CLAIMS

1. A canopy apparatus for covering over a clothes drying pole suspended across an outdoor rack having parallel and spaced apart first and second elongated support frames, wherein a first longitudinal end portion of the clothes drying pole is supported in one of a row of notches or holes along the first elongated support frame and a second longitudinal end portion of the clothes drying pole is supported in one of a row of notches along the second elongated support frames so as to suspend the clothes drying pole across the first and second elongated support frames of the outdoor rack, the canopy apparatus comprising:

a canopy sheet having opposite first and second edges, wherein the canopy sheet comprises a pair of parallel first and second sleeves extending along a surface of the canopy sheet in a direction extending perpendicularly between the opposite first and second edges of the canopy sheet, wherein the pair of parallel first and second sleeves along the surface of the canopy sheet defines a cover section of the canopy sheet between the pair of parallel first and second sleeves;

a first and second canopy-support-poles respectively insertable through the pair of parallel first and second sleeves to support the canopy sheet in a manner so as to spread out or fold the cover section of the canopy sheet by moving the first and second canopy-support-poles laterally apart or together, wherein each of the first and second canopy-support-poles is longer than a direct distance extending perpendicularly between the opposite first and second edges of the canopy sheet, wherein the first canopy-support-pole is inserted through the first sleeve with a first longitudinal end portion of the first canopy-support-pole extending beyond the first edge of the canopy sheet and a second longitudinal end portion of the first canopy-support-pole extending beyond the second edge of the canopy sheet, and wherein the second canopy-support-pole is inserted through the second sleeve with a first longitudinal end portion of the second canopy-support-pole extending beyond the first edge of the canopy sheet and a second longitudinal end portion of the second canopy-support-pole extending beyond the second edge of the canopy sheet;

a first and second sleeve-retainers respectively attachable to the first and second canopy-support-poles in a manner so as to respectively hold the pair of parallel first and second sleeves of the canopy sheet to the first and second canopy-support-poles; and

a first and second support-pole-to-rack restraining members respectively disposed at the first longitudinal end portion of the first canopy-support-pole and the first longitudinal end potion of the second canopy-support-pole, the first and second support-pole-to-rack restraining members being configured to restrain the first and second canopy-support-poles respectively to the outdoor rack against longitudinal sliding movements of the first and second canopy-support-poles relative to the outdoor rack,

wherein the cover section of the canopy sheet extends continuously across the first and second canopy-support-poles to form an uninterrupted cover with an area demarcated by the first and second canopy-support-poles and the first and second edges of the canopy sheet.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the opposite first and second edges of the canopy sheet are parallel with each other.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the canopy sheet comprises a transparent polyolefin film.

4. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the canopy sheet further comprises a first and second flap sections respectively extending laterally outward from the pair of parallel first and second sleeves in opposite directions away from the cover section.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

a flap-section-support-arrangement comprising a first pair of support branches extending sideway from the first canopy-support-pole to support the first flap section for forming a first cover extension adjoining a first border of the cover section along the first

canopy-support-pole and a second pair of support branches extending sideway from the second canopy-support-pole to support the second flap section for forming a second cover extension adjoining a second border of the cover section along the second canopy-support-pole.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 5,

wherein the first pair of support branches are parallel with each other, and

wherein the second pair of support branches are parallel with each other.

7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6,

wherein the first pair of support branches comprises a first pair of rod members couplable to the first canopy-support-pole in a spaced apart manner with the first pair of rod members being coplanar with the first canopy-support-pole and with the first pair of rod members extending away from the cover section, and

wherein the second pair of support branches comprises a second pair of rod members couplable to the second canopy-support-pole in a spaced apart manner with the second pair of rod members being coplanar with the second canopy-support-pole and with the second pair of rod members extending away from the cover section.

8. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7,

wherein the first flap section comprises a first further sleeve extending along the surface of the canopy sheet within the first flap section,

wherein the second flap section comprises a second further sleeve extending along the surface of the canopy sheet within the second flap section, and

wherein the first and second further sleeves are extending in a direction parallel with the pair of parallel first and second sleeves.

9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the flap-section-support-arrangement further comprises:

a first cross-support member connected to the first pair of support branches between free end portions of the first pair of support branches and extending through the first further sleeve, and

a second cross-support member connected to the second pair of support branches between free end portions of the second pair of support branches and extending through the second further sleeve.

10. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9,

wherein the first pole-to-rack restraining member comprises one or a combination of a first pole-restraining cable with a first end of the first pole-restraining cable fixedly attached to the first longitudinal end portion of the first canopy-support-pole or a first-pole-restraining transverse insert member insertable across the first longitudinal end portion of the first canopy-support-pole, and

wherein the second pole-to-rack restraining member comprises one or a combination of a second pole-restraining cable with a first end of the second pole-restraining cable fixedly attached to the first longitudinal end portion of the second canopy-support-pole or a second-pole-restraining transverse insert member insertable across the first longitudinal end portion of the second canopy-support-pole.

11. A rain-proof clothes drying system for suspending across an outdoor rack having parallel and spaced apart first and second elongated support frames, wherein the first elongated support frame includes a row of notches or holes along its length and the second elongated support frame includes a row of notches along its length, the system comprising:

the canopy apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10; and

a clothes hanging assembly comprising at least one complementing clothes drying pole having a first longitudinal end portion and a second longitudinal end portion,

wherein the at least one complementing clothes drying pole comprises a liquid stopper protruding from a circumferential surface of the second longitudinal end portion so as to block liquid, that comes into contact with the at least one complementing clothes drying pole between the liquid stopper and the tip of the second longitudinal end portion, from sliding towards the first longitudinal end portion,

wherein the canopy apparatus is spreadable to suspend over the at least one complementing clothes drying pole of the clothes hanging assembly in a manner such that the cover section of the canopy sheet of the canopy apparatus covers over a length segment of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole between the liquid stopper and the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole.

12. The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the clothes hanging assembly comprises:

a plurality of gliders slidingly fitted to the at least one complementing clothes drying pole in a manner so as to be slidable along the at least one complementing clothes drying pole, wherein each of the plurality of gliders comprises a glider body in sliding engagement with the at least one complementing clothes drying pole, and

a deployable and retractable cable mechanism disposed on the at least one complementing clothes drying pole, wherein the deployable and retractable cable mechanism comprises a deployable cable drawable in a first direction to deploy and straighten a segment of the deployable cable parallel with the at least one complementing clothes drying pole and retractable in a second direction to withdraw the segment of the deployable cable towards the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole,

wherein the plurality of gliders is respectively fixed to the segment of the deployable cable in a longitudinally spaced apart manner so as to enable deploying and distributing the plurality of gliders along the at least one complementing clothes drying pole lengthwise when the segment of the deployable cable is deployed and straightened to be parallel with the at least one complementing clothes drying pole and enable piling the plurality of gliders towards the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one

complementing clothes drying pole to stack together when the segment of the deployable cable is withdrawn towards the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole.

13. The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the glider body comprises a main ring and an auxiliary ring interlocked with the main ring.

14. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13,

wherein the deployable and retractable cable mechanism comprises a pulley disposed adjacent to the liquid stopper on a side of the liquid stopper opposite the tip of the second longitudinal end portion,

wherein an end portion of the deployable cable is fixed to the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole and the deployable cable runs from the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole through the pulley and back to the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole,

wherein the segment of the deployable cable is a length of the deployable cable measured from a point of the deployable cable that is fixed to the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole to the pulley when the deployable cable is straightened.

15. The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the deployable and retractable cable mechanism comprises a plurality of guide rings disposed along the at least one complementing clothes drying pole to guide the deployable cable to run alongside the at least one complementing clothes drying pole in a parallel manner.

16. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein the clothes hanging assembly further comprising:

a complementing-clothes-drying-pole-to-rack restraining member disposed at the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole for restraining the at least one complementing clothes drying pole to the first elongated support frame of the outdoor rack against longitudinal sliding movements of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole relative to the first elongated support frame of the outdoor rack.

17. The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the complementing-clothes-drying-pole-to-rack restraining member comprises:

one or a combination of a complementing-clothes-drying-pole restraining cable with a first end of the complementing-clothes-drying-pole restraining cable fixedly attached to the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole or a complementing-clothes-drying-pole restraining transverse insert member insertable across the first longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole.

18. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 17,

wherein the clothes hanging assembly comprises an extension pole coupleble to the second longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole in an end-to-end manner, via an extension coupler.

19. The system as claimed in claim 18,

wherein the at least one complementing clothes drying pole and the extension pole are arranged in a telescopic manner, and

wherein the extension coupler comprises a coupling bolt inserted transversely across the at least one complementing clothes drying pole and the extension pole within an overlapping zone thereof so as to interlock the at least one complementing clothes drying pole and the extension pole.

20. The system as claimed in claim 19,

wherein the at least one complementing clothes drying pole comprises a series of through-holes and the extension pole comprises at least one through-holes, for the coupling bolt to be inserted through one of the series of through-holes of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole and the at least one through-hole of the extension pole so as to interlock the at least one complementing clothes drying pole and the extension pole.

21. The system as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 20,

wherein the clothes hanging assembly further comprises an anti-fall restraining cable with a first end of the anti-fall restraining cable attached to the second longitudinal end portion of the at least one complementing clothes drying pole via the extension coupler.