

TINY HOUSE

FOR MICRO, TINY, SMALL, AND UNCONVENTIONAL HOUSE ENTHUSIASTS

DOES YOUR ROOM ZOOM?

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ON OUR PAGES



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FEATURED

Does It Really Matter[port]?

What is the advantage of 3-D technology in the tiny house world? Do the videos enhance a tour of the home? Find out with Ava Elsner of Perch & Nest Tiny Farm.

Fortitude

Macy Miller and her partner, James, take on yet another adventure. This time it is on the education front. Macy writes about their foray into the homeschool world.

Wheels of Solitude

What if you had no choice but to call a van or vehicle “home?” Would the lifestyle remain appealing or would it seem like a prison sentence on wheels?

Road Warrior

Christina and her husband recently saw a ZoomRoom on the back of a Ford F250 while traveling across Nevada last August. This was a small and compact sleeping pod/camper.

WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF TINY HOUSE MAGAZINE, AN EXPLORATION OF THE TINY LIVING WORLD!

Take a virtual tour of tiny homes with Ava Elsner from Perch & Nest Tiny Farm as she unveils remarkable advantages of 3-D technology in the tiny house world. Learn how immersive videos elevate the experience, enabling you to intricately explore these cozy abodes from the comfort of your own space.

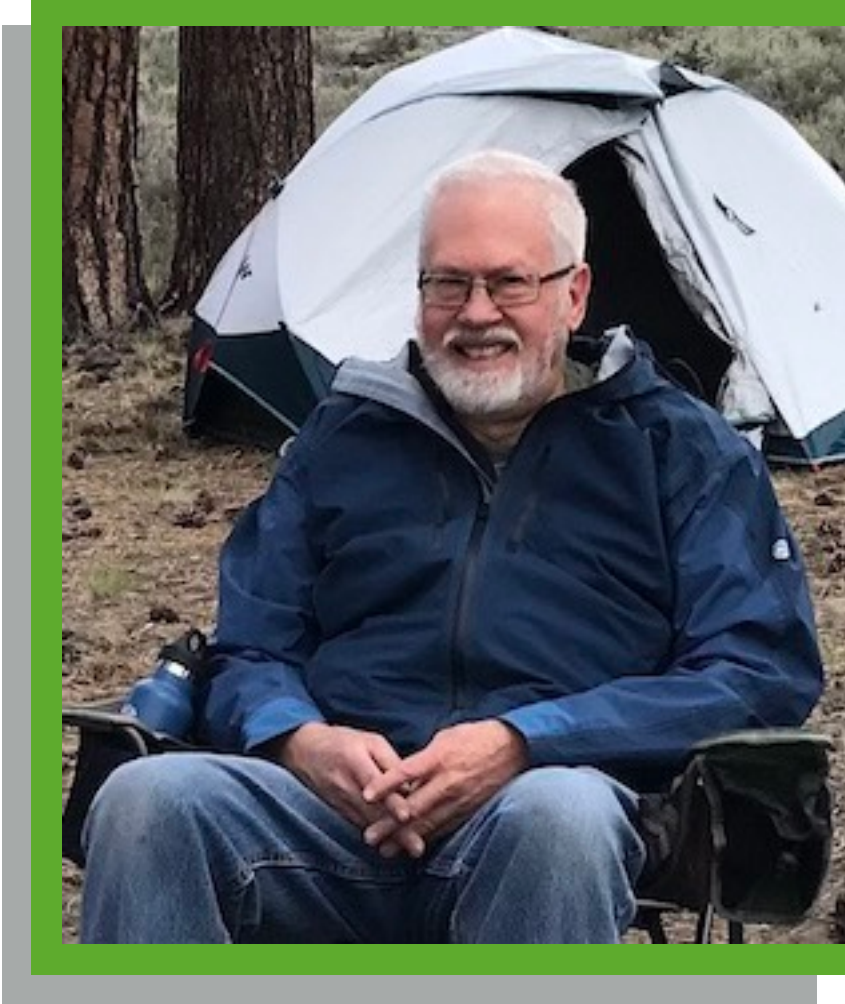
Follow the educational escapades of Macy Miller and her partner, James, as they embark on a unique homeschooling journey within their tiny haven. Their story is a testament to the potential of tiny homes to facilitate unconventional and immersive learning experiences.

Ever wondered about life in a van or vehicle? We delve into the intriguing realm of van dwelling, exploring the ups and downs of this lifestyle. Is it a liberating adventure or akin to a mobile prison sentence? Our article investigates the reality.

In our "Tiny Finds" section Christina shares a hidden gem discovered on the Nevada roads last August: the ZoomRoom. This ingenious, space-efficient sleeping pod mounted on the back of a Ford F250 offers a unique alternative for adventurers seeking compact travel options.

This issue underscores the incredible diversity that characterizes the tiny house movement: cutting-edge technology to unconventional education and nomadic living.

The world of tiny living is a dynamic canvas of innovation and boundless prospects.



Kent

Kent Griswold, Editor in Chief





Does It Really Matter[port]?

Written By Ava Elsner

In an industry as innovative as tiny house design and construction, it's no surprise that companies like Perch & Nest use equally innovative technology to elevate their business and customer experience. The technology of virtual tours does just that.

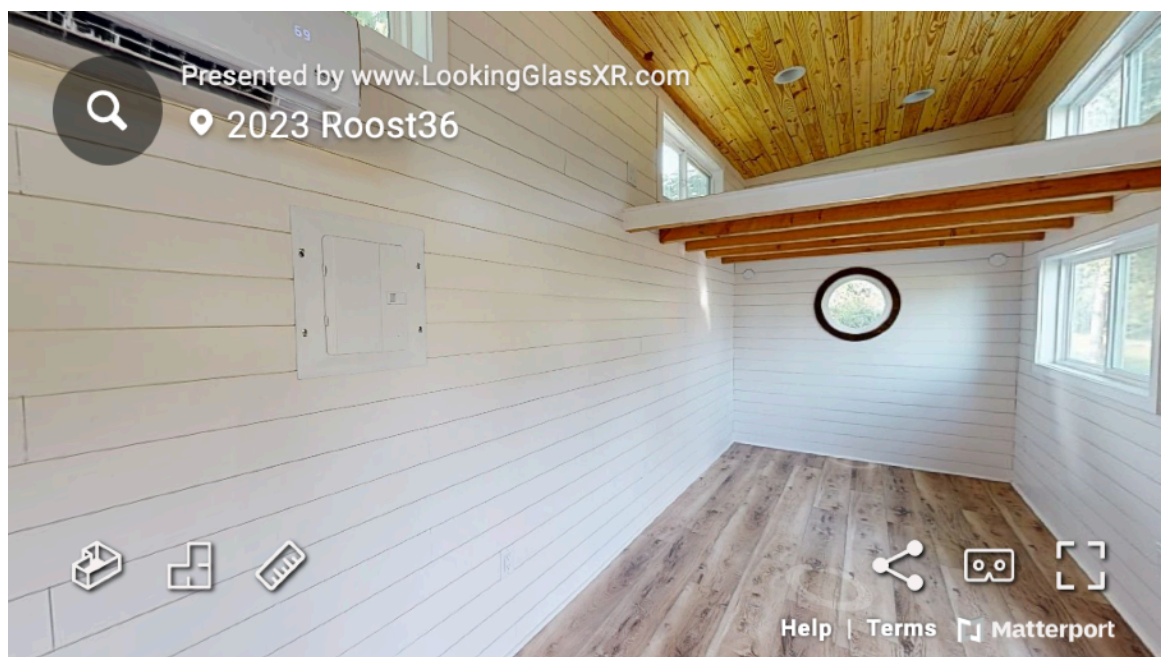
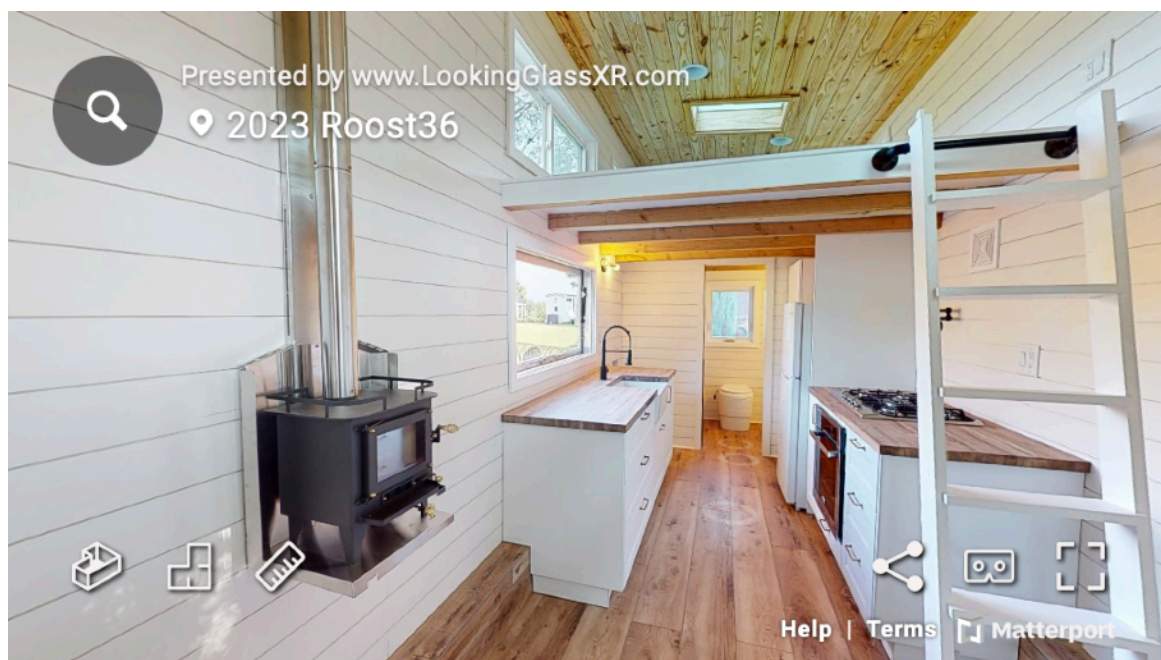
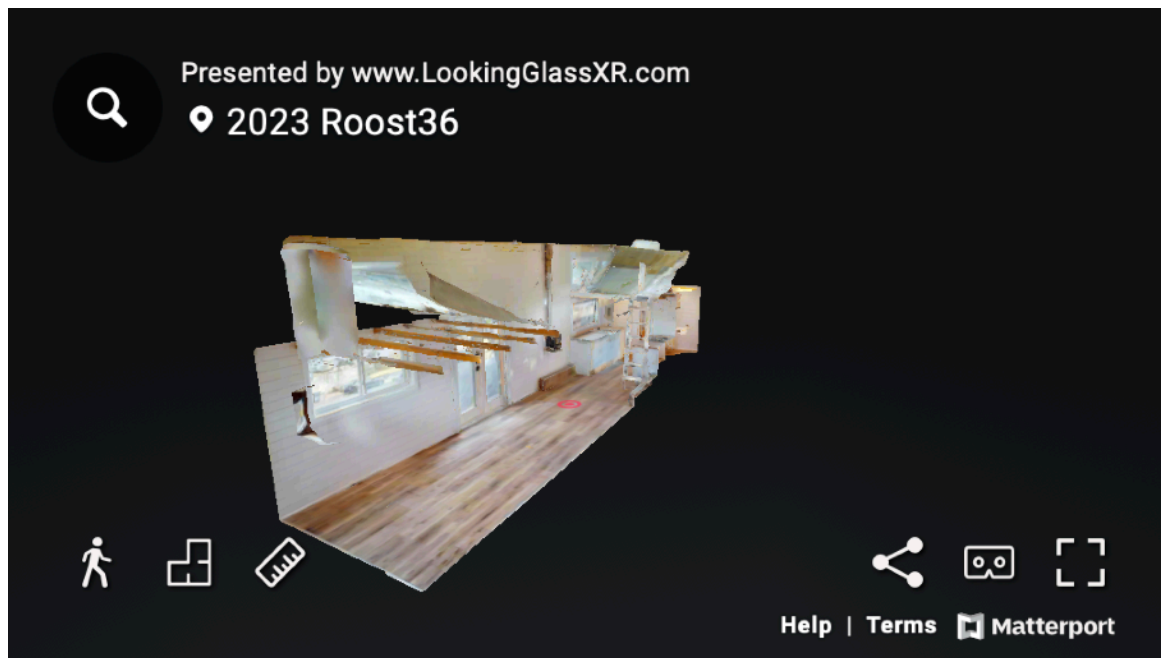
With an overwhelming and seemingly never-ending amount of new (but not always helpful) media surrounding tiny houses, it can be difficult to find easily accessible and understandable information. Although there are multiple streaming series, Airbnb experiences, builder events, and endless reels depicting small spaces and tiny living, complicating factors such as distance, cost, and availability make physically touring a tiny home just out of reach for many people. Enter virtual reality tours. These easily accessible online tours give the experience of an in-person tour from the comfort of your own laptop or cell phone screen. During these self-guided tours, the user can spend as little or as much time as they like in a space, revisit them as many times as they like, and even take real measurements while inside the space.

This point-and-click technology is exactly what you'll find on Perch&Nest's website, showcasing a variety of some of their past creations all available from anywhere, at any time. When asked how these tours have benefited their business, Perch&Nest's designer, Johanna Elsner, responded in parts.

Firstly, she says, "[Perch&Nest] started using [virtual tours] so that customers, especially the ones who are long distance, can tour their tinies long before they depart us and arrive to them," emphasizing the helpfulness of virtual tours when it comes to client communication. Additionally, Johanna added, "[Virtual tours] are an excellent way for those curious of tiny houses to tour various sizes, get ideas and realistic dimensions of space in a tiny setting before ever even reaching out to us for a quote or in-person tour. "I depend on our virtual tours daily myself. They can be a great reference tool while moving through the design process with clients, and we often utilize them in our shop to demonstrate particular installations and outcomes.

Perch & Nest hosts more than a dozen virtual tours live on their website at any given time and adds new tiny tours several times a year. Each one is coded by length (Roost20 is 20' long, Roost30 is

30' long and so on.) giving the user a variety of design ideas in various lengths. This easy-to-use tool is great way to get inside a field of tiny houses from your own location at your convenience and long before you reach out to builders, buy festival tickets, or rent a tiny Airbnb. (But they have those on their site too.)



Miss Elsner is currently a junior at Early College of Forsyth in Winston-Salem, NC. She has grown up around tiny houses as the daughter of Perch & Nest founders Tom and Johanna. This is her second contribution to THM, and we look forward to more in the future.

Next Gen Homes: Innovative Living Within Tiny Living

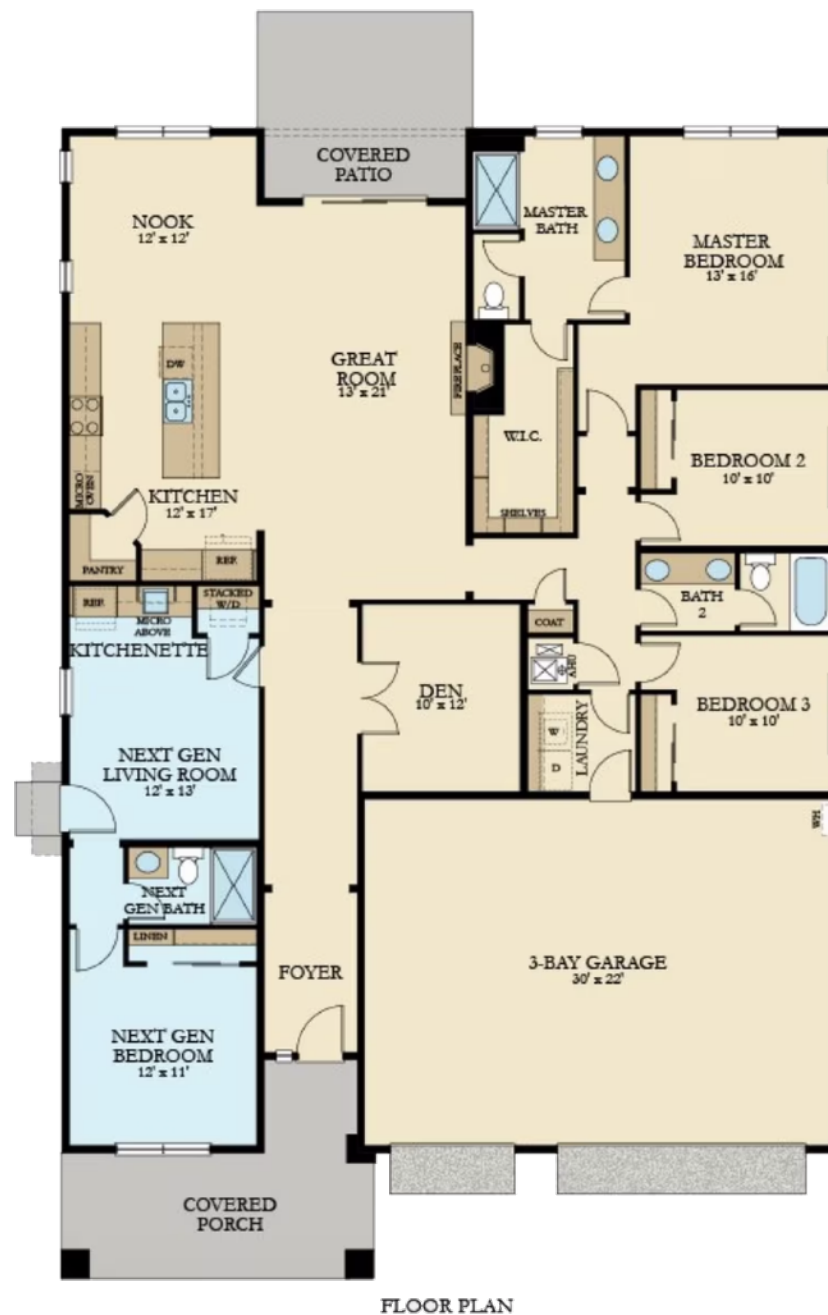
In the quest for versatile and space-efficient living arrangements, the concept of "Next Gen Homes" has emerged as a remarkable innovation.

In the quest for versatile and space-efficient living arrangements, the concept of "Next Gen Homes" has emerged as a remarkable innovation. These unique living spaces are like homes within homes, offering a fresh perspective on cohabitation, multigenerational living, and maximizing the utility of existing structures. In this article, we'll delve into the fascinating world of Next Gen Homes and how they are revolutionizing the way we think about living spaces. Never did I ever think my family would be considering this type of living before my dad's brain tumor last year.

Multigenerational Living is one of the primary motivations behind Next Gen Homes. Their goal is to accommodate multigenerational living arrangements. As families evolve and societal dynamics change, many individuals are

opting for shared living spaces that allow different generations to live under one roof while still maintaining a degree of autonomy and privacy. The Dual-Living Layouts in Next Gen Homes typically feature a dual-living layout where a self-contained living space is integrated seamlessly within the main home. This separate living area often includes a bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette, and living space, allowing occupants to live independently while remaining connected to the larger household.

Next Gen Homes are designed with the aging population in mind. They provide an excellent solution for elderly family members who may need assistance but wish to maintain their independence. These homes offer a convenient way for seniors to age in place with family members just a few steps away for support. Next Gen Homes also



offer financial benefits as supplemental income if rented out or rented to family. The separate living space can be rented out to generate additional income, helping homeowners offset their mortgage or cover other expenses. This added financial flexibility can be a game-changer for many families. Another option is to have a home office or studio space. In addition to catering to multigenerational living, Next Gen Homes serve as ideal spaces for home offices, art studios, or hobby rooms. These

separate living units can be easily repurposed to suit the changing needs and interests of the occupants.

The flexible design of Next Gen Homes is highly flexible. Homeowners can work with architects and builders to create a space that aligns with their specific requirements. Whether it's a fully-equipped kitchen for an independent young adult or a cozy bedroom for aging parents, the design can be tailored accordingly.

Next Gen Homes often incorporate accessibility features such as wider doorways, grab bars, and roll-in showers to accommodate individuals with mobility challenges. This forward-thinking approach ensures that the living space remains functional for all families.

Question of property value The addition of a Next Gen Home can significantly increase the overall value of a property. It adds square footage and versatility to the home, making it more attractive to potential buyers or renters. As real estate markets continue to evolve, this can be a valuable investment. However, it's all in how the property is maintained in conjunction with how it is personalized. While the concept of Next Gen Homes is promising, homeowners should be aware of local zoning and building regulations. These regulations vary by location and can impact the construction and use of accessory

dwelling units. It's essential to consult with local authorities and obtain the necessary permits before embarking on such a project.

Next Gen Homes are redefining the way we utilize and appreciate living spaces within our homes. These innovative living arrangements cater to the evolving needs of modern families, offering the convenience of multigenerational living, rental income potential, and enhanced property values. As the demand for adaptable and sustainable housing options continues to grow, Next Gen Homes are poised to become an integral part of our housing landscape, providing an innovative solution to the challenges of modern living. Whether you're seeking to accommodate aging parents, generate additional income, or simply optimize your living space, Next Gen Homes offers a promising way to live.



An Introduction On Wheels

Off Grid Dry Camping Lessons from a Tiny Houser to an RVer



Written by Laura M. LaVoie

In September of 2023, my business partner, Teona, packed up her service dog and a Lance pull-behind camper to drive to New York from North Carolina. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see her friend and our client/horse trainer, Jena Antonucci, at the Travers Stakes. [Arcangelo](#), the horse she trained and made history with at the Belmont Stakes, was running again. For Teona, this trip marked a milestone birthday celebration and what better way to enjoy it?

But that isn't the entire story. To make the last-minute trip for the race Teona had to take whatever reservation she could get at the closest RV park, which meant dry camping. Not knowing how to live off-grid she turned to me, a tiny houser who lived in a 120 square foot house in the mountains of Western North Carolina without running water.

If Teona can do it, so can anyone. Living off-grid doesn't have to be a permanent experience. The lessons I learned when I prepared to live a simple life can help even for a weekend of boondocking. Here's what you should know.

The Ingenious Garden Sprayer Shower

When Matt and I were ready to move into our tiny home we had to figure out some things fast. How would we handle basic tasks like showers and washing dishes without running water? Enter the Garden Sprayer Shower. [You can read about it in detail here](#). We had a fully pressurized shower system by combining a brand-new garden sprayer and a shower nozzle attachment. You fill the tank with hot water and shower as usual. The trick to not running out of water is getting a shower

attachment with an on-and-off switch to stop the water when not rinsing.

For dry camping your RV has a built-in off-grid shower system. If your water tanks are full you can use your shower normally, but limit your shower time and still turn the water off when soaping up!





Portable Potables

We have a natural spring on our land to gather water for the house. In conjunction with a [Berkey Water Filter](#), we can collect all the water we need for showers and washing up, but that left the question about drinking water.

The Berkey water is perfectly safe to drink, but with two adults in the house ensuring proper hydration means drinking more than a gravity filter can keep up with. Therefore, we purchased our drinking water while living in the tiny house.

There are many ways to buy drinking water. However, they all have a bigger carbon footprint. Many grocery stores have refillable water stations to fill up pre-purchased jugs. Keep a reusable water bottle on hand, so you're not creating too much trash with disposable plastic.

Solar Power versus Generator

The next big hurdle for us in the tiny home, and for many RVers, is what to do about electricity. [We chose to start with the smallest possible system that suited our needs.](#) We knew we

would have the ability to scale up if we needed to by adding more panels and more batteries to the system. We were able to meet our needs on the small system. Both of us worked from home during that time, and we were able to power our computers, lights, and a few other necessities around the house. However, we





skipped large appliances that drew a lot of energy and used fuel alternatives like propane and butane for cooking.

We installed our solar power system in 2012, and many advancements have happened since then. There are many solar power kits designed specifically for RVs in mind that can power your necessities along the way. Also, your RV is most likely equipped with a generator you can use as your power source or backup.

Don't Be a Martyr

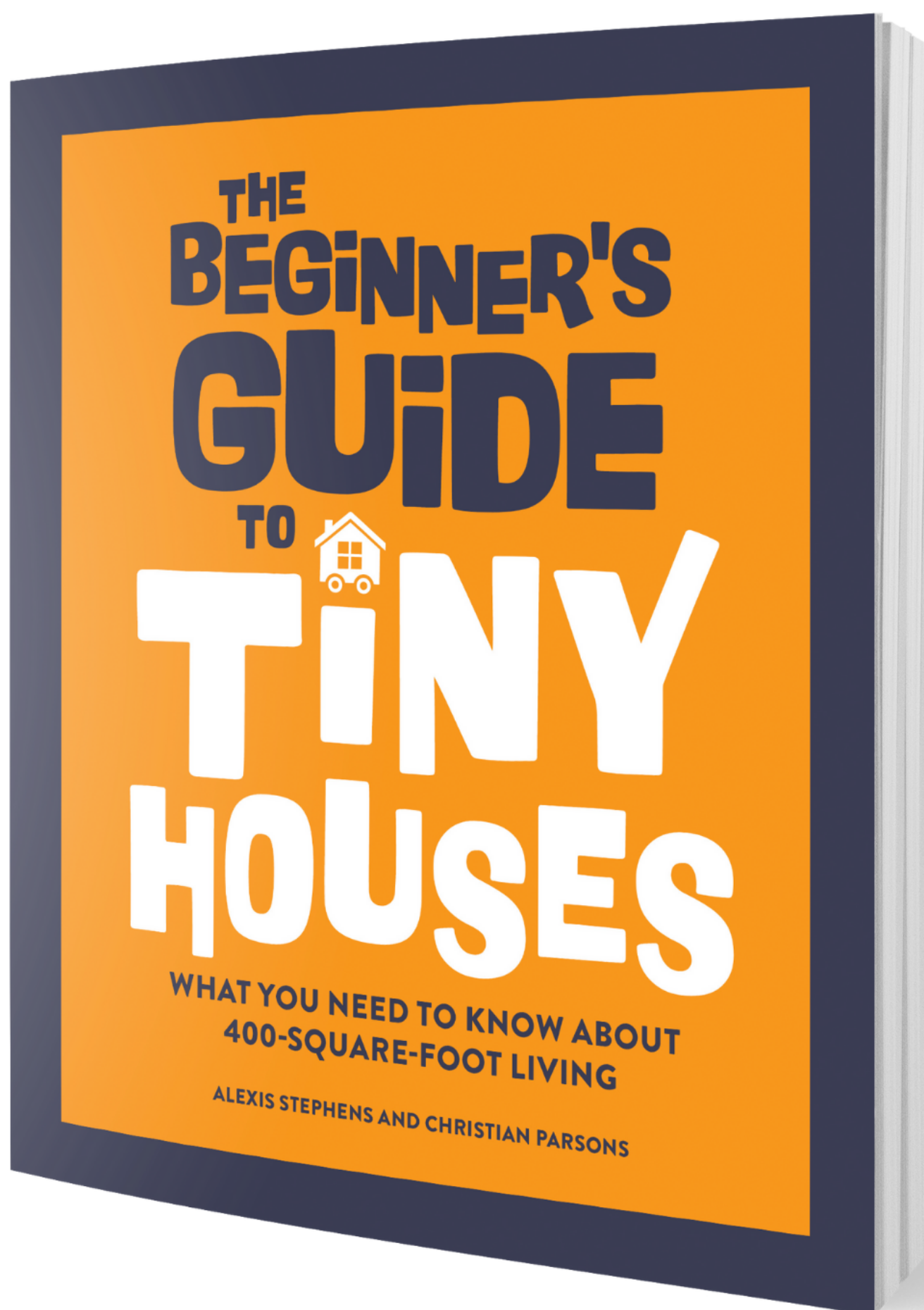
I retell this story often. Many years ago while I was part of several tiny house discussion groups, someone told the story of how they practiced living in a small space. They used painter's tape to mark off a small footprint in their kitchen.

They set up a cot and a camp chair and wanted to see if they could spend time in that small space to know if a tiny house would be a good project. One of the responses that stuck out to me was, "Don't cheat and go watch TV in the living room!" And I wondered why that was cheating. No one is a prisoner in their tiny home. You can go to the movies, have dinner at a friend's house, or spend time outside.

Just because you're dry camping or boondocking doesn't mean you must isolate yourself. Plan activities that give you access to luxuries or amenities your RV doesn't have. If you want a long, hot shower check out a local gym and get a day pass. If you're going to watch something but don't have enough power to run your TV go to a movie or visit friends or family. Tiny living isn't a competition; no one wins a medal for doing it "better" than anyone else.

"Your thorough guide to tiny house living, full of time-tested advice from legendary tiny house dwellers and travelers."

—Ethan Waldman, host of the Tiny House Lifestyle Podcast



FORTITUDE

Written By Macy Miller

The last decade of my life has proved that I can be a lot happier without a great big, busy life. Fame and fortune are overrated. We people really don't need very much at all in my opinion. Purpose, love, connections and gratitude for those things go an awful long way. Our tiny house lifestyle has enabled all of the important parts of life to grow while minimizing my need to keep up with those darn Joneses.



Twelve years ago, after a relatively short adult life of making all the ‘good’ choices for my future, I made a whacky and alternative decision to build a tiny house. Life had become overwhelming and it was the best option I could come up with that would give me a little breathing room. It allowed me to regroup when I was looking for that reset button. What others

saw as a distraction from ‘the goal’, I have come to define as my path to success. Whenever life feels too big and overwhelming, I now search for less. I did not realize, all that time ago, just how influential the success of that cooky decision would be on the rest of my life. It’s not the only time I took the path less traveled, but it was the first. It is the decision that has allowed space for

all of my other decisions to happen.

The friction I met with when going tiny, juxtaposed next to how intuitive and beneficial a simple housing choice was for my life made me rethink a lot of my decisions. Re-evaluating my housing turned into re-evaluating my career; my relationship; parenthood and now, education. While it may look like it to some, I don't actually make choices simply because they are uncommon. Each successful alternative choice I make seems to give me the fortitude to consider life's other options more genuinely, and then make the next best choice moving forward for me specifically. Fame, fortune and recognition have never been my motivation. I want to be happy and comfortable, I want my loved ones to know

that they are loved by me, and I want to do what's best for the planet. Those are the metrics I base my choices on.

The chance of failure is always an option. So long as I fail doing something I genuinely consider to be most in line with my ethos, I can't see how it's not worth it. My perspective is that an education is what you get if you don't get what you want. The fact is that no one has all the answers in life. I found myself making all of the 'right decisions' early on in life, and then figuring out the hard way that they definitely weren't right for me. I am glad to have several uniquely 'me' choices under my belt that have worked out beautifully. It's given me the confidence to listen to my inner voice more and more.





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The latest set of decisions that make some loved ones worry is the choice my partner and I have made to homeschool our kiddos. We have an eight and a nine year old who we have homeschooled since kindergarten. Since birth, really. Never did I think I would be 'a homeschool mom' and all that entails. But here we are, choosing that despite all the stigma that goes along with it.





While there are a lot of reasons people choose to homeschool, we do it with the goal of instilling our kids with a love of learning. With my education, it's taken me way too long to realize that school isn't actually a bad word. I take the 'but you will let them go to middle/high school' comments in stride, just like I take the 'tiny houses aren't for families' comments in stride. We have a good foundation of letting our needs drive our choices. When we need something else, we'll make that happen and make it align with our ethos, too. We have the space for that.

I have come to realize that the reason homeschooling works so well for us is a lot like the reasons tiny living works so well for us:

- *We love having flexibility* - to learn what we want, when we want.
- We are *in tune with ourselves* enough that we know what approach works best for each of us.



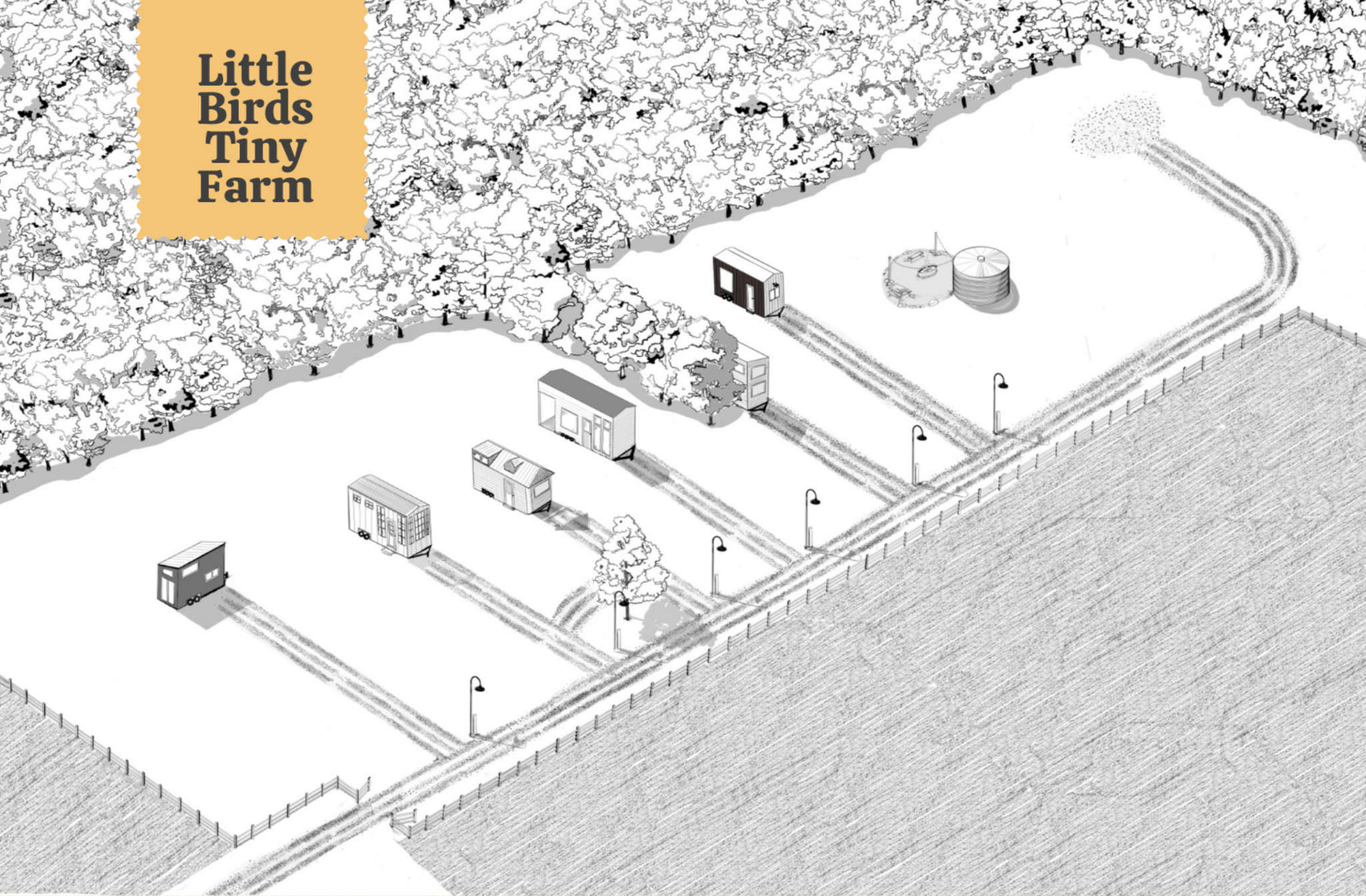
- We can be *more efficient* and effective at meeting standards.
- *We LIKE each other* and we like spending time with each other.
- *We can use our whole community* to learn.
- *We do it at our own pace.*

Just like the thought of building a tiny home, the thought of homeschooling can be overwhelming. Also, just like building a tiny house, it can be broken down into smaller, more manageable steps. **In my pursuit of fortune and recognition as a baby adult, I never had the space to dream and align my life with my inner self. The good news is that these choices that align life with yourself get easier to make, one by one. One success story builds on the next.**

If you base your success on anything but yourself and your inner feelings, I think life can get out of hand pretty quickly.



Little Birds Tiny Farm



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TINY HOUSE LISTINGS

More than a decade ago, Steven Harrell, founder of Tiny House Listings, traded his bachelor pad and lifestyle in Denver for a quiet little tugboat near Wilmington, N.C.

When he graduated from the University of North Carolina in 2005 Harrell wasn't sure what to do.

The debt wasn't exorbitant—only \$10,000 in car loans and \$20,000 in student loans—but his bachelor lifestyle wasn't helping his bottom line.

Between eating out nightly and blowing money on a luxury loft in Downtown Denver Harrell had little to show for himself or his fledgling web development business.

"It just felt like for the amount of space that the place was (700 sq. feet) and with the housing market crashing, the loft wasn't worth it. I was really fed up."

Harrell left the loft in Denver and decided to move in with his parents until he figured things out.

One day he spotted the Dave Ramsey book, *Total Money Makeover*, lying on his mother's dresser. Soon he was hooked on the personal finance guru's message to get out (and stay out) of debt.

Harrell came up with a plan to pay off his bills, and eventually, he moved out.

Harrell couldn't resist the opportunity to live close to downtown and save on utilities and rent.

"I wanted to start saving up for retirement and vacations and to have more disposable income," he said. "I wanted more financial freedom."

It sounded crazy at first—a house on the water?

Harrell couldn't resist the opportunity to live close to downtown and save on utilities and rent.

Another perk was that he could pay for the tugboat in cash and never have to go to a bank for a mortgage.

"It's nice when a house is paid for, and there's many things to do on the water in Wilmington," Harrell said. "The lure was having more disposable income, but I also liked the idea of having everything in one place."

Another perk was that he could pay for the tugboat in cash, and never have to go to a bank for a mortgage.



ON THE COVER

“There was a bit of decluttering that had to happen. I didn’t miss a lot of things once they had been gotten rid of though.” He began making smarter decisions in terms of need -vs- want.

Over time Harrell became quite enamored by being able to enjoy more of his income by not having so much overhead.

By 2012 Steven had become familiar with the modern tiny house movement and had formed friendships with people who had chosen to live with a small footprint just as he had. He knew he needed to share his experience, his knowledge, and the opportunity to “live tiny” with others. Tiny House Listings was born!

Fast forward to 2023 and THL has become the world’s most visited tiny house resource! It has become the industry's Zillow for tiny houses of all kinds, from the traditional tiny house on wheels to schoolhouses, vans, and more!

“The lure was having more disposable income, but I also liked the idea of having everything in one place.”





ON THE COVER

Through his workshops, web page, blog entries, videos, and wisdom in investing, Steven Harrell has been able to help more than 20,000 people change their financial future, buy a home, and live more happily than they thought possible. And with his latest endeavor - building tiny houses on wheels in Wilmington, NC - he is providing affordable tiny homes in a market where most people are left feeling hopeless.

Enter **The LAD (Life After Debt)**

At 128 sq. ft. The LAD is a certified ultra-budget tiny house. It is 16' long, has an overall height of 11'6", and comes in under 6,000 pounds, which is lighter than most standard RVs! It is a single-level tiny house but has all the creature comforts.

Constructed of traditional 2'x4' and 2'x6' lumber, the team at Tiny House Listings insists on safety and durability. Unlike a lot of tiny home builders, they include metal strapping and hurricane ties on the framing.



“We see the LAD as a game-changer in terms of the price point and what you get. There are a few builders out there building budget tiny homes but using experimental materials to do so. Ours are made completely out of traditional housing that can withstand the test of time.”





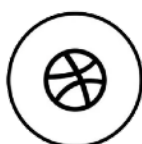
The plumbing is full PEX and the shower and sink are made hot by an on-board 8-gallon electric hot water heater.

The outside of the home is structural LP siding as well as vinyl hung windows, an exterior entry light, an exterior GFI outlet, and an exterior water hose hookup.

Inside The LAD is a sleeping area, a bathroom, and a kitchen. All with style and modernity, they feature high-quality cabinetry, vinyl plank flooring, and high-end finishes.

To stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, the THOW is insulated with both R13 and R19.

Starting at just \$35,000, The LAD is just the latest way Steven Harrell and Tiny House Listings are looking to help everyone get more bang for their buck! The company's builds are focused on high quality while keeping their price point as low as possible.



Wheels of Solitude

The Rise of Van Life through the Eyes of the Homeless

In the vast tapestry of human existence, there is a thread that binds us all—a yearning for freedom, a desire to escape the confines of the ordinary, and a dream of a life unburdened by societal expectations. In the shadows of our cities, an unconventional movement has quietly burgeoned, one that I, a homeless individual, have found myself reluctantly swept into. This is the rise of van life, a phenomenon that offers both solace and struggle to those who dwell within their four-wheeled homes.

Margaret Atwood, the celebrated author, often explores the human condition within the dystopian landscapes of her fiction. As I embark on this essay in her style, I feel compelled to

narrate the very real and present-day dystopia of van life, not as an observer, but as an unwilling participant. My story is one of adversity, survival, and the elusive pursuit of freedom.

The stark reality of homelessness is an experience that thrusts one into a constant battle for survival. I am not alone in my struggles, and amidst the maze of despair, I found solace in the unlikely haven of my car. A faded blue van, bearing the scars of time, became my refuge from the harsh elements and the unforgiving streets. It was here, within the confines of this metal cocoon, that I began to witness the burgeoning phenomenon of van life.

Written By Cathy Ames

For those who embark on this unconventional lifestyle by choice, van life represents a deliberate rejection of the conventional norms that have defined society for generations. It is a quest for simplicity, a reprieve from the relentless pursuit of materialism, and a declaration of self-sufficiency. The allure of the open road and the promise of uncharted destinations draw many into this nomadic existence.

Yet, for those like me, who are homeless out of necessity rather than desire, the transition into van life is marked by an undeniable sense of resignation. It is a coping mechanism, a response to the merciless grip of homelessness that often feels like a prison sentence. My van, my home by default, became a vessel of both liberation and confinement.

Atwood's writing often delves into the intricacies of human relationships, and the interactions within the van life community bear a striking resemblance to her keen observations. In the shadows of parking lots, beneath the dim glow of streetlights, I witnessed a peculiar camaraderie among the denizens of van life.

Strangers became neighbors, their stories woven into the tapestry of our shared experiences.

The parking lots of supermarkets and abandoned warehouses transformed into makeshift communities, where stories were exchanged like currency, and survival tips were shared with a sense of urgency. In these fleeting moments of connection, I glimpsed the resilience of the human spirit and the innate yearning for companionship, even in the most unconventional of circumstances.

However, van life is not without its perils. Much like the dystopian worlds of Atwood's fiction, the nomadic existence on the road is fraught with danger. The constant threat of eviction, the struggle for basic amenities, and the ever-present fear of the unknown cast a shadow over the romanticized notion of freedom. As a homeless individual, I have faced the grim reality of van life—the lack of access to sanitation, the constant need for discretion, and the vulnerability to theft and violence.

In my stolen moments of



solitude within the confines of my van, I often find myself contemplating the paradox of van life—a lifestyle that promises freedom but often imposes solitude; a journey that offers liberation but is marred by uncertainty. Margaret Atwood's exploration of the human condition resonates deeply within me as I navigate the complex terrain of van life.

In conclusion, the rise of van life, as witnessed through the eyes of a homeless individual, is a multifaceted

phenomenon that defies easy categorization. It is a movement born of both choice and necessity, a testament to the human capacity for adaptation, and a reflection of our enduring yearning for freedom and connection. In the tradition of Margaret Atwood, this essay serves as a narrative of the harsh realities and fleeting moments of beauty that define the lives of those who call their vehicles home, highlighting the indomitable spirit that persists even in the face of adversity.



Elevated Cabin Plans
Virginia

[Click Here](#)



15 little ways to Bring Intentionality Into Your Day



Too often, given the noise, rush, and demands of our modern lives, it can feel from time to time that our days are in the driver's seat—calling the shots, choosing our actions, picking our mood, and rushing past us in a blur.

We sometimes drift through days, reacting rather than acting, being led rather than leading.

But remember this: How you spend your days is how you spend your life.

And by infusing **intentionality** into our daily routines, we can regain control, ensuring that our days reflect the life we genuinely desire.

While big changes can sometimes make this happen, often, all we need are small actions to bring about more intentionality in our day and lives.

Here are 15 little ways to do that:

1. Use a Morning Routine

Establishing a set routine for your mornings can instill a sense of control at the start of your day. This consistency can act as an anchor, grounding you and preparing you for whatever lies ahead.

2. Take a Digital Break

Designate periods in your day when you step away from screens. This **conscious detachment** allows you to reconnect with the real world around you.

3. Take a Nature Break

Carve out time, even if brief, to **connect with the outdoors**. It might be a short walk or simply listening to the rustle of leaves, reminding you of life's natural rhythms.

4. Drink Water

An act as simple as drinking water serves as a reminder to nourish ourselves. The next time you feel hungry or stressed, pour yourself a large glass of water, and hydrate.

5. Maintain a Gratitude Journal

Before bed, write down three things that brought you joy. This **daily practice helps** highlight the small, everyday blessings that enrich our lives.

6. Read with Purpose

Choose material that nourishes your soul. Whether it's an inspiring article or a meaningful book, let the words and thoughts challenge your brain, elevate your spirit, and broaden your perspective.

7. Ask Questions

Make an effort to **dive deeper into conversations**, fostering genuine connections and learning from others' experiences and insights. Asking good questions requires good listening and presence. Our interest usually brings us closer to the people in our lives.

8. Craft a 3-Item To-Do List

Streamline your tasks, focusing on just **three primary goals for the day**. This approach ensures purposeful actions and less scatter. I've used it for years—you'll love it.

9. Sit Quietly with Yourself

Dedicate five minutes to be **in silence**. It's a moment to recenter and align with your innermost thoughts and feelings. If you can go longer on an occasional basis, please do. Solitude does wonder for the soul.

10. Preplan Minor Decisions

Decide on minor elements of your day in advance, like your meals or attire. This proactive approach conserves mental energy for more impactful decisions.

11. Nightly Reflection

Take time to ponder your day. Recognize moments of being present, your attitude throughout the day, and always consider how you'd like to act differently tomorrow.

12. Give a Compliment

By intentionally **giving a compliment** each day, you are required to actively seek the good around you. And by expressing that appreciation, you not only uplift others but also train yourself to notice life's beauties.

13. Smile

Beyond brightening your mood with a rush of feel-good hormones, a simple smile can

radiate positivity to those around you. **That's what the science says.**

14. Eat a Healthy Snack

Making a conscious choice to nourish your body with something beneficial reinforces the practice of intentional living.

15. Active Listening

Truly tune into conversations, hearing not just words but emotions and underlying sentiments. This deepens bonds and showcases genuine interest.

Will these 15 little acts cure all of life's ills and remove all of life's stress? No, certainly not.

However, when done consistently, I believe they provide an opportunity to help us reclaim control over our lives. I incorporate all of them from time-to-time, but especially when I need intentionality the most.



Joshua Becker and his young family were introduced to minimalism during a short conversation with their neighbor. Since then, Joshua's story and writing have inspired millions around the world to find more life by owning fewer possessions. Today, based on his thoughtful and intentional approach to minimalism, he is one of the leading voices in the modern simplicity movement reaching over 1 million readers every month.

*Joshua Becker is the WSJ Best-Selling author of **The More of Less** and **The Minimalist Home**. His new book, **Things That Matter**, is available on Amazon.*



ROAD WARRIOR

By Christina Nellesmann



There are many types of road warriors. Vandwellers, full-time RVers, weekend campers, and short-term trailer travelers seem to be the majority. But there are other road warriors who seem to stay under the radar, yet travel is a major part of their lives and work.

These travelers can be long-haul freight delivery drivers, mobile repair people, food truck and mobile retail vendors, and hotshots and traveling firefighters. For these people, the average camper or trailer might not fit their vehicles or towables. However, they would still prefer to sleep in or near their vehicle rather than constantly paying for a questionable hotel room.

My husband and I saw a ZoomRoom on the back of a Ford F250 while traveling across Nevada last August. Rather than the camper taking up the entire truck bed, it only took up

part of it leaving the rest of the bed open for freight, outdoor gear, or other supplies.

This was our first time seeing such a small and compact sleeping pod/camper that wasn't being towed. The concept of this tiny sleeping space was intriguing and I wanted to know more.

Inoventure Industries, the maker of the [ZoomRoom Sleeper](#), is based in Indiana. The ZoomRoom was invented by owner and engineer Denny Herrmeyer.

Herrmeyer has spent much of his life in the RV and truck accessory industry. He also spent years perfecting the ZoomRoom for professional haulers and hotshots—firefighters who travel to and from wildland fires. His design earned him the Ron Webster Award for Engineering Excellence.



The main benefit of the ZoomRoom (besides having a ready-made bed on the top of a truck) is that it actually features a Hi-Lo option that can be used as a windbreak when hauling loads. The Hi-Lo feature also adds more headroom to the interior of the sleeper.

Herrmeyer was so kind to answer a few more questions about the ZoomRoom.

Where did the idea for the ZoomRoom come from?

I was brought up around the RV industry, my father being the first ever to produce motorhomes on a production line basis beginning in 1955. He was aware of President Eisenhower's intention to build the interstate highway system and he surmised that people would want to see the country and would want a "travel car" as he called them. Our brand name was "The Escort".

When I left the engineering group of the largest manufacturer of fiberglass pickup truck caps, I

began to deliver motorhomes from the manufacturers to dealers all across the country, while contemplating what I wanted to do next, and looking for opportunities.

It was on the open road that I discovered a critical need for various rigs to be outfitted with equipment to at least achieve an adequate night's sleep and rest. From my own experience, I found the phenomena of "driver fatigue" consistent with safety warnings of the serious dangers involved. I further came to consider the conditions many faced with their equipment as a "quality of life" issue. Upon observing people stumbling from their vehicles with a window crank impression on their cheeks from trying to rest in cramped quarters, I began the design process.

Many early concepts showed to have "fatal flaws" in the design, but I kept pushing and listening to many folks with great ideas. It all rolled together in the most unique design and function of the current models of "ZoomRoom".



What are the benefits of a Zoom Room as opposed to other truck toppers or campers?

Creating meaningful living space with an eye on fuel economy is no easy task. The "Hi-Lo" feature was immediately adopted as "form follows function" to obtain a sleek and low profile appearance while in transit, yet doubling in interior space at the destination.

The "V" shaped front certainly helps the aerodynamics and further design details added economy and aesthetics for pride of ownership.

The entire truck bed is left entirely open for any imaginative purpose. A 5th wheel trailer can be hitched as well, provided the pickup has the 8' bed. The ZoomRoom is sturdy and holds up to commercial use, and we will soon be safety inspecting a unit with 980,000 miles.

How does the Hi-Lo roof extension work?

The Hi-Lo feature is powered by a linear actuator on each side. They operate directly from the truck battery so it lifts and lowers at any time, even going down the road. The brand of actuator is the best to be found and is a real workhorse, cycle tested for thousands of cycles.

People are amazed at the quiet function, so there are no fears of disturbing neighbors at the campsite. There are also no hand cranks, just a toggle switch above the driver's seat, mounted in a guard to avoid accidental activation.

Action automatically stops at the top and bottom of each cycle, and you can stop it at any level to use as a wind deflector corresponding to a high-profile trailer in tow.





How is the ZoomRoom mostly utilized by customers?

The original utility was designed for the commercial driver who makes his or her living by transporting almost everything imaginable. The ZoomRoom has found great favor and acceptance for this intended market, and we have been so busy filling the demand, we have overlooked other purposes!

However, other markets have found us. Recreation, camping, food service, fire fighting, wildlife photography, and even simply as extra storage space. Imagine setting up your travel trailer at a site, and then using the ZoomRoom to go to remote areas for some days hunting and fishing.

The ZoomRoom is also a great companion for equestrian and animal transport for people who

need to stay close by them for shows or recreation. It also works for contractors who need to stay on a job site. ZoomRoom is under consideration even by those who want stealth living.

What do customers like the best about the Zoom Room? What are the most popular customizations?

It's easy to make new friends with the ZoomRoom. Always a head turner and show stopper, owners find they frequently draw a crowd when fueling or stopping for a break. The curiosity is rewarded with delight when they see it quietly raise and lower itself.

It can be unnerving though, when people pull up and want you to pull over so they can see it, or snap photos as they go around you.

Overall, owners like the sturdy, hand-crafted quality and workmanship, giving them much carefree utility.

Owners have found the newly created space makes room for magic in other areas of their vehicle. Owners have removed the back seat of their crew cab or extended cab trucks and outfitted the area with all sorts of creature comforts. These include cooking areas, coolers, desk space, TVs, sound systems, custom lighting, wet sinks, pet areas, and even a porta potty!

One of our customers, Henry, is over 80 years old and returned to the factory to show off how he fixed everything up and gave me a tour of how he kept his healthy food, fry pans, coolers, clothes, boots, etc. He even kept a guest book of everyone that he showed his ZoomRoom!

The high point of his tour was with his great big grin when he offered me an ice cream bar.

We love you, Henry.



ZoomRoom Standard Pricing

Base Unit and Installation: \$7,345

Optional Features:

A/C (\$950)

Roof Vent & Fan (\$385)

Rear Exterior Light (\$120)

Team Driver Restraints (\$200)

Rear Entry Door (Call For Details)

Flatbed / Cab + Chassis Platform Risers
(\$450 - \$850)

Custom Color-Match Paint (\$1,200)

Learn more about ZoomRoom at zoomroom.space

GLORIFIED SHEDS and TWO-BIT TRAILERS

Written by Jim Casy

Well, howdy there, my dear friends and fellow wanderers of this great big ol' world! Gather 'round, y'all, 'cause today we're gonna take a little journey into the fascinating world of tiny houses. Now, I know what y'all might be thinkin': "Tiny houses? Ain't those just glorified sheds and trailers?" Well, darlin', I'm here to tell ya that tiny houses have done gone and evolved into somethin' mighty special. They've become more than just four walls and a roof; they're a way of life, a true testament to simplicity and sustainability.

Down here in the heart of the South, we've always had a knack for makin' do with what we got, and tiny houses fit right in with that mindset. You see, these little abodes have come a long way from their humble beginnings. They used to be just a place for folks lookin' to downsize or hit the road in style. But now, they've become a symbol of a whole movement, a way for folks to live big by livin' small.

Now, I reckon y'all might be wonderin', "What's the big deal about these tiny houses, anyway?" Well, let me paint y'all a picture. Imagine a cozy little home, no bigger than a pickup truck, nestled amongst the pines and magnolias. Inside, you'll find all the comforts of a traditional home, just scaled down to a more manageable size. There's a snug livin' room with a cracklin' fire in the woodstove, a quaint kitchen with everything you need to whip up a good ol' Southern meal, and a cozy bedroom loft up yonder. It's like a cabin in the woods, but on wheels!

One of the most remarkable things about these tiny houses is how they've become a symbol of sustainability. Y'see, down here in the South, we

sure do love our land, and we want to take care of it for generations to come. Tiny houses are a mighty fine way to do just that. They're energy-efficient, use less water, and produce fewer emissions than them big ol' McMansions. And with solar panels on the roof and compostin' toilets,



they're like a green dream come true.

But it ain't just about the environment; it's about freedom, too. Folks who live in these tiny houses have found a way to break free from the burdens of mortgage debt and the endless cycle of consumerism. They're livin' life on their own terms, and that's somethin' to admire. Down here, we've always believed in the value of freedom, and these tiny houses are a powerful symbol of that independence.

Now, I can hear some of y'all sayin', "Well, that all sounds mighty fine, but what about the practicality of it all?" Well, I'm here to tell ya, these tiny houses are as practical as a pocket on a shirt. They're designed with every inch of space in mind, so there's no wasted room. And if you're thinkin' 'bout the storage, well, these folks have got that figured out too! They've got clever little nooks and crannies, fold-down tables, and even hidden compartments. It's like a game of hide-and-seek, but with your belongings.

But it ain't just about the inside, no sirree. These tiny houses are built to withstand the elements, whether you're parked by the Gulf of Mexico or nestled in the Appalachian Mountains. They're built tough, just like us Southerners, and they're ready for whatever Mother Nature throws their way.

Now, I gotta admit, there's somethin' downright romantic 'bout the idea of livin' in a tiny house. It's like a return to simpler times, when life was all 'bout sittin' on the front porch, sippin' sweet tea, and watchin' the world go by. And down here in the South, we sure do appreciate that sense of nostalgia. It reminds us of our roots, of the values that have shaped us into who we are today.

So, my dear friends, the next time you hear 'bout them tiny houses, don't just write 'em off as glorified sheds and trailers. These little abodes have done gone and become somethin' mighty special. They're a symbol of sustainability, freedom, and practicality, all wrapped up in a cozy, romantic package. They're a reminder of the values that have always been dear to us Southerners, and they're a testament to the idea that sometimes, less is more.

So whether you're lookin' to downsize, hit the open road, or just simplify your life, consider givin' a tiny house a whirl. You might just find that there's a whole world of possibilities awaitin' you in a space no bigger than a pickup truck. And remember, down here in the South, we've always believed that the best things come in small packages.



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