

CONTAINER ATLAS

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO
CONTAINER ARCHITECTURE

SLAWIK & BERGMANN, BUCHMEIER, TINNEY (Eds.)



gestalten



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CONTAINER ARCHITECTURE

Containers are modular, affordable, and internationally available. More and more often they are being used to build temporary structures such as pavilions, galleries, and bars as well as sophisticated housing and office spaces. Ten years after the first publication of *Container Atlas*, this eagerly anticipated follow-up charts how this movement has evolved into an essential part of today's architectural vocabulary.

This updated edition of *Container Atlas* presents a wide range of container architecture projects along with an in-depth investigation into the context of this growing field. Introducing the various types of containers in use today, from standard freight containers all the way to modular container frames, the book vividly illustrates how containers can be used to create inspiring spatial structures in both urban and rural settings.

This comprehensive guide documents this extraordinary, contemporary architectural phenomenon and reveals its boundless functional and aesthetic possibilities. *Container Atlas* serves as a practical and inspirational reference not only for architects and engineers, but also for all creatives eager to learn about the rich and diverse language of container architecture and modular building.

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Project

ESCAPE DEN RIVER & RAIN

ARCHITECTS

Project location Dhaka, Bangladesh
Estimated size Residential
Container type Freight container

01



The Escape Den was designed by River & Rain with a challenge to transform the manner, utilitarian sensibility of shipping containers into a more escape from the city. The house is situated on the outskirts of Bangladesh's bustling capital city on a green plot that was kept intentionally simple to celebrate the unexpected form of the building. To the architects, the structure standing in a central open space serves as an illustration of the traditional rural Bangla courtyard. A steel skeleton frames over-lapping shipping containers, which are informed by architectural details such as floating platforms and

interweaving stairs. Locally sourced furniture materials are used throughout, starting with the structural elements of the building's facade. The containers themselves were hand-picked from the depot and the interiors are clad in engineered wood along floors and walls, painted in muted tones, and fitted with minimal yet eclectic furniture. A screen was erected along one side of the deck for vegetation to create a living wall. Views across the roof and ground a buffer from the heat, while in the center of the space, an abundant tree grows along the full height of the three-story external screen,

02



CROSS-SECTION

03



04



CROSS-SECTION

The containers are placed perpendicular within a steel frame structure.
02. 04. Technical sections from the east facade.
05. The ground level was applied to creating the character of the containers. The structure was made from recycled shipping steel.



C, D, E
The terrace was designed
as a semi-enclosed space,
with the intention of creating
a sense of privacy.
F
The house was designed
to be a semi-enclosed space,
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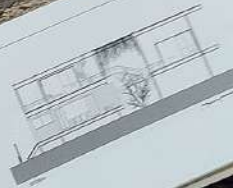
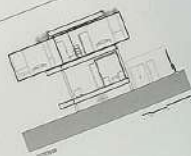
ESCAPE DEN RIVER & RAIN

Project location: Dhaka, Bangladesh
Estimated use: Residential
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The Escape Den was designed to transform the austere, utilitarian surroundings of shipping containers into a very escape from the city. The house is situated on the outskirts of Bangladesh's bustling capital city as a green plot that was kept unimproved. The architects, in the absence of a master plan, decided to create a central space for the residents, a courtyard. The structure is built in a central space, surrounded by a central courtyard. The structure is built in a central space, surrounded by a central courtyard. The structure is built in a central space, surrounded by a central courtyard.

interlocking units. Locally sourced materials are used throughout, including the structural elements of the building's facade. The structure's materials were hand-picked from the dense local market. The structure's materials were hand-picked from the dense local market. The structure's materials were hand-picked from the dense local market.



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