Many of the images shown from Dr. Schmidt's presentation were curved in appearance since the audience and lecture was on the Cradle of Aviation’s JetBlue Sky Theater Planetarium huge curved screen.

On February 28, 2013 I met astronaut Harrison Schmitt, who sat in the lunar module pilot seat when the mighty Saturn V rocket boosted him and his crew on the last manned-journey to the moon on December 7, 1972.
I attended an IEEE Long Island and Garden City Hotel-sponsored lecture at the Cradle of Aviation Museum (CAM) in Garden City, Long Island, NY. This is an ongoing series of the Cradle’s “Legends of Air & Space lecture series” If any of you live in the tri-state area or are visiting NY in the future, you will want to visit this exceptional museum on Long Island, if for no other reason than to see the fantastic collection of aviation history in this region.

Schmitt gave the audience some really insightful information about this Apollo 17 mission. For example:

- Landmark Tracking made pinpoint landings possible on the lunar surface.
- First fender-bender: Apollo 17 astronaut Eugene Cernan snagged a hammer and ripped the fender on his lunar rover. He patched it with plastic Moon maps and duct tape. Later, he dented the rover’s tires while driving over Moon rocks. Driving the Rover on the lunar surface would cause a reverse rooster-tail of moon dust. The Rover fenders prevented this.
Cernan’s fender-bender—there are no auto body shops on the moon

- The space suit ports were color-coded. Blue was an input such as water, communications or oxygen. Water cooling was essential to being able to work on the lunar surface for eight hours or so. Red ports were outputs for carbon dioxide and such.

Schmitt in his spacesuit (Note the color-coded ports)
The food on these missions was edible, but when they returned to earth, they brought back Moon rocks and salmon salads (Not a favorite among the Lunar crew)

Salmon salad (Image Courtesy of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum)
Mmmmm—makes you want to hurry up collecting those moon rocks, park the Rover and come inside the Lunar Module for dinner!

Schmitt inside Apollo 17
Schmitt outside on the Lunar surface with his rake/sieve that would strain out lunar materials so that only certain sized rocks would be left as samples to bring back to Earth

Here are upcoming lectures in this series at the Cradle of Aviation:

On April 2, astronaut Jerry Ross, who flew on no less than six Space Shuttle missions, many of these to the International Space Station, will lecture.

On May 11, Buzz Aldrin, who flew on Gemini 12 and Apollo 11 and followed Neil Armstrong onto the lunar surface as the second man on the moon will have a book-signing.
Astronaut Harrison Schmitt jokingly comments on Analog engineers. He said that he didn’t see many of us around anymore, to which I replied “We’re still around and more needed than ever”

Here is how Schmitt signed my copy of his book "Return to the Moon":

Analog is very much alive!
You will not be disappointed during your visit to the Cradle of Aviation Museum. The volunteer guides are some of the most interesting people I have ever met. These guides have worked on various Grumman and other Long Island Aircraft and spacecraft programs and have some amazing stories to tell. Some of them can even show you the work they did by pointing the design out on an exhibit or two.

The Cradle of Aviation Museum right near Roosevelt Field---a historic place in itself!
(Courtesy of the CAM)