

Exclusive Tents

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August 2011

Greetings all

These are sure strange times that we are living through but one thing about what we do best, is offer simple eco-friendly elegant living for those wishing to find peace and to escape the chaos.



Amazon Camp

We found the recent story of a [remote tribe](#) in the Amazon fascinating as we were heading down there last month to set up tents in another remote location.

Ok so the Amazon conjures up images of anacondas, piranhas, jungles, big rivers and big bugs; all true!! We were on our way to set up 11 tents in a remote part of the Amazon and after arriving in Sao Paulo for a few days (an incredibly huge city with insane traffic) before we were to head by air to Manaus and finally [Têfe](#) and the last leg on an hour long helicopter ride to the base camp in the forest [read more on story here](#)

Before moving on please be aware that you can get access to the past newsletter archive on our website on the right hand side of the [blog page](#).

We would also like to congratulate Jordan in his first tent sale after only 6 weeks of gainful employment. He has 4 tents going into production this week that will in a few months be headed to Angola – these tents will hopefully be featured in our last newsletter of the year.

Many of our clients install air conditioning into their tents, be it split units, portable units or ducted units. We would like to introduce you all to a rather different and unique cooling system invented by a business friend, [Mr. Thomas van den Groenendaal](#) of [Evening Breeze](#), as an interesting lower cost alternative. The Evening Breeze integrates the climate system into a beautiful four poster bed. The Evening Breeze enables one to enjoy a comfortable cool sleeping experience in silence and without any draft. Not only will you will love it, it generates a saving of 60-80% on energy costs in comparison to conventional air-conditioning systems.



[Evening Breeze Original](#)

We are also proud to relate that the Italian Lodge, [Canonici di San Marco](#), has recently added a Kambaku Tent that has received quite a lot of publicity in their local media. The owner, an accomplished attorney in her own right, has offered to assist any new tent owners in the region with their interior design – please contact her via her website if there is any interest from anyone out there.



Kambaku at [Canonici di San Marco](#)

Digressing for a while, let's discuss the tent roof frame supports; most of the smaller to medium size tents can come with either steel legs or wood pole uprights to support the roof frame.

The steel legs come standard with these tents and are ok but they do not give the same rigidity to the tent frame as what the wood pole uprights will do, this means that it would be imperative that one do some form of wind bracing if the climate/weather requires it.

Wood pole uprights not only give more rigidity to the tent frame and wind, they are also more aesthetically pleasing to the eye and most clients will procure these poles locally or have us supply them (not in the USA as there are certain agricultural restrictions that inhibit this import). The lengths will vary depending on the deck height and how deep these poles are planted in the ground but the average width is 12-13cm (4" – 4 ½"). We supply the customer with a special metal mounting bracket that gets fitted to the top of the poles. We also supply a drawing that will indicate the exact pole

positions in the wooden deck. The pole brackets can be neatly covered and hidden by wrapping them with a rustic rope.

The most commonly used wood poles we supply are from the Australian Blue Gum Tree (Saligna) or Latin name *Eucalyptus grandis* but almost any strong wood pole will work. Indigenous decorative wood poles can also be used and sometimes look very good (as can be seen in the picture below)



Decorative wood pole showing frame attachment

Though the wood pole uprights give plenty extra rigidity to the frame as mentioned above, we always recommend erring on the side of caution that one does some amount of vertical cross bracing for wind.



Cross-bracing for wind with steel cables - also illustrating wood poles supporting the tent frame



Bateleur Tent showing steel legs supporting the roof frame

In discussing steel and frames, it is prudent that we also discuss the various steel types that we use for the tent frames. The most commonly used steel frame and least expensive is the mild "hot-dipped" galvanized ([passivated](#)) steel frames (available in olive green, gold or silver). This option is corrosion resistant but not advised for tents that will be set up in close proximity to the ocean as this option will rust in time.



444 Stainless Steel Tubes

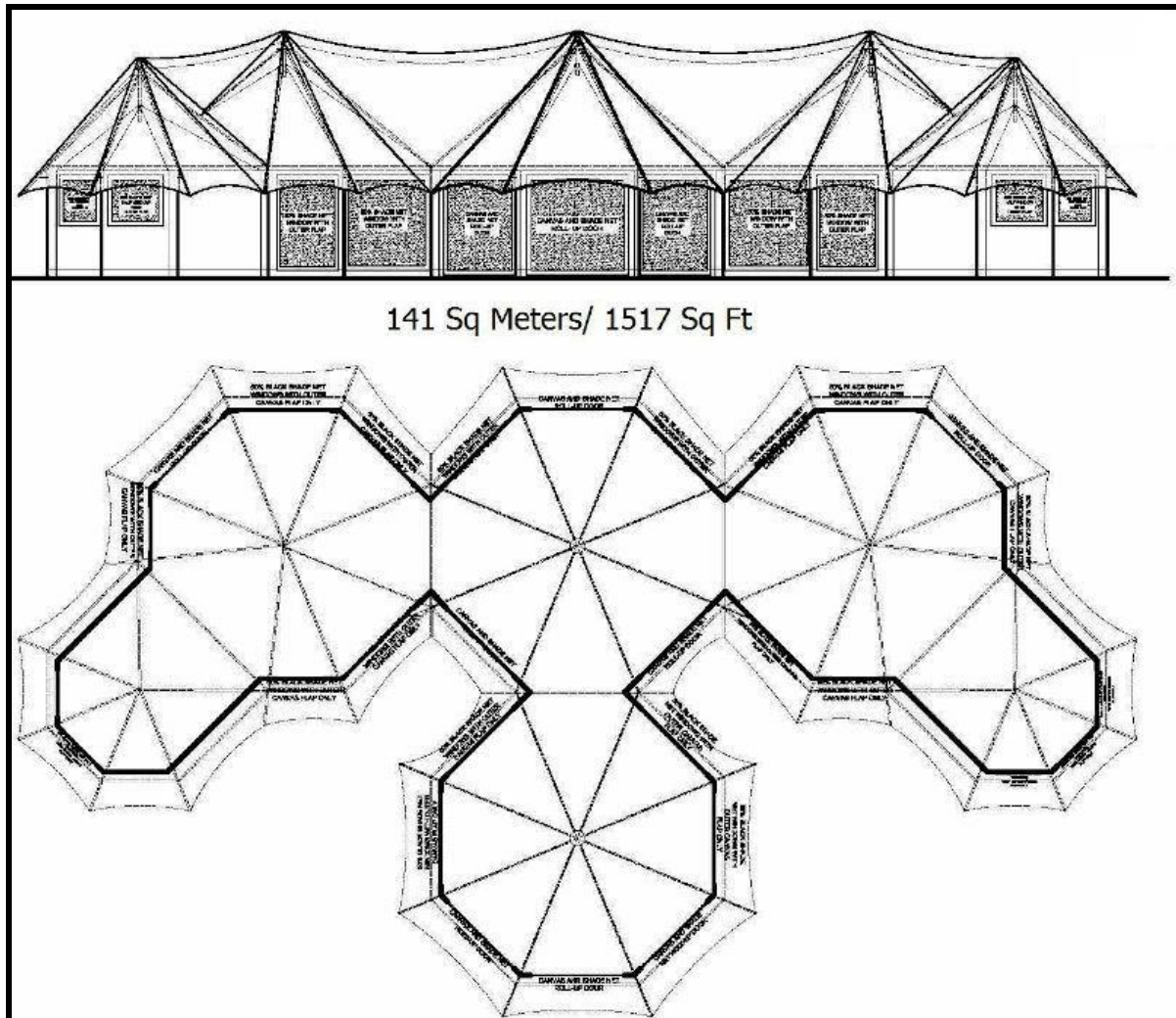
[Stainless Steel](#) in not only way more corrosion resistant is also structurally stronger than the mild galvanized steel.

We offer 3 different grades of Stainless Steel, 304, 316 and 444. Grades 304 and 316 are both Austenitic Stainless Steels with 316 being the most expensive and best performing anti-corrosion steel whereas the 304 is the most basic and least costly option. Though 304 steel will not corrode it will start "[tea staining](#)" which looks like rust but is only a cosmetic coating that will develop on the surface and can be cleaned with a cloth and kerosene (paraffin) or other oily substance or even WD40.

444 is a Ferritic Stainless Steel and is most interesting in that it is a low carbon and low nitrogen stainless steel alloy containing 18% chromium, 2% molybdenum. It is stabilized with additions of columbium and titanium for resistance to inter-granular corrosion. One big advantage of the AL 444 alloy over austenitic stainless steels, such as 304 and 316 alloys is the practical immunity of the AL 444 alloy to chloride stress corrosion cracking. 444 has the same high performance anti corrosion qualities as 316 but at a way lower cost.

We are also excited to release the new Mahlati Tent which is a large tent at 141 sq meters (1517 sq foot).

The size and design of this tent is very exciting and allows for a lot of flexibility and multiple optional internal layouts as desired.



This tent would work out great as a reception/welcome tent, residence, dining room or deluxe two bedroom suite.

We have just received pictures of the finished Bububu Tent that we set up earlier in the year at Hilla Farm. They spent a lot of time planning the interior of their first tent and it sure has turned out beautifully and we congratulate and wish them all of the best as they add more tents in the future.



photo.keamata.com

Bububu Tent – Hilla Farm



photo.keamata.com

Exclusive Tents have an excellent range of elegant luxury tents, which can provide their customers with an irresistible unique selling point. However, there is a great deal more to creating a successful, efficient, and beautiful emplacement or resort.

Each site has its individual characteristics: Features and qualities that should be used to the best effect and constraints that need to be addressed.

A truly successful project will have the correct choice of tent, with a configuration tailored to its position on site. But this is only one part of the whole: Particular attention will also have been paid to every part of the project such that the entire installation forms a harmonious whole. A summary of key points might be:

- Access and circulation - to the site and within the property - poor or illogical circulation will be frustrating, and will ultimately be circumvented (paths trodden through your flower beds, etc.).
- Aspect and views - not forgetting orientation, and prevalent winds. These are the key qualities of your site - make the most of them.
- Decks: Exclusive Tents are best set-up on timber decks, but try to avoid a simple rectangular deck perched above the ground with no attempt to integrate it into the site – it will be visually uncomfortable, and will do nothing to enhance the value of your investment.
- Furniture and fixtures: To each his choice, but try to remember that on commercial projects your personal tastes might not be so evident for your guests! As a rule, strive to create a harmonious setting without contradicting elements or themes. Remember also that certain conventions and layouts that one would require of a home may not be relevant or even desirable in a luxury tent where one is enjoying a welcome change of situation.
- Landscaping: Above all do not neglect the budget and effort required for successful landscaping. Luxury tents depend on a beautiful setting to create the ambiance sought by their owners and guests. The best projects invariably have the accommodation nestled within lovely grounds, complemented by thoughtful landscaping - whether this be the studied wildness of an English Estate garden, or an oasis setting in an arid desert.

Each and every project is unique, but they will all benefit from careful, attentive design. Our associate, Patrice Belle, a highly talented and bilingual Anglo-French international architect based in France, has been working extensively with Exclusive Tents customers in recent years, and would be delighted to offer his services for the benefit of your project – He can be reached directly via his [email address](#) to find out more about his services.

In our next newsletter we will bring you some examples of what can be achieved with Exclusive Tents and a talented design team.....

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