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At Home in the Modern World

THE KITCHEN & BATH TEST
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At Every Price Point

RADICAL RESTRAINT
An L.A. Family's Home
Leans Into Its Limitations

THE MONEY ISSUE

Creativity

Compromise

And a Rare Look

At Real Budgets

dwell.com

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houses we love

Here, our staffers pick some of their favorite projects championing budget-friendly practices and materials that architects and designers have uploaded to Dwell.com.

Modular Modern Farmhouse

by Hoke Ley

Made of four prefabricated modular shells that were crane-set in eight hours, the 3,300-square-foot home that Hoke Ley principals Jared and Katie Hoke created for their family of four (and two dogs) in Lawrence, Kansas, balances local vernaculars

with Danish design—a nod to where the couple first met. “It’s a simple and highly functional layout,” Katie says, adding that the open-plan kitchen, living, and dining room “acts as command central,” with sight lines across the ground level to

the wraparound porch and outside neighborhood. A goal for the home (constructed for \$150 per square foot) was to “create an example of what can be achieved with energy-efficiency design methods that were not exorbitant in cost,” says Katie.

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Do you have a project you'd like to see published in Houses We Love? Share it at dwell.com/addhome.



“Though prefab housing has been around for plenty of time now, there’s still something magical about watching a home come together in pieces—especially, in a case like this, when it looks as if it were built from the ground up.”

KATE DRIES, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

PHOTOS: NATE SHEETS (MODULAR MODERN FARMHOUSE); ALPINE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS (LIGHT RIBBON STUDIO); DANI SERRANO STUDIO (THE CAMPER HOUSE)



Light Ribbon Studio

by Base Architecture

With a \$10,000 CAD budget and 60 square feet on the lot behind his rented coach house in Langley, British Columbia, Base Architecture founder Timothy Vander Hoek built a tiny work studio on wheels in response to his own brief: “How could I make a shed that was pleasing to spend more than 40 hours a week in?” A favorite painting, an unsparing portrait of Oliver Cromwell showing “warts and all,” informed Timothy’s rough-and-ready approach to his four-month DIY project. The SPF softwood lumber and cedar cladding are left unfinished as reminders of the bare-bones construction. Even a muddy boot print, a vestige from a lumberyard worker, remains on one of the walls. Acrylic clerestory windows made by the architect create what he calls a “lifted” rooftop effect, providing light, adding extra room for storage, and maintaining sight lines to the surrounding greenery.

“This small studio has everything a creative person needs to work from home. I especially love that it fits both a sitting desk on one end and a standing desk on the other.”

DEREK ENG, ART DIRECTOR

The Camper House

by Dani Serrano Studio

Architect Dani Serrano transformed a Pastime camper he bought for \$1,500 into a coastal shelter inspired by a palapa (open-sided dwelling with a thatched roof) in Nicaragua. After raising the camper on stilts, the avid surfer and traveler and his carpenter friend Tiemo Riediger used a radial arm saw and drill to convert the vehicle into a bedroom and attach an open-air wooden frame around it to add a living area, kitchen, and bathroom. A teak-and-fabric partition slides to enclose the wooden frame along with pulley-operated window coverings at the shelter’s rear. “They’re easy to operate and make you feel as if you’re living on a sailboat,” says the architect. The \$8,000 total investment is slowly paying for itself, since the camper is available to rent on Airbnb during the six months Dani leaves Nicaragua for his native Spain.



“There’s a purity to Dani’s structure in that it’s a product of its environment in terms of talent and materials.”

DUNCAN NIELSEN, NEWS EDITOR