Housetruck Building a Victorian RV

John Labovitz



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Introduction

Who am I?

... enthusiast of tiny houses, unique vehicles, surreal circuses, jug bands, and the open road . . . maker of photographs and of books...sometime computer programmer...



Inspirations



Hippie housetrucks & buses





Passenger trains & streetcars



Gypsy caravans





Tiny houses



British living vans & showman's wagons



DEFINE THE USES

Traveling * Relaxing Eating * Sleeping * Working

DESCRIBE THE VALUES

Mobility * Durability * Simplicity Comfortability * Flexibility Uniqueness * Artisticness Collaboration * Do-it-yourselfness

FIND THE PATTERNS

Listening to the frogs Rain on the roof Cooking outside Just big enough Always a view

DETERMINE THE MATERIALS Wood & Steel & Glass Wool & Canvas & Cork

CONSIDER THE CONSTRAINTS

< 8½' wide, 13' high, 14.5к pounds No pumps, motors, fans Natural materials

BRAINSTORM

Search * Consider * Research Compare * Decide Ponder (REPEAT)

ARCHITECT

Sketch Take notes Make models Pretend Diagram

WRITE THE SPECS

Welded steel frame Traditional wood/glass windows Cedar/fir interior & exterior Wool insulation 2001 Isuzu NPR-HD truck













Construction

The Sultan of Steel

Byron Miller, Miller Industries















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TheWizard of Wood

Jim Moore, Monitor Wood Products















Chapter 4

Lessons Learned

Ponder frequently.

Intuition works.

Fuzzy thinking leads to future problems.

Build the roof first.

Know your strengths & limits.

Understand your materials.





The Future

PLUMBING

Two small water tanks, one balance line, a drain valve, a brass handpump, a sink, and a bucket.

COOKING & HEATING Tiny woodstove Propane stove (OUTSIDE) Propane/AC/DC refrigerator

ELECTRICITY 12VDC battery bank 'Shore power' input Solar panel Fuel cell

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NETWORKING

Opportunistic wifi receiver Local wifi/ethernet network Cellular broadband (MAYBE)

FIELD LAB

A gazillion sensors (environmental, location, etc.) Tiny 'observer' computer Public web server



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