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## Natural by Design

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# POETRY FOLDER



## *Natural by Design*

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“Gridlife” is motivated by the legend that René Descartes (1596–1650) invented Cartesian coordinates when observing a fly walking on the ceiling while he lay in bed.

The inspiration for “Sunflowers” came from memories of when our children had a sunflower playhouse in the yard (actual sunflowers planted closely together and shaped to form a shelter). They used to enjoy eating snacks while sitting in the house, including sunflower seeds.

“Constructals” came to me one day as I was walking past an empty parking lot in Franklin, Pennsylvania, and observed a multitude of ant mounds among the cracks in the black-top.

One November night I was looking out a window at a full moon and was inspired to write “Skyfruit” by the fact that one of our maple trees appeared to have captured the moon within its bare branches.

–CRAIG STEELE, Edinboro, Pennsylvania, USA

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GRIDLIFE

who invented  
Cartesian coordinates?  
wild flies, of course,  
free spirits roaming rampant  
within our gridded lives

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SUNFLOWERS

sunflowers  
seedy Fibonacci spirals  
awaiting harvest;  
edible yantra  
for the earth

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CONSTRUCTALS

black-topped parking lot  
amid chaotic canyonlands of cracks  
ants raise Bejan domes,  
each dirt crumb placed, just so,  
within precise paraboloids

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SKYFRUIT

full moon snared  
within a maples branches  
perfect fractal network  
of self-similar replication  
holding fruit no tree can bear