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Concrete that thinks it's cloth

The thin, flexible fabric that sets rock-hard in hours – just add water

Pitching your tent will never be the same. The Concrete Canvas Shelter is a rapidly deployable hardened structure that can be inflated by pump, sprayed with water and left to set – leaving a fireproof, secure cover.

The secret is “concrete cloth”, a material that sets faster than regular concrete. “It enables

many construction tasks to be finished in around a tenth of the time,” explains 31-year-old Peter Brewin, Concrete Canvas’s principal engineer.

It can be used in applications from cladding buildings to lining ditches, “and it can even be used underwater”, says Brewin. “Material with a delayed setting time enables divers to position it. In mining, the cloth has been nailed to rock to form underground

walls. And in Afghanistan the British Army has used it to upgrade sand-bag structures to withstand attacks.” So, look out for the next big architectural trend: draped buildings. **David Howell**

“Concrete cloth” can be supplied in rolls. Once wet, the ceramic material stays pliable for around two hours



Pies by pedals

Look out, is after you Natalie G of bikebase.com, cycle San Francisco her “handheld” handheld. And Amsterdam Bakker B me.com/bikes across delivering

Cardbo gadget

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