

**Sarah Beckstrom**  
**Statement**

The Shipping Container HOME Project as a whole is a simultaneous construction of a shipping container house, a documentary movie of the process, and events/happenings in and around the house.

The decision to build a house as part of my graduate work initially began as a practical inquiry, responding to a "real-life" concern of having a house and finding a sense of home. But it was also a way to break down the constructed boundaries between art and life so I could truly engage again with creativity without having to define, contain, or validate. Reclaiming the inherent value of my process and experience, and separating them from their representation, both liberated the source of inspiration and opened a world of possibilities for what the form could be. That is to say, since the structures (forms/images/ideas) we make and function within are not the inspiration from where they came nor the process from which they are made but instead exist as containers for all of that and more, I could make any thing to hold my ideas and inspirations.

On researching an affordable, sustainable, and transportable way to build a house, I decided on a used shipping container. I was interested in cultivating a sense of grounding and place in a way that returns intentionality into the process of creating a world, from the materials and things we surround ourselves with to the systems of living we adopt. I wanted to do this affordably and sustainably, utilizing mostly recycled and locally available resources so as to acknowledge the reality of financial and environmental stress and a concern for quality of life in the future.

The project is set to be completed in 7 Phases:

- Phase 1 – Research and Design
- Phase 2 – Demolition and Mapping
- Phase 3 – Build and Innovate - Part 1
- Phase 4 - the Exhibition; Experience and Interaction
- Phase 5 - Deconstruct and Transport
- Phase 6 - Build and Innovate - Part II
- Phase 7 - Live, Love, Create, Sustain

This project though is about the building of a house. It is about the process and the infinite number of actions and gestures, inspirations and frustrations, connections and relationships that happen within this contained time. It is about finding a way to engage with physicality and creativity to open up questions and make discoveries as much as it is about supporting a physical (house) and psychological (home) foundation. It is a project that honors the ways we engage and connect our creative thinking and expression with the world around us to move beyond outmoded ways of being and energize new possibilities.