



These were the first domes we built for housing in our community. We built seven in about three months. Most of those on our building crew were 15-17 years old.

With the first three domes, we were relatively conservative in number of windows and window patterns. Then kids, building their first dome, made a long sweeping arc of windows, placed to follow the path of the winter sun. Next Chris, building his dome under a large oak tree, made this double arc; when you're in the dome, you feel as if you're still half outside.

We used pipe-section hubs and stainless steel straps for the framework—a system designed by Jeffrey Lindsay and used by Fletcher Pence in the Virgin Islands about 10 years ago. The skeleton framework is first strapped into place, a membrane is then attached, and joints are waterproofed. We've had serious leakage problems with half these domes, due to a combination of improper joint design, funky workmanship, and faulty caulk. Before you try a dome like this read carefully the section on sealing.



Although all seven domes are the same size and the same geometry, placement and patterns of light, and divisions of interior space makes each one feel totally different.

