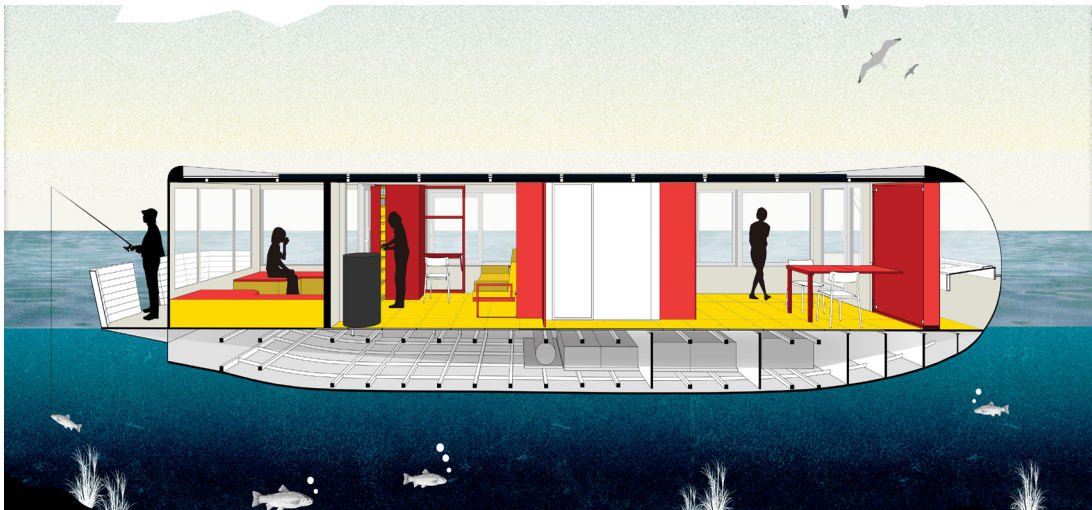


Tiny Home on the Water

Solar + Design



Relax & Decelerate

While it feels as if the world has started to turn upside down because of pandemic travel restrictions and the effects of global warming, conflicts and the energy crisis, the urgency of having a refuge that has a high level of self-sufficient energy, as well as the option to move around despite all the challenges, has surged around the world.

Crossboundaries re-designed a fully solar-powered motorboat with high-end tiny-home characteristics functioning as a slow-motion traveling nest.



The exterior's resemblance to a bus on the water sparked the interest of the new owner and with enough space to invite family and friends for a getaway, she named this personal retreat for reenergizing “Fàng Sōng 放松”, which translates from Chinese into “Relax” and is relating to her previous home in Beijing.





Background. Transient space.

Itinerant forms of architecture were first performed out of necessity, and more recently, out of willingness - the current architectural agenda debates our notions of public-private and temporary-permanent. A home that was once linked to real estate ownership now shifts to a network of commodities that can be moved to different places.

As Archigram already put it in 1964 with *The Walking City*: "One of the great attractions of urban living is the notion of being able to access all the services and goods you need easily. But what if those services came to you?"



A House that floats. Compact and transformable

This compact space is a perfect match for Crossboundaries because it allows for testing flexibility in micro-dwellings where each room assumes multiple programmatic roles. The appeal of water in this project is to explore the possibility of adapting while challenging assumed and conventional norms.

With an overall length of about 15m and a maximum width of a bit over 4m, the boat includes a set of interlinked and multi-purpose areas.



The boat celebrates creativity with the color palette and by being highly customizable while also extremely practical. Some functionality improvements include a fully hidden bed with a function to close the “helmstand”, which hides the more technical equipment of the boat, achieving a calmer sense of home. It additionally includes a pop-up table for the kitchen area and a hidden foldable desk is included in a cabinet, providing a “work-from-home” spot.

A living machine: technical and sustainable integration.

The research in material quality and durability lead the concept into a craftsmanship level. With a results-driven approach and a virtual project management, some actors such as the local master carpenter were key in the execution phase. The boat is “smart and self-powered” by including a set of innovative solutions in terms of solar energy, heating source, water, and waste management.



On sunny days, the houseboat is fully self-reliant on its solar panels, with an average speed of 50 km per day. A pellet stove, remotely controlled by an App was installed to satisfy the heating demand with a source of renewable energy. In the future, the owner plans to add a water purification system and a biological sewage treatment unit to upgrade the boat when taking off to long journeys.

This Tiny Home on the Water can be conceived as a unit of the city, containing a comprehensive set of urban resources.

Ideally, in the future, people can free themselves from too many possessions and embrace denser, but quality spaces and thus achieve more flexible ways of life.



Project information

Location/mooring: Germany, Berlin, Stößensee

Client: Marianne Friese, Berlin

Gross area: 62 sqm

Design period: January 2020 - October 2020

Construction period: October 2020 - February 2022

Completion time: March 2022

Architect: Crossboundaries, Beijing

Partners in charge: Binke Lenhardt, Hao Dong

Design team: Marijana Simic, Silvia Campi, YU Hongyu, YU Zhaoxiong

Collaborators and co-creators: Brettmen, Berlin - Anselm Breig and chief carpenter Malte Spiess

Consultant, technical installations: Benedikt Riepe, Berlin

Consultant, bathroom installations, paintwork: Mirko Kriebel, Berlin

Consulting and installation pellet stove: Woitha, Berlin - Oliver Schwarzer

Photographer & Video clips: Johanna Link, Munich

Video creation: Elena Gamez Miguelez

Download full presskit:
and find a video of the project here:
Long text version:

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About Us

Crossboundaries is a multidisciplinary, design-centered practice with projects ranging from urban planning, architecture and interior design all the way to graphic design, programming, teaching and event creation.

We practice by name, crossing the boundaries of the design domain, initiating activities and dialogues across different fields. Keeping us continually thinking and doing, we aim to engage, evolve and adapt. Passionately facilitating for human needs, Crossboundaries main interest is people. We are dedicated to solve challenges to deliver creative solutions. We innovate products that result from going beyond the requirements of a brief to include the sensitivities of human needs, in the process sharing our knowledge and philosophy.

Contact

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