Visit the Mad Housers homeless shelter!

About the Mad Housers
A group of Tech students started the Mad Housers

The Mad Housers

Mad Housers, Inc. is a non-profit corporation based in Atlanta, Georgia and engaged in charitable work, research and education. The Mad Housers are perhaps best known for a hands-on, pragmatic approach to providing shelter to homeless people, in particular through the design, construction and provision of small (6'x8'x10') frame-and-plywood huts.
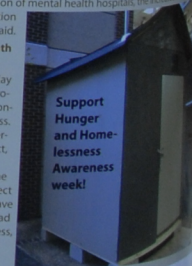
The History
The Mad Housers first emerged in 1987, founded by graduate students Michael Connor and Brian Finkel, of Georgia Tech's College of Architecture to address the problem of homelessness in Atlanta. Their first structures were based on their vision of improving upon other types of marginal shelter being erected for the homeless. Both Connor and Finkel investigated the causes for homelessness, citing multiple socioeconomic trends, such as the deinstitutionalization of mental health hospitals, the increase in housing, and the reduction of federal housing aid.

The Hut underneath Skiles
The shelter on display here was built by Professor Crawford's Honors English 1102 class. As part of a semester-long research project, the creation of this hut, along with all the materials inside, reflect what we as a class have learned about the Mad Housers, homelessness, and our own idea of home.
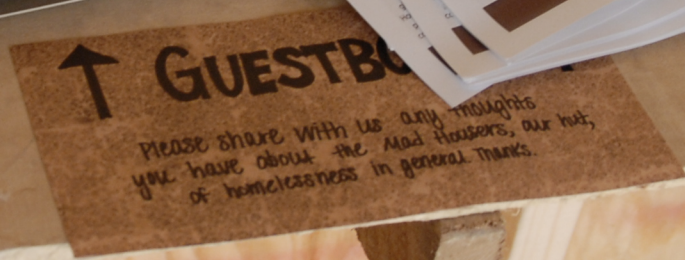
Support Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week!

Skiles Classroom Building

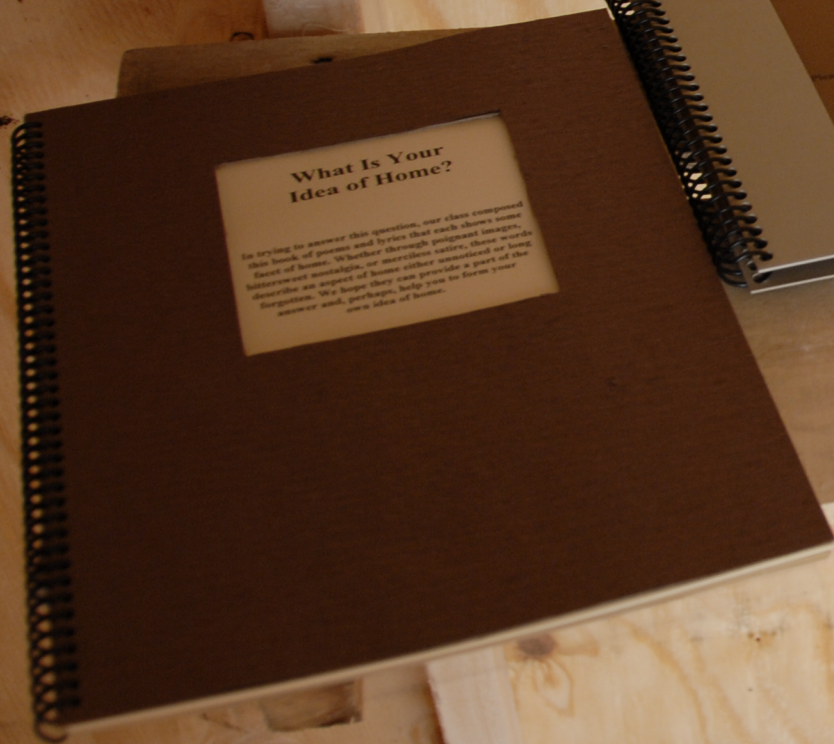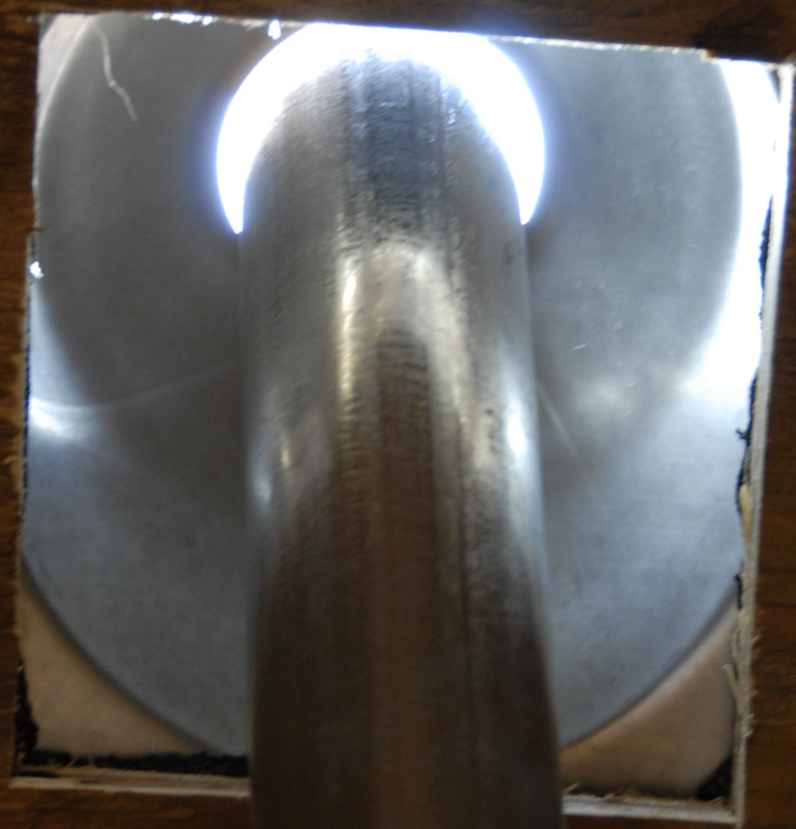Literature Communication and Culture
Mathematics

686 Cherry Street
EAST CAMPUS

Come in and Explore!

DOORS OF HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESS AND HUNGER AWARENESS WEEK

Musical artists
who have
experienced
homelessness

Mediating Homelessness Through Art

What Is Your
Idea of Home?

In trying to answer this question, our class composed this book of poems and lyrics that each shows some facet of home. Whether through poignant images, bittersweet nostalgia, or merciless satire, these words describe an aspect of home either unnoticed or long forgotten. We hope they can provide a part of the answer and, perhaps, help you to form your own idea of home.

Guestbook

Please share with us any thoughts you have about the Mad Housers, our hut, or homelessness in general. Thank you.

The Mad Housers

Mad Housers, Inc. is a non-profit corporation based in Atlanta, Georgia and engaged in charitable work, research and education. Known for providing shelter to homeless people, in particular through providing construction and provision of small 6x8x12 huts and provided huts.

↑ Guestbook

Please share with us any thoughts you have about the Mad Housers, our hut, of homelessness in general. Thanks.

HUT
BUILD

"I think it's really important to bring up the subject of homelessness and poverty in music because a lot of people don't know how hard it is. And people just – they think badly of poor people and of homeless people and just the truth needs to get out there that it happens to a lotta people and it could happen to anyone."

-Natalie Cooper

Mediating Homelessness Through Music

Musical artists who have experienced homelessness

Cappadonna
Lena Cardwell
Todd Chaisson
Kelly Clarkson
Kurt Cobain
Frenchie Davis
D-Vine
Tiffany Evans
Richard Fagan
Ella Fitzgerald
Blaze Foley
Leslie Frederick
Mary Gauthier
Charles Gayle
Woody Guthrie
Janet Harvick
Fiona Horne
Tom Jackson
Vinnie James
Jewel
Chris Thomas King
Eartha Kitt
KRS-One (Lawrence Parker)
Lil' Kim
Agustin Lira
Adam Makowicz
Sam McClain
Jim Morrison
Jaco Pastorius
Debbie Reynolds
Jonathan Richman
Archie Roach
Julia Rose
Tupac Shakur
Patti Smith
Sonique
Skip Spence
Scott Stapp
Howard Tate
Rob Thomas
Lupus Thunder
Shania Twain

The Mission:

In our attempt to better understand homelessness and how it both affects individuals and reflects upon our society as a whole. the participants in this project adopted a variety of approaches. From clicking a mouse to swinging a hammer, a diverse array of focus areas emerged. In exploring the issue of perceptions and mediation of homelessness, music proved to be a very rich and fascinating medium for examination. Tales of personal experience, songs for change and classic depression era ballads all provide unique insight into how individuals perceive homelessness and society's role in addressing it.

"Sometimes you'll see the Average Joe walking down the street and noticing a homeless guy on the street asking for money or just being cold and sitting there wrapped in a blanket or a newspaper. More times than not, you're going to see that Average Joe walk around him, look away, look down, look up . . . avoid him. It's fear of the unknown. That homeless person, first of all, is a person. That person fell on some hard times. Homelessness doesn't discriminate. It doesn't know if you're black or white, rich or poor, Catholic, Muslim, or Jew. It doesn't know if you're a great novelist or former CEO of a company. Homelessness is the classic case of not judging a book by its cover. And to remind someone not to judge a book by its cover is the greatest contribution I can make."
– Jon Bon Jovi

The Mad House Mix

1. "Land of 10,000 Homeless – Minnesota" – audio documentary set to music
2. "Show Me the Way" – Jon Bon Jovi & Mighty Sam McClain
3. "Baby Don't Let Me Go Homeless" – Keb' Mo' & Eagle Park Slim
4. "There Is No Good Reason" – Natalie Merchant & Friends
5. "Hobo's Lullaby" – Bruce Springsteen & Pete Seeger
6. "So Lonely" – Sonya Kitchell
7. "Becky's Tune" – Michelle Shocked & Michael Sullivan
8. "Walking the Dog" – Bonnie Raitt & Weepin' Willie Robinson
9. "My Name Is Not 'Those People'" (spoken, with music) – Danny Glover
10. "I Think It's Going to Rain Today" – Madeleine Peyroux
11. "Portable Man" – Del Goldfarb & John Sebastian
12. "Boll Weevil" – Dan Zanes & Kyla Middleton
13. "Ink Falling (Father Outside)" – Buffalo Tom
14. "Stranger Blues" – Sweet Honey in the Rock
15. "1,000 Miles Away"* – Jewel
16. "Impossible Boulevard" (spoken excerpt, with music) – Tim Robbins
17. "Feels Like Home" – Mario Frangoulis
18. "When We Left Minneapolis" (spoken, with music) – Danny Glover
19. "Here and Now"* – Mark Erelli
(all tracks above are part of the Give Us Your Poor benefit album. Please visit http://www.giveusyourpoor.org for more information on the Give Us Your Poor project)
20. Big Rock Candy Mountain
21. The Ghost of Old Tom Joad - Bruce Springsteen
22. Fast Car- Tracy Chapman
23. King of the Road- Roger Miller
24. Ryan Bingham - Ever Wonder Why

An Insiders look at Homelessness

Life on the street in words, pictures

A New Kind Of Poverty

The Real Face Of Homeless-

"They Said I'D Get Used to It

HOMELESS AND HUNGER AWARENESS WEEK
Mad Housers Hut Display

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The Mad Housers first emerged in 1987, founded by graduate students, Michael Connor and Brian Finkel, of Georgia Tech's College of Architecture to address the problem of homelessness in Atlanta. Unlike the "sweat equity" required by which some housing programs such as Habitat for Humanity (where inhabitants are required to take part in the construction of their future dwelling), Mad Houser shelters are provided free of any charge or obligation to their inhabitants. The name "Mad Housers" came from the Mad Bomber in New York. The idea was that he struck in secret just like they came in secret and erected huts for the homeless.

Please take a few minutes to immerse yourself in what some formerly-homeless Atlantans now call home. Also take a look at various artifacts that have been installed about homelessness in general.

This house was built by Hugh Crawford's ENGL 1102 (Honor's Program section) class for their project on homelessness.

Come in and Explore!

HOMELESS AND HUNGER
AWARENESS WEEK
Mad Housers Hut Display

DOORS O