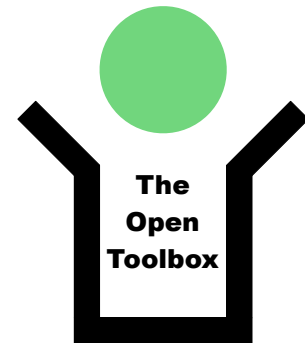


The Open Toolbox - The Hexayurt



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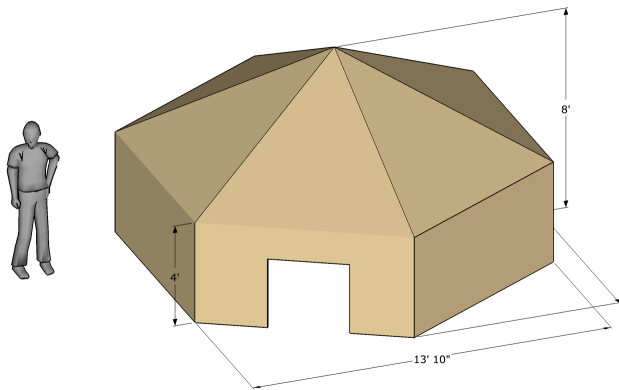
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The Hexayurt is an extremely simple disaster relief shelter which is designed to replace tents or transitional housing in many applications. Hexayurts can be mass produced from a wide range of materials in simple or improvised factories, and even field-fabricated in about an hour with semi-skilled labor.

The key features of the Hexayurt design include using whole 4' x 8' / 1.2 x 2.4 meter panels. Six panels are cut into triangles to form the roof, while six additional panels form walls. The building is often made with strong tape and guyed like a tent, although it can be hinged.

A rugged, shippable folding hexayurt also exists. The entire building concertinas flat and can be unfolded again, ready for use, in 5 minutes. High density shipping of units is possible either by using thin, strong materials, or by shipping compressed materials (honeycombs) which are made into panels and then used to form completed hexayurts on site.

The Hexayurt is a step to **regional shelter self-sufficiency**. Consider Bangladesh. In many years, Bangladesh experiences severe flooding displacing millions. However, there are panel factories in northern Indian industrial cities which could effectively and easily manufacture Hexayurts from their panel output during times of crisis, then return to their regular products afterwards. This also means that shelters can be trucked to disasters rather than being air freighted. This local and responsive manufacturing concept represents a considerable saving of time and money. The Hexayurt can be made from materials which last as long as necessary in the outdoors, depending on



budget and need. A typical disaster relief tent lasts only one year. Many refugees are in the field for 10 to 20 years.

Along side the shelter, we offer a Hexayurt Infrastructure Package which addressed the needs for drinking water, cooking, sanitation and other essential services by using appropriate technology designs drawn from the public domain and suitable for low cost

mass production. The Hexayurt Project approach of providing infrastructure at the household level enables large encampments which can be resettled to individual villages when a refugee resettlement stage becomes possible. The folding Hexayurt design can be provided as transportable transitional housing. This means that refugee families (or disaster victims) can live in the Hexayurts they are provided with, and when the opportunity to return home comes, the shelter can be folded up, transported with them as they travel home, and they can live in it until their original home is restored.

The infrastructure systems travel with them too, providing essential services at their homes. This begins to dissolve the artificial distinction between development aid and disaster relief, uniting effort around the common goal of returning people to economic self-sufficiency.

The shelter and infrastructure that were originally given to support people in disaster or crisis can become part of their road to a better way of life. Please contact us at The Open Toolbox to discuss the Hexayurt and all the new possibilities that this system provides for helping those who need shelter and aid.

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