

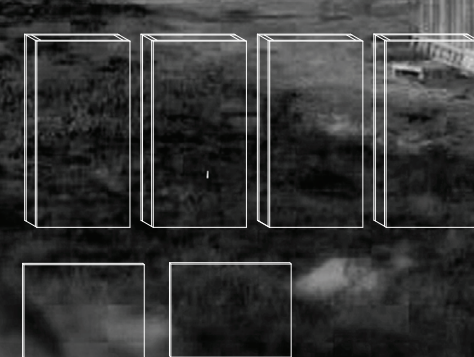
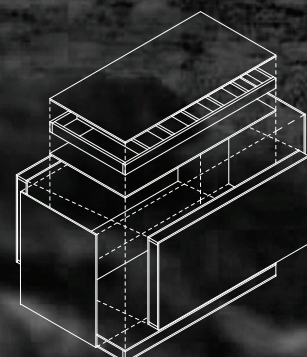
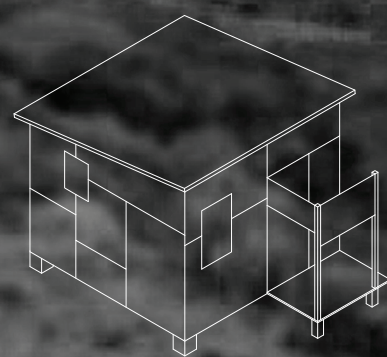
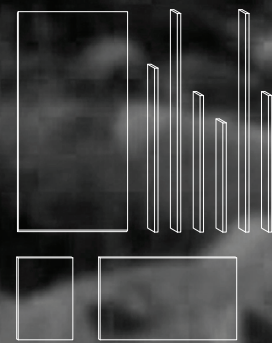
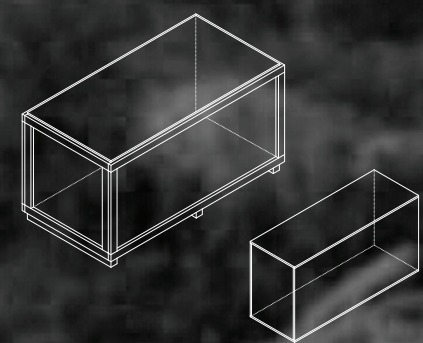
# SENDING AWAY

**Sending away architectural colonialism from the Great North of Quebec by giving Inuits an architectural canevas issued from a local reality.**

Every week, several air links are provided between southern Quebec and the Inuit communities of Nunavik. Through these flights, various goods are transported to the inhabitants of the Great White North; food, clothing, consumer goods. This cargo is shipped in wooden boxes, composed mainly of plywood board reinforced at the edges by timber to ensure their integrity during transport. These wooden boxes are then left at their destination, as the cost associated with their return is too high.

Resources are a necessity to the people of Nunavik. They are rare and therefore precious for collectivity living in such extreme climatic conditions. That is why the plywood crates used to transport goods are reused in several ways, as are many other available resources. Once disassembled, their components are used to construct new habitable, functional or recreational structures. From these structures was born a new vernacular architecture visible on the entire Inuit territory. However, since the dimensions and the composition of these boxes are inconsistent, the construction from these used materials isn't as simple as it could be.

The project uses the strengths of the mechanisms already rooted in northern communities. It is a matter of rethinking the functionality of the processes. Rather than considering shipping crates and architecture as two different systems, they are bound together. The wooden boxes used for transportation are redesigned with an architectural purpose. Their volume is standardized according to a 4 foot grid, inspired by the construction industry as well as the dimensions of the airplanes transporting them. The result is a volume of 4 feet high, 4 feet wide and 8 feet long, composed of a timber frame structure covered with plywood. The four insulated walls and two plywood panels of the box can then be easily disassembled to obtain modular elements that can be used directly for the construction of pavilions, buildings or shelters. Since the elements are presented as two dimensional rather than 3D volumes, the communities themselves can determine their assembly according to their use and can easily finish the construction of the structures with the resources available on site. Although they are still dependent on the South's resources for the construction, the design and function are entirely assumed by the local communities, so that they can adapt their uses to their particular needs. Therefore, they can become anything from the range of a shed to a housing annex or a community infrastructure. The system does not pretend to solve the complex question of housing in Nunavik, however, it proposes a sensible solution that allows Inuits to easily reclaim their architecture.



1. The present wooden shipping boxes have different scales and construction types determined by shipping standards.

2. The boxes are disassembled so that their materials can be used for construction.

3. Construction is not eased due to the different sizes of the materials. However, this represents a new vernacular architecture for Inuits.

4. The new shipping boxes are composed of ready-to-use insulated and water resistant panels, who can be used for construction.

5. 4 wood timbers assembled panels and 2 plywood planks, dimensioned according a 4' grid, can be use for construction.

6. The prefabrication and the standardization of the panels make them easy to manipulate for the locals. Their undetermination allows the population to decide their assembling and their use, and also to pursue the use of on-site used materials in architecture.





The community works as a unit to self-determine the use of the panels. Different functions can be imagined according to the needs of the villages, for instance, like this local sorting centre which encourages the reuse of local resources inside the community.