

The Mad Housers

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Mad Housers, Inc.

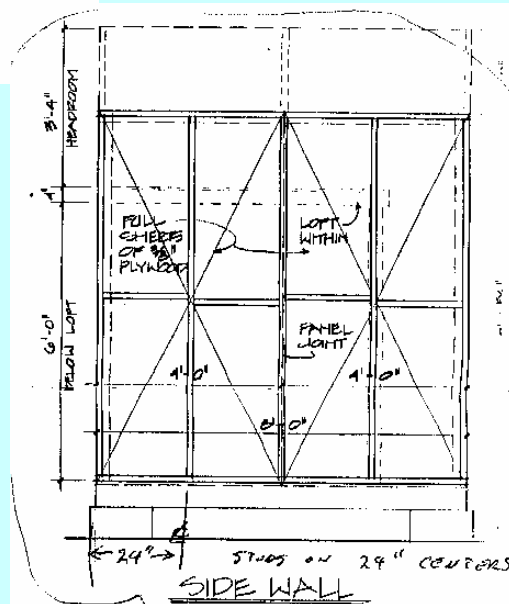
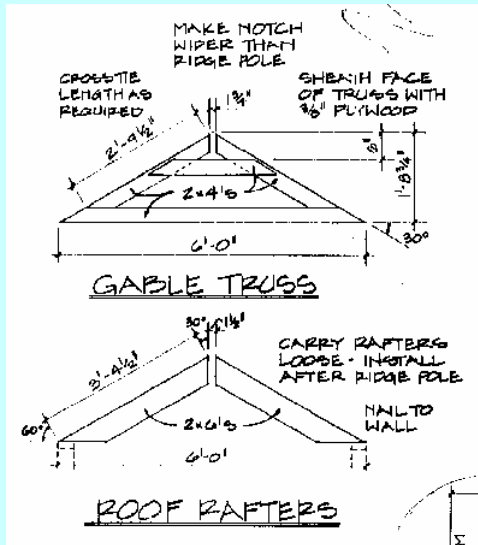
- An Atlanta-based non-profit corporation, the Mad Housers believe that if a person has a secure space from which to operate, they are much more capable of finding the resources to help themselves. Goals and purposes include:
 - To provide shelter for homeless individuals and families regardless of race, creed, national origin, gender, religion, or age.
 - To develop low income housing for people in need of housing.
 - To help people develop the skills and knowledge for constructing and rehabilitating housing and shelter.
 - To act, if necessary as an advocate for the homeless, to ensure that their moral and civil rights are protected.

The Huts

- Standard hut is 6'x8', and 10' at peak of roof
- Wood-framed
- Each has a sleeping loft, locking door, and a wood-burning stove for heat and cooking
- Not designed to be permanent housing – considered “temporary emergency shelter”



The Shelters



- Can be assembled in approx. 50 man hours
 - 1/2 for manufacturing panels
 - 1/2 for transport, assembly, and finishing
- Cost \$400 to build, but given free to client
 - Money donations, material donations, scrap salvage
- Clients often make additions and improvements

The Clients

- Like to find clients capable of maintaining a site and a hut – long term viability
- Questions to ask:
 - How long have you been here?
 - Do other folks know you're here?
 - Is someone in charge?
- Look for in a camp: neatness, camp cohesion, no evidence of drugs
- Often help with both manufacturing and assembly (but not required)

The Site

- Proximity and Privacy
- Hidden doesn't necessarily mean private
- The best indicator that a location is private is if people are already staying there



Variation Huts



- Larger hut for couples or older homeless
 - Uses only fractionally more materials
 - 10'x10' floor, higher roof
- “Low Rider” hut for sites where a normal hut would be too visible
 - Can't heat, insulated instead
 - Separate locking storage space



Improvements and Other Projects

- Energy Efficiency
 - Added insulation
 - Sun porches
- Cogen Car
 - Four cylinder car engine
 - Generates electric power stored in golf cart batteries in the back of the car itself
 - Heat from the engine is used to heat an insulated tank of water
 - One hour of running the engine will generate enough power for 2 to 3 days, and enough hot water for 24 hours.



Other notes



- Currently 30 clients with huts in the metro Atlanta area
- Will ALWAYS remove a hut if asked to by the landowner

Sources

- Madhousers, Inc. website
www.madhousers.org
- “The shelter people.” Atlanta Journal-Constitution. October 16, 2002.
<http://madhousers.org/ajc20021016.htm>