

Gabion Wall Shelter

This design shelter is a simple construction “pod” that is made up of a metal or photovoltaic roof providing shade, a monolithic rear wall to deflect the prevailing winds, two side walls to define an area, and a masonry floor to create a living space for up to 6 people max (2-4 is optimal).

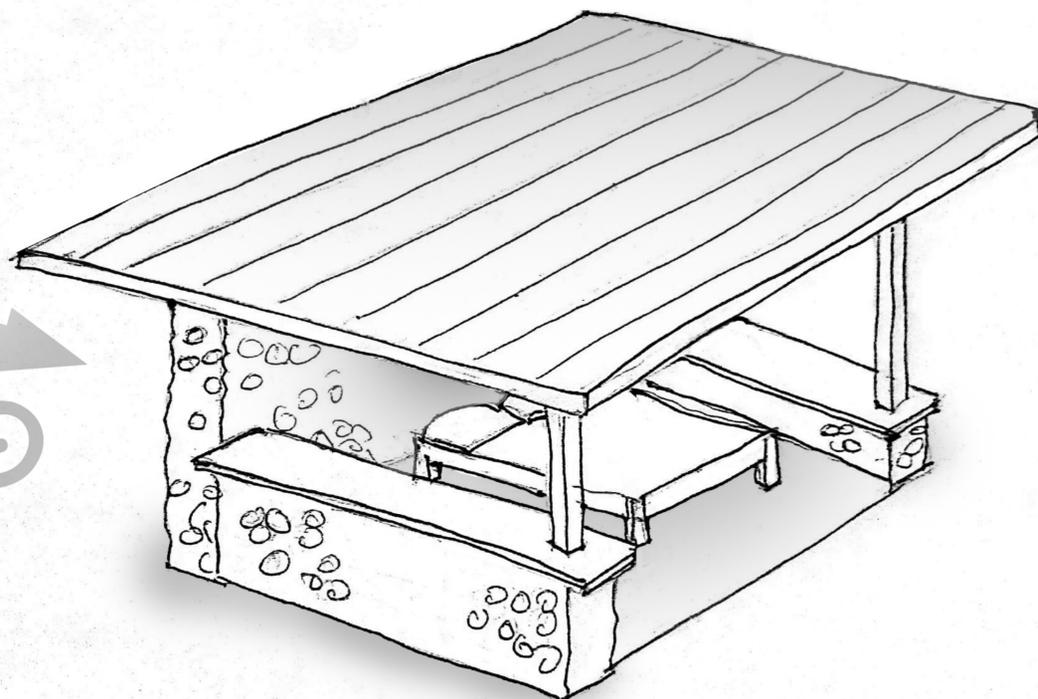
The shelter is a permanent structure that provides the basics of shelter, while still allowing a person to interact with the natural beauty of Fly Ranch.

The pod’s simplicity creates opportunities by its limited design. It puts the visitor in touch with the natural elements and beauty by being outside, yet providing shade, a windbreak, a magnificent outdoor sleep area, a platform to gaze at the stars and imagine ideas with other dreamers, a place to share and give to each other through the self reliance of providing for your own basic needs. A communal kitchen and water supply become part of the tasks that bring people together in a communal effort. A fire pit is the crucial where thinking people dream, discuss and share.

When we are separated into a traditional structure made of isolated spaces we are denied the ability to make a community with other humans and forge the bonds that can change our world.



Prevailing Wind
Shelters are oriented so the prevailing winds hit the back wall of the shelter.



Two basic forms of construction fits into the ethos of Burning Man, now and the future.

- Low to negative carbon footprint
- No maintenance for 60+ years
- Inline with the 10 Principles
- Blends aesthetically into the environment

What is a Gabion Wall? And why use it?

Derived from an old Italian word, *gabbione*, meaning “big cage,” gabions are enclosures that can be filled with any sort of inorganic material: rock, brick, or concrete debris. The cages were originally wicker, but now are usually a welded mesh made of sturdy galvanized, coated, or stainless steel wire that won’t bend when filled with rocks. Israel has a long history of building with gabion walls.

I chose a gabion wall design to take advantage of the existing abundance of rocks that are available on sight on any desert ranch. Using the existing rocks means less transportation of stone or concrete which reduces the carbon footprint while tying the structures to the land aesthetically. Desert ranchers have used gabion columns as fence posts for generations. The lack of mortar also reduces a need for concrete, and galvanized metal lasts in excess of 75 years. The structure can also be put together by crews of non-construction participants and replicated easily.

