

# The New York Times

## HOUSE HOME

PHOTOGRAPH BY PHIL MANSHELD

The New York Times

CLOSE QUARTERS



PHOTOGRAPH BY PHIL MANSHELD FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Prefab structures, championed as a way to produce everything from modernist homes to emergency shelters, will soon be making an appearance on the Bowery. The Andrews House, a residence for homeless men at 197 Bowery (Spring Street), is being renovated using more than 100 living units prefabricated by ACC Construction of Brooklyn. The units, which will allow more light and air into the building than traditional rooms would, come in two versions. One, by Rafel Elbaz, left, is called the Kit of Parts. It has a door cutout to encourage socializing, walls with elastic straps to hold magazines, and adjustable shelves, center, made of wood and steel pipe.

The second, called the Ordering of Things, seems to celebrate the routine task of organizing one's personal effects. It is by Kathy Chang, a New York designer, right, and Aaron Gabriel, who lives in Fayetteville, Ark. They built in shelves and storage space and added a bed on casters and a folding chair that can be hung on the wall. The designs were among 180 submitted in a competition sponsored by Common Ground Community, the nonprofit group that owns the Andrews House, and the Architectural League of New York, a professional association. "We wanted to get as many people as possible thinking about the question of how to create safe, attractive and affordable alternatives to shelters and the streets," said Rosanne Haggerty, the president of Common Ground Community.

Prototypes of the two designs going into production are on view at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. (51st Street) through Oct. 5. TIM McKEOUGH