

Bubble Dome



Larry's Bubble Dome was a big hit at the Fourth Annual Northern Nevada Alternative Dwelling Expo. After all, it was easy to transport, afforded the tenant excellent exterior views, and required no sewer hookup. Plus set-up typically took only an hour or so, depending on the inflater's stamina and lungs. The Dome did, however, have one serious flaw: it was prone to catching on fire. Regrettably, it happened again on the second day of the Expo just as the judges were picking winners for the second tier design categories. They'd already awarded prizes for Most Photoautotrophic, Most Number of Closets in the Shape of an Eggplant, Least Egregious Use of Chimney, Best Use of Gills in a Central Air Conditioning System and Most Resourceful Use of Worm Castings in a Foundation, and were marveling at the Bubble Dome's use of autochthonous chia pets in its landscaping when a spark from a campfire nearly a mile away alighted upon and set fire to the domed domicile. Flames leapt furiously from the roof as passers-by politely ignored the conflagration. Frantically, Larry scooped a handful of water from the fermentation tank of the nearby Hominid Hut (winner of the Smallest House in the Shape of an Orangutan) and flung it onto *il poco fuoco*. At once the flames vitrified, fusing to the dome's exoskeleton. Although the perfect circularity of the Dome was ruined, the judges, after briefly conferring, bestowed upon Larry's creation the "House that Most Closely Resembled a Varicella Zoster Virus" Award. Well, things could have been worse, you know.