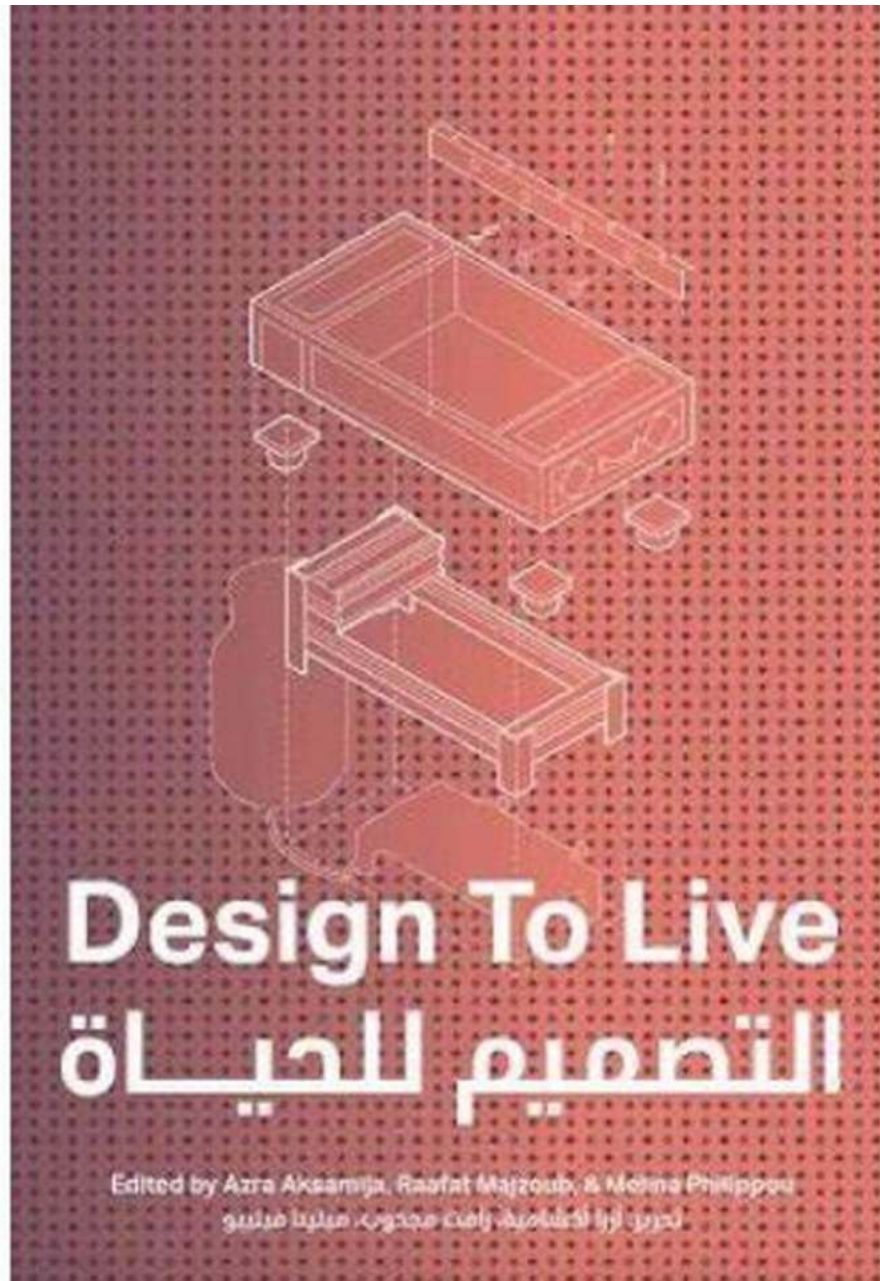


# Everyday Inventions From Refugee Camp



Refugee camps have often been associated with hopelessness and despair. However, amidst the struggles and challenges, incredible stories of resilience and innovation emerge. Everyday individuals faced with limited resources have proven time and again that necessity truly is the mother of invention.

In this article, we will explore some of the remarkable everyday inventions that have originated from refugee camps around the world. These inventions not only solve immediate problems in the camps but also have the potential to improve lives beyond the confines of these temporary settlements.



## Design to Live: Everyday Inventions from a Refugee Camp by Azra Aksamija (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 227298 KB

Print length : 288 pages



### 1. Solar-Powered Lanterns for Sustainable Lighting



One of the most significant challenges in refugee camps is the lack of reliable and affordable lighting. To address this issue, many ingenious individuals have developed solar-powered lanterns that provide sustainable lighting solutions. These lanterns utilize the power of the sun during the day and emit bright light at night, ensuring safety and convenience for camp residents.

The solar-powered lanterns not only reduce dependence on traditional fuel sources but also contribute to environmental conservation. By using clean energy, these inventions offer a sustainable and cost-effective solution to a basic human need.

## 2. Portable Water Filtration Systems



Access to clean and safe drinking water is often a significant challenge in refugee camps. In response to this fundamental need, innovative individuals have developed portable water filtration systems that can purify water from various sources, including rivers, lakes, and wells.

These compact filtration devices remove harmful contaminants, ensuring access to clean drinking water for camp residents. The portability of these systems enables easy transportation and deployment, making them ideal for emergency situations and remote areas where traditional infrastructure is lacking.

### **3. Refugee-Made Brick-Making Machines**



In refugee camps where proper housing is scarce, innovative individuals have developed brick-making machines that utilize locally available materials. These machines produce bricks that are used to construct durable and affordable shelters.

By creating their own bricks, camp residents can move away from temporary housing solutions and build more permanent and stable structures. This not only

improves their living conditions but also provides them with a sense of ownership and control over their environment.

#### 4. Low-Cost Hand-Washing Stations



Promoting proper hygiene practices is vital in preventing the spread of diseases in refugee camps. However, limited access to clean water and basic sanitation facilities poses a significant challenge.

To overcome this obstacle, resourceful individuals have developed low-cost hand-washing stations that require minimal water and utilize simple mechanisms such as foot pedals to dispense soap and water. These stations help promote regular hand hygiene and contribute to better overall health and hygiene in the camps.

## 5. Mobile Charging Solutions



In today's interconnected world, access to mobile phones is crucial for communication, information, and staying connected with loved ones. However, charging these devices can be a challenge in resource-constrained environments like refugee camps.



Enterprising individuals have come up with mobile charging solutions that utilize alternative sources of energy, such as solar panels or kinetic energy. These inventive solutions ensure that camp residents can charge their devices, stay connected, and access various services that are essential for their well-being and resilience.

Everyday inventions from refugee camps highlight the untapped potential and resilience of individuals facing unimaginable challenges. These innovations provide essential solutions to immediate problems while also inspiring hope and progress for a better future beyond the confines of refugee camps.

The creativity and ingenuity displayed by individuals in these camps remind us that human spirit can triumph even in the most adverse circumstances. By recognizing and celebrating these inventions, we can learn valuable lessons and support initiatives that harness the potential of every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Let us continue to appreciate and support the innovation that arises from refugee camps, recognizing the immense value they bring to our global society.



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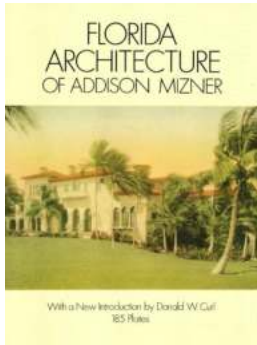


The power of design to create a life worth living even in a refugee camp: designs, inventions, and artworks from the Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan.

This book shows how, even in the most difficult conditions--forced displacement, trauma, and struggle--design can help create a life worth living. *Design to Live* documents designs, inventions, and artworks created by Syrian refugees living in the Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan. Through these ingenious and creative innovations--including the vertical garden, an arrangement necessitated by regulations that forbid planting in the ground; a front hall, fashioned to protect privacy; a baby swing made from recycled desks; and a chess set carved from a broomstick--refugees defy the material scarcity, unforgiving desert climate, and cultural isolation of the camp.

Written in close collaboration with the residents of the camp, with text in both English and Arabic, *Design to Live*, reflects two perspectives on the camp: people living and working in Azraq and designers reflecting on humanitarian architecture within the broader field of socially engaged art and design. Architectural drawings, illustrations, photographs, narratives, and stories offer vivid testimony to the imaginative and artful ways that residents alter and reconstruct the standardized humanitarian design of the camp--and provide models that can be replicated elsewhere. The book is the product of a three-year project undertaken by MIT Future Heritage Lab, researchers and students with Syrian refugees at the Azraq Refugee Camp, CARE, Jordan, and the German-Jordanian University.

Copublication with Future Heritage Lab, MIT



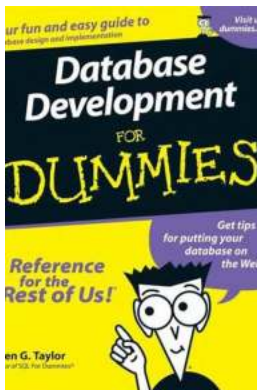
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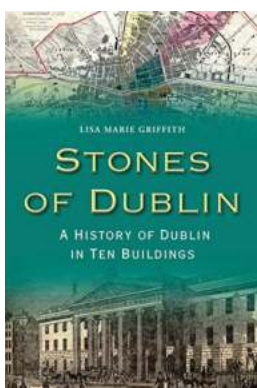
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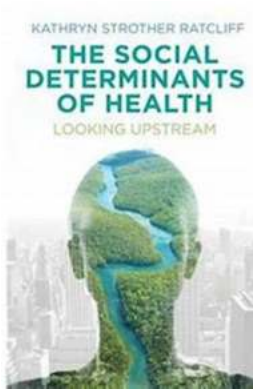
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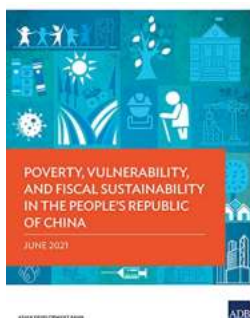
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