

Build it before you build it!

VanPlan: A design method for DIY campervan layouts

Information about DIY camper conversion is abundant but fragmented. Novice builders struggle to translate inspiration, personal routines and technical constraints into a coherent interior. VanPlan responds to this challenge by enabling DIY-ers to experience and compare their proposed layout before committing to permanent construction. It supports DIY-ers in judging their own ideas, without prescribing one correct layout.

Full-scale mock-ups revealed spatial conflicts that drawings had missed.

1

DEFINE

Note down travel habits, needs, and preferences

2

BUILD

Assemble your interior at full scale with the modules

3

TRY-OUT

Simulate routines in the van and compare layouts

4

CAPTURE

Record your choices, and prepare for the real build



Placeholder item for gas stove

Optional shelf for more customization

Telescopic tube for width adjustment

Removable and repositionable shelves

Adjustable feet for height adjustment



Module Design

The adjustable modules give DIY-ers an embodied, full-scale understanding of how their proposed layout may feel and function. The same panels can be reconfigured to form a seat, cabinet, table, bed, or other interior element. Standard-sized panels provide a practical starting point, while telescopic tubes allow finer dimensional adjustments. Building directly inside the van also helps users account for fixed constraints, such as windows, wheel arches, and water inlets, while the layout is still easy to change.

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Designing Human-Centered Support
for DIY Campervan Layout Decisions
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Integrated Product Design

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