

Paper Log House – Shigeru Ban

The Log Paper House appears as an answer to the lack of housing after Kobe's Earthquake in 1995. It is an economic, 16 m² temporary house. Foundation is made of beer boxes filled with sand. For the walls, 108mm diameter, 4mm thick, paper tubes were used. For insulation, a waterproof sponge tape backed with adhesive is sandwiched between the paper tubes of the walls. The roof was made of tent cloth. It is cheap, easily and quickly built, recyclable and transportable.

The Hanshin Great Earthquake in 1995, left more than 6000 death people, mainly in the city of Kobe, the one that was nearest to the epicenter. Around 1.2 million volunteers helped the victims. After 5 months, there still were people living in tents in parks near to their destroyed houses; Shigeru Ban Architects designed the Paper Log House. The first house was built by the firm, for the other 20, many Vietnamese and Japanese volunteers helped.

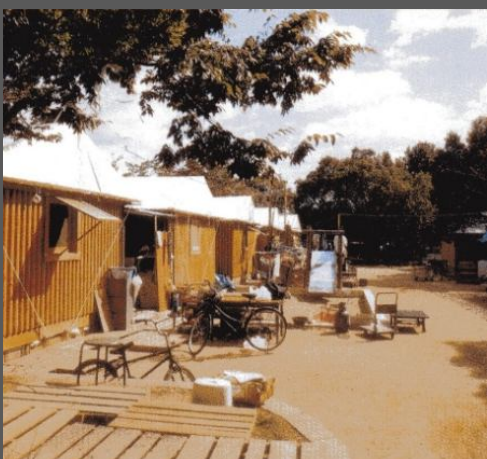
Because the project was meant to be a refuge, and economic option was needed. According to Shigeru Ban Architects' Website, "the cost of materials for one 52 square meter unit is below \$2000".

As materials, they mainly used paper tubes, tent cloth, beer crates, sand bags, wood for the roof's structure and the floor. Most of the materials are reused and can be recycled. The construction it's easy enough for volunteers and users to help; and the project was used in further natural disasters.

The 16m² independent unit, allows a family to live in privacy even in difficult conditions after a natural disaster. The units are separated one from other by a 1.8m space.

The 1.8m space which separates the units, works as a communal space, for the people living there to interact with each other and for kids to play.

After the earthquake, many people stayed near to their houses, because the temporary shelters that the city provided were far from their jobs and their children's schools. The Paper Log House was an alternative that could be built almost anywhere. Because of its characteristics, the project was improved and used in Turkey and India. In Turkey, the unit was slightly bigger because of the wood size in that country and because the average family is bigger than the one in Japan. More insulation was also used because of the climate conditions. In India, the foundation was made with rubble from destroyed buildings because beer crates couldn't be found. The roof was made with bamboo and covered with a woven cane mat and a plastic to protect from rain.



Paper Log House –
Shigeru Ban



Dwellers for Workers –
M.Puigdemasa Hospital



House for the Elderly –
Peter Zumthor



Residence Foyer –
F. Marzelle, I. Manescau, E. Steeg



Student's Hostel –
Fink + Jocher