Materials:
PVC, Plastic sheeting, ripstop nylon, synthetic satin

Methods of Construction:
ultrasonic welding of plastic sheeting/fabric, sewing and reinforcing with silicon or fabric glue
Can be pre-inflated with pumps or blowers and sealed, or continually airblown. Or can be filled with balloons or smaller air envelopes. Also, a hot iron, wax paper and cardboard will also do the trick.

Readymade Alternatives:
white urethane balloons - 5’ $129, 12’ $750

Advantages:
- Visual impact
- Fairly inexpensive and transportable
- warm air inflatables will also be a heat source

Disadvantages:
- Won’t last in a cold air environment, will need constant refilling
- Source of heated, blown air must be constant and is another cost factor.

Unknowns:
- Durability of self constucted inflatables.
Inflatable housing, suits, dresses, pillows, speakers, wheels, dishware, jewelry, jackets for avalanches, dirigibles, hot air balloons for travel, stages, lighting, furniture, cathedrals, to be continued...
Books on Air Supported Structures:

Blowup: inflatable art, architecture, and design
- Topham, Sean.

Recommended code provisions for architectural fabric structures
- The Institute, 1987

Construction of linings for reservoirs, tanks, and pollution control facilities
- Kays, William B

Statics, formfinding, and dynamics of air-supported membrane structures
- Fiút, Vladim

State-of-the-art report on air-supported structures
- American Society of Civil Engineers. Task Committee on Air-Supported Structures

The Denver Pneus: a competition entry
- Ernst, Mark R.

Pneumatic structures: a handbook of inflatable architecture
- Herzog, Thomas

Tensile structures; design, structure, and calculation of buildings of cables, nets, and membranes
- Otto, Frei, 1925-

Inflatocookbook
- Sausalito, Ant Farm

Principles of pneumatic architecture
- Dent, Roger Nicholas.

Air structures: a survey commissioned by the Ministry of Public Building and Works
- Price, Cedric.

Costruzioni pneumatiche
- Fuzio, Giovanni.

Air structures for school sports; a report from Educational Facilities Laboratories
- Robertson, Nan.

Collapsible: The Genius of Space-Saving Design
- Mollerup, Per

The Inflatable Moment: Pneumatics and Protest in '68
- Marc Dessauce, Architectural League of New York

Thin Skin: The Fickle Nature of Bubbles, Spheres, and Inflatable Structures
- Barbara Clausen, Carin Kuon
**Custom Inflatable Manufacturers**

- http://inflatables.com/default.html
- http://domes.space-encounters.com/
- http://www.promotionaldesigngroup.com/
- http://www.thomasregister.com (search inflatables)
- http://www.akairways.com/
- http://www.southernballoonworks.com/
- http://www.creatableinflatables.com/

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

**Related Projects & Companies**

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- http://www.akairways.com/
- http://www.zeroprestige.org/
- http://www.possibleutopia.com/mike/
- http://www.designboom.com/snapshots/milan_02/snowcrash.html
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- http://www.archi-me-des.de/archimedes_architecture_media_design
- http://www.asymptote.net/
- http://www.invivia.com/