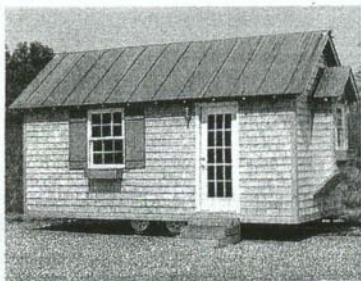


H A V E N S

ON THE MARKET



MANUFACTURER Tiny House Company

WHAT 1-room prefabricated house

HOW MUCH \$24,995, land not included

Ideal for a writer or painter, this 220-square-foot cedar-shingled house can be transported to almost any lot. It has a raised-seam copper roof, red oak floor, an efficiency kitchen, a bathroom, a low-ceilinged loft, knotty pine walls and double-glazed windows. It is fully insulated and fully wired; it has a water heater and plumbing. There is no heating system. Delivery and set up are not included in the price. Contact: Patricia Foreman, the Tiny House Company, Buena Vista, Va.; (540) 261-8775; www.tinyhomes.com.

LIVING HERE

Houses for Artists: Separate Spaces for Creativity

WHO Rachel Polens, 42, sculptor

WHAT One-room cabin

WHERE East Meredith, N.Y.

Back in 1991, I decided I wanted a getaway, and I wanted to build it myself. Quickly, though, I came to my senses and hired someone competent.

The cabin is 16 feet square and has floor-to-ceiling windows with gorgeous views. From one side you look out at pastures and the mountains. From the deck, you see a stream with a footbridge. There's no road access, though, so to get here, I walk. All necessities — drinking water, organic coffee and art supplies — are carried in on foot. That walk — it's less than 10 minutes — has become one of my favorite rituals.

I make kinetic sculptures — mobiles. Designing a piece, then manipulating its elements until the movements are fluid and pleasing takes time, patience and concentration. The seclusion of the cabin makes this possible. I work here for about six months and spend the other six at my house, which is nearby.

I started making mobiles when I was about 12. In fact, my parents offered up an area of the basement for just this. I'd spend many a happy hour down there twisting wire with my favorite pliers. Even then, I needed to work alone.

I'm about to close up the cabin for the season. It's getting too cold to work. But during the warmer months, my mornings begin sleepily. I make my way down from the sleeping loft to savor a cup of coffee, then work for most of the day. At sunset, the orange and yellow begin reflecting in the mobiles' wire and metal pieces. The entire room fills with these slow-moving glints of color. On evenings like that, I think: This is exactly how I want my life to look.

As told to Bethany Lyttle

