

Dr. Hugh C. MacGuire, director of Atomedic Research Center, Inc., inspects the aluminum structural test section of the first Atomedic circular hospital being erected in Montgomery.

First Atomedic hospital under construction

Remember the "Atomic Hospital"? Dr. Hugh C. MacGuire, chief of staff at Jackson Hospital in Montgomery, Ala., and originator of the idea, described the revolutionary hospital concept at the A.S.T.A. Convention in Chicago in 1960. He brought along a scale model which was displayed there.

Now, after more than five years of planning, the first full-scale model is under construction in Montgomery. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on June 27, attended by Alabama Governor George Wallace, other state and local dignitaries and representatives of 37 national and local industries.

Following the completion of the experimental unit and three to four months of testing, a second model will be air-lifted to the World's

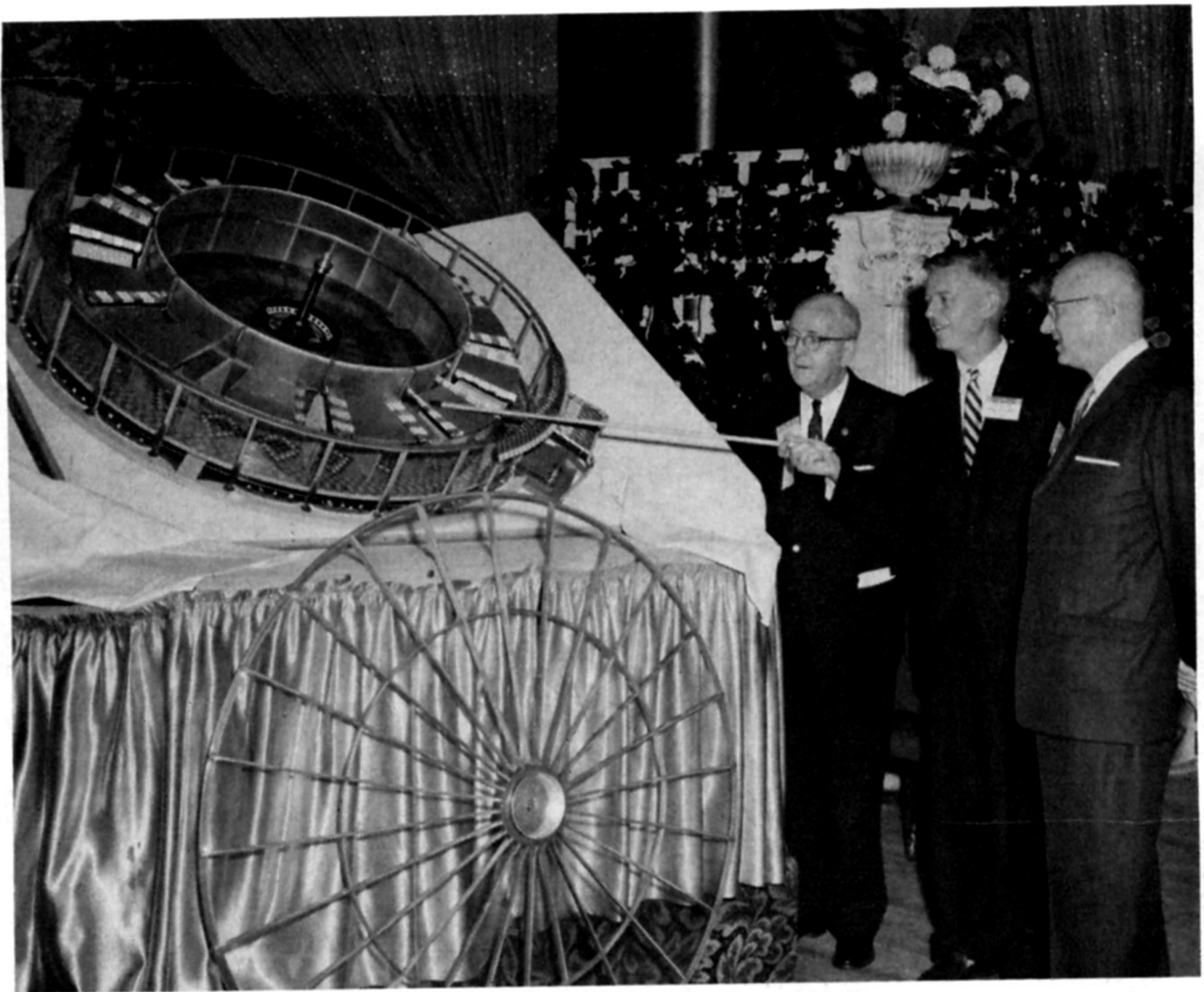
Fair in New York. Dr. MacGuire has predicted that full production of the prefabricated Atomedics units will be realized within a year after final testings.

Atomedic, so called for its application of atomic age principles to medicine, intends the hospital to be a prototype of future models which will provide a cheaper, faster-built hospital, capable of giving better care at less cost to its patients.

To produce and operate this breakthrough in construction and operation, Atomedic will use lightweight materials produced for use in space and the latest ideas in technology and administration. The end product is planned to be a hospital which can be shipped around the world, constructed with-



This recent artist's rendering of the Atomedic Hospital depicts the first all-aluminum circular hospital. Over 30 industries were represented at groundbreaking ceremonies for first experimental unit in Montgomery recently.



At A.S.T.A. Convention in Chicago in 1960, Dr. Hugh C. MacGuire, center, described unique features of Atomedic Hospital to Walter D. Davis, left, then president of Association, and Mel Waltz, president-elect. Dr. MacGuire's presentation was extremely interesting to the dealers and manufacturers who attended, and it was covered at length in the Chicago newspapers and hospital publications.

Atomec hospital will be testing ground for new materials, new products and new treatment concepts

in a few days and be strong enough to withstand hurricanes.

The circular, wholly-automatic structure will be made of feather-weight panels produced by Aluminum Company of America. The panels are "sandwiches" of sheet aluminum, encasing a foamed plastic core possessing almost unbelievable heat and sound deadening qualities.

"Atomec" is expected to supply the answer to an international need for low-cost, local hospitals affording the best in medical diagnosis and care at minimum cost. The aluminum panels make the hospital air-transportable, easy to assemble by a few men, and practical for almost any climate or geographical area.

Thirty-three beds will be normal capacity for the 100-foot diameter structure. An exterior corridor, ringing the rooms, keeps visitors moving without hindering the staff or risking contamination of the sterile dispensing, diagnostic, and surgical facilities in the central core area.

A primary aim of Atomec is to free doctors, nurses and patients from endless corridors, obsolete equipment and antiquated buildings. Rooms will have built-in showers, water closets, and lavatories; bedside dressing tables, and service consoles. Each console will house an inter-communication relay section, patient TV monitoring pickup, room phone, storage area, room radio, oxygen and respirator

outlet, I.V. stand arm, and remote control for television.

Conventional methods of checking patient temperature, pulse and respiration will give way to an electronic monitoring system. Signals, picked up by tiny transducers, taped to the patient, will be carried by wires to a unit located in the central core.

Here the data is recorded to be read by the doctor and fed to a computer for permanent records. The monitoring device includes an alarm, which alerts the nurse when the patient is in trouble.

Closed-circuit television maintains constant visual and verbal nurse-to-patient communication. All monitoring consoles are located in the central core. Personnel can see, in one sweeping glance at the consoles, any patient who needs help.

Prepackaged frozen foods will be electronically heated at meal time. The need for a laundry will be eliminated through the use of plastics, paper, and cotton substitutes for bed linens, cubicle curtains, uniforms, gowns and drapes.

The revolutionary construction of Atomec Hospital allows added economy through low maintenance costs. Any necessary repairs can be performed on the detachable units away from the site, without upsetting hospital routine.

Initial construction cost is more than 50 per cent below the investment required for ordinary, modestly equipped hospitals of traditional design.