

Praise for a Tiny Home to Call Your Own

I almost cried when I stumbled upon your site: TinyHomes.com. Boy oh boy, are you on to something! I'm a single mother, with one daughter. Who can afford the half million dollar houses going up everywhere? Our bigger and better society is frightening, and I'm so very happy you see through that illusion. I truly wondered if anyone else out there was thinking along the path I am. Small, and simple. I have put your site in my favorites. Good for you! Thanks again, you've made my day.

— Kim Labbe, New Hampshire

My imagination soared after seeing the quality and craftsmanship in the tiny homes during a photo shoot for Virginia Living magazine. These dwellings blend the wonder and imagination I loved as a kid with the environmental responsibility I embrace as an adult.

— Tyler Darden, Art Director

Virginia Living Magazine, www.VirginiaLiving.com

More and more of us, myself included, are struggling to define the connections between who we are, and what our "things" say we are. Bigger is not necessarily better. More is not necessarily richer. We live in a society that has lost touch with the deep satisfied knowing of "enough". Tiny Homes opens your thinking toward a down-to-earth, simple, quality, and yet elegant way of living we all long for.

— April Getz, Facilitator, Coach and Speaker

www.ActingHouseofHealing.com, Calgary, Canada

Tiny Homes are one of the best answers I have seen to help with the continuing problems of urban densification without compromising quality of life. They add value and lessen the human impact to the environment. A smaller footprint reaps big rewards with Tiny Homes.

— Jill Marilley, City Engineer, Washington

I encourage you to take a look at The Tiny Home Book. I think it speaks to what our hearts long for...a place we can afford to live with love and laughter. All my life I have lived in small houses. My wife and I raised five beautiful children in a 1,200 sq. ft. house. And we owned that house. We were not strapped with a 30 year mortgage. We didn't have to work night and day to keep a roof over our heads. We had time for children and for ourselves. "A Tiny Home" is for anyone who wants more time and less house. "A Tiny Home to Call Your Own" is a must read.

— Larry Haun, author, *The Very Efficient Carpenter*

This is the perfect book for a society living under the pall of half-million-dollar homes. Compact houses are cozy, affordable, energy-frugal, and easy to keep—a perfect choice for owner-builders and those who favor creativity over pretense.

— Richard Freudenberger, Publisher
BackHome Magazine

Architecturally beautiful, aesthetically appealing, upscale small houses made with quality material... Structures that beg to become a private guest room, home office, workshop or hobby house, "Pout" house or men's cave, granny flat, weekend getaway or vacation cottage.

— Virginia Living Magazine

A Tiny Home to Call Your Own is a valuable and delightful resource for learning how these appealing structures can meet many needs. The authors have created inviting homes with style and respect for the Earth's ecology.

— Paulette Dininny, Journalist
Washington, D.C.

I have patients who could greatly benefit from a tiny house. A place where they could recover from illness or injury. It would allow them to have an assistant stay nearby or to have an independent living space near a caretaker.

— Cathryn Harbor, MD,
Rockbridge Traditional Medicine
Lexington, Virginia

A Tiny Home to Call Your Own may well be the beginning of a HUGE cultural change towards TINY... making a much-needed shift in our bigger-is-better thinking. It's actually a book about living our lives in consonance with Mama Nature, without leaving a lot of destructive footprints along the way. This might mark the beginning of a great and much-needed difference in the world. God bless you for your efforts.

—Nancy (Scooter) McMoneagle, author,
Faber, Virginia

I don't live in my tiny house because it's upscale or anything practical. I can afford anything I want. I live in my tiny house because it's magic. It's a different magical world.

— Barbara Lane, Vesuvius, Virginia

I think people stay more connected when they are in smaller surroundings. It kept our family close. In a small home you interact more; you have to. You are together, you talk, play, communicate, and share ideas. I think that is very, very important in life.

— Cindy Campbell, Lexington, Virginia

Having my own tiny home in my sister's back yard has brought richness and meaning back into my life. It's brought us back together as a family. I so value the quality time I have with my nephews. Otherwise, I never would have known what a joy it is to be a contributing member of my family. Thank you Tiny House Company™ for making this possible.

— Gene Babish, Buena Vista, Virginia

Foreword

This little tiny house book is one Andy and I had to write. We were driven to create it not only from our own passion for tiny homes and living in smaller spaces, but also in hearing dozens of stories of how folks from all age groups and all economic classes were frustrated by the lack of available homes that fit their lifestyle.

The unified theme is clear: so many folks want an independent place of their own that is dignified, well-built, reflects their personalities, and is small. Notice that cheap or affordable is not necessarily a factor in looking for good fitting homes. We coined terms for this situation; for example, replacing “ill-fitting homes” with the antonym “just right homes”.

Many folks we talked with are middle class and some are even millionaires. What we all have in common is we just prefer to live in smaller quarters. Smaller is easier on just about every level, from maintenance to finance and everything in-between. Many older people we talked with are retired and want to live close by their grand children so they can be a part of the day-to-day life of their loved ones. But the kind of small home they desire is not available in their family’s neighborhoods where there are only the 3,000 square foot and larger houses costing a quarter of a million dollars and up. The truth is the types of homes that so many folks yearn for are not even available in today’s market. And, it is all but impossible to convince a contractor to build a tiny home to call your own.

As authors we have walked our talk. Both of us live in small homes. Mine is currently a Lindel Cedar with a gambrel roof with the foot print of a two car garage. With hardwood floors throughout it’s easy to clean. Lots of windows and solar orientation allow natural light to stream in. The open floor plan gives the feeling of spaciousness.

Andy is an avid traveler and changes his home frequently. He has lived in, and loves travel trailers. His home-base personal residence tends to be about 600 square feet and every 2 years or so he sells and builds again to take advantage of the tax laws. He is currently designing and building a 2-car garage with apartment which will be his home base while he travels widely to canoe and kayak America’s rivers and creeks.

We have both found that our dreams are more fulfilled by “doing” rather than “having”. We’ve found that owning lots of “stuff” carries a heavy price tag. The true price of stuff isn’t just the initial purchase price. The real cost of a “thing” extends throughout its life-cycle, including maintaining and storing it. How much easier and more satisfying it is to not have things we have to store. This allows us to design, build and live in a smaller home.

Earlier in our lives, move after move, we boxed, transported and unboxed (or stored) more and more stuff. We finally hit critical mass and realized that we were working to support our things, instead of our lives. After a lifetime of collecting and building we had rooms full of bargains, unfinished projects, and broken items that were, to put it bluntly, worthless.

That’s when we began to thoughtfully look at our lives, our dreams and what we had created both together and individually. We are well into our 50s and much of what we owned no longer fit what we wanted to do.

We have worked long and hard all our lives. We love our work, and will continue. But now we’d like more time for ourselves and new interests. Andy wants to travel across America. He’s current passion is designing and building tiny homes intermingled with long kayak and canoe trips. I just want a simpler, slower, unfettered pace with time to do more community and non-profit service. I want more time to cavort with my friends, play cards and take afternoon saunas.

So here is where the real power of a small home becomes clear. By trading a standard home for something smaller which requires less maintenance and upkeep I am literally able to buy time. Along with the time comes the dignity and grace of living a life that I choose, rather than a life reacting to, and maintaining stuff. I’ve never seen on anyone’s tombstone: “This individual owned a big house - fully packed”.

We achieve more deep satisfaction, fulfillment and excitement by doing and being, rather than having. Sincerely from our hearts, may this little book in some way help you, and everyone you know, find your unique path in life and live it to the fullest.

With love and hope,
Patricia Foreman and Andy Lee