



New York Textile Month 2017  
Parsons School of Design

# Fabrics in Space Architecture

Raul Polit Casillas



**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology

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1. About JPL
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From Caltech students testing rockets to exploring the planets in our lifetime



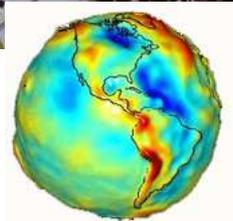
Caltech students (1936)



Missiles (1940s)



Explorer 1 (1958)



Earth Science (1978-now)



Mars Exploration Rovers  
(2004 – present)



Spitzer Space Telescope  
(2004 – present)

# Towards the Future



# Biography

- **JPL NASA /Caltech** – System Engineer, Space Architect and technologist (since 2012)
  - Architecture & Formulation, Payload & Small Spacecraft Mechanical Engineering
  - Co-founder of JPL Atelier
  - Europa Lander Mission Concept
  - Space Technology Liaison and project lead
  - R&D Principal investigator
- **Entasis Mecanika Initiative** – Founder, since 2017
- **JPL NASA /Caltech** – JVS RP Researcher, Affiliate - NASA Habitation Team (2011-12)
- **AIAA SATC** Space Construction Subcommittee Chair (Member, since 2006)
- **XAR SIDEREAL Initiative** – Founder and director, 2008-2012
- **Technological IVAM** – Inhabiting Cosmos Int. Exhibitions – Curator, 2011
- **Space Architecture and Sustainability Int. Seminar** – Director – UCV, 2010-2012
  
- PhD Candidate, University of Strasbourg, France
- MSc - Master Science in Space Studies and Human Spaceflight – ISU 2011
- M.Arch - Master Architect, All specialties, UPV 2008
- Industrial Engineering Studies
- Licensed Architect and builder
- NASA Ames summer Intern, 1999
- Caja Madrid International Postgraduate Scholarship Awarded, 2010-2012
- Fulbright Commission preselected Fellow
- ESA Full scholarship award, 2010
- JPL JVS RP Fellow



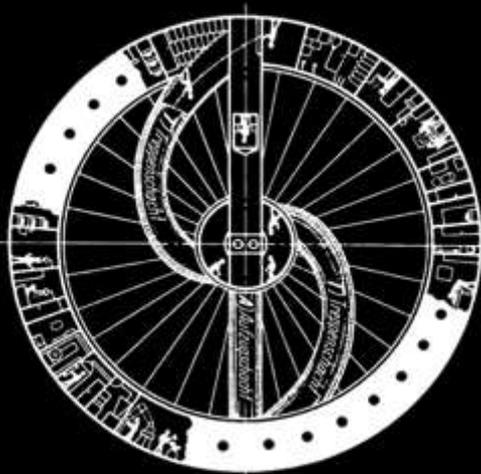
# Space Architecture

***Mechanikoi***, a constructive degree (Eastern Roman Empire):

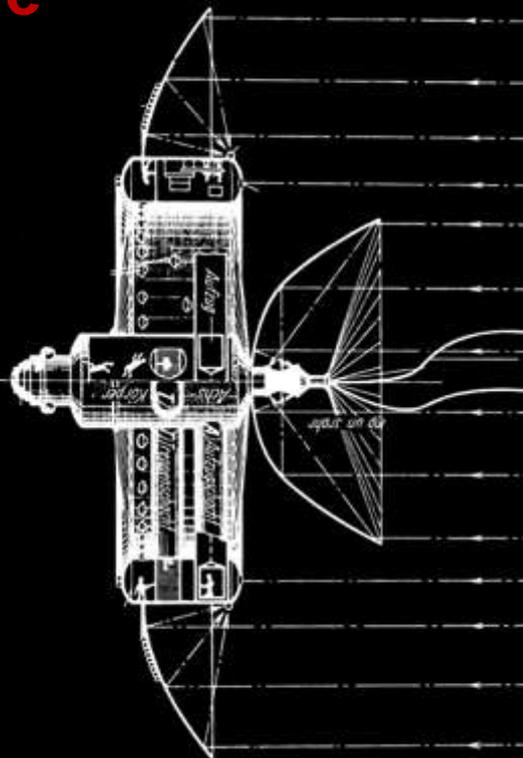
- They mastered both construction science and technology as well mathematics and astronomy
- Key architects: Isidore of Miletus (H.Sofia), Heron of Alexandria (Robotics)
- *HAGIA SOFIA (Holy Wisdom, Istanbul, 537 A.C.)*: Mathematics and science to study the cosmos allowed a better and impressive structural design... (Earthquakes)

# Space Architecture

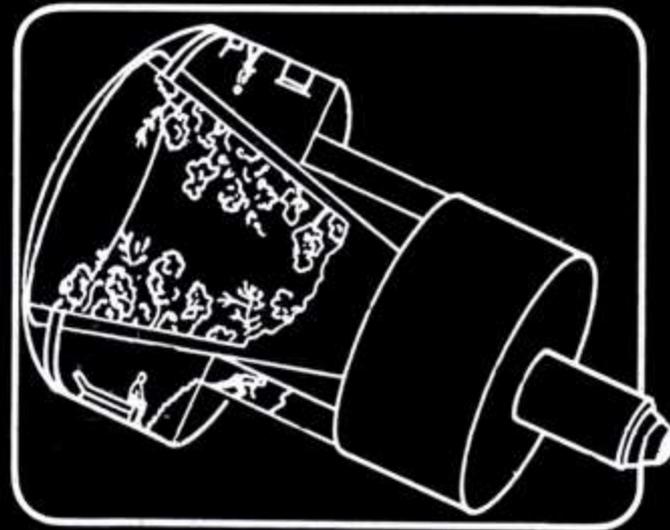
*First Projects Of Space Stations*



Herman Potočnik Concept, 1929



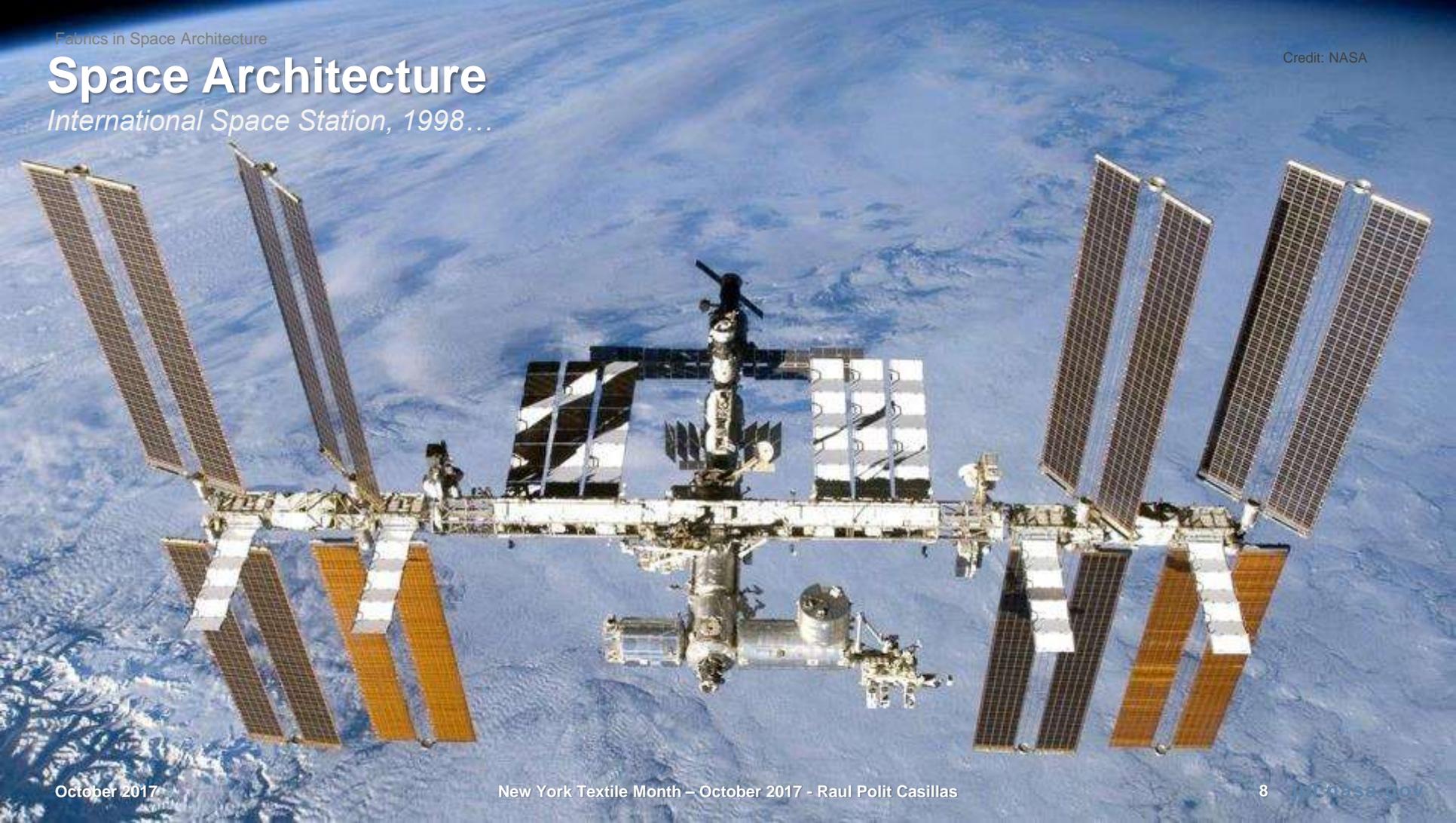
Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, Concepts (1897)



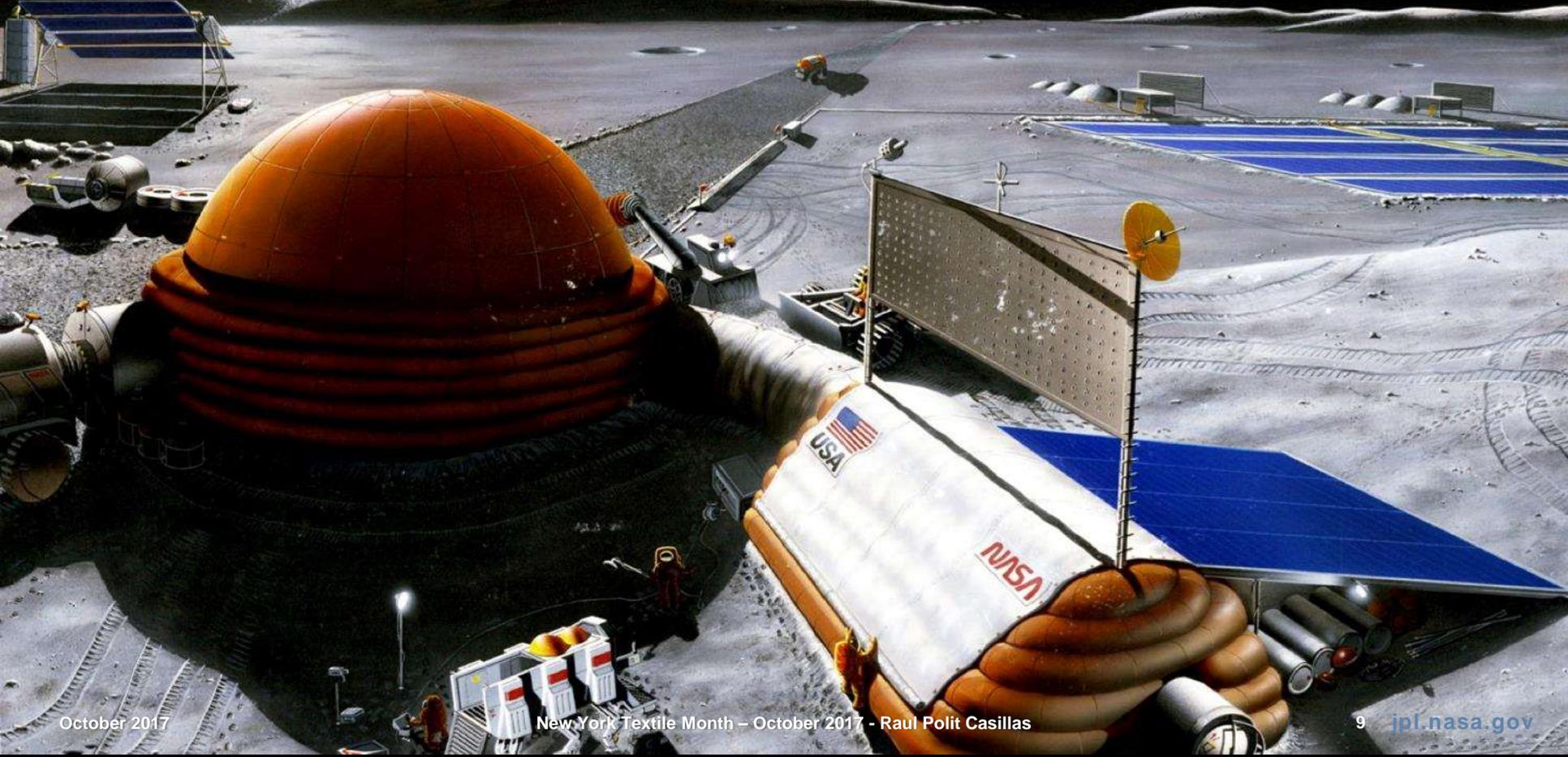
# Space Architecture

*International Space Station, 1998...*

Credit: NASA



# Space Architecture



# Space Architecture



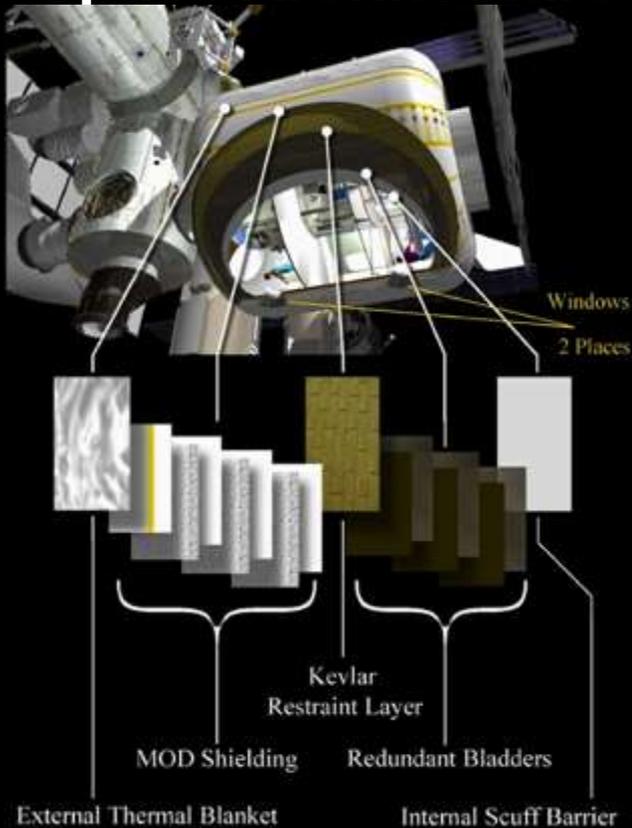


# Fabrics in Space Architecture: **EXT**

Credit: NASA



# Space Architecture



# Space Architecture



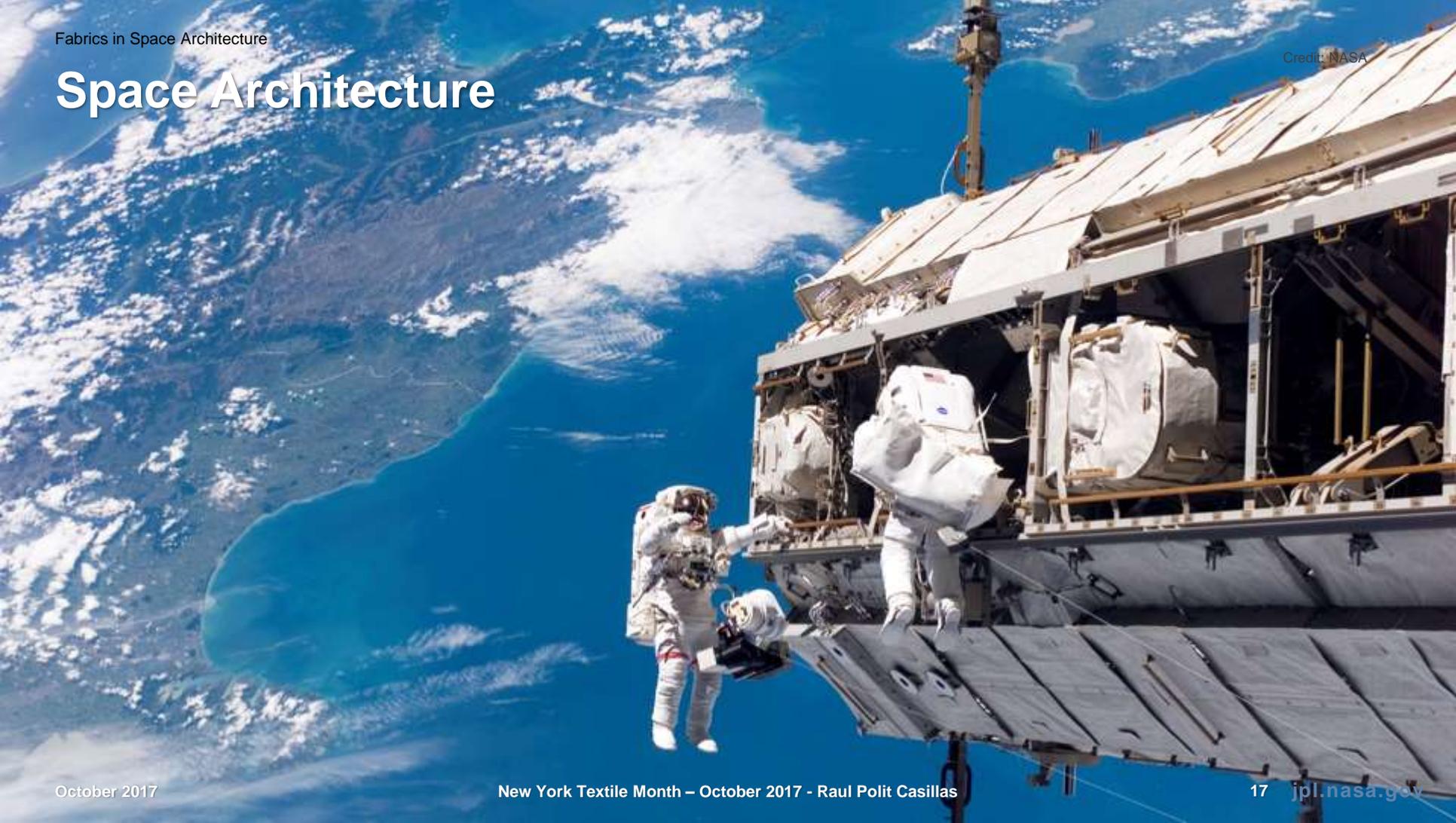
# Space Architecture



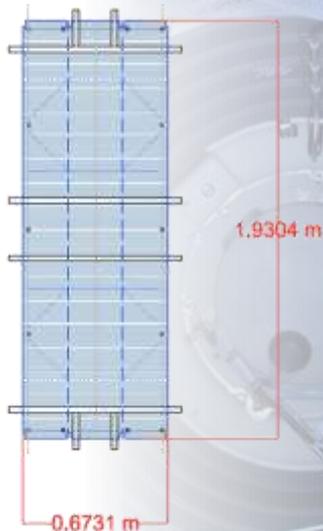
# Space Architecture



# Space Architecture



# Space Architecture



## Cargo Transfer Bags (CTB):

- Current logistics elements
- Could be use as *waterwalls* (waste & water treatment)
- Deep Space Mission: 200-500 CTBs
- Made of polymer (high H content)
- Radiation shielding capabilities
- Flexible



# Space Architecture

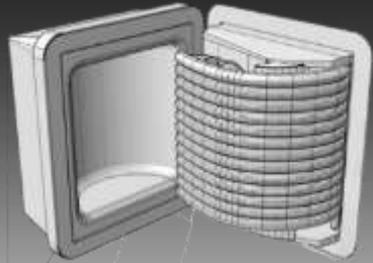


HDU Micro-Hab Hygiene Module

Credit: NASA



# Space Architecture



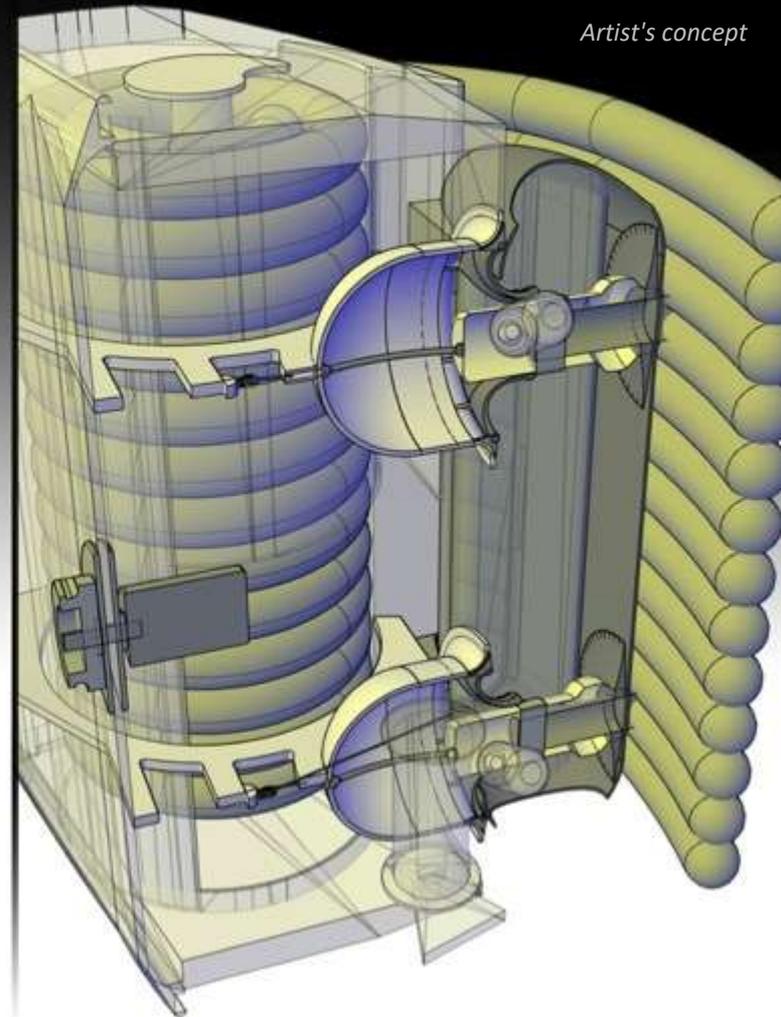
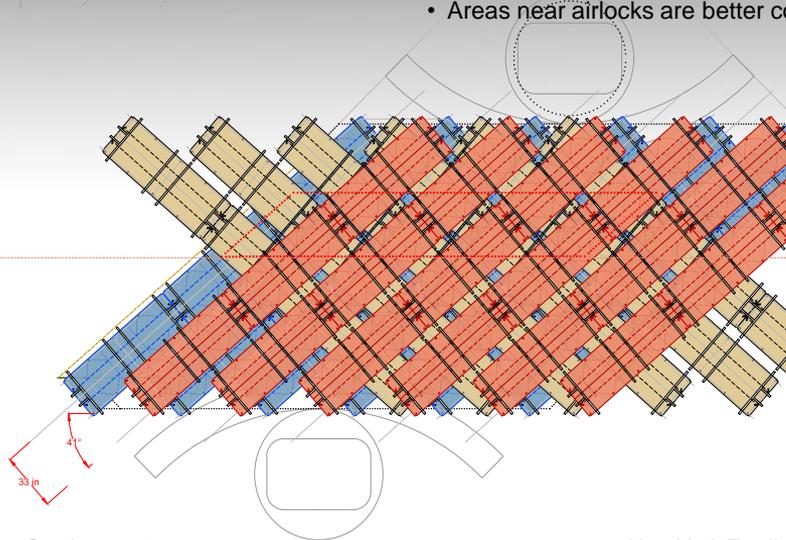
**Number of bags by layer:** 18  
**Separation:** 840 mm (33 in)  
**Angle (with respect to axis):** 41°

**Alignment of bags:** One direction

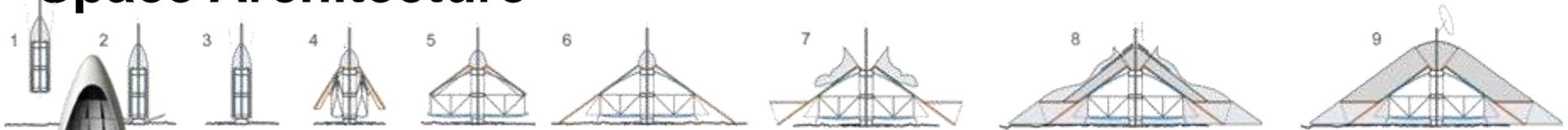
**Drawbacks:** Different directions / curvatures

**Benefits:**

- Supporting points are better distributed
- It uses a fewer or equal number of bags
- % Ae in second layer is lower
- Better resistance against physical impacts
- Areas near airlocks are better covered

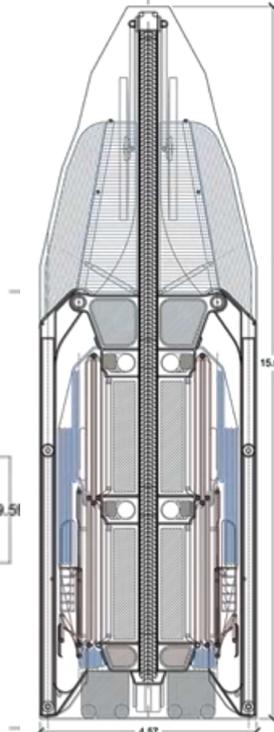
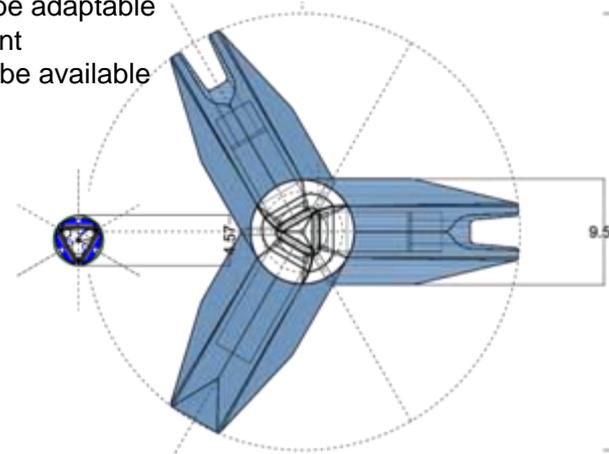
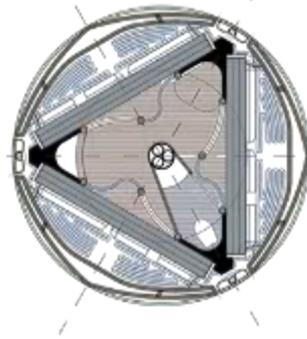


# Space Architecture



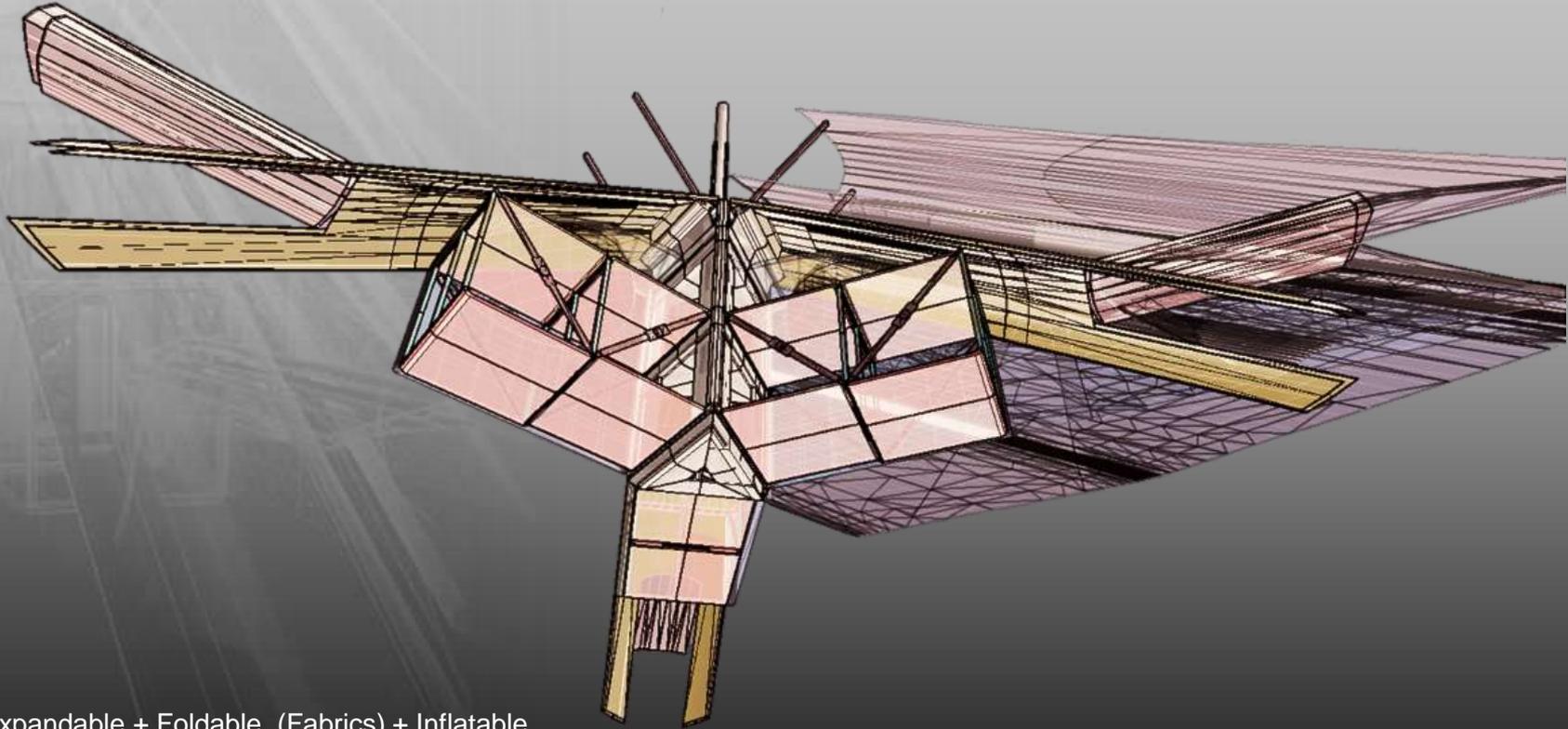
## Reducing mass, volume and energy budgets using fabrics

- **In situ resources Utilization (ISRU):** Using regolith as construction element
- **Radiation protection:** ESA 1992 – shielding of 400 g/cm<sup>2</sup> recommended during solar flares
  - 2 - 3 meters would suffice, while 4 to 5 meters will protect even during solar flares
- **Volume:** It has to fit in an Ariane V fairing. Adaptable architecture
- **Mass:** Reduce mass budget to the maximum. Increase multipurpose elements
- **Terrain:** Flat or flatten terrain, however the system has to be adaptable
- **Human Factors:** Respect to basic habitability measurement
- **Simulation and testing:** Feasible testing methods should be available



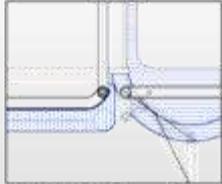


# Space Architecture

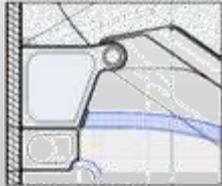


Adaptability = Expandable + Foldable (Fabrics) + Inflatable

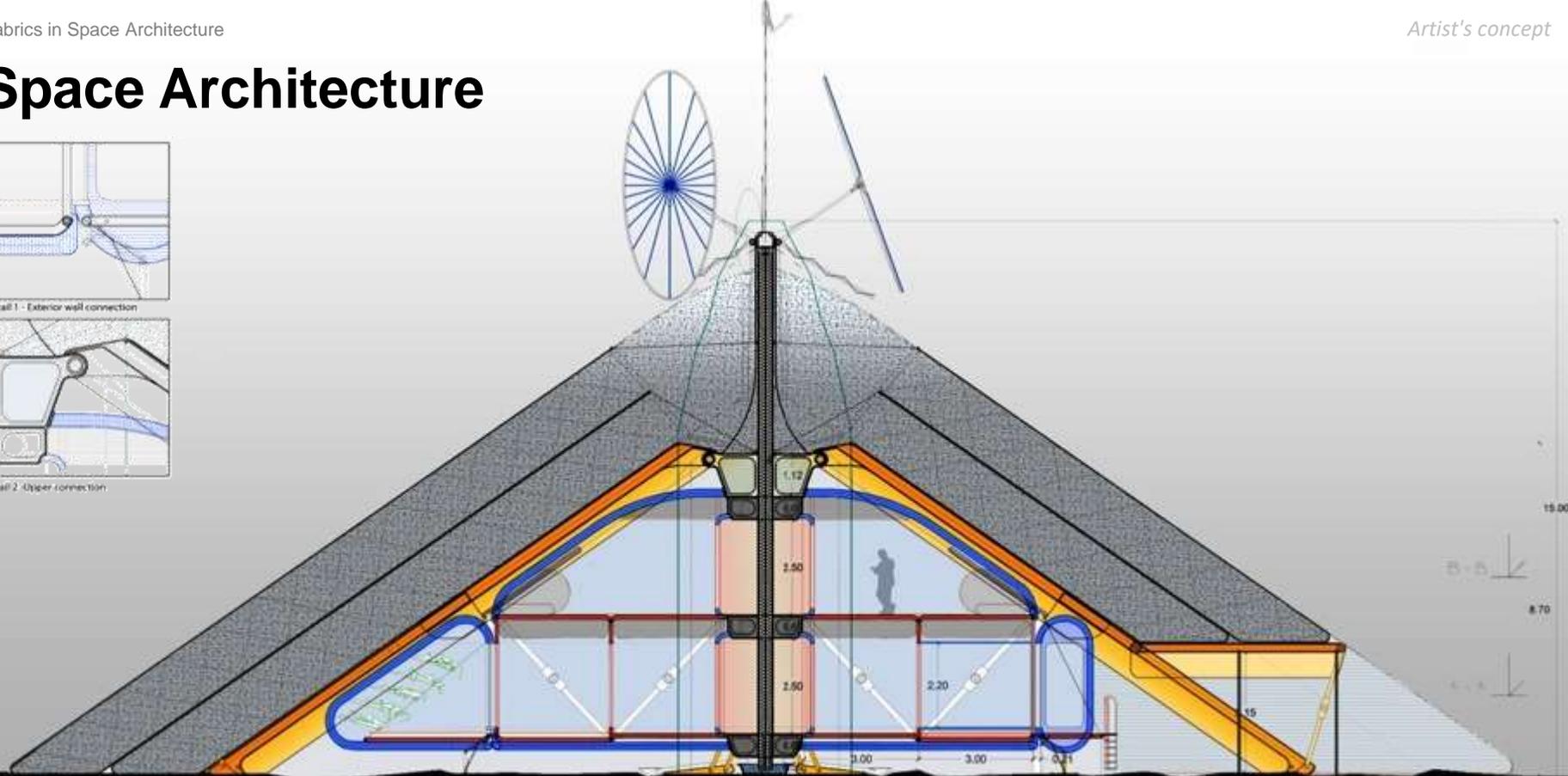
# Space Architecture



Detail 1 - Exterior wall connection



Detail 2 - Upper connection

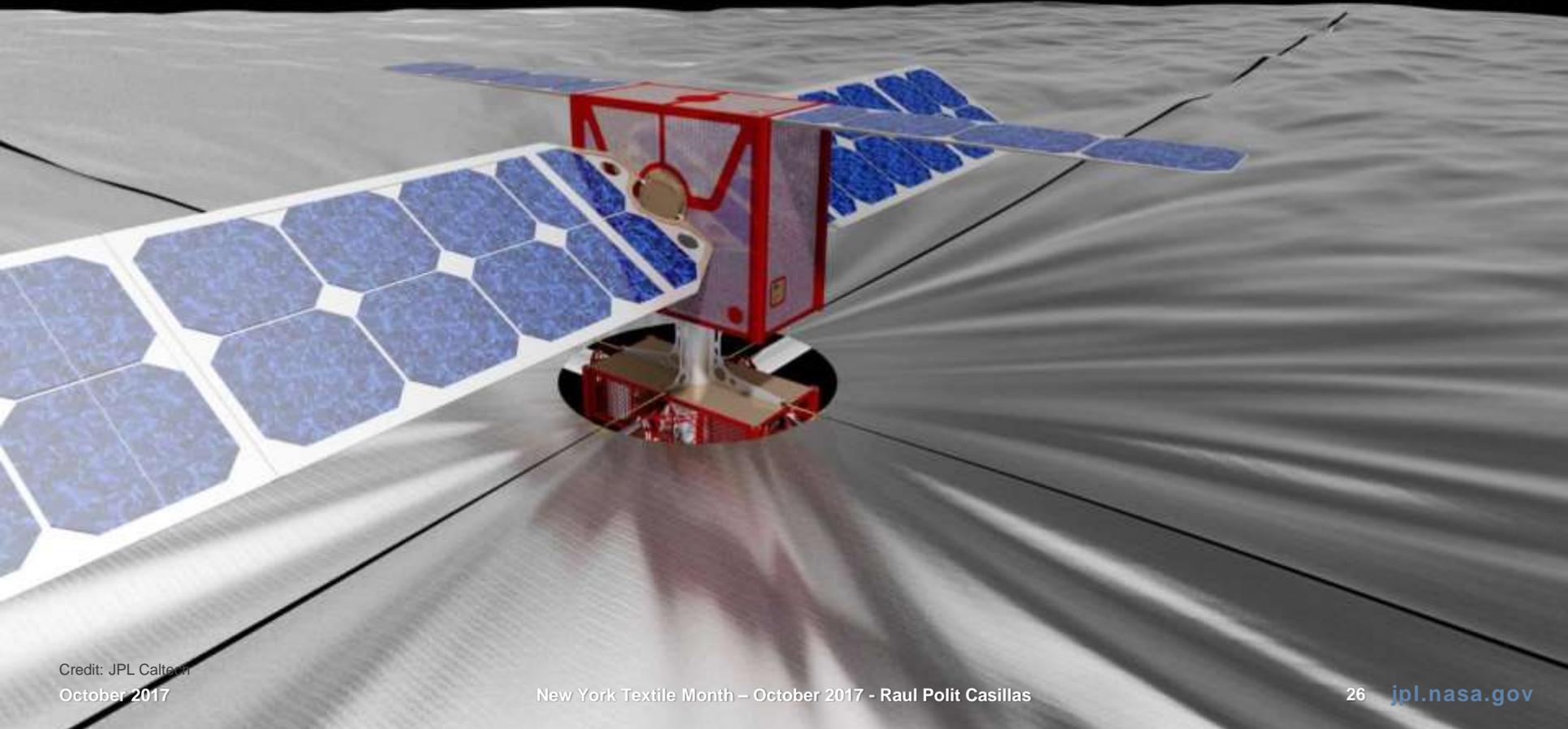


# 3D Printed Fabric

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J.P. Borgonia  
Bryan Mcenerney  
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# Fabrics for Space Exploration



# Space Architecture

***THANK YOU...***





**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology

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[jpl.nasa.gov](http://jpl.nasa.gov)