

***Basic Stats:***

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Sicily Kolbeck**
- What do you do for a living? **Student at HoneyFern School, catcher for Georgia Titans (softball)**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **Me to start, then maybe Nana if she buys the house**
- What part of the country do you live in? **Marietta, GA**
- How many square feet is your house? **128 sf, not including sleeping loft**
- When did you start your build? **January 2012**
- Is your house complete? **no**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information?  
**Yes, [www.tinymaison.blogspot.com](http://www.tinymaison.blogspot.com)**

***Background:***

- Why did you decide to build? **Got interested in tiny house through Deek Diedricksen's YouTube Channel and Kirsten Dirksen's We, the Tiny House People and decided to do this project for my school**
- 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 liked forts and small spaces, and I wanted something that was my own space. This is a good way for me to be independent, and I am learning things that I can use in the rest of my life. Plus, I like the idea of designing and decorating my own house, and I thought it would be a good thing to have when I go to college.**
- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and and get started? **My school lets you design your own curriculum, and so I decided that this is what I wanted to do this year. My mom has helped me learn how to design the house and has pushed me to keep going when the details get hard, and my dad (and some other friends) are helping me build (and learn to use the tools).**
- What is/was your design inspiration? **I like the Tumbleweed houses but my design has some changes that give me more space in the kitchen and let my dog come sleep with me in the loft. I like Deek's use of scrap and reclaimed, funky details.**

***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? **This house building is my schooling, so I work on it daily. My dad helps build on weekends and when he is not working, but it is going to get harder when softball season starts; we have tournaments and practices every weekend, and practices during the week. My mom keeps me on a schedule during the week.**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **We are building so that we don't have to worry about codes - a "non-permanent" structure that is less than 150 sf is fine.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **My dad had some tools, and my school has purchased the rest; we have lots of students building things, so we needed them anyway.**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **My due date and the date of my open house is May 26, 2013, the last day of school.**

- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **So far, so good; we are framing at the end of February.**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **So far design and drawing blueprints has taken the most time. I am starting to build solar panels, though, and that will take awhile.**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Money and experience. We are using donations, recycled materials and donated materials, and those take time to come in. My mom and I don't have construction experience so we are teaching ourselves and asking lots of questions.**
- 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. **Built on a trailer; sill plates attached to the trailer with lag screws, and floor joists attached to sill plates with lag screws. Eco-Foil and insulation under the subfloor. We will move the trailer ourselves.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **I am parking in my backyard, so I will have a regular house to go to in inclement weather.**
- Where did you get your plans? **I designed my own house.**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **So far we have consulted a friend who has built houses, and we are planning on asking a licensed plumber and electrician to consult on our work after we finish wiring.**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **I think so, but I am not sure. My mom would know more about that.**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **We have had donations from EcoFoil, and a commitment from a local Floor & Décor for flooring and countertops. We just asked. I also just finished an Indiegogo campaign and raised \$1,500.**

### *Specifics:*

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **A recycled gas oven/stove from an RV**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **I want to have solar power but I may need to plug in. We are wiring for both.**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **No**
- Where does your water come from? **We will have a hook-up like an RV and use a potable water hose.**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **A basic composting toilet (5-gal. bucket) but also plumb for an RV toilet (possible future use)**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **I am not sure yet. I built a veggie oil heater and may use that.**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **Storage under stairs and under the sleeper in the bump out, up in the loft and a built in storage space that is also support for the loft. Plus downsizing.**
- What do you have for insulation? **In the floor, a vapor barrier and R19, but I am not sure about the walls yet.**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **In my parent's back yard.**

### **Personal:**

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **Less than \$5K is what we are hoping for.**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **Solar power**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **None so far!**
- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **Just doing it. Not many people my age are doing anything like this and most of my friends don't really understand.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **Having my own space; having my own house that I built.**

- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **I don't know yet.**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **Making sure I get it done!**
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? **I don't know yet, but my next design is going to have a bedroom on the first floor.**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **Cash only**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **My mom and dad have been really supportive, and my schoolmates have, too. My softball team thinks I should just go buy one. I think now that we have started to build, more people understand what I am doing and they are more supportive.**
  
- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? **From my mom: "People have been very generous with their support and time, and that has been really important to this project. We have asked some serious beginner questions and have gotten helpful responses that have been encouraging. I also want to thank everyone who has supported the school by supporting this project. HoneyFern cannot do what we do without the help of the community (school site is [www.honeyfern.org](http://www.honeyfern.org))."**