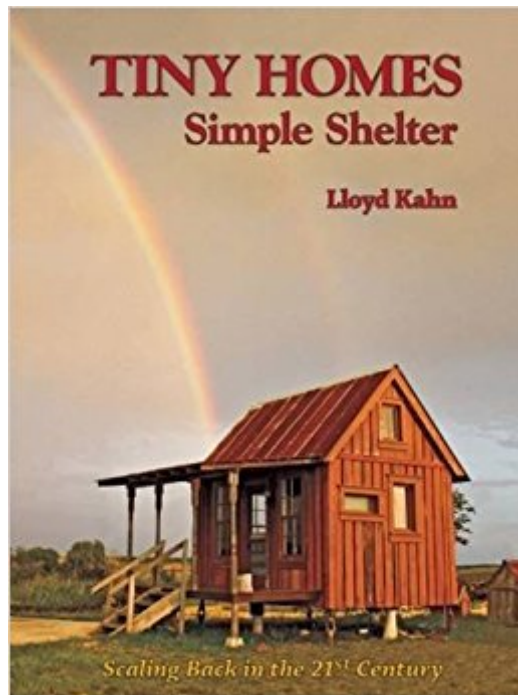




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# Tiny Homes: Simple Shelter (The Shelter Library Of Building Books)



## Synopsis

There's a grassroots movement in tiny homes these days. The real estate collapse, the economic downturn, burning out on 12-hour workdays -- many people are rethinking their ideas about shelter -- seeking an alternative to high rents, or a lifelong mortgage debt to a bank on an overpriced home. In this book are some 150 builders who have taken things into their own hands, creating tiny homes (under 500 sq. ft.). Homes on land, homes on wheels, homes on the road, homes on water, even homes in the trees. There are also studios, saunas, garden sheds, and greenhouses. There are 1,300 photos, showing a rich variety of small homemade shelters, and there are stories (and thoughts and inspirations) of the owner-builders who are on the forefront of this new trend in downsizing and self-sufficiency. At the heart of our 1973 book *Shelter* were drawings of 5 small buildings, which we recommended as a starting point in providing one's own home. Now, almost 40 years later, there's a growing tiny house movement all over the world -- which we've been tracking over the past two years. Many people have decided to scale back, to get by with less stuff, to live in smaller homes. You can buy a ready-made tiny home, build your own, get a kit or pre-fab, or live in a bus, houseboat, or other movable shelter. Some cities have special ordinances for building "inlaw" or "granny flats" in the back yard. There are innovative solutions in cities, such as the "capsules" in Tokyo. There are numerous blogs and websites with news, photos, and/or plans for tiny homes, documented here. If you're thinking of scaling back, you'll find plenty of inspiration here. Here's a different approach, a 180° turn from increasing consumption. Here are builders, designers, architects (no less), dreamers, artists, road gypsies, and water dwellers who've achieved a measure of freedom and independence by taking shelter into their own hands.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...a cornucopia of 1,300 photos featuring 150 different tiny homes, showing how they were built, giving resources and helpful tips of construction, supplying design solutions and inspiration for others, but also conveying WHY they were built. Tiny though they are, they are much more than mere shelter."-Kevin Kelly, CoolTools.org"Gives me chills, it's so inspiring." - Cheryl Long, Editor, The Mother Earth NewsA "...photo-packed new volumeÃ A ... (by) Shelter Publications founder and green architecture pioneer Lloyd Kahn..." - Publishers Weekly"The book arrived today, all I can say is Wow! It's beautiful and another one of your masterpieces." - Kent Griswold, Tiny House Blog"...a dream book...the scale is humble, but the architectural detail is rich..." -Michael Tortellero, New York Times"&#133;our friend Lloyd Kahn's beautiful book, Tiny Homes."&#151;Mark Frauenfelder, BoingBoing"Tiny Homes is an amazing collection. ...The homes might be tiny but your inspiration is huge."&#151;Richard Zanuck, Film Producer"...a quirky photo-rich book that preaches the benefits of a 'grassroots movement to scale things back.'"&#151;Jeffery Trachtenberg, Wall Street Journal"...a glorious portfolio of quirky makers and dreamers..."&#151;Penelope Green, New York Times"Before McMansions, before the counter culture was granite and marble, there was Lloyd Kahn, champion of the hand-built house . . . progenitor of the new do-it-yourself movement"&#151;Patricia Leigh Brown, New York Times"The common thread that weaves between the stories is the builders' immense pride of place, a drive for independence and a vision that, when little goes to waste, life can have greater meaning."&#151;HomeGrown.Org" ...a refreshing view into the wonderful world of small houses."&#151;Watershed Sentinel, BC, Canada"...splendid photos of home exteriors, interiors and landscapes..."&#151;Urban Times"What these structures might lack in square footage they more than make up for in economy, character and appeal..."&#151;U-T San Diego

TINY HOMES is especially timely due to the current grassroots movements in small homes. The real estate collapse, the economic downturn, layoffs, scarcity of good jobs - these things have many peopleÃ A rethinking their ideas about shelter - seeking an alternative to high rents, or a lifelong mortgage debt to a bank on an overpriced home. Here are some 150 builders who have created tiny homes (under 500 sq. ft.). There are some 1,300 photos of homes on land, homes on wheels,

homes on the road, homes on water, even homes in the trees. There are also studios, saunas, garden sheds, and greenhouses. Here are builders, designers, architects (no less), dreamers, artists, road gypsies, and water dwellers who've achieved a measure of freedom and independence by taking shelter into their own hands. "Scaling back in the 21st century"

"Tiny Homes" is a very interesting book loaded with pictures of tiny homes (defined as 500 square feet or less). There is a wide variety of building material used, excellent pictures, and interesting side stories about the people who built them or live in them. To be frank, I have no real interest in living in something this small (probably) but truly enjoy looking at them to see just what is possible. I have also enjoyed the books by Sarah Susanka ("Creating the Not So Big House" is just one of her books). My husband and I are at odds about home size but this book has allowed us to have some useful discussion about what is next for us. It has gotten my creative juices flowing a bit and has also come in helpful when thinking about downsizing my mother-in-law to a small apartment. My only real complaints about the book are two-fold. One: the working definition of a tiny house is one under 500 sf but almost all the pictures are of homes more in the 250 sf range. I can't imagine living in 250 sf but can picture 500 sf - just not enough of this slightly larger home for my desire. Two: I would have liked to have seen more floor plans. The pictures are great, but having a floor plan would help be better visualize what I am seeing. Even with those two quibbles it is a wonderful, picture-packed book that was well worth the money I spent. I am keeping it on my family room coffee table for perusal and inspiration!

This has a plethora of great photos and stories from many different styles of tiny homes. It is a great book to generate ideas and conversation. With that being said, here are some things about the book that you should know before buying:- This book is not intended to be a technical account of architectural styles - don't buy it if that's what you're looking for.- This book does not provide detailed plans or building tips.- As others have brought up, the photos in the book are not the highest resolution, but this did not detract from my enjoyment. Honestly, it is tough to notice if you are just flipping through.- I have never had a problem with the quality of binding or paper. To address some of the other reviewers who were wary of the reviews because they all mentioned the name of the author or publishing company: Lloyd Kahn is a well-known guy in the tiny house movement. I do not know him personally, but I saw him speak once (after buying this book), and I imagine that a lot of reviewers have seen him speak, resulting in a feeling of familiarity leading them to use his name in a review. I don't think it is a big deal. He has written and published a lot of books, so his name

and the name of his publishing company coming up in reviews shouldn't be a surprise. Overall, buy this book if you want to look at a lot of cool pictures of tiny homes. Do not buy this book if you want a technical account of the architectural or building practices associated with the homes. It's a great book if you're looking for the former.

After buying and reading this book I was impressed by Mr. Kahn's efforts in collecting such a variety of photos which does offer a somewhat comprehensive review of the topic. However, I too feel that it would have been more helpful if his work had been more up to date and covered the growing modern trend in small/tiny homes especially in Japan and Europe. As it stands it does feel dated and isn't as useful a guide as it could be, especially considering that in most parts of this country, more and more stringent building codes make many of these structures implausible as real alternatives to standard "big" homes on the market today. But it is a fun read and can inspire the reader to delve into the subject further, which I feel offers an important solution to not only the problem of rising home costs and the accompanying overburdensome mortgages, but also a great green alternative which is vital to this and future societies.

I got this book used and it came in great condition. I have looked at this book several times and plan to read it even more. There a lot of awesome ideas for building small or tiny homes. Much of the information in this book can also be incorporated into bigger homes. I don't plan to live in a tiny home, but I like the idea of having a smaller home around 600-800sqf. This book is packed with great ideas for diy construction and reusing old materials for an awesome custom look and huge cost savings. I would and do recommend this book to anyone looking to build a smaller home.

I LOVED this book! After reading it I'm ready to start a whole little village of tiny homes. While this style of living might not be for everyone this book clearly illustrates that downsizing our living space can be done attractively and efficiently. Great for singles and couples alike!

If you are just starting to learn about the tiny house movement, or seek inspiration from the amazing creations of others, this is the book for you. Not a text book, not a how to, just an amazing source for beautiful photos of so many different kinds of homes. This is the book that sets the imagination loose; I just need to get it back from a friend who responded exactly as I did. Just love it.

I was pleasantly surprised to see how large this book was....and the quality of the photos is

exceptional. You are able to get a glimpse at many, many smallish to tiny homes/shelters. My only wish is that each home would have photos of every part of the home and that there would be diagrams showing dimensions and floor plans. Some have this and it is easier to understand the size and scope of the living space. This is not a 'how to' book, but rather one that shows you a myriad of possibilities. It is also very interesting to read about the people that built these homes....their stories. Overall a great intro on living small, full of ideas.

interesting

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