

'Collect Information' Worksheet: Affordable Container House

In order to develop innovative project solutions, it is critical that you develop a clear understanding of all relevant design criteria. This worksheet is intended to help you identify important factors that shape this project by prompting a response to questions in four key categories: who, where, what, and why.

WHO

Who will occupy the container home?

- Who will live in this house?
- How many people and how are they related?
- What are their genders and ages?
- What do they do?
- What are their physical needs?
- What are their emotional needs?
- What are some key demographical characteristics of the dwelling's occupants?

Who will interact with the container home and its occupants?

- Who are the neighbors?
- What are their physical needs?
- What are their emotional needs?
- How will they interact with the unit and its occupants
- What are some of the main characteristics of the neighborhood and the community?

Who will own the house and pay for its construction and upkeep?

- How long will they want to live in the container house?
- How would you describe their aesthetic preferences with respect to the container design?

Who will live or work in close proximity to the dwelling?

- What concerns might they have?
- How might a container house design either please or annoy a neighbor?

Who might threaten the safety of the home's occupants?

- Why would they be interested in the occupants?
- What physical characteristics or special abilities would they have that could endanger the occupants?

WHERE

Where will the container home be located?

- How much space is available for the container home? Collect the site dimensions and a site plan. Find a location map. Collect photos of the site and adjacent uses.
- What are the annual weather conditions?
- What is the proximity to other people or buildings? Find dimensions to the neighboring structures/buildings.
- What are the geographic conditions of the site?
- What are the traffic conditions near the site?
- What zoning restrictions impact the design?
- How will the site location impact the health and safety of the occupants?
- How will the site location impact the health and safety of people who interact with the house?

Where will the container home be converted into a living structure?

- Will the home be constructed on-site?
- Where will the materials for the living space be acquired?

Where will the parts used for the container home eventually end up?

- Will the materials end up in a landfill or will they be recyclable?

WHAT

What other materials will you need to convert the shipping container into a living space?

- Will the materials used need to be durable over long periods of time?
- Will the materials have to reflect a certain type of aesthetic?
- Will the budget limit the type of materials that can be used?
- Will certain materials pose a danger to or protect the home's occupants or those who interact with the container home?
- What types of recycled materials can be used to convert the container in to an affordable house?

What types of designs and construction methods are best suited for converting a shipping container?

What features will the dwelling need to have to be a livable space?

- What are the essential requirements for a day-to-day living space?
- What special requirements stem from using a shipping container as a primary structure?
- What is the ultimate function of the container home? What does this require?

WHY

Why are you building a dwelling?

- Will the dwelling be used for any other commercial purposes such as a home business?
- Will it be used for primary or secondary housing?
- Will it convey some type of social status?
- Will it symbolize some type of attitude regarding environmental sustainability?

Why use a shipping container as a primary structure in a living space?

- Why is it a good primary structure?
- Why not just build a brand new house from all new materials?

Why do you see a demand for these dwellings?

- What are some specific situations in which this housing could be most practical?
- Why is this more sustainable than building a brand new primary structure?