

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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## **PROJECTS: CHUCK HOBERMAN**

February 24 - April 12, 1994

The Museum of Modern Art's next **PROJECTS** exhibition, on view from February 24 through April 12, 1994, explores the process of structural transformation as revealed in the work of American engineer and inventor Chuck Hoberman (b. 1956). Organized by Matilda McQuaid, assistant curator, Department of Architecture and Design, **PROJECTS: CHUCK HOBERMAN** includes a scale model and a full-scale operational section of a sixty-foot-diameter retractable iris dome.

Hoberman's dome, which opens and closes to the sky by expanding and contracting like the iris of an eye, represents a significant structural advance over traditional retractable roofs. The difference lies in its ability to be completely retracted, while remaining structurally stable at any position.

During the past decade, Hoberman has concentrated on the study of deployable or unfolding structures. The first of these studies utilized a range of materials such as metal, paper, plastic, wood, and fabric, which he pleated or hinged so that palm-sized packages were converted into larger, fully-extended units. Such transformation is central to the work in the exhibition. Yet, while mathematically precise, the movement of the anodized aluminum iris dome is as fluid as any in nature, and recalls a time-lapse

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