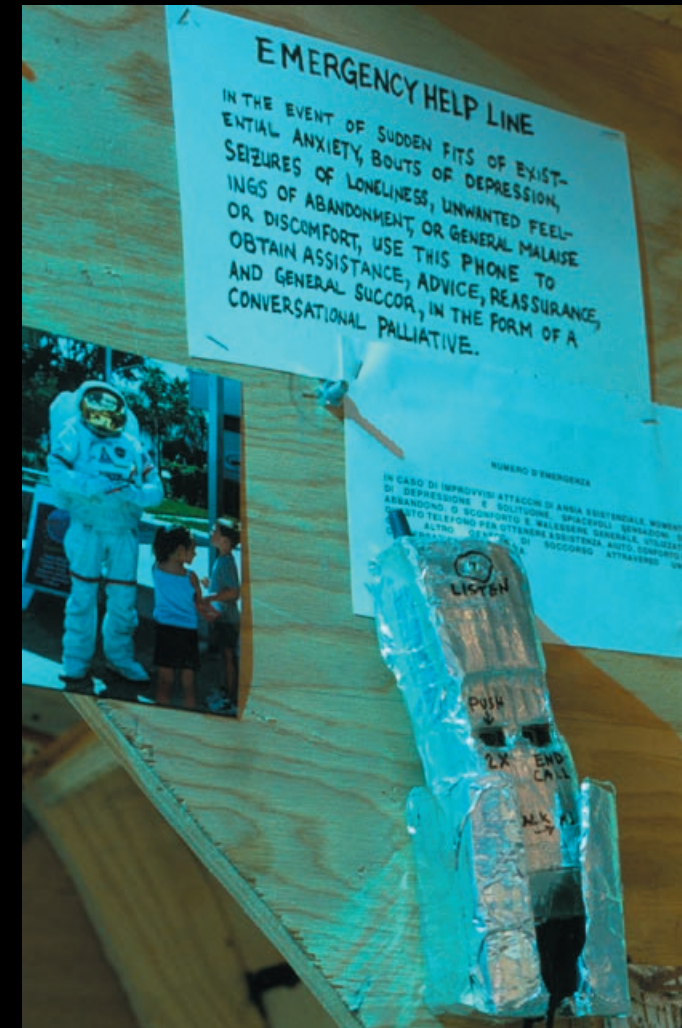
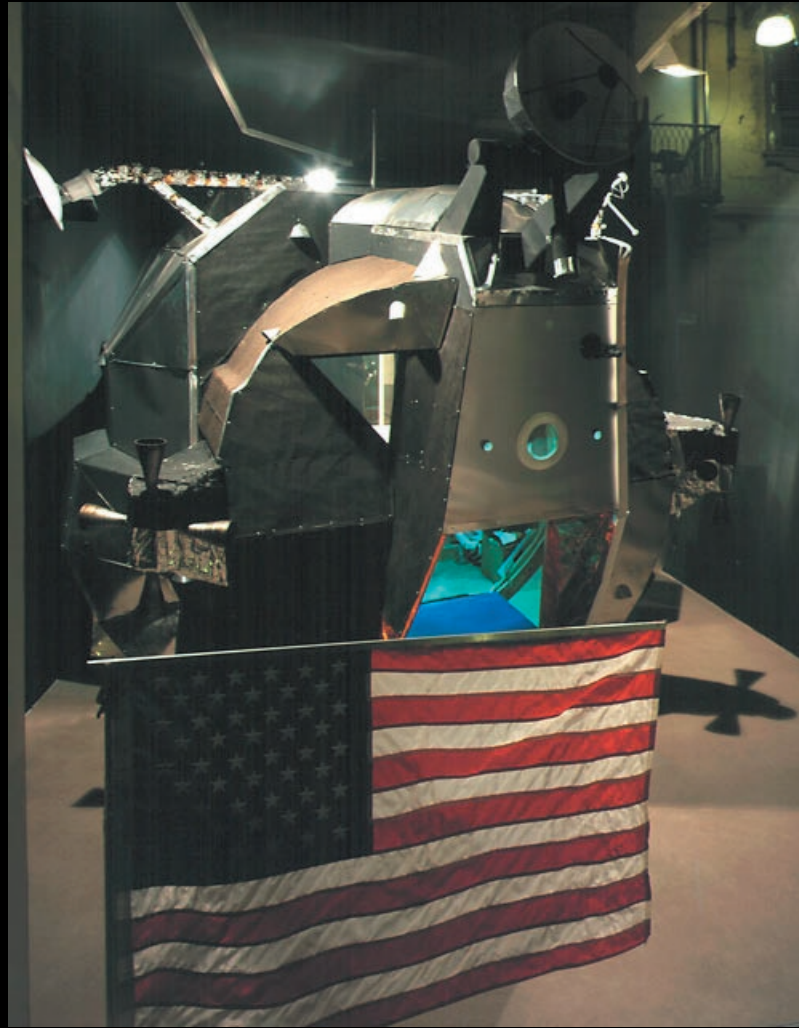
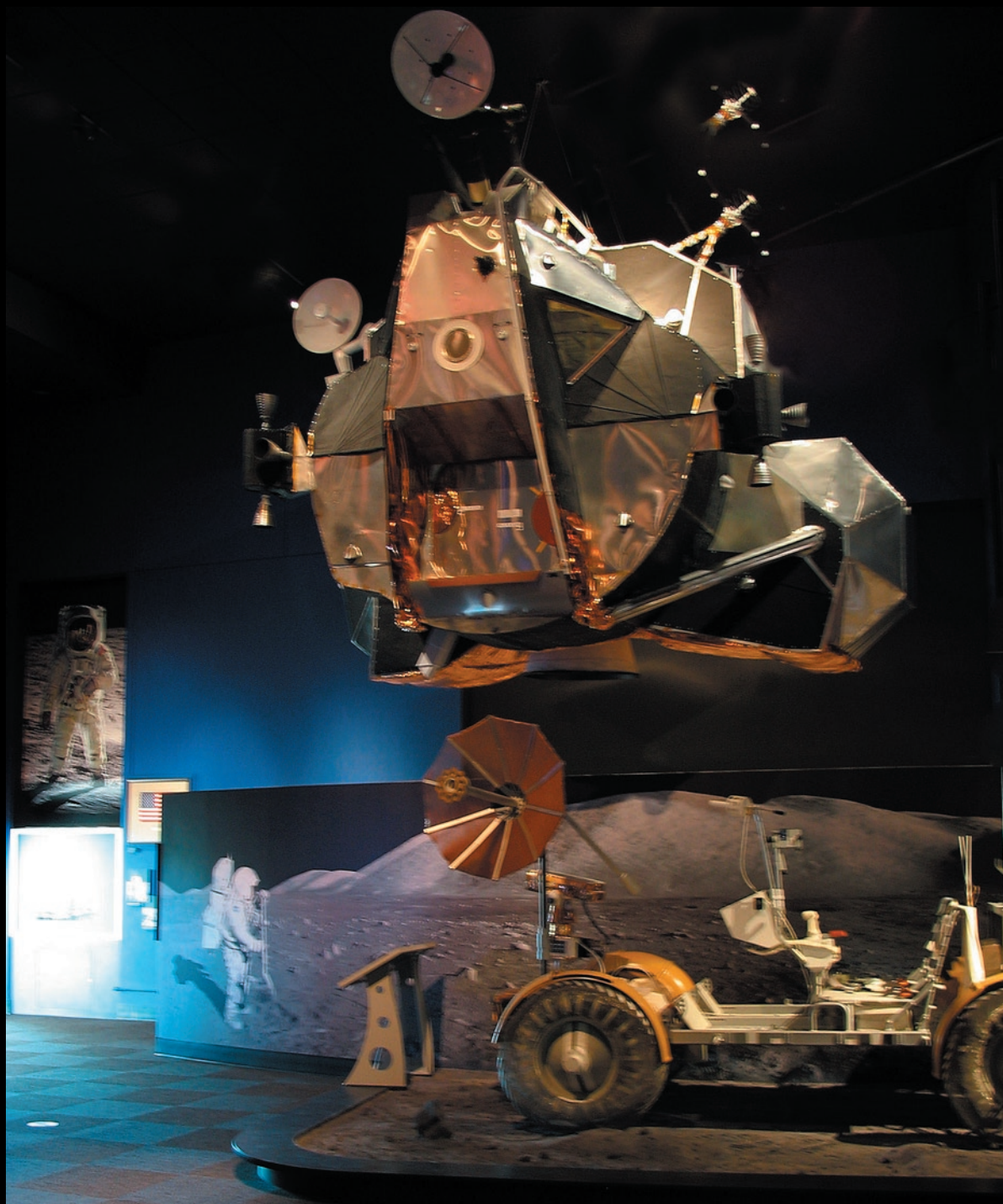


LUNAR EXCURSION MODULE

Beginning in 1999, BPL initiated the recreation of the machine that ferried astronauts to and from the moon's surface during the Apollo Program in the 1960's. The objective was to reproduce a NASA project as closely as possible to the original. The purpose was similar to the original, too, but reduced in scale. Since BPL is not comparable to NASA in the breadth of its budget or the depth of its knowledge, the project was undertaken as a 'crash course' in learning about this subject matter. BPL was forced to learn completely new skills and techniques to accomplish the reconstruction of the LEM. This mimicked NASA's invention of new materials and systems to accomplish the goal of getting to the moon and back. Where NASA invented, say, a new fabric which became Kevlar, BPL learned how to sew. When NASA employed 'chemical milling' to create the components of its spacecraft, BPL learned how to weld. BPL's first LEM is on the island of Sardinia. The second LEM, exhibited at Parker's Box in 2004, is now at The Museum Of Flight, in Seattle, Washington.



Above, from left: First LEM in Turin, Italy, Fall of 2000; Interior, view forward; Detail, emergency communications.



Above, clockwise from upper left: Second LEM during installation at Museum of Flight, Seattle, WA, 2007; Second LEM at Art Omi, Ghent, NY, 2005; BPL founder (right), with Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter and LEM, 2007; Interior, view forward

