Canine Design

When it comes to pet architecture, dogs have pretty much marked out the choicest territory. What other pets have their own houses and the freedom to come and go as they please? Now, man’s best friend has the chance for designer digs, too.

Many charities around the country have turned to fancy doghouses as a source for fund-raising (see the back cover of FHB #110). For example, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, an annual fund-raiser in late August called Dog Day Afternoon benefits Design Industry Foundation Fighting AIDS and local humane societies. The highlight of the show is the auction of doghouses designed and built by local architects. The doggie domiciles (many of which are shown here) have fetched between $350 and $500 each.

Photos by Randall M. Buffie, except where noted.

Tall dogs, skinny dogs. Architects Julie and Ted Macleod built this vertical house with an opaque hip roof made of fiberglass panels. Long legs keep the house dry in wet weather.

A sun deck for dog days. This design features an art-glass slider, copper roof and redwood deck, courtesy of Randall M. Buffie Architect Inc.

Bright colors and multilevel decks. Designed by Rosemary McConnell of Minneapolis, Minnesota, this house for smaller dogs was built of painted plywood and Plexiglas by Jeff Jenior.

Quonset dog hut. Made from corrugated sheet metal and laminated-cedar ribs, this entry was designed and built by Timothy Fuller, Jean Larson and Laurel Ulland.
Warp factor two, Mr. Sulu! Bill Baxley and Vesa Loikas of Minneapolis designed and built this Dacron-polyester and cedar house; its roof channels rainwater into the carved drinking dish in the foreground. Photos by Bill Baxley.

A Greene & Greene doggie bungalow. Built to raise funds for a group called Canine Companions, this canine cottage has a copper roof, leaded glass, wainscoting and a stone chimney, and it cost only $208 per sq. ft. Design, construction and photo by Errol Mecherikoff of Santa Rosa, California.