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Kimberly Brown, curator of the exhibit.



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Untitled birdhouse by Andrew Acker

Exhibition at Sheldon for the birds

By Mick Dyer
Senior Reporter

One of the most unusual exhibits to be featured at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery this year is now on display.

The objects are graceful examples of the interdependent relationship between architecture and ecology. Historical figures such as Michelangelo, Palladio, Wren, LeNotre, Lutyens and Frank Lloyd Wright designed and built similar

creations.

They are birdhouses. These innovative works of art are part of the Nebraska Art Association Juried Birdhouse Design Competition on display until April 25.

The 28 entries are all original, handmade, three-dimensional structures intended for avian occupation. Built from ceramics, woods, glass, steel and other materials, some of the birdhouses are practical, others only ornamental.

All are pieces of art worthy of merit.

Kimberly Brown, administrator of the Nebraska Arts Association, said this is the first year for the competition exhibition. She said the exhibition was designed as a fundraiser for the art association as well as a chance for local artists and architects to express their creativity. Fifteen of the birdhouses were auctioned at a dinner for association members.

"The response at the dinner and auction was really positive," Brown said. "The feeling is that it might become an annual event."

Satellite communications to be demonstrated

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

Visitors to the University of Nebraska State Museum Saturday will get to see television programs from around the world in a demonstration of the peaceful uses of space.

As part of the Ralph Mueller Planetarium's 30th anniversary celebration, satellite communications will be demonstrated starting at 1 p.m.

Jack Dunn, planetarium coordinator, said the demonstrations get people away from thinking about Star Wars defense programs.

Satellite Communications for Learning (SCOLA) will provide the satellite link. The Creighton-based, non-profit organization, which started in 1981, is the first service to package satellite programs, Dunn said.

SCOLA condenses programs from various countries, including France,

Latin America, the Soviet Union and Mexico, into an eight-hour schedule from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday on Channel 9 of UNL's closed-circuit television.

Dunn said SCOLA has given UNL free service for the past month and will continue free service for the rest of the semester. After that, UNL will have to subscribe to the service.

Dunn said SCOLA is an educational service that appeals to people who are learning languages, political science, business and foreign culture.

"It's really interesting to sit and see what happens," he said. "You get news, but you also get cultural programming."

Universities across the nation and a few cable systems like Cox Cable in Omaha have picked up SCOLA.

The programs used to have subtitles, Dunn said, but language teachers thought their students would get more out of the program without them. Now a simultaneous English translation allows the viewer to choose.

Dunn said foreign television often has more than just educational value.

Japanese newscasters bow to the audience, he said.

The Soviet children's programs

are vividly animated, Dunn said, and there are music programs almost like MTV.

On French television, groups of eight to 10 have discussions, he said, and everyone talks at once.

The weekly sky show will be canceled Saturday to make room for the 30th anniversary "Multimedia Spectacular" at 2 p.m. A free seven-minute slide show about SCOLA will be shown at regular intervals before and after the anniversary program.

For the planetarium, Dunn said, the program is a chance to introduce something both interesting and beneficial for teaching and is a way to use the technology.

Dunn said satellite communications increase world understanding.

"You cannot isolate yourself from the world anymore," he said. "You can't do it."



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