

Phoenicis

In the year 2160, on the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, the city of Phoenicis (population 50,000) embodies the essence of its namesake, the phoenix. Newly rebuilt following a natural disaster, the city retains elements from the ashes of its former self (e.g, green spaces, social integration), but has reemerged with the advanced technology necessary to create a city well-suited to an environment plagued by natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis. In addition, the city has rebuilt its infrastructure so as to provide its citizens with an environmentally sustainable and affordable quality of life in this tropical climate.

The city is built around a central, circular, community garden. Other facilities in this area include sports stadiums, pavilions for religious and recreational uses, and playgrounds. Residential areas and commercial and civic buildings are spread around the periphery. Houses are arranged in groups of four, with a green common area in the middle.

Roads are not used in Phoenicis. Instead, monorails provide convenient public transportation, emergency access, and other services. The monorail system is powered using mini-nuclear power modules, and is efficient and fast because it uses magnetic levitation. In addition to the monorail, covered walkways and bicycle paths connect houses and other buildings. Piezoelectric flooring along the walkways generates electricity used to power public lighting, and walkway roofs incorporate spray-on photovoltaic material to gather additional energy.

The new utility infrastructure piggybacks on the network provided by the walkway system; transporting energy to and from areas of need or surplus. Houses generate their own energy (see essay) and feed into the city's smart grid through the walkway system as needed. Houses collect their own water (see essay) through rainwater capture, filtration, condensation of moisture, and reuse of grey water.

For the convenience of its citizens, Phoenicis boasts a number of advanced public services:

- Two general hospitals are situated on either side of the city, with specialized clinics located strategically throughout.
- Fire and police departments use a separate monorail system specially adapted to their needs.
- Schools are virtual, not physical, and classes meet during normal school hours through holographic classes.
- Young children participate in programs designed to introduce them to nature.
- Individuals can keep in touch with each other by wearing clothes that communicate. The clothes can also sense when the wearer has health issues and notify the hospital for immediate treatment.
- Robots are used to help keep the city clean and are available for individual use to assist with chores (particularly helpful for the elderly and handicapped).

By incorporating new technology into the fabric of its past, Phoenicis is a city designed to provide its citizens with an environment that is healthy, convenient, energy efficient and sustainable, easily reconstructed and re-interconnected in the event of future environmental catastrophes, and socially and economically viable and enlightened.

471 Words