



Unique bomb shelter “HOBBIT HOUSE”





ABOUT US



ГУРТУМ
БЛАГОДІЙНИЙ ФОНД

We are a team of volunteers, ordinary people who, before the full-scale invasion, lived their common lives.

But after February 24, 2022, our lives changed. We realized we could not stand aside in such a difficult period for our country.

We were people of different professions, from different cities and with different backgrounds, but we gathered together and started to help the affected regions of Ukraine as much as we could.

We quickly realized that the main thing people needed, except food, was to rebuild their homes. We started repairing roofs and windows.





THE MAIN TASK



To return people to normal life in de-occupied cities and villages.



MAIN PROJECTS



✓ Petite Ecole

Petite Ecole means "A small school" in French.

A small elementary school in Gostomel was heavily damaged by shells and shrapnel from Russian missiles. The unique elementary school in the region is 120 years old. It was very important for us to save the architectural value of this building.

Throughout the year, with the help of volunteers and charitable donations from people and companies, we have been fully reconstructed the school.



✓ Hobbit house

The necessity of shelter in educational institutions is currently a legal requirement.

At the beginning of the Petite Ecole project we realized that we would not open a school for the children of Gostomel without it.





PETITE ECOLE

before



after





PETITE ECOLE

before



after





HOBBIT HOUSE bomb shelter

from idea to realization





The concept of building a shelter that looks like a fairy tale house was initiated by Oleksandr Kahal, director of the Gurtum Foundation, who has more than 15 years of experience in architecture.

His love for Tolkien's “Lord of the Rings” became the inspiration for the idea that eventually led to the creation of a magical fairy tale shelter.

Oleksandr Kahal
Director CF Gurtum





CONSTRUCTION



We took as a basis the norms of the approved standards for the construction of such objects.

The bomb shelter is made of a special grade of concrete used in the construction of facilities with high quality and strength requirements and heat-strengthened steel reinforcement with a diameter of 12 mm.

The shelter is placed 1500 mm underground. The whole monolithic structure - walls, floor, and roof - is 250 mm wide.

Waterproofing, thermal insulation, and drainage systems are implemented.





CONSTRUCTION

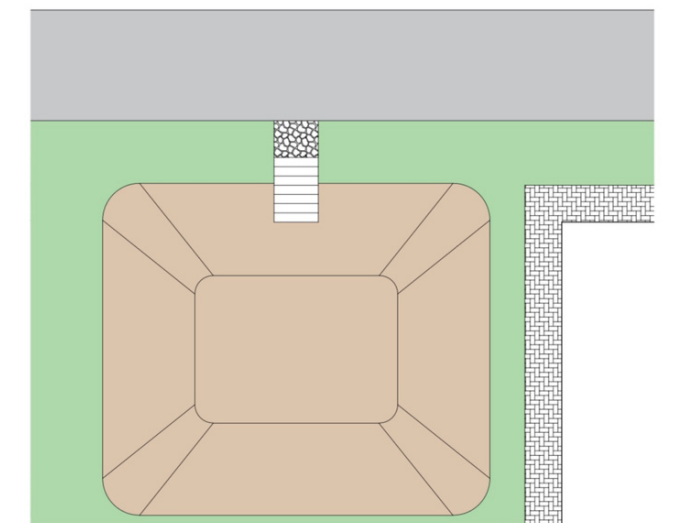
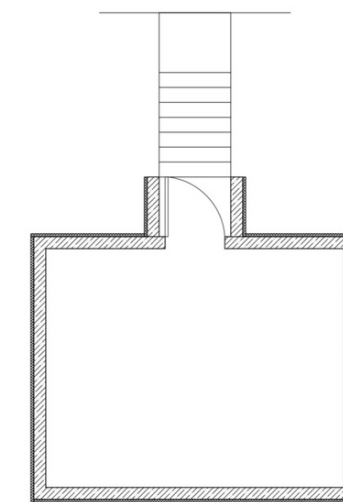
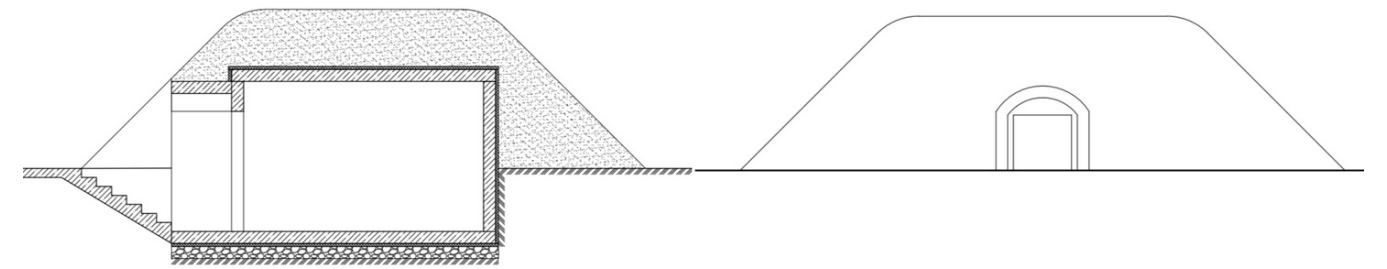
A month after the construction had been completed, it was covered with a 1000 mm layer of ground.

The shelter has 2 entrances/exits. Electricity is available. Additional power supply from the generator.

The shelter also has a separate toilet room.

And Wi-Fi is also required in such buildings.

The shelter has a supply of drinking water, food, and fire safety equipment.





Exterior

To bring the idea of a fantasy hobbit house to life, a fake brick wall was integrated into the main structure.

In addition, round windows and doors were installed to improve the overall aesthetics of the house.

The idea's importance rests in making air raid alerts less stressful for children and transforming them into a fun game and an exciting adventure.





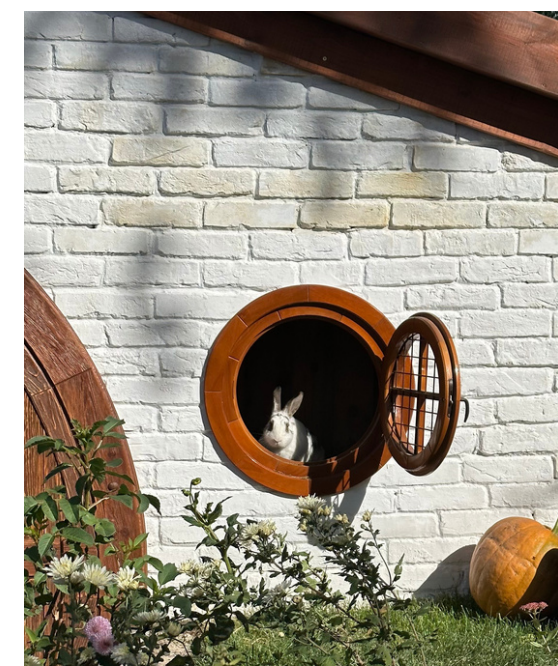
Interior

According to the standard norms for shelters, no finishing materials can be on the walls or ceiling.

But we couldn't leave the gray concrete walls without any decorations.

The walls of the shelter are painted and decorated with fairy tale drawings, with fantastic animals, a fireplace and bookshelves. Now staying in the shelter for children is an interesting journey into the world of fairy-tale heroes.

We have also prepared one wall for the children's drawings.



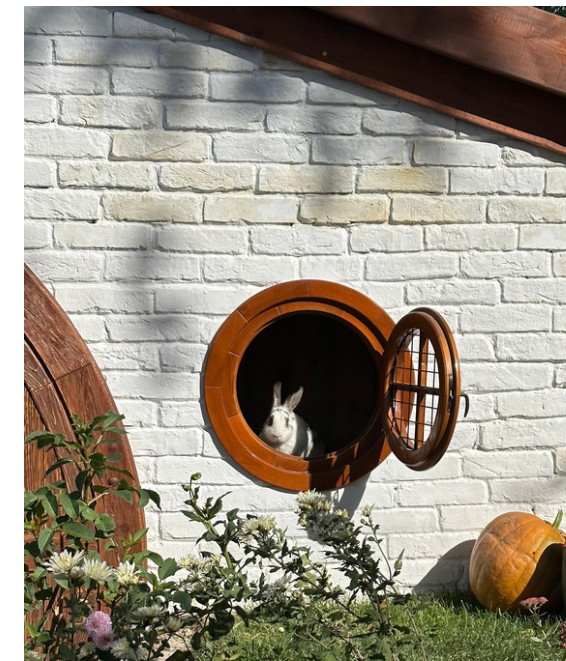


What have we achieved?

The structure of the bomb shelter is fully constructed and covered with a meter of ground, and a grass lawn has been planted. Work on the facade and interior construction work has been completed. An internal wall has been built to separate the toilet room. Electrics were installed, walls were painted, lighting fixtures and floor tiles were installed.

An autonomous lighting system from a generator is also installed in case of power cut.

To complete the construction, we need to finish the interior decoration, purchase new furniture, and install the main entrance door.





Our experience

It was not easy to make the local government understand that the shelter should be aesthetically beautiful.

Believe me, it was quite the challenge :)





The challenges we faced

Our experience

Before this project, our foundation had no experience of cooperation with local government. We were deeply convinced that our initiative would be highly appreciated and supported. After all, no public money was involved in this project. We were building shelters for children of the Gostomel Elementary School. And the state had no funds for this.

But...

We spent a lot of our health while getting the necessary permits.

Several times during the construction period, they wanted to close our project and demolish the school.

We did not have any support from the state until the construction was completed.

But at the grand opening of the shelter and the school, we were presented with certificates of appreciation for the complete reconstruction of the school and the building of the shelter.





Who helped us to realize this project

Many people and companies helped us. We collected donations to implement this project. We were given building materials. And were fed with pies by local grannies.

The main sponsor of our project is the Ukrainian diaspora in Japan, the Krayany NGO. They covered most of the expenses of the construction.

And of course, these are volunteers. Most of the decoration works were done by volunteers for free.

Designers and architects developed a project of a monolithic Shelter for 40 people.

In addition, we installed another module for 15 people, donated to us by Leo States Ukraine. Thanks to this, the shelter has two exits and a toilet room and is suitable for 55 people.





How much did the construction of the Hobbit House shelter cost?

UAH 600 000

15 000 Euro



Funded by the Ukrainian diaspora in Japan, the NGO Krayany





What have we achieved?

Our work has given 170 local children the opportunity to return to school.

Their parents now have the possibility to work normally.

We have also created 10 new job positions at the school.



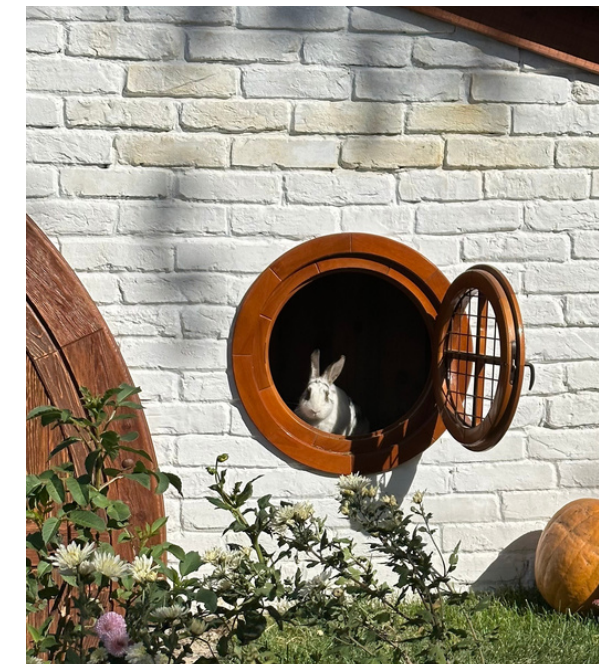


What have we achieved?

During the periods of calm, the shelter is used as an art center for children.

Various events and celebrations are held there, as well as workshops and hobby groups.

Very soon we will open a children's movie theater there and create a small zoo nearby.





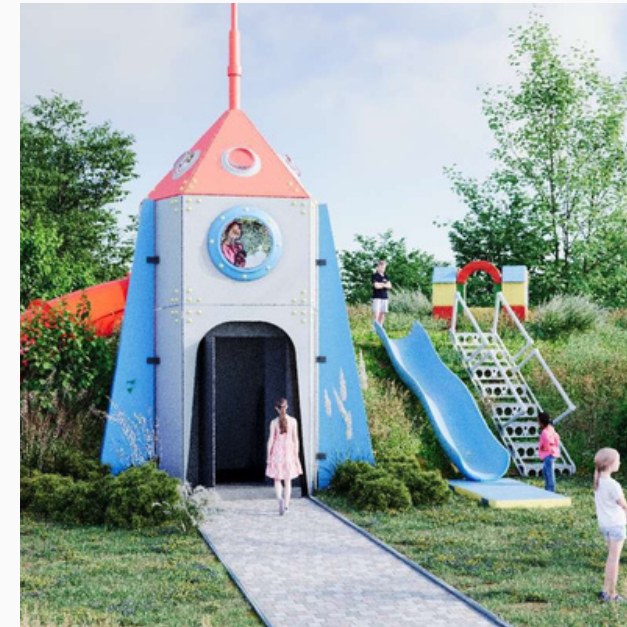
We don't stop and continue our work

Our foundation has already implemented 8 projects of varying complexity. But we are not planning to stop. The following projects are currently in the process of implementation.



Building a shelter for 300 people

Ozero village, Kyiv region



We have already completed the construction of another shelter for a school and a kindergarten in the village of Ozero, Kyiv region. It will provide normal offline education for another 300 children in the region. To complete the project, we need to perform exterior work.

Library reconstruction

Gorenka village, Kyiv region

The reconstruction of the 100-year-old library has begun. The unique historical building should become a central place of joint activities for all residents of the village. We plan to create a smart space in the library building and to equip the surrounding area with a playground, park, and coffee shop.

We are looking for sponsorship to complete the implementation of these projects.



We are open to partnership and any assistance



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[instagram @gurtum.cf](https://www.instagram.com/gurtum.cf)

[facebook @Gurtum.CF](https://www.facebook.com/Gurtum.CF)

[email hello@gurtum.org](mailto:hello@gurtum.org)

+38 066 5690123

+38 050 3561235

