Designing for Compact Living Spaces: An Exploration Tool for the Ultimate Tiny House Experience

By Anne van Essen
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Author: Anne van Essen (A.S.)
Email: asvanessen@gmail.com
A.S.vanEssen@student.tudelft.nl
Student number: 4164164

Supervisory Team
Chair: Dr. ir. M.H. Sonneveld
Department: Industrial Design Engineering
Section: Industrial Design

Mentor: Ir. L.M.M. de Wit
Department: Architecture and the Built Environment
Section: Architecture

Department: Applied Ergonomics and Design
Section: Interiors, Building, Cities
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An Exploration Tool for the Ultimate Tiny House Experience

By Anne van Essen
After travelling around the world, living from a backpack and sleeping in campervans, my boyfriend Thomas and I decided that renting or buying a house together would definitely not make us happy. Living in small spaces with almost no possessions already proved to be a success for us. For this reason, we decided that we wanted to build our own compact living space: a Tiny House, so we can live more outdoors, have a simpler and more flexible lifestyle and most important, so we could start a challenging but really awesome building adventure.

Because of this Tiny House building adventure, I did not become very enthusiastic about graduating. I had trouble finding a nice subject so I went to Marieke for advice, who only needed five minutes to put the two together. Thank you for that!

So that is how I came to design for Tiny Houses. During my own research I noticed that there is a lot to be found about the practical aspects of a Tiny House: blogs, books, video's and courses about how to build your own house, how to use software to design your own house and how to declutter and get rid of your stuff before moving into a Tiny House. Since there was not much to be found about the experience of living in a Tiny House, I wanted to focus on how people live or want to live in a Tiny House and their motives.

Are they all vegan, hippie-like people who only eat homegrown food and live in a Tiny House to save the planet or are there other motives and aspects why people choose for this lifestyle? I knew there were, so I wanted to map out the different motives and values these people have and distinguish different ‘sorts’ of Tiny House residents.

This report is meant for everyone interested in designing a Tiny House based on the experience instead of the practical aspects. During Tiny Roots sessions this report can serve as the background or handbook for the tool if participants want to know more about the theory behind it.

During this project I had much help from my supervisory team: I want to thank my chair Marieke Sonneveld, for all her feedback, the positive motivation when I was lost and of course the infinite enthusiasm about (both) my project(s). I still believe she will be living in a Tiny House herself soon.

And my mentor, Leontine de Wit, for opening the world of Architecture for me. She gave me a whole different view on designing. It was very interesting and useful for me and my project to have both Industrial Design and Architecture views on this design project. Thank you for that.

Thomas, for all the hours he built on the house on his own because I needed to study and his patience when I didn't have time to help but did have time to comment and criticize. :)

My parents, for all the support and my mom for the help during the test workshops.

Also many thanks to all Tiny House residents that took the time and effort to share their experiences: Doris, Piek, Bernhard, Maria, Sanne, Jente, Ep, Jan-Willem, Noortje, Tessa, Jeroen, Linde, Kjeld, Wendy, Timothy, Madelief en Yvette.

Anti, Marit, and Piek for testing.

And finally, the participants during the test workshops and the Kluit members for testing the tool.

Thank you all and enjoy reading.

Anne van Essen

Figure 1. Tiny House facade
**List of definitions and abbreviations:**

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tiny House</td>
<td>House of less than 50 m² (officially), with sustainability and reducing ecological footprint as main motive.</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>Tiny House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOW</td>
<td>Tiny House on wheels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off-grid</td>
<td>Not using or depending on public utilities eg. electricity, water grid, sewage system and gas grid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-grid</td>
<td>Connected to public utilities eg. electricity, water grid, sewage system, gas grid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decluttering</td>
<td>Getting rid of your clutter (in Dutch: ontspullen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative session</td>
<td>A group of people performing creative tasks like generating ideas, under the guidance of a facilitator</td>
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<td>Generative tools</td>
<td>Components that stimulate to use creativity to express thoughts, feelings or ideas, by for example using collages or stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitizing toolkit</td>
<td>Package consisting of various exercises and materials (e.g. workbook, camera, diary, pictures, scissors etc), to stimulate the user to describe observations or experiences.</td>
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Abstract

In recent years, the popularity of compact living spaces like Tiny Houses is rising in the Netherlands. With Tiny Houses still gaining in popularity, there is a demand for information and knowledge about this new form of living. Through multiple sources, interested people are learning about tiny living and how to realize living in a Tiny House. However, these sources only cover the ‘what’ and ‘how’ about a Tiny House and forget about the most important ‘why’ part: why does a Tiny House fit you and which aspects of living in a Tiny House are important to you?

This project focuses on this ‘why-gap’ by designing an exploration tool that helps people to find their ultimate Tiny House experience and this way create a strong base for designing their own Tiny House.

To gain knowledge about the context, target group, and existing Tiny Houses, multiple types of research are conducted. In a contextual research, Tiny House residents are asked to share their experiences to find out which different values can be distinguished per resident. In the user research, the target groups are defined to see how the tool could contribute to each of the different groups. The reference analysis is used to map out the different characteristic elements that determine the design and character of a Tiny House.

From these researches, a design model arose, where the ‘why’ forms the base of the design, with the user and its values central. The ‘how’ builds on to this base, where the choices of the user as the determinants are central. Finally, these two layers serve as the foundation for the design of the Tiny House.

The final design: Tiny Roots is a toolkit that can be used in a series of sessions, for users to explore their ultimate Tiny House experience by answering this ‘why’ and ‘how’ first before designing the ‘what’: the Tiny House itself. It serves as the roots for designing a Tiny House that meets all values and wishes, matches the personality of the resident and this way create the ultimate Tiny House experience.
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CHAPTER 1.
INTRODUCTION

1.1 An introduction to Tiny Houses
1.2 History of Tiny Houses
1.3 Background: trends & developments
1.4 Problem definition
1.5 Goal
1.6 Approach
1.1 An introduction to Tiny Houses

Living small
The definition of a Tiny House is a primary and complete compact house, with the requirement of being full-time inhabited (not for recreational use). The ‘official’ boundaries for calling a house a Tiny House are a maximum of 50 m². In spite of that, my general interest for this project will be in houses up to 30 m², to focus on the more compact living spaces within this spectrum. During this project I will mainly put my focus on Tiny Houses in the Netherlands, since this will be the target audience for the final design.

Tiny House philosophy
Living in a Tiny House means living with more simplicity, consuming less and reducing your ecological footprint. Because the building costs are relatively low compared to a “normal” house, a Tiny House can often be built without a bank loan or mortgage. People often choose for this lifestyle because it gives you freedom. By reducing the cost of living, people are able to work less and spend more time or money on things that are important to them like family, hobbies, holidays or learning a new profession or skill. Experience and interactions are more valuable than possessions.

Sustainability and living a more conscious lifestyle are often closely connected to living in a Tiny House. Being off-grid is not a condition, but is often a means to an end. Most Tiny Houses have solar panels and use rainwater for their water supply. When several houses are placed together (as in Figure 4) the social part of living in a Tiny House “community” can be very valuable as well. Working and living together with like-minded people is often an important component of living in a Tiny House.
Mobility

Being mobile is not a requirement for a Tiny House but it often makes it easier to realize. A Tiny House on wheels (THOW) as shown in Figure 5 - Figure 7 is movable but, unlike a caravan/campervan, often not made for travelling. Next to these THOW, there are Tiny Houses without wheels, which can be moved by truck or special transport, as one unit (Figure 9 and Figure 10) or in modular parts, like the Wikkelhouse in Figure 8. For both sorts of houses are different regulations. A THOW has more size and weight restrictions since it is often moved as regular transport (behind a powerful car or small truck).

Since mobility is nowadays mainly a means to meet the regulations and legally live in a Tiny House, this can alter in the future, when the regulations for Tiny Houses become less strict and mobility will be less important.

Location

When living in a Tiny House, the location is of great importance. By extending the living space to the outside, the focus is on living more outdoors with a connection to nature.

With the Tiny House Movement being relatively new in the Netherlands (in 2016 the first people officially lived in a Tiny House), it is still a hassle to find a place for it within the restrictions of modern regulations. However, more and more municipalities are trying to meet this demand for alternative housing and offer temporary locations to place Tiny Houses. For this reason, Tiny Houses are often placed on wasteland that is waiting for new developments. This way they can temporarily fill the unused areas before moving on to the next wasteland.
As Cusato’s design and others gained increasing media attention, the number of designs increased, as well as the interest in smaller dwellings as a whole. (marianneckusato.com)

A year after the hurricane, in 2006, the housing prices in the U.S. peaked and the mortgage- and financial crisis took hold in 2008, which resulted in an increase in the already growing interest in more modest homes, including Tiny Houses.

People started building their own Tiny Houses and the number of professional Tiny House builders increased rapidly. Tiny houses in all sorts of styles and sizes appeared (up to 50m² on a trailer) and the Tiny House Movement was born. In recent years this phenomenon got more attention in the Netherlands, resulting in a rapidly growing popularity for Tiny Houses.

### 1.2 History of Tiny Houses

**United States**

The Tiny House Movement as we know it, originated in the United States. In 1999, Designer Jay Shafer (Figure 12) began speaking out against the legislated ban on small houses in the US. He claimed that people should be able to live as simple as they choose. In this same year, Shafer founded the first U.S. company that sells mobile Tiny Houses. According to Shafer, any house in which all the space is being used well, basically towards the happiness, contentment and health of the occupants, is a Tiny House. (ABC News)

Some years after this first introduction, the demand for Tiny Houses increased rapidly due to a meeting of the following events. When many people lost their home to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, Marianne Cusato designed the Katrina Cottages (Figure 13) as an innovative housing solution for disaster recovery.

As Cusato’s design and others gained increasing media attention, the number of designs increased, as well as the interest in smaller dwellings as a whole. (marianneckusato.com)

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People started building their own Tiny Houses and the number of professional Tiny House builders increased rapidly. Tiny houses in all sorts of styles and sizes appeared (up to 50m² on a trailer) and the Tiny House Movement was born. In recent years this phenomenon got more attention in the Netherlands, resulting in a rapidly growing popularity for Tiny Houses.
Still, the form of living in a Tiny House has a lot of similarities with the background of these trailer residents/travelers. Where the Tiny House Movement initially has its roots in the United States there will undoubtedly also be connections with the former Dutch travelers.

The Dutch trailer residents or travelers, not to be mistaken by Gypsies: Sinti (originally from Western Europe) and Roma (from Eastern Europe), started traveling through the Netherlands around 1850 when many people lost their job because of the mechanization during the industrial revolution. They travelled around the country with trailers pulled by a horse to find work elsewhere. In 1918, the "Woonwagenwet" decided it was no longer allowed to place trailers everywhere without a permit and in 1968 it became illegal to travel at all, which obliged them to settle in a trailer center. (Kenniscentrum Immaterieel Erfgoed Nederland)

**Tiny House vs. trailer**

When talking about Tiny Houses, there is a clear comparison with a trailer (in Dutch: woonwagen) or trailer center. Because of the negative label that sticks to a trailer center this can be a sensitive subject. There are intense discussions about the differences but there are no strict boundaries between a trailer and a Tiny House or a trailer resident (also called traveler) and a Tiny House resident.

It can be said that the Tiny House Movement is based on a lifestyle where sustainability, simplicity, living consciously and consuming less are important pillars, which is not necessarily the case for trailer residents. Where the houses in trailer centers became bigger and bigger in recent years (Figure 16), Tiny Houses are based on the philosophy of less is more.
1.3 Background: trends and developments

The demand for compact living in the Netherlands is increasing, due to several trends and developments. Next to economic and demographic trends, lifestyle changes play a large role in the transition from ‘the bigger the better’ to ‘less is more’ in terms of dwelling and living. The trends and developments below possibly have influenced the growing popularity of Tiny Houses.

Upcoming housing crisis
With the economy recovering from the crisis, the housing demand is increasing rapidly. With a housing demand higher than the supply, the Netherlands is coping with the biggest price increase for owner-occupied homes (koopwoningen) since 2002 (CBS, 2017), which makes it hard for young people to buy their first house. Also, with the rising square meter prices, the demand for small houses is strongly increasing.

Increasing number of one-person households
According to statistics of CBS StatLine (2016), an increasing number of people in the Netherlands is living alone. The share of single person households grew from 32.6% of the total number of households in 1995 to 37.6% in 2016. In this timespan, the number of these households increased from 2.1 to 2.9 million. Stec Groep (2017) predicts that over 80% of the household growth till 2040 is caused by the growing number of one-person households. In 10 years’ time, 70% of the households in the Netherlands will consist of one- or two persons. Living alone without a partner is becoming more and more desirable. This results in a demand for smaller houses and residential solutions like living in a community.

Housing costs vs. recreation time
In 2016, more than 10% of Dutch citizens spent 40% or more of their total expenses on housing costs. When looking at the lowest 20% income group this is an average of 39% (CBS, 2015). Comparing this to the 10.7% of their expenses they spend on recreation/culture, opportunities could be found here.

When looking at how people spend their time daily, only 28% of the time is used for recreation (weekend included). The other 72% is: mandatory time (26%): working, studying and housekeeping and personal time (46%): sleeping and eating (Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau, 2013).

Combining these facts, it can be concluded that people spend a large part of their day at work to earn enough money to pay the housing costs for a house they can only actively enjoy a few hours a day. This work - life balance can be improved.
**Autarkic lifestyle**
People are paying more attention to the environment and become aware of their ecological footprint. Climate change is seen as a serious problem and more people are adapting their lifestyle by living greener and reducing their impact on the environment. The focus is on living more consciously, in a more sustainable way and consuming less. There is a growing demand for sustainable and self-sufficient housing.

**Flexible lifestyle**
Compared to earlier decennia, it is not very common anymore to stick to the same job your whole life. People are switching jobs more often and contracts are often based on temporary employment. Working from home is getting more popular and more workplaces are flexible. With the knowledge of changing jobs every couple of years, people prefer flexible housing. Renting gains in popularity compared to buying a house. People prefer to be able to move house whenever they find a new job in another area.

**Demand for living small**
According to Stec Groep (2017), the living identity plays an increasing role when choosing a house. Living and the residential area are more and more linked to identity and lifestyle. Variety, flexibility and the focus on experience instead of possession are essential in this living identity. With a decrease of possessions and a focus on living outdoors, the size of the living space loses importance. The surrounding area becomes an extension of the living space. As shown in Figure 18 (source: Stec Groep 2017) the preference of a Micro House (up to 40 m2) in 2015 doubled compared to 2012.

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**Conclusion: Demand for alternative housing**
Within this increasing demand for Micro-Housing, Tiny Housing is a more specific development based on a way of life. Financial freedom, a small ecological footprint and living with like-minded people are pillars in the Tiny House movement.

For these (and all above) reasons more people in the Netherlands (like Jan-Willem and Noortje in Figure 19) make the decision to move into a Tiny House. In a Tiny House, people are living simpler, smaller, cheaper and more sustainable with less stuff.

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![Figure 18](image1.png)
*Figure 18. Increasing amount of Micro Houses, from WoON (2009,2012, 2015).*

![Figure 19](image2.png)
*Figure 19. Jan-Willem and Noortje in front of their self-build Tiny House in Rotterdam, Picture by Bluemonque.*
1.4 Problem definition

Before making the move to live in a Tiny House there are different phases people go through in their journey. These 4 phases are shown in Figure 21 (next page).

After their first contact with Tiny Houses (Attention), they want to know more about it (Orientation). When deciding a Tiny House is something for them, they move on to the Preparation phase where they start doing research and start designing their Tiny House, or have it designed by a professional. Finally, there is the Realization phase where the house is being built and in the end, people start to actually live in the Tiny House.

During this process, there are a lot of questions to answer. Before being ready to live in your own Tiny House, it is very important to know the 'why', 'how' and 'what' of a Tiny House.

The Golden Circle

When looking into the 'why', 'how' and 'what' in a certain context, they are often closely connected. According to Sinek, S. (2009) the 'why', 'how' and 'what' are linked to each other in three levels through a model called 'the Golden Circle' (Figure 20).

![Figure 20. The Golden Circle by Sinek, S.](https://courses.startwithwhy.com/?ref=sqs-header)

**What:** Living in a Tiny House

In this model the 'what' is easy to identify. Everyone knows 'what' he or she is doing. In the case of a Tiny House, this is the orientation phase: What exactly is a Tiny House and what is involved? What is it like to live in a Tiny House?

**Why:** Why do you want to live in a Tiny House

In this model, the 'why' should serve as the motive for the 'how' and the 'what'. Despite that, few people actually know why they do what they do. According to Sinek, S. (2009), your 'why' is the purpose, cause or belief that inspires you. Knowing your 'why' gives you a filter to make choices, that will help you find greater fulfillment in all that you do.

**The why-gap**

For the 'what' and 'how' of a Tiny House, there is currently a lot of information available and experts to talk to, both online and offline. As shown in Figure 21, currently, there are courses, workshops, open houses/events, people sharing their stories etc. All informative and practical sides of a Tiny House are covered. When coming to the 'why' aspects, there is a gap in this case:

To be able to design for the experience of living in a Tiny House, the Tiny House Movement needs knowledge and insights into what people actually long for when choosing for this way of living. Because this Tiny House Movement is relatively new in the Netherlands, it lacks analytical research regarding the experience of living in a tiny house.

Users would benefit from an exploration tool that supports them to explore their needs and helps them to realize the experience they are dreaming of.

1.5 Goal

In this project, I want to cover the 'why' of living in a Tiny House. By designing an exploration tool I want to help people to figure out what drives them, what is important or valuable for them and what fits them, by taking their desired living and dwelling experience as a starting point.

With this tool, people can design and explore their own ultimate Tiny House experience before realizing the house itself. By using this tool they can form a substantiated base that can serve as requirements for their actual design.

In this project, the focus will be on custom made Tiny Houses, where the user has a large role in designing and/or building their own Tiny House but does not necessarily have a background in building or designing.
Figure 21. Current four phases in the Tiny House journey with WHY-gaps
1.6 Approach

During the project, the experience of living in a Tiny House will be explored. First, by defining the user or user group, secondly, by conducting a contextual research and thirdly, by comparing different projects in a reference analysis.

User research
Who are the people who want to live in a Tiny House? By conducting a user research the different categories of users can be found. These different users all have different ways of designing and are using different types of tools. By identifying these different users the target groups for the final design can be distinguished.

Contextual research
How do people experience living in a Tiny House? Because it is hard for future Tiny House residents to imagine how they will live in a Tiny House (they have never done it before), the contextual research concentrates on people who already live in a Tiny House. The focus is on the environment, experience and the different persona that can be characterized. By collecting their experiences, the different values and motivations per resident can be mapped out.

Reference Analysis
What sorts of Tiny Houses already exist? By comparing different projects, the similarities and differences between Tiny Houses can be mapped out. This way the characteristic elements can be found for every house. These elements can form a base for the experience determinants: factors in which every Tiny House differentiate from each other.

Implementation: Exploration Tool
Based on the outcomes of these studies, the exploration tool can be developed. Through this tool future residents can learn from the experiences of people already living in a Tiny House. This way they can discover which elements they value and design for their own desired experience by using the Experience Determinants.
LITERATURE RESEARCH

Tiny Houses: introduction & history
Tiny Houses: background

USER RESEARCH
Defining the target group
User

CONTEXTUAL RESEARCH
Defining the context
Experience Values

REFERENCE ANALYSIS
Comparing projects
Experience Determinants

EXPLORATION TOOL
CHAPTER 2.
USER RESEARCH

2.1 Defining the user
2.2 (semi) Professionals
2.3 Go-getters
2.4 Dreamers
2.5 Conclusion: target groups
2.1 Defining the user

To define the different user groups, a series of informal, unstructured interviews are conducted on different open Tiny House events and information meetings. By talking to them about how they started their orientation and design process I got a broad view of the tools they use while designing. To categorize the different users the innovation theory can be used.

Innovation theory

According to the innovation theory: Diffusion of Innovations by Rogers, E. M. (2010) (first published in 1962), the spread of new ideas and technologies can be described through a diffusion process as shown in Figure 23. In this process, an innovation is communicated over time among the participants in a social system.

There are five categories of adopters: innovators, early adopters, early majority, late majority, and laggards. Innovators (only 2.5% of total) are the first people to adopt an innovation since they are looking to try new ideas regardless of the risks involved. The second group: Early Adopters (13.5%) are willing to adopt when these risks are decreased and they have enough confidence in the success of it. Together they form a base for the introduction of new ideas. If it proves to be a success, the rest of the people will follow. For Tiny Houses probably only the first two groups will be included since the majority will probably not be comfortable living in a Tiny House.

Tiny House Early Adopters

There is a very large group of Early Adopters waiting for more certainty around Tiny Houses. For them, the uncertainty of not having a (whether or not permanent) location still weighs too heavily. They are still waiting for the Innovators to create a risk-free journey before taking the step. Until then they will continue dreaming about living in a Tiny House.

User groups

When looking at (future) Tiny House residents, they can be divided into three groups based on their skill level in designing or building: The Innovators can be put in two different categories: the (semi-)professionals, who are experienced in designing or building, and the go-getters, who are ready to dive into a new adventure and not afraid of the obstacles they will encounter. The third group is the dreamers or Early Adopters who are mostly inexperienced in designing and building.

These novice users are using different tools to communicate their ideas and designs than the go-getters or (semi-)professionals.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Who are the people that want to live in a Tiny House?

- How do these people differ from each other?
- Which target groups can be distinguished?
- What kind of tools do they use while designing?
- What kind of tools do they use while doing research?
- Where do they encounter problems?
- Are they designing/building the house themselves or in collaboration with a professional?
2.2 (semi) Professionals

The first group includes builders, carpenters/woodworkers, architects or (interior) designers. These people are experienced in making (technical) drawings, working with wood, building scale models, making moodboards, using 3D modeling software or making renders. They have infinite sources of inspiration and knowledge about materials and constructions. Above all, they know how to make a house look nice. For this group, creating the first design of their Tiny House is not a problem. They know how to use the right tools from the first to the final design and are very confident during the process.

Figure 24. Designing a Tiny House with 3D modeling software, by Daphman from theamundell.com
Figure 25. Sketch of container house, by My Containerhouse
Figure 26. Tiny House floor plan, by Marie Colvin from tinyhousefloorplans.org
Figure 27. Tiny House interior impression by Homesteadology
Figure 28. Tiny House rendering from spectraair.com
Figure 29. Scale model by tinyhousetravelers.com
Figure 30. Tiny House painted impression by Kinetohaus from homecrux.com
2.3 Go-getters

The second group consists of people who are inexperienced in designing or building but are very determined and curious to learn these new skills and jump into this new adventure. These go-getters need a lot of research and often will experience some hard times, but with a bit of help they will figure it out in the end. They are depending on what their predecessors shared online in videos, blogs or forums and often copy them. With the use of research and improvisation, they are able to design their own house. They make sketches on paper, cardboard models or learn to use 3D modeling software to make the first designs of their home.
2.4 Dreamers

The third group includes people who are less technically minded or skilled and have trouble making their ideas visual. They do not have the right skills or tools to transform their ideas into something visual or tangible and are insecure about designing their own house. They lack knowledge about the range of possibilities. By using rough sketches, books, existing floor plans and pictures of existing Tiny Houses they communicate their ideas to builders or designers, who then design or build the house for them. This way they need to put their trust in the hands of professionals. Because these people are depending on existing designs and solutions it is hard for them to implement their own unique ideas into the design of their Tiny House.
2.5 Conclusion: Target groups

When looking at the available design tools in the different skill levels it can be concluded that several target groups could benefit from an easy to use exploration toolkit. The focus will not only be on people who are completely new to the field of designing but also on people with already some experience in one of the design fields.

**Dreamers**
Inexperienced or novice designers can benefit from an exploration tool on all levels. This is the most important and biggest target group to focus on. For people who have no idea where to start when designing a home, the tool can function as a roadmap through the first steps of the design process. The exploration tool can help them to get an overview of the possible solutions without many hours of research. Instead of handing it over from the first phase it can help them to first think about their values and wishes and help them communicate with a possible architect or builder.

**Go-getters**
For people with some experience in designing as DIY-ers or just handymen/women, the exploration tool can be a good addition to what they are already capable of. It can broaden their skill set and make the difference between a hobby project and a home that perfectly suits them and their lifestyle, wishes, and needs.

**(semi-) Professionals**
People with a building background can have experience with the technical choices they need to make, but do not necessarily know what fits their personality, wants and needs best. The same applies to people with a design background who know how to make their house look nice but do not know what their ultimate living experience looks like. Although this group will be less likely to use the tool, it could maybe offer them more than they would expect in the first place.

**Couples**
For couples or families who are designing together, the design tool can help them to communicate during the design process. They can share their thoughts and ideas with each other and start a conversation about which solutions or lifestyle fits them best. The design tool could help them to be on the same page when talking about their dream home.
Community groups

As an additional target group, the design tool could be very interesting for starting Tiny House communities. Through this tool, they can communicate their expectations and adjust them if necessary. When answering questions about what kind of Tiny House resident they will or want to be they can already learn something about the different roles that can be played within the community and see if their expectations are matching or colliding with each other.

Within the target groups, the age, income, and background can vary greatly. Also, I will not distinguish between people who are or aren’t actually going to live in a Tiny House in the end. So also the Early Adopters can use this exploration tool in their research if they are not yet sure if they are really going to live tiny.
CHAPTER 3.
CONTEXTUAL RESEARCH

3.1 Research plan
3.2 Results
3.3 Insights
3.4 Conclusions
3.5 Implementation
3.1 Research Plan

To get more insights into the Tiny House living experience, context mapping is used. By putting the Tiny House resident in the role of the expert of his own experience, insights are gained about the environment, emotions, and needs of the Tiny House resident.

**Objective**

In this contextual research, the focus is on the Tiny House residents themselves. Who are these people? Where and how do they live? Based on personal motives, passions, and archetypes, different Tiny House persona can be created. In this research, I would like to find the factors that determine the Tiny House living experience and distinguish different persona with different values.

**Method**

To get beyond the knowledge obtained by what people say, think, do and use (interviews/observations), generative techniques are used to also learn about what people know, feel and dream of in a Tiny House (Figure 48). Participants are stimulated to express the deeper levels of knowledge about their experiences like the tacit and latent knowledge, which are often difficult to express in words. (Visser, Stappers, Van der Lugt and Sanders, 2005)

For this kind of context mapping, experience booklets are used as a generative tool to get the best insights on how people live and feel in a Tiny House. Each participant receives (either in person or by mail) a toolkit with an experience booklet containing questions and exercises about their Tiny House experience. The participants are asked to keep the booklet with them for 6 days, every day answering different questions. In these questions and exercises, the participants are encouraged to make pictures, drawings, and use images to support their answers and make their booklet as personal as possible. The questions in this experience booklet can be found in “Appendix 2. Questions from experience booklet”. When the booklets are completed they can serve as a representation of the Tiny house resident and his/her living experience.

**Participants**

To form a broad and complete spectrum of participants, not only residents of Tiny Houses on wheels are included in this research. The target group includes all kinds of people using their home or living environment based on the principle of being independent, sustainable or living flexible in a compact living space. This includes for example people living in small boats or non-flexible cabins. Different household compositions and people of different ages are approached. Participants with houses both self-designed/built and manufactured/designed by external parties participated in the research to see if there is a distinction between the living experiences of the two.

**Tools**

The toolkit consists of one 14 pages experience booklet per person, one page with images/pictures to cut out, scissors, coloured markers, glue or tape and a Polaroid camera (Figure 49).
**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

**How do people experience living in a Tiny House?**

**Context**
- How does the environment influence the experience?
- How does the living experience differentiate whether the house is self-build/designed or not?
- Which aspects of a Tiny House are most important or valuable for the resident?
- How do these aspects differ in value for different residents, and in particular, different residents within one Tiny House community?

**Persona**
- How does the household composition influence the living experience?
- Is there a relationship between certain experience aspects and the household composition?
- Which archetypes/categories can be distinguished within the Tiny House residents?
- How does the preferred Tiny House experience differentiate between the different archetypes?
- How do people differ in their motives for living in a Tiny House?

**Experience**
- How do Tiny houses reflect the personality of the resident?
- Which aspects of the Tiny House are residents most proud of?
- Which factors contribute to or strengthen the Tiny House experience?
- Which factors counteract or weaken the Tiny House experience?
3.2 Results

18 different Tiny House owners participated in this contextual research, some of them living in the same house or within the same Tiny House community. They shared their experiences in the booklet by using examples, pictures, images or even drawings. To be able to compare these data, all answers are clustered into different themes, into different Tiny House resident profiles. In these profiles, the most important values are mapped out per resident together with the supporting quotes per theme. Figure 50 and Figure 51 show two of the profiles. For the other profiles see “Appendix 3. Participant profiles”.

When comparing these different profiles there are clear distinctions between the motive of the residents, what they are most proud of or what aspects are important or valuable for them. All residents are unique in their values, wishes and in how they experience certain aspects of living in a Tiny House.

For example, when comparing the profiles below, Ep has a lot of functional solutions built in his house to which he attaches great value, while Bernhard, who also built a very unique and functional fold-out roof, attaches much more value to the mindful and social part of living in a Tiny House.
3.3 Insights

**Age:** All people participated in the contextual research were in the age group 20 to 40 years old.

**Household composition:** Among the participants are only couples or singles. No families/ single parents.

**Self-build:** A great majority of the houses is self-built by the participants.

**Variety:** 7 out of the 11 Tiny Houses were ‘standard’ Tiny Houses on wheels, built on a 7 x 2,5-meter trailer, while there are plenty of other solutions for mobile Tiny Houses.

Although there are a few families and people above the age of 40 living in Tiny Houses in the Netherlands, they did not want to participate in this research. Still, it can be concluded that the target group innovators mainly consists of young people (under 40). Nevertheless, this means that there are possibilities for families and people over 40 concerning the design of the exploration tool. Also because all participants were still pioneers and there was not much information available for them, the variety in houses is small. This also could be improved if the tool provides people with more options.

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**Ep (40):**
Timmerman, Meubelmaker, Administrateur, Beheerder Bedrijfsverzamelgebouw
Woont in de tuin van een woongemeenschap

**SOCIAL**
“Hoewel ik kan koken in mijn huisje eet ik vaak met de woongroep. Het hebben van een eigen plek en daarnaast ook onderdeel zijn van een gemeenschap bevalt mij goed.”

**MINDFUL**
“Afwisseling tussen rust in huisje en drukte in woongroep bevalt goed! Fijnste sub-plekje is mijn bankje aan mijn tafel. Er is iets rustgevonds en comfortabels aan dit plekje. Ik hou ervan om uit het raam te staren en de wereld te overdenken hier.”

**ADVENTURE**
“Het voelt wel een beetje als kamperen in mijn huisje. Het heeft wel iets kneuterigs om water te moeten halen in jerrycans, naar een ander gebouw te moeten om te douchen en te koken op slechts twee spiritus pitjes, maar ik vind het heerlijk!”

**FUNCTIONAL**
“Overdag vouw ik mijn matras om mijn bed om te bouwen naar het bankje voor aan de tafel.”

**DIY**
“Mijn passies zijn dingen bedenken, maken, repareren en werken met hout. Als timmerman en meubelmaker kon ik helemaal mijn eigen ding doen”

**SUSTAINABLE**
“Op een vrije dag besteed ik graag tijd in de moestuin. Deze is 10 m bij mijn huisje vandaan.”

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Figure 51. Profile of Tiny House resident Ep.
3.4 Conclusions

By means of this research, I found that every Tiny House resident had different values and different views on their living experience and what they thought was important for them. For one person, building the house himself is most valuable for the experience, while for someone else, who may have also built his own house, living in a community together with like-minded people adds more value.

Experience Values
As a conclusion from these findings, I created the Six Experience Values. Each of the six experience values serves as one component of the total tiny House living experience.

The experience values that are distinguished in which the Tiny House residents differ from each other are adventure, green, mindful, DIY (do it yourself), social and functional (Figure 52). Of course, one resident will not fit one clear category but in most cases, they did value certain components better than others. When comparing different residents within one Tiny House community or even within the same Tiny House you can clearly see how, for example, one focuses more on being mindful and social when the other adds more value to the DIY aspect and being green.

Adventure
The flexible and independent side of living in a Tiny House is for many people a very important part. The ability to take your home with you to start new adventures somewhere else is often one of the main reasons for choosing a Tiny House and a major contributor to the living experience. Because you are not stuck to your expensive, big house, it gives you more freedom in living your life and making big decisions.

The adventure, the challenge of trying to live off-grid and the simplicity of living in a Tiny House play a large role here. The nomadic lifestyle, together with living in the outdoors is highly valued by these people. There is a strong connection to the environment around the house, so the location of the Tiny House is of great importance.

Figure 52. The six different values: adventure, green, mindful, DIY, social and functional, that form a person's Tiny House profile.
Sustainability

For some people, the sustainable part is the most important reason for choosing a Tiny House. Living in a Tiny House can be the ultimate way of living green. By generating your own green energy, growing food and reusing/reducing waste or wastewater the main focus is on reducing your ecological footprint. Having a composting toilet and using the compost as a fertilizer for your own garden is one (more obvious) adaptation when comparing a Tiny House with a normal house.

This sustainable lifestyle translates itself further into, for example, food: eating more locally produced food, growing their own food or being vegetarian/vegan. Transport: by sharing or not having a car, using an electric car or using the train instead of the plane. Consuming: by buying sustainable brands, secondhand, repairing more often and consuming less.

For these people living in a Tiny House goes hand in hand with living as sustainable as possible and giving something back to nature. Choices that are influenced by this are, for example, the kind of isolation used or whether people choose for using a wood stove or not. To what extent sustainability plays a role in your Tiny House varies from being fully off-grid to just the reduced consuming that fits the Tiny lifestyle.

Mindful

Switching to a Tiny House is often linked to a more conscious lifestyle and staying close to yourself. Due to the lower cost of living you can work less and put more time and energy into things that are important to you. There is more time to spend with your family, more time for your hobbies and passions or to develop yourself and learning new skills. Because there is less distraction and noise in and around the house, it is easier to enjoy the little things. It is more likely to withdraw yourself and read a book, do a yoga- or meditation session or just dream away.

In a Tiny House, not everything is always for granted, which makes living with nature and the seasons more valuable. The simplicity of living in a Tiny House and taking a step back to basic can make a major contribution to the living experience. Staying close to yourself and living more conscious can be a really important motive for choosing a Tiny House.
For some people, living in a Tiny House community or village is a very important part of the Tiny House living experience. Working or living together with like-minded people to create a unique living environment can contribute greatly to this experience. Sharing often plays a large role here: sharing facilities, having a shared garden or space to come together for a meal or play games can be seen as a big advantage of living in a community with multiple Tiny Houses.

Within this community, helping each other, learning from each other and caring for each other creates a strong social connection which can be one of the most valuable aspects of living in a Tiny House. To what extent this social aspect of a Tiny House is important, differentiates per person. Where one person prefers living in a close community, the other attaches more value to living alone in a quiet area without having to adapt to others.

**DIY (do it yourself)**
Because Tiny Houses are often designed or built by people themselves or custom-made, this gives a completely different living experience compared to a 'normal' house. For some people, this process of designing and building is the main reason for choosing a Tiny House.

The use of their creativity and the challenge of starting this new building adventure can be the primary motive for living in a Tiny House. Learning a new skill and creating something very personal is highly valued, together with the ability to solve problems or repair parts themselves if necessary. All research prior to the process of designing or building contributes to the experience. The fact that you are literally designing and building every single square centimeter around yourself makes you very connected to your own Tiny House. Where one person chooses for a ready-made home or working together with an architect or builder, the other wants to sort out and build everything by him or herself.

**Social**
For some people, living in a Tiny House community or village is a very important part of the Tiny House living experience. Working or living together with like-minded people to create a unique living environment can contribute greatly to this experience. Sharing often plays a large role here: sharing facilities, having a shared garden or space to come together for a meal or play games can be seen as a big advantage of living in a community with multiple Tiny Houses.
3.5 Implementation

To be able to truly design for the ultimate Tiny House experience, people first need to find out what this ultimate living experience is about for them. Before designing or building a Tiny House, people need to think about what kind of Tiny House resident they will be or want to be and which parts of living in a Tiny House are most important or valuable for them. By combining, rating or describing each of these six experience values people can create their own profile and this way form a substantiated base for the start of the design process.

Functional

Apart from mainly lifestyle changes, living in a Tiny House also involves a functional side. Living small can be very practical as well. A small house means cleaning less, fewer window frames to paint, less floor to wipe and fewer possessions that can get lost. Everything is reachable within two steps and solutions to problems are often less complicated compared to a ‘big’ house.

Is it important that everything in the house is functional or is comfort more valuable? This can have a lot of influence when designing the Tiny House. It can be very practical to combine different functions into one, for example, if the bed can also function as a couch, or to create extra space when folding up the stairs or table.

The balance between functional and comfort differs per person. What one person experiences as practical and functional, feels for someone else maybe more like a hassle. For one person there can not be enough smart solutions implemented in their Tiny House while the other attaches more value to having a ‘house-like’ atmosphere where everything has a fixed function and place and where few concessions have been made.
CHAPTER 4. REFERENCE ANALYSIS

4.1 Reference projects
4.2 Characteristic elements
4.3 Implementation
Integrated kitchen and bathroom

Spacious: high ceiling, wide

Visible wood use

Modular construction

Fixed options/layout

Integrated kitchen and bathroom
4.1 Reference projects

To gain insights about the differentiating factors between different sorts of Tiny Houses, a reference analysis is conducted. In this analysis, I explored 6 different Tiny Houses as reference projects.

To get the most out of the analysis, a varied selection of projects, shown below, is chosen from self-built to professionally built, from 11 to 48 m² and from mobile to fixed.

**Wikkelhouse by Fiction Factory**
Cardboard base - From 15 m² - 5 m² per segment
Professionally built - on chassis - on-grid

**Tiny House Wendy & Timothy**
Floor surface 18 m²
Self-built - on wheels - off-grid

**Tiny House Karin & Gijsbert family of 4**
Floor surface 25 m²
Self-built - on wheels - off-grid

**Slim Fit - design by Ana Rocha**
Floor surface 16 m² - 48 m² in total
Professionally built - on foundation - on-grid

**Tiny House Jan-Willem & Noortje**
Floor surface 18 m²
Self-built - on wheels - off-grid

**Tiny House Ep**
Floor surface 11 m²
Self-built - on chassis - semi off-grid
Wikkelhouse by Fiction Factory
Cardboard base
From 15 m²
5 m² per segment

- Sustainable materials
- Modular construction
- Open atmosphere: large windows natural light
- On chassis: no foundation
- Mobile: in parts as truckload
- On-grid

- Professionally built
- Spacious: high ceiling, wide
- Integrated kitchen and bathroom
- Visible wood use
- Sleeping area on ground floor
- Fixed options/layout
- Ground floor only

- Compose segments to preference
Tiny House
Karin & Gijsbert
family of 4
Floor surface 25 m²
Self-built

Customized to personality
Off-grid
Recycled/reclaimed materials
Mobile: On wheels, Large trailer
Open, spacious sleeping loft natural light
Spacious: high ceiling, wide
Comfortable stairs
Two separate kids bedrooms
Built-in furniture
Closed area with little windows
Ladder for sleeping loft
Visible wood use

Kitchen and stairs on long side of the house
Spacious: high ceiling, wide

Figure 57. Karin and Gijsberts Tiny House outside
Figure 58. Karin and Gijsberts Tiny House, kitchen, sleeping loft
Figure 59. Karin and Gijsberts Tiny House, living room, children’s bedrooms
All pictures by Bluemonque
Tiny House
Jan-Willem & Noortje
Floor surface 18 m²
Self-built

Daylight where needed
Visible wood use
Split level: Office/bedroom
Sleeping downstairs, open bedroom

Smart space usage: compact kitchen on short side of the house
Small bathtub

Customized to personality

Mobile: On wheels,
Off-grid

Small bathtub

Mobile: On wheels,
Wendy & Timothy’s Tiny House, by Bluemonque

**Tiny House Wendy & Timothy**

*Floor surface 18 m² self-built*

- Customized to personality
- Off-grid
- Mobile: On wheels, Steel construction frame
- Many windows
- Detailed finish
- Compact space
- Narrow: kitchen and table opposite each other
- Raised floor for storage
- Sleeping downstairs, closed bedroom
- Split level: livingroom/bedroom
- No wood visible
- No built-in furniture
- Raised floor for storage
- Mobile: On wheels, Steel construction frame
- Off-grid
- Customized to personality

**Figure 63. Wendy and Timothy’s Tiny House, by Bluemonque**

**Figure 64. Kitchen and bathroom, by Bluemonque**

**Figure 65. Livingroom and bedroom, from noordwijk-klein.nl**

- Raised floor for storage
- Mobile: On wheels, Steel construction frame
- Off-grid
- Customized to personality

**Tiny House Wendy & Timothy**

*Floor surface 18 m² self-built*

- Customized to personality
- Off-grid
- Mobile: On wheels, Steel construction frame
- Many windows
- Detailed finish
- Compact space
- Narrow: kitchen and table opposite each other
- Raised floor for storage
- Sleeping downstairs, closed bedroom
- Split level: livingroom/bedroom
- No wood visible
- No built-in furniture

**Figure 63. Wendy and Timothy’s Tiny House, by Bluemonque**

**Figure 64. Kitchen and bathroom, by Bluemonque**

**Figure 65. Livingroom and bedroom, from noordwijk-klein.nl**
Tiny House Ep
Floor surface 11 m² self-built

Customized to personality
On chassis: no foundation
Very compact living space
Organic tent-like shape
Semi off-grid
Mobile: when disassembled into parts
Visible wood use
No private shower
Cooking on methylated spirit
Foot pump for tap water
Bed convertible to couch
‘Bedroom’ very open/exposed

Only ground floor: no (sleeping) loft
Floor surface 11 m² self-built

All pictures from epshuisje.wordpress.com
4.2 Characteristic elements

Within the comparison of these six different projects, a list of differentiating factors is found. All of these characteristic elements of the Tiny House have their own individual influence on the living experience. All together they determine the complete design or character of the Tiny House.

**Material appearance**
When built by professionals the materials are often of high quality and professional appearance. When building the house yourself people sometimes preferred using secondhand or reclaimed materials which are cheaper or more sustainable.

**Detailing**
In some houses, the wood structure is accentuated while in other cases the building materials are covered by paint, concrete or wallpaper.

**Privacy**
With a closed bedroom, there is more privacy than when the bed is part of the living room or placed in an open loft. Also when having large uncovered windows there can be less privacy.

**Natural light**
In some houses, large windows provide plenty of natural light. A glass facade gives a different ambiance than small windows. Openness or enclosure.

**Facilities**
Where one resident chooses to have a large bathroom with private bath and washing machine, the other chooses to not have a private shower at all. Some residents are sharing or using public facilities instead of having everything in their own house.

**Mobility**
Within the projects, the mobility varied from very flexible (on wheels) to semi-flexible (movable in parts) to completely fixed on a foundation.

**Size/space**
The total surface varied from 11 to 48 m².

**Professionally vs self-built**
Some houses are built by professionals while others built the house themselves (as amateur builders).

**Off-grid vs on-grid**
The fixed houses like the Slim Fit can be completely connected to the power-grid, gas-grid and sewage system while the Tiny Houses on wheels were mostly self-sufficient. In between is the Wikkelhouse which can be partly off-grid.

**Comfort**
The comfort varied in the different houses between normal comfortable stairs and bedroom to a foldable bed and foot pump for tap water.

**Functionality**
A foldable bed can, on the other hand, be very functional when it can be converted into a couch as a combined function. Where some houses had integrated or built-in furniture others chose for the style or comfort of separate (design) furniture which is not always very functional.

**Personality**
When designing and building a house yourself the house can be adjusted to your personal preferences. In the case of the Wikkelhouse the parts are fixed but you can still make your own combinations. For the Slim Fit, both options and layout are already fixed.

4.3 Implementation

This list can be supplemented further with factors that did not appear in this reference analysis but are clearly having an influence on the living experience of a Tiny House. For example the environment around the house and the context of living in a community with multiple Tiny Houses can be important elements that differ between houses. These differentiating factors are used as a base to form the experience determinants in the next chapter.
CHAPTER 5.
EXPERIENCE DETERMINANTS

Next to the 6 experience values found in the contextual research, a number of experience determinants are found during the reference analysis. These determinants all influence the Tiny House living experience but are more specific than the experience values. For each factor, there is a range of solutions that can be implemented in the Tiny House.

The WHY gap
To be able to decide which solution fits future Tiny House residents best, there are a number of important questions that are to be answered. By answering these questions the focus is on the personal motive of the user. This substantiated decision-making based on personal motive covers the WHY gap that is explained in the problem definition.

For example: before deciding to have a Tiny House on a trailer with wheels people need to ask themselves why they want to have it on wheels. How often do they want to move their house and how far do they want to travel with it? A house on wheels is a frequently used solution but maybe does not fit everyone. Sometimes there are different, more suitable solutions. The different experience determinants are explained in this chapter.

Experience values
When choosing a specific solution for one of the determinants, this decision can be linked to one of the experience values found in the contextual research. Someone who highly appreciates the value adventure is more likely to choose for a more mobile and off-grid house and someone who scored high on the social part of a Tiny House is more likely to choose for living in a community instead of in an isolated area.
To what extent a Tiny house is flexible has a large influence on the experience. When the house has a foundation and is permanently fixed to one spot this is a completely different experience than for example living in a campervan, which can be placed everywhere you want and move whenever you want. Being able to move your home if necessary or preferred gives a feeling of freedom. But when flexibility is used in temporary places of residence this feeling of freedom can also turn into an uncertainty. For others, this same uncertainty can be translated into the feeling of an adventure or challenge.

It can be of great contribution to be able to move your own house yourself but you can also choose for a more secure way where you put professionals in charge of moving your house. Within the flexibility spectrum, multiple different solutions exist in between a very flexible campervan and a static, fixed house with a foundation.
Many people choose to design and build their Tiny House themselves. Because it is such a small living space, it is important that your house really matches you and your lifestyle. By designing and building yourself, you basically design the house around you. Next to being very low budget, designing and building independently creates room for freedom and creativity but of course, it can also be a risk if you do not have any experience in these fields.

By working together with an architect or builder you do have your own input but also the security that everything goes well. They know exactly what is possible and what is not and can help you when making decisions. Also, there is a growing amount of companies offering complete, ready-made Tiny Houses or houses that you can compose yourself.

Where one resident thinks the designing and building process is very important, the other resident is mainly looking forward to the actual living in a Tiny House. For this last group, the security of an already existing or ready-made Tiny House is a very good and safe option.

**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU WANT YOUR TINY HOUSE TO BE PERSONAL?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To what extent do you consider the personal and independent part of designing your own house important?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o I want to design my own house to make it fit my personality/wishes best.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I want to design my own house under supervision of a professional.</td>
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<tr>
<td>o I want to design my own house together with an architect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>o I want my house to be designed by an architect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I want to compose my own house from existing components.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I want to choose an existing design or house.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To what extent do you consider the personal and independent part of building your own house important?</th>
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<tr>
<td>o I want to build my own house to make it fit my personality/wishes best.</td>
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<td>o I want to build my own house under the supervision of a professional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I want to build my own house together with a builder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I want my house to be built by a builder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o I want to buy an existing house.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The level of independence of a Tiny house also plays a role in the living experience. When the home is completely autarkic the resident does not depend on external corporations or utility companies which gives a feeling of freedom. When the resident does not need anything or anyone else to provide for himself this creates a self-contained or self-sufficient context. Residents can feel proud and self-assured of providing everything themselves. This also pushes the responsibility of the resident to take care of their own needs.

On the other hand, being attached to the sewage system, gas, or power grid provides certainty. Whatever happens, the home will always be provided with electricity, gas, or water. Often people choose a combination where they are partly off-grid. The independence of the home can be divided into different levels from fully off-grid to fully on-grid.
The environment of the home determines a large part of how people feel at home. Being in a rural area with lots of nature can give one a lot of energy while someone else feels more at home in an urban environment.

To decide whether people want to place their home in a certain environment, they should first question themselves why they want to live in this environment and how they are going to live in this environment. How important is the location/area to place the house and does it have to be easily accessible? Simple things like having a supermarket at cycling distance or a train- or bus station nearby can make a big difference. Often a rural environment goes hand in hand with fewer facilities and services nearby but for some people, this is the exact reason to choose for this kind of environment.

Because in most situations it is not very easy to find a location for your Tiny House, it is hard to be critical about the environment but, nevertheless, it is very important to think about what fits you and what does not.
Living in a community with like-minded people can make a large difference in the living experience. Living and working closely together with other Tiny House residents and sharing a garden could be of great contribution for one, while the other attaches more value to living more privately or isolated from others, with the focus more on the connection with nature and self-development.

If people choose to live together with other Tiny Houses it is very important to think about the different implementations. You can live together with two other Tiny Houses on a shared ground with rough terrain and shared facilities but this is completely different from living in a very structured Tiny House street or village with 20 other houses. Every situation differs from the other, where, in one case everything is fixed and controlled while in the other case you are free to experiment and create something together with your neighbours. Also, it is important to think about what kind of relationship you want with your neighbours. Is it only superficial or would it be more valuable to develop a more friendship-like relationship?

**IN WHAT KIND OF CONTEXT DO YOU IMAGINE YOUR TINY HOUSE?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In what way would you like to live together with others?</th>
<th>How frequently do you want to have contact with your neighbours?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o No neighbours</td>
<td>o Minimal contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Neighbours on separate ground</td>
<td>o Contact for practical reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Neighbours on shared ground</td>
<td>o Weekly small talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Tiny village</td>
<td>o Daily social contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Tiny street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What kind of relationship would you like to have with your neighbours?

- Kindly greeting each other
- Superficial relationship for practical matters
- Good contact: sharing eg vegetable garden, chickens or responsibilities
- Good neighbours; occasionally visiting each other’s house. Organising activities together
- Friendship; close contact, working together or having dinner
Tiny Houses are often closely connected to sustainability. The transition from moving into a more compact living space already involves a much more conscious lifestyle. A small space means less consuming, less energy use and a smaller space to heat.

Next to these positive changes, there are endless other decisions to make concerning sustainability. For energy supply, there is solar energy, wind energy, a connection to the power grid or a generator (sometimes used as a back-up in winter in combination with solar panels). For cooking, water supply and heating there also is a range of solutions to choose from.

Some people want their house to be as sustainable as possible while others consider a combination of sustainable and less sustainable solutions or switching between off- and on-grid. Then there are also alternative solutions to experiment with like cooking on biogas or heating water by double using the woodstove.

### TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU WANT YOUR TINY HOUSE TO BE SUSTAINABLE?

**IN TERMS OF:**

1. **ENERGY**
2. **COOKING**
3. **WATER**
4. **HEAT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How important is sustainability in <strong>power supply</strong>?</th>
<th>How important is sustainability in <strong>water supply</strong>?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| o I want to be connected to the power grid since I’m using very little electricity  
   o I want to be able to switch between the power grid and solar energy  
   o Preferably I’m using mainly solar/wind energy, but power grid when really necessary  
   o I only want to use solar/wind energy |
| o I want to be connected to the water grid and (rain)water tank  
   o Preferably mainly filtered rainwater, but water grid when really necessary  
   o I only want to use rainwater for my water supply |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How important is sustainability in <strong>cooking</strong>?</th>
<th>How important is sustainability in <strong>heating the house</strong>?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| o I want to use gas for cooking  
   o I want to be connected to the power grid (for electric cooking)  
   o I want to be able to switch between the power grid and solar energy for cooking  
   o Preferably I’m using mainly solar/wind energy for cooking, but power grid/gas when really necessary  
   o I only want to use solar/wind energy or biogas for cooking | o I want to use a gas stove  
   o I want to use a wood stove  
   o I want to use a pellet stove  
   o I want to use an electric heater connected to the power grid  
   o Preferably I’m using mainly solar energy for heating, but power grid when really necessary  
   o I only want to use solar/wind energy for heating (or alternative sustainable solutions) |
When designing a Tiny House there is a fine balance between functional and comfortable. This balance is a bit different for everyone. Sometimes this decision has to do with certain factors like age, fitness or having children. When you are turning 70 people rather choose for more comfortable solutions instead of functional. Same if you have (or planning to have) small kids.

When talking about functional and comfortable there are two main parts of the house that can really vary within this spectrum and therefore greatly influence the living experience: the stairs and the sleeping area.

### Stairs

When designing a Tiny House the opinions about stairs are diverse. Where one chooses for a normal staircase with equal steps, the other attaches more value to creating extra space by using a ladder, combine functions (closet as stairs), or use a fold- or pull-out staircase or ladder. Where one staircase feels more like a ‘normal house’, the other maybe makes it feel more like camping. The only thing is: do you mind the hassle or is comfort more important?

#### Stairs

- **NORMAL STAIRS**
  - no concessions made
  - lot of space needed
  - very comfortable

- **INTEGRATED STAIRS**
  - combined function
  - little space needed
  - comfortable

- **MERGED STAIRS**
  - double function
  - little extra space needed
  - moderately comfortable

- **FOLD-OUT LADDER**
  - hidden - action required
  - minimal space needed
  - moderately comfortable

- **PULL-OUT STAIRS**
  - hidden - action required
  - minimal space needed
  - moderately comfortable

- **LADDER**
  - minimal space needed
  - little comfortable

- **FOLD-OUT LADDER**
  - hidden - action required
  - minimal space needed
  - uncomfortable

In what way do you want your stairs to be functional?

- I want to have a normal, fixed staircase with equal steps. The shape is not important.
- I want to have a fixed staircase. The shape is not important, steps can be unequal.
- I don’t mind doing concessions concerning the stairs to combine functions.
- I don’t mind using a ladder.
- I don’t mind having a fold-out staircase or ladder.
- I don’t need a staircase, everything is on one floor.
**Sleeping area**

When choosing what kind of sleeping area people want in their Tiny House, people often choose to have a sleeping loft. But there can be a lot of variation in comfort or functionality concerning the sleeping area. For the optimal comfort level, you can create a sleeping area on the ground floor with a high ceiling just like in a normal house. In the middle of the comfort-functionality spectrum is a split level sleeping area as a loft or on the ground floor, which is often a lower space. At the end of the spectrum are the more functional solutions like a pull- or fold-out bed or a lift-bed to save space in the house or transform the bed into a couch during the day.

Whether or not you are willing to transform parts of your house in a daily routine is an important factor to take into account when designing a Tiny House.

---

**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU WANT YOUR HOME TO BE FUNCTIONAL?**

1. **SLEEPING AREA**

   - In what way do you want your sleeping area to be functional?
     - I don’t want to do any concessions on the sleeping area. I want my bed to be on the ground floor.
     - I don’t mind sleeping in a loft as long as the ceiling is high enough to sit up straight.
     - I don’t mind having to do concessions on the sleeping area to combine functions.
     - I don’t mind having to fold/pull out the bed every day to make optimal use of the space.
When living in a Tiny House, there is a range of facilities that are not necessarily needed in every home. Some Tiny House residents choose for using shared facilities or even public facilities. Instead of having their own shower they can use the one at work or at the gym. When there is a shared kitchen in the Tiny House community, they maybe do not need an oven or freezer in their own home.

Washing machines can be a big struggle since, when living off-grid, it is very hard to get enough electricity and water to get your own washing machine running. For this reason, this is one of the first things in the house people consider to share or use in public facilities.

Whether Tiny House residents are sharing facilities or not can significantly affect the living experience. For one this could be the perfect way of collaborating and be more connected to and depending on their neighbours. For others, the comfort of having individual facilities can be of great importance.

TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE INDIVIDUAL OR SHARED FACILITIES IN YOUR TINY HOUSE?

1. KITCHEN 2. BATHROOM 3. WASHING MACHINE

Which objects are you planning to use less than daily (or weekly)?
- Cooking area:
  - Dishwasher
  - Oven
  - Microwave
  - Coffee machine
  - Water heater
  - Kitchen machine
- BATHROOM/area:
  - Bathtub
  - Shower
- Toilet
- . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
- Washing machine

Which of these objects would you like to:
- Share within a community?
- Have yourself?
- Use in public facilities (at work/gym)?
- Not use at all?
Privacy

Indoors
Closed vs open
Private vs shared

When living together with someone else in a small house, it is very important to take privacy into account. Where one person really needs time and space for him/herself, someone else does not value privacy at all. For this reason, it is important to take into account the wishes of all residents in one house, for example when there are children growing up in the house.

In what way you want to implement privacy in the Tiny House can vary from fully closed spaces to one open space, with the use of curtains or partly shielded areas in the middle of the privacy spectrum. For optimal privacy, a space is closed from sight and sound, while sometimes a small barrier like a partly covering, thin curtain is enough to create a feeling of privacy.

To what extent is privacy important inside the house?
- It’s very important to have a private/closed space to withdraw yourself and take some time for yourself
- I want to have the possibility to withdraw myself but it doesn’t have to be a closed space
- I think it is important that my housemates can have a place for their own whenever they feel like having some privacy
- I like my house to be open and feel like one pleasant open space
- I’m not really in need of privacy (apart from a closed toilet)
When looking at privacy towards the outside, the preferences can vary widely. In this case, the environment around the house plays a big role as well. If the house is placed in a rural area without any neighbours it is probably more likely that there is less privacy needed towards the outside. On the other hand, if you are living together in a larger community or in a more urban area, it can be of bigger importance. When the Tiny House is placed in an open/public estate like a nature park, construction site or with for example a public road close to the house, privacy can be more valuable.

Where some people like to have a very strong connection to the outside by using large windows and don’t mind people looking inside their house, someone else feels more comfortable being able to cover the windows when preferred.

To what extent is privacy towards the outside of the house important?
- I don’t like it when people can look inside my house. I would like to be able to cover/close the windows when I feel like it.
- During the day I like to look out of the windows but at night I want to close the curtains.
- I rather have a very open house but do want the possibility to cover the windows whenever necessary.
- I don’t feel like covering up any windows. I don’t need any privacy towards the outside. I like my house very open.
The amount of daylight plays a large role in the living experience of a Tiny House. The preferred amount of daylight can be very personal. One person feels most comfortable in a very bright and open space with lots of daylight and someone else feels more at home in a darker, more enclosed area where it feels safe and warm.

Also here the outside environment is an important factor in choosing for a light and open space or dark and enclosed. The outside can be seen as an extension of the inside or the inside can be more isolated from the outside.

To what extent would you like to create openness in your Tiny House?

1. Daylight

How important is it to have daylight inside the house?
- I like my Tiny House to be very bright and open with many large windows to have a strong connection with the outside.
- It’s very important that there is enough daylight in every part of the house.
- There only has to be enough daylight/windows at places where spend most time or where I want to look outside.
- I like my Tiny House to be a bit closed with small or only a few windows to create a cozy and safe place.
When talking about space in a Tiny House it is not only about how big or small the house is. A big house can feel enclosed and a small house can feel, to a certain extent, very open or spacious. Next to absolute size, it is also about the layout of the space or how it is used.

The spaciousness of the house can become less when using low ceilings or narrowing it with extra walls. For example, when placing the kitchen opposite the bathroom, the space gets narrowed down from both sides. But on the other hand, when using the full height and width of a smaller house, it can still feel quite spacious.

Where one person feels more at home in low and narrow spaces because it feels safe and sheltered, someone else likes it more open and spacious.

TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CREATE OPENNESS IN YOUR TINY HOUSE?

2. SPACE

To what extent is the spaciousness of the house important?
- I like to have high and wide open spaces in my Tiny House to create an open and spacious atmosphere.
- I like my Tiny House to be somehow spaciousness but still compact.
- I like the spaces in my Tiny House to fit me perfectly. It doesn’t have to be wider or higher than necessary.
- My house can be as compact as possible. As long as everything fits there is no extra space needed.
- I feel most comfortable in lower and narrower spaces because that gives a cozy and safe feeling.
The openness of a space also has to do with the use of colour and contrast. When using light colours, people experience a space as cooler and bigger while dark colours create a warmer, but smaller space.

This way lighter colours create more openness while dark colours create a more enclosed feeling. Colour and contrast are depending on personal preference or style, which is, of course, different for everyone. Some people really like a cold or cool appearance while others feel more at home surrounded by warm and dark colours.

**To what extent are the colours and contrast of the house important?**

- I mainly want to make use of white and light colours to keep it calm and spacious.
- I want to use mainly light colours and materials in my Tiny House.
- In my Tiny House, I want a combination of lighter and darker colours to create contrast and vibrance.
- I want to use darker colours and materials to create a warm, cozy and safe atmosphere in the house.
CHAPTER 6. RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overall conclusion
6.2 Design goal
6.3 Interaction vision
6.1 Overall conclusion

When looking at the conclusions from the User Research, Contextual Research, and Reference Analysis, they can all be put together and implemented in the exploration tool (Figure 74).

3 Levels of designing

When designing a Tiny House there are three different stages in the process that influence each other: the why, how and what. By using the Experience Values and Determinants, the why and the how can be filled in. When placing all three elements and the interrelationships between the three in one figure, the design pyramid is created (Figure 75).

In this pyramid, every level builds on to the next one starting with the basis: You (Why do you want to live in a Tiny House and what is important to you?), then to the second layer: Your Choices (How do you create a Tiny House that fits you and which solutions do you want to implement?) and finally: Your Tiny House (What does it look like?).

1st level, WHY?
You: Experience Values

By using the six Experience Values: adventure, green, mindful, DIY, social and functional, a personal Tiny House profile can be created for each (future) Tiny House resident. Before designing a Tiny House, people first need to find out what this ultimate living experience is about for them. In this first level, people need to think about what kind of Tiny House resident they will be or want to be and which parts of living in a Tiny House are most important or valuable for them. By starting with these Experience Values, a foundation is laid for designing a Tiny House.

2nd level, HOW?
Your Choices: Experience Determinants

In this second level, decisions can be made based on the Experience Values. By asking questions about the different factors, a choice can be made between various solutions within this factor. Experience Determinants like: mobility, context, independence or environment are discussed here including the range of solutions. In this second level of designing these different solutions can be mapped out for every Experience Determinant and this way create the building blocks for the actual design of the Tiny House.

Before deciding to have a Tiny House on wheels, people need to ask themselves how often they want to move their house and how far they want to travel with it. A house on wheels is an often used solution but maybe does not fit everyone. Often there are different, more suitable solutions.

3rd level, WHAT?
Your Tiny House: Design

When having decided which solution for every factor fits the living experience best, the first steps to an actual design can be made. Taking the first and second design levels in the back of their head they can truly design a Tiny House that fits their personality, wants and needs by making substantiated design choices.
6.2 Design goal

As an addition to the project goal set at the beginning of the project, a more elaborated design goal is formulated as a starting point for the implementation of the exploration tool. This design goal is as follows:

I want to encourage people with or without a designing or building background, to design a Tiny House that meets their personality, by creating an easy to use exploration tool, focusing on their ultimate Tiny House living experience.

With this toolkit, I want to enable them to think out of the box, beyond obvious solutions and instead design their home around themselves.

Because every future Tiny House resident differs in their ideas within every of the 3 designing levels, this tool can serve as a conversation starter between these people to see what fits their personality and their wants and needs best. This tool should stimulate people to start a discussion about the different ideas and motives for every decision and this way help them to design a Tiny House that truly fits them.

Objectives
To support this design goal, several objectives are created. When designing the exploration tool, the following objectives are to be met:

**Physicality**
Using a physical tool creates a more conscious interaction than a digital tool or application. Performing actual actions like cutting, glueing, or drawing is better suitable when expressing an experience.

**Group implementation**
The tool must be implementable in a group session because it can be very valuable to share experiences, stories or ideas with people who are going through the same process. They can learn from each other or inspire each other while using the exploration tool or when presenting the outcomes.

**Learning process**
Instead of learning from the tool the focus must be on learning from themselves and each other. The tool is not providing users of knowledge but pushes them in the right direction to provide the knowledge themselves.

**Visuality**
By creating a tool with a high visual content to communicate information, people can relate better to certain aspects. Visuals can be interpreted in different ways so people can refer to them for different reasons when expressing their preferred experience.

**Trigger**
The exploration tool should function as a trigger and encourage people to continue their process with inspiration and confidence. By initiating the design phase the tool should stimulate people to continue their journey in the right direction.
6.3 Interaction Vision

To give an indication of the preferred interaction experience for this new design tool, a metaphor is used in the form of an interaction vision. Through this metaphor, the preferred interaction qualities can be described.

For my Experiential design tool, I want the interaction to feel like:

**Taking a ride in a hot air balloon above known ground**

The interaction qualities that are most important here are: enlightening, freedom and inspiring.

**Enlightening**

Flying in a hot air balloon gives you another way of looking at something you already know. From a top view, the area looks more structured and less complex compared to the view from the ground. Because of this clear overview, you can learn things about this area you did not know or noticed before.

With the exploration tool, I want to stimulate people to take a step back and take a different look on designing their Tiny House. By taking themselves as a starting point it clarifies why they would design it in a certain way. When dividing the design of the house into different sub-solutions it gives a clear overview of the possibilities.
**Freedom**

Flying high above everything that matters, the chaos and the pressure, without having high-tech equipment gives a feeling of freedom. The simplicity of a hot air balloon using no more than heated air and the flow of the wind contributes to this free feeling.

With the exploration tool, I want people to feel this freedom in designing. When designing without the boundaries of what other people did or built before, the range of possibilities widens. When talking about the ultimate Tiny House experience it is very important to fantasize in complete freedom.

**Inspiring**

It takes some courage to step into a hot air balloon but the unexpected beautiful surreal view and peace around you feels inspiring and makes you aware of the environment around you. Environments that normally would not appeal to people may suddenly be appreciated when looking at it from a top view.

When using the exploration tool I want people to feel encouraged and inspired to create their own story and realize their dream home. People can inspire each other and share their stories and ideas when using the tool together.
CHAPTER 7.
IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Creative session
7.2 Pre-workshop activity
7.3 Workshop part 1: You
   7.3.1 Archetypes
   7.3.2 Quotes
   7.3.3 Values
   7.3.4 Moodboard
7.4 Workshop part 2: Your Choices
7.5 Workshop part 3: Your Tiny House
7.6 After-workshop activity: evaluation
7.1 Creative session

The Exploration Tool is designed to be implemented in a workshop-like setting as a creative session. It focuses on people who are at the beginning of the design process and helps them to create a strong base to start designing.

The tool consists of five parts: the pre-workshop activity, the actual sessions ‘You’, ‘Your choices’ and ‘Your Tiny House’ and the after-workshop activity. Each part answers its own questions. All parts of the session are shown in Figure 78.

7.2 Pre-workshop activity

What?

Sensitizing booklet
Before attending the creative session (one week prior to the session), the participants are asked to fill in a sensitizing booklet. In this booklet, they can describe how they see their future Tiny House life and what they imagine their house will look like. The booklet also serves as a warm-up exercise for the creative sessions to prepare them to think about certain aspects of their Tiny House.

Questions asked in the booklet, ‘My Tiny House experience’ are:

- What does your ideal (work)week look like?
- What does your future Tiny House look like?
- In what kind of environment do you imagine your house?
- On what term do you plan to move into a Tiny House?
- What is the most important motive for choosing a Tiny House?
- Why does it fit you?
- What are you looking forward to?
- What is important to your house/living environment?
- When would you feel most at home?
- How would you spend your day off?
- What would be your favorite spot in the house?
- How would your house reflect your personality?
- What metaphor would match your Tiny House?
7.3 Workshop part 1: You

Why?

7.3.1 Archetypes
In this first exercise, the middle of the circle represents you, the Tiny House resident. Participants are asked to describe themselves based on a selection of archetypes. By selecting archetypes that represent/fit them or describe the resident they want to become, they create a starting point for the exercises. From the ‘You’ in the middle we later build on to the next layer, the outside of the circle.

During the exercise, there are no strict rules. They can circle, underline, use colours, make connections, drawings or add extra words. Because this circle stands for ‘You’, it serves as a representation of the participant.

Figure 79. Participant describing herself in the ‘Your’ part of the workshop
7.3.2 Quotes

Based on the answers participants gave in the sensitizing booklet, they can select aspects that are important to them and put them on a quote card. Because people are often experiencing trouble imagining something that they haven’t experienced yet, they receive indirect help from Tiny House experts.

Based on the experiences of the Tiny House residents from the contextual research, 70 quotes are selected and transformed into quote cards (Figure 80). Participants can select the quote cards that fit or represent them or are important to them.

These cards can be placed in the first ring around the ‘You’ circle. They have the closest connection to ‘You’. The ultimate favorite quote can be placed in the middle, inside the ‘you’ circle.

In the second ring, the cards are placed that are less important but still have a connection to ‘You’, like quotes they agree with or things they want to implement but are a bit further from their personal vision.

Lastly, outside these two rings, there is some space left for quote cards they totally disagree with or stand against their personal vision.
7.3.3 Values

After the participants are finished with the quote cards, they can take a look at the different colors of the cards and the archetypes. Every color represents one of the six experience values shown on the value cards given to them.

When looking at which quote cards are placed in which ring, people can form a personal profile. Many green cards in the inner circle mean the value sustainability is important for them.

The personal profile can be formed by making bar charts for each of the six values (Figure 82). Many pink cards mean the social aspect of a Tiny House is important, so this bar is higher than the others.

Below the bar charts, participants can write a description of what each of the six values means to them.

On the front of the value cards, only a picture and some keywords are visible (Figure 83). This way they can fill in the exact meaning of the value for themselves without being influenced too much.

On the back of the cards, a description of the value can be found when the participant needs some more guidance in forming their values. When all bar charts are complete a personal value profile is created.

Figure 82. Personal profile with bar charts for every of the six values

Figure 83. The value cards are used to create a personal profile
7.3.4 Moodboard
To get a better impression of the preferred Tiny House experience, the profile needs visual support. By creating a moodboard as a visual representation of the desired experience, the values get supported. Instead of keywords, actual images are used as an easier way to tell their stories. These stories can be about the participant as Tiny House resident, the Tiny House itself and the environment around the house as community or whatsoever. In this final ‘You’ part, the Why-substantiation gets closed.

The selection of images used in the creative session is developed during several tests sessions and are selected for their ambiguous character and differentiating styles. This way it makes it easier for all sorts of Tiny House residents to relate to the pictures in their own way.

When the sessions are performed in a group, presenting the findings to each other is very valuable. This way participants share their stories, learn from each other and get inspired.
7.4 Workshop part 2: Your Choices

How?

After defining the ultimate Tiny House experience, the next step is to find out how to realize this story. In this next part of the session, the different solutions can be chosen based on the story created in the previous ‘You’ phase. By answering questions based on the personal values, the right, matching solutions can be chosen that fit this preferred experience.

In this second session, participants are following a roadmap that leads them through a set of questions and solutions (Figure 87). By answering these questions people are stimulated to choose only the solutions that truly fit them.

For every aspect, they can choose between a number of determinants (derived from the reference analysis), supported by an image or picture. Again, these determinants can be linked to the experience values and therefore use the same colours. By placing the right image on the spot with the corresponding questions, the answer is given.

When continuing this track and answering all sub-questions, a list of sub-solutions arises that forms the base for the first design of the Tiny House.
Depending on the design stage they are in, participants can make floor plans, on scale or life-size, or a first 3D representation/maquette.

Making a 1:1 scale floorplan is a convenient first design step and an effective way to mimic and feel the actual size of the spaces. By using rope and tent pegs, people can play with space and adjust it until it feels right. After that, they can convert it into a detailed scale floor plan or later, a scale model.

What?

As a completion of the workshop, participants can implement the findings from part 1 and 2 into the first design of their Tiny House. By reflecting on the design they had prior to the workshop they can decide to stick to the design or adjust certain aspects to make the house better suitable for their preferred living experience.
7.6 After workshop activity: evaluation

Why?

Two weeks after the sessions, participants are asked to reflect on the workshop. After they have let their experience settle, they are stimulated to think about their next steps in the process and continue their journey.

Vision

The participants are asked to create an (interaction) vision for their own Tiny House experience in one or two sentences. In this vision, the most important values should be reflected. It should answer the questions;

- How do I want to feel in my Tiny House?
- What would the ultimate Tiny House living experience look like for me?
- What are my values and wishes?
- Which metaphor represents your preferred Tiny House experience?
- How does the environment play a role in the Tiny House experience?

As an example they can use the following sentence:

Living in my Tiny House should be/feel like or
I want my Tiny House to be/feel like ...................
in a .................... way,       by/with ....................

To support this vision, one or more pictures can be added to strengthen it. These pictures can represent the experience or interactions in the Tiny House.
CHAPTER 8. TESTING

8.1 Creative session
8.2 Reflection
8.3 Insights
8.1 Test sessions

Participants
To find participants for this test session I did a request within the Tiny House Nederland (Facebook) group. Within 24 hours there were 34 submissions of people interested in participating in this test workshop. From these submissions, I selected a mixed group of people to organize two workshop sessions with, both including 8 participants.

All of them were seriously considering moving to a Tiny House but still at the beginning of the design phase. Amongst them where students, singles, starters, families, single parents, and a young couple who bought their first house just some years ago. Unfortunately, one older couple and two of the single 60+ participants that signed up canceled the sessions, which resulted in a total of 6 participants per session.

The session started with introducing themselves by using the filled in ‘My Tiny House Experience’ booklet. People shared their plans and motives for choosing a Tiny House.

Schedule
The session was planned from 10:30 to 16:00

10 min Welcome + introduction to the workshop
20 min Introductions by using the booklet
   You:
   40 min Archetypes + quotes
   20 min Making a value profile
   30 min Making a moodboard
   Lunch
   10 min Presenting profile + moodboards
   Your choices:
   50 min Roadmap
   10 min Presenting roadmap
   20 min Break: tour in Tiny House
   Your Tiny House:
   80 min Making (scale) models
   10 min Reflection

On the next pages, a photo story is created for every one of the 12 participants. To see the video of the sessions, please click on the following link: https://youtu.be/z2C2y07DVwg

Figure 93. Participants during the test workshop
Nadia (family with three kids): “The DIY part of building a Tiny House is the most important part for me. I’m homeschooling my kids so this way they also learn how to use tools.”

Marieke: “I want my Tiny House to work together with the seasons and include a modular part that I can take with me behind my bicycle.”

“Going back to basic and learning how to support yourself are the most important reasons for living in a Tiny House.”

Xarifa (starter): “The social part of living in a Tiny House is way less important for me than I thought. Although I like to be surrounded by people, the mindful aspects appeal much more to me.”

“Now I know that wheels don’t fit my situation, I can go for a more square design which fit my ideas much better.”

Poyon (together with Rineke, young kids): “I really like to grow my own food: having fruit trees and eat berries from my own bushes.”

“The DIY part of a Tiny House does not add value to my Tiny House experience.”
Rineke (together with Poyon, young kids): “In contrast to Poyon I do think the DIY part of a Tiny House is very important to me. Designing or building your house yourself makes it very unique.”

“For me it’s very important that the materials we’re using for our house are environmentally friendly or reused.”

Myrthe (student): “The functional part is much more important to me than living and working together in a community.

“By combining functions you can make use of the space in a smart way, I don’t mind having a fold-up table.”

Maloe (single mom) and Isa: “I noticed that for me sustainability isn’t a very important factor of living in a Tiny House.”

“I wouldn’t choose for a pull-out bed or a foldable countertop, but that’s probably because I have a small child.”

Elke (single): “The mindful part is for me that I need my own time and space. I really don’t mind being alone.

“The thing I would like about a community is doing things together and learning from each other.”
Maartje (student): “Being off-grid is something I really like about living in a Tiny House but sustainability isn’t the most important factor for me. It’s a nice side effect.”

“I would really like having a garden with some animals around the house.”

“Comfort is much more important to me than functionality.”

Marion: “The sustainable part of living in a Tiny House is definitely the most important factor to me. I am really worried about this planet and really think we need some improvement here.”

“I like having my home on wheels, if I’m up to something different, I can just take my home elsewhere.”

Susan (together with Mark): “The mindful part is for me the most valuable part of living in a Tiny House: the freedom, making your own choices and creating my own little space.”

“I really like the contrast between the peace inside the house and the community, so the social part of living in a Tiny House is also very important.”

Mark (together with Susan): “Living outdoors, having a comfortable place to withdraw yourself and a nice atmosphere are very important to me.”

“When thinking about it I saw my niece playing and jumping around when she would stay over.”
8.2 Reflection

Three weeks after the workshop session the participants were asked to reflect on the workshop and to share their experiences afterwards.

**How did the workshop influence your Tiny House ideas?**

Rineke and Poyon: “The idea of building a Tiny House is made more feasible. Seeing the different sub solutions next to each other gave us a nice overview. It clarified the chaos.”

Susan and Mark: “Before, we always thought about a Tiny House on wheels but the workshop made us realize a house without wheels fits us much better since we don’t want to move that often.”

Maartje: “The different exercises made it very clear for me what I value most. Comfort, DIY, and independence are most important to me. I already had a design but there where a lot of things I didn’t think of before”

Myrthe: “The different choices on the sheets made me broaden my view. There where a lot of options I didn’t consider before like sharing a toilet or being partly off/on-grid.”

**What are the most important insights gained from the workshop?**

Elke: “The simplicity of living in a Tiny House is most valuable for me. Also, I should really reconsider living together in a small group instead of alone.”

Marieke: “Tiny Houses can really be adjusted to your personality. The personality exercises made me realize this is very valuable for me since I often let my choices be influenced by ease or budget.”

Maartje: “Now I realize that I don’t want to travel with my home, I don’t need to built in on a trailer anymore. Weight is no longer an issue and I can make it a bit wider. I just thought about a trailer because that’s what most other Tiny Houses are built on.”

**How did you proceed the Tiny House process afterwards?**

Nadia: “The results of the workshop are hanging next to the other Tiny House plans and clearly represent what is in my head.”

Rineke and Poyon: “We canceled our registration for a Tiny House village in Hengelo because the location didn’t meet our wishes. Nadia (from the workshop) and her family took over our place. We are now looking for a building location and a big bag of money.”

Maartje: “Before the workshop, I was planning to start building in 6 years (after my study) but the other participants and Anne herself inspired me to start earlier. I started in Sketchup adjusting the design of my house.”

Susan and Mark: “We shared and talked about our plans with other people and are now in the process of decluttering and selling our stuff.”
8.3 Insights

+ Working with paper, glue, and scissors achieves the preferred result and experience. It contributes to the process of choosing a certain quote or picture since an action is needed to make the decision. When redesigning the different cards, it needs to be taken into account that the shapes still need to be easy to cut out so the sessions will not cost more effort of time.

+ The group process is a very important part of the sessions. Sharing experiences and presenting the findings to each other is a starting point for interesting discussions. People where often surprised or inspired by each other.

- The sessions took much more time than estimated in the test session. Because they really valued sharing experiences with like-minded people they used their time also to profit from this part of the situation. Solution: since it was contributing to the session, there should be more time scheduled for the workshop.

+ It gave them insights they did not expect since there were parts of the Tiny House experience they did not think about before. It really gave them the complete overview of living in a Tiny House.

- In the You part of the session some people kept putting extra quotes on the sheet because the space was not limited enough. This did not contribute to the overview of the sheet. By creating a restriction to the number of quotecards that can be put on the sheets, the participant need to be more critical in choosing quotes, and only choose the ones that really represent them.

+ When creating moodboards, some people had trouble starting up (mainly male participants) because they never did something like this. But with a little encouragement, even the most down-to-earth participants created the nicest and most enthusiastic stories and visions.

- In the Your Choices part of the session the overview is a bit lost. By cutting out solutions the range of solutions is not clear. Also, it would be valuable if users are able to change solutions later in the process (like a dynamic document) when more research is done.

- The third phase of the session: making a feasible model of the Tiny House, was too quick for most people since they needed time to first think about the outcomes and make a redesign of their house. It would be better suitable for a multi-day workshop, with the designing itself as a separate day. By expanding each of the three phases, it can also be an option to divide the workshop into three separate days/sessions.

Opportunities
It is interesting that several families and people over 60 signed up. In the contextual research, I found that families and people over 60 already living in a Tiny House are still very rare in the Netherlands. This means that most people in these categories belong to the target group: dreamers (or early adopters), who want to make the step to a Tiny House but are still insecure about how to realize it. For this group, the exploration tool can offer a solution by means of giving them a step in the right direction.

Also, it can be very promising that already 34 people from all over the Netherlands signed up for the session within 24 hours. This can mean there is indeed a demand for an exploration tool focussing on the experience and answering the 'why' aspects of a Tiny House.

Conclusion
For the final design, I am only taking into account the first (You) and second (Your Choices) part of the workshop, since these have the largest influence on changing the way people design their Tiny House. For the design phase itself are plenty of tools and courses available.
CHAPTER 9.
CASE STUDY

9.1 My Tiny House
9.2 My Tiny House community: Kluit
9.1 My Tiny House

When reflecting on the design process of the Tiny House I am building myself (together with Thomas), there are certain aspects and design decisions that can be lead back to the foundation of the exploration tool that is created. In this analysis, all aspects of our house that can be traced back to our values and wished are mapped out.

Mobility

On wheels
When deciding we wanted to build a Tiny House, it quickly became clear that we wanted it to be on wheels (Figure 96). Because we did not have a location to place it when it would be finished, we would maybe depend on temporary locations so moving every year would be easier when having wheels. Also the fact that we can move our own house independently behind a car without having to involve professionals was a major plus.

Sustainability

Energy/water supply
For energy supply, we will be only depending on the energy we will receive from our solar panels. For water supply, we will collect rainwater and filter this for the shower, sink and drinking water.

Cooking
To start up, we will be using propane to cook. When settled on a location, we want to experiment with using biogas from our own biodegradable waste.

Shu Sugi Ban
Instead of impregnating or painting the wood for the outside of the house, we burned the upper layer of the siding to make it resistant to weathering (Figure 95). Next to the nice look, this Japanese technique Shu Sugi Ban also makes the wood more durable.

Reclaimed materials
For the windows, door, flooring, ceiling, wall and tabletops, we used second-hand materials and refurbished them by planing, sanding, painting and repairing them. Initially, this was to reduce costs but also because it is more sustainable than buying new ones. This resulted in designing around this diversity of windows and materials instead of designing it exactly how you want it to look, which for us, felt more like a challenge than a restriction.

Figure 95. Shu Sugi Ban siding

Figure 96. The Tiny House is on wheels
Openness: space

**Layout**
For us, the openness (spaciousness) of the Tiny House was very important. In our very first designs of the floor plan, we already took this into account when deciding about the layout of the house. By placing the bathroom, kitchen, and stairs on the (shorter) end-faces of the house, we only lost space in the length of the house. Because the house is already very narrow we did not want to make it even narrower by placing the bathroom, kitchen or stairs on the long side of the house.

**Stairs**
The stairs we made is partly open and consist of two separate parts with space in between: an upper part floating in the air, connected to the walls and hanging from the loft, and a lower part standing on the floor. Underneath the stairs, we built a seating area so this space is used functionally. This way our stairs visually and functionally (underneath the stairs is a couch) takes less space.

**Vide/ floating loft**
Our sleeping loft is only connected to one of the four walls. The other sides of the platform are connected to the structure of the roof. This way our sleeping loft is hanging from the ceiling and floating on three sides. This creates an open and spacious atmosphere. In Figure 98 the vide is shown on one of the open loft sides. The vide is on the highest side of the house which gives a very spacious feeling when standing downstairs and looking up.

Privacy

**Sleeping loft**
Despite having a floating loft, it is not completely open to the rest of the house (the open side of the loft in Figure 98 will be closed with a wall). It is open for sound and ventilation on two sides but you can only look into the bedroom when standing halfway up the stairs. From the sleeping loft, you can look down through the vide when looking over the low railing. We really wanted our bedroom to be a separate area to withdraw yourself and have some privacy but still being able to communicate with each other and keep the open feeling.
Comfort

**large table**
In our Tiny House, we did not want to compromise on comfort concerning our table. Because this is the place where we would spend most of our time while eating, working, hanging out and receive friends, we wanted to have a large table (Figure 99).

**Comfortable stairs**
Because we did not want living in our home to feel like camping, we built comfortable, fixed stairs instead of a ladder or fold out stairs. We wanted our sleeping loft to be easily accessible also when your hands are full or when going to the toilet in the middle of the night.

Functionality

**Closet vs. table**
When we need more table surface, we can fold up the closet door and create an extra table (Figure 100 and Figure 101) where you can sit with two or three people. If this was our only table it would lack comfort but since it will be used as extra, this fold-up feature is very functional.

Facilities

**Washing machine**
We did not implement space for a washing machine in our design since this takes lots of space, energy, and water. We decided to use a shared washing machine if possible, go to friends or family to wash or use the public laundry service.
During the course of this graduation project, we also continued our own Tiny House journey. Which included searching for a spot or community to place our dream home, which we found!

Together with 11 other people and 8 other Tiny Houses, we will form the Tiny House community ‘Kluit’ in Den Hoon. When meeting each other for the first time as a complete group, we used the exploration tool to get to know each other, our values, and how we imagine living in a Tiny House in this particular place.

Things we wanted to know where:
- What kind of Tiny House residents are we?
- How do we imagine living together in this community?
- Which values are important to us?
- What is our vision?

In this session, we only used the first phase of the exploration tool (the ‘You’ part) to find out the ‘why’ aspects of our Tiny House community.

When creating moodboards, the starting point was how everyone would like to experience living together within this community Kluit.

The motives for everyone in the group were very divergent. For some, the sustainable aspect was by far the most important factor while for others developing themselves as mindful aspect was more valuable. Also, the DIY and social aspects scored very high for some of the community members.

We can conclude that we complement each other in the different fields. The different bar charts for all Kluit members can be found on the next page in Figure 109.
After presenting the outcomes of the session we could create an overall mission and vision for the community based on each of the personal visions and values.

**Mission Kluit:**
Kluit is a Tiny House community where everyone can **realize his own tiny dream** and where **respect for nature and each other** is central. The community offers the possibility to **explore, develop and propagate** the concept of Tiny Living.

**Vision Kluit:**
Tiny Living creates conditions that **invite a specific lifestyle.** By forming a community of Tiny Houses, in which the importance of **diversity** is recognized, we can **learn from each other, help each other and challenge each other** in accomplishing our mission.
CHAPTER 10.
FINAL DESIGN

10.1 Tiny Roots
10.2 Preparation
10.3 Session 1: You
10.4 Session 2: Your choices
10.5 Tiny Roots context
10.1 Tiny Roots

The exploration tool for the ultimate Tiny House experience

Before designing a Tiny home, Tiny Roots offers the foundation for the ultimate Tiny House experience, starting at the origin: You.

Tiny Roots is a series of two creative sessions that are both offered as a day workshop. During these creative sessions, participants go back to the origin by answering the why around their Tiny House to find out what is important for them and their home.

In the first session, the users themselves are central. By using the six experience values, they learn which parts of a Tiny House are most important for them and how they want to live in their home. In this session, participants explore their ultimate Tiny House experience. The outcomes of this session serve as the roots for making decisions in the second session.

The second session is about how to realize this ultimate Tiny House experience. Here, the choices of the user are central. By following a journey through the different sub-solutions, the users can choose the solutions that match their ultimate Tiny House experience. This way, they create a strong foundation for the design of their Tiny House.

The tool consists of 3 phases: the preparation, the first session, and the second session. In between the two sessions, participants have an assignment to complete and present during the next session.

In this final design, most improvements are made in the look and feel of the tool. Since the exploration tool proved itself to be working very well in general during the test workshop, the focus for the redesign was mainly on improving the experience and interactions with the tool. In this final design of Tiny Roots, the colours are made softer and more appealing, the images are adjusted and the look and feel of the materials (for example the thickness and structure of the paper) are improved.

Figure 111. Final design Tiny Roots toolkit
10.2 Preparation

Just like in the test workshop, participants are sent a small experience booklet: My Tiny House Experience. By answering questions they need to think about how they imagine living in their future Tiny House and at the same time, they have a nice warm-up for the creative sessions.

To make it a more personal experience, the booklets are made in six different colours and sent to the participants by post. This way, they are stimulated to really put time and effort in filling them in and making it a more personal booklet.

By using this booklet, the participants can introduce themselves and their Tiny House plans to each other at the start of the first session. Also, the answers are used during the first exercise.
10.3 Session 1: You

Archetypes and quotes
In this final version, the shape of the quote cards and the field to place them in is optimized. By using hexagon shapes the places for the quote cards or own quotes are indicated in the field and restricted to only 12 in the first ring, one ultimate favorite in the middle, 8 in the second ring and 4 outside the rings.

The middle circle is used in the same way as in the previous design: to describe the user by using archetypes that represent him/her and create a personal field in the middle. For the quote cards applies: the closer to this middle circle, the better it represents the user. All quote cards and the quote board can be found in "Appendix 4. Final design".

Values
By using the value cards, the users can find out which values are important to them. When linking the colours of the different quote cards to the six values they can find out which values are very important and semi-important (in the first and second ring) and which are not important at all (outside the rings).

Profile
By implementing these findings in a resident profile the users create an overview of their values. By adjusting the sliders the user can create his/her own profile. For every value, they can write down in keywords what this value means for them or which aspects of this value appeal to them. The profile and value cards are shown in Figure 116 on the next page.

Figure 114. A selection of quote cards

Figure 115. The quote board
Homework: Vision
As an assignment for the next session, the participants are asked to create an (interaction) vision for their own Tiny House experience in one or two sentences. In this vision, the most important values should be reflected. At the start of the second session, the participants present their visions. They can use pictures or metaphors as support. The following questions can be answered in this vision:

- How do I want to feel in my Tiny House?
- What would the ultimate Tiny House living experience look like for me?
- What are my values and wishes?
- Which metaphor represents your preferred Tiny House experience?
- How does the environment play a role in the Tiny House experience?

As an example they can use the following sentence:

Living in my Tiny House should be/feel like or I want my Tiny House to be/feel like ............... in a ................. way,        by/with ..................

Moodboard
Since this part of the test sessions went really well I did not want to optimize or change the moodboard making by designing something around it. When making a moodboard or collage, the participants are free to create their own unique and personal representation of their ultimate Tiny House experience without rules or boundaries. Again the moodboard serves as a visual representation of the desired experience and the resident profile. It tells the story of the participant as Tiny House resident, the Tiny House itself and the environment around the house like a community or whatsoever.

After finishing the moodboards, the session closes with presenting all findings and results from this session to each other.

The value cards and all pictures used for the moodboards can be found in "Appendix 4. Final design"
10.4 Session 2. Your choices

Roadmap
In this second session, the participants are making their first design decisions. The road on the workshop sheet represents the design journey, making decisions along the way. Every empty rectangle offers space to one sub solution that has to be chosen from a range of solutions. By making small cuts in the corners of the rectangles the cards with sub solutions can be put in place. This way, participants can change cards to update the sheet whenever they change their mind about a certain solution later in the process (like a dynamic document).
1. Hoe mobiel wil je dat je tiny house is?

2. Hoe persoonlijk wil je dat je tiny house is?

3. Hoe onafhankelijk wil je dat je tiny house is?

4. In welke omgeving zie je je tiny house voor je?

5. In welke context zie je je tiny house voor je?

6. Hoe duurzaam wil je dat je tiny house is?

7-8. Hoe functioneel wil je dat je tiny house is?

9-10. In welke mate speelt privacy een rol in je tiny house?

11. In welke mate wil je individuele of gedeelde faciliteiten in je tiny house?

12-13-14. Hoe open wil je dat je tiny house voelt?

15. In welke mate speelt privacy een rol in je tiny house?
**Determinant cards**

After making a decision, the right solution can be found on the determinants cards. Every category has its own strip of cards, that is folded to a stack. From this range, the selected card can be torn off over the tear line and placed in the right spot on the design journey sheet as shown in Figure 122.

**My choices booklet**

Before making a decision about which solution to choose, participants first receive a booklet with information and questions about each of the 12 determinants. Each determinant is also linked to one of the values from the first session. The personal profile that was created there can also help them in answering the questions or make a decision.

After reading the information and answering the associated questions, they are ready to choose the solution that fits them. The booklet serves as an overview of all solutions and can be left in one piece since the determinant cards can be used to put on the design journey sheet.
10.5 Tiny Roots context

Accessibility
Because the concept Tiny Houses is still very young in the Netherlands, the target group for Tiny Roots is small. Although it is growing rapidly it is not feasible to sell the toolset and let others give workshops or creative sessions with it. With the Tiny Roots toolset, I can cover the target group myself by offering the two sessions ones every couple of weeks/months.

Location
During the test sessions, it turned out that the location in the garden next to the Tiny House worked very well and inspiring. It really contributed to the experience of the sessions. In the future, this effect could be enhanced when offering the sessions at the Tiny House community Kluit. On warm days it can take place outside in the community garden and on colder days in the shared community cottage, and can maybe be combined with a tour around the nine Tiny Houses.

Since it is in Kluit's vision and mission to inform and propagate others about tiny living, Tiny Roots can attribute to this goal offering this to Tiny House dreamers. Also, the sessions can be implemented when organising open days, when the community is open for the public to visit.

Reaching the audience
Within the Tiny House movement in the Netherlands most information can be found online. The most important platforms are Facebook, where people offer each other help, share their stories and information in multiple Facebook groups, and Tiny House Nederland, a non-profit platform that offers information via forums, blogs, and Facebook to everyone interested in Tiny Houses. Reaching the audience through Facebook already proved itself a success when finding participants for the test workshops so this will be one of the means to promote Tiny Roots.

By launching the Tiny Roots website (Figure 123), I can offer all the information about the sessions with pictures, video’s, experiences of previous participants and most important: the research behind the Tiny Roots toolkit. The importance of starting with the ‘why’ part of a Tiny House, instead if starting to design at random will explicitly be explained here. Via this website, people can book the sessions and get in contact. Also promoting through the communication channels of Tiny House community Kluit can be an option.

Another option is to work together with other organisations offering workshops or courses and together form a complete package or program of research and knowledge tools.

Also, the amount of open events around Tiny Housing is increasing. The first Tiny House Jamboree in the Netherlands in 2017 attracted four to five thousand visitors and is (with the next edition already on the agenda) planned to be a recurring event. Next to this, there are also smaller events like open days or gatherings. These kinds of events can be opportunities to promote Tiny Roots with flyers, an information stand or by giving presentations.
Tiny Roots help je in de verkenningsfase door een sterke basis te creëren voor het ontwerpen van een Tiny House dat perfect aansluit op jouw persoonlijkheid en wensen.

Voor wie?
De Tiny Roots sessies zijn bedoeld voor Tiny House dromers die graag de stap willen maken naar een Tiny House en aan het begin van de ontwerpfase zitten. Je hoeft geen ervaring in ontwerpen of bouwen te hebben (mag wel!).

Waarom?
Waar veel andere workshops en cursussen vooral focussen op wat Tiny Living precies inhoudt en hoe je jouw eigen Tiny House kunt realiseren (de ‘wat’ en ‘hoe’), draait het er bij de Tiny Roots sessies vooral om welke aspecten van een Tiny House je belangrijk vindt (de ‘waarom’) en welke keuzes hierbij passen.

Voordat je begint met het ontwerpen van je Tiny House is het goed om te weten wat er bij je past (en wat niet) en hoe je je in je Tiny House wil wonen. De Tiny Roots sessies helpen je erachter te komen wat jouw waardes en wensen zijn en biedt een duidelijk overzicht van de ontwerp mogelijkheden die hierbij passen.

Tiny Roots bestaat uit twee sessies. In de eerste sessie ligt de focus op jou als bewoner. Wat vind je belangrijk, wat voor soort Tiny House bewoner ben je en hoe zie je je het wonen in een Tiny House voor je. De tweede sessie kijken we naar de verschillende ontwerp keuzes die hierbij horen.

Bezoek de onderstaande video voor een impressie van de sessies:

Figure 123. Tiny Roots website: tinyroots.nl
CHAPTER 11: FINAL CONCLUSIONS

11.1 Conclusion
11.2 Discussion & recommendations
11.3 Personal reflection
11.1 Conclusion

When reflecting on the created tool Tiny Roots we go back to the initial design goal and objectives stated in the research conclusion.

**Design goal:**

I want to encourage people with or without a designing or building background, to design a Tiny House that meets their personality, by creating an easy to use exploration tool, focusing on their ultimate Tiny House living experience.

According to the participants of the test sessions, the tool offers a clear overview and made them broaden their view on Tiny Houses. The idea of building a Tiny House became more feasible and one of the participants was even inspired to start building in the near future instead of waiting for 6 years to finish her study first.

It can be concluded that Tiny Roots is easy to use and encouraging; at least for people without a building or designing background. No one who did have a building/designing background subscribed for the workshop, from which I conclude that they are more confident in what they are doing. Despite that, I still believe Tiny Roots can be an interesting eye-opener for them as well.

**Objectives:**

**Physicality**

The physical part of the tool (cutting, glueing, ripping) turned out to be of positive contribution to the experience of the session. Participants concluded that, despite cutting taking more time, it would not contribute to the workshop having the cards printed on stickers that could easily be stuck to the right place. Also, the cutting and glueing were found a bit like a meditation or zen-like activity which created a very open atmosphere.

**Group implementation**

The group implementation turned out to be the most important factor in the exploration tool. The fact that the sessions took much longer than initially tested with students means that this factor is of great contribution to the workshop. Sharing their stories and inspiring each other was a big part of the sessions.

**Learning process**

With the focus on learning from each other and themselves instead of only receiving information and knowledge from presentations in more common courses, the participants stayed very focussed during the sessions. They were very interested when others presented their findings and enthusiastic to present their own. It can be concluded that this pro-active setting of learning/discovering works very motivated.

**Visuality**

When presenting their findings or visions, the participants came up with very different ideas while sometimes using the same pictures or images. Telling a story with images when presenting the moodboard or the roadmap helped them to freely create their own story with their own interpretations.

**Trigger**

During the test sessions the quotes where found inspiring for the participants because it really gave them insights on how they maybe want to live themselves. The overview of solutions brought by the design roadmap created more confidence in the design process because it clearly showed them which parts they still needed to think about and where the gaps in their design are. It can be concluded that Tiny Roots does function as a trigger to encourage and stimulate people to continue their Tiny House journey with inspiration and confidence.
General conclusion

It can be stated that indeed Tiny Roots fills in the ‘Why-gap’ described in the problem definition. It creates a strong substantiated base for the design process and helps users in designing a Tiny House that fits their personality and lifestyle.

From my own experiences, I can conclude that Tiny Roots is very suitable for starting communities to get to know each other and communicate the expectations within the group. It can help with getting on the same page and form one group vision or mission.

For these reasons, I will continue offering Tiny Roots sessions after this graduation project and see how it will develop itself in the context of the Tiny House community Kluit.

Interaction qualities:

According to the interaction vision, using Tiny Roots should have the same interaction qualities as:

taking a ride in a hot air balloon above known ground.

Enlightening

The clear overview of choices from the design roadmap made the idea of designing a Tiny House much simpler and more feasible. Also, it gave them insights into alternative options when the solution they had in mind seemed obvious, but turned out not to be the best choice for them. Being pushed to substantiate their choices worked enlightening.

Freedom

When using Tiny Roots, participants were able to design without the boundaries of what people did or built before. They often came to the realization that there was more than just that one option they had in mind. When the range of possibilities grows, also the feeling of freedom in designing increases.

Inspiring

During the sessions, people inspired each other and got inspired by the design possibilities. Reading experiences of people already living in a Tiny House worked really inspiring because they could relate to actual stories instead of just dream about this idyllic idea of living in a Tiny House.
11.2 Discussion & recommendations

Target group
For this project, the focus was on Tiny House residents and dreamers in the Netherlands. Although it was beyond the scope of this study to examine the Tiny House Movement outside the Netherlands, this could be a very interesting target group as well. Since the target group within the Netherlands is not of a great size it could offer opportunities to develop Tiny Roots for other countries as well.

Contextual research
During the contextual research, it was not possible to encompass the entire target group in the Netherlands. When doing research, there has only been contact with singles and couples living in a Tiny House in the age group 20 to 40 years old. Although there are people outside this age range and other types of households like families with young children or teenagers living in a Tiny House, unfortunately, they did not respond to the request of participating in the research. To create a complete map of experiences to use as quotes during the sessions it would contribute to also include these missing target groups in the research.

Roadmap
In the roadmap, the range of solutions per determinant is now limited to a workable amount so only the most usable or obvious solutions are included. To be able to offer the complete set of solutions, more research needs to be done in the possibilities per determinant. Also, these solutions will develop rapidly in the future so for the optimal situation, these need to be updated every ones in a while. In the future, also the number of determinants can be expanded to offer a more complete roadmap.

Extension
Although the third part of the test session, creating a first scale model, was too early for the participants, it could be a valuable extension when adding it as the third session in the series. As a separate session, they have enough time to let the results of the previous sessions sink in and think about their new design. In this program, every session serves as the base for the next session. This way the complete process of why, how and what is covered and the participants really work on to a clear final goal: their own Tiny House design.

Location
During the test sessions, the weather was really nice which made it possible to work outside on large tables next to the Tiny House. During the session with the Kluit members, it was possible to have 13 people doing the workshop in this setting. With bad weather, we would have to search for alternatives. Before moving to the Kluit community and having the shared community cottage to give the Tiny Roots sessions, the location can be an issue.

For the test sessions, people from all over the Netherlands signed up, but possibly this was because it was a free workshop. If people are willing to travel for a paid session remains to be seen. To attract more people to sign up for the Tiny Roots sessions it could be an opportunity to offer a workshop on a location more central in the Netherlands.
The last couple of years I was really not looking forward to my graduation project. It was something I kept postponing. Most IDE projects I did the last years were not what I wanted to do and did not make me enthusiastic for a 6 months full time, individual, graduation project. But when compiling this graduation assignment, it gave me the confidence to finally start and finish my graduation project. And it turned out not only less scary than I thought, but it was even a pretty fun project.

Where I was most worried about was writing a complete and scientifically correct graduation report. Writing was never one of my strong points since my focus was always more on the making and creating part of projects. The writing itself I always postponed till the last end and then panicked, because it took me so long to write something that made sense (because both English and writing are not my strong points). For this project, I promised myself to finally try a new approach by keeping track of this report during the whole project and I can state that it worked pretty well.

When looking back at this project I can say that these were not the easiest couple of months. At least I know that after starting this graduation project, there has not been one single boring day since.

When starting this graduation project in February, our own Tiny House building project took off as well. After months of designing it was finally time to put all our time and energy in building our own house: collecting materials, refurbishing windows, flooring, and old wood for the ceiling, burning wood for the façade with the weed burner and finding the best way to strengthen our construction. But then there was this graduation project which was kind of important as well...)

Halfway through the year, we got the very good news that (if all goes well) we have found a location to put the house, but of course, starting this Tiny House community also turned out to be a whole project in itself.

Lucky for me these projects were all related to each other and very much in my interest but this made it sometimes hard to focus on this graduation project since what I was researching often gave interesting input for what I was building and the other way around. It turned out to be a lot of switching between projects which kept it very interesting (but also distracting) on both sides.

I can say that this graduation project and building our own Tiny House really strengthened each other. A lot of the research I did for this graduation project was useful for building our own house. We became very conscious about the design choices we made ourselves. Also because of this graduation project I was able to get in contact with a lot of Tiny House residents. Talking to them about their experiences and visiting their houses was not only useful for my contextual research but also gave us a lot of tips, knowledge, and inspiration for our own designing/building project.

The other way around, building and doing research for our own house contributed to my graduation project as well. When doing research for our own house I found out that a lot of people copy each other and go for the same designs or solutions because they have seen it somewhere else or do not know any better. Also because I noticed how valuable the experiences of other Tiny House residents were for us, I decided to not only use them to define the context and values but also use these experiences in the final tool to inspire others and let them relate to these experiences.

At the start of this project I thought it would be hard to be your own target group but as both projects developed itself further, I realized that I was transforming from my own target group: a Tiny House dreamer, to my own expert: a Tiny House resident, which made it even stranger. This was hard when things you just know or experienced need to be scientifically substantiated which is not always possible. For example, when defining the different target groups I just met all these people along my own Tiny House process and talked to them as a Tiny House dreamer myself.

I think this project was a really nice way to finish off my years at Industrial Design Engineering and I am proud of what I have achieved this last half a year. I look back at some intense but satisfying months and I am extremely happy to say that I just finished writing my last report ever!
CHAPTER 12.
APPENDIX

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Appendix 2. Questions from experience booklet
Filled in by current Tiny House residents

Wie woont er (soms)?
Huisdieren?

L e e f t i j d:

Ber o e p / A c h t e r g r o n d:

Hoe ziet voor jou een (werk)week eruit?

Heeft je huisje een naam?
Kunnen we jou of je huisje ergens volgen? Waar?

Heb je jouw huisje zelf of deels zelf ontworpen en/of gebouwd?
Zo ja, van wie heb je hulp gehad hiermee?

Wanneer ben je in je huisje komen wonen?

O m s c h r i j f j e z e l f / e l k a a r:

W a t z i j n p a s s i e s v a n j e?

D a g b o e k j e:
Beschrijf 1 dag vanaf het moment dat je wakker wordt tot je gaat slapen

Dit kan door middel van een tijdslijn, stripverhaal of iets anders. Beschrijf hierin alle interacties/momenten die in of rondom je huisje plaatsvinden (of op een andere manier ermee te maken hebben). Geef per punt aan welk gevoel je hierbij hebt (positief of negatief). Draagt dit bij of af aan jouw woonbeleving? Gebruik hiervoor de gekleurde stickers.

W e l k e v a n d e z e i s j o u w f a v o r i e t?
Waarom?
* Als er later in de week nog leuke/interessante momenten zijn mag je deze hier later bij schrijven.

O p w a t v o o r m a n i e r r e f l e c t e e r d j o u w h u i s jouw identiteit/persoonlijkheid?

Op wat voor manier? Gebruik voorbeelden, tekeningen, plaatjes, foto’s.

W a t w o o n t e r (s o m s)?
Huisdieren?

W a t a n j o u w h u i s j e b e n j e h e t meest trots op?
Waarom? Gebruik evt. tekeningen, plaatjes, foto’s.

Beschrijf het fijnste plekje in je huis:
Welk gevoel, uitzicht, geluid, geur, materiaal? Gebruik evt. tekeningen, plaatjes, foto’s.

W a a r o m i s d i t h e t f i j n s t e p l e k j e ? W a t d o e j e het liefst hier?
Gebruik evt. tekeningen, plaatjes, foto’s.

W a t i s u n i e k a a n j o u w h u i s?

W a t v i n d je belangrijk aan je huis/leefomgeving?
Geef het cijfer 1 aan het belangrijkste en tel door naar het minst belangrijke.

☐ Flexibiliteit  ☐ Comfort
☐ Onafhankelijkheid  ☐ Delen
☐ Duurzaamheid  ☐ Samenwerken
☐ Privacy  ☐ Creativiteit
☐ Functioneeliteit  ☐ ...
☐ Materialen  ☐ ...
☐ Daglicht  ☐ ...

C o m m e n t s:

W e l k e v a n d e z e i s j o u w f a v o r i e t?
Waarom?
* Als er later in de week nog leuke/interessante momenten zijn mag je deze hier later bij schrijven.

W a n n e e r v o e l j e h e t meest thuis?
Omschrijf de situatie, omgeving, moment van de dag, activiteit etc. Gebruik evt. tekeningen, plaatjes, foto’s.

H o e b r e n g j e h e t l i e f s t j e v r i j e d a g d o o r?
Gebruik evt. tekeningen, plaatjes, foto’s.

W a t w a r e n v o o r j o u d e me e s t v o o r n a a m s t e redenen om over te stappen naar een tiny house?

W a a r k e e k j e h e t meest naar uit toen je deze overgang maakte?

W a a r d o o r b e n j e p o s i t i e f v e r r a s t?

W a t v i n d j e o p d i t m o m e n t h e t grootste voordeel van wonen in een tiny house?

W e l k e a s p e c t e n d r a g e n a f a a n j e woonbeleving?
Wat zou er beter kunnen? Zijn er dingen die gewoon of minder bijzonder worden na verloop van tijd? Wat blijft lastig om aan te wennen of valt toch tegen?

O p w a t e l e r m a n i e r d r a a g t j e o m g e v i n g b i j a a n j e woonbeleving?

W e l k e m e t a f o o r z o u h e t b e s t e p a s s e n b i j j o u w h u i s?
Bijvoorbeeld: boomhut, onderzeeër, bunker.. Gebruik evt. plaatjes of ondersteun met foto’s. Zijn er nog andere dingen die je graag kwijt wilt?
Appendix 3. Participant profiles

Bernhard (29):
Antropoloog, taalwetenschapper, barkeeper, explorer, Tiny House adviser, Tiny House Architect
Woont samen met Maria in TH community Proeftuin Erasmusveld

DIY
"Het meest trots ben ik op het feit dat ik mijn eigen huis heb gebouwd, een droge warme herberg, een shelter, een thuis"

FUNCTIONAL
"Uniek aan ons huisje is het uitklapbare dak, zo kunnen we boven ook staan en hebben we extra leefruimte gecreëerd"

EXPLORING
"Het leven is geweldig, en elke dag is een avontuur!"

GREEN
"Ik rij met de elektrische auto naar het voedsel coöperatief om biologische groenten voor iedereen te kopen."

MINDFUL
"Het fijnste plekje is 's ochtends vroeg op het houten stoeltje voor de kachel wanneer ik een vuurtje stook. Mijn lichaam is koud en rustig, het vuur warmt alles op en ik groet de dag met een fijne diepe meditatie."

SOCIAL
"Ik voel me het meest thuis als ik iets doe wat mij gelukkig maakt en ik het kan delen met mensen die ik lief heb."
Sanne (33):
Bouwkunde, Circulaire Economie, Verduurzamingsadvies bedrijf
Woont in TH community Proeftuin

EXPLORING
“Het leven is een avontuur met het ontdekken van de route onderweg”

SOCIAL
“Een omgeving met andere TH is heel inspirerend, productief en gezellig”

FUNCTIONAL

GREEN
“Uniek aan mijn huisje is dat het extreem energiezuinig is vergeleken met de meeste Tiny Houses. Ik heb 10 cm isolation en maak gebruik van warmte retour winning.”

MINDFUL
“Het belangrijkste aan mijn leefomgeving is rust.”
“Mijn fijnste plekje in huis is de bank. Het is fijn om hier languit te zitten met uitzicht op de tuin.”

DIY
“Ik voel me het meest thuis als ik lekker aan de slag ga met klussen in het huis, in de tuin of meubeltjes gaan opknappen”

“Het leven is een avontuur met het ontdekken van de route onderweg”
**Maria (29):**
Administrator, MA Russian en Eurasian studies
Woont samen met Bernhard in TH community Proeftuin

**DIY**
"We hebben het voor elkaar gekregen om zelf een huis te bouwen dat een hele goede shelter is voor ons. Daar ben ik het meest trots op."

**FUNCTIONAL**
"We hebben veel ruimte in de lofts door ons opklapbare dak. Dat is wel uniek aan ons huisje."

**MINDFUL**
"De lage levens/woonkosten maken het mogelijk om te stoppen met mijn baan en me te focussen op mezelf en mijn toekomst."

**GREEN**
"Zelf eten laten groeien, dieren, gezondheid en duurzaamheid zijn passies van me. De loft is omgebouwd tot greenhouse om zaadjes te planten."

**SOCIAL**
"Samen eten en bordspellen spelen in het woonhuis zijn een leuke manier om met elkaar te socializen."

**EXPLORING**
"Ik hou niet van op een plek blijven voor langere tijd en ons huis heeft de mogelijkheid ons te volgen."
Piek (24):
Student Industrieel Ontwerpen.
Woont in een klein zeilbootje

**GREEN**
"Ik ben positief verrast dat ik een huis totaal niet mis, niet gek wordt van de kleine ruimte, geen probleem heb met geen eigen douche hebben en dat ik m’n spullen ook totaal niet mis."

**MINDFUL**
"De kajuit is heel knus. Ik vind het heel fijn als ik me af en toe kan terugtrekken. Je hoort de regen hier tikken, je voelt de golfjes af en toe en je hoort het water klotsen."

**FUNCTIONAL**
"Het voelt fijn als mijn huisje is opgeruimd en ik weet dat alles werkt, het nergens lekt en alles droog is."

**DIY**
"Het meest trots ben ik op de motor, omdat ik die helemaal heb uitgepluisd en hem nu ken. Ik was erg trots toen ik zelf de oliefilters had vervangen. Mijn huis is een beetje een hobby geworden."

**SOCIAL**
"Ik voel me het meest thuis als ik met vrienden op de boot ben of spontane etentjes heb op de boot. Dan klopt het gevoel. Je komt echt in de vakantiesfeer."

**EXPLORING**
"Ik kijk het meest uit naar de zomer! ’s ochtends van de boot afspringen, en om na m’n studie veel te gaan zeilen. Soms zet ik de marifoon aan en dan hoor je andere schepen omroepen dat ze eraan komen."
Ep (40):
Timmerman, Meubelmaker, Administrateur, Beheerder
Bedrijfsverzamelgebouw
Woont in de tuin van een woongemeenschap

**SOCIAL**
"Hoewel ik kan koken in mijn huisje eet ik vaak met de woongroep. Het hebben van een eigen plek en daarnaast ook onderdeel zijn van een gemeenschap bevalt mij goed."

**FUNCTIONAL**
"Overdag vouw ik mijn matras op om mijn bed om te bouwen naar het bankje voor aan de tafel.

**MINDFUL**
"Afwisseling tussen rust in huisje en drukte in woongroep bevalt goed! Fijnste sub-plekje is mijn bankje aan mijn tafel. Er is iets rustgevends en comfortabels aan dit plekje. Ik hou ervan om uit het raam te staren en de wereld te overdenken hier."

**GREEN**
"Op een vrije dag besteed ik graag tijd in de moestuin. Deze is 10 m bij mijn huisje vandaan."

**EXPLORING**
"Het voelt wel een beetje als kamperen in mijn huisje. Het heeft wel iets kneuterigs om water te moeten halen in jerrycans, naar een ander gebouw te moeten om te douchen en te koken op slechts twee spiritus pitjes, maar ik vind het heerlijk!"

**DIY**
"Mijn passies zijn dingen bedenken, maken, repareren en werken met hout, Als timmerman en meubelmaker kon ik helemaal mijn eigen ding doen!"
Madelief (28)
Ergotherapeut en Yvette (33):
Student Biotechnologisch analist
Hebben hun huisje laten bouwen

EXPLORING
"Het grasveld voor de deur is ook heel fijn. Voor de hangmat, voor Fudge (konijn), voor picknicks."

MINDFUL
"Wij hebben geen passies en zijn daar heel gelukkig mee!"

GREEN
"Klein is fijn en genoeg is goed genoeg."

SOCIAL
"We hebben hele aardige buren die altijd hulp bieden als het nodig is. "Omdat de ruimte zo klein is kun je kletsen terwijl de een aan het koken is."

FUNCTIONAL
"Een klein huis is snel vies maar ook snel opgeruimd en schoon. Je bent zo klaar met vegen!"

DIY
"Uniek aan ons huisje is onze heerlijke grote slaaploft waarin je kunt staan, de boerderijdeur en de kleurtjes. Wij zijn kleurrijk en ons huis ook. Wij en ons huis zijn uniek, geen 13 in een dozijn."

Pictures by: Bluemonque
Doris (20):
Student Industrieel Ontwerpen, grafisch ontwerp
Woont in een klein zeilbootje

**MINDFUL**
“Ik vind het heel fijn om wakker te worden in een schommelende boot. Met de zon door het raampje en wieg ik een beetje heen en weer. Dat alles zo knus is ingedeeld, het warme licht en heel veel kleine kerstlichtjes maken het ook heel gezellig. Het is echt een nestje geworden.”

**GREEN**
“Met mijn bootje ga ik terug naar de natuur en het uiterste vakantiegevoel. Ben nu bezig het vochtgehalte omlaag te brengen door planten, zodat het iets gezonder wordt om in te leven.”

**FUNCTIONAL**
“Ik heb geen tv maar mis het ook niet. Laptop/ipad werkt ook goed voor films.”

**DIY**
“Het meest trots ben ik op mijn deuren, omdat ik die echt zelf ontworpen en gemaakt heb.”

**EXPLORING**
“Binnenkort ga ik verhuizen naar Rotterdam en vlieg dan gewoon met m’n bootje weg, zonder in te pakken of alles op te ruimen. Heel makkelijk om zo de wereld te verkennen.”

**SOCIAL**
“Ik voel me het meest thuis als vrienden op bezoek zijn en we een beetje kletsen of gewoon met eigen dingen bezig zijn.” “Ik zorg dat mijn tent open staat en nodig iedereen uit die langsloopt.”
Wendy (39):
Accountmanager Cultuur bij buitenreclame bedrijf

Timothy (40)
Industrieel Product ontwerper, Binnenkort Productieleider bij Wikkelhouse

**GREEN**
“Door duurzaamheid zijn we hier niet mee gestart maar dat is gaandeweg wel belangrijker geworden.”

**DIY**
“We waren de eerste in Nederland met een stalen frame, ook een van de eersten met een slaapkamer beneden. Het hoge afwerkingsniveau zie je niet veel en we hebben een echt lichtplan! Tim is lichtontwerper geweest dus dat mocht niet ontbreken!”

**SOCIAL**
“Je kunt je verjaardag niet makkelijk thuis vieren maar dat doe je dan in de kroeg of in de zomer buiten! We zijn met oud en nieuw trouwens wel bij ons thuis beland :) ”

**MINDFUL**

**GREEN**
“Door duurzaamheid zijn we hier niet mee gestart maar dat is gaandeweg wel belangrijker geworden.”

**DIY**
“We waren de eerste in Nederland met een stalen frame, ook een van de eersten met een slaapkamer beneden. Het hoge afwerkingsniveau zie je niet veel en we hebben een echt lichtplan! Tim is lichtontwerper geweest dus dat mocht niet ontbreken!”

**SOCIAL**
“Je kunt je verjaardag niet makkelijk thuis vieren maar dat doe je dan in de kroeg of in de zomer buiten! We zijn met oud en nieuw trouwens wel bij ons thuis beland :) ”

**EXPLORING**
“We zijn flexibel, sportief, reislustig, in voor uitdagingen en open minded”

**FUNCTIONAL**
“Je kunt je verjaardag niet makkelijk thuis vieren maar dat doe je dan in de kroeg of in de zomer buiten!”
Linde (30):
Sport & Bewegen, ALO, Docent lichamelijke opvoeding
Kjeld (30)
Opleiding Film & Fotografie, opleiding docent levensbeschouwing, nu vrijwilliger bij Roggebotstaete
Wonen op Landgoed op basis van ruilhandel

MINDFUL
"Het grootste voordeel is de plek, heerlijk in de natuur! Je leert zoveel van de natuur. Gebruik van natuurlijke materialen, keuzes gemaakt die bij ons pasten."

EXPLORING
"In het weekend gaan we lekker in de kas (warm) aan het werk. Dieren voeren, rammen, koeien, wolvarkens die op het landgoed staan. We hebben een tijd in Australië gewoond en gewerkt en hiermee gespaard voor de bouw van hun Tiny House."

DIY
"Wij hebben een veranda met zelfgemaakte stoelen, bankjes en vangen hiermee dubbel zoveel water op. Dat maakt ons huisje wel uniek."

FUNCTIONAL
"We hebben een relatief ‘grote’ tafel in ons huisje. Dat vonden we belangrijk."

GREEN
"Door de veranda vangen we dus met een dubbel oppervlaktewater op in de watertanks."

SOCIAL
"Het belangrijkste aan je leefomgeving is met wie je het deelt en samenwerken. We wonen op basis van ruilhandel. Dat betekent dat we veel doen voor het landgoed waar we wonen."
Jente (30):
Rechten, Bedrijfskunde (richting duurzaamheid), sociaal ondernemer, Kromkommer
Woont in TH community Proeftuin

DIY
"Ik ben trots dat ik het helemaal zelf gemaakt heb. Ik dacht dat ik niet persé goed zou zijn in ontwerp enzo maar ik ben super blij met de indeling en de ramen."

MINDFUL
"1 dag per week ben ik bezig met het opstarten van een mindfulness/yoga/retreats bedrijf."

GREEN
"Duurzaamheid vind ik een van de grootste voordelen van het wonen in een Tiny House."

FUNCTIONAL
"Hiervoor paste ik op huizen en woonde ik antikraak en verhuisde ik om de haverklap. Nu heb ik eindelijk mijn eigen plekje."

SOCIAL
"De hoofdreden was voor mij het leven in een community. De vorm van een Tiny House was minder belangrijk."

EXPLORING
"Ik hou van dingen doen die een klein beetje onmogelijk zijn."
Jan-Willem (33):
Architect, Tiny House Academy, Pseudos Architecture, Woonpioniers Woont samen met Noortje in Rotterdam Heijplaat

**SOCIAL**
"Wel fijn om bij andere conceptuele huizen te staan. We hebben leuk contact met de buren die graag helpen. Vrienden en familie leven erg met ons mee. het is fijn om ze zo trots te zien en overal voor klaar willen staan."

**DIY**
"Ik wilde uniek wonen. eigenlijk had ik een oude fabriek voor ogen. Maar wilde als architect mijn eigen huis bouwen."

**MINDFUL**
"Ik voel me het meest thuis op het moment dat ik buiten kan zitten voor het huisje met een lekker speciaalbiertje."

**FUNCTIONAL**
"Het is fijn om voor alles in huis maar een paar stappen te doen. Aan tafel kun je bij de koelkast, bestek of kruiden zonder op te staan."

**GREEN**
"Duurzaamheid en het streven naar een circulaire mindset vind ik een van de belangrijkste onderdelen van het wonen in een Tiny House."

**EXPLORING**
"Het grootste voordeel is het hypotheekloos wonen. We wilden geen huis op basis van een enorme schuld. Nu hebben we vrijwel geen maandlasten."

"Ik wilde uniek wonen. eigenlijk had ik een oude fabriek voor ogen. Maar wilde als architect mijn eigen huis bouwen."
Woont samen met Jan-Willem in Rotterdam Heijplaat

**SOCIAL**
“Een leuke groep mensen heb ik leren kennen, door in de TH movement mee te gaan.”

**FUNCTIONAL**
“Functionaliteit en comfort sluiten elkaar niet uit, ze versterken elkaar.”

**DIY**
“Als je klein woont, moet je ervoor zorgen dat het huis aansluit bij je levensritme. Daarom ben ik voorstander van zelf ontwerpen en bouwen.”

**EXPLORING**
“De nummer 1 reden voor de overstap naar een Tiny House is de onafhankelijkheid, zelfstandigheid en het hypotheekloos door het leven gaan. Leningen zijn de meest stomme en kutte ter wereld. Waarom zou je geld uitgeven dat je niet hebt.”

**GREEN**
“Belangrijk aan mijn leefomgeving vind ik duurzaamheid, in alle vormen: ecologisch, economisch en sociaal.”

**MINDFUL**
“Ik vind het zo leuk om met de seizoenen te leven. Nu alle koude natte maanden gehad, ben ik nog nooit zo blij geweest met de eerste knopjes aan de boompjes,”
Jeroen (25): Master Interieurarchitectuur. Interieurarchitect, architectuurgids in Rotterdam Woont samen met Tessa in Rotterdam Heijplaat

**MINDFUL**
"Het fijnste plekje is ‘s ochtends in bed met de zon die door het raam op de koperen lamp schijnt en nog even niets hoeven, want in bed is het het fijnst."

**GREEN**
"Uniek aan ons huis is dat het 100% elektrisch is, geen co2, 100% off grid, op 12 m², zeewaardig (zeecontainer)"

**EXPLORING**
"Ik ben verrast dat ik nog nooit meer ruimte heb gewenst. Het heeft nog nooit te klein gevoeld"

**SOCIAL**

**FUNCTIONAL**
"Ik voel me het meest thuis als ik sta te koken. In de keuken werkt alles en is alles wat ik nodig heb op de goede plek."

**DIY**
"De grootste reden voor de overstap naar een Tiny House is de uitdaging van het ontwerpen en bouwen en het avontuur van het onzekere."
Tessa (32): Bedrijfsleider en teamcoach in een restaurant. Woont samen met Jeroen in Rotterdam Heijplaat.

DIY
“Het fijnste plekje is de douche, heerlijk, hier merk ik zo goed dat alles klopt, super nice gepapiermacheed met glasvezel.”

MINDFUL
“Het precies is zoals ik het wil, ik verdien geld met werk dat ik graag wil doen, ik heb de vrijheid en de ruimte om altijd keuzes te kunnen maken.”

GREEN
“Bijzonder aan ons huisje is het niet hebben van een kacheltje op hout omdat bomen verbranden niet duurzaam is. Al onze energie is zelf opgewekt en elektrisch.”

SOCIAL

EXPLORING
“Het allerbelangrijkste onderdeel van het wonen in een Tiny House is voor mij het onafhankelijk zijn.”

FUNCTIONAL
“Na 17 verhuizingen wilde ik nu een huis om mee te nemen.”
Appendix 4. Final design

4.1 You-sheet
HIER STA IK VOOR
MINDER BELANGRIJK

DIT PAST BIJ MIJ
MINDER BELANGRIJK

TOTAAL NIET MEE EENS

MIJN FAVORIET

SPIRITUEEL
CLOWN VRIEND
NERD BRANDWEERMAN
ONTWERPER TOVENAAR
REGisseur (MILIEU) ACTIVIST
ZIEL INTELLECTUEEL RECHTER
BOSWACHTER SPIRITUEEL
TOMBOY WETENSCHAPPER
WINTER HIPPIE CONTROL FREAK
VOORUIT ADVOCaat NAVIGAteUR
TRENDS maker (VRIJHEIDS)STRIJDER
BOSWACHTER FEESTBEEST
MAKER TRENDSETTER
GENTLEMAN OntDEKKER
VADER
Ik vind het leuk om met voorbijgangers spontaan over mijn huisje te praten. Er is vaak een hele open sfeer en iedereen is enthousiast. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. Het grootste voordeel van zelf bouwen is dat je zelf de expert bent. Als ik iets wil verbeteren dan kan dat gewoon. we zijn ook flexibeler en creatiever geworden met alles wat we doen. Een van de belangrijkste dingen aan mijn huisje vind ik de duurzaamheid in alle vormen: ecologisch, economisch en sociaal. Ik voel me het meest thuis op het moment dat ik de kachel aan stek of er weer een blok op gooi. Het belangrijkste aan ons huisje is de flexibiliteit en onafhankelijkheid. Home is wherever you park it! We zijn super trots op het hoge afwerkniveau van ons huisje. We hebben veel aandacht aan details geschonken en er is bijna geen hout meer te zien omdat we dat afgewerkt hebben met behang of verf. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden. We zijn hier niet meegestart vanuit duurzaamheidsredenen maar dat is gaandeweg wel steeds belangrijker geworden.
Het meest trots ben ik op het feit dat ik alles zelf bedacht en gemaakt heb en dat het ook echt werkt zoals ik had bedacht.

Mensen komen regelmatig aanwaaien. Gelukkig vinden we het altijd leuk om mensen rond te leiden. We hebben zelfs een aparte open dag georganiseerd voor de buurt.

Wonen in mijn Tiny House maakt het mogelijk om meer tijd en geld te besteden aan dingen die ik het liefste doe en mezelf te ontwikkelen.

We hebben een gaskachel omdat het minder werk is en minder stinkt dan een houtkachel.

Een klein huis is snel vies maar ook snel opgeruimd en schoon. Je bent zo klaar met vegen!

Er is niks beters dan een warme deken, een goed boek, een hard matras en een comfortabele rugleuning. Hier voel ik me veilig.

Het grootste voordeel van een eigen Tiny House is het vrije en aanpasbare: dat ik precies heb wat ik nodig heb en alles zelf kan beslissen.

Het meest fijn vindt ik dat andere mensen ondertussen ook een eigen huis hebben. Een beetje als de buren die we helemaal niet kenden. Fijn om te zien hoe buren zijn de buren van de buren.

Wij hebben geen kacheltje op hout omdat bomen verbranden niet duurzaam is. Al onze energie is zelf opgewekt en elektrisch.

Ik voel me het meest thuis als ik ’s avonds in bed nog wat lees bij kaarslicht. Met buiten de wind die door de bomen waait en de regen die op het dak tikt.

Er is niks beters dan een warme deken, een goed boek, een hard matras en een comfortabele rugleuning. Hier voel ik me veilig.

Mijn favoriete onderdeel van mijn huisje is de voetpomp om water naar de kraan te pompen. Hij is heel simpel en functioneel en doet me denken aan de caravan waar ik als kind mee op vakantie ging.

Ik vind het heel fijn als ik me af en toe kan terugtrekken in mijn eigen hoekje.

Onze voornaamste reden om te kiezen voor een Tiny house was de uitdaging van het ontwerpen en bouwen en het avontuur van het onzekere.

Een klein huis is snel vies maar ook snel opgeruimd en schoon. Je bent zo klaar met vegen!

De belangrijkste eis was dat we uniek wilde wonen, eigenlijk had ik een oude fabriek voor ogen, maar wilde als architect mijn eigen huis bouwen. Toen kwamen we uit op een Tiny House.

Voordat we gingen bouwen hebben we een tijd in Australië gewoond en gewerkt en geld gespaard voor ons huisje. Leven uit een rugzak waren we al gewend dus een Tiny House was luxe.

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Het grootste voordeel van een eigen Tiny House is het vrije en aanpasbare: dat ik precies heb wat ik nodig heb en alles zelf kan beslissen.
Het mooie van wonen in een TH community is het groepsproces. Je kunt zo veel van elkaar leren en uitwisselen, samen lachen, huilen en samenwerken.

Na 17 verhuizingen wilde ik nu een echt eigen huis om mee te nemen. Ik keek uit naar het hebben van vrijheid en kennis over je eigen huis.

We hebben nog geen nadelen ontdekt. Overal is een oplossing voor. Je kunt je verjaardag niet makkelijk thuis vieren maar dat doe je dan in de kroeg of in de zomer buiten!

Ik ben verrast door het effect van alternatief wonen op het denken van andere mensen. Ik krijg werkelijk het gevoel dat we mensen inspireren tot betere keuzes.

Het liefst breng ik mijn vrije dag daar in de tuin, met m’n handen in de klei! Bloementjes planten, snoeien, zaaaien oogsten!

We zijn super trots dat we het voor elkaar hebben gekregen zelf een huis te bouwen dat voor ons een hele goede shelter is.

We besparen ruimte door de badkamerdoorgang dubbel te benutten met een opklapblad. Zo kunnen we het keukenblad verlengen als dat nodig is.

Ik keek het meest uit naar het wonen in een gemeenschap met leuke mensen.

Het grootste voordeel is dat je het “echte” simpele leven kunt proeven en leert over menselijke basisbehoeften. Je merkt dat je echt voor jezelf kan zorgen.

Het meest trots ben ik op de energiezuinigheid van mijn huisje. Met 10 cm isolatie, ramen met HR++ glas en warmte terugwinning maak ik optimaal gebruik van mijn energie.

Het belangrijkste aan ons huisje was dat we met veel comfort in de kleine ruimte kunnen leven zonder iets in/uit te hoeven klappen.

Het liefst start ik de dag met een fijne diepe meditatie voor de houtkachel terwijl het vuur mijn lichaam opwarmt. Hier voel ik het echte leven.

We besparen ruimte door de badkamerdoorgang dubbel te benutten met een opklapblad. Zo kunnen we het keukenblad verlengen als dat nodig is.

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Op een vrije dag ga ik graag met de elektrische auto naar de voedselcooperatief om biologische groenten voor de community te kopen.

Ik voel dat ik meest thuis bij vrienden zijn, dan is het compleet echt een vakantie sfeer.

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Ik vind het leuk om zelf met de seizoenen te leven. Als alle koude, donkere, natte maanden geweest zijn, ben je zo blij geweest met de eerste knopjes aan je boompjes.

Het meest trots ben ik op de energiezuinigheid van mijn huisje. Met 10 cm isolatie, ramen met HR++ glas en warmte terugwinning maak ik optimaal gebruik van mijn energie.

Ik vond het erg belangrijk dat alle materialen die ik gebruik voor mijn huisje milieuvriendelijk of tweedehands waren en lang mee gaan.

Onze creativiteit en eigenzinnigheid komen eraan boven in het ontwerp. Zo reflecteert ons huisje onze persoonlijkheid en identiteit.

Uniek aan ons huisje is dat het een van de kleinere Tiny Houses is. We wonen met z’n 2en in een zeecontainer van 12 m². Alles werkt en past precies. En er zijn eigenlijk helemaal geen consessies gedaan.

Het liefst start ik de dag met een fijne diepe meditatie voor de houtkachel terwijl het vuur mijn lichaam opwarmt. Hier voel ik het echte leven.
Wanneer je zo klein woont, moet je zorgen dat je huis aansluit bij je levensritme. Daarom is zelf ontwerpen en bouwen voor ons zo belangrijk. Je voelt je extra verbonden met je huisje.

Duurzaamheid en zelf eten laten groeien zijn echt passies van me geworden. Onze loft is omgetoverd tot greenhouse om hier zaadjes te planten.

Elke dag is een vrije dag. Ik heb elke dag de keuze om te doen wat mij en mijn medemensen blij maakt.

Uniek aan ons huisje is het uitklapbare dak, zo kunnen we boven staan en hebben we extra leefruimte gecreeerd. Waarom ontwerpen voor de <1% van de tijd dat je ermee op deweg bent?

Een omgeving met andere Tiny Houses is heel inspirerend, productief en gezellig. De community is super belangrijk voor je woonbeleving.

Ik hou niet van op een plek blijven voor langere tijd en ons huis heeft de mogelijkheid ons te volgen.

De belangrijkste reden voor een Tiny House was voor mij de community. De vorm van een Tiny House was minder belangrijk.

Het belangrijkste voor ons was het zelf ontwerpen en bouwen. Het is een hele fijne ruimte, het past als een oude jas en je kent letterlijk elke centimeter.

Ik keek uit naar het doorgeven van kennis en plezier. Ik denk dat heel veel mensen op deze manier gelukkig kunnen worden.
4.3 Value cards

**AVONTUURLIJK**

Het flexibele en onafhankelijke aspect van het wonen in een Tiny House is voor veel mensen een enorm belangrijk onderdeel. De vrijheid en mogelijkheid om je huis met je mee te nemen om ergens anders een nieuw avontuur te starten is vaak een van de hoofdredenen voor de overstap naar een Tiny House en van grote invloed op de voorkeurberekening.

Omdat je niet vast zit aan een dorp of stad of een vast adres in een vast huis, is het voor veel mensen die bij een Tiny House wonen een onmisbare ervaring. Je bent vrij om je te verplaatsen op basis van je eisen, je helpers en je wens. De verplaatsbaarheid van een Tiny House is ook een van de hoofdredenen voor de overstap naar een Tiny House voor meer mensen.

Daarnaast is het voor sommige locaties vanzelfsprekend om een actieve rol te spelen in de lokale samenleving en samenwerking. Deze ervaring kan een van de grootste verschillen met een “normaal” huis zijn. Binnen deze “gemeenschap” kun je elkaar van voordeel kunnen zijn en van deelnemen aan samenwerkingen en voorbereidingen.

**DUURZAAM**

Voor sommige mensen is de duurzame kant de belangrijkste reden voor de overstap naar een Tiny House. Het wonen in een Tiny House is de ultieme manier van duurzaam leven. Door je eigen groene energie op te wekken, je eigen voedsel te kweken en het verminderen of hergebruiken van afval en afvalwater, blijf je focus op het zo klein mogelijk maken van je ecologische voetafdruk. Hierbij is het hebben van een composttoilet en het hergebruiken van je eigen compost een van de grootste verschillen met een “normaal” huis. Deze duurzame levensstijl verlaat zich vaak verder in voeding: het eten van lokale producenten, vegetarisch of veganistisch. Transport, het niet bezitten of dragen van een auto, het gebruik van een volledig off-grid toestel of het gebruik van een Tiny House om op te reizen.

Voor deze mensen gaat wonen in een Tiny House hand in hand met zo duurzaam mogelijk leven en iets teruggeven aan de natuur. Kreuze die hierdoor worden beïnvloed zijn bijvoorbeeld, het niet of niet gebruik van een houdukstel of het soort isolatiemateriaal dat je gebruikt. De mate waarin duurzaamheid een rol speelt in jouw leven kan van veel elders afhankelijk zijn. Hierbij is het hebben van een off-grid zijn tot voorbij het minder consumeren dat bij een Tiny levensstijl past.

**SOCIAAL**

Voor veel mensen is het wonen in een Tiny House een onderdeel van een community of dorp dat een heel belangrijk onderdeel van de Tiny House voorbeleven. Het samenmaken en leven met gelijkgestemden om een unieke leefomgeving te creëren kan veel bijdragen aan de sociale band en kansen voor diegenen die dit typische leven willen beleven. Daarnaast is het voor sommige locaties vanzelfsprekend om een actieve rol te spelen in de samenleving en samenwerking. Deze ervaring kan een van de grootste verschillen met een “normaal” huis zijn. Binnen deze “gemeenschap” kun je elkaar van voordeel kunnen zijn en van deelnemen aan samenwerkingen en voorbereidingen.

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Vind je het belangrijk dat dingen in je huisje waarde aan hebben, overal makkelijk bij en minder vloer om te vegen, geen dingen meer kwijt zijn en minder afwas. Je kunt een Tiny House bouwen of custom op maat worden gemaakt, geeft dit een heel andere woonbeleving dan bij een “normaal” huis. Voor sommige mensen is het zelf ontwerpen en bouwen de belangrijkste factor in de beslissing om voor een Tiny House over te stappen naar een Tiny House. In welke mate dit een rol speelt voor jouw Tiny House beleving kun je zelf uitzoeken en maken.

Het gebruik van je creativiteit en de uitdaging om dit nieuwe bouwavontuur aan te gaan is hier de belangrijkste beweegreden. Het leren van nieuwe skills en het creëren van iets speciaal en persoonlijks is hierbij van hoge waarde. Je weet precies hoe alles werkt en hebt het vermogen om onderdelen zelf te repareren. Al het onderzoek dat voorafgaat aan het proces draagt bij aan de ervaring en het feit dat je elke cm² op jezelf komen en bewuster bezig zijn met jezelf en het feit dat je elke cm² waarde aan hecht. Je weet precies hoe alles werkt en heb het vermogen om onderdelen zelf repareren. Het meer tot jezelf komen en bewuster bezig zijn met jezelf en het feit dat je elke cm² waarde aan hecht kan functioneren of om

De eenvoud van het leven in een Tiny House en op sommige momenten een stapje terug doen naar de basis kan een bijdrage bieden aan jouw woonbeleving. Het meer tot jezelf komen en bewuster bezig zijn met jezelf en het feit dat je elke cm² waarde aan hecht, is in je huis of je omgeving de meest dichtbij jezelf komt. Voor de een voor een kant en klaar huisje kiest of samen met een bouwer of ontwerper een Tiny House is niet alles altijd maar vanzelfsprekend en hecht je meer waarde aan. De overstap naar een Tiny House kan zorgen voor een veel handiger leven. De overzichtelijke mogelijkheden en het feit dat je elke cm² waarde aan hecht, kan de woonbeleving van iedereen heel belangrijk zijn. Wat de ene persoon als praktisch en functioneel ervaren ziet, is voor anderen heel belangrijk is dat het de sfeer heeft van een “echt” huis waar alles een vaste functie en plek heeft. Welke waarde functionaliteit heeft in je huisje is voor iedereen (aankomende) Tiny House bewoner anders.
4.4 Moodboard pictures
1. Hoe mobiel wil je dat je tiny house is?

2. Hoe persoonlijk wil je dat je tiny house is?

3. Hoe onafhankelijk wil je dat je tiny house is?

4. In welke omgeving zie je je tiny house voor je?

5. In welke context zie je je tiny house voor je?

6. Hoe duurzaam wil je dat je tiny house is?

7-8. Hoe functioneel wil je dat je tiny house is?

9-10. In welke mate speelt privacy een rol in je tiny house?

11. In welke mate wil je individuele of gedeelde faciliteiten in je tiny house?

12-13-14. Hoe open wil je dat je tiny house voelt?
1. Hoe mobiel wil je dat je tiny house is?

2. Hoe persoonlijk wil je dat je tiny house is?

3. Hoe onafhankelijk wil je dat je tiny house is?

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Tiny Roots
by Anne van Essen