Projekt Datscha is a wooden house on wheels built for nature-lovers and minimalists. Just like a camper it can be transported to any desired location, but it feels like a real, warm, fully equipped home.

The tiny house movement focused on building small, transportable houses originated in the US in the 70'. In the past few years it has become increasingly popular in Europe, especially in Germany and Scandinavia. Tiny house builders are inspired by minimalism and flexibility it represents and tempted by the notion of becoming a house-owner on a small budget. A tiny house, such as Projekt Datscha, can be finished in just 3 months and costs 40.000 EUR on average, depending on used materials and off-grid systems installed. The main goal is designing a house that can be prefabricated, but at the same time features unique, customizable design.

In order to obtain towing permission, Projekt Datscha had to meet the same legal requirements, as a truck trailer, such as max-height, width and weight. The spruce framing and metal supports gives the house the required structural integrity to withstand 120km/h headwinds while towing. In order to stay within the allowed weight limit of 3,5 tones we adjusted the classical construction layers and used only lightweight materials, such as aluminum windows, PIR insulation or balsa plywood.

One of the biggest challenges of designing a house only 4m high and 2,55m wide was fitting all desired functions into this small space. The 18m2 house features a main living area with a kitchen, sleeping loft and bathtub-equipped bathroom. In order to save space, we installed a custom-made folding table and a sleeping couch but avoided other transformable furniture, as we find it impractical. Using the smart infra-rot heating system and water boiler requires connection to electricity, otherwise the house can operate off-grid, thanks to the alcohol stove and smell-free composting toilet.

We decided to go with a gable roof as it is the most iconic depiction of a house. All external elements such as rain gutters and window covers are well-fitted, creating a minimal, sleek form. The house uses light, feminine colors and fits easily into the natural surroundings. Big windows allow the light to enter the space easily and the one on the roof gives the possibility of stargazing at night.

This small, yet spacious house is ideal for 2, though it can comfortably fit up to 4 people.
Datscha is a Perfect Holiday Home for nature lovers and sporty travelers. It currently parks in Steiermark in Austria and will be available for rent starting in sprint 2021.

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