



BIG IDEAS, TINY INNOVATIONS

By Samantha League

LAST SEMESTER, INTRO TO ARCHITECTURE students jumped on the tiny living bandwagon and designed their own Tiny Houses for their final project. If you haven't seen the hit TV series *Tiny House Nation*, Jessica Lindgren '18 sums it up in one sentence: "Tiny living allows a homeowner to scale down and find the joys of living simply in a home that is less than 500 square feet."

As many of you might recall from your first apartments and living spaces, simply organizing a 500-square-foot home is hard enough!

"I decided on the tiny house idea because it is so inspiring. They use many organizational and design tricks to maximize space," Mrs. Diane (La Costa) Lehman '08 explained. "This is an awesome skill to have as the girls will be moving into dorm rooms soon!"

Mrs. Lehman also wanted to give them a real-life scenario project: to use their design skills to please a client. So she chose a real *Tiny House Nation* client at the time: NFL star Deion Sanders and his girlfriend, "Extra" host Tracey Edmonds.

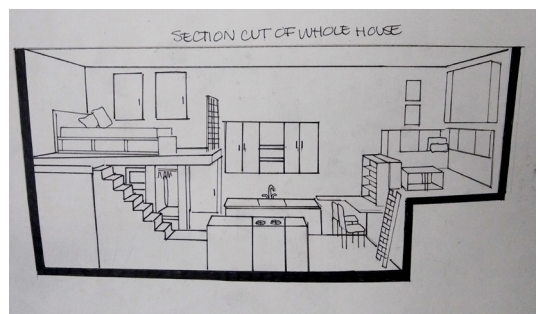
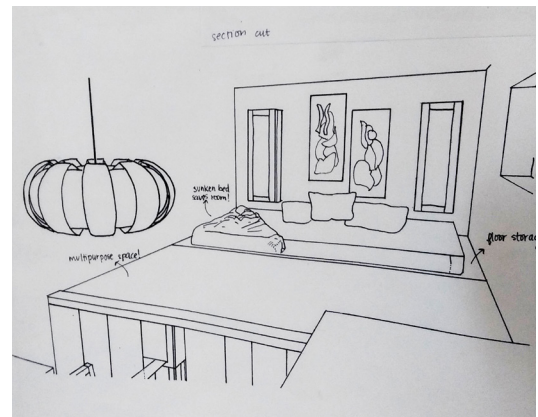
To help them navigate their tiny house adventure, Mrs. Lehman invited *Tiny House Nation* host, John Weisbarth,

to OLP on December 1. Mr. Weisbarth talked about the tiny house craze, his role in helping the trend take off, and surprised everyone when he admitted to attending a Miss OLP Ball while he was a student at Coronado High! As Lindgren '19 recalls, "The class enjoyed themselves immensely."

After soaking in all of this tiny house knowledge, the girls had to present their design plans, sections, elevations, perspectives and a scaled-down model to an established architect: LA-based Chris Smith. Both Mrs. Lehman and Mr. Smith were impressed with the girls' new and innovative ideas.

It's worth noting that Architecture was a brand new class in the fall. The girls went from designing the interior of the newly-finished 168-square-foot loft in Carondelet's attic to designing an entire 500-square-foot living space in just one short semester. Next fall, students will have the opportunity to continue onto Architecture II, where the design process will shift from a singular client with individual needs to large public spaces with communal expectations.

We can't wait to see what our girls design next. In the meantime, if you're looking for a tiny house living consultant, you know who to call.



THE TINY HOUSE PROCESS

- Watch episodes of *Tiny House Nation* to observe the design process and brainstorm ideas
- Sketch ideas for the space
- Divide the space into separate program areas: eating, sleeping, cooking and bathing
- Find dimensions for the home, taking into account that it has to be mobile
- Use Google Sketch Up to bring drawings to life
- Build a scale model
- Present the Tiny House Project – including plans, sections, elevations, perspectives and the scale model – to Chris Smith, an LA-based architect