



Guest Post by Nicole Brooks

Rhino Cubed's shipping container dwellings offer the perfect canvas for those looking for living options that combine sustainability and artistic elements. A Cube can be a cabin, studio, tiny home, granny flat or backyard retreat, the uses are endless. The durable nature of a shipping container makes each Cube wind proof, waterproof, rodent proof and fire-resistant shelter.

A Rhino Cube starts with a re-purposed Corten steel container. Co-founder and chief architect, Sam Austin, transforms the steel bones of each Cube into an artistic abode. Wooden timbers, a cedar trellis, weathered steel and metal add character and unique elements to each Cube. Unlike many tiny homes today, all Rhino Cubes are built to 2012 International Residential Code.

Rhino Cubed offers fully built Cubes that include bathrooms and full kitchens, and also NakedTainers. Rhino Cubed takes care of the tough construction, such as steel window bucks, closed cell foam insulation, walls and flooring in the NakedTainers. This creates an open slate for the owner to finish the cube to their needs.

Cubes range in size from 160 square feet up to 640 square feet, depending on the plan. Each unit can be purchased in an "on-grid" or "off-grid" configuration. For those looking to minimize their environmental footprint on the earth, the off-grid solution comes equipped with solar appliances, a composting toilet, self-contained water tanks and various energy-efficient heating options.

Rhino Cubed's most recent build is affectionately named "Nola," after one of the last five remaining northern white rhinos on the planet. The real Nola, age 41, resides at the San Diego Zoo. Nola the Cube is just as tough and resilient as the live Rhino. She is a 24-foot container with a full size shower and complete kitchen. She boasts closed-cell foam insulation, providing R54 on the roof and R22 on the walls - exceeding the most stringent American requirements for wind, heat and cold.

Rhino Cubed's dwellings offer a more secure and stable tiny home option, as they are not built on wheels. However, they can be transported atop a flatbed trailer, if they need to be moved. Unlike most tiny homes that are built on wheels, Rhino Cubed offers a more stable and secure home option. A Cube can be attached to a foundation but also can be easily detached and transported to a new location if needed. Best of all, there are no building hassles or architectural fees to navigate.

For a video tour of Nola, click [here](#).

Discover the Rhino Cubed difference!
www.rhinocubed.com

Founder Bios

Jan Burton. Jan was an executive in the high tech industry before starting her own consulting practice in Boulder. She has recently been traveling to the National Parks with her 1961 Airstream, “Stella Rose”, and blogging about the experience of camping, hiking, and spending time in nature (www.janandstella.wordpress.com). She is an avid music lover and is actively involved in several non-profit music organizations. She is a pilot and aircraft owner and supports the Kansas State Aviation program through her foundation, the Connor Burton Aviation Foundation.

Sam Austin. Sam holds a Master’s Degree in Architecture from the University of Colorado-Denver and has been practicing architecture since 1992. He specializes in residential design and has completed more than 200 homes in the Boulder area and beyond. For 17 years, he has designed beautiful modern custom homes and is renowned for his use of reclaimed materials. His passion for architecture extends across many disciplines, including fine art, poetry and music, and he has been painting for more than 30 years. Sam is also an avid outdoorsman and loves camping and riding his Surley bike. He became interested in building tiny structures from shipping containers three years ago, and he has designed several plans, constantly thinking about design elements and concepts.

Together. Jan’s love of art and design brought her in closer contact with Sam Austin when she purchased a house that had been designed by Sam. She invited him over so she could learn more about his design ideas and materials. They discovered a mutual love of art, music, and the outdoors, and together they collaborated on the Colorado Music Festival Mash-up series where Sam generously donated his paintings. Their friendship and mutual respect has grown through the start of Rhino Cubed and brainstorming the possibilities of tiny homes. On April 22, 2014, Sam’s tiny dwelling vision became a reality. One sweet Rhino is now roaming the plains of Colorado.