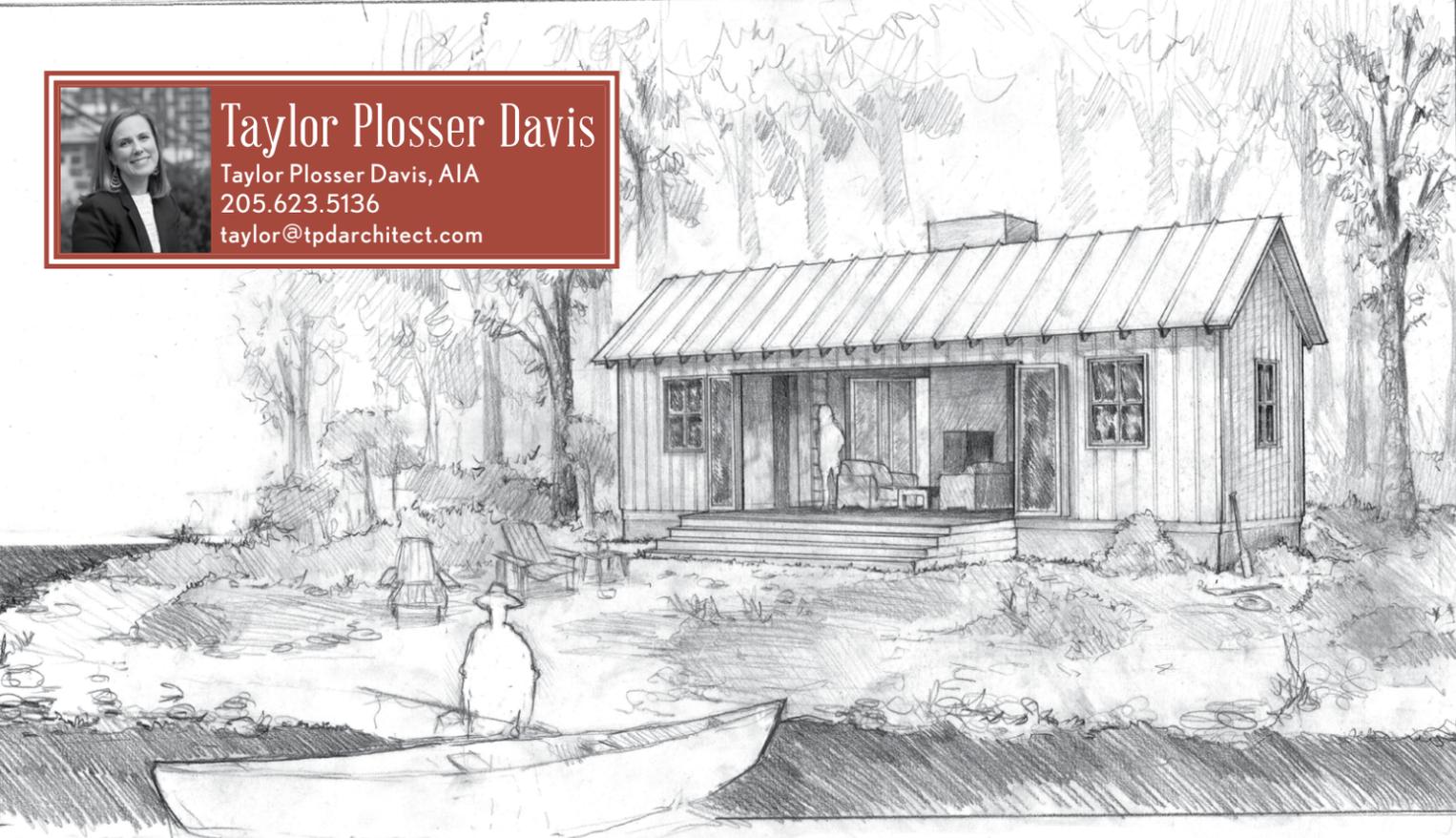
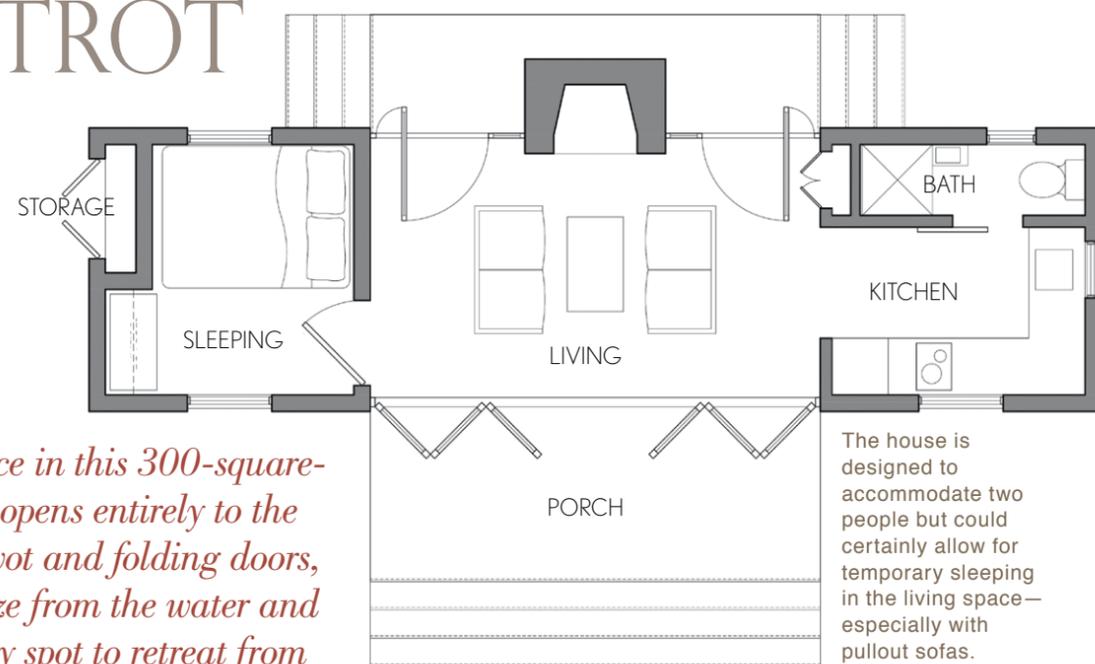




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DOG TROT



“The central space in this 300-square-foot tiny house opens entirely to the outdoors with pivot and folding doors, inviting the breeze from the water and creating a shady spot to retreat from sunny afternoons.” —Taylor Plosser Davis

The dogtrot house, a part of our Alabama architectural vernacular, was an appealing model to use as a tiny house for its formal simplicity. In the main living area, pivot and folding doors open onto a deck, expanding the living area out to a wide front porch. Stairs that run the width of the porch provide casual seating and lead to the yard below. A large fireplace that could be doubled on the back of the house

makes the living space comfortable on cool nights.

Board-and-batten siding and a standing-seam metal roof are evocative of traditional lake cottages. This tiny lake house is designed to accommodate sleeping and living on the same level. Library ladders access storage above the sleeping and kitchen areas, while an outdoor closet provides storage for toys and gear.

big tips for tiny houses

Living small has broad appeal as housing that’s affordable, flexible, sustainable, and (possibly) mobile. Before investing in a tiny house, however, consider these factors:

- Living in close quarters can fray nerves. Before you buy, try small-space living to see how you like it. For example, spend a few days in a compact vacation cabin.
- Tiny houses are full of clever storage solutions—under-bed boxes, high shelves and cabinets, wall compartments—but they still require drastic paring-down. Living with less stuff can be liberating, but you have to be ready and able to declutter.
- Knowing in advance where you plan to put your house can shape its design. A tiny house on a trailer doesn’t have to meet building codes but may be prohibited from some locations as an RV. A tiny house on a permanent foundation offers more design options but may not be allowed as an auxiliary dwelling in an urban backyard. Rural areas are more permissive. Check local building and zoning codes before you commit to a tiny house.
- Outdoor areas are key to making tiny houses feel larger. Terraces, decks, covered porches, dining pavilions, outdoor kitchens, and outdoor showers. All can expand a tiny house’s living space.
- As small-scale versions of regular houses, tiny homes require the same level of workmanship. DIY-ers can save some money, but don’t cut corners on plumbing and wiring. No matter who builds your tiny house, make sure it is able to withstand severe weather and (for trailer-built homes) highway towing. —Jeff Book

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