Abstract. KITE/FOLLY is an augmented readymade, or perhaps, an imitation readymade. The proposal consists of a camera crane and tripod (largely as found – but modified for grassy terrain) and tensile members that frame a textile roof. Tie downs complete this column-less assembly. The alchemical result is a roof that may act alone or aggregate, shaping space and providing protection with discreet apparent ease.

Your brief presents an architectural oxymoron: a garden “Folly” (generally costly and non-functional) that would somehow “Function” as a relatively low-cost mobile shelter. We are drawn to musical instruments and sailing vessels – objects that appear dramatically expressionistic but yet are functionally optimized. Kites too are equally enchanting but can be rigorously engineered.

The design provides a roof without restricting open space. It works on any site but also creates a site where none exists. It deploys and stows quickly, with little disturbance of the land.

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Abstract. KITE/FOLLY is an augmented ready-made, or perhaps, an imitation ready-made. The proposal consists of a camera crane and tripod (largely as found – but modified for grassy terrain) and tensile members that frame a textile roof. Tie downs complete this column-less assembly. The alchemical result is a roof that may act alone or as part of a larger assembly. The design provides a roof without restricting open space. It works on any site but also creates a site where none exists. It deploys and stows quickly, with little disturbance of the land.

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Structural/Spatial Concept and Material. We propose a little tent without columns. It is constructed primarily of pre-existing parts that exaggerates the structural role tension has always played in this type of shelter. The fabric roof resembles a large leaf. Like any engineered cantilever it appears dynamic but is securely held in place.

Robbin Evans had this to say about the visual effect of the columns in Mies van der Rohe’s Barcelona Pavillion, “...in the foreground of the perspective two vertical lines that indicate a column are drawn so close together that they look more like a stretched cord than a compressed column-wherein lies a clue...The columns hold the roof down onto the walls, as if it were in danger of flying away.” When Robin Evans wrote so insightfully of Mies’ Barcelona Pavilion he described the final effect of the structural solution to be, surprisingly, one of tension. This paradigmatic building-as-garden-intervention did not appear to belong within the class of classical buildings that surrounded it. It resonated more with landscape elements of the terracing grounds. Evans commented that the elegant chrome plated columns appeared so impossibly thin that the true burden of compression was masked. The columns, Evans wrote, appear to work as cables. The larger modernist project of dematerialization and lightness would have its epiphany in this odd roof that seems to require tie-downs.

Rem Koolhaas might have been thinking of Evan’s insight when he designed his own Bordeaux House. In this project Koolhaas, magician-like, would camouflage the actual structure of an immense floating concrete box with the distractions of a column and beam that exit the living room and a long cable that inexplicably, but ultimately rationally, is buried in the ground.

As stated on the opening page, our team includes two engineers. The number and articulation of the parts is highly optimized. There is not a superfluous element in the mix. The fabric roof with minimal structure is attached to a single support that is counterbalanced above a tripod. The entire assembly knocks down quickly and fits into a large bag that can be wheeled to the site. The textile tarp would be sewn from resilient lightweight synthetic canvases. The seams would have overlapping contiguous slits that would shed water but dampen the effects of any sudden wind loads. The textile roof is reversible—it can be turned over in order to have either the narrow or the wide end at the top of the crane. Either way, the slits that permit air circulation would drain properly.

Strength in Numbers—aggregation, variation and flexibility in program and use. KITE/FOLLY may function as a stand-alone unit that provides shade from the sun, and shelter from the rain for outdoor uses—picnics, markets, etc. It may also be used indoors to subdivide larger spaces such as trade shows and conventions. Furthermore, it is designed to yield several variations in aggregation that are both spatially expressive and functionally beneficial. The trapezoidal plans may be combined to yield serpentine, circular and semi-circular tiling. Since the textile membranes are reversible, the resulting covered space can either open to the outside or the inside, accommodating novel forms that support broad uses such as markets, fairs, lectures, musical performances, wedding stages, etc. (see “DIAGRAM OF SELECTED VARIATIONS”).

Estimated Cost per unit
- Tripod and camera boom 1,000.00
- Fabrication 200.00
- Custom textile cover, material and fabrication 450.00
- Weights 75.00
- Screw in stakes and cord 100.00
- Misc. 75.00
- Total estimated cost/unit 1,900.00

Utility and functional economy. We’ve named this proposal KITE/FOLLY because it so happens that it’s resultant form rhymes with that of a kite. However, this is a result of “function” and construction, not a formal preconception or imposition. The proposal is, in part, related to longer ongoing research project that explores the potential in textiles and frames as furniture/architecture with a view to economy, flexibility, and sustainability (see “DIGITAL IMAGES OF WORK AND SLIDE SCRIPT, 4-5, 4-5, 4-7”).
2-01. PROJECT PROPOSAL

- crane arm that dismantles to store in carry bag
- composite tent struts
- tie down cords
- counter weights
- tripod with or without wheels
- the entire assembly fits in a carry bag
- screw stakes

8' x 8' square
Kite
5: a light sail used in a light breeze usually in addition to the regular working sails; especially: spinnaker

Le déjeuner sur l'herbe
2-03. PROJECT PROPOSAL

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
DIAGRAM OF SELECTED AGGREGATIONS

base unit

perpendicular-4 units

concave-4 units

convex-4 units

head to toe-4 units

concave-12 units

convex-12 units
Early to the Farmer's Market at Socrates Sculpture Park...
Renewal of vows...

Socrates Sculpture Park as a leasable wedding venue...
Another crafts fair?...
FESTIVAL OF KITES AND KAYAKS      SATURDAY July 9, 2016
Using recycled materials, children and their families draw inspiration from the park's fantastic view of the Manhattan skyline to build expressive kites, and then fly them in the park. Teaching artists from Socrates and The Noguchi Museum will lead workshops for participants of all ages to produce and personalize handmade kites that explore ideas of flying, freedom, and community...
5. A popular name for any costly structure considered to have shown folly in the builder.

Oxford English Dictionary
FUTURE FUND RAISING AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Daughters of the American Revolution

Project AIDS Memorial Quilt