

**Are these tube homes the answer to Hong Kong's housing problem?**



# Vocabulary

Mod-cons – современные удобства

Dwellings – жилые постройки

Flyover – эстакада

Expats – эмигранты

Tenants – арендаторы

Shanty – хижина, убежище

"I came up with the idea behind the OPod when I was on a construction site, I walked into one of them (a concrete water pipe), and I was surprised by how big they were."

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"I thought: wouldn't it be a really great idea to utilize these leftover concrete water tubes to create vast, micro architecture -- that could be at very low cost, and also quite interesting for young people in Hong Kong?"

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The tube homes are 5 meters long, and have a 2.1 meter diameter on the inside



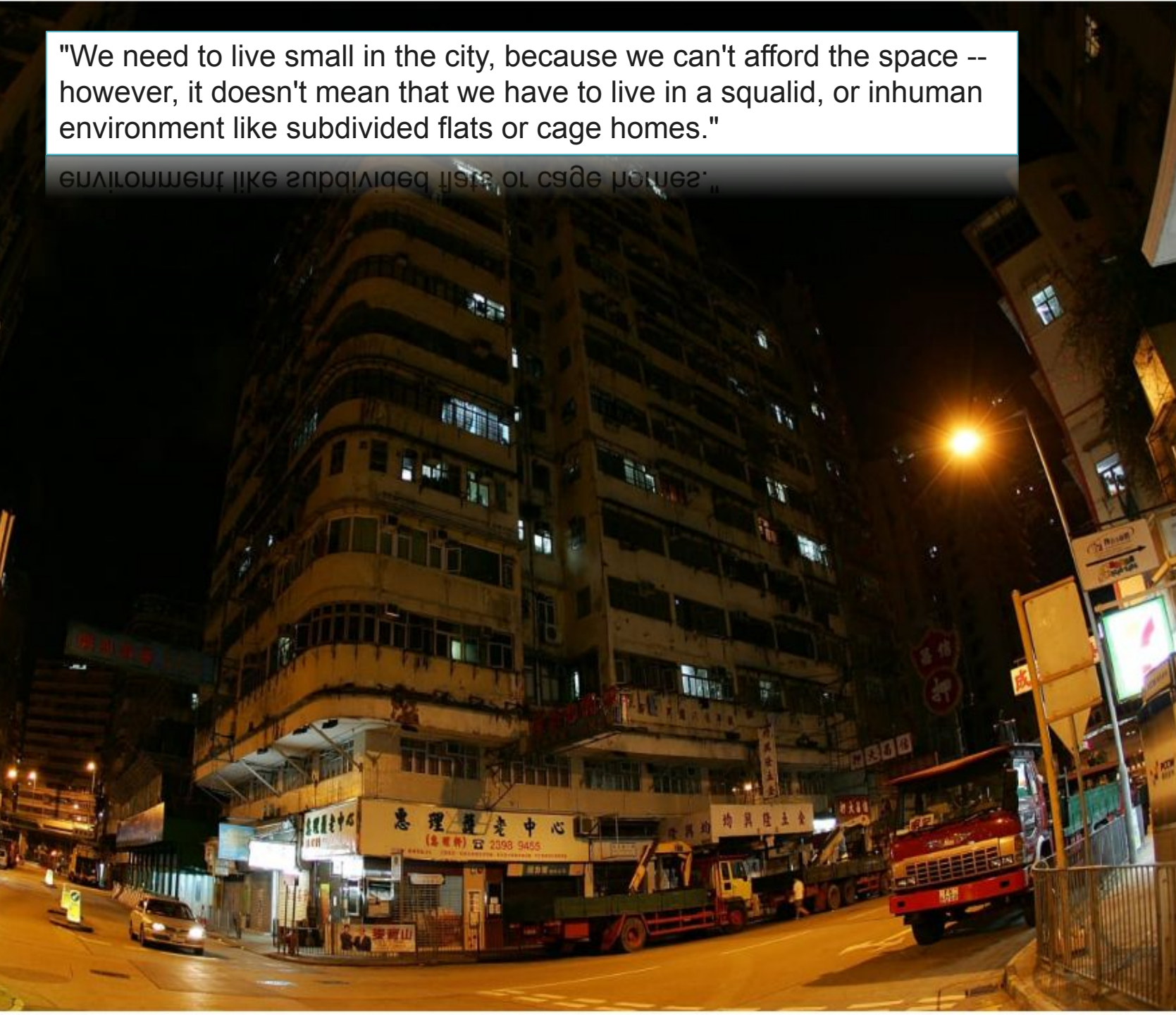
Covering between 100 and 120 square feet (9 to 11 square meters) of floorspace, they each feature a fold-out bed, a fridge and microwave, and a bathroom



The pipes can be installed in small spaces between existing buildings, under flyovers and on rooftops in Hong Kong.

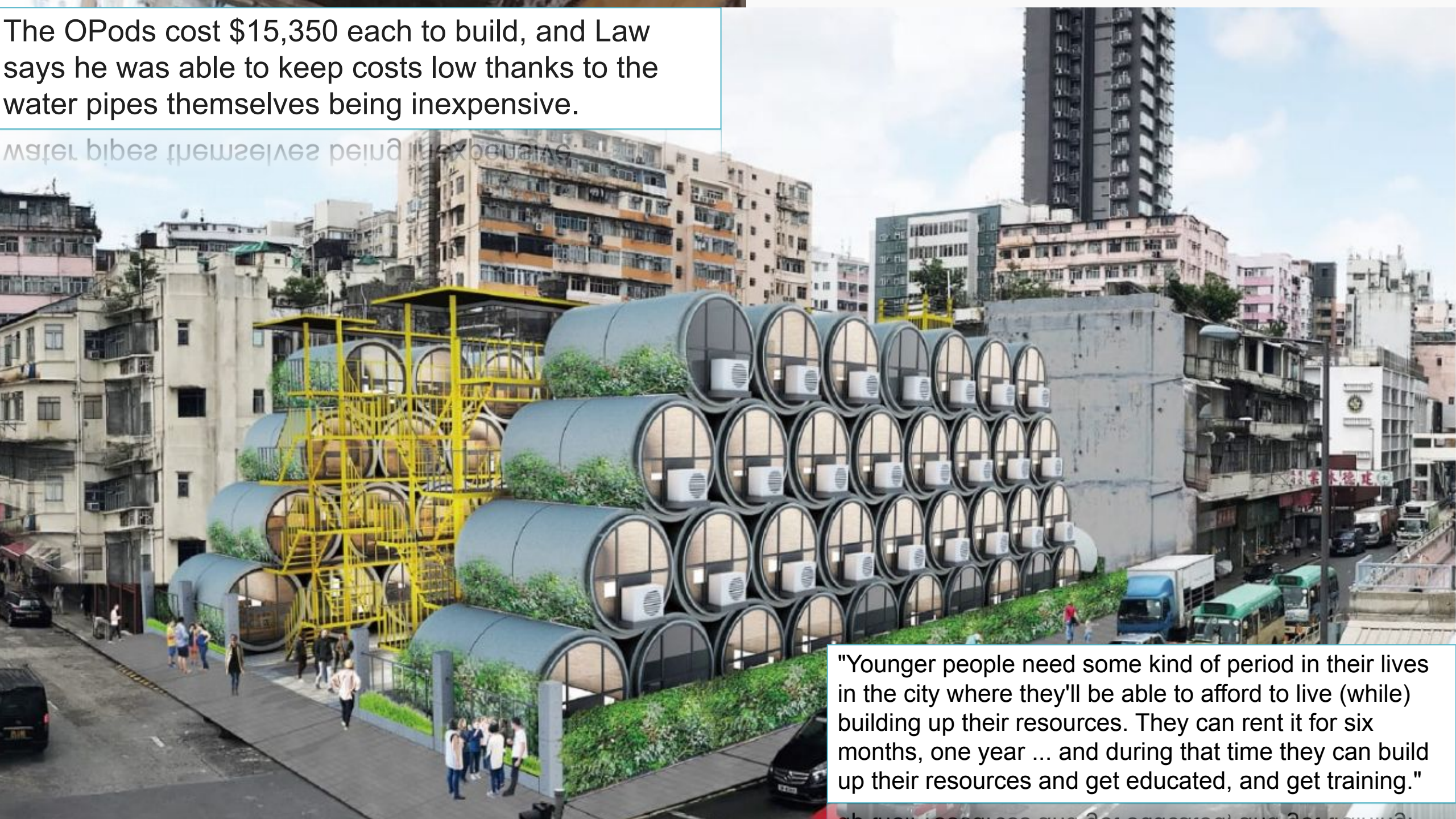
"We need to live small in the city, because we can't afford the space -- however, it doesn't mean that we have to live in a squalid, or inhuman environment like subdivided flats or cage homes."

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The OPods cost \$15,350 each to build, and Law says he was able to keep costs low thanks to the water pipes themselves being inexpensive.

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"Younger people need some kind of period in their lives in the city where they'll be able to afford to live (while) building up their resources. They can rent it for six months, one year ... and during that time they can build up their resources and get educated, and get training."



The architect says he's already had interest locally and around the world from NGOs and youth hostels, as well as local governments and charities in South Africa considering the OPod as a redevelopment vehicle for shanty towns.

*"For me personally, as the creator of this project, my passion is somehow to help these young people, to nurture them, to protect them, to give them a decent step up in life."*