

GIMME SHELTER
BY JONATHAN SAPERS
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(about a community of Shelter)

The new sculptural installation-forms made of steel, hardware cloth, adobe, rope, rubber hose, and other materials-in the Thomas Paine Park, across from the U.S. Courthouse, transforms the tiny park into a kind of fairyland, a mystical place where strange shapes are tethered to trees. According to the sculptor, Nancy Cohen, the six pieces-two shell-like objects, a sort of shroud, something that looks like a giant Christmas-tree ornament, two pods filled with found objects like an old typewriter and hubcaps, and a grim metal box stuffed with computer paraphernalia-are intended, by their similarity to natural forms of shelter, as a statement about society's inability to produce adequate housing for the homeless. The pieces are also, she said, meant to draw passersby into the center of the park, which is ordinarily frequented only by homeless people and pigeons.