

Container Home Living March 2024

The Container Project



Our Progress Report!

Since the last e-news, much has happened in my backyard with the fabulous container office. We have had many visitors who have come to experience a container home. Their faces of amazement are so thrilling as each person walks up and into the door. It turns out very few people have ever had an opportunity to see a livable shipping container, and all seem to be pleasantly surprised by its comfort and substance. Here is a night photo of it! Be sure to check our website for additional photos and previous e-newsletters.

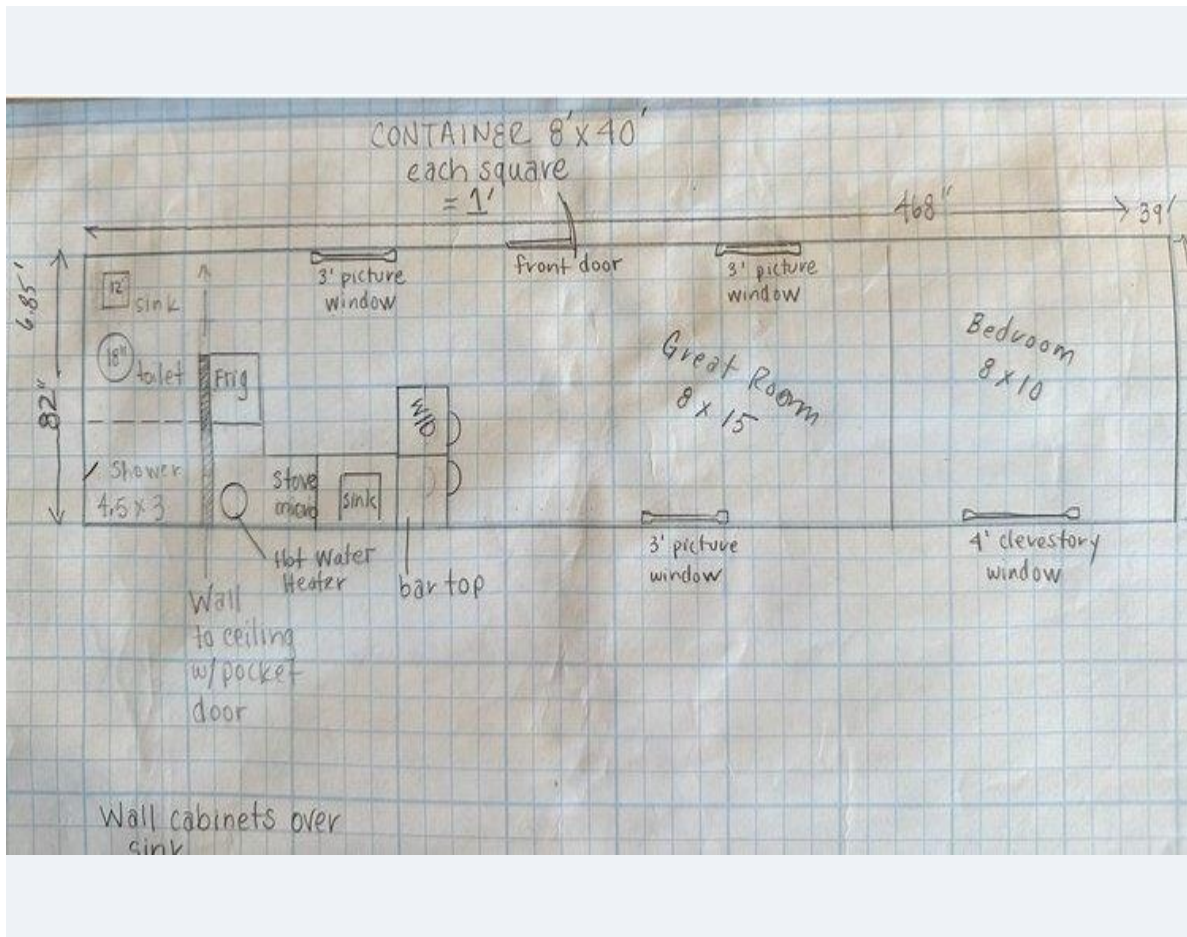


From Hand Drawing to the True Design.

I've learned that the container is actually narrower than I expected. Taking account for the walls, insulation, and drywall, the interior width is just over 7 feet. It's a long (39 feet) and narrow space, so selection of furniture must be a thoughtful process. The high ceiling (9.5') is luxurious, unlike a more traditional 8' ceiling, making the

space very comfortable. My initial draft for the 8' x 40' x 9.5' one bedroom one bath (1BR1BA) home looked a little different when we moved from my hand drawing to the computer generated one. See both below:

How About a Kitchen?



With intention, the office we built in our backyard is a “Proof of Concept” and has been toured by many inquisitive people to see how it feels. Since I didn’t need a bathroom nor a kitchen in my office, I’ve actually taped out these rooms on the floor so people can walk in and out of their profiles with a realistic frame of reference. As “downsizing” and “living smaller” have become quite trendy, there is a gratifying variety of appliances and cabinetry that satisfy the smaller footprint of the shipping container home. Below you can see the kitchen design (compliments of IKEA Kitchen and Bath Design-KC) which features a refrigerator, range, and microwave. We also tucked an integrated washer/dryer unit under the countertop. Please note lots of cabinet space and the clever corner cabinet that houses the water heater! Opposite the range you can see a small table that hinges down on the wall, which pulls up to seat two comfortably. This kitchen is exactly like my galley kitchen in the NYC apartment where I lived in 2000-2002. Very cozy and comfortable!



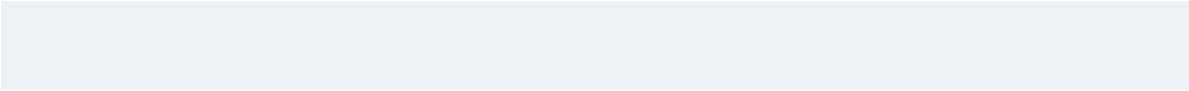
Yes, the Bathroom is Terrific too!

The kitchen and bathroom share a common wall, outfitted with a pocket door. Just step in to the vanity with a mirrored medicine cabinet, next to a toilet, next to a shower. You can see this set up in the design below (compliments of IKEA Kitchen and Kitchen and Bath Design-KC). Adding shelves and cabinets as desired will depend upon personal preferences. With the high ceilings, adding shelves up, down, and all around is not a problem!



And What About the Rest of the Place?

After placing the bathroom and kitchen on one third of the container, the remainder is left for furnishings. We recommend a TV mounted on the wall that can swivel toward the bedroom or living room. We recommend bunks or a full-sized bed for optimal comfort. LED lights in the ceiling, a ceiling fan, and perhaps a curtain or wall to separate these two rooms...all of which is optional. We envision one main door, two residential sized windows that offer fresh air, and a couple of clerestory windows set high on the back wall to stream an abundance of natural light. Closets, shelves, and additional storage can be tucked in different places depending upon the amount and size of furniture selected. The entire home is heated and cooled with an electric mini-split attached high on one wall, with its condenser placed outside. Snap! Done!





Who Else Wants to Visit?

My pal, Jim Russell of [@containermasters](#), is a container home builder in Colorado. He and his son, Parker, dropped

by on a chilly day in December to take a look at my backyard office. They liked it so much Jim interviewed me for a 2024 segment on his Amazon Prime show called "Container Masters." This is really great news, as he has tens of thousands of followers who watch him and his team repurpose shipping containers into beautiful homes and unique living spaces.



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