DOME CITY

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The 1960's hippie settlements in the western United States demontrate a shift towards a culture that seeks to be self-sufficient, environmentally sustainable, and that seeks to create community through shared space and shared values. These settlements have been referred to as "Drop Cities" by T. Coraghessan Boyle, and are described by Felicity Scott in her recent novel "Outlaw Territories" as among the many colonies that sought self-governance, sustainability, and that resulted in a community of shared values.

In Northern Canada, we see a culture that has been inflicted by a built environment that does not respond to or reflect the cultural values or needs of the Inuit people. What emerges is a culture of DIY (do it yourself) and architectural self-sufficiency.

The proposal seeks to respond to the severe housing shortage in the Northern settlements of Canada by introducing a simple building technique, the geodesic dome, which references the regionally significant igloo dwelling. The geodesic dome can be built using found materials such as plywood and shipping container parts. It can be built at multiple scales for housing, schools, community centers, hospitals, etc. Since it is a non-rectilinear form, the domes may create communities like those of igloos, that are less rigid, more spontaneous, and naturally whimsical.



