

Lacy and Patrick www.foundhouse.cc

Basic Stats:

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Patrick Beseda and Lacy Graham**
- What do you do for a living? **We are students in a Master's of Architecture program at the University of Colorado–Denver.**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **2**
- What part of the country do you live in? **Denver**
- How many square feet is your house? **150**
- When did you start your build? **June 2013**
- Is your house complete? **No**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? **We will be documenting the build through our blog and website - www.foundhouse.cc**

Background:

- Why did you decide to build? **We are architecture students who are particularly interested in design–build and the tiny house movement. We want to live in a smaller, more responsible manner. We also saw a need for additional housing for a non–profit we are involved with, Design–Build Bluff (DBB), which builds houses for Navajo families located in Utah. We wanted to take the opportunity to expose ourselves to a the experience of another design–build project and also provide housing to other students like us who participate in DBB in the future.**
- 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) **We have always been active in the design community, both as part of our school, and also doing projects on our own. We are constantly making things, designing, or problem-solving in order to keep learning and growing as designers. We have seen the value in every project, no matter how small, as they each have many things to teach in the way of new skills or methods of creating something that is functional and useful.**

- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and and get started? **We have followed the movement somewhat regularly over the past few years, and being in architecture school prompted us to think more about domesticity and the ways people choose to live. We want to be responsible in the way we live and the footprint we leave, and so the idea of living “tiny” really appealed to us. We really began to realize how little space and things one truly needs to live, and we want to challenge ourselves to make this type of lifestyle functional and fulfilling.**
- What is/was your design inspiration? **Besides feeling compelled to live more responsibly, we are also inspired by the idea of freedom and mobility. Geographic location is becoming a non-issue due to the interconnectedness allowed by the internet and technology in general. We feel like a person shouldn't have to be tied to a specific location if they don't want to. We are inspired by the idea that you can choose the place that you call home and also that you can take that home with you.**

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? **As architecture students, we are used to working on ten things at once and have learned that if you want something to happen,**

you have to be proactive. We take ownership over our time in order to make sure that our own projects get attention, in addition to our school studio work. It also helps that we happen to be a couple who are both very passionate about architecture and building this house.

- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **We haven't had any issues yet. We have decided to loosely follow the Denver code. We are viewing our microhouse as temporary structure since it doesn't have a permanent foundation.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **Our main tool is a CNC router, which we will need to contract from a service since we don't own one. As students, we will also be able to utilize the power tools in our school workshop. The other basic tools will be our own or borrowed from friends.**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **About 6 weeks.**
- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **So far, yes (we are still in the fund raising stage)**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **It will probably be the ongoing publicity and fund raising, and also the detail/finish work after the main structure is completed.**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Money and time.**
- 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?) **No,**

it is not built on a trailer. It will be disassembled and packed flat for transport in a truck or on a trailer.

- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **We are planning to keep a storage unit while we test-live the house.**
- Where did you get your plans? **We are using the basic WikiHouse structural system, and we are designing any additions and alterations to it (ie, adding insulation, electricity, interior sheathing and furnishings, etc.)**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **We have consulted with our instructor who is an architect.**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **Unknown at this point, as we may be donating it to a non-profit.**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **Yes, we are seeking donations through a few fund raising campaigns via Kickstarter.com and GoFundMe.com. We are also planning on pursuing material donations and salvaged materials.**

Specifics:

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **Probably a propane camp stove and a toaster oven.**

- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **Off the grid (solar electricity).**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **No.**
- Where does your water come from? **A tank on the exterior.**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **Composting toilet.**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **Space heater or nothing.**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **We organized the service functions of the house along one wall (ie, bathroom, food prep, storage).**
- What do you have for insulation? **Rigid insulation.**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **We will set it on a temporary deck pier foundation in Bluff, Utah.**

Personal:

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **Approximately \$5000**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **The plywood sheets used for the structure.**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **No injuries yet!**

- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **We haven't begun building yet, but it will probably be figuring out effective water-proofing methods since the house is pre-fabricated and able to be disassembled.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **The opportunity to truly test our design and determine what is functional and what is not.**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **As we already live in a small studio apartment, we probably won't miss too much. It will be interesting to find out!**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **So far, just raising the amount of money we need, but we're still in the process.**
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? **Not sure since we haven't built it yet.**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **We will be continuously fund raising and make purchases as we go.**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **A lot of architects are skeptical about code issues coming up. However, we have received a lot of interest and support from family and friends so far.**
- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? **This house is simply a prototype that we want to learn**

from. After living in the house for a semester, we are planning to address the issues we discover by re-working and further iterating on the design.