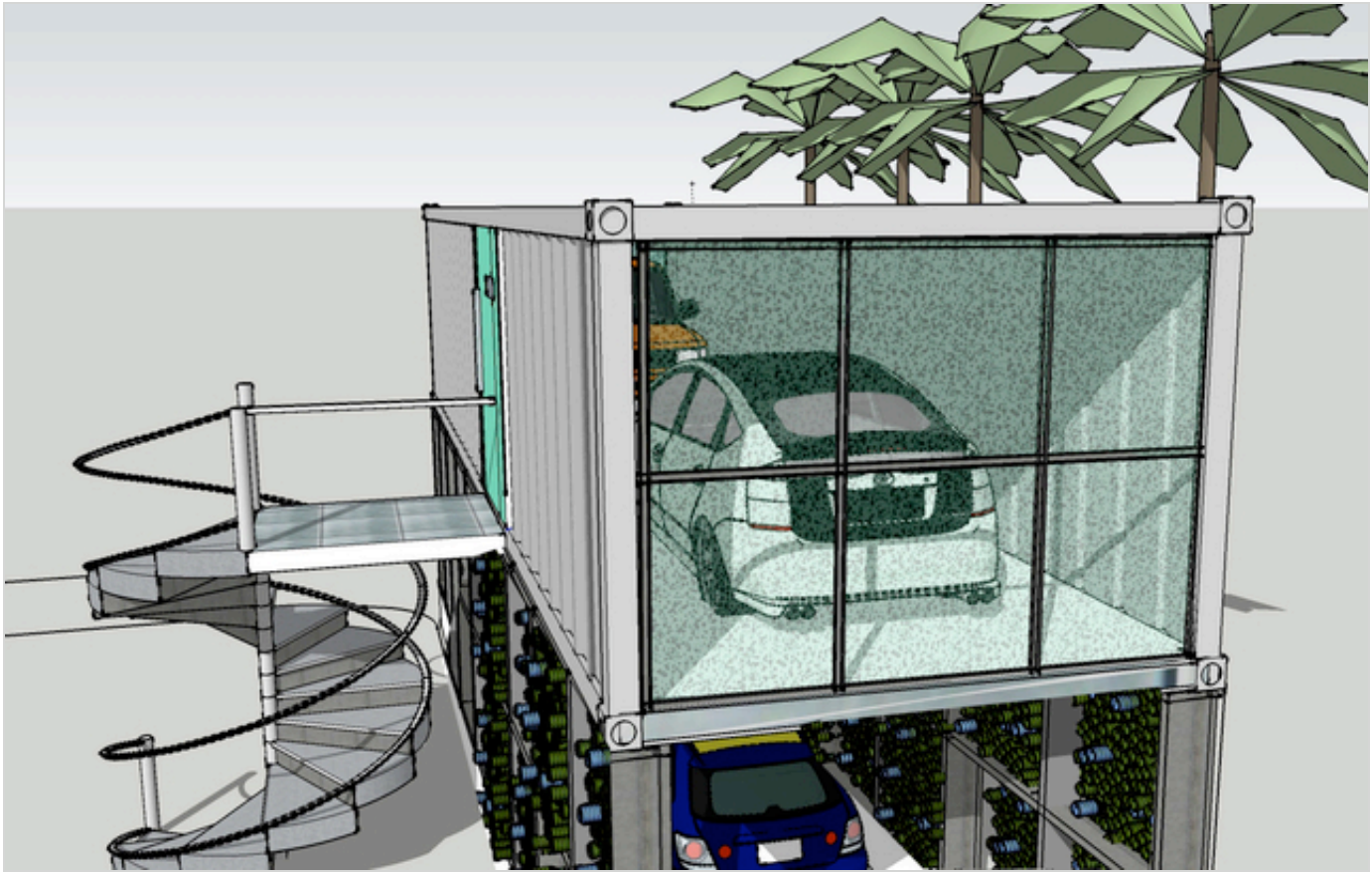


Parkitecture: Top Submissions



Play

The Stowaway Garage by Lise Thogersen, Esther Arnold, Ines Lejarraga

The Stowaway is a small-footprint, sustainably-designed garage for the modern urban or suburban home. It addresses the present and future-day concerns of architecture and development including the ever-decreasing amount of buildable land and our dwindling natural resources. The core materials are all recycled and recyclable: bottle glass, steel, and concrete. The footprint is narrow, and the three types of skin play with nature creating interesting daylighting effects, cross ventilation and sun and rain mitigation. Lastly, the materials here are all economical and can be prefabricated and shipped to order.

This garage prototype presented here is climate-specific intended for a mild climate such as Los Angeles. However, the basic framework can be adapted to any climate. Here, the solid upper floor makes use of a retired 40-foot shipping container. The enclosure provides an ideal place for vehicles less used, freeing up space below for other activities. The lower, more open story is made of a welded-steel frame infilled with recycled glass bottles held in place with a wire mesh screen. This unique wall assembly is designed to allow a reasonable flow of air and filtered sunlight in. Instead of hitting the exterior skin only, rain filters through the walls, flowing in and around the bottles to french drains and then to a nearby swale or culvert. The bottle wall is at once permeable while also providing protection to the occupants and car inside.

The two-story Stowaway features a moveable ramp system that is as easy to operate as an electric garage door opener. With the push of a button, the ramp is lowered and the driver pulls up onto the ramp. With another button, the car is raised, tucking it away to the upper floor. The driver exits through a side door to an exterior staircase.

The name Stowaway references both the tucked away system with which cars are stored as well as the shipping container used as skin and as structure. Cars and other consumer goods arrive in these containers every day at major American ports making them a symbol of the consumer society we live in. Garages also hold that same symbolism. As a foil to this idea, the Stowaway can be an example of making something beautiful out of homely materials, in essence, making more out of less.