

## Introduction

**W**HY A BOOK ABOUT TINY HOMES? Because when you really look at the U.S. housing inventory, you see that Americans have become obsessed with BIG. From supersized to jumbo. This includes soft drinks, vehicles, and housing. Not everyone wants, needs, or can afford the American Dream JUMBO home.

R. Buckminster Fuller advised his students to look for the “gaps” in any field. Find the gaps and develop a profitable way to fill them and you will never be lacking for a job or meaningful, useful work to do. In looking at housing many people realize there is a huge gap in choices between what is available and what they want.

Homeowners and house renters in our society can choose from two basic options: (1) huge, mini-mansions that are larger than they really need on the upscale or (2) cheaply made starter homes and plastic single-wide and double-wide manufactured homes on the lower end.

The 2010 Census enumerated that the 309 million people in the U.S. lived in 117 million households. That’s an average of 2.6 people per household.<sup>1</sup> What is even more dramatic is that

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Very little is currently available in U.S. housing that is small yet high quality, handcrafted, and built with individual class and personality. Tiny homes help fill that gap.  
.....

between 1999 and 2014, the number of single-person households went up to about 34.2 million (from 26.6 million).<sup>2</sup> That translates to more than ten percent of the U.S. population living alone in 2014.

The trend is clear. Single-person households are expected to reach around 41 million by 2030, an average annual rise of 1.1 percent over 2015–2030.”<sup>3</sup> Single-person households don’t need, or even want, a biggie McMansion.

The takeaway is that the average American dream house of three bedrooms, two baths, and a two-car garage is rapidly becoming outdated.

With baby boomers approaching retirement, and more professional single folks in the marketplace, the demand for quality, smaller custom housing is destined to skyrocket. It’s a trend that needs to happen on every level: sociologically, environmentally, and economically. People are asking themselves: “How much is enough?”

While it is true that homebuilders can build any size home you want, most contractors have told us over and over, “There isn’t any profit in building small houses. The big bucks are made with big houses.” This is only partly true.

HomeAdvisor states that “the average cost to build a new house in America comes in at \$288,642, which would put a 2,000-square-foot home costing about \$150 per square foot. This will obviously vary greatly with all the cost variables involved, so the cost could range between \$151,839 and \$425,445.”<sup>4</sup>

As a really rough example, you might expect that if a 2,000-square-foot house at \$150 per square foot costs \$289,000 to build, then a 1,000-square-foot tiny house would cost \$145,500.

It isn’t that simple. Smaller homes often cost more per square foot to build. This is because smaller houses have the features of a larger house (kitchen and bathrooms) that are much more

costly per square foot to build compared with other rooms in a house, such as bedrooms, sunrooms, and “bonus” rooms.

That is why tiny and smaller houses can be more expensive per square foot but less expensive overall.

Now here’s a big money question. Big houses cost more than little homes. But are they better investments? An article in the May 20, 2001, *Seattle Times*, written by Elizabeth Rhodes, states,

Judged not on sales price, but on the cost per square foot — which reveals how much buyers actually get for their money — little houses outperform their bigger brethren not by a little, but by a lot. In the past decade, homes 2,500 square feet or larger have appreciated 57 percent. In 2000 that put the square-foot price at \$147. But those under 1,200 square feet — in other words your basic two-bedroom, one-bath starter house — have appreciated a remarkable 78 percent to \$184 per square foot in 2000.<sup>5</sup>

Small homes appreciated more per square foot than larger houses. Why? Because overall, the smaller houses were more affordable and therefore had more demand from a larger buyer base. That small-home buyer base is rapidly expanding.

Many people are attracted to tiny homes, cabins, cottages, and bungalows not only because they are more affordable but also because they can be so functional and personal. We define tiny homes as any full-featured, smaller house from about 350 square feet up to about 1,000 square feet, and even as large as 1,500 square feet.

The square footage definition we are using for a tiny home is relative. Sarah Susanka defines a “not so big house” as being from 2,000 to 3,000 square feet. It is all relative to one’s needs and idea of a small or large space.

Now, we can't snap a chalk line and say 1,100 square feet is *not* a tiny home — size truly varies depending on individual perspectives. Let's not get stuck on the square footage of "my small house is smaller than your small house."

Here's the bottom line: you can live in an attractive, aesthetically appealing upscale tiny/small house *and* do it so that your home is quality built, architecturally beautiful, personally delightful, highly marketable, and profitable.

The basis of this book is that small in housing can be beautiful, functional, and economical and ecological.

Another problem we find in defining what is correctly sized housing is that our language doesn't have the vocabulary to adequately describe the features and benefits of living in tiny homes.

Tiny home adjectives seem to be limited to "cozy" and "cute." But tiny homes offer so much more than cute. They can be magical. Well-built tiny homes have the warm, fuzzy feeling of home at their primal core. They can offer personal safety and deep contentment.

Living in tiny homes can be truly magical because once inside them you naturally set your perception levels differently. You notice smaller things. Your intuition and senses pick up changes more easily, especially in subtle energies. The faintest smells are more noticeable. There is a totally different ambiance in, and around, a tiny home than there is in a big house. When you go into a large home you are *inside*. The inside air, temperature, ambiance is different. When you are in a tiny home, the outside seems closer. The air is different. Feelings can be differently perceived.

For example, you get a feeling of being closer to nature. Not as close as camping in a tent but certainly closer than in a full-size house. The things I find most enjoyable are hearing birds' songs at daybreak, the wind blowing and rustling the leaves, rain on the roof, and the sound of snowfall. The elements are more intimate to my personal environment. It is like being in

a small boat on the ocean. The waxing and waning of energy currents of water or air help one feel the rhythms of life and the heartbeat of nature.

Having a very compact kitchen makes it efficient to cook and prepare meals. You don't have to take many steps to do any task. Often you just turn around. For example, an eat-in kitchen is much easier and more efficient to care for than a dining room separate from the kitchen.

Imagine that your entire house can be vacuumed with the cord plugged into one central outlet. A few minutes each day is more than enough to sweep the house. You might even leave the vacuum plugged in, sitting, waiting for action.

There is also a feeling of confidence and clarity I have when not surrounded by too many things. It is Zen-like. When there are too many things, I get a closed-in claustrophobic feeling even in the largest of rooms. Tiny homes have a way of forcing one to focus on clutter and disorganization. Living in mine enabled me to reorder my life so that I kept the few things that are most important to me versus the many things that cluttered my space and my mind.

I spend less time looking for things. It's estimated that the average person spends at least 30 minutes each day looking for things. That's an average of 14 hours per month of frustrated searching. Keeping clutter under control can be a major resource for finding spare time. Chapter Seven on "stuffology" goes into the cost of clutter in detail.<sup>6</sup>

Living in small places forces you to focus on what is important in life and what isn't. This includes time for friends, studying topics that interest you, or even community service — wherever your sacred soul contract might lead. Let's face it, larger homes can be distracting by the sheer volume of things that need to be done and maintained. So much so that you can be held back from doing and being what is really important in your life.

So, how do you make a tiny house a home? You do it through architectural detail, very efficient use of space, and the personal touches that put art and craftsmanship back into the building of a home. You minimize transitional spaces like hallways and stairwells and increase transition zones to the outdoors. You maximize the use of storage areas with organization and vertical storage. You create an environment that is not just expensive heated storage for stuff but an environment that supports you, your interests, and your lifestyle. You make a house that's your home and enables your life-style(s).

## Recipe for a Tiny Home

### *What to Add and What to Leave Out*

What makes tiny seem small and big appear huge — super-size from already-jumbo? How much is enough? Here are a few considerations, tips and tricks.

<b>What to Add to a Tiny Home</b>	<b>What to Leave Out of a Tiny Home</b>
Add creative, well-planned rooms and home designs.	Omit more heated space than you really need.
Use a well-thought-out floor plan that minimizes hallways, stairwells, and other dead spaces that aren't routinely or functionally used.	Leave out large hallways, stairs, closets that occupy square footage space that you have to heat, clean, and pay for.
Add universal design features that simplify life by making the home usable by more people at different stages of their lives and do so with little or no extra cost.	Leave out home features that make accessibility and usability difficult for some folks. This includes steep steps, hard-to-open doors with round knobs, high shelves.
Add details and personal touches that bring a home alive with your personality and nurture your spirit.	Leave out the molded plastic look that is artificial, boring, and common.

<b>What to Add to a Tiny Home</b>	<b>What to Leave Out of a Tiny Home</b>
Add easy-care landscaping that doesn't require you to mow so much in your spare time. Add gardens for beauty and self-reliant food production.	Leave out lots of grass and high-maintenance plants that demand your time for mowing, weeding, mulching, and trimming.
Be able to vacuum each level so your sweeper can reach every corner from the same electrical outlet. This is a genuine cleaning timesaver.	Leave out multiple levels and rooms that have hard-to-get-into corners that are difficult to reach.
Bring the outdoors in with well-placed and right-sized windows that allow natural light and maximize views for a sense of geomancy. Design connecting views from room to room to give a sense of spaciousness.	Don't use a floor plan that doesn't consider a home's views, natural day lighting, and solar gain or loss.
Add decks and porches to inexpensively expand unheated floor space and provide a transition from the yard or street into the home. Provide relaxing places to chat, sip tea, or host a party.	Many conventional houses don't offer porches or patios where it is comfortable to sit and visit. This guarantees you will spend 100 percent of your time indoors and have little contact with the world outside your front door.
Create rooms that you can use for more than one purpose. In permaculture, multifunctionality is called "stacking."	Leave out rarely used spaces and formal areas that function only occasionally for holidays, parties, or storage.
Add lots of built-in storage: book shelves, under-bed drawers, or space saver closets. Keep only those things that serve and please you; dispose of the rest. Design spaces that help minimize clutter.	Do not have closet space without shelves or space organizers. Omit rooms that give you very little feeling for home or coziness. Incorporate curves instead of having only square angles.

<b>What to Add to a Tiny Home</b>	<b>What to Leave Out of a Tiny Home</b>
Use space that is thoughtfully designed in detail, compact without being cramped.	Leave out ostentatious square footage and sprawling space.
Include different ceiling heights to give variety and take away any boxy feeling.	Leave out ceilings that are so high they have an impersonal feeling and literally leave you feeling cold because the warmer air rises to the ceiling away from your body.
Use fun colors both inside and out.	Gray, off-white, vanilla, tend to be boring colors.
Go for quality over quantity in every detail, thing, and use.	Leave out stuff you buy because the price is cheap not because you need it. Omit redundancy.



## Chapter 1

# Is a Tiny Home Right for You?

**A**S TINY HOUSE BUILDERS, whenever we are talking with someone we've just met and the concept of tiny homes comes up, people usually react with, "What a great idea!" Then as we explain the many uses for tiny homes, inevitably the conversation gets around to how they could use one, or they know of someone who could. We have yet to have any negative, nay-sayer responses to the tiny homes concept.

Folks make inquiries about tiny homes from all age groups and socioeconomic classes. There is a growing sector of people wanting less of a mortgage and more of a life, both of which are inherently possible with tiny homes.

Tiny home lovers are those like ourselves who want to live in less space. Not necessarily because we can't afford more but because of the advantages smaller homes offer. We have a broad range of interests that are more fulfilling to us than cleaning, harboring possessions (clutter), and paying excessive real estate and personal property taxes.

More and more of us are making our lifestyles a statement of our political, spiritual, and environmental beliefs. Few of us need excessive stuff as a substitute for self-esteem. We even know millionaires who live in tiny homes or want smaller homes so they can be free to pursue their soul's passion and service.

Below we identify a few of the kinds of people interested in tiny homes and the many uses for tiny homes.

## **People Who Might be Interested in Tiny Homes**

### ***Downsizers***

This group is huge and includes almost everyone seeking a simpler life. Downsizers are folks shedding and discarding things and stuff that either no longer serve them or for which they no longer have any high regard. They are cleaning out closets and sorting through items in basements, attics, and garages. They are recycling their unused and unwanted possessions through charities such as Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, church and hospital consignment shops or through yard sales, moving sales, the classifieds, and dumpsters.

If you prefer to give your unwanted items directly to people who can use them then, try [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org), a website established specifically to help people help each other directly.

I have periodically downsized with the conscious intent of tithing and recycling. When I cull books from my many bookshelves, I donate them to people or institutions who are able to use them, including libraries, prisons, and individuals. I call this “book tithing.”

In ancient times, tithing referred to leaving part of the harvest to go back into and replenish the soil. It also referred to saving ten percent of the seeds for next year’s planting. Today, tithing means giving money or in-kind contributions to charitable purposes.

There are many forms of tithing, including clothes tithing, tool tithing, and furniture and art tithing. Adding the concept of tithing to giveaways lends a service component and intrinsic value to an item because someone else can use it. This takes more effort and conscious intent than just dumping stuff in the dumpster and filling up our landfills. It is far more rewarding to help others and honor the value of an item that is still usable.

Recently, I helped a dear friend clear and separate her stuff from a ten-year marriage. The marriage differences were

irreconcilable and divorce the only viable option. As we were taking things to the dumpster and sorting through her many beautiful things, she said many times, “Is this what it was all about?” She was referring to all the things. Were things more the center of focus than the marriage itself? Was their marriage so wrapped up in stuffology that they forgot the importance of honoring and serving each other?

Downsizers are those who are decreasing the amount of stuff in their lives. This includes folks whose life patterns have changed, possibly through unemployment, retirement, death, illness, separation, or divorce. Some are re-treading for a different career, to get more education, or to follow new life patterns and directions. Shedding old stuff and old ways often opens the door for a new and expanded life to begin.

### ***Empty Nesters***

Kids grow up and leave. That’s what they are supposed to do, right? That means more bedrooms and baths than the parents need. As life changes, so do housing needs.

### ***Boomerangs and Nest Returners***

Do you have that special child who won’t, or can’t, leave the nest — or keeps coming back, and back, and back home? Are all your kids nicknamed “boomerang”? Life situations change; sometimes family members need a place to land. Having a separate place for them to land (like a detached tiny home in the backyard) might make your life easier.

### ***Preretirement and Retirees***

You’ve worked hard all your life and now it’s time to step down. You may be taking some well deserved time off or changing careers or moving to a new location. The best part is yet to come. With the educational opportunities and web-based training

that are available, many people are having multiple careers. One of my personal mottoes is “retire early and often.” Life is too precious to spend in a job or career you are not passionate about. And, let’s face it — once you have done something for an extended period of time you may grow tired of it, in which case it might be time to learn and do something new. Go for everything in life you want — at any age.

### ***The Sandwich Generation***

There is a large need for housing for those who are still caring for their children and suddenly have to also start caring for aging parents. This is the sandwich generation. Over 20 percent of us baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) could be in the position of having our parents and our children or grandchildren living with us. These multigenerational families in need of more and varied living spaces are perfect candidates for one (or more) tiny homes in the backyard — or back 40 acres.

### ***Semi-Assisted-Living Individuals***

There are times in our lives when we all need help. This may be in the form of assisted living that we might need at any age. This could include after having surgery or not being able to fully function during a recovery period, whether it’s physical, mental, financial, or any disruptive situation setbacks that life brings forth. Sometimes a place of refuge helps one get through.

Semi-assisted living might also involve a situation where a parent or someone we know is simply not ready for a retirement community. They are able to take care of themselves and want their independence. However, it would be convenient and bring a lot of peace of mind to have them close by. A tiny home close by might make all the difference.

Most assisted-living facilities today cost an average of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per month. At this rate it doesn’t take many months

before you could own a tiny house free and clear and still have some inheritance in the wings.

### ***Parents, Grandparents, and Extended Family***

Tiny homes might be especially valuable for a parent, family member, or dear friend who wants to live close by or have a place to stay when they visit for extended periods of time.

This doesn't mean this person is poor or lacking in finances because they might live in a tiny home. They might be quite well off, but money isn't everything. Close relationships are worth much more than money. To have a grandparent helping to raise your children might bring a wisdom, family history, and trans-generational bond that literally extends your family.

Many people, especially older folks, sometimes feel useless. They feel they don't have anything to get up for in the mornings. Their life is lonely and empty. Mother Theresa said it well: "One of the greatest diseases is to be nobody to anybody."

Socrates famous saying "The unexamined life is not worth living" might also be stated as "A life without a purpose is a life not worth living." Perhaps tiny homes can help give purpose and meaning to lives that are otherwise empty.

A tiny home can often be put on an existing lot as a granny unit, without having to purchase a separate lot — check with your local zoning board. This is called a granny flat in California. In Canada this is often called a secondary suite.

### ***Single Professionals***

There is a trend toward staying single longer. This demographic trend shows the need for a new approach toward smaller abodes. Most single professionals don't need or want big houses and yards. So they tend to end up in condos or apartment buildings where there often isn't much individual expression or outdoor space. Tiny houses can offer an upscale environment

with a small lawn and garden of your own without breaking the bank (and body) caring for a huge property.

### ***Newlyweds***



Let's face it, when you're in love you can't be too close to your sweetie — at least in the beginning. Thomas Jefferson felt just that. Beginning in 1770, he lived in a two-story 18-foot × 18-foot, 648-square-foot house with only 324 square feet per level. Mr. Jefferson used the main floor as a bedroom and office and the basement as a kitchen and living room.



*Thomas Jefferson's honeymoon tiny house. This 648 square foot tiny home at Monticello (to the right in photo) is where Thomas Jefferson and his wife lived together for almost three years during Monticello's construction.*

Thomas lived in his tiny home alone for about two years. Then he brought his bride Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson to join him, and for three more years they lived together there while building Monticello. They called their tiny home the “honey-moon cottage.”

### ***Separated or Divorced People***

In the United States the newest statistics from the Census Bureau show that married-couple households have slipped from 80 percent in the 1950s to less than 50 percent today. That translates to about 86 million single-adult heads of households. Unmarried adults make up about 42 percent of the workforce, 40 percent of home buyers, and 35 percent of registered voters.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, more retired seniors are divorcing so they can qualify for Medicaid and receive higher monthly checks from Social Security. Others are living together without remarrying in order to avoid losing pensions or survivor health benefits that they have as widows or widowers.

Is it time to live on your own again? Need time and space to decide what to do about what isn't working anymore in your relationship or life? Tiny homes might be one viable solution.

### ***Couples Who Make Better Neighbors than Housemates***

There comes a time, especially in older partnerships, when lifestyles, eating habits, and sleeping patterns are, well, different. Each person has evolved more into their own identity, preferences, and patterns. Each one probably has different social and support groups. But the love and respect are still there.

One prominent and wealthy man was asked how he and his wife were still in a loving marriage of over 50 years. He said, “My wife and I are happily incompatible.” How wonderful to acknowledge and accept that couples can be happy and grateful for their incompatibility instead of angry and blaming for their

unique differences. To be happily incompatible about the things that set us apart and make us different. Accepting the issues we disagree on rather than blaming for failed expectations. Being thankful for each other. So why not be neighbors instead of housemates? You can be still close and supportive but far enough away to have your own life. You can be happily incompatible.

One of America's most respected actors, Katherine Hepburn, said it well: "Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then." In other words, live close by and visit often.

### ***Single Parents With (or Without) Kids***

As a parent there may be times you simply need another bedroom or space of your own without the noise, clutter, and confusion of enthusiastic children. If you want your kids (and their friends) close but not in your face, check out tiny homes.

There are some parents who have their children with them only infrequently, maybe due to custody arrangements. A tiny home can be a very viable option for parents who have their children only part-time and therefore do not need a large space to maintain year round.

### ***Nannies***

Need more help with the kids? Is all that youthful energy too much to handle? How about a tiny home for a nanny to help with the little ones? Just put a tiny home in the backyard and make housing part of the nanny's pay plan and benefit package.

### ***Physically Challenged People***

One of our clients wanted her son in his own home yet close to her. We constructed a 500-square-foot tiny home in her backyard, without her having to buy an additional in-town lot. Everyone (and the dog) loves the living arrangement.

### ***Fixed-Incomers***

There is a growing number of baby boomers, retirees, and blue-collar workers who face living on a fixed income. No one knows if Social Security will be available ten years from now, especially with the current U.S. trillion-dollar deficit. Smaller homes can cost less to buy and maintain. It's that simple.

### ***In-Betweeners***

Crisis and conflict happen in all our lives. We are identifying as “in-betweeners” folks in transition from one life phase to another. Some life transitions are easier than others. We believe tiny houses can provide dignity and a new lease on life to these individuals by making decent housing available for them. Affordability is not always a necessary part of this equation. There are many affluent in-betweeners who also need self-esteem, support, and appropriate housing.



*This 500-square-foot cottage was built for a patron in South Carolina for her son who is differently abled. This allows him to be nearby but have his own space.*

***Hermit-prone Individuals***

Many of us just want to be left alone and live in our own space, to be still and quiet so we can connect with the divine, chat with our muse, and create our masterpieces, our gifts to the world ... or sleep.



Thoreau built his famous little cabin at Walden Pond. It was only 10 feet × 15 feet, 150 square feet. In his own words: “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life and see if I could not learn what I had to teach and not, when I come to die, discover that I had not lived.”

***Everyone Else***

Let's face it, any reason is good and any excuse is enough to justify a tiny home to call your own. Besides, it's politically correct, environmentally sensible, and economically sound. You deserve it.

**Uses for Tiny Homes**

We have described the types of people who might want to live in a tiny home. Now let's explore the many uses of tiny homes. We keep getting more clever ideas and living examples from folks across the country. Below are just a few ideas.

***Extra Private Guest Rooms***

Do you ever have guests you would like to see but don't want to live with? Good old snoring Uncle Joe, the smoking mother-in-law, your high school or army buddy who still hasn't matured, attention-deficient and out-of-control nephews, grumpy granddad, judgmental in-laws? We all have our cast of characters.

There are so many folks who want to see you and have some quality time together while they tour the country. Especially when they show up “for a week or so ... We'll see how long we'll

stay..." Anyone in your life you can think of? Tiny houses might save many a relationship.

### ***Starter Homes***

A tiny home is great as a starter home that can be designed for future additions. Tiny homes can be designed specifically so that add-ons are easy and cost effective. For example, a window opening can be framed to become a future doorway leading to a new room. Additions can be built with only minor modifications as more space is needed and more money becomes available.

### ***Student Housing***

Put a tiny house, or a cluster of them, on an existing lot in your kid's college town. Then rent it to your genius offspring, and enjoy a tax write-off while they rent it. Upon graduation you can either sell the house or move it to a new location. This gives a cost-efficient place for the scholar to live and might have great resale value, a possible tax deduction, and real estate value appreciation for you.



### ***Bed-and-Breakfast Expansion***

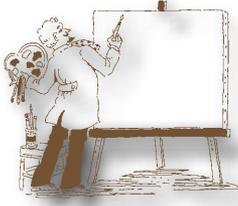
Need an extra bedroom to rent out? Tiny homes offer a cost-effective and profitable way to add rooms without adding an expensive expansion of the main house. In many historic homes and districts it may not be possible to add on, but putting a tiny home out back may be perfectly acceptable. Be sure to check local zoning codes first.

### ***Rental Income***

Tiny homes can be rented, usually for the same as or more than premium efficiencies. They can be an easy way to generate passive income on land you already own. Wouldn't an extra \$300 or more per month come in handy?

***Home Office and Professional Space***

Home office, professional space (massage, consultation, computer station) — do you need a separate place where you can work, concentrate, and keep your office intact without kids or other interference? Keep in mind, the current tax code allows 100 percent deduction for detached home offices.

***Workshop for Hobbies, Pottery, Forge, Quilting, or Crafts***

Almost everyone has a hobby or wants a special place to host those creative times. Tiny homes can be easily custom furnished with shelves and storage for all your art or hobby supplies. You can leave your projects in place without having to clean up for company.

***Home Gym***

All of us need to exercise, but sometimes the gym is too far or getting there too inconvenient. For the cost of a health club membership year after year you can have a home gym complete with a weight set, workout station, treadmill, mirrors, TV, music, even your own personal trainer.

***Extended Home Care***

A tiny home could house an extended-care giver such as a home-care nurse. This would give the caregiver an option of staying overnight in a nearby, yet private, space as well as allowing the patient to preserve their privacy. An intercom system between the two homes could help to monitor activity and needs.

***Pout House***

How many times have you just not wanted to go inside your house because you, or others, were angry and you knew there

might be more tension and trouble? Everyone needs breathing space, time to reflect, and a safe, solitary space to do it once in a while. Pout houses provide escape.

### ***Man Caves***

John Gray, in his best-selling book *Men are from Mars and Women from Venus*, continually states that men need virtual “man caves” or secluded, private places where they can retreat. This means “No Trespassing” to anyone unless invited. Dr. Gray believes a man’s need for his cave is the male’s natural way of being. Such a cave is a place where he can deal with problems, putter, do guy things, and decorate as a man would. Some men use their cars or trucks as portable man caves, driving anywhere just to be alone with their thoughts. Others use garage workshops. We suggest tiny houses. Come to think of it, women often enjoy this sort of peaceful solitude as well. In fact, the name for them is “she sheds.”

### ***Away Space***

Much in the same spirit as man caves and she sheds is the phrase coined by Sarah Susanka in her book *The Not So Big House* — “away space.” This is a place of your own to use for whatever interests you. It might be your Friday night card game getaway, clay or art studio, hobby hut, writer’s nook, meditation center, jig-saw puzzle workspace, or hideaway place to relax and regenerate.

### ***Recreational and Vacation Getaways***

Oh, those romantic cottages in the woods or next to a lake we all dream about. “Honey let’s get away for a few days, just the two of us.” You can often build or set tiny houses on sites where other houses might not be possible to build, such as your own fantasy island.

***Retreat Centers with Private Cottages***

There is a Buddhist center close by that uses tiny homes for their long-term students and others who are attending programs and workshops. The same could be true for corporate guests and staff housing, church camps, and vacation resorts.