

Charlestantinyhouse.com

Basic Stats:

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Zach Thomas (but Charlestantinyhouse.com consists of Andrea Tremols, Cedric Baele and Margaret Chandler)**
- What do you do for a living? **I work in the IT department at the College of Charleston**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? What part of the country do you live in? **Me and my pup. We live in Charleston, SC**
- How many square feet is your house? **324sqft nicknamed “the Golden Elephant”**
- When did you start your build? **About a year ago**
- Is your house complete? **Nope, far from it, almost done with the outside though.**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? **www.charlestantinyhouse.com**

Background:

- Why did you decide to build? **Tinyhouses speak for themselves.**
- What was your life like before your tiny house? Were you fairly active, have you always had ‘projects’ going on? Were you fairly sedentary and looking for a change? Did you tend to work too much? (This question is an effort at trying to figure out WHO gravitates to the tiny house lifestyle)

I always have some sort of art or handyman project going on. A tiny house seemed like it was a bit of both with the added benefit of being awesome and very useful.

- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and get started?

We started with Cedric converting a shed in our back yard into a spare bedroom for a house that we moved into. Cedric and Andrea were working for Rebecca O'Brian at the Sustainable Warehouse (sustainablewarehouse.org/) and worked with her in trade for almost all the pieces of the La Casita house: (charlestontinyhouse.com/?cat=60) he built his there and when we got the opportunity to build one too, we jumped right on it.

- What is/was your design inspiration? **We designed from the inside out. We were shooting for “Psychedelic Arts and Crafts.”**

Technical:

- How do/did you find the time to work on your house with a job, kid(s), relationships, AND building a house? Did you do anything special to keep the balance? **If you care about something, you make time. But the house has been a bit of a burden and a huge responsibility at times. But some days , working on the house makes it all worth it.**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **It's better to ask forgiveness than permission.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **A lot of them at first came from the Sustainable Warehouse, but we bought our tools over time and now have a nice little shop on John's Island ,SC.**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **About a year and half.**

- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **Far from it.**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **Siding. So far.**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Time. Not enough of it.**
- Is your house on a trailer? If yes, how do you attach to the trailer? How do you move your tiny house? (Do you have a truck, do you hire it done?) **Yes, its on a custom made 24x8.5ft trailer. I intend to hire someone to move it.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **Yes, I have a 40ft shipping container I use for a shop.**
- Where did you get your plans? **Margaret Chandler made them.**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **Nope.**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **Also nope.**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **Yes, Garry Norton from The Timbershop (thetimbershop.com) Donated our Cypress Siding and McElrath Trailers (mcelrathtrailers.com) gave us a great deal on our trailer**

Specifics:

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **LP range and stove or Induction Cooktop. Not sure yet.**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **On the grid.**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **Yes, a compact combo**
- Where does your water come from? **The hose.**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **Honey Bucket for now. Then an incinerating toilet when I can afford it.**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **The A/C unit will heat the house as well**

- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **Storage in the stairs, alternating tread stairs, outward opening front door and a few other tricks.**
- What do you have for insulation? **Reclaimed Polyiso panel**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **Still sorting this one out.**

Personal:

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **~17k**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **The Trailer (\$3400)**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **None thankfully.**
- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **Getting to speak at a Tumbleweed Tiny house workshop.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **No rent.**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **Chasing the dog around the house.**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **Moving it.**
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? **It would be smaller.**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **It's been pay as I go, with a bit of money saved for the trailer and windows.**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **Most have been accepting.**
- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? **Just start on it and work out the details later.**