

A Method for the Reuse of Packaging Materials in the Construction of Very Low Income Housing

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SUMMARY

Through the reuse of the high volumes of packaging materials, such as aluminum and polyethylene, available and discarded throughout the world, the En-Habit Project is developing a construction technique that addresses three components in Target 11 of UN-Habitat's Millenium Development Goals: housing, sustainability and employment. This technique focuses on a dwelling's framing, decking and roofing. Lightweight materials employed in a demountable manner are scaled for easy handling. The work is intended to improve shelter conditions for those in some of the world's most difficult circumstances. Many millions of tons of these materials are already in the world's landfills with many more to come. Employment opportunities will be available in the collection and reconfiguration of the materials into building components. Applications include slum and settlement upgrading, disaster relief and portable architecture.