The Pod Gallery
A Tour of Several Pod Installations Worldwide

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Folded Homes Pod Technology is protected by US Patent 6,895,722
‘Icosa Village’ and ‘The Pod’ are Trademark Protected
Folded Homes is the exclusive supplier of the Icosa Village family of IcoPods and DecaPods. Pods are constructed by folding identical sheets of long-lasting precision die-cut polypropylene plastic together to form icosahedron-shaped structures (a shape comprised entirely of equilateral triangles). Based on R. Buckminster Fuller’s 1940s groundbreaking paperboard dome, our patented Pods replace Mr. Fuller’s single-walled folded dome to create much more rigid double-walled geodesic structures.

Folded Homes Pods are multi-year, semi-permanent structures.

In active use since 2004, the Mackinaw Mill Creek IcoPod celebrated its’ fifth birthday February 22, 2009.

The IcoPod’s basic design was established by 9/25/2002.

Today, the original pyramidal windows have been replaced with flat-pane windows.

Recessed lighting can still be installed above, and right and left of the door.
The IcoPod™ is our simplest and smallest Pod shelter model. Our exterior-grade, 4-season, semi-permanent, multi-year IcoPods are constructed from 100% waterproof extruded plastic. The IcoPod’s integrated panel design eliminates the need for a separate frame and cover, yet provides passive ventilation and 6”-thick double-walled insulation. Passive ventilation cools the Pod in hot environments. Attractive to look at and inspiring to be in, the IcoPod provides a dignified space with a high level of physical comfort. Its triangular windows can be either clear or opaque, giving the Pod’s interior a wonderfully soft diffused light. (See IcoPod schematics on page 21)
Optionally wheel-chair accessible, the DecaPod™ is our largest Pod offering 472 square feet of full head-room space. Inside the center of a DecaPod is 15’ 4” tall, providing sufficient room for a loft. (See DecaPod schematics on page 23)

DecaPod installed outside the Vancouver Convention Center to announce the 2006 Interior Design and Urban Living Expo going on inside April 13-15 2006.

This DecaPod was custom fitted with 20 Plexiglas windows around the base of the DecaPod, 5 weather-tight vents in the pentagonal peak of the structure, and a custom pentagonal couch.

The darker areas visible in the upper and lower photographs are triangular struts that fit between those pairs of DecaPod triangles planar to each other. The areas where different quantities of plastic layers overlap creates an interesting shadow patterns on the interior surface.
GrowPods

If manufactured entirely from translucent polypropylene plastic ‘window’ material, an IcoPod or DecaPod size structure is transformed into a GrowPod; a futuristic greenhouse.

All Pods begin as precision die-cut sheets of flat, unfolded extruded Plastic panels (middle)

These panels are folded into 3-dimensional parts (bottom left)

The individual parts are fitted together to form assemblies like the basic triangular building block of all Pods (bottom right)
The assemblies are combined together to form sub-assemblies of 2 (left), 3, or 5 triangles, and these sub-assemblies are connected together to form the Pod (right).

This GrowPod was built with clear Plexiglas windows in its walls.

The GrowPod’s translucent walls radiate a warm glow in the dark.
The sun’s rays are comfortably diffused as they pass through the GrowPod’s walls.

Looking through the GrowPod’s Plexiglas windows at night (middle) and during the daytime (bottom).
(upper left) The door portal header.

A Pod vent viewed from the outside (upper right) and from the inside (middle). Note the closing vent flap.

The GrowPod lit up with Christmas lights.
Event Pods

The GoldPod was a prototype interior DecaPod exhibition structure manufactured from corrugated fiberboard laminated with gold foil.

Any Pod can be manufactured with specialized surface materials and/or images imprinted or ‘bus-wrapped’ onto the surface transforming the Pod into a 3D.billboard.
The HoloDome

Configured as a roving exhibition structure with darkened windows and interior walls, the HoloDome contained holographic image displays organized in banks around the interior of the IcoPod. (right) San Diego Museum of Modern Art, (below) Reuben H. Fleet Science Center.

(All images this page by Patty Rangel)
Installations

The Playa Pods

Located on the playa, a prehistoric lakebed in the Nevada desert, communities of IcoPods and DecaPods were an integral part of the temporary Black Rock City constructed each year at the Burning Man Festival in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Inhabitants customized their Pod doors, windows and interiors.

Folded Homes Pods perform extremely well in hot desert environments since passive ventilation travelling up the interiors of the 6-inch thick walls draws hot air out of the structures keeping them comfortable in temperatures well-above 100-degrees Fahrenheit.

- Visit www.foldedhomes.com -

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In warm environments where it is not necessary to pack the Pod walls with insulating material ahead of time, the Pod sub-assemblies like the peak pentagon here are quite light facilitating human-powered assembly.

Pods are attached to the ground using stake plates hidden in the triangular base rings of each structure.
The basic building block of both IcoPods and DecaPods is the triangular doughnut shown stacked six-high below.

A prototype ShadePod uses standard Pod sub-assemblies built atop an aluminum frame with five legs. Full headroom at the peak between each pair of legs means you don’t have to duck while entering.

A DecaPod Base-ring is under construction bottom left in the image above.
Pods are ‘Cathedrals Of Light’
Barcelona Peace Camp

The five-month-long 2004 Forum Barcelona International Exhibition included our largest Pod installation; 12 DecaPods and 20 IcoPods, housing rotating groups of adolescents from developing countries.

We supplied assembly experts that lead a twelve man team of local laborers who, once trained, erected 1 DecaPod or 2 IcoPods per day assembly line fashion.
Over the five-month life of the exhibition, rotating groups of young people arrived at the Peace Camp for two-week-long visits. Twelve young people bunked in each DecaPod, while each IcoPod housed one adult supervisor.
Both DecaPods (left) IcoPods (right) and have full headroom throughout.

Each DecaPod contained six double bunk beds. The young people stored their belongings on top of the double bunks.

Several DecaPods were wheelchair accessible with exterior and interior ramps.
Slots and tabs connect the sub-assemblies of the Pods together. For permanent installations, construction glue is used to increase the rigidity of the interconnections. Finally, 3-inch-wide tape is applied along all seams both to further strengthen the structure and to waterproof the seams. It is essential to apply the tape carefully.

Tall ladders are required to assemble both IcoPods and DecaPods. No power tools are required.
Pakistani Himalayas

In December 2005 following the devastating earthquake there, a medical relief organization deployed 47 IcoPods and 3 DecaPods to serve as personnel housing and clinics in three small villages in the Pakistani Himalayas.

More than a meter of snow fell the first night.

In heavy snow-load conditions it is essential to support the DecaPod roof with a central support pillar.

The Pods were still in use the following winter. Permanent concrete-covered crushed-stone floors were installed. Once assembled, the Pods can be easily moved around. Folded Homes’ family of Yurt shelters is typically more appropriate for humanitarian applications.
Genoa Italy

Volunteers young, old and infirm from an Italian service group assembled their Pods in a Genoa city park.

Pod assembly is straightforward; children love to participate.

The relative sizes of a DecaPod and IcoPod are graphically illustrated in the image below.
A Brooklyn New York tavern owner with his apartment upstairs needed a place to practice drumming. An IcoPod on the roof (with view of the Empire State Building) was the solution. The Pod (under construction here) was fully insulated with sound-dampening insulation (lower right) and mounted on springs (lower left) so as not to transfer the noise through the roof to the flat.

(2006)
Options & Schematics

Longevity Options

- Standard Extruded Plastic: Depending upon UV intensity where it will be set up, standard extruded plastic Pods (without special UV-treatment) will last several years.
- UV-Protected Extruded Plastic: Depending upon UV intensity where it will be set up, UV-protected extruded plastic Pods will last 2-5 years.
- Pods painted to protect their plastic with an opaque sun block will not suffer UV-degradation and will last many years.

Window Options

- Comes standard with translucent flat plastic windows. Clear Lexan windows optionally available.

Doors

- Comes standard with a rigid double-panel fiberboard door.

Fire-Retardant Options

- Pods can be manufactured with plastic containing Fire-retardant additives. Nonetheless all Pods should be considered Class C structures.

Four IcoPods with a DecaPod in the background (Barcelona Spain 2004)

Outside dimensions: 13 feet across, 12 feet high, 108 sq ft space

Constituent Components: 5-sided base, 14 triangular panels, 14 windows, Door portal

Set up time: 1 day with 3 to 4 people

Weight: 294 lbs
Ico Pod Base Ring

Outside dimensions: 26 feet across, 16.5 feet high, 472 sq ft space

Constituent Components: 10-sided base, 39 triangular panels, 39 windows, Door portal

Set up time: 1 day with 8 to 10 people

Weight: 763 lbs
Deca Pod Cut Away

Door Port