

## Kistie – kristiewolfe.com

### *Basic Stats:*

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Kristie Wolfe**
- What do you do for a living? **Spokesperson**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **Just me and my pup Roxy**
- What part of the country do you live in? **in Boise, ID & Hawaii**
- How many square feet is your house? **both houses are about 220 sq ft**
- When did you start your build? **It took me about a month to build my first one in 2011 and 2.5 months to build the treehouse in Hawaii.**
- Is your house complete? **Yes**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? [kristiewolfe.com](http://kristiewolfe.com)

### *Background:*

- Why did you decide to build? **I thought it would be a good experiment. But made it permanent because I loved it.**
- 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 am definitely a project person!**

- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and and get started? **I didn't know until after I built mine and found out that others were doing the same thing.**
- What is/was your design inspiration? **my inspiration on the Boise house was pretty much based on the materials that were used and cheap. I knew I wanted a treehouse to fit in with the Hawaiian jungle that surrounded it. I listened to "The Signature of all things" by Elizabeth Gilbert when I was building and I can see that it influenced the decor a lot**

*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? **The first build I was working 40 hour weeks and had to drive 30 mins to the build site. I don't have kids so I was able to just disappear socially for a month and totally dedicate all my spare time. For the Hawaii treehouse I had a 4 month break from work. I get so excited about the project at hand that I have no balance when I build. The day I got my vintage fern wallpaper in I literally forgot to eat because I was so excited to put it up!**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **The only thing I can think of was getting an address for mail. After getting the run around I decided to make up an address and put up a mailbox and it worked! I'm a ask for forgiveness not permission kind of gal.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **I had most my tools but borrowed and bought some as well.**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **About 1 month to make my first house livable although I still don't consider it finished. I'm**

**not sure that I'll ever be done doing projects on it haha. The Hawaii house took 2.5 months.**

- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **I try not to make a set schedule since I know construction rarely runs smoothly. If you know theres going to be problems you don't get to upset when things inevitably go awry.**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **I think finish work takes the longest but getting everything squared when framing is the most frustrating thing for me.**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Money Honey!**
- 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?) **Mine was but I chopped off the 5th wheel hitch when I made it permanent. I had a uncle move it for me, taking back roads to avoid weigh stations.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **no**
- Where did you get your plans? **I just scribbled on a lot of cocktail napkins then eventually graph paper.**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **not really, but I did call a lot of family members who are DIYers to ask questions.**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **no**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **no**

***Specifics:***

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **I have a propane rv stove in the Idaho house that I've still yet to use for anything other than roasting marshmallows. I'm not really into cooking.**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **Both properties are off grid. .**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **no**
- Where does your water come from? **Well water in Idaho and rain catchment in Hawaii.**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **I have septic systems at both.**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **Propane fireplace in Boise. No need for heating or AC in Hawaii it's just perfect all year round.**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **I do a lot of built in's instead of traditional furniture. My couch is more like a bench that opens for storage.**
- What do you have for insulation? **R19 batting the pink stuff on a roll in Idaho. None in Hawaii.**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **I bought the property for both my houses.**

#### **Personal:**

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **I spent about \$3,000 on my original tiny house. I spent about \$15,000 for the Hawaii one but I bought a truck, paid rent, bought plane tickets etc. If I had to guess I would say about \$11,000 went into the building.**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **All the Lumber.**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **just a lot of bruises and stiff muscles. (knock on wood)**

- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **In Idaho I was pretty proud to run propane lines just because I hadn't done it before and it seemed kinda scary. Also getting well water. In Hawaii it was building something so high in the air.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **Not being owned by stuff.**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **I miss having a washer & dryer. Since I have a loft I also miss my dog sleeping in bed with me.**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **I've spent a lot of time dangling off of things I shouldn't be. Wobbly ladders and lifting things that are way to heavy. Nothing too scary though,**
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? **I put an addition on to my Idaho house. If I had been planning for a 200 sq ft house I would have done the layout differently.**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **I had the cash for the houses. Both properties the owner financed and I payed zero interest payments.**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **Most everyone is at least intrigued by it. My mom was a huge help with both builds.**