

OFFICE OF THE U.S. COMMISSIONER GENERAL  
CANADIAN WORLD EXHIBITION, MONTREAL, 1967  
800 VICTORIA SQUARE, SUITE 202C  
MONTREAL 3, P.Q., CANADA, AREA (514) US 1-1776

### SPACE OBSERVATION DECK

Located on the highest platform in the United States Pavilion - some 9 stories from the Main Concourse - the Space Observation Deck offers a dramatic view of the internals of the Pavilion, the surrounding pavilions of Expo '67 and the city of Montreal. To reach the Deck, one ascends via a 125 foot free-span escalator from the American Spirit area - the longest free-span escalator in existence.

Upon reaching the Space Observation Deck, one may observe several space capsules, as well as a giant transparency ring, suspended from the dome frame overhead.

### TRANSPARENCY RING

This transparency ring, which is suspended some 8 feet from the platform and measures 30 feet in diameter, tells the story of America's space achievements in the most direct terms: it depicts the sights, the sounds and the words of the new space technology.

On the outside of the ring is the language of space, a kind of new vocabulary of the space age. The entire periphery is covered by words, words that have become universally familiar only within the last decade: ASTRONAUT, ZERO-G, RETROROCKET, REENTRY, APOGEE, ATLAS, NOSE CONE, MERCURY, PAYLOAD, GANTRY, ORBIT, BLASTOFF, FIREBALL to name a few. These words are multi-colored when lit from behind and may be seen from all over the fair grounds.

On the inside of the ring, a 360° slide show depicts significant activities in the United States space program: the countdown, blast-off, orbital flight, rendezvous, reentry and splashdown. Accompanying the visual presentation are the sounds of the space program -- actual taped conversations between orbiting astronauts and the mission control center on the ground.

### FREEDOM 7 MERCURY CAPSULE

Near the railing of the Space Observation Deck is the suspended capsule which actually took the first American into space. Astronaut Alan B. Shepard was rocketed into space in this capsule on May 5, 1961.

His Mercury spacecraft was launched to an altitude of about 115 miles and reached a top speed of approximately 5,000 miles per hour during a suborbital flight of slightly more than 15 minutes.

### GEMINI VII CAPSULE

Also suspended over the Space Observation Deck is the Gemini VII spacecraft which was launched from the John F. Kennedy Space Centre on December 4, 1965. Astronaut Frank Borman was the Command Pilot and the Pilot was Astronaut James A. Lovell, Jr. The Gemini spacecraft orbited the earth for 14 days and completed 206 revolutions before splashing down in the Atlantic Ocean on December 18.

While Gemini VII was in orbit, a second spacecraft, the Gemini VI-A with Astronauts Walter Schirra and Thomas Stafford at the controls, rendezvoused with it (December 15).