

A Mars Colony: C096

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Design Criteria

Mars is an opportunity for a fresh start for humanity. In this colony design, vision, values, sociopolitical structure, economic system, and infrastructure, are defined so that the combined elements enable and support a people who seek to live in harmony with the universe. The following criteria provide a framework for making design decisions in such a system.

1. *The necessity of a common purpose or vision.* A new and compelling vision is needed for fundamental change to take place. A future significantly different from the competitive, confrontational, and deadline driven existence that capitalist consumerism requires of many humans can be changed by seeking a purpose that is antithetical to such behaviors. Harmony is our guiding purpose.
2. *The necessity of structures which support stated values.* Values are at the root of choice and decision making. All economic, political, and other structures must be consistent with our core values. As an example, we believe that competition breeds disingenuous behavior and therefore government representatives are chosen by lot. This eliminates the need for individuals to campaign and therefore shade the truth about themselves or others in any way.
3. *The desire for sociopolitical decisions to approach consensus.* While absolute consensus is not feasible as scale increases, systems can be designed to protect the interest and rights of citizens as individuals and as interests groups. The intention is to remove the competition between interest and replace it with mechanisms which are inclined to encourage dialogue rather than debate. Minority issues must be highlighted and specifically considered in iterative passes of the legislative process.
4. *The necessity of a multiple peer valuation system.* Capitalism is single bottom line oriented. Some progress has been made towards addressing (at least in words) environmental and social values along with profit as a value but more can be done. A three-pronged approach is taken to achieve this end. First, extreme conventional wealth generation is mitigated against, and second, valuing each individual for that which they would be valued for is promoted. Third, exercising conservatism with respect to all resources and systems, particularly those we do not understand, insulates us from the negative effects of progress as a good in itself.
5. *The desire to share in development and support of the infrastructure.* People care most about that which they invest their energies in. This criterion seeks to allow every individual the widest possible opportunity to contribute to the community through service. Ideally what one might think of as drudgery another considers a pleasure. All

citizens are required to contribute, but the system is biased to accepting that contribution on their terms with respect to both timing and type of activity.

6. *The necessity of privacy in an essentially communal environment.* Spaces to be used in common are preferred over private property ownership. In particular, access to the most desirable spaces should be equally available to everyone. Individuals and families of all sorts require privacy in order to function and this must be supported by the design.
7. *The necessity to abhor violence.* Violence begets violence. Conflict resolution methodologies other than violence must be employed to settle disputes between individuals, the state and individuals, within the state, and between the state and outside aggressors when possible.
8. *The necessity to consider future generations.* No one can know what kinds of challenges, threats, opportunities, or wonders may be encountered, but as each is faced, our actions must consider as best we can the impact on the seventh generation of our own kind and all others.

Overview

Mars Colony 096 is both an experiment and an evolutionary phase change for humanity. While others have lived far from earth for many years and some have been born alien to our solar mother, we are the first to purposefully redefine the reason for our being and to choose and design an existence which leads us to our common purpose. We are unfettered from earthly demands, by our charter, by our distance and most importantly, by our choice. We choose to live free of need by giving and free of fear by loving and with these human energy sinks removed, we dedicate ourselves to the generation of harmony throughout the universe. It is an experiment because our test may fail, leaving earth and its colonies as the remaining example for human survival. It is an evolutionary phase change because having embarked on our quest we can never return. Should we survive and even thrive as we expect to, every single encounter, within our colony and without, will support and be guided by an abundant view of an infinite universe.

We harbor no condescension for our forbears, but thank and honor them for enabling the potential we now hold. It is their advanced technology which allows this land of plenty. Micro robots operating at a molecular level construct our foods, tools, and buildings. They generate clean air and water and provide a zero waste environment. Our communications systems make physical presence essentially indistinguishable from virtual presence. We have harnessed the power of medicine, evolved to include both ancient and modern technologies to focus on healthful living enabling life spans of 150 years.

We learned from earth that governance systems constructed on power inevitably fail because there is always another greater power. So, we have chosen to base our governance on self and abhor all forms of violence and its use to exert influence. We believe in democracy and have chosen to combine elements from earth's governments which support our Code of Ethics. Our representatives are chosen by lottery and their purpose is to help the community understand our opportunities for using our local, human and extra-colonial resources. The community decides directly which projects will be done. Because every member of the colony contributes time to these efforts, we are continually working on those things which bring us both pleasure and nearer to our common vision.

We recognize that excellence can be achieved both through competitiveness and desire to serve. We have chosen service as our driver and therefore all of our needs and wants are met through our giving to the community. We do not have physical money but trade value for value in anything that our community has chosen not to provide equally to all. In this way, individuals may engage in any activity that does not infringe on the rights or common access to resources of others for their on profit or pleasure. Most of our time is our own, as provisioning our community is done easily once accumulation is eliminated,

and a diverse array of services and goods are provided and bartered for. No one may accumulate more than 10 times the credits given to every member of the community for their basic service. That value simply disappears from accounts, as it now becomes part of the communal larder.

We expect to encounter many problems, both within our own colony and with the rest of the universe as we follow through on our commitment to engage and explore. We will use our wits and be guided by our belief that peace, love, and harmony are not just the gottenmantra of decade more than one hundred years past, but universal truths which could be seen then and lived now.

Global Code of Ethics

Love. Citizens of the colony show affection, respect, and understanding for one another.

Truthfulness. All citizens will maintain a high level of integrity. All statements and actions must conform to facts; reality and the standards set by the government.

Fairness. Free from bias; justice for all citizens on the colony; equality

Freedom. Political independence as long as the actions does not violate the global order.

Tolerance. Respect for the dignity and rights of others as long as they do not, in turn, impinge on others' dignities and rights.¹

Responsibility. Taking care both of oneself and of others, and having a concern for community interests.²

Respect. Proper courtesy for citizens; maintain conduct in compliance with the colony's expectations.

Loyalty. All citizens must be faithful to the colony's objective.

¹ Bell, p. 19.

² Bell, p. 19.

The Government

The process of government is designed to offer a balance between direct democracy and a representative system. It is hoped that both the multiple choice ballots and the random appointment of representatives from the entire population will make the electorate more involved in the entire process and discourage an “us versus them” attitude to government. The aim is to create a consensual, rather than adversarial, form of government within practical limits. Both the electorate and the single legislative body, the Senate, must agree on a bill for it to become law. Other features of the system are an extensive committee structure and a President whose role is mostly ceremonial.

Structure

The Senate consists of 100 persons each serving for a term of four years. Every year 25 are replaced by new representatives chosen randomly from the population.

Appointments occur a couple of months before the end of the year, giving new Senators time for training and job shadowing prior to beginning their year of office.

The colony has a President as head of state although he/she holds no direct power, acting as a ceremonial figurehead and the public face of the community. The President is drawn from the general public and anyone can put themselves forward for the position. However, candidates must have an extremely high level of public service and commitment to the community. Those candidates that meet the highest standards are entered into a pool from which the new President is randomly chosen. Terms of office are four years, beginning half-way through the Senate’s four year term.

“...the modern liberal state must have an overreaching sense of purpose that is more than the sum of individual interests of specific groups.”

Allan, p. 106.

The Committees

There are many government committees and every representative is expected to serve on at least one. Some of these are permanent committees, each overseeing the functions of an individual department, and many are temporary and devoted to researching a single bill. It is expected that Senators serve on committees relevant to their experiences.

The committees have responsibility for allocating public resources. This system is meant to guarantee that resources are fairly dispersed and used so that they are faithful to the agreed-upon goals of the community. There are eleven standing committees that are

understood to be necessary to survival, culture, and the standards of life desired in the colony. At this time these eleven committees are meant to be permanent, but it is the nature of the committee system that it be easily changed. Temporary committees may be formed specifically around the introduction of a bill, policy implementation or other community projects as they occur outside of the realm of the original eleven committees.

Senate members voluntarily sign up for the committees of their choice upon allotment and as vacancies occur (when a senatorial term is up every four years so is committee service). It is likely that one senator will serve on at least two committees. One would feel inclined to choose a committee in which they have competency, interest and some degree of expertise or training.

“A basic question that any society should confront is how to govern for the benefit of all its members.”

Los Horcones, p. 42.

Arts: Sponsors art, theatre, music, creative expression.

Community: Childcare, elder care, community activities, spiritual support.

Education: Sets basic curriculum, allocates funds.

Emergency: Manages natural disasters, civil unrest, medical emergencies.

Health: Reproductive issues, hospitals, disease control, preventative care.

Holism: Systems-oriented, long-term view of the whole colony.

Judicial: Mediation, arbitration, rehabilitation, peace corps.

Structures: Buildings, structures, construction and maintenance.

Technology: Explores new technologies.

Transportation: Planning, consulting, regulation of public transportation and infrastructure.

Utilities: Energy, water, food, air, shelter.

Feedback Structure

An egalitarian method of monitoring daily operations of the colony is enabled by the technology available in 2080. In order to make information available to the public and to keep up with public opinion, an automated feedback structure will be devoted to preventing social problems. A computerized system will allow people to submit scores

reflecting satisfaction or dissatisfaction with ideas, projects or circumstances in the colony. The system does not intend to privilege empirically gathered information to the human element of public opinion; instead it is intended to account for easily measured and easily obtained expressions of social concern. Each committee monitors daily activity in areas relevant to their field. The Holism committee is constantly interpreting the data in order to ascertain that the community is consistent with the values and goals of direct democracy.

Crisis Decision Making

The decision making process (as indicated in Passage of a Bill, below) can be a lengthy and iterative process which, while oriented towards gaining a wide consensus on an issue, is not suitable for occasions when speedy decisions are required. In times of crisis any member of the Senate can propose that the Cabinet should gain control over decisions related to the crisis. 75% of the Senators must approve the temporary measure. While the Cabinet has control any member of the Senate may propose the crisis over and that normal processes should resume, again with 75% approval. No decision taken by the Cabinet should be permanent; they may be overturned by a bill issued in normal manner.

Passage of a Bill

See chart on the next page. All votes are in a multichoice format, i.e. giving the voter more options than merely approving or vetoing a proposal.³ This is intended to elicit more thoughtful, subtle and considered responses. As well as straight-out Yes and No there are options such as “No, I disagree with this formulation but do not disagree with the principle.”

Whenever a stage involves a vote there are usually three potential outcomes: *Y* (Yes) or *N1* / *N2* (No). The first time a bill fails a vote at a particular stage the *N1* path should be followed. If the same bill fails at the same point next time around *N2* is followed, i.e., the bill has been rejected and must begin the process from scratch (if at all). The only exception is the Peoples’ multiple choice vote in which the Yes option has two possibilities: *Ya* or *Yb*. The first is if more than 50% of the population vote for the simple “Yes, I support this proposal” option. The second is if more than 50% vote Yes, but the amount choosing the “Yes, I support this

“The concept of citizenship began to take place as individuals and their associations organized to contest and balance the authority of the state, of the nobility and the clergy.”

Cassiani, p. 215.

³ Barber, p. 286.

proposal” option is less than 50% of the population. i.e., the rest of the Yes votes are for “Yes, but...” options indicating further amendment to the bill is necessary to meet approval.

A bill may be initiated either by a government department (headed by a committee) or by a non-governmental entity – a person, company or organisation. Anyone outside the government may propose a bill which is added to an electronic list of currently proposed bills. Anyone may add their digital signature to support a bill and when/if a certain percentage of the population have signed it moves to the next stage. There is a time limit after which bills without the required support are retired and must be initiated from scratch. It should be illegal for companies to coerce their employees to support a bill proposed by the company and there should also be restrictions on the advertising of proposed bills (if it is allowed at all).

The Judiciary

The judicial reviews will be in an open forum. Reviews are conducted by panels formed from the Judicial Committee. All citizens are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the judicial review will be to interpret the values of the community, and determine if a value was violated.

Punishments are by non-violent methods. The highest degree of punishment will be returning the individual to earth for adjudication, and will only be levied for violent offenders. The panel in open forum will review all other offenses; the people will determine the dispositions. The panel will determine the method of rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation and Mediation Procedures

The rehabilitation and mediation is designed to resolve conflict and behavioral problems within the colony: citizen to citizen, citizen to public authorities, and among the different organizations of government.

The method of rehabilitation varies depending on circumstances and violation. Rehabilitation consists of education, sensitivity training, etc. Rehabilitation will be used in disputes between citizen to public authorities and organizations of the government. Mediation will be done by a panel of individuals from the judicial committee chosen to arbitrate violations and conflicts between citizen to citizen.

“In human societies rules for interaction are fundamental—it is only a matter of who, what, when, why, where, and how we choose to regulate ourselves.”

Henderson, p. 116.

Judicial Powers

The judicial power of the colony shall be vested in three panels and each panel will allocate rehabilitation with accordance to the global code of ethics and bill rights. The cabinet may ordain and establish legal procedures for the panels to follow. In order to maintain harmony, the cabinet will ensure quality living by providing the essentials for general welfare, freedom and a reasonable expectation of privacy for all citizens.

Bill of Rights

1. Citizens have a right to worship and exercise religious practices of their choice.
2. Citizens have a right to privacy in their living quarters and personal effects.

3. Citizens have a right to be heard by a judicial panel when facing disciplinary actions for or against their well being.
4. Citizens have a right to express their opinion on public and personal matters.
5. Citizens have a right to take part in the political process, including but not limited to the decision making process.
6. The disciplinary process will not subject an accused citizen to any form of physical abuse.
7. The judicial committee has the power to enforce the global code of ethics and values of the colony.
8. The judicial committee exercises the right to extract citizenship and order an accused to return to earth when he or she has exhibits any form of violence.
9. The judicial committee has a right, when necessary to examine individual contributions to ensure fairness and maintain harmony.

Peace Corps

Mission: To provide the citizens with a sense of personal security. To reduce or control violations of the code. To establish a Peace Corps/Citizen communication network through which mutual problems may be discussed and resolved.

The Peace Corps was designed by the judicial committee to maintain interpersonal interactions with the citizens of the colony. At the age of 18 citizens may volunteer for the Peace Corps. Each volunteer will attend a peace control academy, which will focus on methods for preserving peace and harmony. After completing the academy the citizens will be required to work a minimum of 4 hours per quarter. Their duties will be compatible with the Peace Corps mission. The 4 hours will be accessed to their 20-hour work week.

“The most desirable from of political leadership ... no death penalty, no torture, no war, no terrorism, and with military and police forces are converted into unarmed specialists in nonviolent conflict resolution, the deglorification of violence and the appropriate redirection of military resources.”

Paige.

The Economy

Our colony is a land of plenty. For the required 20 hours of colony work per week, one's food, lodging, and all basic amenities are lavishly met. One really doesn't need to work any more if one doesn't want to. If someone does work extra, on colony projects, then that work is credited to their personal account. If one contracts out with an individual, they negotiate the amount of credit for the amount of work and then transfer the credits directly.

There is no physical money in this system. Everything is done electronically. There is also a cut off point in the system. An individual's personal wealth may not be more than 10 times the base unit of 20 credits.

If one wishes to start a business, one can petition the resources committee for starting funds or material. The committee can decide whether this is given in the form of a grant, or if the individual must work extra for this, or if the colony will become a silent partner and receive a percentage. If an Earth based company, like Pesico, decides they wish to be in the colony's market, they must find local ownership and control no more than 49% of the stock in that concern.

“Because the accumulation of human capital can replace some forms of exhaustible resources, human development should be seen as a major contribution to sustainability.”

Sagasti, p. 606.

We envision that there is nothing like “retirement” as it is practiced on Earth. As people go through life, their “job” changes but the value does not. The entire system is geared towards finding value in each person and whatever it might be that they can contribute.

Task Allocation

Task allocation is handled by the various committees in the Senate. The committee of structures handles the physical buildings of the colony. We envision that there is a continually computer generated pool of available Project Managers which all the committees can draw from. Once the project manager is chosen, the committee sets the parameters of what needs to be accomplished and then steps back into a supervisory position. The project managers then use the same system to pull people for the task. This pool would include specialists they normally work with, people whose skills are just needed for this project, and new comers who are changing positions or trying different things out.

Social Life

Civic participation and leadership are indivisible from other aspects of everyday social life. This system requires that all citizens be prepared to take on leadership responsibilities at various points and in multiple contexts. Citizenship is understood as a responsibility to ensuring the well-being of the whole of society, which in turn guarantees individual comfort and prosperity.

Citizenship

All citizens are expected to work 20 hours weekly toward the subsistence of the colony as a whole. Participation in these activities is considered the most basic civic duty. All people contribute in some way, often on projects coordinated by one or two individuals and always in areas in which they have competence and/or interest.

Another way in which a citizen may be expected to participate is being allotted a position in the government. This would involve committee work, representation of the citizenry or colony, and legislative or other policy-related duties. While all citizens are encouraged to participate in assembly in general, being allotted to a seat in the Senate for a four-year term would exempt one from subsistence-oriented citizenship responsibilities. Thus, the culture of the colony promotes public service and perceives it as vital to the endurance of the community (just as food production, technical maintenance and habitat upkeep ensure survival, so do citizen participation and leadership).

“At its simplest, communitarianism is a movement based on an effort to balance individual rights with community responsibilities”

Allan, p. 105.

Another component of citizen participation in this colony refers to the contribution of expertise and knowledge by the population to processes of governance. In addition to the cultural emphasis on lifelong learning within the colony, high levels of education, literacy and specialized training make the community a rich resource of information. Allotted senators are expected to utilize the wisdom, knowledge, common sense, proficiency and experience of the populace. This component of the design attempts to minimize wasted government resources by tapping easily available resources (people), and to maintain a sense of connectivity and harmony between the processes of the government and the governed.

Leadership

Leadership is important to each of these three modes of citizen participation. Subsistence related civic duties may be perceived as having rotating positions of leadership depending on tasks, number of people involved, length of project, etc. As members of the Senate, citizens could be elected to positions of leadership among the committees or within the cabinet. Positions of leadership are temporary, flexible and conducive to electing dual leaderships. As consultants to policy and legislation, the community as a whole is responsive to leadership. Being asked to contribute to the processes of governance is considered a rewarding opportunity and emphasizes servant leadership and the ideals conveyed by the community values.

“For the majority of people, solutions for poverty alleviation, the security of productive employment and livelihoods and for the restoration of the integrity of the environment are rooted in private or community based initiatives”

Cassiani, p. 221.

Education

We envision that the destructuring of the educational system shall open the pathways which great minds of the past have taken, to new generations.

Education is an extremely personal thing. Since no one must work more than 20 hours per week, educating ones children falls to the parents and then to the community. It is our hope that all children flourish to their potential. That the system encourages the curiosity of youth and this translates into a driving passion to know different things. Once children have been taught the basics, which include survival training for Mars, they are gently guided into experiencing many different things before they have to decide on the direction for their life. We envision that there will be continuous groups throughout the colony forming around subjects of interest, breaking the learning process into collaborative team learning guided either by the group or a specialist. We envision that these groups will have members from many different age groups for some subjects, and roughly the same for other, more required knowledge.

A Day in the Life

To: Jean *** , Suzuki Shipyards, La Grange Point**

From: Xenos *** , Colony 96, Mars**

Beloved Jean:

You remember that I mentioned new allotments were this week for the Government here? Well, this morning I got myself allotted. Before noon, I'd had conversations with three committee chairs. I was placed on the Structures committee since, well, that's part of my field in advanced polymer construction. And I was placed on two others randomly. I had some discussion about passing, since there is a by-law allowing me to do that since I've only been here three weeks. But all three committee chairs didn't see it as a problem at all. I'll be doing a standard job shadow program for the next two months, just until the new session starts. And since they only allot 1/4th of the Senate every year, they're always training new people. I guess I'm now a Senator.

I went to my first committee meeting today at noon. It was at a great little Pub, The White Knight, which is only 10 minutes walk from the flat. I already see I'm going to be going there a lot. You'll love it. This committee was talking about a common area they're designing into a flower garden with a shrubbery maze in the middle. I just basically sat and watched. They'd gotten far enough along to have a meeting with another senator from the "ways and means" committee on funding. They discussed funding, approved a budget with a handshake, and then began to discuss what planets they wanted to get from Earth with two botanists and a landscape designer they'd asked to join them. I gleaned that the landscape designer had already been assigned the project when ever the material arrives from Earth.

After lunch I worked for several hours, jogged my 10 kms., and had a long soak at one of the community hot baths. I didn't mean for it to be so long but I got into a discussion about Mark Twain. A guy was telling me how he'd brought a signed first edition of "Joan of Ark" to 96 as part of the "cultural artifact" clause in our liquidation contract. He's had more conversation about Twain and invited more people over for dinner to talk than he'd ever done on Earth. I got so engrossed I almost didn't make an evening committee meeting. It seems that some committee meetings have set times and some don't. With those, it's a matter of deciding on a time with my fellow senators when a good time is. So I went and met my fellow colleagues in the Structure committee. We held a town meeting and talked about the growing need to expand one of the manufacturing domes. I guess the issue has been in the E-Townhall system for about a month and this was the second discussion. We broke late since there seemed to be lots of disagreement over this. After the meeting, we had a little welcoming party for me. I could hardly believe it.

It's now 3:00 am as I dictate this. It was a long day. But it passed so quickly, easily, in fact. It wasn't like being on Earth. If I'd put in this kinda day there, I'd be exhausted, but I'm just tired. (Maybe it's the gravity!) I learned a lot today and we got stuff done, but it wasn't like everything needed to be done right now and couldn't wait. I felt like it was OK if we hadn't of done as much as we did. That's a very new idea to me.

Well, bye for now. I miss you dearly. Love you.

Xenos

PS: Please Jean. Hurry that one last ship along so you can get out of there.

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