

The **Marfa Retreat** takes the popular modular weeHouse to the dusty terrain of southwest Texas

By Camille LeFevre



Litatis imperundunt ad quid quo illeate volupti ipsus etur. Umet liqui ullitae sint moluptate nusamusandae consero Inciam quatem. Elliaepra nis animperchiti.



This artistic outpost is simple and dirt cheap in the best possible ways. We love the freestanding canopy. —Jury comment



MARFA RETREAT

Location:
Marfa, Texas
Client:
Molly Kemp

Architect:
Alchemy
alchemyarch.com

Principal-in-charge:
Geoffrey
Warner, AIA

Project lead designer:
Geoffrey
Warner, AIA
General contractor:
Steve Bryan

Size:
585 square feet
Cost:
\$155,000 for
modular work

Completion date:
2007
Photographers:
Scott Ervin,
Josh Capistrant

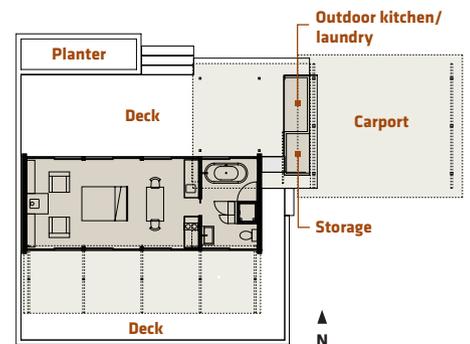
In 1971, the minimalist artist Donald Judd decamped New York City for Marfa, Texas.

Where? Back then Marfa was a former railroad stop and military training site amid the arid, wide-open spaces of far southwest Texas. After Judd settled in, turned some hangars, ranch land and a fort into sites for sculpture, and founded the Chinati Foundation for permanent large-scale art installations, Marfa acquired an aesthetic cache that brings aficionados of art, architecture and the archetypal road trip on regular pilgrimages. Celebrities, cold-water dip tubs, and modern architecture abound.

Fifteen miles out of Marfa, down a ranch road on 30,000 acres of grassland, Geoff Warner, AIA, has installed the latest iteration of his prefab building-component system: the weeHouse. The 15-by-35-foot house, with its 4-by-15-foot shed for outdoor cooking, totals 585 square feet and is essentially a glass tube with end walls, floor, and ceiling.

In other words, the house very much resembles one of Judd's sculptures. "Exactly!" says Warner, who also founded Alchemy Architecture in St. Paul and admits having no knowledge of Marfa before

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