

GABLED GARDEN SHED



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This storage shed will provide you with two things at once: attractive architectural lines to enhance your yard, and a practical 80-square-foot work and storage space for gardening and landscaping projects. Orient the structure with the main window to the south, and the workbench behind the window becomes the ideal place to get a jump on the gardening season by starting your plants in peat pots.

The shed itself is only 8 x 10 feet. Add the wrap-around deck and it still only needs a space 16 x 14 feet; small enough to allow its gabled roofline to grace all but the smallest of yards.

Customize the inside to suit your own requirements for shelves, workbenches, and storage for tools or toys. With a little imagination, you can also convert the structure for other uses; you could make it a playhouse, for example, or a poolside cabana.

It's designed to be built in sections, so it can be a one-person project with about a half-hour of help from some friends.

We've made every effort to make these plans and instructions easily understandable by an average hobbyist in a home workshop.

MATERIALS LIST

STRUCTURAL PANELS

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
3	23/32-inch x 4-ft x 8-ft APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor 24 oc (tongue & groove) for floor and workbench
9	5/8-inch x 4-ft x 8-ft APA 303 Siding (T1-11, 4-inch grooves)
5	1/2-inch x 4-ft x 8-ft APA Rated Sheathing (CDX or OSB) for roof
1	5/8-inch x 4-ft x 8-ft APA A-C plywood
As required	Additional APA panels for shelves

LUMBER

(Standard construction grade unless otherwise specified)

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
2	8-ft treated 2x4
7	10-ft treated 2x4
1	8-ft 2x6 for vent ends
46	8-ft 2x4
4	10-ft 2x4
2	12-ft 2x4
4	8-ft 2x2
2	1-inch dowel, 4 ft
7	1/2- x 2-1/2-inch trim, 8 ft
1	2-inch shake molding, 8 ft
2	8-ft 1x12
2	10-ft 1x6
2	12-ft 1x6
10	8-ft 1x4
26	8-ft 1x2
38	12-ft cedar 2x4
6	10-ft cedar 2x4
6	8-ft cedar 2x4
1	2-ft cedar 2x8
2	10-ft cedar 3/8- x 3-inch benderboards
4	12-ft cedar 3/8- x 3-inch benderboards

OTHER MATERIALS

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
	Gravel, concrete or concrete blocks for foundation
16	10-inch shelf brackets (more for optional shelves)
1	30-x 9-inch plastic laminate for workbench top
2 pair	3-inch hinges
2	2-inch knobs
1	Screen, 30- x 36-inch
1	Pre-hung window, 48- x 36-inch
1	Pre-hung double screen doors, 5-ft x 6-ft x 8-inch
2 squares	Roofing material
2	1/8-inch acrylic (Plexiglas) 30- x 60-inch for sunburst windows
4	1/8-inch acrylic 12- x 24-inch for side windows
8	2- x 12-inch framing straps & nails
As required	Nails and screws (16d galv. box for framing; 8d galv. box for siding, floor and trim; 6d galv. or bright box for roof sheathing; 5d galv. finish for window stops; 16d galv. finish for cedar decking).
As required	Paint or stain (see discussion under "Building Hints").

PROJECT NOTES

Overview:

The wood floor and walls can be built inside your shop or garage and carried to the building site by two people. The roof frame can also be carried, though it is heavier. If you don't have enough flat floor space in your shop, the floor of the shed makes a good surface to use for building the walls and roof frame.

Remember that safety is more than slogans and signs. Follow tool manufacturers' recommendations, and use caution and common sense around electricity and cutting tools. The most important safety item in any workshop is safety glasses; splinters that rate some iodine and a Bandaid on your finger can cost you your sight if they wind up in your eye.

Site Preparation:

Select and level the site for the gabled shed. A leveled gravel foundation is the simplest, and is recommended. Simply dig out 3 inches of soil, replace with gravel, and level. Other options are a concrete slab or concrete blocks.

If you live in an area where high winds are possible, you will want to anchor the structure in accordance with local procedures.

Floor and Wall Construction:

Construct the floor frame using treated 2x4 lumber. Nail the floor panels over the frame. Ensure the long dimension runs

perpendicular to the joists. Do not push the tongue-and-groove edges completely together; leave a 1/8-inch space so the panels can expand without causing buckling.

Study the framing guides for the walls, then build the frames on a flat surface, such as the workshop floor or the shed floor. Nail the siding on after cutting out spaces for windows and doors. Be sure to buy your pre-hung doors and windows before framing and cutting out siding; if you find a bargain in something slightly off-size, it's easy to make adjustments *before* building the wall section.

If the shed floor is to be used for building the roof frame, set the walls aside for now. To erect walls, set one side in place and temporarily brace it with diagonal 2x4s. Nail to the floor with 16d nails, angled so they penetrate the outboard joist. Then set the back wall and side wall in place, nailing to the floor and to each other. Set the front wall in last, and nail to floor and sides.

Roof Construction:

The roof structure requires close attention, so go slowly, read the plans carefully, and think about how the sheathing is going to overlay the structure.

STEP 1. Construct the roof frame of two 2x4s 121-1/2 inches, and four 2x4s 94 inches. Be sure that no large knots occur where the frame, valleys and rafters come together; you will have to drive several nails close together, and it's important that the wood remain structurally sound.

The framing straps are typically bought

flat. Install them by nailing one side, then bend while tapping with hammer for firm fit, and nail the other side. Use strapping nails that do not penetrate all the way through the lumber.

STEP 2. Install end rafters (A, page 15): place "fish mouth" lower ends in position, nail top, then nail bottom to frame.

STEP 3. Nail main ridge (61 inches) between two sets of end rafters. Note how the ridge is positioned vertically, so that the top edge meets the adjacent top edge.

STEP 4. Install gable end rafters (B, page 15) and ridges (46-1/2-inch 2x4s).

STEP 5. Install valleys (C, page 12). At both ends, the top side of the valley should touch the top side of the ridges or rafters.

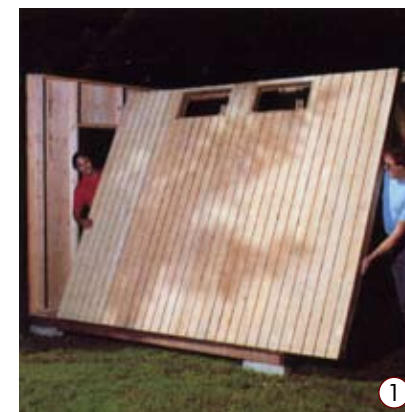
STEP 6. Attach 2x6 vent supports (47-1/2 inches) to end rafters.

STEP 7. Install hip ridge rafters (D, page 15). To make compound miters, scribe line at 64 degrees and set saw blade at 40 degrees. Four rafters are required; two are mirror images of the other two.

Install each rafter with bottom end raised above inside of frame, so that sheathing will lay flat on rafter and outboard edge of frame. Install hip rafters (E, page 15) the same way.

STEP 8. Install vent louvers. Make them

- Top to Bottom:** **1.** The walls are fabricated separately, then tipped into place and nailed. **2.** Painting window trim before installation avoids need to mask Plexiglas. **3.** By doing most roof construction before hoisting roof into place, you avoid lots of trips up and down a stepladder.



of 1/2- x 2-1/4-inch lumber, or bullnose molding for extra finished appearance. Cut ends at 45 degrees, which will give louvered angle. Nail from back, starting at bottom. Staple screen from behind. The frame may be installed now or wait until installing other trim.

STEP 9. Measure, cut and fit roof sheathing, but do not nail in place.

STEP 10. Gather three or more friends, half of them with stepladders, and hoist the roof to the top of the walls. Nail it in place and nail on the sheathing. Finish the roof with flashing and shingles or other roofing material.

Doors, Windows, Shelves and Trim:

These may be installed in order of preference, with one exception. If a window is selected with hardware protruding into the interior, the shelf underneath should be installed before the window. The configuration of the shelf requires it to be installed by placing one end in position while holding the other end up, then sliding the upper end down over the 2x4 stud. Protruding window hardware would prevent that procedure.

To install the acrylic (Plexiglas) windows, first build the frame of 1x2s behind the end rafters. Set acrylic in caulking, then install outside frame of 1x2s on edge. Finally, install decorative sunburst pattern.

If trim is to be painted a different color than siding, you may prefer to paint trim before installing, especially around windows.

Deck Construction:

Build the deck of cedar, treated lumber or other wood that weathers well.

For the straight sides, after the frame is constructed, begin nailing deck pieces by nailing end pieces in place, a quarter-inch back from the end of the frame. Starting at one end, use a 5/8-inch block to position each deck piece, tacking them in place. If the gap at the other end is too large or small, go back and adjust other pieces until the gap differences are not noticeable. Nail the decking down with nonstaining finish nails.

For the corner pieces, build the 2x4 frame, then mount the quarter-circle 2x8 a quarter-inch in from the frame edges. Nail the two outside beveled decking pieces first, leaving a quarter-inch at the edge. Next measure to center and mount the center decking piece. Then arrange the five pieces between one side and the center so the gaps are even. Repeat the process on the other side.

Install benderboards flush with the top of the decking. For corners, use clear, straight-grain wood, longer than needed. Nail one end, and bend around, nailing as you go, then cut off excess. For an extra finished appearance, round the outside edges of the 2x4 decking with a belt sander to match the benderboard radius.

Finishing Touch:

Use the siding left over from the window cutouts to construct the planter box. Paint the plywood and trim to match the colors of the shed. For details on paint/stain selection, see the Building Hints on page 21.

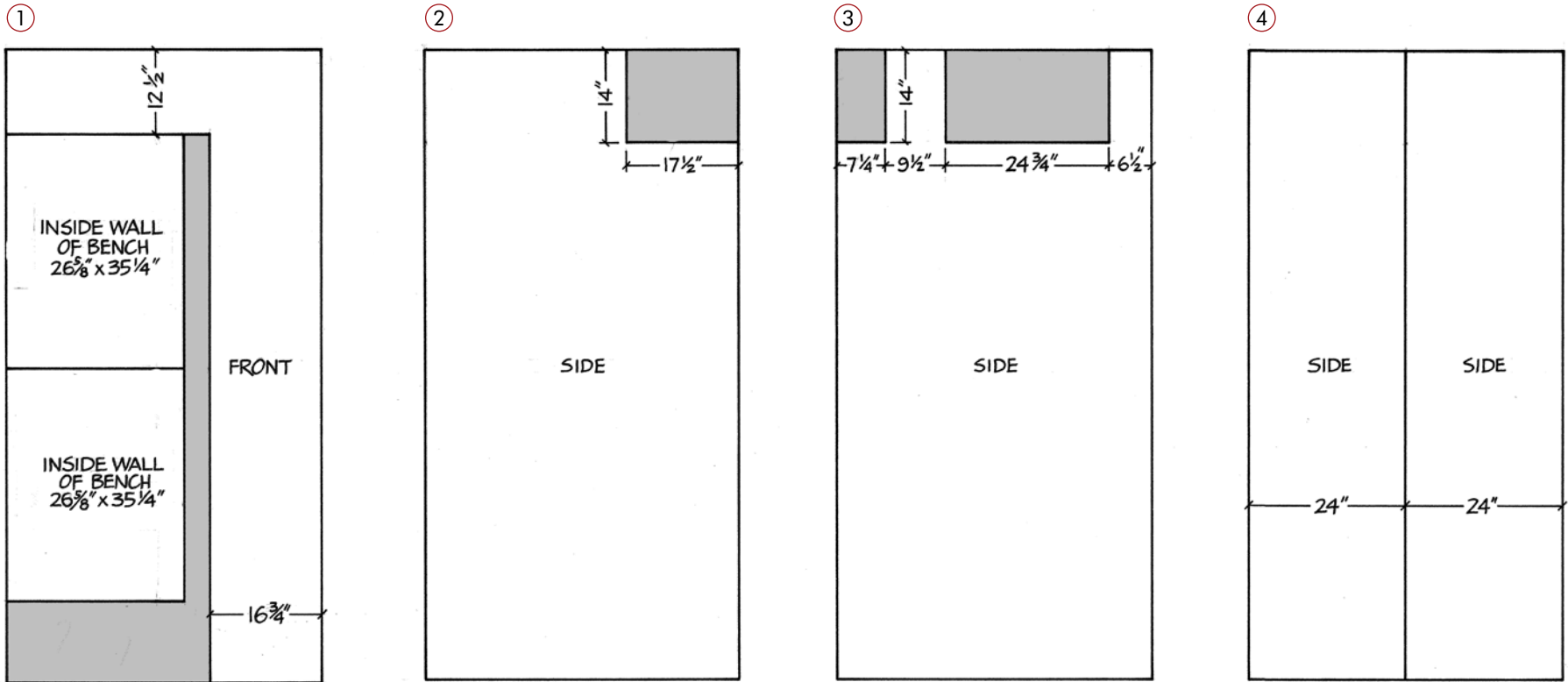


As illustrated above and at right, the storage under the window is accessible from both sides.

Painting the interior a light color, in combination with the interesting roof geometry, gives a feeling of spaciousness that belies 8 x 10 dimension.

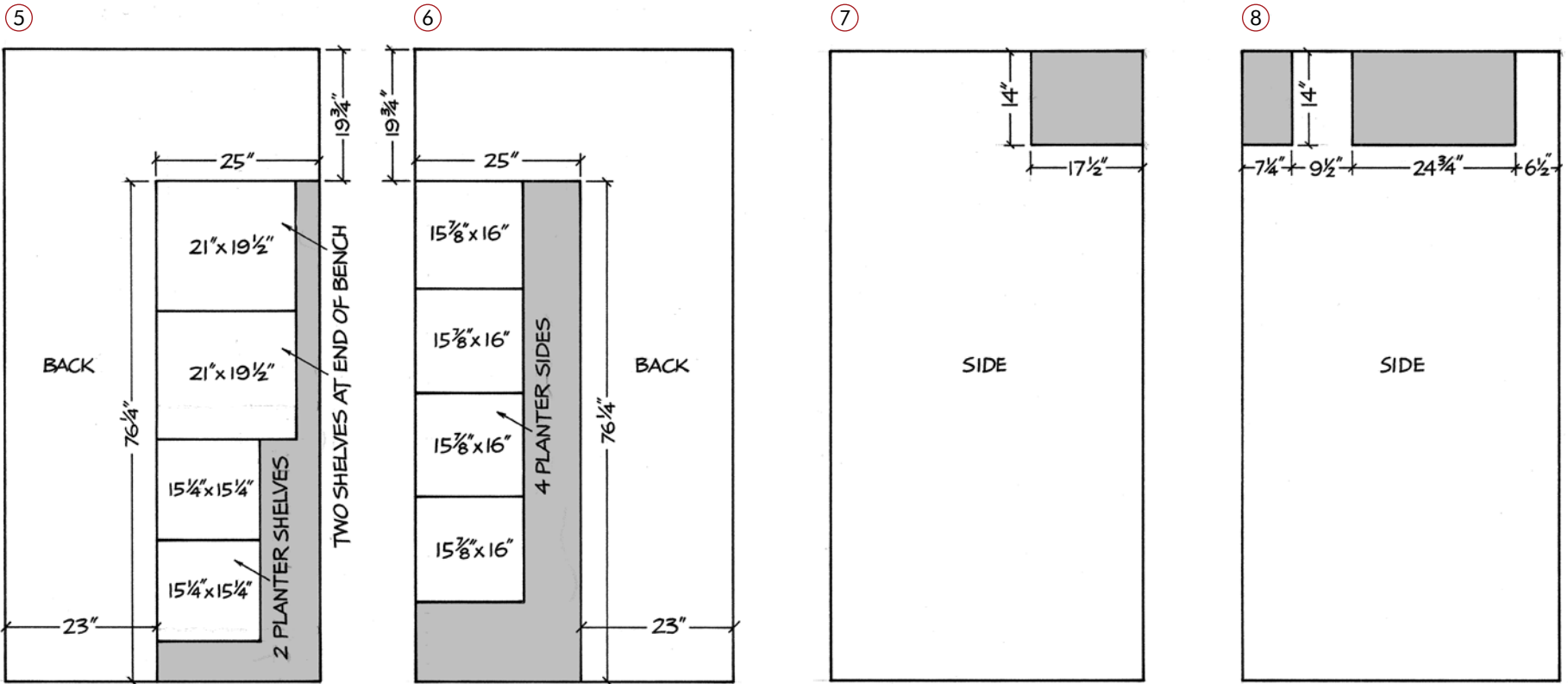
PANEL LAYOUTS

All panels on this page 5/8-in.
APA 303 Siding (T1-11)



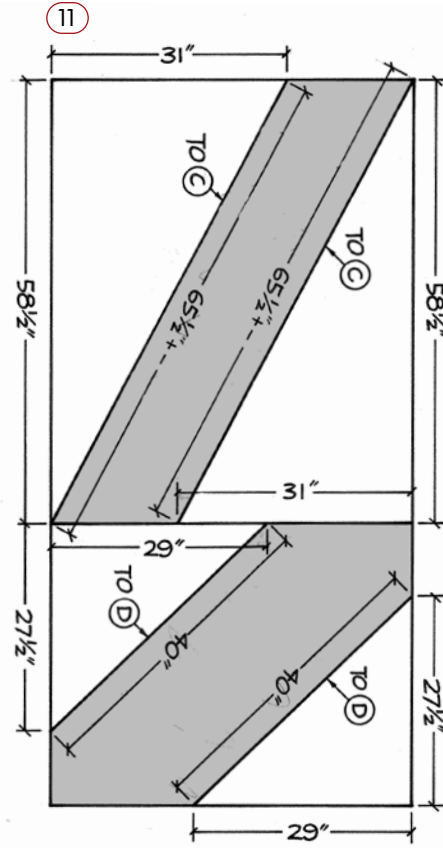
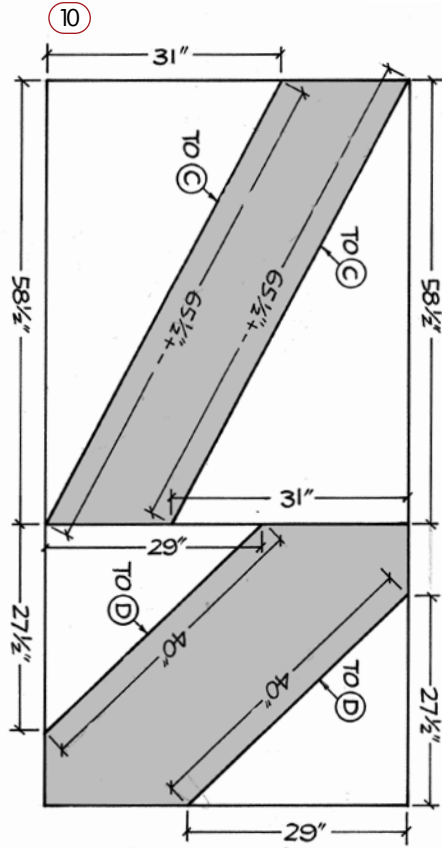
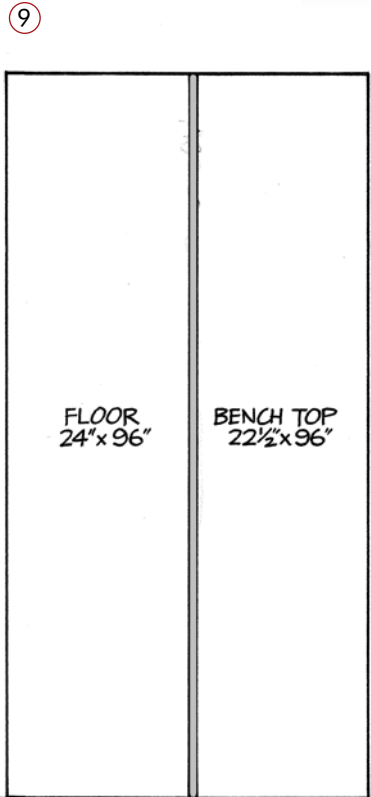
PANEL LAYOUTS

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APA 303 Siding (T1-11)

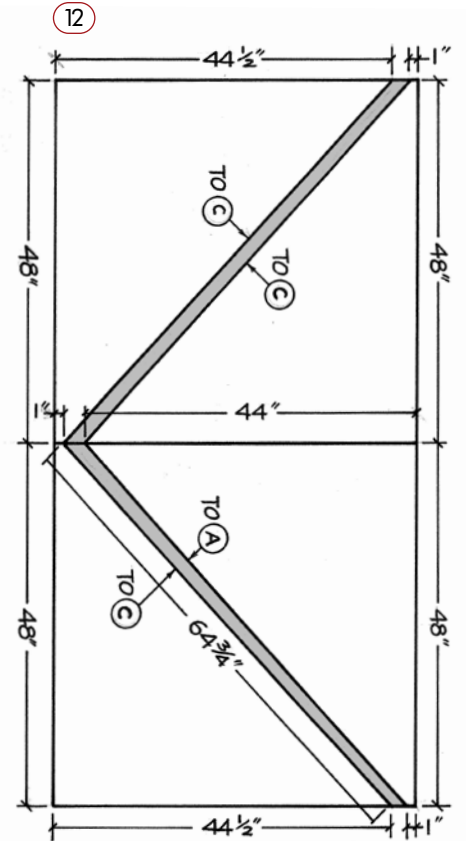


PANEL LAYOUTS

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APA 303 Siding (T1-11)

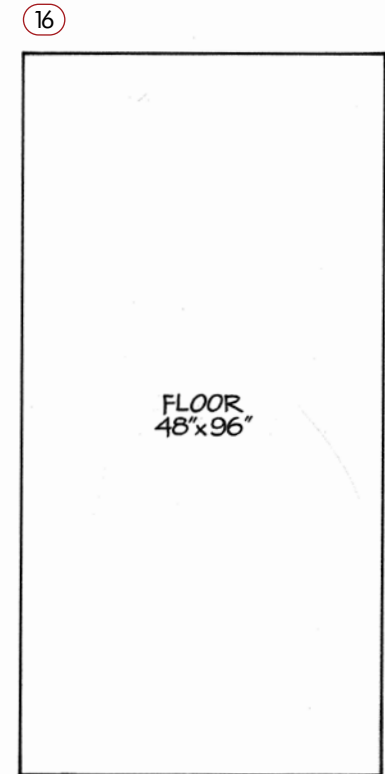
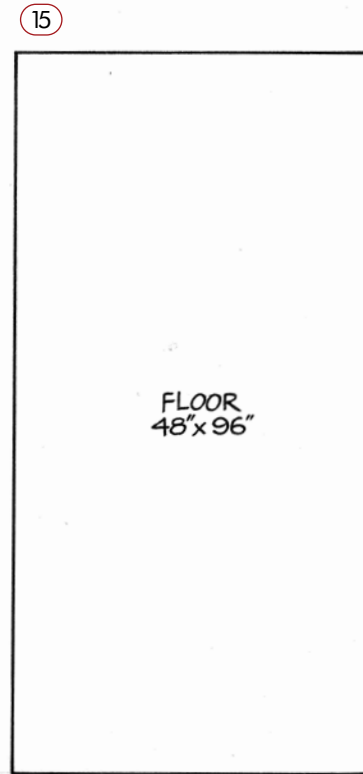
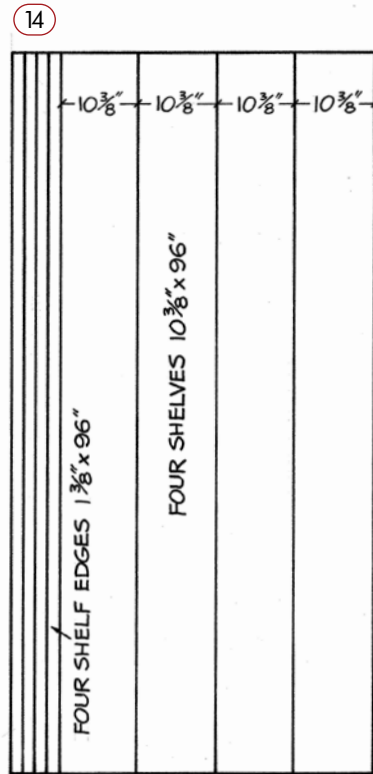
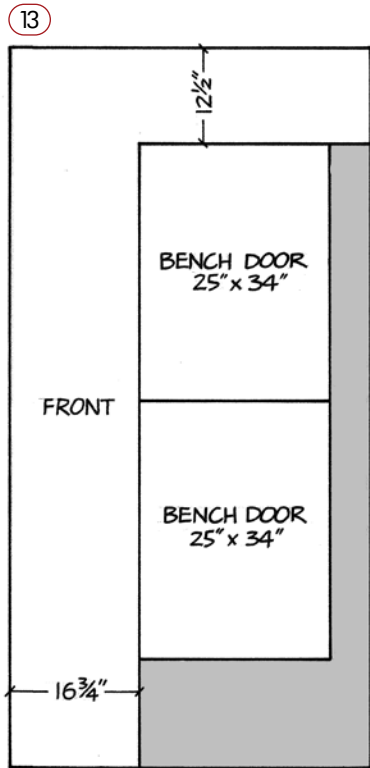


APA RATED SHEATHING



PANEL LAYOUTS

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APA 303 Siding (T1-11)

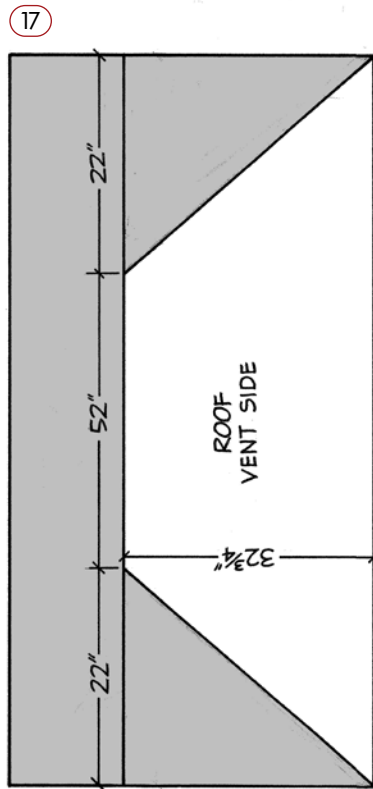


5/8-IN. A-C SANDED PLYWOOD

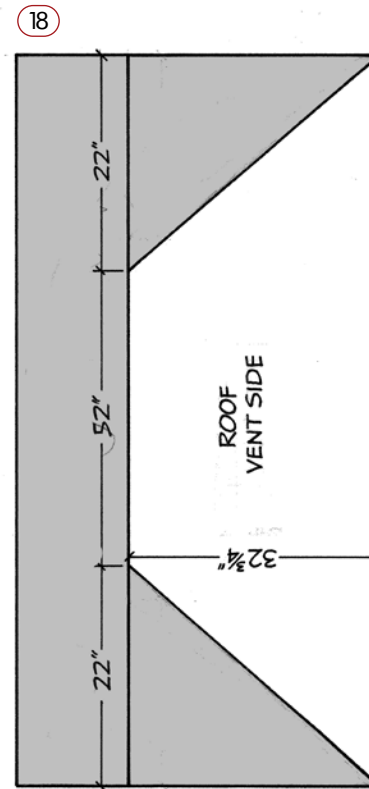
APA RATED STURD-I-FLOOR

PANEL LAYOUTS

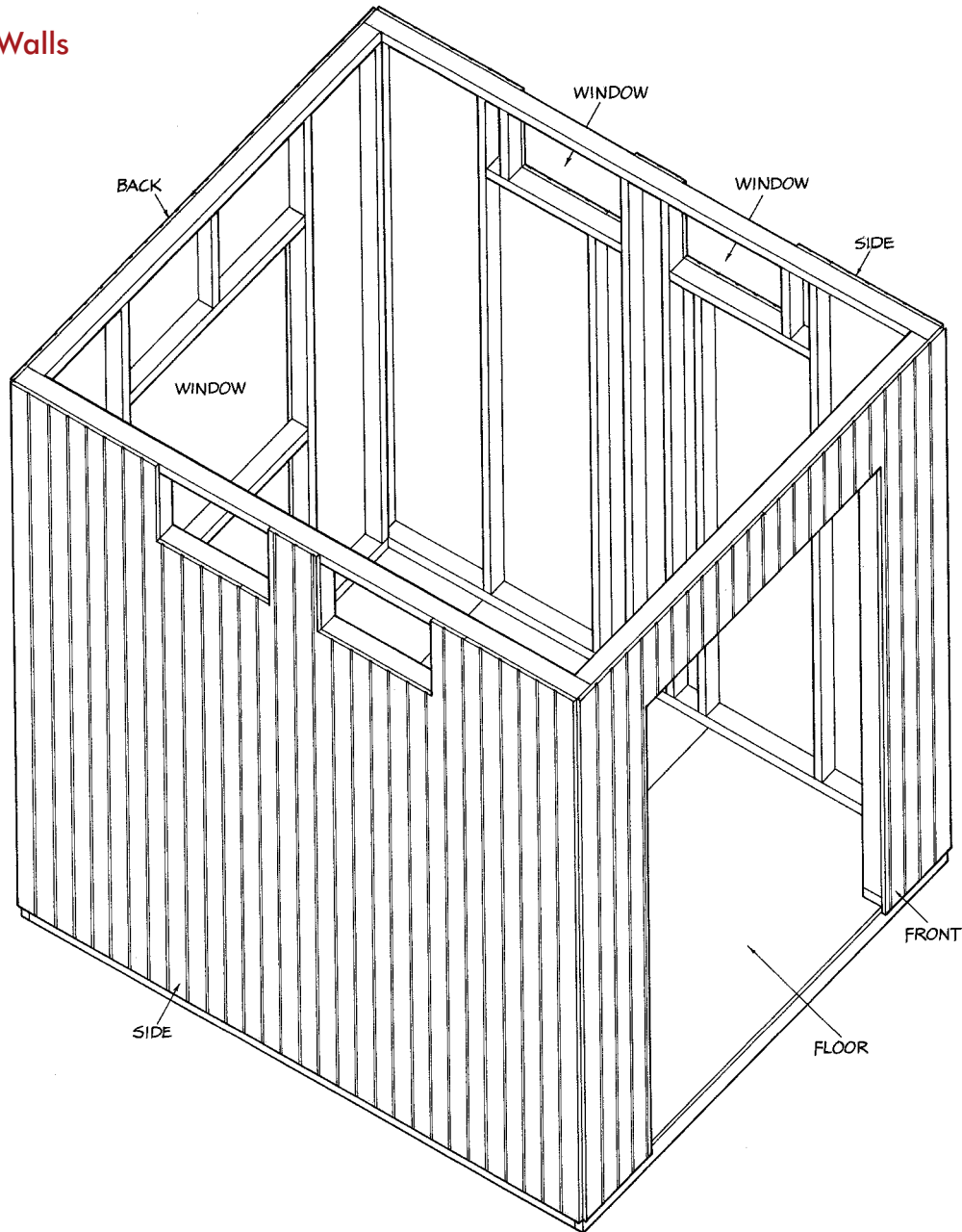
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APA 303 Siding (T1-11)



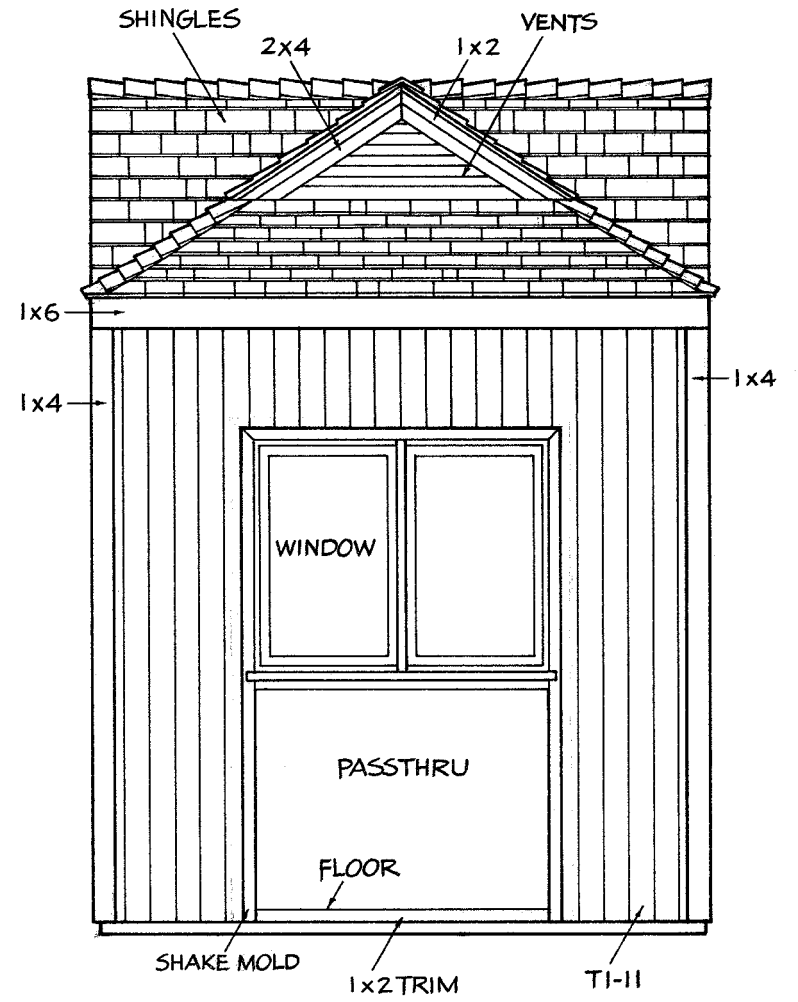
APA RATED SHEATHING



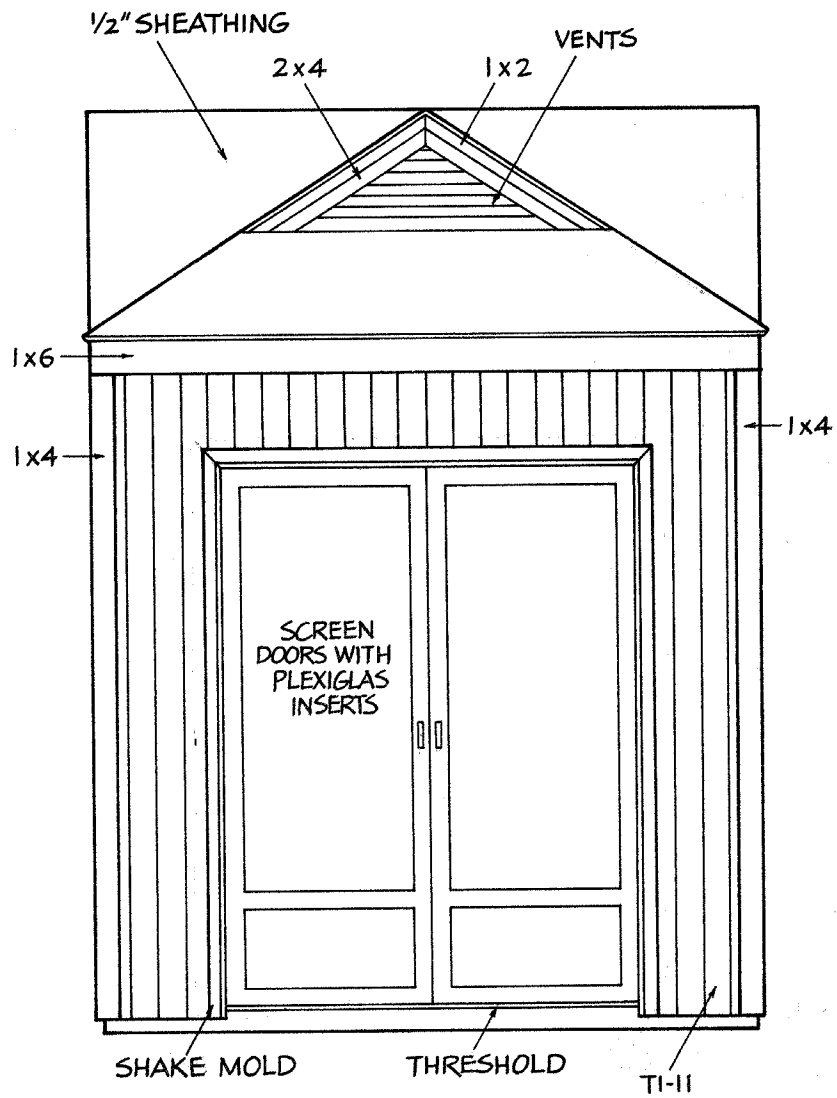
Walls



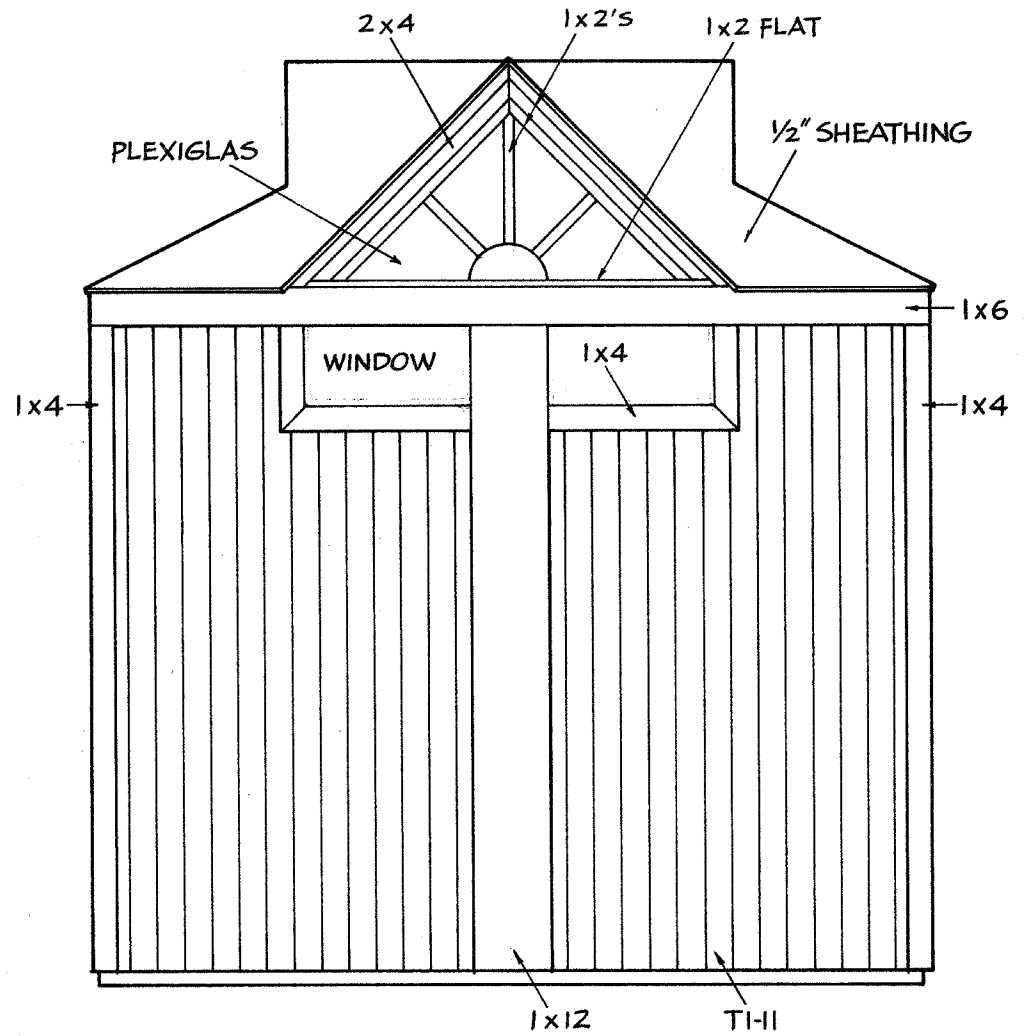
Rear Wall



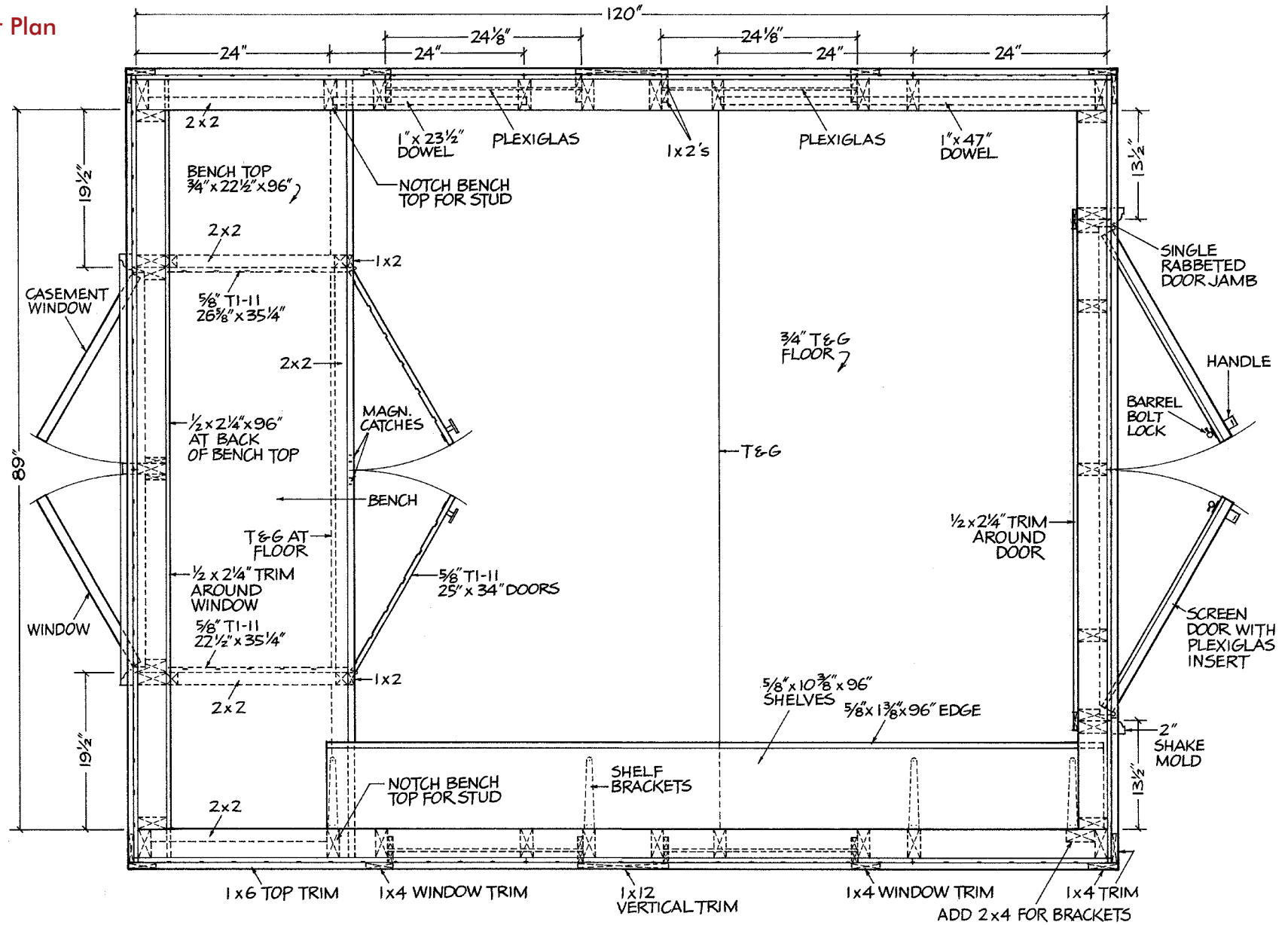
Front Wall



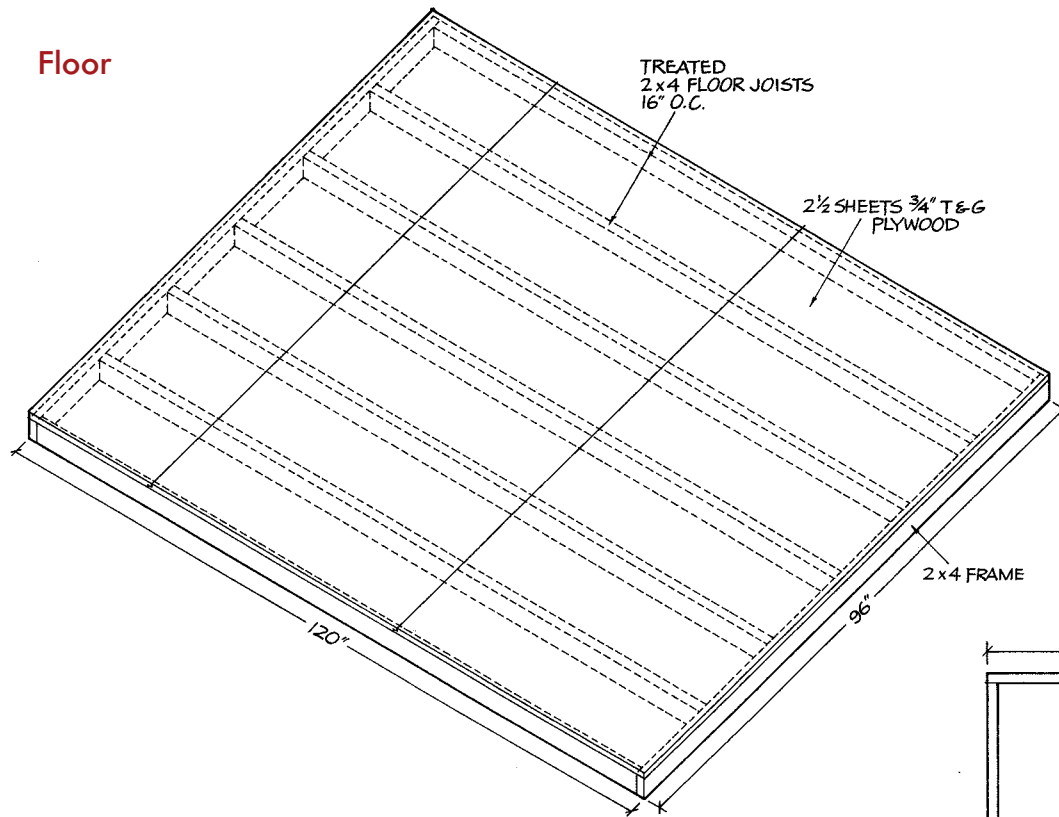
Side Wall



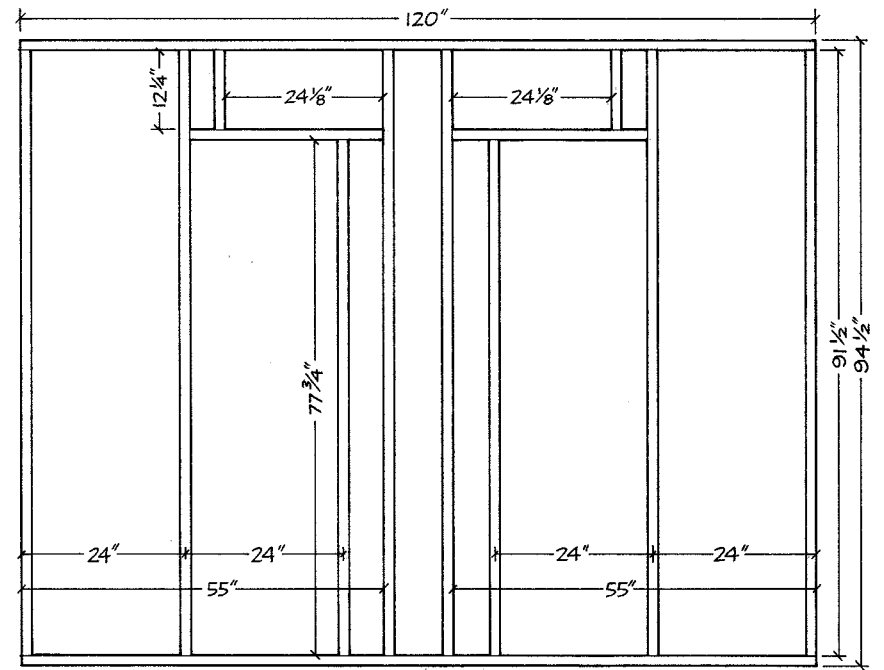
Floor Plan



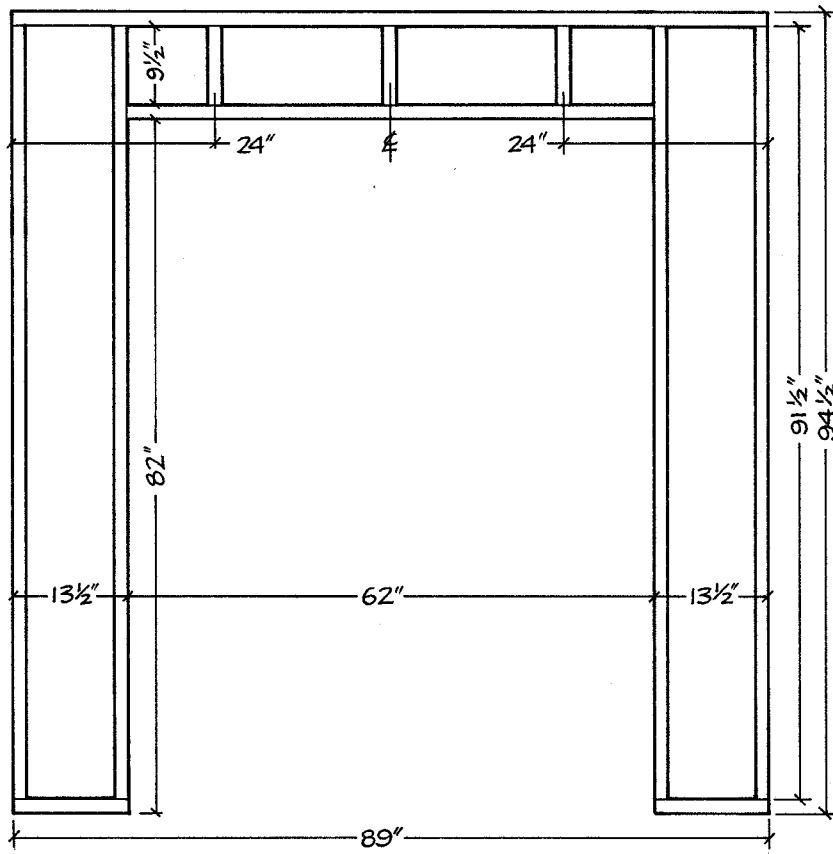
Floor



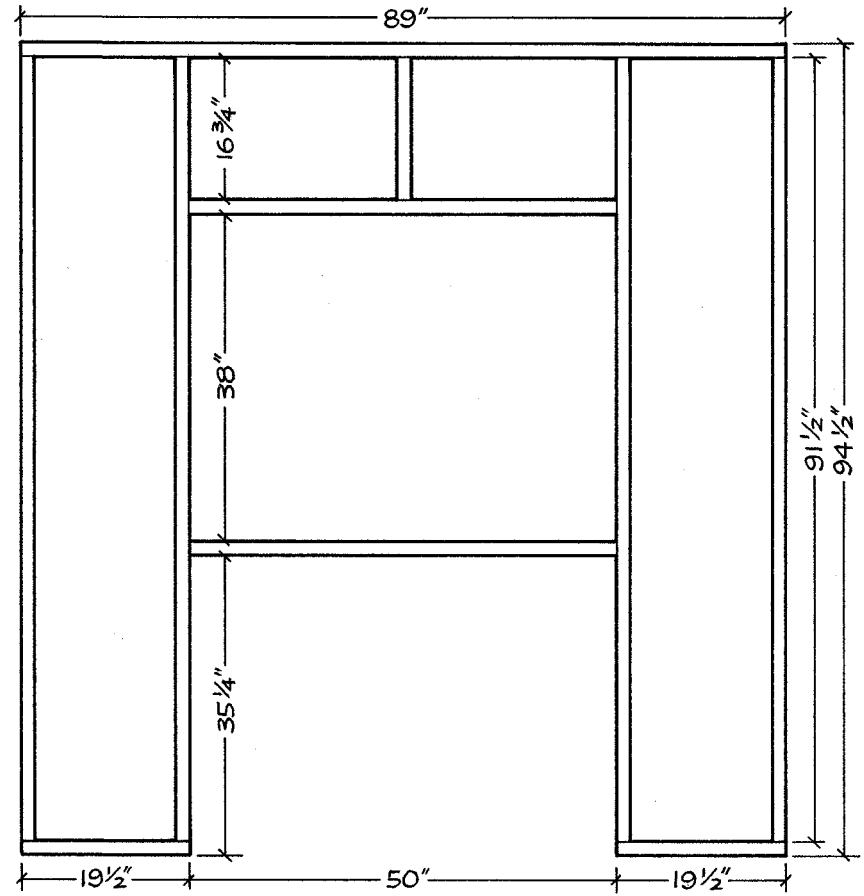
Side (make 2)



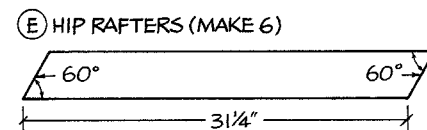
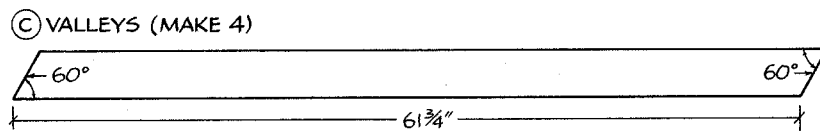
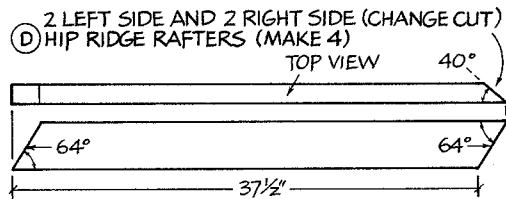
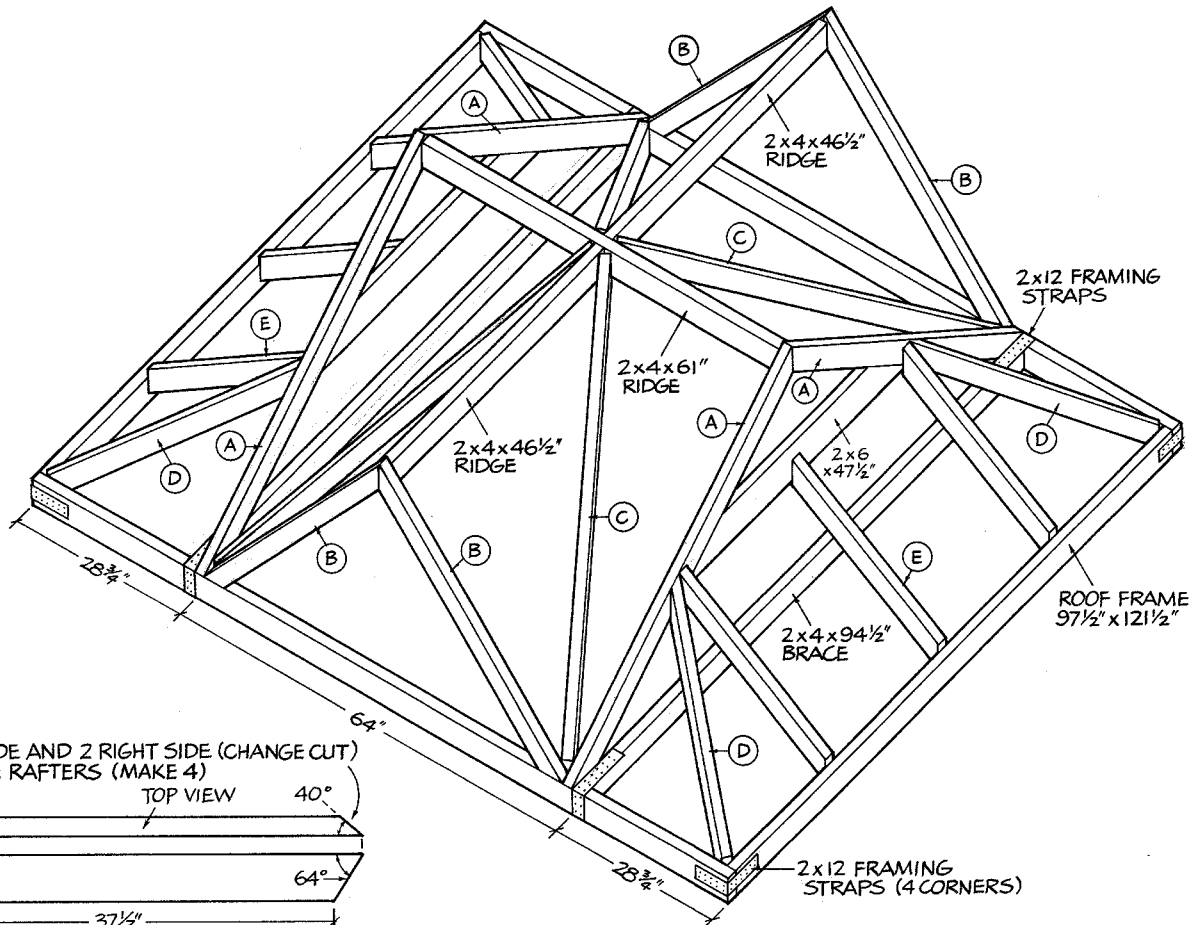
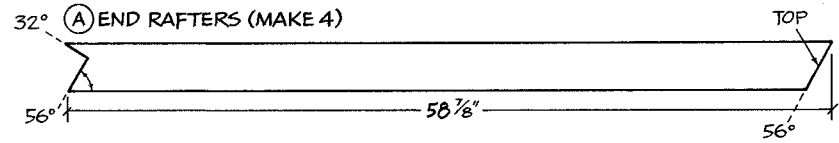
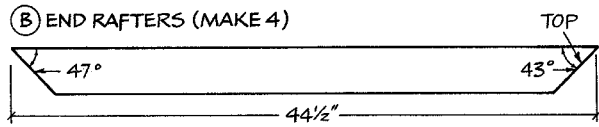
Front



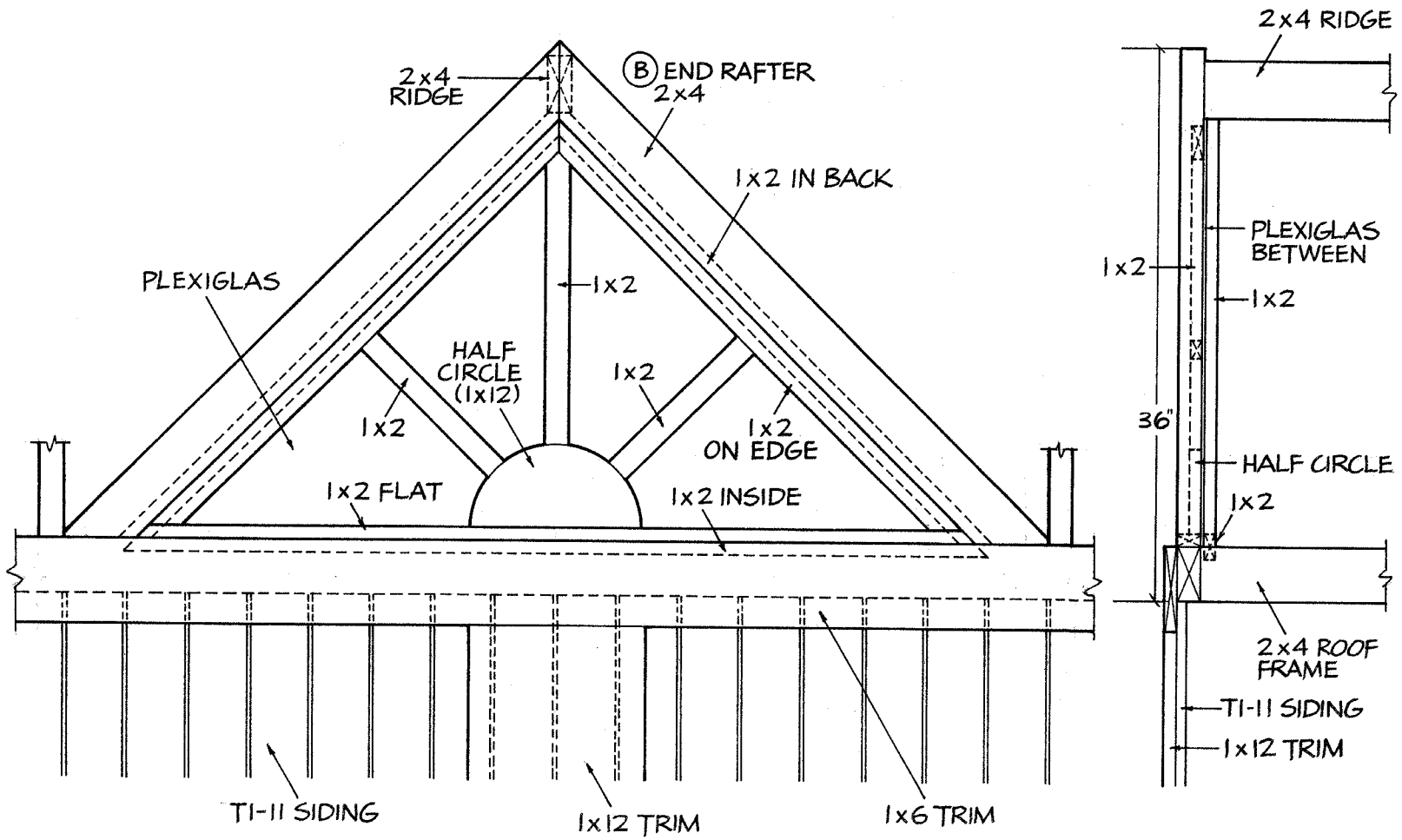
Rear



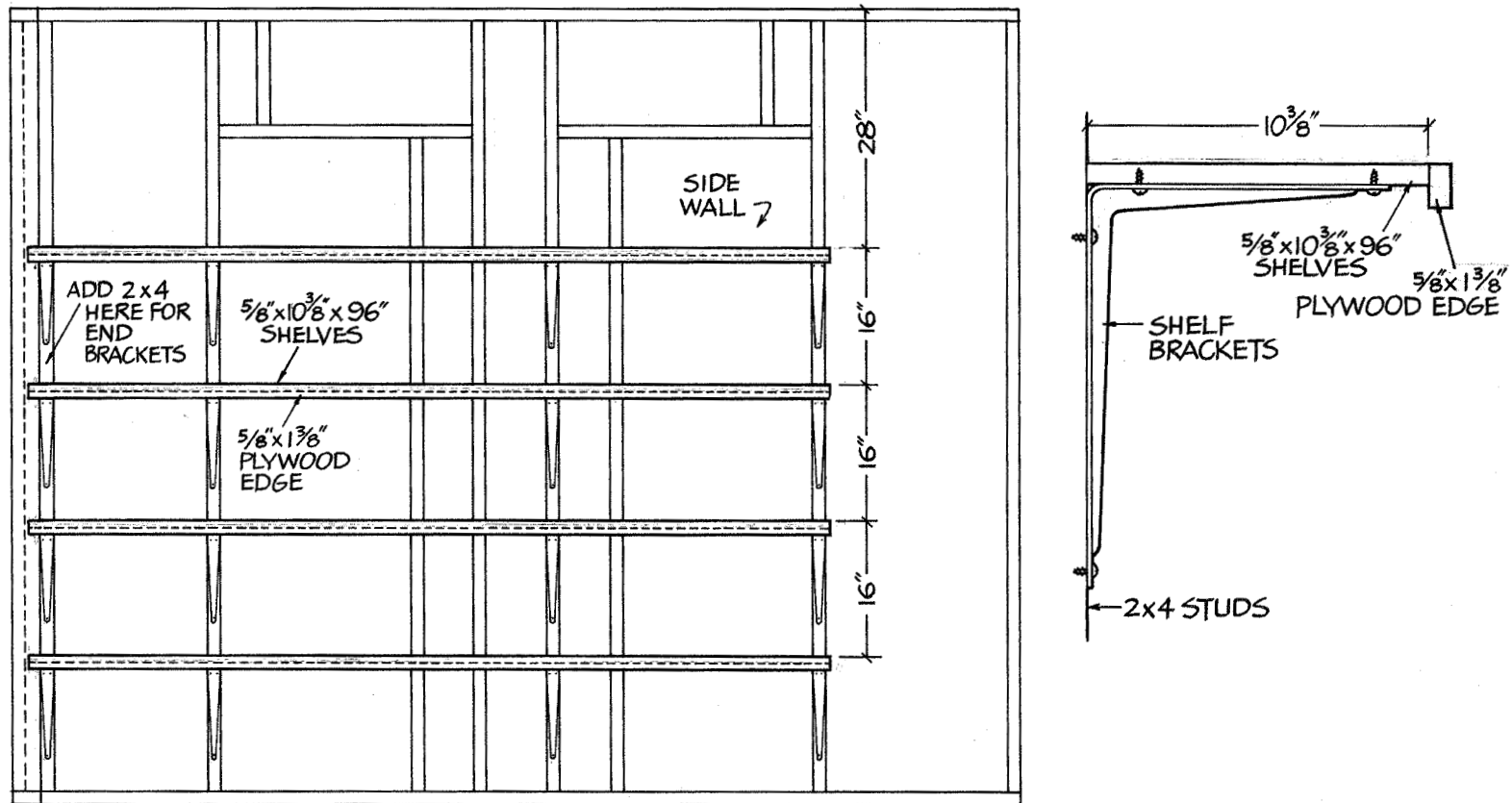
Gabled Roof



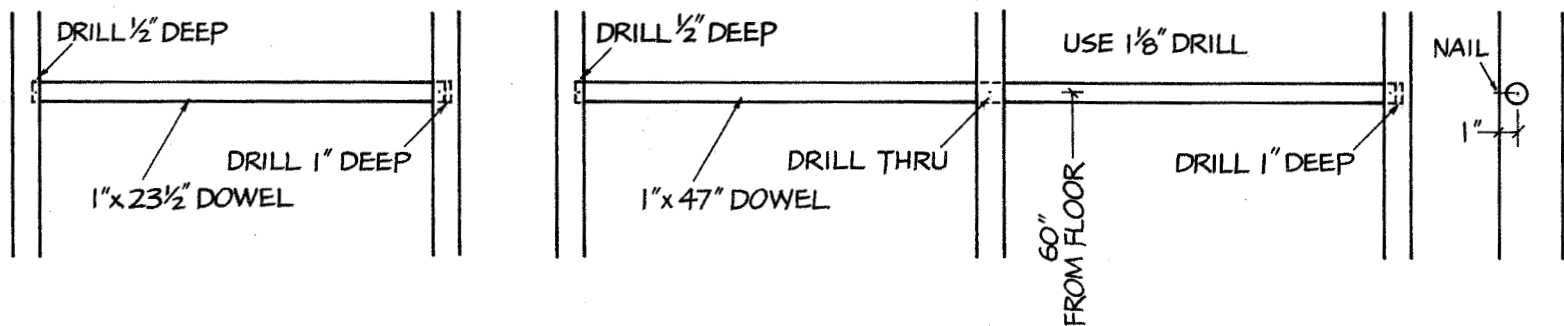
Side Gables with Windows



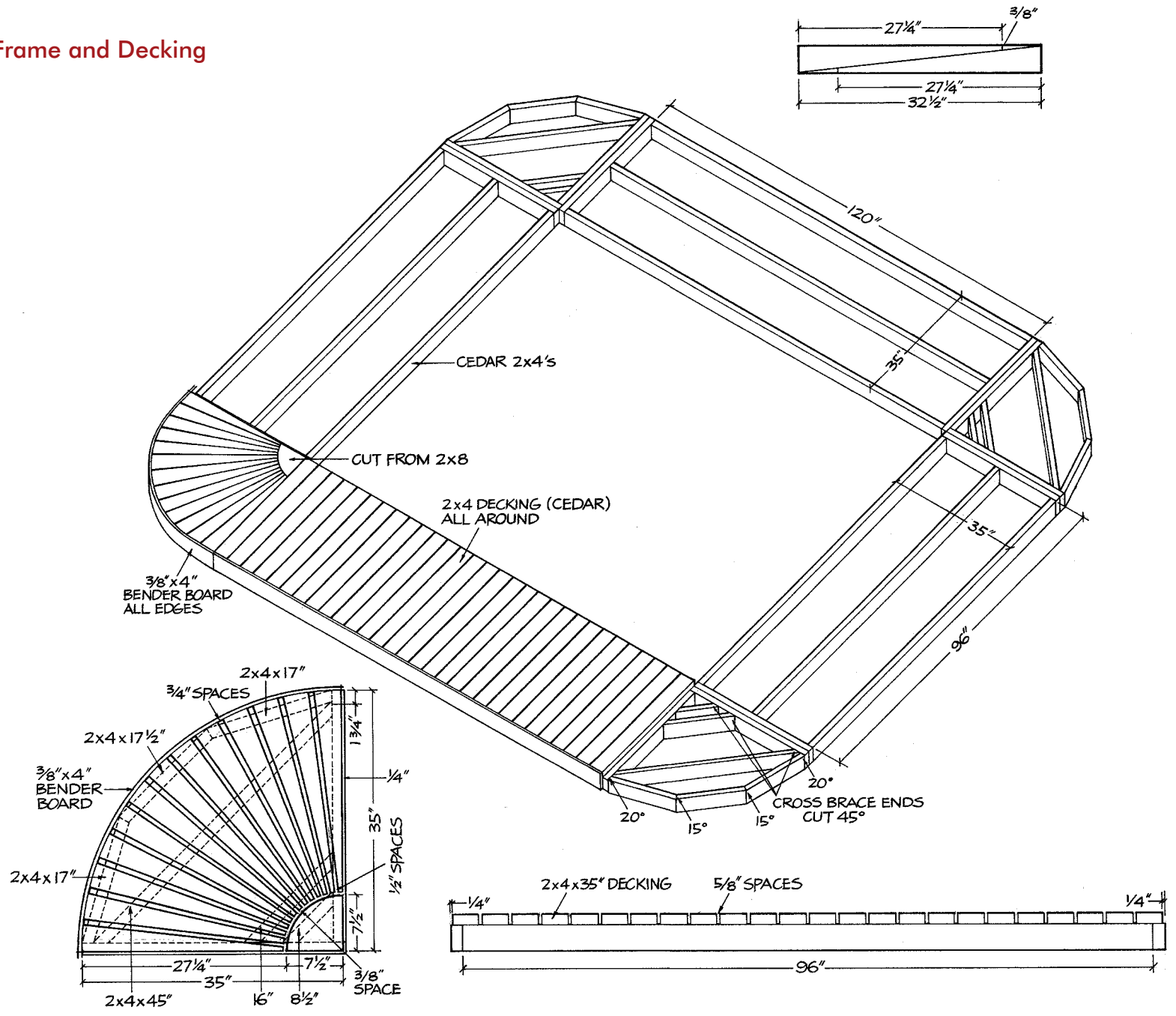
Side Wall with Shelves



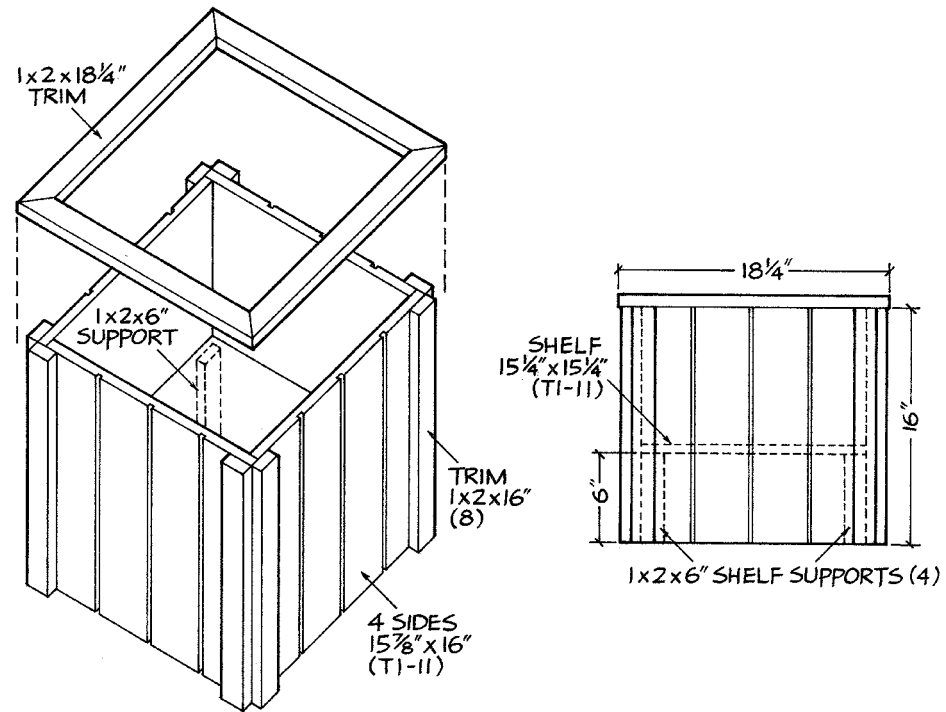
Side Wall with Tool Rack



Cedar Frame and Decking



Planter Box



BUILDING HINTS

These general hints will help you achieve the best possible results in working with APA wood structural panel products. They apply not only to this plan but to all projects you may undertake using APA trademarked panels. Since building methods and interpretation of suggestions may vary, APA – The Engineered Wood Association cannot accept responsibility for results of an individual's project efforts.

PLANNING. Before starting, study the plan carefully to make sure you understand all details.

LAYOUT. Following the panel layout, draw all parts on the panel using a straightedge and carpenter's square for accuracy. Use a compass to draw corner radii. Be sure to check the width of your saw cut and allow for saw kerfs when plotting dimensions.

CUTTING. When hand-sawing, support panel firmly with the best side facing up. Use a 10 to 15 point cross-cut saw. Use a fine-toothed coping saw for curves. For inside cuts, start hole with a drill and use a coping or keyhole saw. When power sawing on a radial or table saw, the best side of the panel should be face up. A plywood blade works best, but a sharp combination blade may be used. When using a portable power saw, the best side of the panel should be down. For curved cuts, use a jigsaw, bandsaw or saber saw.

Be sure the blade enters the face of the panel. Use the finest tooth possible for a smooth and even cut. For prolonged cutting of nonveneer panels and those containing layers of reconstituted wood, a carbide-tipped blade is suggested.

Reduce panel to pieces small enough for easy handling with first cuts. Plan to cut matching parts with the same saw setting. Scrap lumber clamped or tacked securely in place beneath the panel prevents splintering on the back side.

Overlaid panels can be worked in the same manner as regular grades with these exceptions: sawing and drilling should always be done with the cutting edge of the tool entering the panel face. To minimize chipping at the point of tool exit, use a piece of scrap wood as a backup or place tape along the line of the cut.

DRILLING. Support panel firmly. Use brace and bit for larger holes. When point appears through panel, reverse and complete hole from back. Finish slowly to avoid splintering.

PLANING. Remember, edge grain of the panel runs in alternate directions so plane from ends toward center. Use shallow set blade.

SANDING. Many APA panels are sanded smooth in manufacture – one of the big time-savers in their use – so only minimum surface sanding is necessary. You may find it easier to sand cut edges smooth before assembling each unit. Use

medium or finer sandpaper before sealer or flat undercoat is applied. Use fine sandpaper after sealing and in direction of grain only.

ASSEMBLY. Construction by section makes final assembly easier. Drawers, cabinet shells and compartments, for example, should be handled as individual units. For strongest possible joints, use glue with screws or nails. Check for a good fit by holding pieces together. Contact should be made at all points for lasting strength. Mark nail location along

edge of piece to be nailed. In careful work where nails must be very close to an edge, predrill using a drill bit slightly smaller than nail size. Always predrill for screws.

Apply glue to clean surfaces according to manufacturer's instructions. Press surfaces firmly together until bead appears. Check for square, then nail and apply clamps if possible to maintain pressure until glue sets. For exterior exposure, use resorcinol-type (waterproof) glue; for interior work, use liquid resin (white) or urea resin-type glues. Other glues are available for special gluing needs.



FINISHING FOR INTERIOR USE.

Little, if any, surface preparation is usually required. Sanded panels require only light sanding to remove blemishes or to smooth fillers which might be used to patch any dents or openings in the surface. Sand in the direction of the grain only with fine sandpaper. If an opaque finish is to be used, cover any knots, pitch streaks or sap spots with shellac or a stain-resistant sealer. Do not apply finishes over dust, glue or spots of oil.

Three types of finishing systems may be used for interior applications: paints, stains and natural finishes.

When using paint systems, a solvent-thinned (oil-based) primer should be used to minimize grain raise and prevent staining. Gloss and semi-gloss enamel top coat provide a washable, durable surface. The top coat may be oil-based or alkyd-based (solvent-thinned) or latex (water-thinned), provided it is compatible with the primer.

Panels used for natural finishes should be carefully selected for pattern and appearance. For the most natural appearance, use two coats of a clear finish, such as a urethane, varnish or clear sealer. To pleasantly subdue any grain irregularities or repairs, a light stain finish may be applied either by color toning, which uses companion stain and non-penetrating sealer, or light staining, which uses a pigmented sealer, tinting material (stain, thin enamel or undercoat), and finish coat (varnish or lacquer). Finish Medium Density Overlaid (MDO) panels with a solid color acrylic latex stain or two-coat paint system (primer plus companion top coat).

FINISHING FOR EXTERIOR USE.

A top quality stain or paint will help maintain the panel's appearance and protect it from weathering. Since end grain absorbs and loses moisture rapidly, panels should be edge-sealed to help minimize possible damage. Use paint primer to seal panels to be painted, or use a paintable water-repellent preservative for panels which are to be stained.

For rough or textured panels, either high quality stain or acrylic house paint systems are recommended. Use a solvent-thinned semi-transparent stain for maximum grain show-through. Use only acrylic latex solid-color stain when it is desirable to hide the grain and color of the wood surface, but not its texture. Maximum protection of the wood is obtained by using a house paint system which consists of a stain-resistant primer and one or more acrylic latex top coats. Finish Medium Density Overlaid (MDO) panels with solid-color acrylic latex stain or a two-coat paint system (primer plus companion top coat).

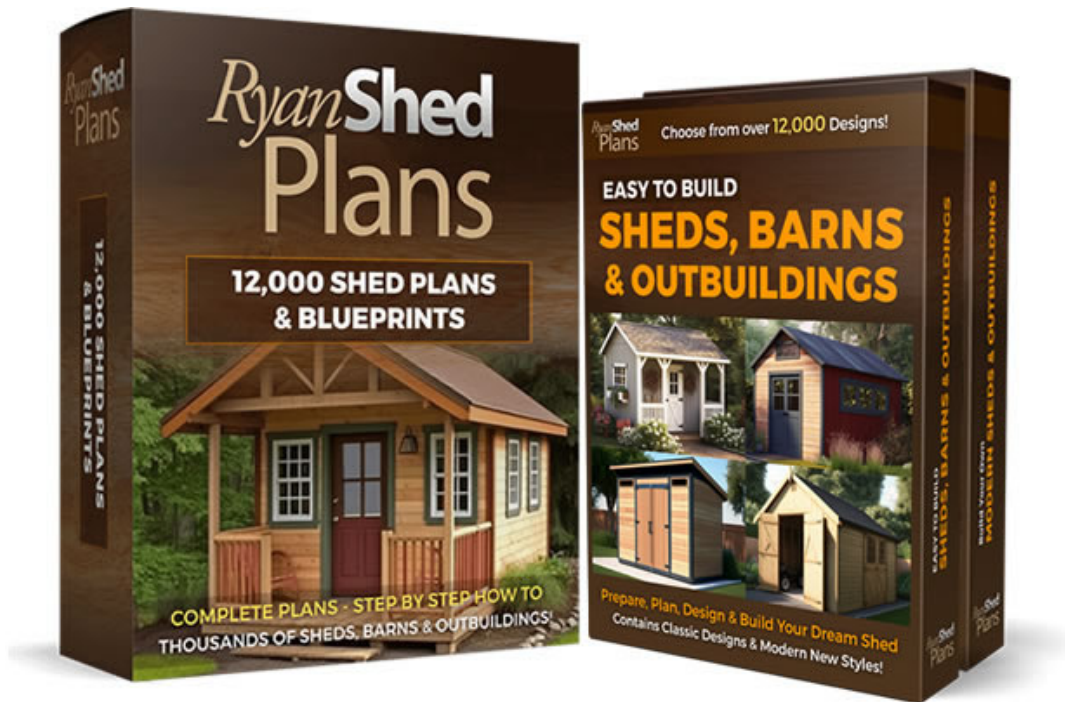
Best performance is achieved by applying the first coat of finish by brushing. If the first coat of finish is sprayed on, it should be back-brushed or back-rolled to work it well into the wood surface. Additional coats may be sprayed without back-brushing.

Whatever finishing method is used – paint or stain – always use top quality materials and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

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