Fill your neighbor-hood with **chicken coops**

In the early weeks of Covid, a group in Carbondale, Illinois received a small grant to expand their food autonomy efforts. They developed the **Chicken Tenders** project, which designed and built 12 chicken coop kits to be distributed around the city.

Here's how it worked: teams of volunteers produced the kits in a local warehouse, distributed and helped assemble them at households free of charge—the only condition was that a house receiving a coop with six chickens would share surplus eggs with their neighbors. Meanwhile, 300 newly hatched chicks were purchased from a hatchery and cared for at a local farm until their new homes were built.

Volunteers and coop recipients with their neighbors and friends joined together in assembling and painting the coops, picking up and delivering the new chickens, and sharing the eggs themselves. Each coop was not only a concrete measure to reduce a household's dependency on precarious and uneven food systems, but something that began to connect neighbors with each other at a time when isolation felt at an all-time high.

In total, 12 coops were built for around $6000, each taking three days to assemble. A group could easily repeat, extend, and innovate on this project by accepting sliding scale donation or by connecting it to other local initiatives

Below is the project bundle used by the Chicken Tenders project, shared here as a practical example for how hubs could collectively coordinate egg production to address the egg shortage and inflation crisis from below.
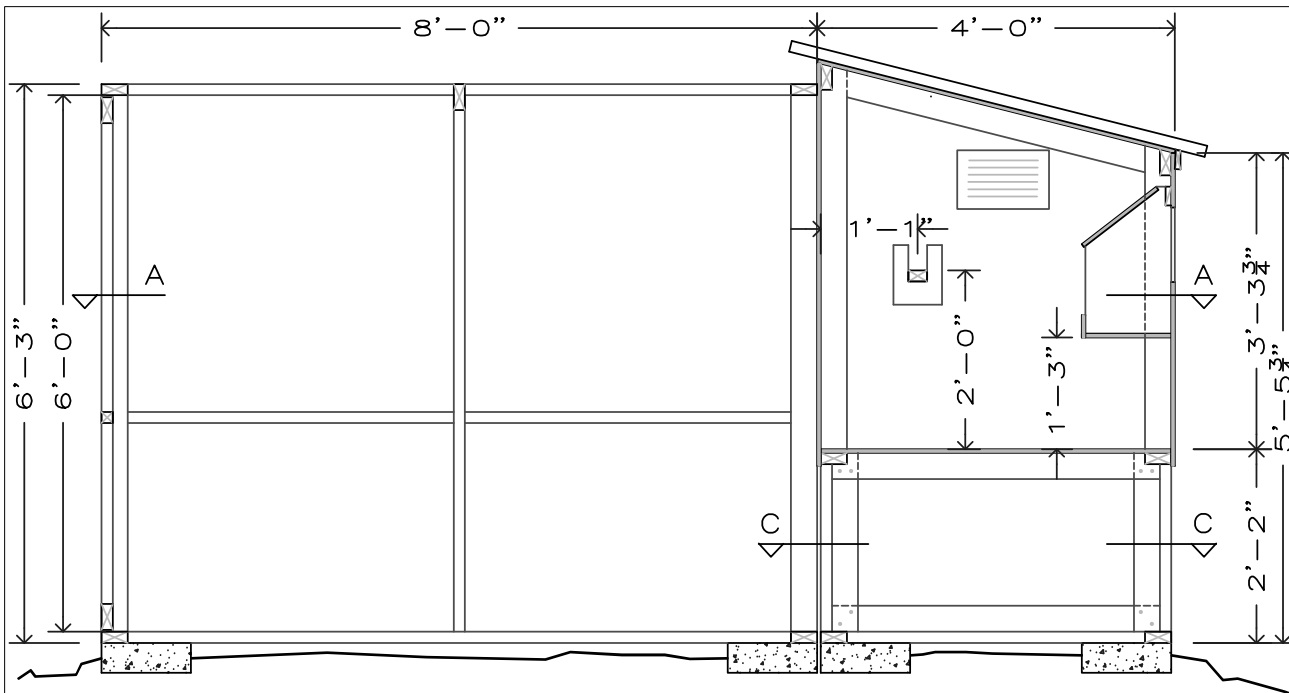
In addition to building these coops together, we invite you to consider integrating chicken tending and egg production into broader plans for food autonomy. Could a neighborhood coop be integrated into a squatted orchard or a community garden? Are there food scraps that could be collected from a weekly dinner and fed to the chickens to reduce dependence on commercial feed?

What must we build to help us overcome the limits we face together, locally and on a global scale?
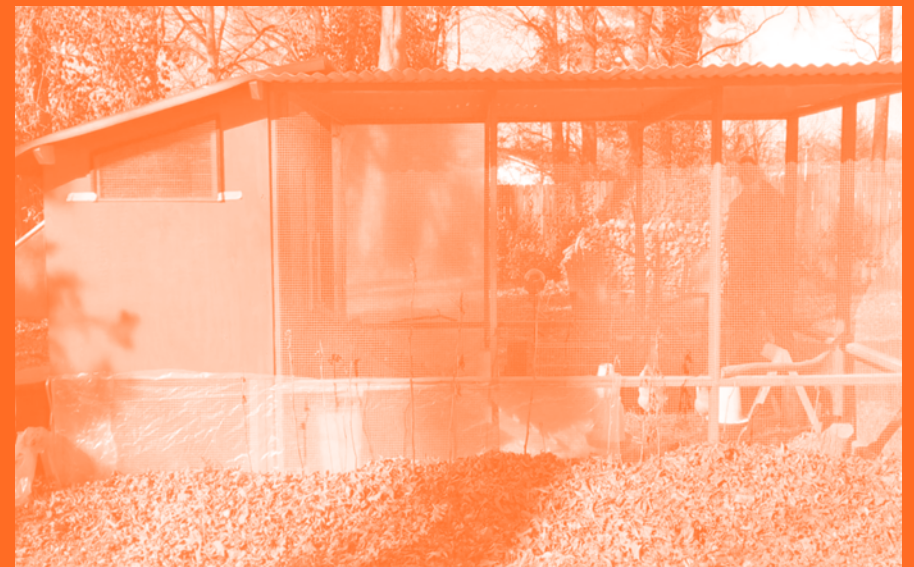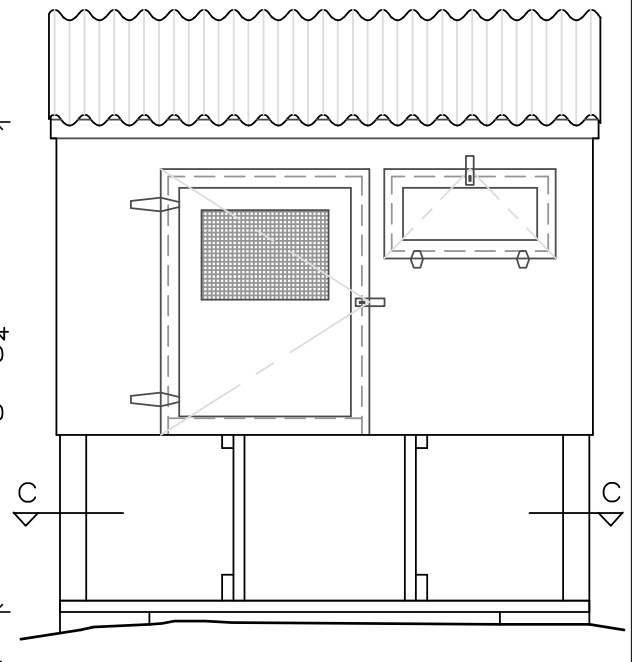

LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A LIFE IN COMMON Inhabit.global

ELEVATION SECTION B-B

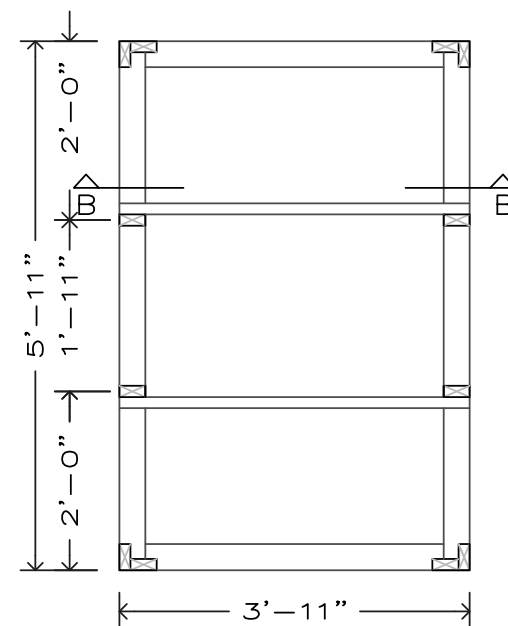8'-0"
4'-0"
6'-3"
6'-0"
A
1'-1"
2'-0"
1'-3"
A
3'-3¾"
5'-5¾"
C
2'-2"
C

BACK ELEVATION

C
C

PLAN SECTION A-A

5"
2'-2½"
6'-0"
3'-4½"
B
℄ 2x3 Roost
2'-1½"
2'-1½"
1'-0"
B
4'-0"
4'-0"
4'-0"
12'-0"

PLAN SECTION C-C

2'-0"
5'-11"
1'-11"
2'-0"
B
B
3'-11"
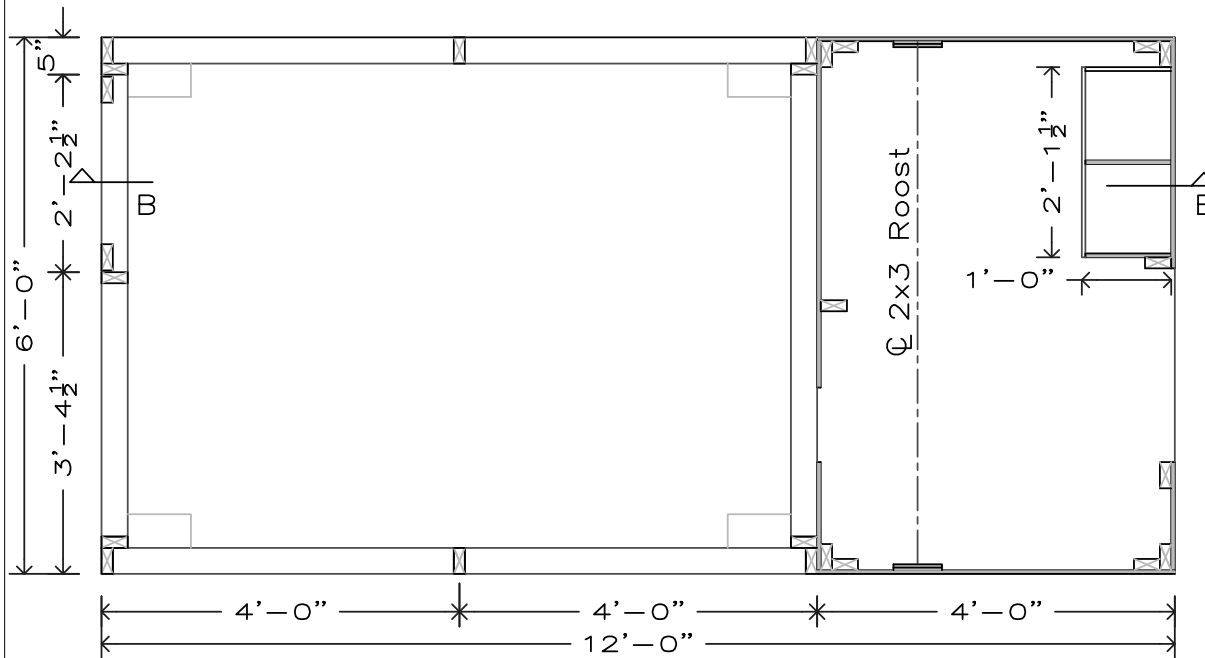
Item	Type	Size	Quantity	Cost per unit	Total
Roofing	asphalt corrugated sheet	6'x79'	2	$20.00	$39.96
Plywood	1/2" exterior grade	4'x8'	5	$23.00	$115.00
Hardware Cloth A	48" - 1/2" opening		27	$1.80	$48.60
Hardware Cloth B	36" - 1/2" opening		23	$1.28	$29.44
Hardware Cloth C	24" - 1/2" opening		12	$0.96	$11.52
Concrete Block			8	-	-
2x4 Studs			40	$3.15	$126.00
1x3 Trim	furring strips	8'	5	$1.88	$9.40
2x3 Studs	for roost	6'	1	$2.25	$2.25
Vinyl Flooring		4'x6'	1	$31.00	$31.00
Vented Roofing Strip	Ondura (pack of 4)	12' needed	1	$12.68	$12.68

Hardware, Misc

Item	Type	Size	Quantity	Cost per unit	Total
Hinges A	national hardware t-shape		2	$5.44	$10.88
Hinges B	national hardware t-shape 2pk		4	$1.70	$6.80
Hinges C	?			$10.00	$10.00
Framing Nails A	1 - 1/2"			$10.00	$10.00
Framing Nails B	3 - 1/2"			$10.00	$10.00
Glue			1	$5.00	$5.00
Latches	simple security type		5	$5.00	$25.00
Tarp	6'x8' or 8'x10'		1	$15.00	$15.00
Roofing Screws	60 Count		1	$10.00	$10.00
Simpson Ties	Flat (Plate)		4	$1.30	$5.20
Vent			1	$17.00	$17.00
Paint	Valspar Barn & Fence Exterior		1	$17.00	$17.00
Carabiners			5	$2.00	$10.00
Staples			1	$5.00	$5.00
				Total	$567.73