

History Of Quonset Huts

A Quonset hut is light in weight and it is made up of the prefabricated structure. The prefabricated material is made up of corrugated galvanized iron. These huts are much similar to Nissen huts and their designs are also based on Nissen huts.

Nissen huts were developed by British during the First World War. First Quonset hut was manufactured at Quonset point therefore, these huts are named so. Quonset Point is located in a village in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Quonset hut was designed when the United States Navy needed simple buildings in 1941, which could be designed without any skilled labor. The contract was given to the George A. Fuller, a construction company. The first Quonset hut was manufactured after the 60 days of contract.

The original Quonset hut had 16 by 36 ft or 5 by 11 m structure. The original Quonset hut was manufactured with the steel members with an 8 ft or about 2.4 m radius. For making Quonset hut stronger the ridged steel sheets were used. The doors and the windows of the hut were made up of plywood. The interior of Quonset hut was kept isolated to stop rain. Floors of the hut were made from wood and pressed wood lining was used in the interiors. The old Quonset hut could be placed on wooden floor, concrete or pilings floors.

Nowadays, Quonset hut has become very popular among the individuals as well. The Quonset hut designed today usually has a standard size of 20 by 48 ft or 6 by 15 m with 10 ft or 3 m radius.

The size of the floor space is about 720 square feet or 67 m². For the protection of the house from the weather there are optional four foot overhands at each end of the entrances. This shows that these houses are very comfortable and protective from weather conditions. Because of the different requirements of the people, Quonset hut is also available with 20 by 40 ft or 6 by 12 m and 40 by 100 ft or 12 by 30 m.

Quonset hut is also in demand because it has flexible interior space. The interior space is open and it can be also used as barracks, latrines, housing, bakeries, medical or offices. During Second World War 150,000 to 170,000 Quonset were manufactured. After Second World War these houses were sold to the people for \$1000 each. Many of those Quonset Huts is still used in United States for commercial purposes like offices. Hence, we can say that Quonset Huts are very simple but useful houses because they can be used for various purposes like from commercial use to residential use.

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