

“Country House for a Pug”

by Doug Cooper

Some time ago architect Doug Cooper fell in love with a pug in a pet store window. He started reading about the history of pugs and studying their sturdy, symmetrical physique. Cooper felt the architectural elements of Georgian style in English country houses lent themselves to the spirit and shape of a pug.

Architecture Unleashed

The Oakland Museum of California Dog Haus Exhibit

BARBARA DENZER

Last spring the Oakland Museum of California, located near Lake Merritt in downtown Oakland, California, joined forces with the Oakland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to stage a doghouse design contest for members of the region’s architectural community. Planned to celebrate the link between people and their “best friends,” the contest’s rules specified that the entrants must address the themes of canine care and safety as well as exhibit original architecture and design.

The result was “DogHaus — Architecture Unleashed,” an exhibit of doghouses commissioned by the museum. A panel of judges — including two architects, the senior editor of *Sunset Magazine*, and the president of the Oakland SPCA — selected 24 of the 48 plans submitted to the contest, and 20 of the selected architects agreed to construct their designs for display at the museum.

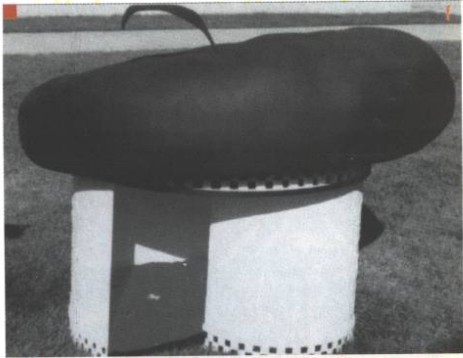
The designs, suited to the character and needs of their proposed canine inhabitants, are visually delightful. Color, line, form, function, texture and whimsy abound in every doghouse. Houses range from the avant-garde style of Ann Stamper’s “Chapeaux Chateau,” a black-and-white beret-like structure with bright red cushions inside — made for a poodle, of course — to the more traditional architecture of Doug Cooper’s “English Country House for a Pug.”

Accompanying the unique doghouses were a series of related educational and entertaining events, designed to introduce people to different styles of architecture while celebrating the link between people and their dogs.

Shirleen Schermerhorn, spokesperson for the museum, said that the organization received “more response and attention for the Dog Haus showing than any other exhibit this year,” including an article in *Forbes* magazine and other media coverage.

The exhibit’s grand finale was a gala auction of the winning doghouses that raised money for the SPCA and the museum. On a warm, breezy Saturday in October, the doghouses were moved for the auction to a grassy area nestled among the terraces, patios, sculpture gardens and ponds of the museum’s delightfully landscaped grounds, providing a perfect setting for the public to view and appreciate the innovative doghouses.

BARBARA DENZER is a freelance author in Southern California who writes for the pet and architecture industry.



"Chapeaux Chateau"
by Anne B. Stamper

One of the exhibit's most colorful entries, this avant-garde structure reflects the French heritage and playful nature of its poodle inhabitant.



"Vernacular Dogitecture" by Trinh Pham

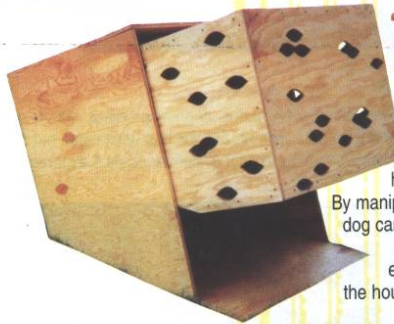
A circular doghouse with a cone-shaped grass roof, Vernacular Dogitecture begs to be described as "organic" architecture. Recycled glass bottles sticking out here and there provide interior light, while rubber flaps over the door keep out wind and rain.



"The Doghouses of Madison County"
by Robert Pennell

Honorable Mention

Designed for the architect's springer spaniel, Willie, this popular entry rests on large springs, which are meant to be partially driven into the ground — when you live in California, you have to be earthquake prepared. The sides of the house feature spans, like a bridge.



"Flop House"
by G. Force

One of the most imaginative entries, Flop House is made of plywood with slanted "eye" holes for ventilation. By manipulating its weight, a dog can "flip" shut the attachment, safely enclosing itself inside the house.



"Untitled" by Michael Quesenbury

This modern redwood doghouse illustrates the diversity of the exhibit. The silver roof is designed to raise and lower for varying weather conditions.



"Zeus Watch" by Norman Barrett

This truly contemporary design is reminiscent of a boat on wheels, or perhaps a whale with open mouth. Bright red, white and blue colors highlight the nautical theme.



"Untitled" by Doug Smith and the Bay Area Young Architects

The ultimate in portable canine shelters, this doghouse comes with its own carrying case. It resembles a thin, rectangular box that telescopes out in both directions, gradually becoming smaller at both ends as it expands.



"Dog Pipe" by David Kesler

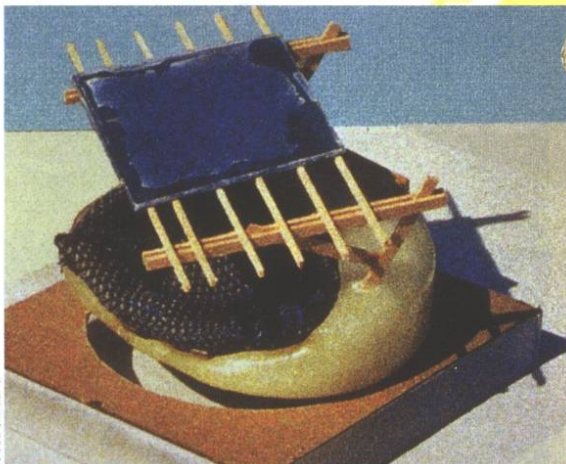
Resembling a large drain pipe, this aptly named creation is made for a large dog who likes to sleep off the ground.

"A House for the Doggie Lama — Shelter for a Tibetan Terrier" by Gary Parsons

Second Place

This basic house was constructed with inside walls of cedar wood, known for its fresh smell, durability in all kinds of weather, and tendency to repel fleas. The house's poles and light weight make it extremely portable.

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"Suntracker" by Daniel Gottlieb and Ting Tseng

Intended as a component of a planned community, this house is a white molded plastic base with a roof of non-functioning solar panels. It also has wheels for easy mobility.



"A Dog House for Tatters" by Aleksander Baharlo and Chris Humann

First Place

Tatters is a mixed breed dog who is often seen in his hometown of Berkeley, California, following the bicycle of his homeless owner, Erik. Architects Baharlo and Humann designed the home to resemble a Gypsy wagon, reflecting the itinerant nature of the dog and his owner, and creating a way for the house to be attached to Erik's bicycle. The purchaser of this house commissioned the architects to build an identical version for Erik.

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Putting On the Dog - House

Every once in awhile architectural circles overlap with dog circles and the result is a fanciful form of art which has been dubbed "barkitecture." Possibly the most famous dog associated with barkitecture is Stella, a yellow Labrador Retriever in Oakland, California. The occupant of not just one architect designed, custom crafted dog house but two canine "state-of-the-art" abodes, Stella is the companion of architectural designer, Barbara K. Westover and her husband Christopher. Westover is one of the 48 architects who participate in the Oakland Museum of California's "Dog Haus: Architecture Unleashed" an exhibit featuring award winning dog houses. The museum joined forces with the Oakland SPCA to present not only the Dog Haus exhibit but a series of related events which culminated with a celebrity auction of the dog houses on October 16th. Nineteen of the 24 dog houses featured in the exhibit were up for auction at a galad event to raise money for the museum and the SPCA.

The exhibit and contest were organized by the museum's Council on Architecture and the SPCA. Suggested by one of the museum's auxiliary members who had seen a dog house exhibit at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York several years ago, the museum did a Blue Ribbon job of announcing, exhibiting and judging the modern day muttopain architecture.

DOG HAUS: ARCHITECTURE UNLEASHED FINALISTS

Aleksander Baharlo & Chris Humann - Oakland, CA

Title: A Dog House for Tatters

Description: Dog House resembling gypsy wagon) on Wheels for Homeless Person's Dog

Dog Designed for: Tatters, mixed breed

Norman Barrett, MCG Architects - San Diego, CA

Title: Zeus Watch

Description: Colorful doghouse on wheels reminiscent of a whale or boat.

Dog Designed for: Zeus

James Bowen, AIA Architect - San Francisco CA

Title: Doggie Duplex

Description: Tall, modern A-frame & Brown Home with Sticks

Dogs Designed for: Great Dane, Dalmation

Dennis Budd AIA, 450 architects, inc. - San Francisco, CA

Title: Sun Spot, Shade Spot

Description: Circular house with Moveable Sides

Dog Designed for:

Doug Cooper Greenbuerg Farrow Architecture - Tustin, CA

Title: English Country House for a Pug

Description: Classic Wood Structure

Dog Designed for:

Daniel Gottlieb and Tin Tseng - Oakland, CA

Title: SunTracker

Description: Modern. very open. Fake Solar Panels on roof, white plastic holds pillow & blanket

Dog Designed for:

Libby Holah & Greg Holah - San Francisco, CA

Title: Barkcelona Pavilion

Description: Angular abode with louvers, pegboard, paneling & buttresses front & back

Dog Designed for:

David J. Holscher, Holscher Architecture - Belevedere, CA

Title: Hildie

Description: Blue canvas tent with wooden floor, white semi-circle windbreakers

Dog Designed For: Hilde

Jarvis Architects - Berkeley, CA

Title: Herman the Komondor

Description: House made of mop heads that looks like a mop.

Dog Designed for: Herman the Komondor

Jarvis Architects - Berkeley, CA

Title: Dog Houses of Madison County

Description: Colorful covered bridge or barn looking structure mounted on 4 springs.

Dog Designed for:

David Kesler

Title: Dog Pipe

Description: Silver tube with v-shaped roof

Dog Designed for:

Davin Leong & Kelton Dissel - San Francisco, CA

Untitled

Description: Modern, wood

Dog Designed for:

Gary Earl Parsons, Architect - Berkeley, CA

Title: A House of Doggie Lama - Shelter for a Tibetan Terrier

Description: Basic square box with A-frame roof & poles for carrying

Dog Designed for: Tibetan Terrier

Tranh Pham - Davis, CA

Title: Vernacular Dogitecture

Description: Circular hut with bottles for windows, grass for roof

Dog Designed for:

Michael Quesenbury - Santa Rosa, CA

Untitled

Description: redwood house with silver roof which raises & lowers

Dog Designed for:

Douglas Smith & The Bay Area Young Architects - Oakland, Ca

Untitled

Description: Square that telescopes open in two directions, comes with carrying case.

Dog Designed for:

Anne B. Stamper

Stamper Whitte\in Works

Laguan Beach, CA

Title: Chapeaux Chateau

Description: Black beret with white circular walls underneath, red cushion inside

Dog Designed For: Poodle

Barbara Westover - Oakland, CA

Title: Stella's Summer House

Description: Blue & white striped tent with flag atop, medieval flavor, whimsical

Dog Designed for: Stella, yellow Labrador Retriever

G Force: Daniel Monti, Brian Negin, Susanna Woo & Whitney Wyatt - West Hollywood, CA

Title: Flophouse

Description: Wooden boxes with "eye" holes, flips to totally enclose dog inside

Dog Designed for:

Terence Young, Gensler - Santa Monica, CA

Untitled

Description:

Dog Designed for: