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Body Support Structure

Architecture  
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Project 1: A BODY SUPPORT STRUCTURE

Problem: Design and develop to prototype stage a marketable cardboard structure to aid the human body in postural comfort.

Requirements: The material shall consist of two sheets of 76" x 84" 350# corrugated cardboard as purchased at the University Bookstore. The supply is limited to two sheets per student - plan carefully before proceeding.  
Tools shall consist of your hands, a utility knife, and a straight edge for cutting and folding.

No other materials, including adhesive, tape, or color shall be used.

Graphic assembly instructions shall be provided with the disassembled structure at time of evaluation.

Objectives: To experience as a first design problem, a project involving a close fit to human requirements and that contains a full dimension of design experience.

To develop an awareness of design process; including the gathering of design data, the establishment of design and evaluation criteria, the generatio. and testing of design proposals and the communication of design proposals.

Procedures:

- Studio period
1. Analysis of selected posture; anthropometrics, loading, and performance criteria.
  2. Generate concepts
  3. Develop a selected concept
  4. Construct prototype components
  5. Develop assembly instructions
  6. Evaluate structures by exchanging projects, assembling them as instructed and testing for comfort.

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This submittal to the "Best Beginning Design Problems" may, in some circles, be considered an oldie, but it certainly remains a goodie as an introductory problem for design students.

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