a star filled sky at night will be a treat for city dwellers who may have wondered why our galaxy is called the Milky Way. For reservations, call the Arcosanti Gallery at (928) 632-6217. There are also dormitories for groups costing \$15 per student and \$20 per adult per night.

Many new architectural projects try to create mini-communities to decrease our dependence on automobiles such as now being built in Las Vegas with high rise apartments and shopping in a compact area but do not go to the extreme envisioned by Soleri.

If you are near Prescott or Phoenix, an overnight stay or at least a short visit is highly recommended and hopefully, you will be so enchanted by Soleri bells that you will buy one and contribute toward the fulfillment of a dream.