CLAIMS:

Claim 1: A method of manufacturing a transportable expandable shipping container for use as a building structure, wherein the transportable expandable shipping container during transportation can house within a minimum of two roofs and two floors such that when the transportable expandable shipping container is expanded for use as a building structure the transportable expandable shipping container makes up a minimum area of that of two standard shipping containers, the method includes:

(i) providing a container base and vertical members, providing at least one first vertical wall portion adapted to be attachable to the base and adapted to extend less than the packaged height of the container, ~~the first vertical wall portion~~ providing an upper surface secured at least in one position to an upper portion of a vertical member, and providing at least one second vertical wall portion adapted to extend towards the first vertical wall portion from the upper surface, the vertical members having a horizontally extending channel to support a portion of a load bearing beam adapted to extend between two spaced apart expandable vertical members;

(ii) extending the vertical members to an expanded position;

(iii) attaching a first portion of an interchangeable and relocatable side wall to an upper part of the height adjustable container during expansion; and

(iv) attaching at least a second portion of the interchangeable and relocatable side wall to a lower part of the height adjustable container during expansion whereby the second portion of the side wall is substantially high enough to accommodate building components, fittings, furniture and fixtures below its height;

wherein when the container is in an unextended position the height of the container is at a reduced height of at least 50% to that of a standard shipping container and when the container is in the extended position the container is at a height equal to that of a habitable area or greater than the height of a standard shipping container and the erected side wall portions are coaxially aligned to form outer walls having a flat planar surface along an entire surface area of the outer wall.

wall being substantially high enough to accommodate the structural components, such as building components, wall panels, floor, roof fittings, furniture and fixtures, below its height when in the transportation mode; and

c) the expandable vertical members having a horizontally extending channel to support a portion of a load bearing beam adapted to extend between two spaced apart expandable vertical members,

wherein the transportation system when in the transportation mode the external building shell is at a reduced height of at least 50% to that of a standard shipping container and such that when in the building mode the external building shell is at a height equal to that of a habitable area or greater than the height of a standard shipping container and the erected interchangeable and relocatable~~side~~ side walls are coaxially aligned to form outer walls having a flat planar surface along an entire surface area of the outer wall.

Claim 19: The transportation system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the lower wall is substantially 0.9 metres high and the upper wall is substantially 0.3 metres high.

Claim 20: The height adjustable shipping container as claimed in claim 18 or claim 19, wherein the vertical corner members have an open cross section.

Claim 21: The transportation system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the vertical corner members have a substantially ‘L’-shaped cross section.

Claim 22: The method of manufacturing a transportable expandable shipping container for use as a building structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method includes a further step of relocating the elements forming the shipping container walls during transport elsewhere to and/or within the container after expansion.