Leonardo da Vinci visits MIT Nuclear Plant during IAP’04

The famous Renaissance Italian engineer and artist Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) visited the MIT Nuclear Reactor facility during IAP2004. Here is a transcript of the exclusive interview granted to our reporter in front of the Greek colonnade of building NW12. Mr. da Vinci wore a black coat and a black hat, and was accompanied by an expensive looking blond lady.

SUSHI NEWS — Mr. da Vinci, this is the first time you visit a nuclear plant – before hearing the explanations given to you by the staff, what did you first think was the function of the building?

DA VINCI — We were riding this sunny morning towards the castle of Cambridge, when suddenly a thick white mist rose from nowhere and surrounded us. The horses neighed in fear and my companions drew their swords – it all became very quiet and we thought we penetrated a magical realm. [At the recollection of these moments, the blond lady, in visible anguish, molds herself onto the shape of Mr. da Vinci.]. Then, I will entirely cover the reactor with mirrors and strew diamond powder all over it, so that it will shine under the sun and the moon. The horses neighed in fear and my companions drew their swords – it all became very quiet and we thought we penetrated a magical realm. [At the recollection of these moments, the blond lady, in visible anguish, molds herself onto the shape of Mr. da Vinci.]. Then, I will entirely cover the reactor with mirrors and strew diamond powder all over it, so that it will shine under the sun and the moon, until the furthest horizons of Pluto, the sparkling shower of earthen rainbows and hyeroglyphs of its masters’ power [Here Mr. da Vinci reveals himself to be a great poet, orbiting while at the zenith of his many talents the very hyperbolistic and metaphoric exaggerations typical of the medieval rhetoric language.]. I will claim land from the municipality and surround it. [Editor’s note: Mr. da Vinci is referring to a creature of the Persian mythology, common during the Middle Ages.]. Some of us thought that they trapped God inside the egg, while others, judging by the white dress of the priests dashing around reminiscent of the Egyptian fashion during the Pharaohs, speculated that the shell might be a repository for the spirits of the sages. And indeed we soon found a confessional, a chamber where ill people put their ears to a funnel, talked to the spirits, listened to their wisdom and came out healed [MIT is conducting medical research on brain tumor treatment through boron neutron capture.]. My innate dubitative spirit [“Caro...”]. Then, I will entirely cover the reactor with mirrors and strew diamond powder all over it, so that it will shine under the sun and the moon, until the furthest horizons of Pluto, the sparkling shower of earthen rainbows and hyeroglyphs of its masters’ power [Here Mr. da Vinci reveals himself to be a great poet, orbiting while at the zenith of his many talents the very hyperbolistic and metaphoric exaggerations typical of the medieval rhetoric language.]. I will claim land from the municipality and surround it. [Editor’s note: Mr. da Vinci is referring to a creature of the Persian mythology, common during the Middle Ages.]. Some of us thought that they trapped God inside the egg, while others, judging by the white dress of the priests dashing around reminiscent of the Egyptian fashion during the Pharaohs, speculated that the shell might be a repository for the spirits of the sages. And indeed we soon found a confessional, a chamber where ill people put their ears to a funnel, talked to the spirits...  

SUSHI NEWS — We hear that the MIT Corporation would hire you as an architect and designer for the construction of the next generation reactor. Could you give us a quick overview of your plans?

DA VINCI — I will never accept this job before consulting my astrologer! [“E la tua mamma...?” whispered the biondina. Mr. da Vinci is blushing.]...

— Mr. da Vinci’s visit was made possible by a generous grant from the Levi-Strauss Foundation, Amazonia. The MIT Astrophysics Laboratory provided the time-traveling machinery, the Neuroscience Department conducted the research into nuclear fission will in future be...  

— Could you please sketch for our readers the plan of the proposed building?

DA VINCI — Here we are running around the core of the reactor...  

— A last question, Mr. da Vinci. Will you be running as a candidate for the presidency of MIT?

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