

## **[www.aBedOverMyHead.blogspot.com](http://www.aBedOverMyHead.blogspot.com)**

### ***Basic Stats:***

- What is your name? **B.A. Norrgard**
- What do you do for a living? **Currently I am paralegal. We do complex commercial construction litigation defense. (I know, it's a mouthful.)**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **Just me and my 75 lb. dog!**
- What part of the country do you live in? **urban Dallas, TX**
- How many square feet is your house? **112 sq. ft. plus a loft**
- When did you start your build? **My trailer will be ready 4/26/13!**
- Is your house complete? **Only in my mind... (hopefully Dec. 2013)**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? **Yes. [www.aBedOverMyHead.blogspot.com](http://www.aBedOverMyHead.blogspot.com)**

### ***Background:***

- Why did you decide to build? **So many reasons! I want to get out of legal. To get out of legal I need to downsize. I took a 9 month career transition workshop, and I've decided to craft a new career & a new life around tiny houses. I also really love construction and personalizing things.**
- 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 had projects going on. Always going going going. I owned a 1929 Tudor in a historic part of town - beautiful, cozy but at**

1,148 feet it still felt too large for me. I've been a paralegal since the late 80's and love it, but need a change. I've volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for 13 years, and own all my own power tools. I'm single. Female. In my 40's.

- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and get started? I can't recall how I first learned about it! I wish I could, because everyone asks me that. I guess I've been following the movement online for about 2 years maybe? My career transition workshop showed me it was a good fit for me - that was Feb - Oct 2012.
- What is/was your design inspiration? Jay Shafer's houses (I attended his Four Lights Workshop in February of 2013 and purchased his plans for the Gifford, which I am modifying slightly) and Pinterest!

*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? I am partnering with a high school construction class!! (& maybe a summer camp - that isn't confirmed yet...) I am supplying the materials, and my house is their class project. It's an amazing opportunity...
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? I'm not there yet... I've had a meeting with the City about it but it was more of an information gathering expedition on my part.
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? Although I have my own tools, because at least some of my construction will take part on a high school campus, the school's tools will be used.
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? The kids only work a few hours a day - we are starting June 24th, and I plan to be "in" in December - so 6 months, but work will not be full time every day.

- 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?) **My house will be on a trailer! Attachment seems like too much to address here, but I guess the short answer is “J” hooks/bolts. When I move my tiny house from CA to TX I plan to rent a vehicle. If I go on the road in 2013 as planned, I’ll buy a vehicle. I think that vehicle will be a van; I’m told their towing capacity is actually greater than a pick up truck, and I’ll have secure storage in the back for my bicycle and my tools.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **Not at this time. I don’t plan to, but ... we will see.**
- Where did you get your plans? **Four Lights Tiny House Company**
- Have you consulted any ‘professionals’? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **Yes....**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **Farmer’s Insurance tells me they will insure it.**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **The Power of Who! Ha ha It’s all about knowing people. People hear about the project and they just want to help and want to be involved. It’s amazing!**

***Specifics:***

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **I plan to have an alcohol stove and a toaster oven. I have a ROK manual espresso machine (LOVE).**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **Both. I live in TX so I have to have an air conditioner. Sadly, that’s too much pull for solar.**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **Nope.**
- Where does your water come from? **I’ll have a reservoir, and the ability to connect when available.**

- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **I'm doing the bucket/sawdust method.**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **I plan to buy a Dickinson Marine propane heater that mounts on the wall.**
- What do you have for insulation? **I'm using foam boards. I was going to use sheep's wool but I'm told it will settle too much during travel to be efficient long term.**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **TBD! I hope to travel for a few months first and then address that. My plans are fluid.**

**Personal:**

- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **Probably endless hot water...**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **Um, just *read* that question? LOL Seriously. The whole thing.**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **Cash in hand.**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **Shockingly NO! I am blessed with an amazing support network. And I think I'm known as the sort of crazy person in each of my groups of friends... hmhhh**