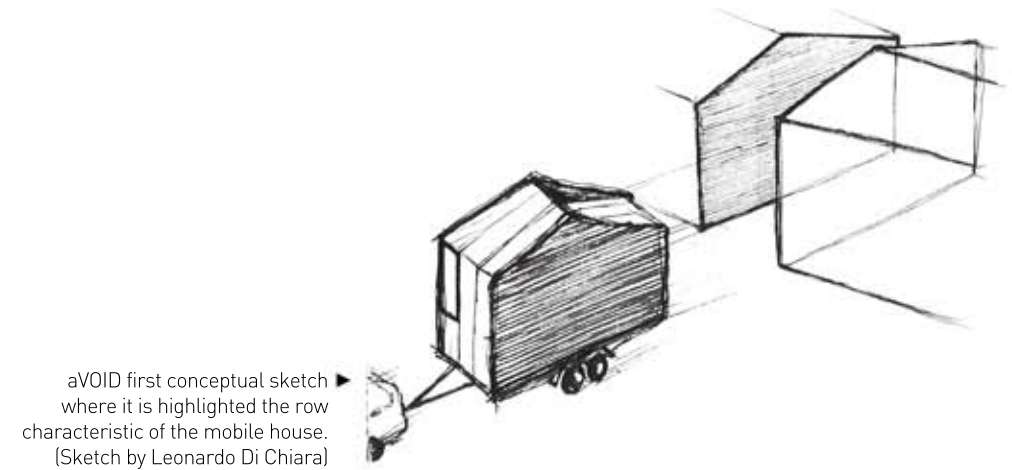


aVOID
TINY HOUSE

a project by
Leonardo Di Chiara

00 index

- I. aVOID tiny house
- II. the idea
- III. the construction site
- IV. the interior
- V. tiny living
- VI. my living experience
- VI. test-living
- VII. aVOID on tour
- VIII. bauhaus campus
- IX. migratory neighbourhoods
- X. industrialisation
- XI. get involved
- XII. press
- XIII. partners



□ | aVOID tiny house

aVOID is a mobile house prototype, drawing inspiration from the well-known American 'tiny house' typology.

The 9 sqm living space is equipped with every comfort needed for everyday life and characterized by a strong adhesion to minimalist principles, the 'less is more' movement, and a more sustainable lifestyle.

aVOID is the result of an artistic-architectural research project directed by Leonardo Di Chiara in collaboration with Tinyhouse University and supported by numerous internationally renowned technical partners.

The objective of the project is the field testing of the mobile 'tiny house' typology, the industrialisation of its construction process and raising social awareness of new housing policies such as the creation of urban migratory neighbourhoods. aVOID is the very first 'tiny house' entirely designed and manufactured in Italy, specifically in the very well-known Pesaro "District of Furniture".



aVOID first rendering was posted ▲
online 9th february 2017. After
six months the tiny house was
presented to the public in
Pesaro. © Leonardo Di Chiara

□ || the idea

«During all my life I have lived in a very small room in my parents' apartment in Pesaro, Italy. I was forced everyday to learn how to organize my space, fit all of my belongings inside the few cabinets, and to adapt my space to host my friends to play or later to study. I grew up with a minimalistic lifestyle, which certainly influences my design.

During my studies as an architect and engineer at the University of Bologna I decided to put into practice my knowledge and build my first house. Forced by the very little savings I had, I started from almost the same dimensions as my room: 9 sqm. I want to demonstrate to myself and to others that, with a strong adhesion to reductionism, it is possible to live respectably in such a tiny space. From past experience in my room I learnt the importance of emptiness - functionally and physiologically speaking. This is why I started developing transformable furniture where everything can be hidden into the wall surface when it is not in use, having as a result 'a void' ready to be used again.

But it was the meeting with Van Bo Le-Mentzel and his newly founded Tinyhouse University in Berlin that gave me the motivation to turn this dream into reality. Like many fresh graduate students, especially in architecture, I could not imagine setting my life in one place forever. Buying an apartment and renovating it was surely not a possibility for me. In Berlin I got to know the great potential of the American tiny house typology: small living structures on wheels that could fulfil my desire to be a "new generation nomad".

So I didn't waste any more time, I put all my efforts and my savings to build my very first house: aVOID.

Now it is parked in the middle of Berlin inside the garden of Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum of Design. Living inside my tiny house is such an amazing experience and it helps me to improve the quality of the space. I am planning to move soon to Copenhagen, then to the Netherlands and maybe to Paris but I am already dreaming of the time when I will return home: Italy.»

Leonardo Di Chiara



Leonardo Di Chiara introducing to Van Bo Le-Mentzel his design for aVOID Tiny House. (tiny100 during qualitymeters exhibition, Berlin, november 2016). © Tinyhouse University



◀ Leonardo Di Chiara inside his aVOID tiny house during the Official Presentation which took place in Pesaro (Italy) the 9th August 2017. © Giacomo Terracciano Photography

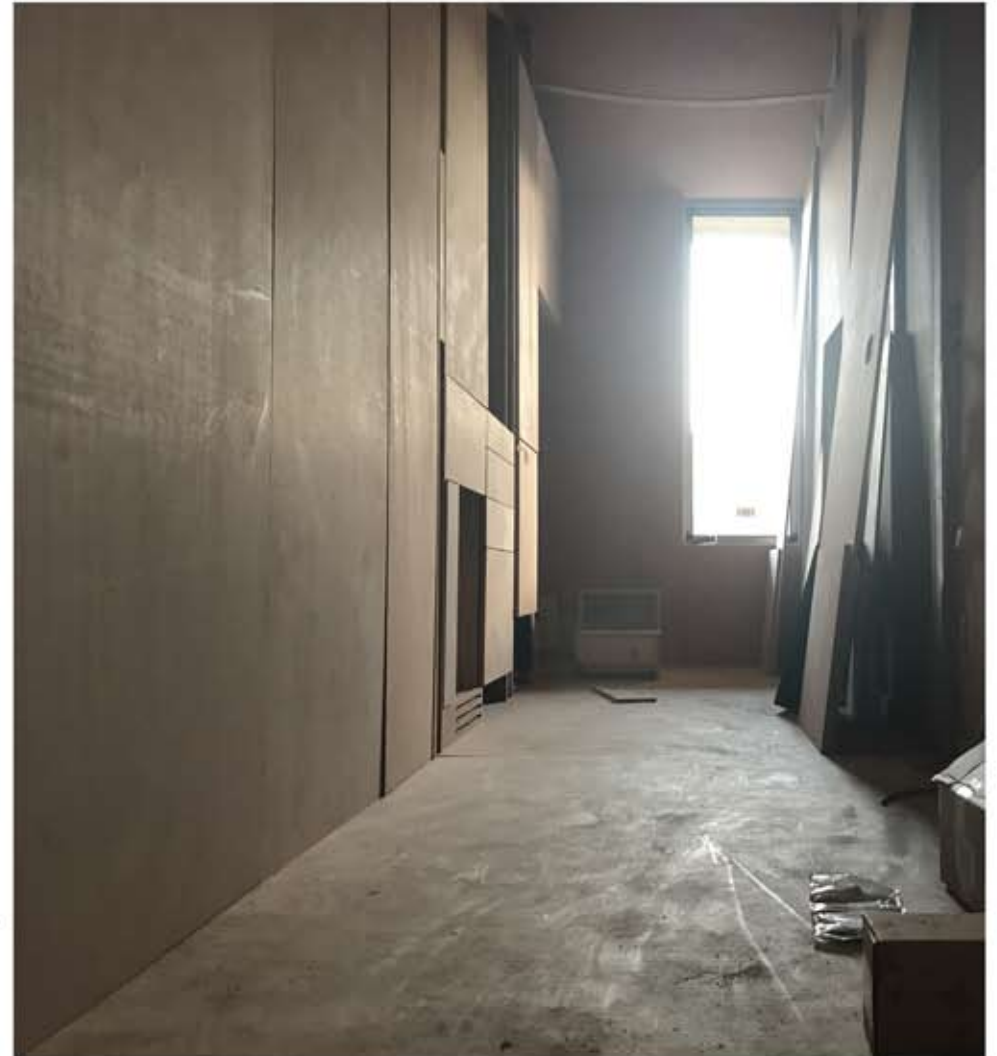
III the construction site

Twenty-five technical supporters, which counts of more than 120 people together, participated in the construction of the prototype. A very big team if you consider that aVOID could be the smallest single house built in Italy.

The mobile apartment was manufactured entirely in Pesaro beginning in may 2017 until the 9th of august of the same year when it was presented for the first time to the public. The construction site literally moved within the house from one company to the next taking advantage from its configuration of wheels.

Starting from the trailer, the bearing frame structure, the insulation, the windows, the interior furniture, the exterior metal covering and all the home appliances were rapidly installed into the house. All the products and materials were donated by Italian and German companies which believed in the revolutionary impact of tiny houses into the real-estate market.

aVOID tiny house under construction at FG Arredamenti where Federico Luzi and his team realized all the interior space in record time (Fano, july 2017). © Leonardo Di Chiara



IV the interior

The interior of the small unit is inspired by the balance of emptiness, from which the name aVOID its derived.

The house, composed by a single room lacking of any piece of furniture, is made functional by the activation of wall-mounted mobile devices, which enable different uses of the living space.

The “void” functions as space for meditation where the clear image and the pureness of the room are disturbed only by the spacing between the wooden panels. The homogeneity and the indeterminateness of the grey color are suddenly interrupted by the opening of reclinable devices, such as a murphy bed, tables, chairs, kitchen, a ladder and so on which reveal the domestic warmth of the wooden texture.



▲ The murphy-bed comes out from the “functional” wall: the empty space can be used as a bedroom. © Anna Fontanet Castillo



▲ Two grey doors hide inside a warm wooden kitchen. © Leonardo Di Chiara

VOID tiny living

The empty room allows different functions of the space. The reclinable bed also works as a sofa which becomes a bench if used in correlation with the foldable table.

The initial aseptic conformation is characterised by the prevalence of the longitudinal dimension of the interior space. This corridor-like image wants to represent the temporariness of the living conditions with a constant reminder of the migratory movement which characterises a "tiny house" on wheels. The activation of the different functional devices, like the double-side table, works instead in the opposite direction: the room expands horizontally and the natural wooden material gives a sense of relaxation in contrast with the anxiety of the initial condition.

Leonardo Di Chiara is hosting his
friends from Ambivalenz for
lunch inside aVOID tiny house.
© Tinyhouse University



The "void" space where emerges ►
the contrast between the inde-
terminateness of the grey empty
room and the domestic feeling of
the warm wooden texture.
© Leonardo Di Chiara



VI my living experience

“Living inside aVOID is not, in my case, just a minimalistic challenge measurable in square meters. Rather it seems an intimate relationship that, over the past few months, is getting me in direct contact with my first creation as an architect. It happens often that I stop and think, watching the space in its different functional arrangements. The living experience allows me to verify, test and modify the house, implementing it with new solutions. For this reason I call aVOID an “open” prototype: a work-in-progress construction site. The tiny house is like a short instruction manual to reductionism. By itself, it teaches and pushes you to deprive yourself of unnecessary things, to consume less water and less energy, to put back your clothes in their place and to wash the dishes immediately after eating. The void, which is obtained by closing again all the wall-mounted furniture, is the refuge of my creativity. The absence of any visual distraction caused by personal objects or daily business makes room for my imagination, which is reflected into my future designs.”

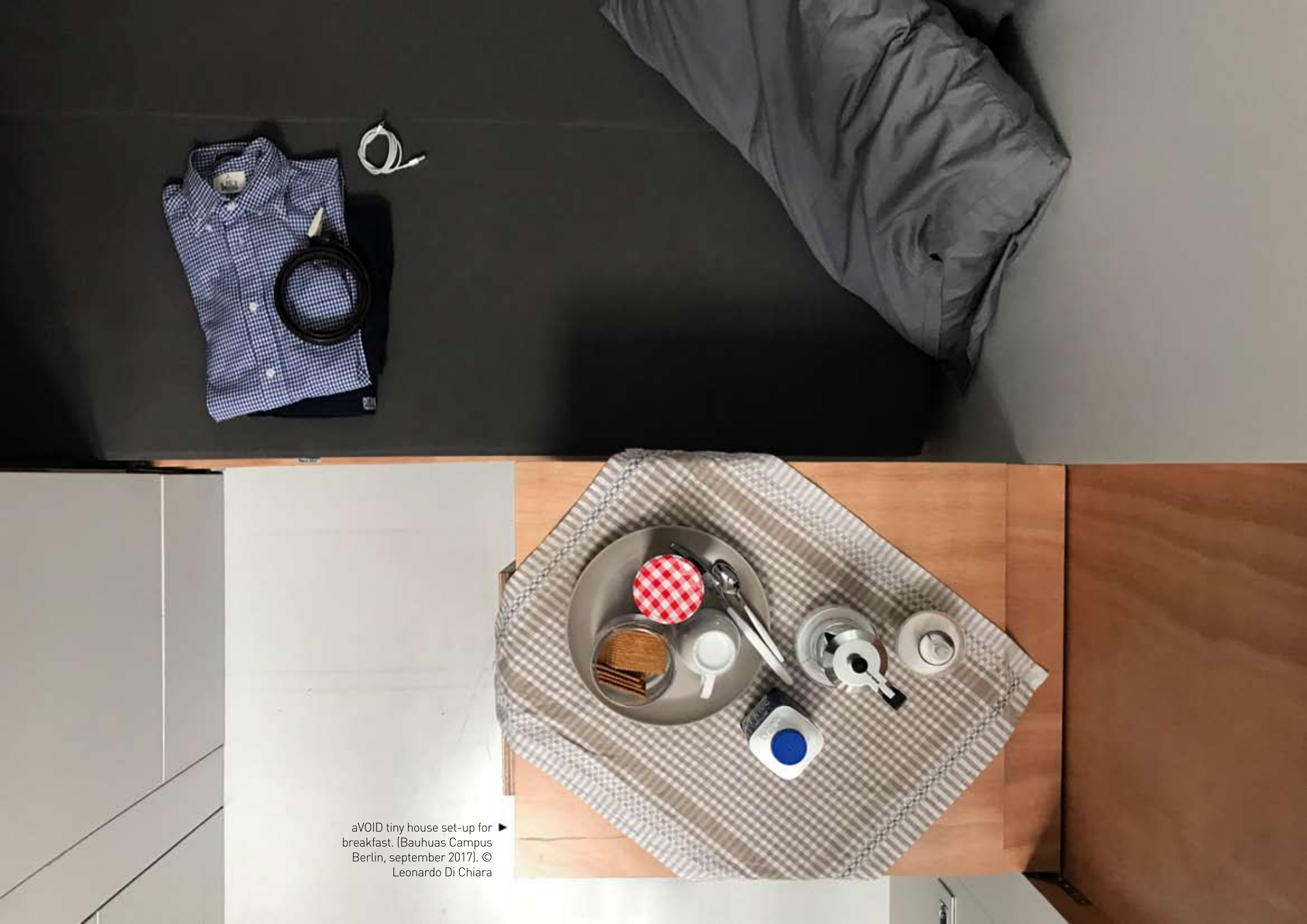
Leonardo Di Chiara

Leonardo Di Chiara is a 27-years-old architect and engineer graduated at the University of Bologna. His fascination for human scale architecture and experimental living spaces brought him to join the Tinyhouse University in July 2016. His design “aVOID Tiny House” has earned him the Premio Berlino 2017, a prestigious award by Italian Ministry for young talented architects. Leonardo will live in and experiment his “tiny house” for one year as part of his professional research.



▲ Leonardo Di Chiara working inside aVOID Tiny House at Bauhaus Campus (Berlin, september 2017). © Stefan Dauth

◀ First “good morning” inside aVOID, parked in Piazzale Collenuccio. (Pesaro, 10th august 2017). © Leonardo Di Chiara



► aVOID tiny house set-up for breakfast. (Bauhuas Campus Berlin, september 2017). © Leonardo Di Chiara

□ VII test-living

Is it really possible to live in a 9 sqm mobile house? How does the empty and minimalist space effect our domestic behaviour? Answering these questions is Luise Louè, a Munich based artist which took part in the test-living programme hosted inside aVOID Tiny House. Luise is actually designing her own tiny house "TiTo" which will also function as a small itinerary museum. How the night spent in aVOID will influence her design?

"I entered the aVOID Tiny house of 9 sqm...and left it...one week later. What? Yes! Believe it or not: This was my wish when I had slept there for one night. I'm the kind of person who does five projects at one time; in my home I have stack of papers "Things to do", and files of projects everywhere. But for creativity and recreation I need - a void - in the proper sense of the word: nothing to do, no plans, ennui, loneliness but opportunity to connect to the outside. So retreats are my base of being, working, health. I basically long for them all the time. So this week within "a void", I would meditate, watch outside the window front for hours, eat good food, read in books, do yoga, work on my laptop, watch outside again, have a chat with some interesting people passing by, invite somebody, sleep. Nothing more. Marvelous."

Luise Louè

aVOID tiny house "test-living" programme is always looking for new testers. If you also want to be part of the experience, please send an e-mail to avoid@leonardodichiara.it explaining what push you to try living inside aVOID.

Artist Luise Louè entering for the first time into aVOID tiny house. (Bauhuas Campus Berlin, september 2017). © Leonardo Di Chiara



□ VIII aVOID on tour

aVOID will be continuously on tour! Starting from Pesaro, its manufacturing location, it will travel through Italy and Germany to demonstrate to people that we can still rethink our living habits in a more sustainable way or to be closer to the needs of our contemporary society. The visitors will have a unique chance to step inside the tiny house and have a real feeling of the living experience inside a mobile and tiny apartment.

Second stop of the so-called “tinyTour” is Bauhaus Campus Berlin: an open-air laboratory/exhibition which lasts until March 2018. aVOID will be back in Italy in April travelling through Milan, Padua, Rome, Bologna and Turin to go back to its starting point, Pesaro, where all the feedback collected during the tour will be presented to the public.

Every stop of the “tinyTour” will involve the public in a very varied program of “happenings” which will take place inside aVOID tiny house. Among these are the following: public visits, artist-in-residence, exhibitions, performances, discussions, conferences, press releases, video lives and radio broadcasts. Moreover the visitors have the chance to participate actively into the project as a tester spending one night in the house.

aVOID stops at a gas station just before heading out the Brennero pass on the Alps. (Brentino Belluno, 16th August 2017)
© Leonardo Di Chiara



▼ aVOID tiny house traveling from Italy to Germany to participate to Bauhaus Campus in Berlin. (Leupoldgrün, 17th august 2017) © Leonardo Di Chiara



IX bauhaus campus

aVOID is part of Bauhaus Campus, an experimental tiny house village hosted inside the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum of Design in Berlin from august 2017 until march 2018. Twenty designers, innovators, refugees as well as individuals from the cultural scene and the startup community are invited to create together a new model for a more equal society. Living inside their own designed tiny houses, they have the chance to test it in reality.

The artistic experiment is curated by architect Van Bo Le-Mentzel and developed in collaboration with Tinyhouse University, an heterogeneous collective based in the same city which aims at rethinking social neighbourhood in a creative way.

aVOID marks in the context of Bauhaus Campus a new typology in the "tiny house movement": the row house. The small mobile home only opens windows to the gable ends and therefore enables the use of tiny houses in a row, which opens the possibility for new temporary city planning strategies.



▲ Open tinyHouse events taking place at Bauhaus Campus every monday. (Berlin, august 2017) © Raphael Behr



◀ aVOID tiny house officially enters into Bauhaus Campus. (Berlin, 18th august 2017) © Leonardo Di Chiara



▲ View of Bauhaus Campus and aVOID tiny house. (Berlin, august 2017) © Leonardo Di Chiara

OX migratory neighbourhoods

What could be the future of the American “tiny house” typology in Europe? Could it solve the emergencies of a metropolis like overpopulation or apartment shortage? How we could shape an urban neighbourhood on wheels? What benefits could emerge from such a living system for the nomadic inhabitants and for the city itself?

These are the questions that the aVOID project, as part of a broader research conducted by the Tinyhouse University, aims at answering. aVOID, looking at its terraced house configuration, contains an answer to these questions in its own shape. The possibility of assembling several tiny houses in a row represents a first effort towards a more rational urban development within the city. The “on-wheels” feature and the tininess dimension of the houses allows the creation of a new living system: “Migratory Neighbourhood”. Temporary settlements where houses, like birds, can easily migrate from a location to another.

In agreement with municipalities, this process could be applied to the neglected spaces inside cities or depending, for its temporary location, on the seasonal occupancy of empty areas. For example imagine what could develop inside a garden during winter time or in a school parking lot during the summer break. In this way migratory neighbourhoods could also become a valid tool to promote regeneration and vitality in our urban environment.



aVOID tiny house as part of a row-housing system. (Sketch by Leonardo Di Chiara)



▲ Bauhaus Campus represents the first attempt to test tiny houses in the urban scene. Here a view of the temporary neighbourhood from aVOID's rooftop. (Berlin, august 2017) © Leonardo Di Chiara

❑ XI industrialisation

How can tiny houses reach the society? How to solve the contradiction which links tiny houses to an high construction costs for sqm? What could be the balance between standardization and customisation?

aVOID invites companies, private homebuilders, carpenters, architects and designers to collect ideas which address to the topic of tiny house industrialisation. Taking inspiration from Bauhaus, which aimed at bringing to the society high quality design pieces combining art and industry, Leonardo Di Chiara wants to develop an optimisation and cost reduction process to make aVOID more affordable.

“Every single element inside aVOID was designed and manufactured as a unique piece for my tiny house. The foldable mattress, the safety windows, the reclinable sink and even the trailer where the iron frame perfectly combines with the upper wooden frame of the house were developed with an artisanal method. This accurate customisation, which make aVOID a very special living space, had as a result a very high cost for all the construction process, calculated around 40 000 €. I am now working to understand how industrialisation and standardization can lower the costs of production without losing completely a certain level of personalization.”

Leonardo Di Chiara

aVOID tiny house devices as result of a customised and artisanal process. © Anna Fontanet Castillo



❑ XI get involved

aVOID is a work-in-progress project! It is still looking for forward-thinking supporting partners which are interested to develop, together with us, an innovative model for urban living.

aVOID project was possible thanks to the help of hundreds of volunteers, technical sponsors, sponsors and politicians which believed in the tiny house urban revolution.

If your motivation “tows” you in the same direction of aVOID Tiny House, jump on and get involved! Professionals, companies, students, Institutions and simply amateurs are welcome to give a precious contribution to the project in one of the following tasks: construction, communication and promotion.



◀ Tiny House Summer School is helping moving aVOID into the Bauhaus Campus. (Berlin, 18th august 2017) © Tinyhouse University

▼ aVOID Supporters during the Official Presentation. (Pesaro, 9th august 2017) © Leonardo Di Chiara





◀ Leonardo Di Chiara introducing aVOID tiny house and its mobile devices to the new generation of "tiny housers". (Pesaro, 11th august 2017) © Solidea Vitali Rosati

XI get involved

_construction



The small living unit is still under construction: its development is taking place at Bauhaus Campus in Berlin. aVOID still lacks some technical systems which will be developed following natural cycle models to assure self-sufficiency: heating with infrared, grey-water purification, photovoltaic panels and air purification. Furthermore the test-living experiences, conducted by several testers including its designer Leonardo Di Chiara, represent a fundamental feedback which results into necessary running improvements.

_communication



aVOID is a story-telling tiny house, designed and built to raise awareness among politicians, urban planners, city population and generally all the inhabitants of the future, of a new housing typology. Taking inspiration from mobility, reductionism and sustainability, it aims at finding a solution for independent living in large metropolises. An effective communication of the project is needed to graphically and conceptually present that vision we believe in to the public at large.

_promotion



Entering aVOID, seeing it with your own eyes, also testing the house for one night are the best way to get in contact with the reality of this mobile living system. Open house visits, guided tour, test-living experiences, art-in-residence programme, radio broadcasting, exhibitions, jam sessions, any other kind of happening and event inside the urban environment represent important occasions to promote the "tiny house" philosophy and the concreteness for its future development. aVOID wants to inspire people about more sustainable living habits through architecture.

Interior Design students visiting
aVOID as a School trip. (Berlin,
october 2017) © Leonardo Di
Chiara



XII press



"Ambienti mobili e arredi a scomparsa per vivere in 9 mq più terrazzo" - (11/09/17)

[read here](#)



"Ganz aus dem Häuschen" - (03/09/17)

[read here](#)



"La casa con le ruote dell'architetto marchigiano al museo di Berlino" - (23/06/17)

[read here](#)



"aVOID: tiny house made in Italy" - (22/09/17)

[read here](#)



"Affascina la casa viaggiante di 9 metri quadri" - (11/08/17)

[read here](#)



"Auf zehn Quadratmetern ist alles möglich" - (29/08/17)

[read here](#)

XIV partners

_institutional partners



_technical partners



contact

Leonardo Di Chiara architect | engineer

t +39 329 3127905

www leonardodichiara.it

@ avoid@leonardodichiara.it

f facebook.com/avoidtinyhouse