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Big Ideas

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+ SIZES

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INSPIRED BY TINY house blogs, Ethan Waldman of Morristown, Vermont, built himself a movable home using quality materials such as local cedar for the exterior siding. The untreated trim will age to a silvery gray.

He's Big on Small

Ethan Waldman proves that a tiny house is full of huge possibilities

WRITTEN BY NANCY HUMPHREY CASE • PHOTOGRAPHED BY SUSAN TEARE

Two years ago, 27-year-old Ethan Waldman came home after a bike trip on the West Coast and took a fresh look at the next chapter of his life in Vermont. After living in a tent for a month, he questioned whether he really needed all the stuff he'd accumulated. He liked the idea of having a place of his own, but it no longer seemed necessary for it to be a large space. And he definitely did not want to go deep into debt to get it. So he joined what has come to be known as the "tiny house" movement and built a 232-square-foot house on wheels. Parked for now



beside a large pond in Morristown, Vermont, just north of Stowe, on land owned by a relative, the petite gem of a house is proving to be a comfortable, just-big-enough home that Waldman shares with his girlfriend, Ann Carpenter. "It's wonderful — very comfortable," Waldman, a technology coach, says. "I've always been a renter, so this feels really great. It's very empowering."

He feels a lot of pride in having built the house himself, along with a contractor friend, Jason Bednarz. Although the project involved a lot of design pioneering and took a lot lon-