

Ariel – FyNyth.blogspot.com

Basic Stats:

- What is(are) your name(s)?

Ariel C. McGlothin

- What do you do for a living?

Waitress at a little breakfast joint.

- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? What part of the country do you live in?

1 full time resident, me, plus a best friend who often stays here about a third of the time. I live in the mountains of western WY.

- How many square feet is your house?

229

- When did you start your build?

November, 2014

- Is your house complete?

Yes

- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information?

Yes, at FyNyth.blogspot.com.

Background:

- Why did you decide to build?

I was in need of a place to live due to the house I was previously renting being sold and the drastic lack of any housing available in the town where I live. This was the main reason. I also like the mobility and financial freedom it gives me.

- 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 was always active in the outdoors, skiing, backpacking, climbing, as well as photography. And I worked a lot. and hosted couch surfers from all over the globe... and cooked a lot.

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

The first contact I had was when a friend shared a link to a tiny house built by a teenager on my FB page.

- What is/was your design inspiration?

Many designs and people inspired me with their designs. My final layout ended up being based around a large kitchen though since I spend so much time cooking.

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 choose to pay a builder to do the work for me as that seemed a more efficient use of my time since I did not have the skills, tools, location, or time to build myself.

- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them?

I live in a grey area of the law. No one has complained yet.

- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.?

My house was built for me, but I have borrowed a few tools from a close friend in construction for some interior projects done since I moved in.

- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take?

It only took Tumbleweed about a week to build my house with their crew and experience.

- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule?

Yes.

- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build?

Figuring out the financing for the loan.

- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build?

Knowing I would be off grid limited some of my options. For instance, I would have installed a radiant heat floor, but knew I wouldn't have the extra power for 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?)

It is on a trailer. I would need to rent or borrow a truck to move it. My house is semi permanently stationary right now though so I hopefully will not need to move it anytime soon.

- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living?

I store a full size freezer in a friends shop as well as my window screens in the winter and skis in the summer. I also have a van that we use for camping a lot,

so much of my outdoor gear stays in there. Otherwise, everything is in my house. No storage unit, stuff at my parents, etc.

- Where did you get your plans?

Tumbleweed.

- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)?

Yes, since my house was built for me.

- Are you insuring your house? With who?

Yes. Through RV America right now.

- 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?

A four burner range with a oven.

- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid?

Off grid.

- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer?

I have a hand cranked Wonderwash and a Nina Softspin Drier.

- Where does your water come from?

A neighboring well where I fill my water jugs and then fill the internal tank in my house.

- What kind of toilet are you going to have?

I have a Natures Head composting toilet.

- What do you use for a heat source if anything?

I have two different propane heaters, one with forced air and one that provides radiant heat.

- What are some of the space savings tricks you used?

Storage stairs, storage built into the couch, and lots of drawers and cupboards.

- What do you have for insulation?

Spray foam.

- Where are you planning to park your tiny house?

It's on a friend's ranch for the time being.

Personal:

- How much will/did your tiny house cost?

\$78,000

- What is/was the most expensive part of your house?

The off grid parts, propane, solar, batteries, generator, etc.

- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)?

None yet, but I didn't do the building myself.

- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house?

Freedom.

- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house?

The ability to be mobile.

- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most?

Not much, but more room for food storage would be nice.

- What has been the scariest part about building your own house?

Nothing really for me.

- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be?

I'd use composite window frames and avoid wood so that when they get condensation, they can't mold.

- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house?

I got a loan.

- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas?

Some of both, but more supportive than not.

- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build?

I've done my best to document my learning experiences as I go, check out my house's blog for more info. FyNyth.blogspot.com