This unique, quick-paced seminar focuses on small-scale residential design, from tiny homes to prefab, and movable residences. Students learn methods and materials for the growing Small-Home architecture typology then create an architectural component, multi-tasking furniture element, or other item for enhancing small-scale living.

Architectural precedent topics such as construction systems, green materials, built-in and modular furniture, and energy efficient techno-systems are studied. Field trips to resource yards for recycled, reused, and vintage salvage help students learn new sources for design, invention and construction.

This semester, students will team up with design professionals in a Quick-Fire Fabrication Charrette to combine creativity and resourcefulness in producing a functional art object from salvage. This is the warm-up prelude to the main design-fabrication project.

From design to cleaning and finishing, eco techniques are taught and applied in all phases of the course work. Projects are coordinated to fit within the seminar time-frame.

Design-fabrication projects can include such as:
- Multi-task shelf or desk/table
- Dining utensils, serving dishes
- Eco-finishing material and method
- Mailbox, graphic house numbers, or other outdoor design feature
- Structural connection
- Door lever, pull, hardware
- Movable screen or partition

COURSE SEQUENCE

1. Overview of Small Home Design
Small home precedents and topics of spatial design, construction systems, eco-materials, built-in and modular furniture, efficient techno-systems are researched and presented.

2. Fieldtrips: Salvage, Recycled, and Reused Material Sites
Visits are made to resource yards where recycled, reused, and salvage material can be acquired such as steel cut-offs, recycled wood, and building components and scraps.

3. Design and Fabrication: Quick Fire Charrette & the main Design-Fab Project
In the Quick-Fire Fabrication Charrette, student/professional teams will select from an array of steel, wood, aluminum, and other scraps so that together they’ll brainstorm the design of an inventive, small-scale residential element. Students will then cut, weld, shape, and fabricate the element for presentation to their professional partner.