

Real Estate

Home | Buy & Sell | Rent | Move | Loans & Finance | Home & Garden | Design Center | Tools | **Blog** | Video

Search Real Estate

Site Search

POPULAR SEARCHES: foreclosure aid falling home prices housing market fix best places to retire

# LISTED A blog by MSN Real Estate

## Vintage trailer becomes sleek 158-square-foot home

California architect remodels 1978 Airstream into live-work space with the environment in mind.

Posted by [Teresa at MSN Real Estate](#) on Friday, March 18, 2011 12:29 PM

We write often about the joys – and the challenges – people find living in small spaces.

But 158 square feet is really small, especially when it includes the office.

- [How to call the broom closet home](#)

California [architect Matthew Hofmann](#) is living and working in a vintage 25-foot Airstream trailer he redesigned and remodeled, with an emphasis on sustainable materials.



"I'm at a point in my life where I'm trying to live with less," [Hofmann told Kent Griswold of the Tiny House Blog](#).

He [detailed the eight-month renovation of the 1978 Airstream for the Los Angeles Times](#).

Hofmann replaced the dining-table top with bamboo. The dining area also doubles as office space, guest quarters and a "media lounge," where he watches movies on a 27-inch iMac computer, a considerable downsizing from his previous entertainment system. His printer is in a drawer under the seat.

The couch becomes a bed large enough for his 6-foot-4 frame. The bathroom has a 14-inch vessel sink and a shower covered in tiny tiles, with a custom redwood shower pan.

Hofmann told the Tiny House Blog:

Two years ago I moved from a large house. Moving has a way of making you consider the value of possessions. I wondered, while looking at the massive truckload of things, how would I feel if this truck ran off a cliff and all was lost? My stuff was beginning to feel like a burden, like luggage. Things that I needed to take around with me wherever I went; a truckload-sized ball and chain.

He shared 12 reasons why he likes living in a small space, including less maintenance, less clutter and simplified entertainment technology.

- [The 400-square-foot dream home](#)

Renovating vintage Airstream trailers is a popular pastime. We wrote previously about a [California landscape architect who lives in a 1959 Airstream](#) in addition to having an office on wheels. In Austin, Texas, you can [rent a renovated Airstream for a night](#).

Sierra Airstreams has an entire [gallery of remodeling projects](#), and Airstream owners trade advice on the [Airstream Knowledge Sharing Forums](#).

- [A poet of loss shares lessons from losing her home, twice](#)

Hofmann's home may be small but his view is large: His Airstream is parked on an oceanfront property in [Montecito, Calif.](#), which had been the site of a home that was destroyed by fire.

"Some friends and family don't understand why I've chosen this lifestyle, while others say I'm living their dream," he told the Times. "Life-changing events, such as a fire, remind people that they can do with much less and be content."

Tags: [remodeling](#) [small spaces](#)

### About Teresa Mears



Teresa Mears is a veteran journalist who has been interested in houses since her father took her to tax auctions to carry the cash at age 10. A former editor of The Miami Herald's Home & Design section, she lives in South Florida where, in addition to writing about real estate, she publishes [Mami on the Cheap](#) to help her neighbors adjust to the loss of 60% of their property value.

### msn real estate is social

- Follow us on Twitter
- Become a fan on Facebook

### FIND YOUR DREAM HOME OR APARTMENT

- Existing Homes from REALTOR.com®
- New Homes from Mvbe.com
- Foreclosures from foreclosure.com
- Rentals from Mvbe.com

Enter ZIP or Enter City  
State

Senior Living [SEARCH LISTINGS](#)

advertisement



Give us 15 seconds... We'll show you a way to work, right in your inbox.

[See how](#) 

### WHAT'S YOUR HOME WORTH?

Enter address, city, state or ZIP [SEARCH](#)

### HOME IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS

Find local plumbers, electricians, contractors and more.

Select a category Enter ZIP [GO](#)