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Good homes come in small packages



*The two houses featured here illustrate how well-designed homes can be comfortable and inviting no matter what the size. Both homes have an open floor plan, are finished and furnished simply yet elegantly, are filled with natural light, and have a strong connection to the outdoors. What more does anyone need?*

## Vermont Tree House

Used as a work studio and guest house, this one-bedroom, one-bath retreat is sited on uneven terrain behind the main house. Built on wood posts and raised approximately 14 ft. over the bank of a ravine, it's more like an elegant tree house. Reclaimed hemlock was used for the entry door, which is accessed via a bridge at grade level. Heating and cooling are efficiently achieved with both spray-foam and rigid-foam insulation.

**Architect** Brad Rabinowitz Architect, Burlington, Vt.; [bradrabinowitzarchitect.com](http://bradrabinowitzarchitect.com)

**Builder** Naylor & Breen, Brandon, Vt.; [naylorbreen.com](http://naylorbreen.com)

**Structural engineer** Harris Structural Engineering, Essex Junction, Vt.; [harris-eng.com](http://harris-eng.com)

**Photographs** Gary Hall Photography, [garyhallphoto.com](http://garyhallphoto.com), courtesy of Brad Rabinowitz Architect

**Floor-plan drawing** Martha Garstang Hill



Elegance and function. An array of natural materials comes together to create the house's cozy interior. Pine paneling was used for the walls and ceilings, and hemlock, slate, and limestone were used for the floors. The living-room chandelier is made of beer bottles and reclaimed gas piping.



Bird's-eye views. A wall of glass at the end of the main living area allows for expansive views of the deck and the woods beyond. At just 440 sq. ft., this house may be small, but it hardly seems so given the forest view and the sound of the stream below.