

Would you believe. . .

A Portable Period Shower?

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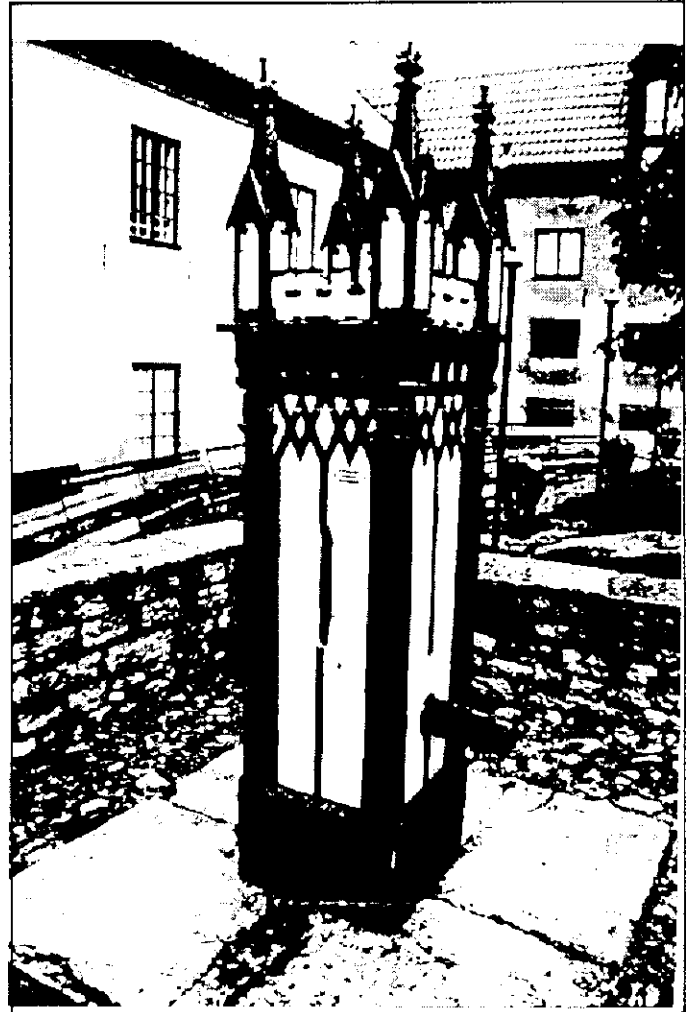
My lady and I paid a visit to Visby, Gotland this summer, as a side trip on our journey to Drachenwald's first coronation. If you have the opportunity to go, take it. We enjoyed ourselves greatly, the people were friendly, the country beautiful—and Visby itself inspiring.

One of several items of interest we found in Visby was a pumphouse, in the courtyard of the museum. The structure is about eight feet tall, and roughly thirty inches on each side. The accompanying photo shows the “half-timbered” styling of the structure, along with the rather elaborate steeples at the corners and crenellations across the top.

I think that we have here an excellent structure to use for our solar showers at events like Pennsic, where bringing your own shower is well worth the effort.

To be a useful shower house, the design needs certain features, which are readily added to the pumphouse pattern. The shower needs to have a functional door. It needs to fold flat for travel. It needs to support a shower bag.

I see two approaches to the construction of the shower house. The first uses theatrical flat techniques, stretching fabric over wood frames—all hinged together to create four sides of a house. The other uses a light (1/4" or even lauan) plywood instead of fabric, over an essentially identical frame. The four “steeples” at the top corners could be constructed of wood and should be removable, allowing the walls to fold flat. An “X” brace that ran between the corners would hold up



the shower bag—and be removable—like the steeples.

The major benefit of this concept over other approaches to solar showers for camping events is that it adapts a structure that was present in the period scene, so improving overall ambience.