Snapshots of a Revolution
New Exhibit Captures Pivotal Moments in PC History

It was March 1996, and Intel was searching for an appropriate way to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the microprocessor at the upcoming Fall COMDEX. Intel Museum Curator Jodelle French remembered a retrospective exhibit The Computer Museum had curated for Data General at the 1995 Fall COMDEX. French sought out Gwen Bell at The Computer Museum to brainstorm ideas for creating the milestones of the microprocessor. That began a rare, cooperative relationship in the museum world: a corporate museum pairing with The Computer Museum. The partnership ultimately resulted in a historic personal computing exhibit, parts of which were recently installed in the Museum in Boston.

"I knew we couldn't curate this exhibit by ourselves," recalls French. "We could do an exhibit about microprocessors but what we were really talking about was the 25th anniversary of a revolution." French and Bell worked side by side to curate the "Museum at COMDEX," co-sponsored with SOFTWARE COMDEX, Motorola and Ziff-Davis. French recalls of the co-curating relationship, "If it had been anyone else but Gwen, we would have gotten bogged down in lists of artifacts.

Intel's foresight to form the partnership assured an inclusive retrospective that highlighted the advancements made by a variety of microprocessors. The "Museum at COMDEX" attracted 30,000 people, or 10 percent of the attendees, in five days.

When it was over, Intel and SOFTWARE BANK donated the vignettes from the exhibit to The Computer Museum. Installation in Boston was sponsored by Museum Board members Michael Simmons and David Nelson. Subsequently, The Intel Museum became a founding corporate supporter of The Computer Museum History Center. A win-win situation for all.

Nostalgic Journey
The most popular COMDEX vignette installed at The Computer Museum is a life-sized re-creation of a 1970s' hacker's garage, which captures the essence of this era.

"We were a group with a purpose: the revolution of home computers," Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Computer, reflected in 1986 at The Computer Museum. "I couldn't afford a computer so I started to think about building one for myself." Woz built his computer, the Apple I, in 1976, testing it in the now-legendary garage of his friend and Apple co-founder, Steve Jobs. The Hacker's Garage was unveiled in June, with enhancements to two existing 1980s' vignettes that re-create early uses of the IBM PC and Apple Macintosh.

Located in the Museum's historical exhibit, People and Computers: Milestones of a Revolution, the three vignettes highlight important aspects of the PC revolution, which was spurred on by the invention of the microprocessor by Intel in 1971. By 1974, hobbyists were using microprocessors such as the Motorola 6800, Intel 8008 and RCA 1802 to assemble their own "home-brew" computers in workshops similar to the Hacker's Garage. The two 1980s' milestones represent the next steps in the revolution: the personal computer's commercialization and vastly expanded use by individuals and large organizations.

"It was an incredible time," says Dan Bricklin, co-inventor in 1979 of VisiCalc, the first electronic spreadsheet written.

(continued on p.4)
The Many Themes of the Museum

In preparing a strategic plan for the Museum’s exhibits in 1988, the Exhibits Committee diced the universe of computing into the following themes:

1. evolution
2. technology (how computers work)
3. applications and social impact
4. people of computing

By 1992, we had created large-scale exhibits on the first three themes, later adding upgrades (such as the 1995 redesign of The Walk-Through Computer™) and new application areas (such as The Networked Planet™ in 1994). Although these exhibits were successful, we still were searching for a compelling way to present the people of computing.

Serendipity intervened when Tony Rea, a long-time supporter of the Museum, introduced founding president Gwen Bell to his childhood friend Louis Fabian Bachrach III, from the renowned family of portrait photographers. Louis was intrigued by the Museum.

It wasn’t long before he and Gwen came up with Wizards and Their Wonders: Portraits of Computing, a project toward which he would devote a full year making portraits of the people in the forefront of computing in America. As a result, the Museum will at last have a top-quality exhibition on the people of computing! The exhibit, which will incorporate artifacts from the collections and will be chronicled in an elegant coffee-table book, opens at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., in October, and at the Museum in November. (See article on page 4.)

Evolving Interest in History

In 1984, when the Museum opened in Boston, its exhibits featured the historical collections. As time went on, hands-on, educational exhibits became our hallmark, with artifacts playing a lesser role. Nevertheless, our collections activities continued, albeit in the “back room.”

Recent years, however, have witnessed a broad awakening of interest in the history of computing. For one thing, there is more history than there was 15 years ago (remember, the first digital electronic computer was built only 51 years ago). Furthermore, many people who participated actively in the early years of computing have now reached the age where they begin to look back over their careers.

In 1996, the Museum began to expand its historical activities, creating The Computer Museum History Center in Silicon Valley. We are now concentrating more resources on the history of computing and expanding our exhibit programs on the subject. Already completed is a full-size “hacker’s garage,” a brand-new milestone in the Museum’s permanent historical exhibit, Milestones of a Revolution. (See article on page 1.)

A series of historically themed, artifact-rich exhibits are also being developed and displayed on both coasts. The first, 25 Years of the Microprocessor, will open in Boston in January. Based on an exhibit curated by the History Center for last October’s Microdesign Resources Conference in Silicon Valley, it includes many of the important microprocessors, starting with the 1971 Intel 4004 and ending with the multi-million transistor chips that power today’s personal computers and workstations. Early personal computer and other microprocessor-based devices, from watches to running shoes, are also included.

The History of Computing timeline on our website is being expanded to the year 1990, and will include strands that pick out milestones in the evolution of the Internet and in the development of robots and artificial intelligence. The website will also feature “This Day in History,” which will highlight a different nugget of computer history every day of the year.

A good portion of the Museum’s collections are now accessible at the History Center’s storage site at Moffett Field in Mountain View, Calif. We invite you to visit, but please call or e-mail first (415-964-1231 or 415-604-2575/collec­tions@tcm.org), as you need a security badge to enter the area.

I hope you’ll come and see our new exhibits on the evolution of computing, in Boston, in Silicon Valley, or at www.tcm.org. As always, if you think you have something we should be saving for posterity, contact us at collections@tcm.org.

Oliver Strimpel
Executive Director
strimpel@tcm.org

Recent years have witnessed a broad awakening of interest in the history of computing.

The Computer Museum NEWS (Summer 1997) Contributors: Zoe Allison, Gail Breslow, Meghan Frost, Marilyn Gardner, John Marchiony, Angela Meyer, Christopher Morgan, Julie Raskiliffe, Betsy Riggs, Dog Spicer, Oliver Strimpel, Carol Welsh Editors: Gwen Bell, Gail Jennes, Mary McCann Design: Kelley Miller

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Museum's Clubhouse Expands Its Horizons
New Satellites Open in Boston and Stuttgart, Germany

Five years ago, the Computer Clubhouse was little more than a dream. Now, the Clubhouse reaches thousands of inner-city youths in Boston and in Germany with four Clubhouse satellites and new programs enabling kids to expand their horizons using computers. Alex Owumi, 12, of Dorchester, Mass., sums it up: "Before coming to the Clubhouse, I had nothing to do. I just played video games. Here, there's a wonderful feeling—with a bunch of computers, smart people, peace, no gangs, no fights. Learning about computers has given me a new world.

In 1993, The Computer Museum, in collaboration with the MIT Media Laboratory, founded the Clubhouse to serve kids with little access to computers at home or in school. Every weekday afternoon and on Saturdays, the Clubhouse comes alive, as youths aged 10 to 18 work with adult mentors to explore sophisticated software and computer technology, creating animations, music, robotic devices, science simulations, and Web pages.

Building a Network
Since last summer, the Museum has helped launch satellite versions of the Clubhouse at three inner-city community centers in Boston: the Roxbury Boys and Girls Club, the Patriots' Trail Girl Scout Council, and United South End Settlements (USES). In March, demonstrations of Clubhouse kids' computer expertise brought Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, TV crews, and over 100 Clubhouse families and supporters to USES.

Setting up satellites in Boston is the Museum's first step in supporting a Clubhouse network around the world. In April 1997, the Computer Clubhouse Esslingen (outside Stuttgart, Germany) became the first non-U.S. addition. Other satellites are in the works at The Brooklyn Children's Museum in New York, in a community-based organization in Worcester, Mass., and on a Native American reservation in the Midwest.

Beyond Black Boxes
In addition to expanding geographically, the Clubhouse is creating new programs. One, organized with the Patriots' Trail Girl Scout Council, MIT Media Lab, and Wellesley College, enables inner-city girls to open up the "black box" of science, get their hands on scientific tools, and gain confidence using scientific concepts. Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, "Beyond Black Boxes" lets Clubhouse Girl Scouts build instruments using LEGO, sensors and "Crickets," tiny programmable devices developed at the MIT Media Lab. Then, working with women mentors who serve as role models, the girls use these tools to gather and analyze data.

For example, one group designed a weather balloon with a Cricket "pouch" to explore atmospheric conditions at different altitudes. Two other girls developed an "active goldfish bowl" to track how often a fish swam through a tiny house inside the bowl. "We thought it would be fun," says sixth-grader Jennifer Juste, "but we didn't know if it would work." Project partner Woodline Maginn adds, "At first, it was hard to program, but it's easy now because we worked on it a lot."

From Clubhouse to College and Career
Another initiative, "Clubhouse-to-College/Clubhouse-to-Career," launched with the support of the NYNEX Foundation and American Express, helps kids leverage their Clubhouse experience and skills, exposing them to professional and academic opportunities that might not otherwise be available. Field trips take Clubhouse members to colleges and companies such as Lotus and BankBoston for an inside look at professionals using technology in real situations. At the Clubhouse, they learn how to create a resume, interview, plan and set goals, while applying for internships in various fields.

"We treat youth more like colleagues," says Mitchel Resnick, Clubhouse advisor and co-founder, and associate professor at MIT's Media Lab. "We give them genuine feedback and push them to consider new possibilities."

Some young people have already found jobs based on their Clubhouse experience and skills. One Clubhouse "alum," a senior at Morehouse College in Atlanta, is doing a fellowship at the MIT Media Lab this summer. He hopes to set up a Clubhouse for low-income kids when he returns to Atlanta in the fall.

When high school senior Steve Osamwenkhae came to the Clubhouse two years ago, he says, "I didn't know anything about computers." Recently, he applied for a graphics internship at a top-notch Cambridge, Mass., PR firm. "They seemed to really like my portfolio. I hope I get it, but even if I don't, it gives me something to shoot for." This summer, Clubhouse members were invited by the PBS program P.O.V. to submit art to its website for a show on street violence and its impact on kids' lives. Steve's work was selected and featured on P.O.V. Interactive in June.

(continued on p.5)
**Book Honors Wizards and Their Wonders**

This fall, the Museum and the Association for Computing (ACM) will co-publish the Ninth ACM Book of the Year, *Computing, a new book by Christopher Morgan. It features color portrayals by former wizard and artist Robert Fisk, and biographical sketches of 200 odd innovators representing America’s central role in computing.

While unabashedly American in slant, the book does not passify the considerable con- tributions of international innovators such as Charles Babbage and Alan Turing. We hope in the future to create a companion tribute to the many international computer innovators. The Museum began by identifying winners of the National Medal of Technology and subsequent National Medal of Science groups to dominate names. The list grew to include in- ventors to include entrepreneurs, policy-makers, commissaries, venture capitalists and bankers.

Like no other industry, computing depends nearly as much on entrepreneurs and policy-makers as it does on inventors. The constant updating of software and hard- ware requires teams of people from many disciplines to work together in a spirit of cooperation. These wizards are the backbone of the computer industry. The natural result is a complex web of alliances and partnerships. The authors include former College President and University of California President on the book: "Wizards: From "Wizards" to "Wizards: From The Nineteen Fifty Years of Computing," a celebration of the ACM’s 50th anniversary. The book is being published in conjunction with the Museum’s exhibits: Wizards and Their Wonders, scheduled to open on October 5 at the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., and at the Museum in November.

By Christopher Morgan, Morgan is president of Christopher Morgan Communications, a consultant to the ACM, and a TCM editor.
Education

Education Program Center Addresses Teacher Needs

Through a major contribution from Digital Equipment Corporation, a brand-new Education Program Center (EPC) has been established to further the Museum’s mission to educate all ages about computer technology.

The EPC addresses two issues of national concern: educational reform and gender equity. Large equipment donations to schools as well as initiatives such as Net-Day (a nationwide grassroots effort by states to bring the Internet to schools) increasingly challenge teachers to integrate technology into their curricula. The EPC will teach educators new technologies to take back to their classrooms.

Gender-equity workshops will help educators engage girls in technology at an early age. The EPC will also challenge teachers to re-examine gender stereotypes to ensure that computing is no longer viewed by children as a male-centric pursuit.

Digital Equipment Corporation, in its continuing partnership with the Museum, has awarded $5,000 in cash and a $79,000 equipment grant to the EPC. Jane Hamel, corporate contributions manager at Digital, says, “As a technology leader, we believe teachers must have the expertise to help students prepare for the technological challenges of the 21st century. We are pleased to work with the Museum to ensure this happens.”

Other contributors to the 1,200-square-foot facility include the New England Hi-Tech Charity Foundation, the Boston Computer Foundation, and The Children’s Museum.

The official opening of the Education Program Center is scheduled for September 18, 1997.

New Flight Simulator Mimics the Thrills of a Stunt Pilot

Museum visitors can now pilot a stunt aircraft over photo-realistic terrain by using a state-of-the-art flight simulator. The award-winning simulator, custom-designed for the Museum by Looking Glass Technologies, offers a demo of flight fundamentals plus the opportunity to fly solo. Using a joystick and keyboard, visitors learn how a plane moves and how to control it, executing simple aerobatic maneuvers such as tailslides, barrel rolls, and flips, as well as landing without crashing.

The keyboard controls the view (from inside or outside the aircraft) and the throttle, brakes, rudders, ailerons and elevators. The joystick lifts and lowers the aircraft and executes rolls. Dials on the cockpit’s console show the changing airspeed, altitude and engine rpms. Stunning graphics and 3D photorealism recreate a sensation of flight highly accurate for a personal computer, says Mike Goulian, captain of the U.S. National Aerobatic team. “The exhibit duplicates the actual aerobatic sequences I perform at air shows.”

“Most flight simulators are for fighter planes,” says Alex Nolan, 11, of Dover, Mass. “This one is non-violent, perfect for any kid. It gives you a feeling of how to fly and what to do.”

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M-Free

The Fun’s Inside: Special Missions and Guided Activities
Different themes for self-guided tours provide an amazing and often surprising variety of ways to learn and have fun with computers. The "Let's Take a Trip" mission guides guests to all corners of the Museum's galleries to visit Paris and the Louvre on the Internet, navigate through virtual worlds, explore the inside of the human body, and lead a bicycle expedition across Africa. Choose "Let's Laugh" for exhibits that tickle your funny bone and "Let's Talk" to chat with computers, other guests, and people around the world on the Internet.

The Computer Museum Store
M-Discounts
To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the invention of the microprocessor, Micro-Design Resources and The Computer Museum History Center collaborated to create the "Microprocessor Evolution" poster. Beginning with the Intel 4004 and ending with the IBM P2SC, the poster shows 150 chips, enlarged to four times their actual size. Chips are connected to their upward-compatible descendants; others are connected to chips that share architectural relations. This unique, four-color poster is available from The Computer Museum Store and WebStore.

The Computer Museum Store
Phone: (617) 426-2800 x307
Fax: (617) 426-2943
The Computer Museum WebStore
www.tcm.org/store/
Open 24 hours a day, every day.

Attention MacWorld Registrants!
Wednesday, August 6-Friday, August 8
MacWorld Expo
The Computer Museum offers Internet education and presentations in MacWorld's Net Zone at the Bayside Expo Center in Boston. Staff and volunteers offer 30-minute presentations exploring "What's Hot," "Upgrades & Support: A Tech's View," "Web Marketing and Advertising," and "Personalization & Customization." All presentations are free with admission to the Expo. The Computer Museum booth also features several interactive exhibits and our most popular humor items, books, shirts, and custom buttons from the Museum Store.

Visit (www.tcm.org) for interactive activities, historic timeline and more

MEMBERSHIP

Members get free admission for one year; The Computer Museum NEWS, a newsletter of Museum activities; the Annual report; invitations to exhibit previews and members-only events; advance notice of exhibitions and lectures; and a 10% discount on purchases over $5 in the Museum Store. For more information, call the membership department at (617) 426-2800 x432 or e-mail: members@tcm.org.

Individual Memberships
☐ $35 One-Year
☐ $60 Two-Year
☐ $25 Student or Senior

Family Memberships
☐ $50 One-Year admit 4
☐ $75 One-Year admit 6
☐ $90 Two-Year admit 4
□ Number of Family Members

☐ I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of $_____________
My check, payable to The Computer Museum, is enclosed.

Or charge to my: □ Mastercard □ Visa □ American Express

Card #: ___________________ Expiration Date: _____________
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Join or renew via e-mail: members@tcm.org

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(617) 426-2800
computer_info@tcm.org

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