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(54) Title: A MODULAR ASSEMBLY

(57) Abstract: A modular assembly structured to assume either a shipping container configuration or a building unit configuration including a frame comprising a plurality of support members and defining both a part of the building unit configuration and shipping unit configuration. A plurality of frame panels are movably connected to the frame and disposable in either a closed position or an opened position so as to respectively and at least partially define either the shipping unit configuration or the building unit configuration. The plurality of unit panels are movably connected to the frame and disposable outwardly therefrom to collectively define end wall portions and ceiling portions of the building unit configuration wherein the unit panels may be stored within the interior of the frame. An erection assembly is selectively disposable in an assembled position exteriorly of the frame and supported thereon so as to facilitate the assembly of at least some of the frame panels and/or unit panels.

1 A MODULAR ASSEMBLY

2

3 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

4

5 Field of the Invention

6 This invention relates to a modular assembly capable of
7 converting from a shipping container into a building unit with
8 utility connections, and from a building unit into a shipping
9 container. From the shipping container configuration, a plurality
10 of frame and unit panels are selectively positioned to form the
11 floor, walls, and ceiling of the building unit configuration
12 thereby forming a living and/or commercial structure complete with
13 electrical, water and sewage connections. The building unit can
14 then also be folded and converted into the shipping container
15 configuration for transport to and from various sites.

16

17 DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

18 Building units are an essential part of everyday life. Houses
19 come in all shapes and sizes, and can be made in various ways from
20 various types of materials. Traditionally, building units are
21 constructed from the ground up in a specific location, for that
22 location. These types of building structures can take weeks or
23 months to construct, requiring many different types of materials
24 and construction phases to complete. Once complete, the building
25 structure remains at its specific location as a then permanent

1 fixture of the landscape.

2 Recent developments in materials and structural engineering
3 have allowed home builders to construct "mobile" homes: pre-
4 fabricated, full-sized housing structures that can be transported
5 to a specific location. These mobile homes are assembled in
6 substantial part before being delivered to the specific location.
7 Mobile home transportation requires a "wide-load" configuration
8 involving tractor-trailers as well as lead and follow vehicles.
9 Once at the home site, the mobile home must be furnished and
10 connected to local utilities, such as electrical, water and waste
11 removal systems. The mobile home, once delivered to a specific
12 location, becomes a permanent fixture of the landscape. The
13 advantage to pre-fabricated housing structures lies in the ease of
14 construction. Mobile homes are not constructed at a specific
15 location over weeks or months, but are constructed in a factory,
16 and simply shipped to the specific location. The disadvantages
17 include complex and tenuous transportation...

18 Portable building units have been around for decades.
19 Lightweight, easily transportable structures provide temporary
20 shelter from the outdoor environment. However, natural disasters
21 and other catastrophes can destroy dwellings, thereby creating a
22 need for fully equipped emergency shelters. These emergency
23 shelters need be easily transported and easily set up in matter of
24 hours. The disadvantages thus far to portable, foldable building
25 units have been numerous: difficult to transport folded

1 configurations; multiple loose panels, multiple unit sections, and
2 difficult hinging and fastening mechanisms; difficult to assemble
3 panels and elements; and a lack of utilities inside the unit. Many
4 recent attempts at portable, foldable building units have led only
5 to exterior structures; once unfolded, the building unit provides a
6 shell dwelling with none of the necessary amenities most homes
7 require. Previous attempts at portable building units have also
8 afforded hard-to-assemble structures that require special tools and
9 sectional construction...

10 Accordingly, there is a need in the portable building units
11 industry for a modular assembly capable of convenient transport,
12 and ready for easy assembly by as little as one person with no
13 special tools or equipment, and fully equipped with utilities
14 necessary to properly, and immediately, house occupants. The
15 building unit need be large enough to occupy as a dwelling, yet
16 compact and portable enough to be transported to and set up on many
17 different locations. The building unit also need be equipped with
18 utility connections to immediately take advantage of water, sewer,
19 and electrical utilities.

20

21 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

22 The present invention relates to a modular assembly, which may
23 be selectively disposed and oriented into either a shipping
24 container configuration or a building unit configuration. From the
25 shipping container configuration, a plurality of unit panels that

1 form the building unit floor, walls, and ceiling are unfolded and
2 fastened together. The building unit configuration is also complete
3 with electrical, water and sewage connections. From the building
4 unit configuration, the unit can be then folded and converted into
5 a shipping container configuration for transport by a variety of
6 appropriate transportation means. Moreover, the modular assembly of
7 the present invention can be stored and/or transported when in the
8 shipping container configuration. In the various preferred
9 embodiments of the modular assembly, both the shipping container
10 and the building unit configurations comprise a frame at least
11 partially defined by a plurality of support members that form a
12 box-like or other appropriately shape. The support members
13 preferably comprise elongated, relatively high strength material
14 members preferably, but not exclusively, in the form of steel
15 rectangular tubes welded together to collectively comprise the
16 stable, rigid frame.

17 Once the modular assembly is located at a construction or
18 assembly site, it is ready for disposition into the building unit
19 configuration. Accordingly, the modular assembly of the present
20 invention includes a plurality of frame panels as well as a
21 plurality of unit panels each at least initially disposed in a
22 closed orientation on or within the box-like frame. In at least
23 one preferred embodiment the frame panels and unit panels are
24 formed from a load-bearing material such as corrugated steel or
25 other appropriate material.

1 In order to facilitate the disposition of the modular assembly
2 into either the building unit configuration or the shipping unit
3 configuration an erection assembly is provided and selectively
4 disposed in either a stored position or an operative position. The
5 erection assembly comprises a plurality of erection members
6 removable from their stored location within the frame and disposed
7 exteriorly on the various portions of the frame. The erection
8 assembly may also include a pulley and cable assembly cooperatively
9 connected to the plurality of erection members, when in the
10 operative position, to facilitate the positioning of the frame and
11 or unit panels in either their closed or opened positions.

12 The plurality of frame panels include at least one but
13 preferably two side panels each of which may define the "long
14 sides" of the frame when in the shipping container configuration.
15 These frame panels, may also define the long sidewall portions of
16 the building unit configuration when so assembled. Accordingly,
17 the one or more frame panels are pivotally or hingedly attached at
18 their lower most longitudinal end to the frame and are selectively
19 positioned or pivoted outwardly therefrom. When in the intended
20 operative position, they define the floor portions of the building
21 unit configuration. Further, each of the side panels include panel
22 segments initially disposed in overlying confronting relation to
23 respective ones of the frame panels. The panel segments of
24 corresponding ones of the frame panels or side panels are hingedly
25 or pivotally attached so as to extend outwardly from the

1 corresponding frame panels into a substantially upright position.
2 As such each of the combined or directly associated frame panels
3 and panel segments collectively define a corresponding floor
4 portion and long sidewall portion of the building unit
5 configuration.

6 In addition to the above, the modular assembly further
7 comprises a plurality of unit panels at least some of which are
8 movably connected to the frame and initially disposed on the
9 interior thereof when the modular assembly is in the shipping
10 container configuration. The first set or plurality of unit panels
11 extend outwardly and upwardly into a position which overlies the
12 floor portion, defined by the aforementioned frame panels. The
13 outer longitudinal edge of these unit panels are connected to or
14 supported by corresponding longitudinal edge or portion of the now
15 upright panel segments.

16 Additional ones of the plurality of unit panels may also be
17 movably connected to the frame and are at least initially disposed
18 on the interior thereof when the modular assembly is in the
19 shipping container configuration. In at least one preferred
20 embodiment these additional ones of the unit panels may be
21 pivotally or hingedly connected along a longitudinal edge or side
22 thereof and may extend outwardly so as to respectively define front
23 wall portions and rear wall portions of the building unit
24 configuration. Dependent on the overall dimensions and
25 configuration of the building unit configuration the location and

1 relative dimensions of the "long sidewalls" and front and rear "end
2 walls" may vary.

3 The modular assembly further comprises at least one interior
4 partition that is preferably in a fixed position within the frame
5 when the unit arrives on site. An additional partition can be
6 added, by way of example only, by installing an included partition
7 panel assembly in order to define the interior "rooms" or space
8 within the building unit configuration. The partition panel system
9 can be unfolded and secured to the floor, to the interior of the
10 building unit side wall, and to the at least one fixed partition,
11 as set forth above.

12 In addition, cabinets can be positioned in the kitchen area
13 using tracks installed on the kitchen walls. A water heater can be
14 installed using pre-existing utility pipes in the modular assembly.
15 Kitchen appliances and restroom fixtures such as sinks, toilets,
16 oven and stove units, and refrigerators can be installed into the
17 building unit during assembly. The building unit arrives on site
18 equipped with both interior and exterior connections for water,
19 sewer, and electrical utilities. Further, doors and windows can be
20 installed into the frame and one or more of the frame or unit
21 panels. Also, one or more doors may be pre-installed into the
22 front or other portions of the modular assembly and windows may
23 also be installed in appropriate locations.

24 These and other objects, features and advantages of the
25 present invention will become clearer when the drawings as well as

1 the detailed description are taken into consideration.

2

3 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

4 For a fuller understanding of the nature of the present
5 invention, reference should be had to the following detailed
6 description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in
7 which:

8 Figure 1 is a perspective view of one preferred embodiment of
9 the modular assembly in a shipping container configuration.

10 Figure 1A is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figure 1
11 in a successive step of assembly from the shipping container
12 configuration to a building unit configuration

13 Figure 2 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 1
14 and 1A in yet another successive phase of assembly into the
15 building unit configuration.

16 Figure 3 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 1
17 through 2 in yet another successive phase of assembly into the
18 building unit configuration.

19 Figure 4 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 1
20 through 3 in yet another successive phase of assembly into the
21 building unit configuration.

22 Figure 5 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 1
23 through 4 in yet another successive phase of assembly into the
24 building unit configuration.

25 Figure 6 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 1

1 through 5 in yet another successive phase of assembly into the
2 building unit configuration.

3 Figure 7 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 1
4 through 6 in yet another successive phase of assembly into the
5 building unit configuration.

6 Figure 8 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 1
7 through 7 in yet another successive phase of assembly into the
8 building unit configuration.

9 Figure 9 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 1
10 through 8 in yet another successive phase of assembly into the
11 building unit configuration.

12 Figure 10 is a perspective view of the outside of the front of
13 the modular assembly when in the building unit configuration.

14 Figure 11 is a perspective view of the assembled embodiment of
15 Figure 10 absent the erection assembly utilized to facilitate
16 assembly into the building unit configuration.

17 Figure 12 is a rear perspective view of the embodiment of
18 Figure 11.

19 Figure 13 is an overhead view of the interior of the modular
20 assembly when in the building unit configuration.

21 Figure 14 is a perspective overhead view of one preferred
22 embodiment of the interior of the modular assembly in building unit
23 configuration with appliances, shelves, cabinets, closets,
24 furnishings and partitions in place.

25 Figures 15-20 represent perspective views disclosing

1 successive phases of assembly of another preferred embodiment of
2 the modular assembly of the present invention from a shipping
3 container configuration into a building unit configuration, which
4 differ from the successive steps of assembly as represented in
5 Figures 1-14.

6 Like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the
7 several views of the drawings.

8

9 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

10 It is to be understood at the outset that the present
11 invention is susceptible of embodiment in different forms. Of
12 course, there is shown in the drawings and will be described in
13 detail herein at least one specific embodiment, with the
14 understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an
15 exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not
16 intended to limit the invention to the embodiment or embodiments
17 illustrated.

18 As shown in the accompanying Figures 1 through 14, the modular
19 assembly of the present invention is generally indicated as 10 and
20 is structured to assume either a shipping unit configuration as
21 represented in Figure 1 or an assembled building unit configuration
22 as represented in Figures 10 - 14. When in the building unit
23 configuration, the modular assembly 10 can be used either as a
24 living unit, commercial unit, or other facilities, wherein one or
25 more individuals can occupy the modular assembly 10 and perform any

1 of a variety of different functions.

2 Accordingly, the modular assembly 10 includes a frame
3 generally indicated as 12 including a plurality of at least four
4 support members 14 interconnected by cross braces or like
5 additional support structures 15. The support members 14 as well
6 as the cross braces 15 may be made of a high strength material such
7 as, but not limited to, tubular steel or other appropriate
8 materials welded or otherwise interconnected to one another to form
9 a box-like configuration as represented throughout the various
10 Figures.

11 As will be explained in greater detail hereinafter, the
12 modular assembly includes a plurality of frame panels and a
13 plurality of unit panels movably connected to the frame 12 and/or
14 to one another and selectively positionable into a closed position,
15 as represented in Figures 1, 1A and 2, or an opened position as
16 represented in Figures 5 through 14. The structural and operative
17 details of both the frame panels and the unit panels will be more
18 fully described. However, in order to properly position at least
19 the frame panels, and possibly at least some of the plurality of
20 unit panels, the modular assembly of the present invention also
21 includes an erection assembly generally indicated as 18. The
22 erection assembly 18 includes a plurality of removably
23 interconnected erection or boom members 20 supported exteriorly on
24 the frame 12 and extending outwardly there from, when the erection
25 assembly 18 is in an operative or assembled position, as

1 represented in Figures 2 through 9. In addition, the erection
2 assembly 18 includes a cable and pulley assembly, wherein a
3 plurality of pulleys or other structures serve to support, position
4 and allow movement of a plurality of cables 22. The cables 22 may
5 be removably connected to selected ones of the frame panels and/or
6 unit panels in order to position them in an opened or closed
7 position, so as to define either the building unit configuration or
8 the shipping unit configuration. With primary reference to Figure
9 1A, the plurality of erection members 20 may also be disposed in a
10 stored position when not in use. More specifically, the stored
11 position is preferably located within the frame 12 and more
12 preferably in the corner portions or areas 14 of the frame 12 as
13 represented.

14 As set forth above, at least one but preferably a plurality of
15 frame panels 24 are pivotally or hingedly connected at their lower
16 most longitudinal ends to a corresponding portion of the frame 12,
17 as at 26. The aforementioned erection assembly 18, including
18 appropriately positioned erection members 20, may utilize the
19 aforementioned pulley and cable 22 to lower or unfold the plurality
20 of frame panels 24 into the opened position. The fully opened
21 position of the frame panels 24 is represented in Figure 4, such
22 that each of the frame panels 24 are disposed to define the floor
23 portions of the building unit configuration of the modular assembly
24 10. Also, a hinge assembly may be located at the lower portion 26
25 of the frame panels 26 and be structured to facilitate an

1 appropriate "leveling" of the frame panels 24 into the "floor
2 defining" position.

3 In addition, each of the frame panels 24 includes a panel
4 segment 30 associated therewith. The panel segments 30, as clearly
5 represented in Figures 4 and 5, are hingedly or pivotally connected
6 at their outer most end 32 to the corresponding longitudinal edge
7 of the frame panels 24. These panel segments 30 are unfolded into
8 their opened position so as to be substantially vertically oriented
9 and thereby transversely oriented relative to their corresponding
10 frame panel 24, which now define the floor portion of the building
11 unit configuration. As with the selective positioning of the frame
12 panels 24, the panel segments 30 may be disposed in their
13 completely opened position as represented in Figure 6 through
14 operation of the erection assembly 18 and the supporting cable(s)
15 22 associated therewith. Accordingly, when the panel segments 30
16 are in their fully opened position and vertically oriented, they
17 may define sidewalls or more preferably the long sidewalls of the
18 building unit configuration as also indicated in Figures 10 - 12.

19 In addition, the modular assembly 10 includes a plurality of
20 unit panels 32 initially represented in Figure 7 and represented in
21 their fully opened position in Figure 8. As such, the first
22 plurality of unit panels 32 may be unfolded outwardly from the
23 frame 12, again through use of the erection assembly 18 including
24 the associated cable(s) 22, as described above. A comparison of
25 Figures 7 and 8 indicates the unfolding of the first plurality of

1 unit panels 32 into their fully opened positions. As such, the
2 first plurality of unit panels 32 at least partially define
3 correspondingly disposed ceiling portions the building unit
4 configuration, as the first plurality of frame panels 32 are
5 disposed in overlying relation to the interior of the building unit
6 configuration, when completely assembled.

7 Figure 9 represents an additional plurality or others of the
8 plurality of unit panels 36 and 36' pivotally, hingedly or
9 otherwise movable relative to the frame 12. As represented in the
10 embodiment of Figures 9 through 12, the additional or second
11 plurality of unit panels 36 are each disposed to be selectively
12 oriented in their opened position as represented in Figures 11 and
13 12. When so opened, each of the plurality of unit panels 36 and
14 36' are disposed to respectively and at least partially define
15 front and rear end wall panels of the building unit configuration.
16 When fully assembled into the building unit configuration of
17 Figures 10 and 11, the interior thereof is represented in Figures
18 13 and 14. The interior of the building unit configuration is
19 preferably, but not exclusively, formed into a plurality of
20 sections 40, 42 and 44 at least partially separated from one
21 another. However, the sections 40, 42 and 44 are disposed in
22 communicating, accessible relation with one another in order to
23 allow occupants to pass easily between the various sections 40, 42
24 and 44. At least partially segregating the sections 40, 42 and 44
25 is a partition assembly 46 and 48, which effectively defines

1 interior wall portions of the building unit configuration. The
2 partitions or interior wall units 46 and 48 separate what may be
3 referred to as a primary or main room 50 and kitchen or utility
4 area 52 from separate, at least partially segregated bedrooms or
5 other room areas 54 and 56. As also a bathroom area generally
6 indicated as 60 may also be defined by the interior walls or
7 partitions 46 and 48.

8 In addition to the above various appliances or utilities may
9 be included in appropriate portions of the interior of the building
10 unit configuration. Such additional appliances or facilities may
11 include kitchen cabinets which can be affixed to the kitchen or
12 other utility area 52 by means of tracks or like coupling or
13 installation structures. In addition, water, sewer and electric
14 utility connections as well as appropriate sinks, bathing
15 facilities, stove or ranges, refrigerators, air conditioners, etc.
16 may also be appropriately positioned on the interior of the
17 building unit construction as generally represented in both Figures
18 11 and 12.

19 In addition appropriate windows 70, door(s) 72, doorways,
20 halls or passageways (see Figures 13 and 14) are pre-structured and
21 appropriately disposed in the various portions of the frame 12,
22 partitions 46 and 48, panel segments 30 or unit panels defining the
23 end walls as at 36.

24 Figures 15 through 20 represent yet another preferred
25 embodiment of the modular assembly, generally indicated as 10'. It

1 is to be noted that the individual components of the modular
2 assembly 10' are substantially equivalent to that of the modular
3 assembly 10 as represented in the preferred embodiments of Figures
4 1 through 14. However, the difference between the additional
5 preferred embodiment of the modular assembly 10' is the relative
6 disposition of the frame panels 24, panel segments 30 and unit
7 panels 32, 36 and 36'. As such, the method of assembly or
8 deployment of the various frame panels or unit panels differ in the
9 embodiment of the modular assembly 10' from that of the modular
10 assembly 10. Moreover, the initial configuration of the modular
11 assembly 10 and 10', when in the shipping container orientation, is
12 the same as represented in Figure 1. Similarly when in the fully
13 assembled building unit configuration the overall exterior and
14 interior appearances of the modular assemblies 10 and 10' are
15 substantially equivalent. As set forth above, it is acknowledged
16 that the overall structural appearance and/or configuration when
17 either the shipping unit orientation of Figure 1 or the building
18 unit orientation of Figures 1 through 14 may vary without departing
19 from the intended spirit and scope from the present invention.

20 Accordingly, with primary reference to Figure 15, the modular
21 assembly 10' includes the aforementioned erection assembly 18
22 including a plurality of erection or boom members 20 movably and
23 actively supporting a plurality of cable or cable segments 22 in
24 order to position each or at least some of the frame panels and
25 unit panels between their closed position and their opened

1 position. Once the erection assembly 18 is properly disposed on the
2 exterior of the frame 12 as described with reference to Figure 1A,
3 deployment or positioning of the various panels occurs by first
4 pivotally opening of the unit panels 32 into their upwardly
5 supported position. As such, the unit panels 32 of the modular
6 assembly 10' define a ceiling or roof portion of the building unit
7 configuration when completely assembled. With reference to Figures
8 17 and 18, once the unit panels 34 are in their at least partially
9 raised or opened position, the frame panels 24 are next manipulated
10 or disposed into their opened position so as to define the floor or
11 foundation portions of the building unit configuration as
12 represented in Figure 18.

13 Figure 19 further shows the operation of the erection assembly
14 18 so as to dispose the panel segments 30 into their opened
15 position. As such, the panel segments 30 form the longer or long
16 sidewall portions of the building unit orientation similar to that
17 of the modular assembly 10. Additional similarities include each
18 of the frame panels 24 preferably having the panel segments 30
19 pivotally or otherwise movably connected thereto. Such pivotal or
20 other movable connection between the frame panels 24 and the panel
21 segments 30 facilitate their outward, opened disposition so as to
22 define the long sidewall portions of the building unit
23 configuration as clearly represented in Figure 20.

24 Thereafter, the other or additional plurality of unit panels
25 36 and 36' are next pivotally or otherwise movably disposed from

1 their closed position, as represented in Figures 15 through 19, to
2 their opened position. As such, the additional unit panels 36 and
3 36' respectively define the front end wall and rear end wall
4 portions of the building unit configuration, as clearly represented
5 in Figures 10 through 12.

6 Further, once the modular assembly 10' is in the fully
7 assembled position, the erection assembly 18 is disassembled from the
8 exterior, supported position on the frame 12 and is disposed in any
9 convenient stored location, such as on the interior of the frame 12
10 adjacent to or at least partially within the corner portions 14, as
11 set forth above.

12 As with the preferred embodiment of the modular assembly 10, a
13 plurality of portal openings 70 and 72 defining windows, doors or
14 like openings may be preformed or otherwise constructed in the
15 front and rear end walls 36 and 36', the frame 12 and the long side
16 wall portions of the building defined by the panel segments 30.

17 Because many modifications, variations and changes in detail
18 can be made to the described preferred embodiment of the invention,
19 it is intended that all matters in the foregoing description and
20 shown in the accompanying drawings be interpreted as illustrative
21 and not in a limiting sense. Thus, the scope of the invention
22 should be determined by the appended claims and their legal
23 equivalents.

24 Now that the invention has been described,

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. A modular assembly structured to assume either a shipping
3 container configuration or a building unit configuration, said
4 modular assembly comprising:

5 a frame comprising a plurality of support members,
6 a plurality of frame panels disposable in a substantially
7 closed, interconnected position to at least partially define
8 the shipping container configuration,

9 at least one of said plurality of frame panels moveably
10 disposed outwardly from said frame into an opened position to
11 at least partially define the building unit configuration,

12 a plurality of unit panels movably connected to and
13 disposable on said frame in a closed position concurrent to
14 said frame panels being in said closed position, and

15 said plurality of unit panels movably disposable
16 outwardly from said frame into an opened position to further
17 at least partially define the building unit configuration.

18 2. A modular assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said one
19 frame panel includes at least one panel segment movably connected
20 to said one frame panel and positionable outwardly there from to
21 further at least partially define the building unit configuration.

22 3. A modular assembly as recited in claim 2 wherein said one
23 frame panel is structured and positionable to define a floor
24 portion of the building unit configuration.

25 4. A modular assembly as recited in claim 2 wherein said one

1 panel segment is structured and positionable to define a sidewall
2 portion of the building unit configuration.

3 5. A modular assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said
4 plurality of frame panels each include at least one panel segment;
5 said plurality of frame panels and corresponding ones of said panel
6 segments positioned outwardly from said frame into an opened
7 position to collectively and at least partially define the building
8 unit configuration.

9 6. A modular assembly as recited in claim 5 wherein each of said
10 plurality of frame panels is structured and positioned to define a
11 different floor portion of the building unit configuration.

12 7. A modular assembly as recited in claim 6 wherein each of said
13 panel segments is structured and positionable to define a different
14 sidewall portion of the building unit configuration.

15 8. A modular assembly as recited in claim 7 wherein at least some
16 of said plurality of unit panels are movably connected to said
17 frame and positionable outwardly there from into said opened
18 position to define different ceiling portions of the building unit
19 configuration.

20 9. A modular assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein at least
21 others of said plurality of unit panels are movably connected to
22 said frame and positionable outwardly there from into said opened
23 position to collectively define front and rear end wall portions of
24 the building unit configuration.

25 10. A modular assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein at least some

1 of said plurality of unit panels are movably connected to said
2 frame and positionable outwardly there from into said opened
3 position to define different ceiling portions of the building unit
4 configuration.

5 11. A modular assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein others of
6 said plurality of unit panels are movably connected to said frame
7 and positionable outwardly there from into said opened position to
8 collectively define front and rear end wall portions of the
9 building unit configuration.

10 12. A modular assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said
11 plurality of support members are fixedly interconnected to define
12 said frame as a portion of both the shipping container
13 configuration and the building unit configuration.

14 13. A modular assembly as recited in claim 1 further comprising an
15 erection assembly including a plurality of erection members
16 collectively disposable in an assembled position exteriorly of said
17 frame; said erection assembly, when in said assembled position,
18 being structured to facilitate disposition of at least said frame
19 panels in the building unit configuration.

20 14. A modular assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said
21 plurality of erection members are structured to be disposed in a
22 disassembled, stored position within said frame.

23 15. A modular assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said
24 erection assembly, when in said assembled position, being
25 structured to facilitate disposition of said frame panels and said

1 unit panels in either the shipping container configuration or the
2 building unit configuration.

3 16. A modular assembly structured to assume either a shipping
4 container configuration or a building unit configuration, said
5 modular assembly comprising:

6 a frame comprising a plurality of support members
7 interconnected in fixed relation to one another,

8 said plurality of support members fixedly interconnected
9 to define said frame as a portion of both the shipping
10 container configuration and the building unit configuration,

11 a plurality of frame panels movably connected to said
12 frame and disposable in either a closed position or an opened
13 position,

14 said closed position at least partially defining the
15 shipping container configuration and said opened configuration
16 at least partially defining the building unit configuration,

17 said plurality of frame panels disposed outwardly from
18 said frame when in said opened position to collectively define
19 floor portions of the building unit configuration,

20 a plurality of unit panels disposable outwardly from said
21 frame and collectively defining end wall portions and ceiling
22 portions of the building unit configuration, and

23 an erection assembly disposable in an assembled position
24 on an exterior of the frame; said erection assembly disposed
25 and structured to facilitate disposition of at least some of

1 the frame panels in said opened position to define the
2 building unit configuration.

3 17. A modular assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said
4 erection assembly comprises a plurality of erection members
5 structured to be disposed in a disassembled, stored position within
6 said frame.

7 18. A modular assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said
8 erection assembly, when in said assembled position, being
9 structured to facilitate disposition of said frame panels and said
10 unit panels in either the shipping container configuration or the
11 building unit configuration.

12 19. A modular assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein each of said
13 plurality of frame panels including at least one panel segment;
14 said plurality of frame panels and corresponding ones of said panel
15 segments positioned outwardly from said frame to collectively and
16 at least partially define the building unit configuration.

17 20. A modular assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein each of said
18 plurality of frame panels is structured and positioned to define a
19 different floor portion of the building unit configuration.

20 21. A modular assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein each of said
21 panel segments is structured when in said opened position to define
22 a different sidewall portion of the building unit configuration.

23 22. A modular assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein at least
24 some of said plurality of unit panels are movably connected to said
25 frame and positionable outwardly there from to define different

1 ceiling portions of the building unit configuration.

2 23. A modular assembly as recited in claim 22 wherein at least
3 others of said plurality of unit panels are movably connected to
4 said frame and positionable outwardly there from to collectively
5 define front and rear end wall portions of the building unit
6 configuration.

7 24. A modular assembly as recited in claim 22 wherein others of
8 said plurality of unit panels are movably connected to said
9 plurality of frame panels and positionable outwardly there from to
10 collectively define front and rear end wall portions of the
11 building configuration.

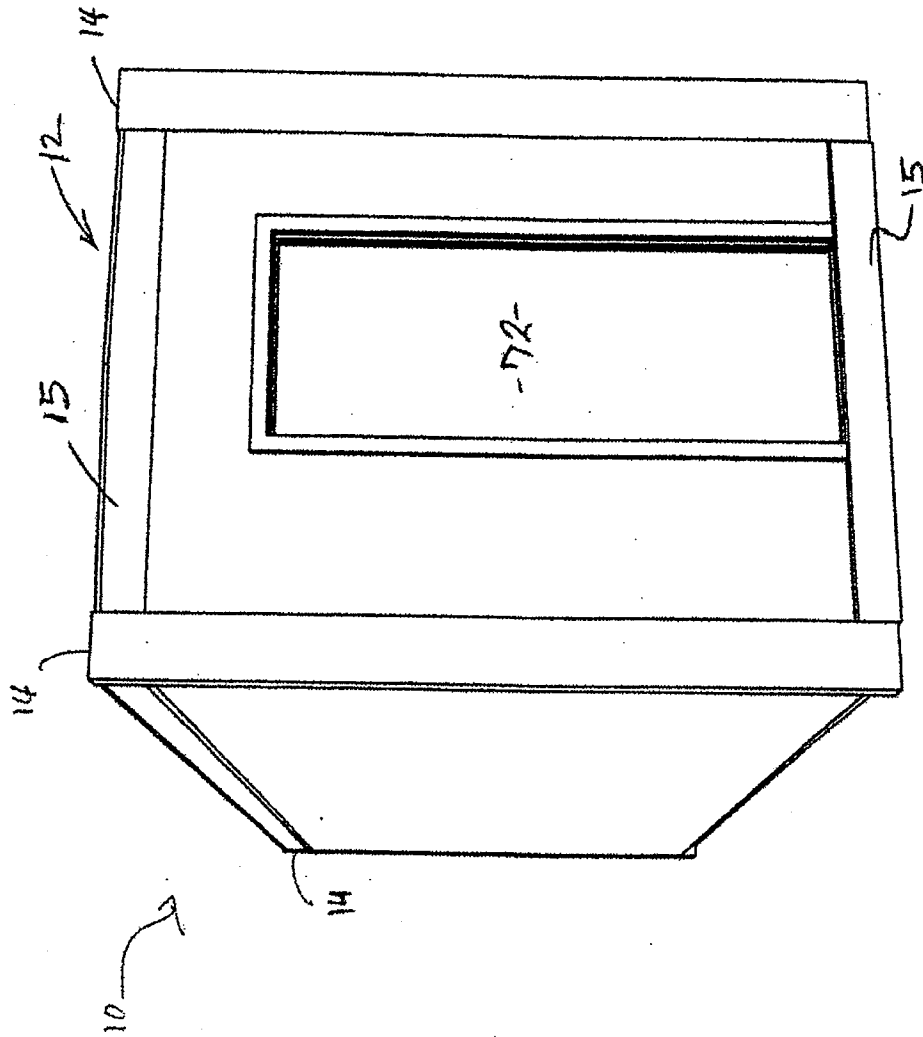


FIGURE 1

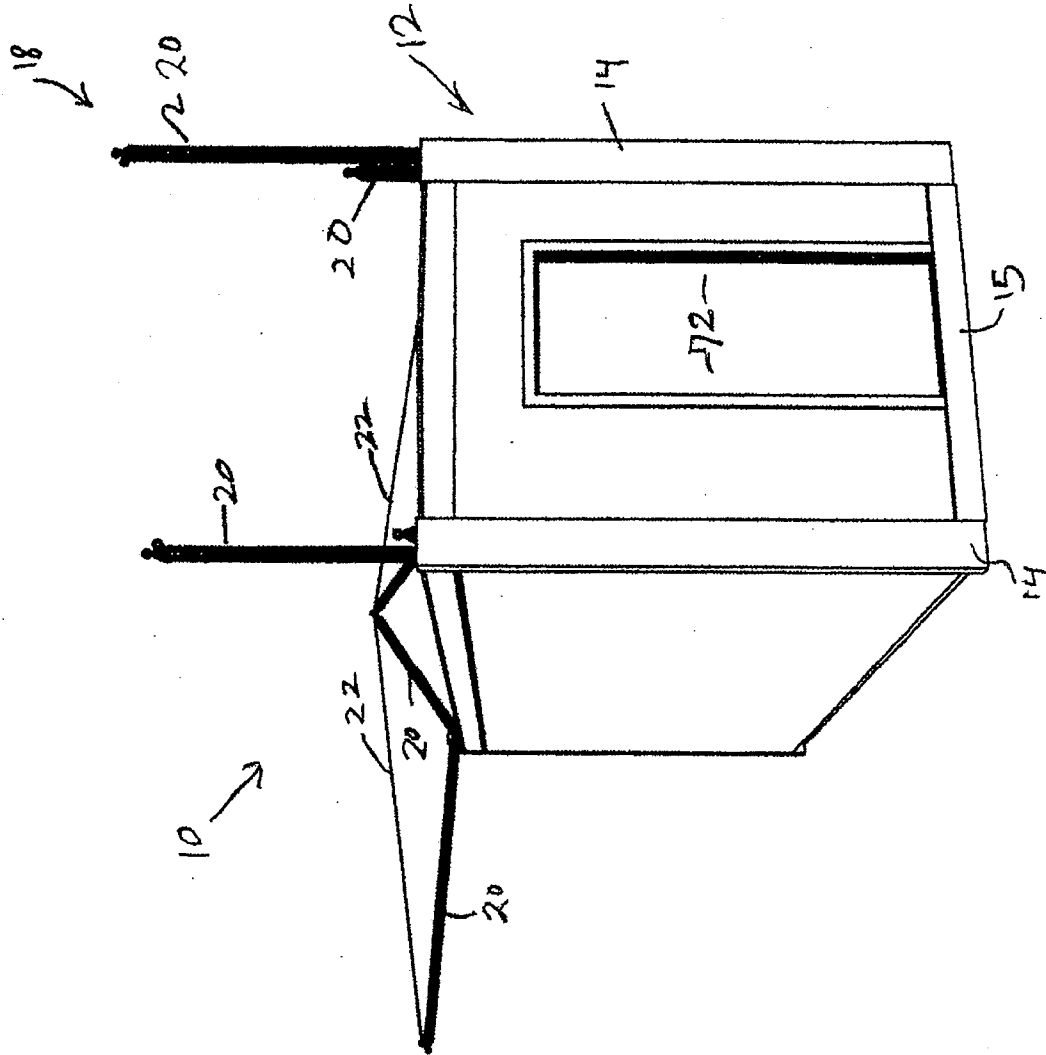


FIGURE 1A

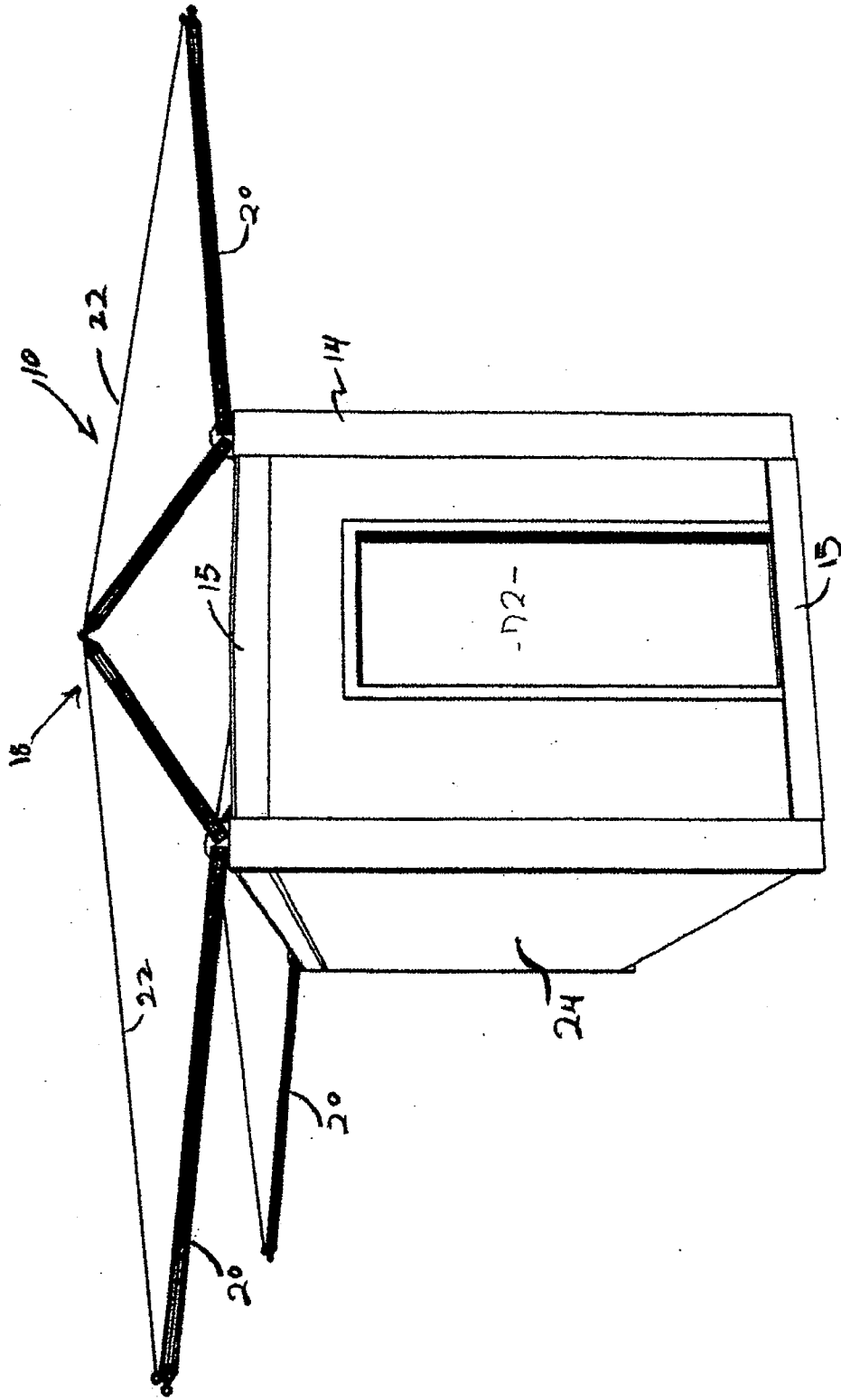


FIGURE 2

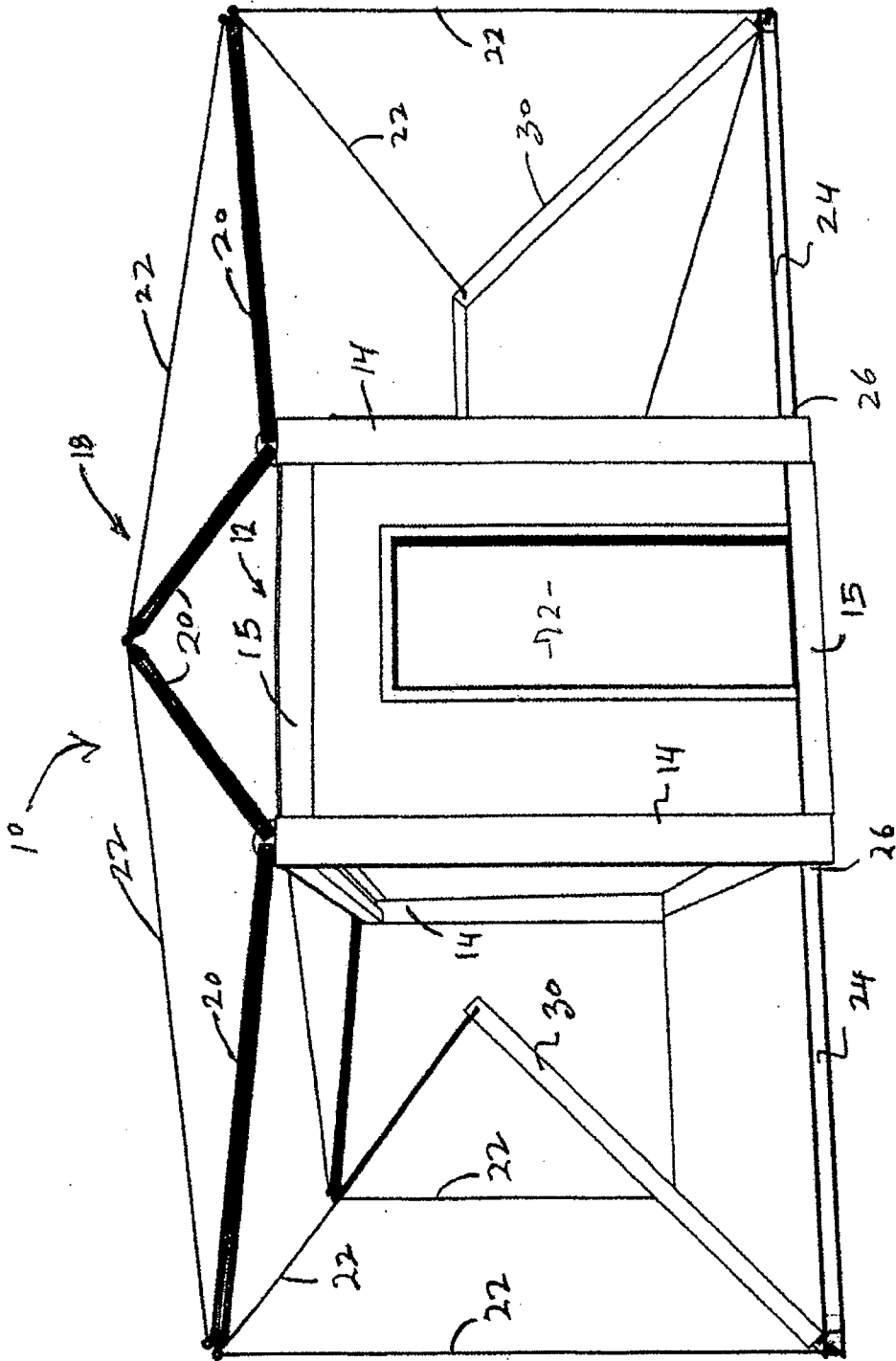


FIGURE 3

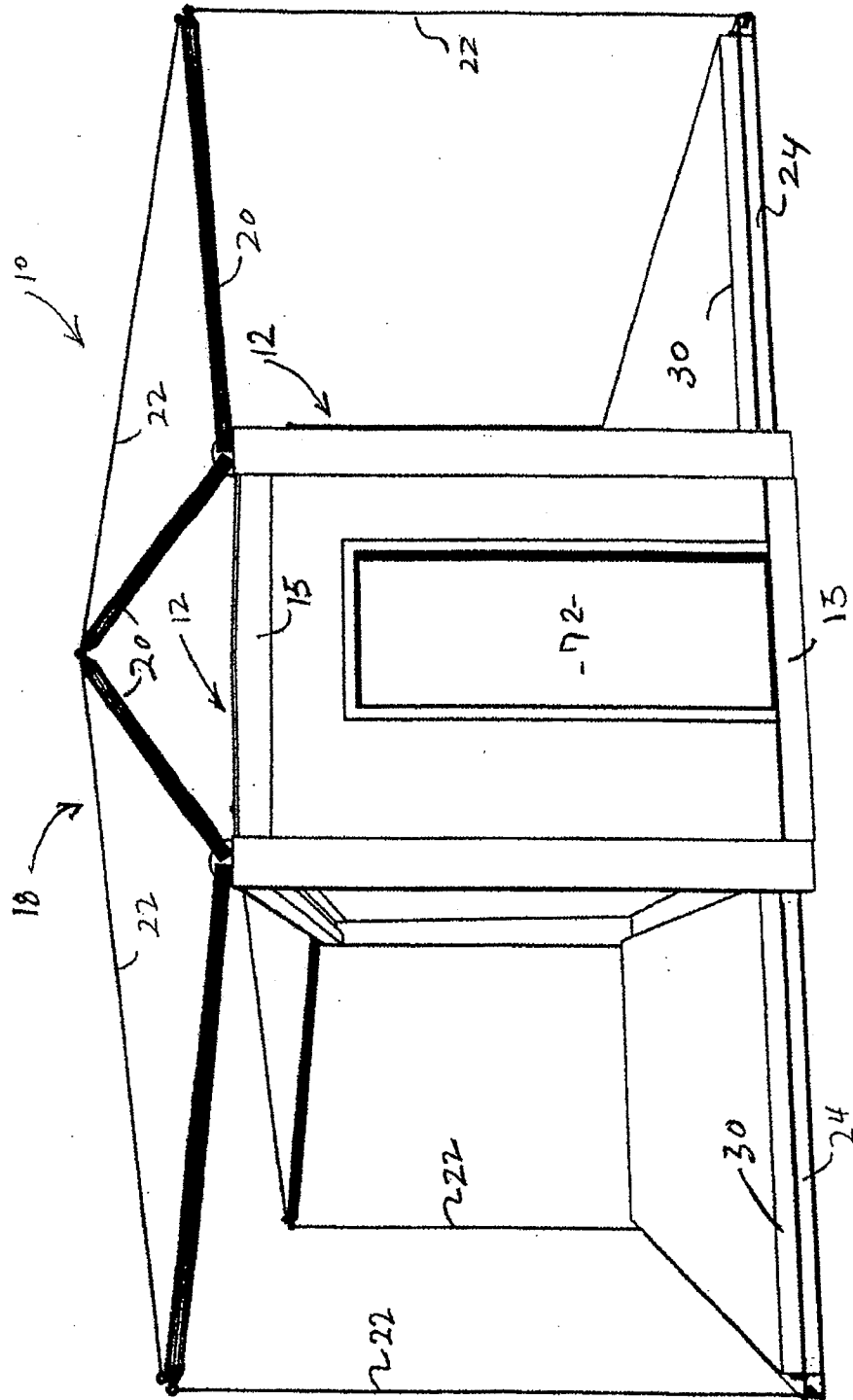


FIGURE 5

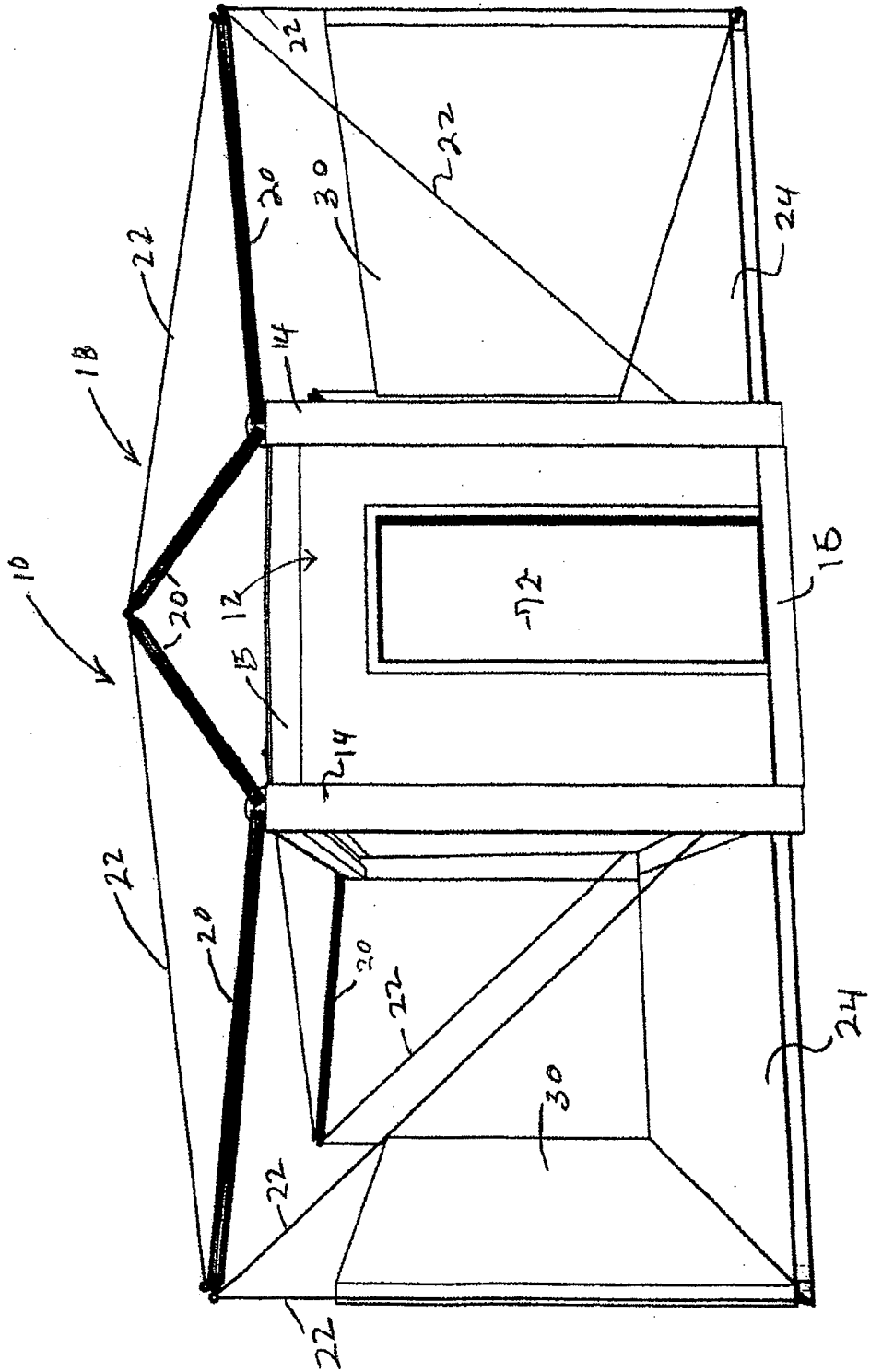


FIGURE 6

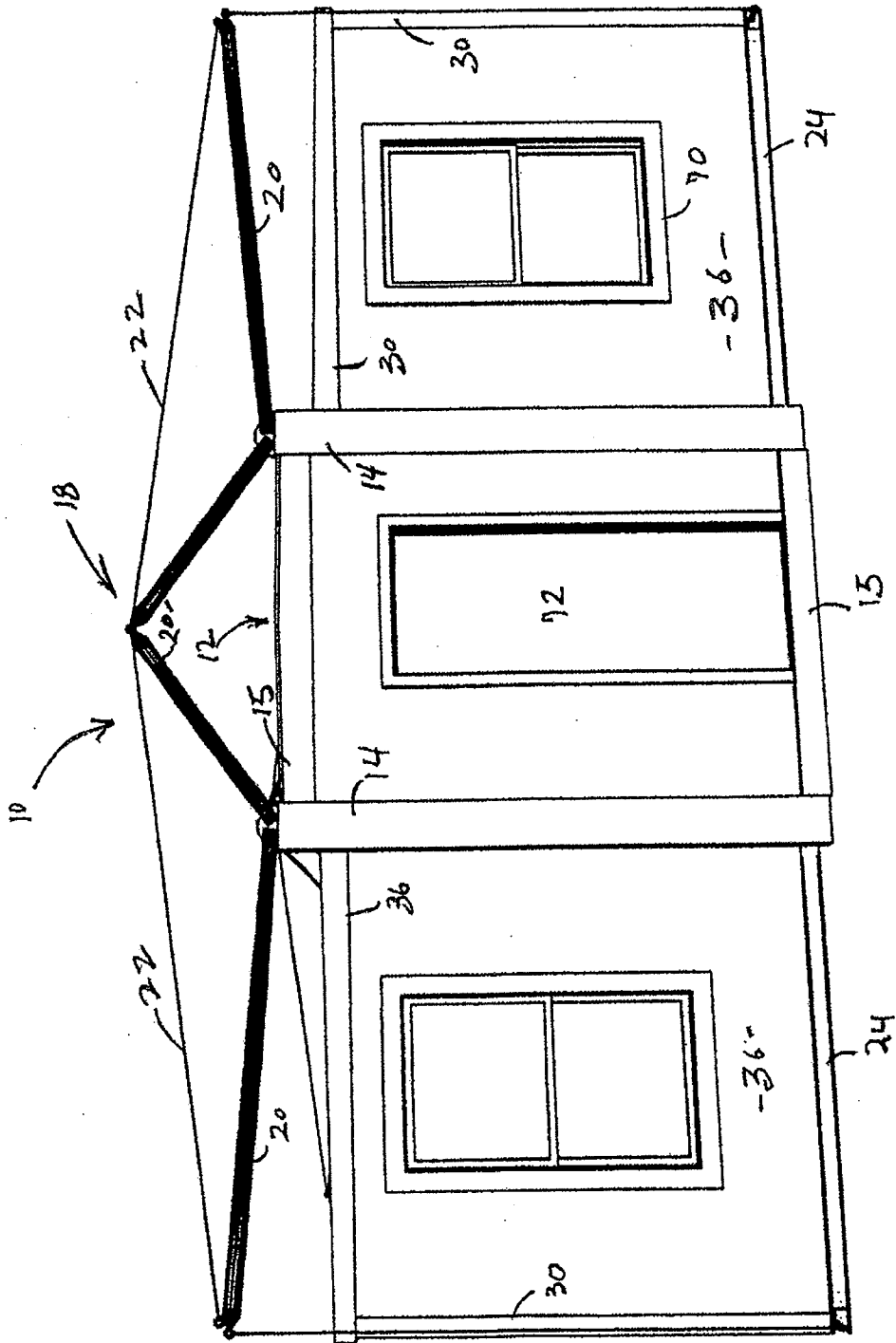


FIGURE 10

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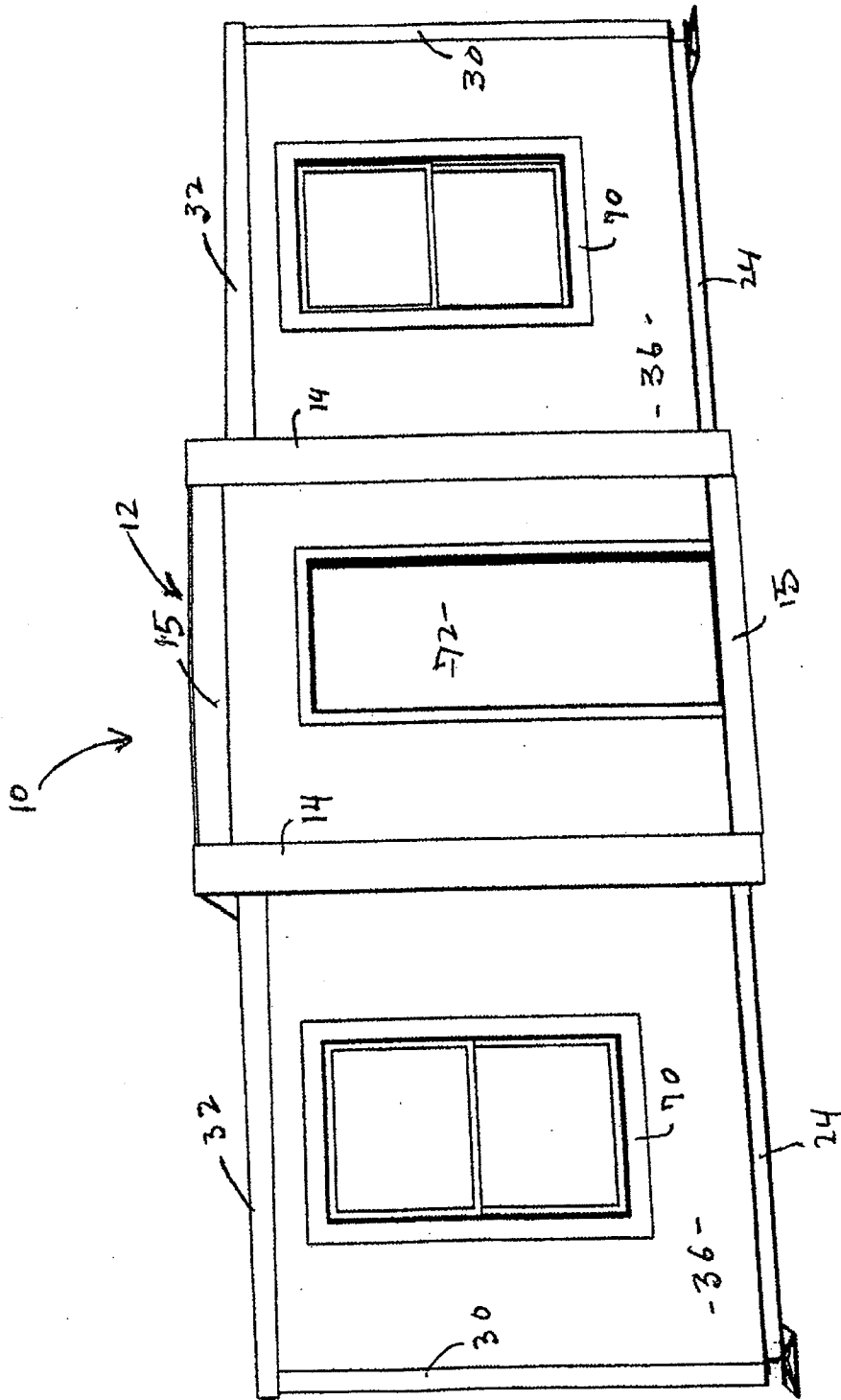


FIGURE 11

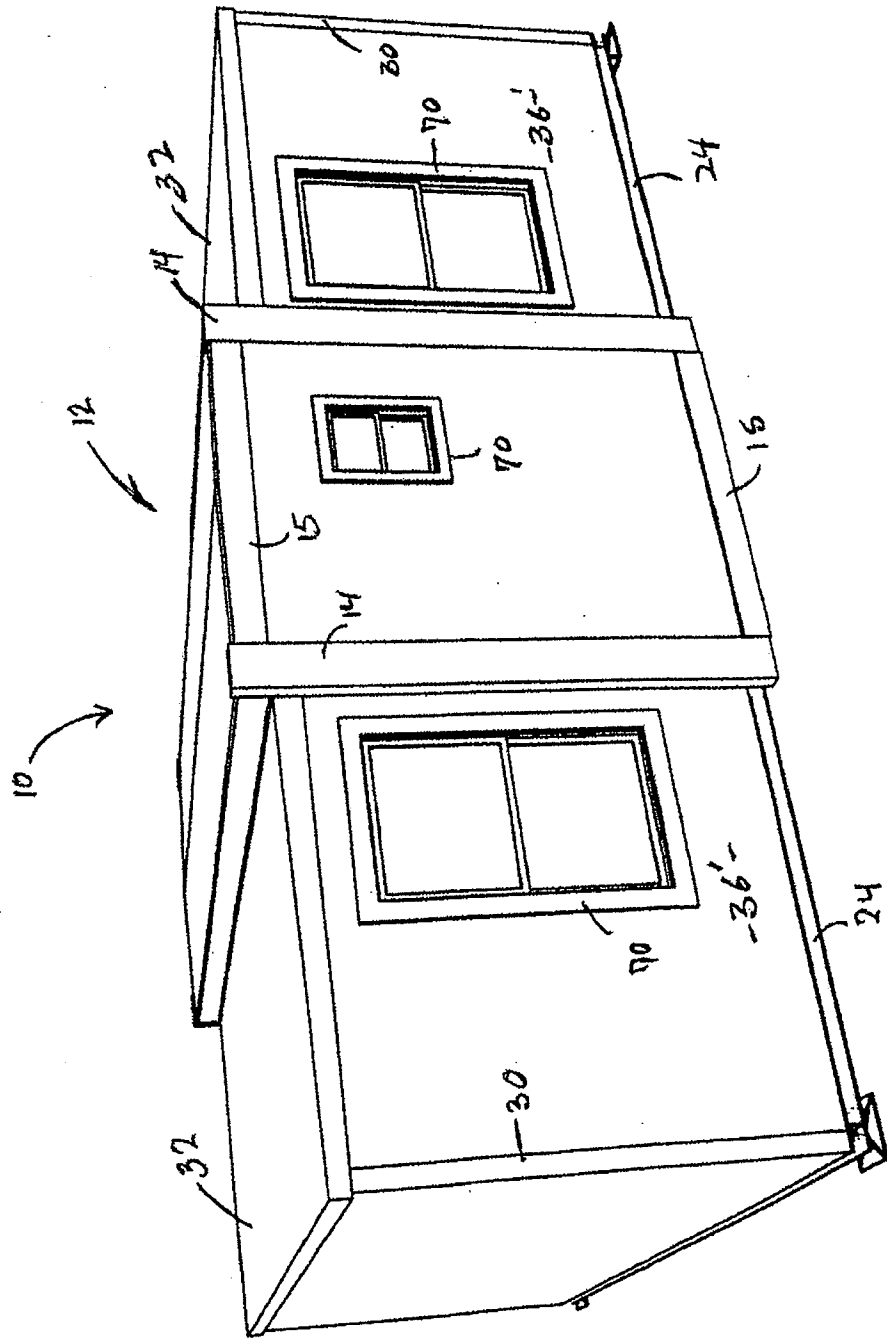


FIGURE 12

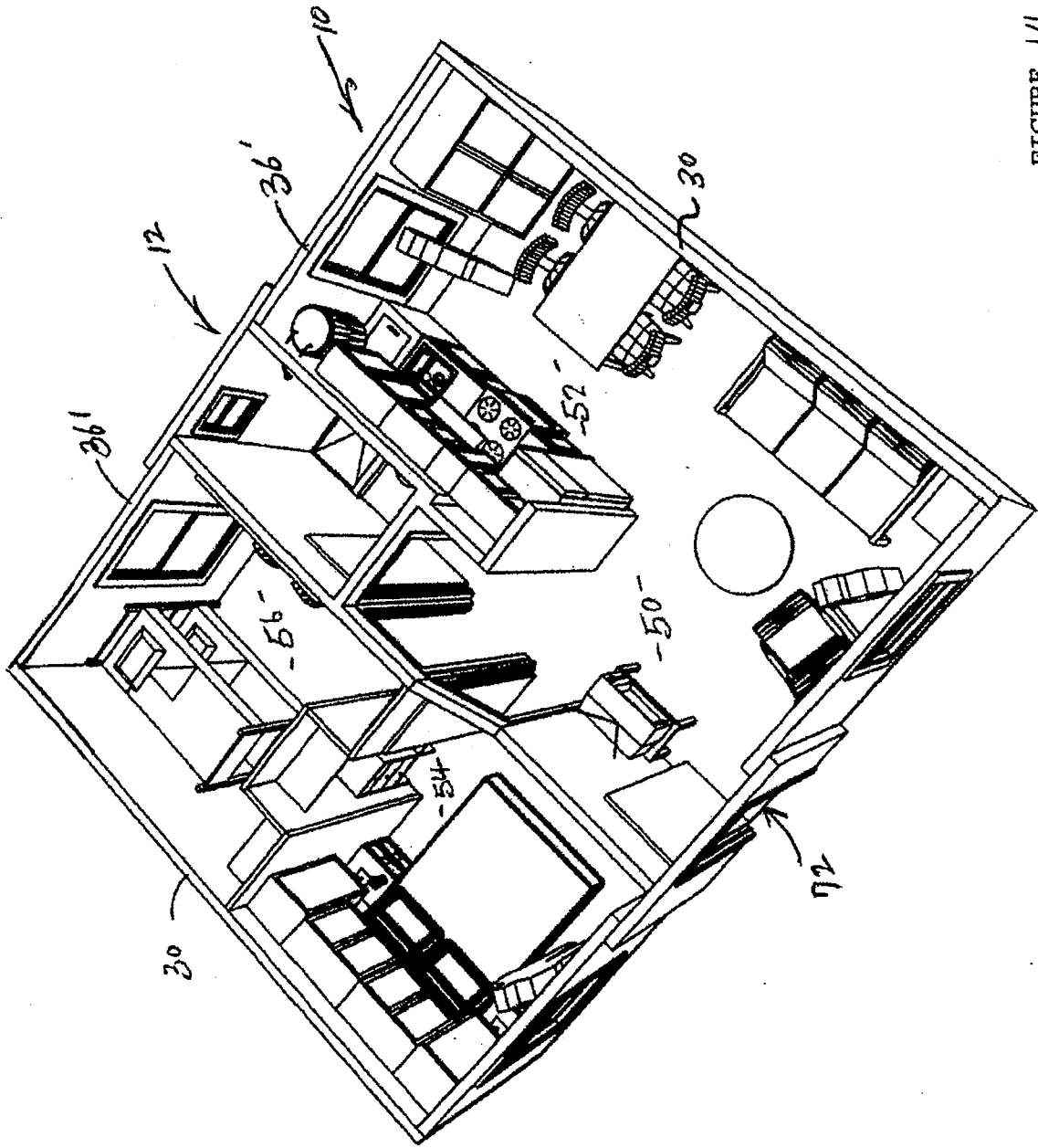


FIGURE 14

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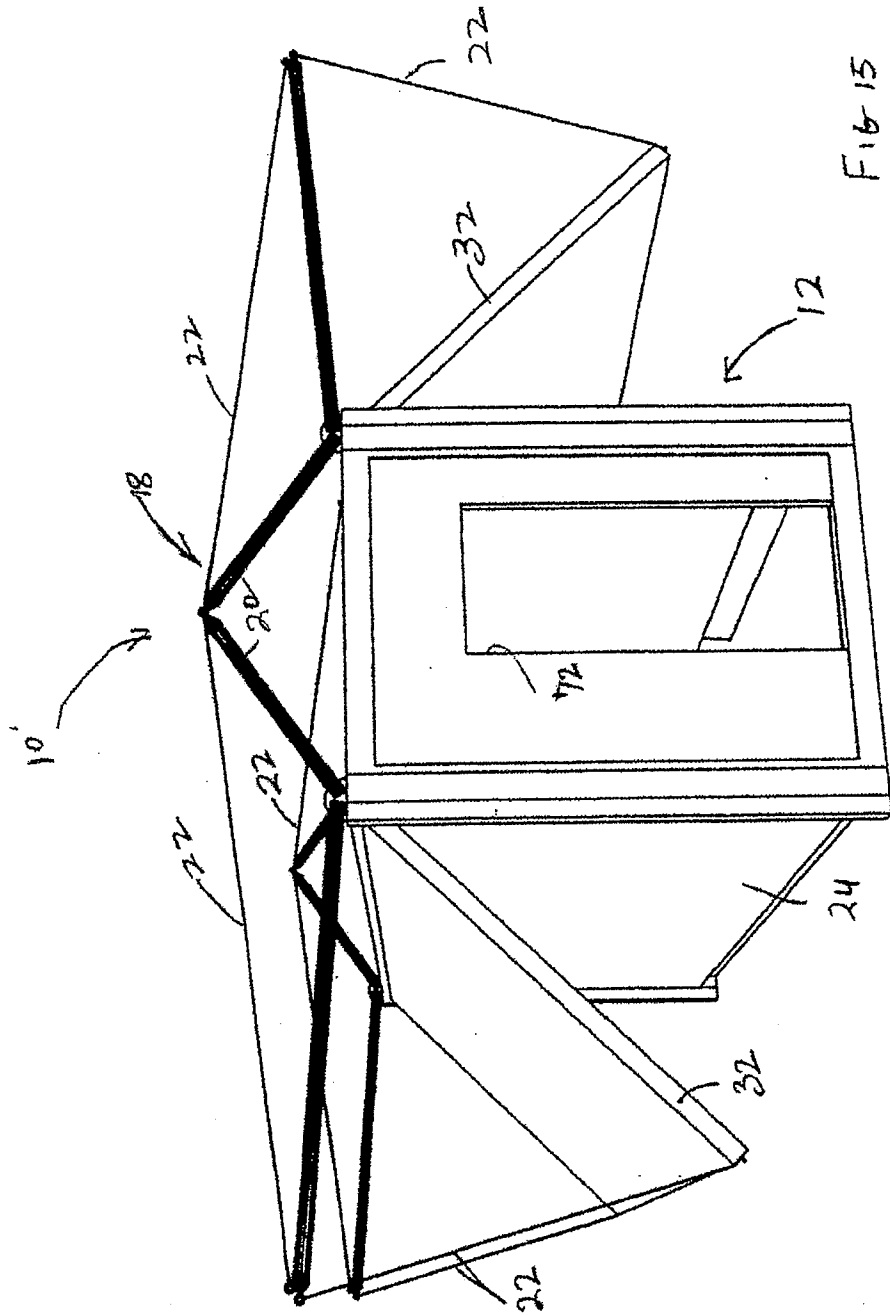


Fig. 15

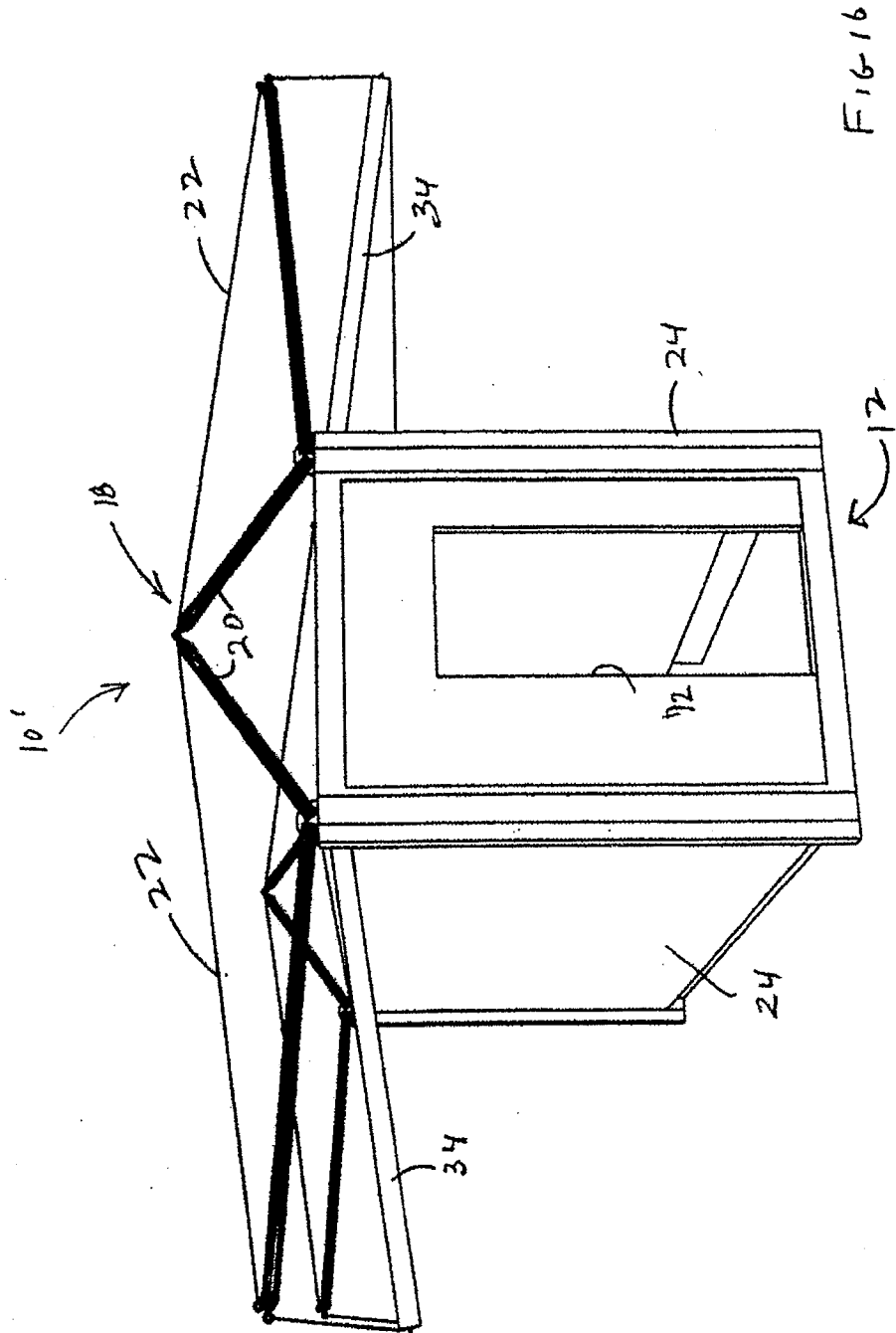


FIG. 16

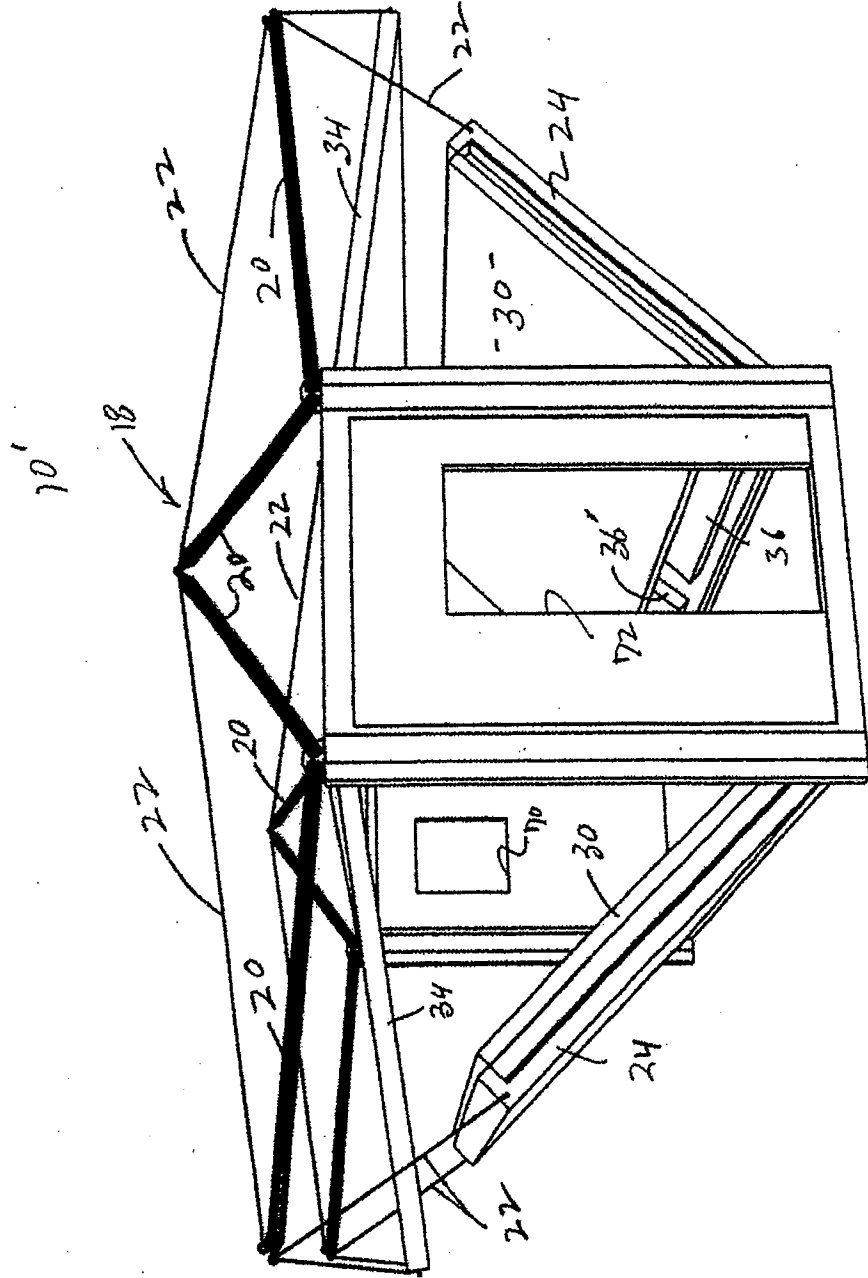


FIG 17

