

City story to be told in 5 ways

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THE Expo 2010 organizers will explain the "Better City, Better Life" theme in five different ways at the world fair, including video clips about family lifestyles, a bird's-eye view of a degenerating Earth, perspectives of future cities and a film about the Sichuan Province earthquake last year.

The organizers unveiled plans for the Theme Pavilion as they signed contracts with five domestic design companies.

The Theme Pavilion is the core of World Expos, where the host country can provide an explanation of the event's major theme.

The Theme Pavilion for the Shanghai Expo will have exhibitions about the relationships between humans and cities and the planet as a whole, Zhang Keqin, leader of the preparation team, said. The pavilion will include five sub-pavilions dealing with "Urban Dwellers," "Urban Beings," "Urban Planets," "Urban Footprints" and "Urban Dreams."

The Urban Dwellers Pavilion will showcase the living and working conditions of people from different countries and regions.

The Urban Beings Pavilion will have a virtual "traffic hub," where streams of people, cargo, energy, cash and information meet, said the China Academy of Art's Song Jianming.

It will also display a 360-degree movie about humanity and spirit of its cities. Some rescue efforts during the 8.0-magnitude Sichuan earthquake, including how survivors were rescued and people united to overcome the disaster, will be highlighted in the film.

In the Urban Planets Pavilion, visitors will stand on a bridge above a virtual Earth. The Earth will degenerate rapidly, and some solutions will be presented to the challenges facing the planet, said Lutz Engelke, of design company Triad Berlin.

In the Urban Dreams Pavilion, visitors will have the chance to talk to virtual people from the future, said Xue Baoxing, of Beijing Qingshang Architectural Ornamental Engineering Co.

The Urban Footprints Pavilion will review the development of world cities. The Shanghai Museum will take charge of its design.