

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Business



JOIN THE
DEBATE ONLINE
RICSBUSINESS.COM
MORE NEWS,
VIEWS AND
KEY ADVICE

NEW DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

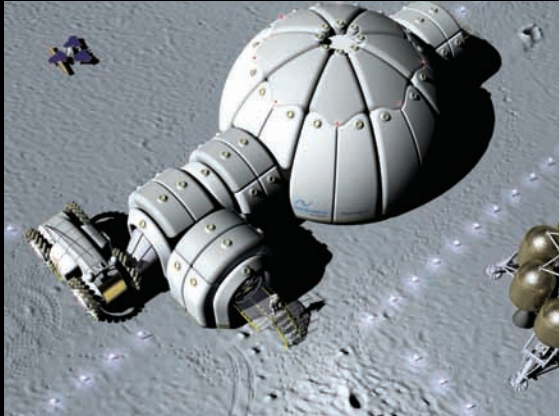
ONLINE MEDIA PLATFORMS
ARE AN ESSENTIAL TOOL
FOR NETWORKING AND
BUILDING BUSINESS

For more information
www.rics.org
www.ricsbusiness.com

Data storage
Growing business is driving
data centre development, but
is server storage sustainable?

Lunar ideas
As the recession continues
across the planet we look to
the stars for new projects

Machine against man
Are we losing control of
our lives to an information
technology overload?



Lunar tender

A European consortium has been set up to look into how future structures could be built in outer space. The consortium, which includes architecture firm Foster + Partners, is to tender for a contract from the European Space Agency as part of the Aurora programme. The objective is to devise and implement a plan for robotic and human exploration of the solar system, and to establish a more permanent moon presence. "It's a study to look at possible building technologies that might be used for space exploration," said a spokesman.

Safe moon base

If humans are to return to the moon within the coming decades, semi-permanent bases would need to be constructed to conduct extended research. But being exposed to solar radiation for long periods could pose a hazard to working astronauts. MoonBaseTwo from Architecture and Vision proposes a solution to this by using the Moon's very geology as an integral part of building protection. Since rock provides a good defence against radiation, the idea is that the walls and cover of the moon base would be filled with regolith, or moon soil. With the base then pressurised, this would allow astronauts inside to relax without the need for protective clothing – vital for their psychological and physical well-being.



Going up in the world

A design for a self-sustained, 200-storey vertical city has won first prize in the Skyscraper of the Future architectural competition, supported by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. The proposal, by Tatiana Serebrennikova, a student of the Ural State Academy of Architecture and Fine Arts, would be a self-sustained urban network in which infrastructure, residential modules and energy saving devices, such as solar batteries and wind turbines, are combined. The vast framework would also contain public areas, atriums, gardens and viewing platforms.